

Psychology 2030: Methods and Statistics

January to April, 2006

Section A – Tuesdays/Thursdays - 9:25 to 10:40 a.m. - D-634

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Course Overview

Psychology 2030 is intended as a gentle introduction to the scientific methods and statistical techniques commonly used in psychological research. The course will introduce students to basic descriptive and inferential statistics commonly used in psychological research, such as means, medians, modes, measures of variability, correlation, linear regression, the binomial distribution, the central limit theorem, the chi-square distribution, the t-test distribution, and the logic of analysis of variance. Issues to consider when conducting, reading about, and evaluating psychological research will also receive attention.

Lecture Notes

There is no required "textbook" for the course. Instead, a set of "lecture notes" will be used. The "lecture notes" are summaries of the lecture material written by John R. Vokey and Scott W. Allen, and are titled *Thinking With Data*. They will be followed quite closely for the statistical component of the course, to ensure consistency with other recent offerings of Psychology 2030. They are available at the cost of printing and distribution from the bookstore. The latest version is always on the web also, at: <http://people.uleth.ca/~vokey/pdf/thinking.pdf>

Evaluation

Evaluation will consist of:

- A midterm worth 45% of your final grade
- A final exam worth 45% of your final grade
- A written assignment worth 10% of your final grade → Details to be handed out and discussed during the first week of classes.

The **exams (midterm and final)** will consist of "**in-class**" components, worth 50% of the exam grades, and "**out-of-class WebCT**" components, worth 50% of the exam grades. The "**in class components**" will be **open book**, and will consist of problems similar to those demonstrated in class and in the lecture notes. The "**out of class WebCT components**" will be **closed book**, and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions that will test understanding of statistical theory and research methods material. The **WebCT components must be written in the WebCT testing center**. Please see below for specifics about this centre.

- The "**in-class**" component of the **midterm** will be tentatively written on **Thursday, February 16th**.
- The "**out-of-class WebCT**" component of the **midterm** can be tentatively written on any date, from **Monday, February 13th to Sunday, February 19th**, inclusive, in the **WebCT testing center**.

- The **"in-class" component** of the **final exam** will be written on the Registrar Scheduled exam date – **Monday, April 24th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**
- The **"out-of-class WebCT" component** of the **final exam** can be tentatively written on any date, from **Tuesday, April 18th to Tuesday, April 25th**, inclusive, in the **WebCT testing centre**.

Please note that the above noted exam dates are tentative, and will be confirmed in the first class.

The **written assignment** is due at the beginning of class on **Thursday, March 30th**.

Due dates must be strictly adhered to. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exams must be written on the specified dates and at the specified times. Missed exams will receive grades of zero. Makeup exams will only be given for valid reasons approved by the instructor beforehand, or for valid medically documented illness.

Students are encouraged to consult with each other about course concepts. **All work handed in for grading in the course must be completed individually**, however.

The values in the following table will be used as a guideline to convert scores out of 100% to minimum letter-grades. Please note the slight discrepancies from what you might be used to. The instructor reserves the right to adjust individual grades upward to reflect such aspects of performance as a marked improvement over the semester.

Grade		Grade		Grade		Grade	
A+	93-100	B+	80-82	C+	67-69	D+	57-59
A	88-92	B	75-79	C	63-66	D	50-56
A-	83-87	B-	70-74	C-	60-62	F	0-49

WebCT Testing Centre

- **Located in B-770**
- **Tentative Hours:**
 - **Monday to Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
 - **Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
 - **Saturday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.**
 - **Sunday, 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m.**
 - **Holidays: 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.**
- **Check: http://www.uleth.ca/crdc/webct/Testing_center_howto.cfm**

The WebCT testing centre operates on a **first-come, first-serve basis**. There are a limited number of computers in it, and it is used by many classes. **It is thus highly recommended that the exams be written early, and not left until the last day.**

Students can not take books into the WebCT testing centre. Students must have picture ID for admission to the centre (student ID card). Students can take writing tools into the centre

(pens or pencils), and a blank piece of paper if desired. Used paper must be left with the proctor when leaving the centre, though.

Students should familiarize themselves with WebCT function before showing up at the test centre. All students will have access to the course WebCT space, at <http://webct.uleth.ca>. This can be logged onto with U of L email usernames and passwords. Practice quizzes or study questions will be posted to WebCT throughout the semester. Doing the practice quizzes and looking at the study questions as they are posted should be helpful with developing required familiarity with WebCT.

Calculator

A good hand-calculator will prove useful for the course. At a minimum (beyond the standard arithmetical functions), the calculator must have a *square-root* function. More sophisticated functions, such as summation, factorial, permutations and combinations, standard deviation, correlation, etc., may prove useful, but are not essential.

Course Web Sites and Links

The course WebCT site is located at <http://webCT.uleth.ca>. From here, you will be able to use the course chat rooms and access practice quizzes and study questions for the course. **The WebCT site will be updated throughout the semester with related links, practice quizzes, and/or study questions.** So please be sure to check for these “treats” throughout the semester.

Some links to some fun statistics-related jokes and other statistics-related material are accessible from the following website: <http://classes.uleth.ca/200503/psyc2030a> Students might be interested in looking at these.

Suggested Problems and Help Sessions

From time to time during the semester, the instructor will suggest questions for you to try from the Vokey/Allen lecture notes. You are encouraged to attempt all other questions in the Vokey/Allen lecture notes, too. Out-of-class help sessions will be held from time to time during the semester. In these sessions, solutions for some of the suggested questions will be demonstrated. Please feel free to seek individual help throughout the semester, also.

A Final Note

Statistics are used in many places in the world, and can be kind of interesting to play with and learn about. I truly hope all students find something enjoyable in this course, and look forward to working with students during it!
