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| Bridgewater State University - Color Magazine | **Bridgewater State University** **Department of Criminal Justice**  **CRJU330 Analyzing Criminal Justice Data**  **Summer 2021** |

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**Course Description and Goals**

Analyzing Criminal Justice Data is an introductory statistics course with additional emphasis on statistical techniques and issues encountered in criminal justice and criminology research. The main goal of this course is to help you understand and apply concepts and techniques that are fundamental for the analysis of quantitative data. You will learn key concepts and theories used in statistics. By the end of the semester, you will be able to identify an appropriate strategy for analyzing a particular set of data, apply the correct formulas and procedures to conduct statistical analyses both with and without the help of statistical computer software, and be able to properly interpret the results of these analyses. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

* Understand an overview of key concepts and theories used in statistics and data analysis
* Understand how various statistical techniques work and when and how to apply them
* Be aware of the major issues that can arise at various stages of a data analysis
* Learn how statistical software can be used to manage and analyze data
* Interpret the results of statistical tests

**Course Materials**

* There are four modules in our summer class. In each module we will cover a set of lecture notes. You don’t need to buy a book on your own.
* In each module., you are expected to join me and your classmates in a zoom session. In these sessions, I will go through the key concepts in the lecture notes and a set of mock exam questions. You are required to either attend the live sessions or watch recordings of the sessions.
* All lecture notes, videos, and zoom session recordings are mandatory.

**Online Instruction and Contact Information**

* Feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns about this course. I will make sure to respond to you within 24 hours.
* Since this class is fully online, all of my communication with students will take place over e-mail. This means that you have to check your e-mail regularly. I am going to assume that you are checking your e-mail at least once a day. If you are going to be away from Internet access for more than that amount of time, please let me know beforehand.
* This is an online course, which comes with a unique set of pros/cons. You should be aware that students typically find online courses to be more challenging than traditional in-person courses due to the amount of reading that is required as well as the method of communication. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any concerns that you may have. It is better to address these as they come up, rather than wait until the end of the course.
* Also, please note that this is a summer course, which is a compressed format course. We will be covering a full semester’s worth of material in a shorter amount of time. To be specific, you will do 15 weeks’ worth of work in 5 weeks! It is imperative that you stay on top of the course schedule and do not fall behind. Keep in mind a typical summer course will meet for 7 hours and 30 minutes per week plus readings and course assignments. You should expect to spend at least 7 hours and 30 minutes per week plus readings and assignments on this course. Online classes are not “easier” courses. They are just flexible in the sense that you can do the work from anywhere in the world that has reliable internet. Note: you will need to have regular, reliable access to the Internet in order to complete the course requirements.

**Evaluation Rules**

* The total grade is 100 points. The total points you can have are 108 points, meaning there are 8 built-in extra credits.
* In each module, you are expected to work on a problem set of 4 questions. Each set is worth 36 points. At the end of the semester, I will drop the lowest grade of one of your problem sets.
* You should be aware that the subjects we cover are generally cumulative in nature. As a result, areas covered early in the course are relevant throughout the entire course.
* If you have questions about the grade you received on an assignment, I am happy to answer those questions and suggest ways that you can do better.
* If you do not think that the grade you received reflects the quality of your work, you may ask for the answers to be graded again. To do so, submit a formal appeal in writing, explaining why you think the grade you received is not a fair reflection of the quality of your work. The new grade, whether high or lower, will then become your final grade on this assignment.
* There are NO opportunities to re-do problem sets or to do extra-credit work requested by the students in this course.
* I will not increase any person’s grade solely to change their letter grade. So if you make an 89, you will make a B+, not an A-. No amount of pleading will change this outcome. Particularly common and ineffective are pleas claiming that your grade in this class will cause you to lose a scholarship, prevent you from attending the graduate or professional school of your choice, or lead to some other unfortunate, but unlikely, consequence.

**Late Work and Missed Work**

* Late work or make-up work will **NOT** be allowed in this class. Under very rare circumstances will exceptions be made, and this will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please note that technical issues will not be an acceptable excuse for late work. Please note that this is a condensed format course, a full semester delivered 4 weeks of online instruction. There is no room for late or missed assignments. The weeks will move quickly, and students are expected to plan accordingly.

**Grading Scale**

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| A: 100-94 | B: 86-84 | C: 76-74 | D: 66-64 |
| A-: 93-90 | B-: 83-80 | C-: 73-70 | D-: 63-60 |
| B+: 89-87 | C+: 79-77 | D+: 69-67 | F: 59 or below |

**Syllabus Change Policy**

* The syllabus is designed to be a resource that students should use throughout the semester. While this syllabus lists readings and test dates, students should use the course website and Blackboard as their primary source for detailed information regarding the course. This is important because the instructor may update or modify assignments and readings throughout the course. In the situation of change or modification, the instructor will post changes under the “Announcements” tab on Blackboard.

**Academic Honor Policy**

* I do not tolerate academic misconduct of any kind. This includes, but is not limited to cheating and plagiarism. The most common reason students resort to plagiarism or cheating is running out of time to do the assignment properly. Please plan accordingly and be sure to allow yourself sufficient time to complete all assignments. As a student at BSU, it is your responsibility to understand and abide by University policies: <https://catalog.bridgew.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=970>
* Please take time to understand the nature of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes turning in the same work to more than one class, not citing sources correctly, not paraphrasing correctly, etc.
* Failure to abide by any classroom or BSU policy may result in one or more of the following actions depending on the severity of the offense: 1) written warning, 2) reduction of the course grade, 3) failure of the course, and 4) referral to the Dean

**Reasonable Accommodation Policy**

* BSU makes every effort to accommodate the unique needs of its students. In keeping with university policy, students are expected to contact the Disability Resources Office (DRO) each time they register for a course to request accommodations for that course. DRO then provides a letter to the instructor for the upcoming class. Any student who feels he or she may need accommodation for a documented disability should contact the Disability Resources Office at 508-531-2194, TTY 508- 531-6113, or email at DisabilityResources@bridgew.edu for review and approval of accommodation requests.

**Title IX and Sexual Violence**

* BSU is committed to maintaining safe and healthy learning, living, and working environments that are free from all forms of sexual violence; inclusive of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation. The Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator work to ensure that all members of the campus community flourish in a supportive and fair climate. Consistent with this commitment, the BSU sexual violence policy complies with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendment of 1972 (“Title IX”), which prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in education programs and activities, as well as the retaliation for the purposes of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX. To learn more regarding all resources for victim-survivors see <https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/affirmativeaction/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

**TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR**

*All lecture slides and videos are* ***mandatory*** *and provided on Blackboard.*

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| **Theme** | **Module\*** | **Assignments** | **Evaluations** |
| *Weekly Module I:* Univariate Descriptive Statistics | #1  (T, 07/06 - T, 07/13) | 1. Syllabus 2. Lecture notes 3. Required zoom meeting (or watch the recording later; I will go through a mock problem set and key points in the lecture notes) | Problem set 1 due Tuesday 07/13 5PM |
| *Weekly Module II:*  Bivariate OLS Regression | #2  (W, 07/14 – W, 07/21) | 1. Lecture notes 2. Required zoom meeting (or watch the recording later; I will go through a mock problem set and key points in the lecture notes) | Problem set 2 due Wednesday 07/21 5PM |
| *Weekly Module III:*  Hypothesis Testing | #3  (Th, 07/22 – Th, 07/29) | 1. Lecture notes 2. Required zoom meeting (or watch the recording later; I will go through a mock problem set and key points in the lecture notes) | Problem set 3 due Thursday 07/29 5PM |
| *Weekly Module V:* The Assistance of Computer Software (SPSS Practice) | #4  (F, 07/30 – F, 08/06) | 1. Lecture notes 2. Required zoom meeting (or watch the recording later; I will go through a mock problem set and key points in the lecture notes) | Problem set 4 due Friday 08/06 5PM |
| M: Monday; T: Tuesday; W: Wednesday; Th: Thursday; F: Friday; S: Sunday. All dates are in 2021. | | | |