

SYLLABUS

Introduction to Quantitative Analysis

Spring 2004

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SZB 310

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Introduction

This course is intended to provide you with an *introduction* to quantitative analysis. If you choose to pursue quantitative analysis, you will need to take additional more advanced courses.

Quantitative analysis is a difficult field of study. Even the top experts in the field admit that they do not understand all of the intricacies and concepts of statistical analysis. If you feel as if you have to master every concept in this course, you will become extremely frustrated.

Meeting Times and Place

Unfortunately, we will meet from 7pm until 9:45pm on Monday nights. It appears there are no other possible times that we could meet. We will meet in 439D in the Sanchez building. The classroom is a computer lab. This will allow us to intersperse lecture and application so that you can stay awake without large infusions of Starbucks coffee or Jolt cola.

Materials

You will need the following materials for this course:

A copy of Social Statistics for a Diverse Society (3rd ed) by Frankfort-Nachmias. You may purchase this book online or at the copy for approximately \$85 to \$100. It is in the EDA section at the Co-op as well as in social work if there are no copies in the EDA section yet. The book includes a copy of the student version of SPSS so that you can do homework at home.

Optional: SPSS manual

Grading:

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

Attendance and Participation (10%):

Attendance is mandatory unless you receive prior permission from me to miss a class or there is an emergency that prevents you from attending class.

Homework (50%):

There will be 14 homework assignments. I will drop the lowest grade. The other 13 homework assignments will make up your homework grade.

Mini-Project (15%):

There will be a mini-project due April 19th. This project will be applying what you learned in class and from your homework. The project will consist of a paper that includes the following elements:

- 1) Statement of the Problem (1 paragraph)
- 2) Hypothesis (1 sentence)
- 3) Description of the data (1-4 paragraphs)
- 4) Description of the methodology (1-2 paragraphs)
- 5) Literature review (1/2 to 1 page)
- 6) Results (1-3 paragraphs)
- 7) Discussion (1-3 paragraphs)

This paper may not exceed six pages (excluding graphs) and should be double-spaced, times new roman or similar font, with 1 inch margins. You may use any type of statistics covered in the course up to this point in time to complete this assignment. This paper essentially replicates an AERA or UCEA proposal (I will provide copies of such). For those of you intending to enter academia, you should plan on writing a UCEA proposal for the May submission deadline.

If you are not happy with your initial grade, you may re-do this assignment to earn some additional points.

Final Project (25%):

There will be a final project due approximately May 15th (final date yet to be determined). This project will be applying what you learned in class and from your homework. The project will consist of a paper that includes the following elements:

- 1) Statement of the Problem (1-3 paragraphs)
- 2) Hypothesis (1 sentence)
- 3) Description of the data (1-4 paragraphs)
- 4) Description of the variables
- 5) Description of the methodology (1-2 paragraphs)

- 6) Literature review (2-4 pages)
- 7) Results (1-5 paragraphs)
- 8) Discussion (1-5 paragraphs)

This is in the format of a dissertation. It is just on a much smaller scale. If you choose to complete a quantitative dissertation, this paper will prove extremely useful.

The final paper may not exceed 10 pages (excluding graphs) and should be double-spaced, times new roman or similar font, with 1 inch margins. You must use correlation, t-tests, chi-square, cross-tabs, ANOVA, MANOVA, or regression to complete the final project.

FINAL PROJECT IS DUE ON MAY 15TH