Introduction

This course is the second of the 5700-5701/2 sequence. While the first stresses research design and measurement, this one concentrates on techniques of assessing collected data and a variety of managerially orientated techniques.

Prerequisites and Assumptions

1) A “B-“ or better in PAD 5700.

2) College-level algebra skills. Students with weak math backgrounds are strongly encouraged to seek help from the FSU Math Center before taking this class.

3) Basic microcomputer skills, an active email account, understanding of how to use the Internet to access class materials.

This course assumes you covered t one-sample tests and basic statistical inference in 5700. If you did not, or feel you need a review, I strongly suggest you download the relevant notes from http://askew.fsu.edu/current/classes/5701 and review before the class meeting.

This class hits the ground running.

Course Objectives

1) To understand the basics of documenting data and conceptual, physical design for its storage, in part using a PC-based software (MS Access).

2) To develop skills in using and interpreting various applied decision-making techniques such as decision trees

3) To develop skills in presenting data and analysis, stressing PowerPoint and basic web page creation (time permitting)

4) To understand the basics of crosstab-based statistics, regression, and t-tests with an emphasis as a consumer and interpreter of such analysis
Texts and Materials

Required

Assigned Reader (at Target Copy)

Other materials, copies to be announced, mostly posted to WebBoard

Recommended

Sharp® EL-531W calculator or later model (you will find this at www.officedepot.com)

Reference


Given the coverage of this class, there really isn't a single book that works. Hence, this term I am trying using a reader alone. This will save you significant money (Meier and Brudney alone was over $90) though I know many students do not like readers. The reader will be at Target Copy, likely about a week before the term. If you cannot get it before then, contact me as you do have readings to complete before the first night of class.

The calculator is recommended since I will be showing you how to use a calculator to perform many statistical functions “by hand.” If you have the same calculator I use, it’s easier to follow the examples.

If you took 5700 or a previous version of 5701, you likely used the Meier/Brudney book. I am NOT officially using this book this term but you may cross-reference it for various material. Do not buy it if you don’t already have it. I do list readings from it that relate to various topics and a couple of chapters are in the reader. Some students find a variety of approaches to the statistical material is helpful. However, others find it confusing.

You may notice I do not require an SPSS book, primarily to save you some money. The basic manual included with the student software is not very useful, especially if you already know the techniques. If you do wish to buy one, I can get you the information but it is around $100. Otherwise, SPSS is in the lab. I have the same feeling about MS Access so no books there either.
Lab hours are typically 9-5 weekdays and then about 20 hours of evening hours across the week. These will be posted to PASTUDT@LISTS.FSU.EDU in the first week of the term. If you are not a member of this list, join it via the Askew School homepage (http://askew.fsu.edu). Membership is required of all PA students and emails posted there are considered official notification by the School.

Course Requirements and Grading

PAD 5701/2 is generally considered the toughest course in the program by most MPA students. It is strongly recommended that you prepare to devote a great deal of time to this course. You should thoroughly read all assignments before attending class.

An inclass midterm and final will be administered. The midterm is scheduled after spring break to give you more study time. The final is comprehensive. The School, by our Bylaws, sets final exams on the actual class time and not follow the FSU undergraduate times. Students are responsible for notifying me of any conflicts with other classes at least three weeks in advance. You should know it is your right not to have a final exam (even if not comprehensive) due or taken other than final exam week by FSU policy.

Part of the final may be a take-home portion covering SPSS elements. You will also be given homework assignments. Five of these must be submitted for grading during the term. The best four homeworks will count as your homework grade.

I reserve the right to raise grades up to one grade level (A- to A is a grade level) for outstanding class participation. This includes provoking discussion of the readings, performance on any class exercises, and what I may view as outstanding effort to comprehend the materials. Grades will not be scaled.

Grading is as follows:

- 30-35% midterm
- 50% final
- 15-20% homework

Distribution will be calculated to give you the best grade.
Course HomePage

See the Blackboard for updated class information. Be sure you register for email from this list before the term. You will also find some multimedia lectures and lecture notes for the statistical portions of this class at http://askew.fsu.edu/current/classes/5701.

Office Hours

These will be set based on consultation with the class.

You should feel free to contact me at home to arrange other times or ask questions. I tend to be up 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. You should feel free to call up until about 1 a.m. There will be home-help sessions as well about every two weeks, probably at lunchtime.

Contacts

Email: dcoursey@fsu.edu
Phone: 942-2817 (best) ; 644-7398

Class Outline

The following schedule may be adjusted during the term due to class progress and the availability of a computer lab. Articles are in the reader.

Jan 8  The Concept of Statistical Inference

Online notes from class website (Introduction to Inference, T-One Sample); this material should be a review from 5700.

Jan 15  NO CLASS : MLK Day

Jan 22  Crosstabs and Relevant Statistics

Online notes, Chi-square two-sample
Witte, 424-435
Meier, Chapter 11-12, 16 (237-247)
Jan 29   Basic Statistics: T-Tests for Independent Samples
          Online notes (note: t-test for independent samples)
          Witte, Chapter 19
          Meier, Chapter 14

Feb 5    Basic Statistics: Simple Regression
          Online notes, Pearson’s R, Simple Regression Introduction, Inference
          Witte, Chapter 9-10
          Meier, Chapters 18-19

Feb 12   SLACK for Above Materials (if not needed, lecture on presentation skills instead near end of term)

Feb 19   SPSS LAB

Feb 26   MIDTERM

Mar 5    SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Mar 12   Advanced SPSS Lab and Multiple Regression
          Meier, Chapter 21 (in reader)

Mar 19   Decision Trees, CPM, Theory
          Meier, Chapter 23 (in reader)

Mar 26   Data Documentation and Storage : Part I
          Hernandez, Chapters 3, 14, 237-268

Apr 2    Data Documentation and Storage : Part II

Apr 9    Basic Modelling / MS Access Lab

Apr 16   Basic Web Pages / GIS / in lab if time

Apr 23   FINAL EXAM
ADA Policy

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the FSU Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done before the first day of class.

Honor Code

Students should be aware of the FSU Honor Code and uphold its requirements.