**PSYC 300-001: Statistics in Psychology (4 Credits)**

**Fall 2020**

**Instructor:** Heath Sharp

**Email:** wsharp@gmu.edu (preferred contact)

**Office:** Room 1014C David King Hall

**Office Hours:** By appointment (virtual via zoom)

**TA for 300-001:** Kevin Ramseur

**Email: kramseur@gmu.edu**

**Office Hours: Friday, 10-11 or by appointment**

02/1 Last day to add classes

02/16 Last day to drop classes without penalty

03/2-4/1 Last day to drop classes with 100% tuition penalty

This course is delivered and conducted entirely online in an asynchronous format via the GMU Blackboard. There are no required meeting times, but there are due dates for much of the work. Please read this syllabus very carefully to be sure you understand all aspects and requirements of the course. Things within this syllabus may change over the course of the semester. It is important that you check your Mason email regularly so that you aware of any changes. Also make sure that you check under Announcements on Blackboard as important information is relayed there as well.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will cover the basics of statistics in psychology and the behavioral sciences. No matter what kind of psychology you are interested in (clinical, industrial, social, neuro, etc.), you WILL need to understand statistics. Even if you aren’t interested in pursuing psychology as an academic major or career, having an understanding of statistics will provide you with a toolkit that you can use to better slice through the barrage of information that will be thrown at you throughout your lives.

This course is offered online, in an effort to provide a thorough introduction to students who may be unable to travel to campus. The structure of the course is designed such that students are expected to complete individual “modules” to advance through the course materials.

**BLACKBOARD LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS**

Access to MyMason and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format BEFORE the first day of class. Check the IT Support Center (https://its.gmu.edu/) website. Navigate to the Student Support page (https://its.gmu.edu/article-categories/teaching- learning/blackboard/tl-s/) for help and information about Blackboard. In the menu you will find all the tools you need to become familiar with for this course. Take time to learn each. Make sure you run a system check a few days before class.

1. Go to <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/>
2. Login using your Mason ID and password (same one you use for your GMU email)
3. Click on the ‘Courses’ tab (toward the top right of the screen)
4. Go to the list of courses entitled “Course List”
5. Click on the link for this course. (Available on first day of class)

The class website in Blackboard will contain access to videos, assignments, the discussion board, exams, and other course resources. Nearly all course activities will take place in Blackboard, so it is important to login and begin to explore the various components in the first days of the semester.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Students will be able to identify and apply descriptive statistics to data (exam 1 and HW – weeks 1-5).
2. Students will be able to apply basic hypothesis test in the case of two-group comparisons (exam 2 and HW - weeks 6-11).
3. Students will be able to apply hypothesis test in the case of multi-group comparisons (exam 3 and HW - weeks 12-15).
4. Students will be able to identify and explain appropriate statistical test (BLOG sharing – weeks 1-15).
5. Students will be able to differentiate between different strategies for analyzing data (weeks 1-15).

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

**Hardware:** You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and access to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required taking a distance education course, consider and allow for:

1. The storage amount needed to install any additional software and
2. Space to store work that you will do for the course.

**Software**: Many courses use Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See supported browsers and operating systems (https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\_Started/Browser\_Support). Log in to myMason to access your registered courses. Some courses may use other learning management systems. Your computer should be capable of running current versions of those applications. Also, make sure your computer is protected from viruses.

Students owning Macs or Linux should be aware that some courses may use software that only runs on Windows. You can set up a Mac computer with Boot Camp or virtualization software so Windows will also run on it. Watch this video (https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201468) about using Windows on a Mac. Computers running Linux can also be configured with virtualization software or configured to dual boot with Windows.

Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEKS** | **CONTENT** | **LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS DUE** | **LAB ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| Week 1Mon 1/25 – Mon 2/12/1 Last Day to Add | IntroductionFrequency and Visualizaion Ch1-2Lecture (Videos): Ch1-2 | IntroductionBlog Sharing “Frequency and Visualization”Quizzes Ch1-2Due Monday 2/1 by 11:59 pm EST | HW1 “Frequency Distribution & Graphing” due Monday 2/1 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 2Mon 2/1 – Tues 2/9 | Measure of Central TendencyLectures (Videos) Ch3Textbook Ch3 | Small Group Discussion “Measure of Central Tendency”* Post due Friday 2/5 by 11:59 pm EST
* Response due Tuesday 2/9 by 11:59 pm EST

Quiz Ch3 due Tuesday 09/08 by 11:59 pm EST | HW2 “Central Tendency” due by Tuesday 2/9 by 11:59 pm EST |
| **WEEKS** | **CONTENT** | **LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS DUE** | **LAB ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| Week 3Tue 2/9-Mon 2/152/16 Last Day to Drop without Penalty | VariabilityLectures (Videos) Ch4Textbook Ch4 | Small Group Discussion “Variability”* Post due Friday 2/12 by 11:59 pm EST
* Response due Monday 2/15 by 11:59 pm EST

Quiz Ch4 due Monday 2/15 by 11:59 pm EST | HW3 “Variability” due Monday 2/15 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 4Mon 2/15-Mon 2/22 | ProbabilityLectures (Videos) Ch5Textbook Ch5 | Blog Sharing “Probability”Quiz Ch5Due Monday 2/22 by 11:59 pm EST | HW4 “Probability” due Monday 2/22 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 5Mon 2/22-Mon 3/1 | Normal distributionsLectures (Videos) Ch6Textbook Ch6 | Quizzes Ch6Due Monday 3/1 by 11:59 pm EST | Exam 1 (Ch1-6) due Monday 3/1 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 6Mon 3/1-Mon3/8 | Sampling DistributionsLectures (Videos) Ch7Textbook Ch7 | Small Group Discussion “Sampling Distribution”* Post due Friday 3/5 by 11:59 pm EST
* Response due Monday 3/8 by 11:59 pm EST

Quiz Ch7 due Monday 10/05 by 11:59 pm EST | HW5 “Sampling” due Monday 3/8 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 7 Mon 3/8 – Tue 3/16 | Hypothesis TestingVideos Ch8Textbook Ch8 | Blog Sharing “Hypothesis”Quiz Ch8Due Tuesday 3/16 by 11:59 pm EST | HW6 “Hypothesis Testing” due Tuesday 3/16 by 11:59 pm EST |
| **WEEKS** | **CONTENT** | **LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS DUE** | **LAB ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| Week 8Tue 3/16– Mon 3/22 | One and two-sample T-testsLecture (Videos) Ch9Textbook Ch9 | Small Group Discussion “Testing the difference between group means”* Post due Friday 3/19 by 11:59 pm EST
* Response due Monday 3/22 by 11:59 pm EST

Quiz Ch9 due Monday 10/19 by 11:59 pm EST | HW7 “Testing the Relation Between Means” due Monday 3/22 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 9Mon 3/22 – Mon 3/29 | Testing the relation between meansLecture (Videos) Ch10Textbook Ch10 | Small Group Discussion* Post due Friday 3/26 by 11:59 pm EST
* Response due Monday 3/29 by 11:59 pm EST

Quiz Ch10 due Monday 3/29 by 11:59 pm EST | HW8 “Testing the Relation Between Means” due Monday 3/29 pm EST |
| Week 10Mon 3/29 – Mon 4/5 | Confidence IntervalsLectures (Videos) Ch11Textbook Ch11 | Quiz Ch11 due Monday 4/5 by 11:59 pm EST | Exam 2 (Ch7-11) due Monday 4/5 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 11Mon 4/5 – Mon 4/12 | ANOVA Between-Subjects Lectures (Videos) Ch12Textbook Ch12For Chapter 12, you are not responsible for sections 12.6 and 12.7 on Post-hoc tests | Small Group Discussion* Post due Friday 4/9 by 11:59 pm EST
* Response due Monday 4/12 by 11:59 pm EST

Quiz Ch12 due Monday 4/12 by 11:59 pm EST | HW 9 “ANOVA Between Subjects” due Monday 4/12 by 11:59 pm EST |
| **WEEKS** | **CONTENT** | **LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS DUE** | **LAB ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| Week 12Mon 4/12 – Mon 4/19 | ANOVA Within-SubjectsLectures (Videos) Ch13Textbook Ch13 | Small Group Discussion* Post due Friday 4/16 by 11:59 pm EST
* Post due Monday 4/19 by 11:59 pm EST

Quiz Ch13 due Monday 4/19 by 11:59 pm EST |  |
| Week 13Mon 4/19 – Mon 4/26 | ANOVA FactorialLectures (Videos) Ch14Textbook Ch14 | Quiz Ch14 due Monday 4/26 by 11:59 pm EST | Exam 3 (Ch12-14) due Monday 4/26 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 14Mon 4/26-Fri 4/28 | CorrelationsLectures (Videos) Ch15Textbook Ch15For Chapter 15, you are not responsible for sections 15.2, 15.3, and 15.4 on Spearman, Point-Biserial, and Phi Correlations | Blog SharingQuiz Ch13Due Friday 4/28 by 11:59 pm EST | HW11 “Correlations” due Friday 4/28 by 11:59 pm EST |
| Week 15Sat 5/1 – Mon 5/3 | Reading Period |  |  |
| Week 16Mon 5/3 – Mon 5/10 | Exam | Final Exam (Ch1-15) due by 5/10 by 11:59 pm EST |  |

**ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION**

Exams: Four exams will be given, including a cumulative final. Exams must be completed before each deadline*. Each exam will cover the material for the preceding chapters since the last exam*. Students may **not** use any course materials (textbook, notes, online resources, etc.) during the exam. The only items you will need is pen and paper for determining the answers, a copy of the formula sheet (which you should print off from Blackboard beforehand), and a calculator. All exams must be completed in two hours. To ensure that this time limit is adhered to, all exams will be timed in Blackboard – once an exam is begun, it must be completed within two hours. Also, exam questions will be randomly selected for each student, so no student will take the same exam. To assist with completing the exam, each exam will come with a formula sheet containing all the formulas that were covered during the preceding portion of the class. Please note that, just because a formula is on this sheet does not mean that it is necessarily to be used to answer a question.

In addition, your lowest exam score from the first three exams will be dropped. This does not include the final exam, which must be taken. The final exam will cover all material for the course, but will emphasize the final three chapters.

Quizzes: You will complete weekly quizzes. Each quiz can be found within each module in Blackboard. You will have three attempts to complete each quiz. No time limit, open book. The highest grade will be counted.

Lectures and Lecture Assignments: As outlined above, lectures are presented as videos for each week, accessible via Blackboard. In the course schedule above, you will see the recommended dates on which each lecture should be viewed. In addition, you will be required to complete lecture requirements as indicated in the schedule above. Please note not every week has an assignment. You will submit your answer to the question in Blog Sharing link. You don’t need to respond to other students. In addition, some weeks will require small group assignment. You will be required to sign-up to the group of 4 to 5 individuals. You will answer the question and provide help/feedback to your peers. This assignment has two due dates. Your post will be due by Friday (check the schedule) and response by Monday.

Lab Assignment/Participation: The lab portion of this course accounts for 25% of your grade. Each week there is a homework assignment that will be due to the Lab instructor. You will be expected to download the homework assignment, provide the answers, and submit into Blackboard. The lab instructor is available via Ask Professor forum as well for any questions about these assignments.

Research Requirement: The psychology department believes that participation in psychological research can enhance your learning about the field. Thus, for 80 points in this course, all students are required to serve for 3 hours as participants in psychological research. You can sign up for a Sona Systems account by going to the website (http://gmu.sona-systems.com/) and then clicking on the “Request an account here” link under New Participant. For students who prefer not to participate, you can also complete 3 hours’ worth of alternative research assignments. For details please see the Sona systems website. I strongly encourage you to do this early in the semester, later in the semester there is often an abundance of students and a lack of openings.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance**: This course is offered online, in an effort to provide a thorough introduction to students who may be unable to travel to campus or in the situation where the US has become a infectious dumpster fire. The structure of the course is designed such that students are expected to complete individual “modules” to advance through the course materials. You are expected to complete each module in order. Above you will find details with a **timeline** for completing the course. If you wish, you may complete and submit the materials earlier than the deadline.

Each week, we will cover **one to two chapters** in the textbook. These readings are required and essential to the course. In addition, a homework assignment is provided for the Lab (see Lab syllabus for more details).

**Late Assignments**

**Make-up policy**: Make-up exams will only be given if exceptional circumstances are claimed AND substantiated. I must see proof of what you are claiming to verify that it is true.

**Instructor-Student Communication**: The instructor is available by email throughout the entire session (use your GMU account). You may email with questions, comments, concerns, etc. I will also be available to meet virtually (I use WebEx, but also have access to Zoom) by appointment. Please don’t be shy about asking questions or asking to meet for help.

Before sending an email, please check the following (available on your Blackboard course menu) unless the email is of a personal nature:

1. Syllabus
2. Ask Professor
3. On-demand Blackboard videos on how to use Blackboard features and Technical Requirements.
4. Feel free to respond to other students in the Ask Professor forum if you know the answer.
5. If you e-mail the instructor with a question regarding any of the material, your question (and the answer) will be posted to Ask Professor so that other students will be able to see the question and the instructor’s answer. In this case, the question ill not be linked back to your name.

**Official Communications via GMU E-mail**: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, and notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. You are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

**GRADING SCALE**

**Assignments Percentage of Grade Grade Breakdown**

Exams 40% A+ 97-100% A 93-96% A- 90-92%

Quizzes 15% B+ 87-89% B 83-86% B- 80-82%

Lab 25% C+ 77-79% C 73-76% C- 70-72%

Lecture Assignments 10% D+ 67-69% D 63-66% D- 60-62%

Research 10% F below 60%

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

1. **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. This includes: not cheating on exams or homework assignments (e.g. copying the work of others or using crib notes), not passing off someone else’s ideas as your own (plagiarism), not engaging in dishonesty of any kind with regard to your class participation and assignments.
	1. **Honor Code**: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information. You in this course are expected to behave at all times in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Cod will not be tolerated in this course and will be reported according to GMU procedures. You must paraphrase any information from a source in your own words. Do not copy anything word for word, even if you are citing the source; direct quotes are not accepted for Critique and Redesign and Proposal projects in this class. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student’s.
	2. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person’s labor, another person’s ideas, another person’s words, or another person’s assistance. Unless otherwise stated in class, all work for the course – papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations – is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources – journals, books, or other media – these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources – suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language – must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the assignment, and, depending on the severity of the violation, you may fail the class.
2. Students must follow the university policy for the Responsible Use of Computing.
3. **Enrollment**: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar’s Website: registrar.gmu.edu). After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.
4. **Student Services**: The University provides a range of services to help you succeed academically and you should make use of these if you think they could benefit you. I also invite you to speak to me (the earlier the better).
5. Students are responsible for the content of the university communications sent to the George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
6. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance. Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380.
7. If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Disabilities must be documented by the Disability Resources Center (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester.
8. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. University Writing Center: Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200. The writing center includes assistance for students for whom English is a second language.
9. **Diversity**: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources. Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study, and personal growth. George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected.
10. Notice of a mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee”, and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling & Psychology Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu.
11. Religious Holidays: A list of holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page. See the Religious Holiday Calendar. Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.