



**Sociology 2205a (570)
Statistics for Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: J. Comeau
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

An introduction to the techniques of statistical analysis used by sociologists, including descriptive statistics, the normal curve, hypothesis testing and various measures of association.

Antirequisite(s): [Biology 2244A/B](#), [Economics 2122A/B](#), [Economics 2222A/B](#), [Geography 2210A/B](#), [Health Sciences 3801A/B](#), [MOS 2242A/B](#), the former Psychology 2810, the former Psychology 2820E, [Psychology 2811A/B](#), [Psychology 2830A/B](#), [Psychology 2850A/B](#), [Psychology 2851A/B](#), Social Work 2207A/B, [Statistical Sciences 2035](#), [Statistical Sciences 2141A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2143A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2244A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2858A/B](#).

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level, or [Thanatology 1025A/B](#).

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours. Recommended in Years 2 or 3 of a Major, Specialization or Honours Specialization offered through the Dept of Sociology.

Course Weight: 0.50
Breadth: Category A
Subject Code: SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Sociology 2205a (570)
Professor Jinette Comeau
Email: jcomeau5@uwo.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Introduction

The objective of this course is to provide students with a foundation in descriptive and inferential statistics and their applications in Sociological research. In the first part of the course, we will learn about descriptive statistics, which includes methods that are used to summarize data, such as frequency tables, measures of central tendency and dispersion, and the normal curve. The second part of the course will focus on inferential statistics, which includes procedures for testing hypotheses, measuring the association between variables, and generalizing results from a sample to the entire population.

Please note that, while this course requires students to understand basic mathematics, you will not be required to perform complex mathematical operations. We will focus on selecting and applying appropriate statistical techniques to answer research questions, and correctly interpreting and reporting statistical results. My goal is to help every student feel confident understanding the statistics reported in academic research and to use statistics within the context of their own substantive interests and everyday lives.

To successfully comprehend the material covered in this course, students will need to spend time practicing what we learned. There will be ample opportunities both within and outside of class time to work on practice exercises that will help you grasp concepts from the textbook. The material covered in each class serves as the building block for subsequent classes. It is very important to attend class and keep up with the material or you will quickly fall behind. With the proper dedication, along with adequate support and resources from me, I am confident that all students can excel in this course.

Learning Outcomes

As we work through the course material, students will be able to:

- Summarize data using descriptive statistics
- Understand the principles underlying inferential statistics
- Apply appropriate statistical techniques for a given research question, perform rudimentary analyses, and interpret the results
- Critically evaluate research findings in their field of study and in everyday life
- Take more advanced statistics courses

OWL

All course content will be available through Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>

Login using your UWO username and password. Check Brightspace regularly for information on the course schedule, materials such as lecture slides and readings, announcements, grades, and the full evaluation details. You will also be required to submit all assignments and evaluations to Brightspace.

Required Textbook

Statistics: A Tool for Social Research (fifth Canadian edition) by Joseph F. Healey, Christopher Donoghue, and Steven G. Prus. Cengage.

The textbook is required because it contains important information that you will need to complete in-class activities and assignments. You may purchase an older edition (third or fourth) of the textbook, but please note that the order and content of chapters varies across editions and may not align with the dates in the course outline below. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they are reading the correct content. Please get in touch with me if you have barriers to accessing the course textbook.

Additional details on the cost and how to purchase a hard or digital copy of the textbook is available here:

bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025A&courses%5B0%5D=570_KC/SOC2205A

Required Materials

In addition to the course textbook, the only required material for this course is a calculator with exponential and square root functions.

Method of Evaluation

5 Homework Assignments, 30% (6% each)

Midterm Exam, 35%

Final Exam, 35%

1. Homework Assignments (30%)

Students will be required to complete 5 homework assignments that cover recently reviewed course material. These assignments will give students the opportunity to practice applying the statistical procedures seen in the course, receive feedback on their progress, and prepare for exams. Homework assignments are due on the dates noted below. Assignments will be accepted without penalty if they are submitted within 24 hours of the due date. After that, a penalty of 10% per day late will be applied, including weekends. Assignments more than 5 days late will receive a grade of zero.

2. Mid-Term Exam (35%)

Students will be required to write one mid-term exam on **October 23** during our regular class time. It will include multiple choice questions and short-answer questions related to all material covered to that point in the course. Please remember you will need a calculator with exponential and square root functions for the exam. You will be provided with a list of all formula reviewed in class. Academic consideration to write a make-up for missed mid-term exams will require formal supporting documentation from the Academic Advising Office.

3. Final Exam (35%)

The final exam for this course will be held during the December exam period (Dec 11-22). The university registrar will determine the date and time. It will cover ALL the material seen in this course, with an emphasis on material after the mid-term exam. Please remember that you will need a calculator with exponential and square root functions for the exam. You will be provided with a list of all formula reviewed in class. Academic consideration to write a make-up for missed final exams will require formal supporting documentation from the Academic Advising Office.

Artificial Intelligence & Plagiarism

All work submitted as part of this course must be completed independently by the student without any aids. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including but not limited to ChatGPT, for this course is NOT permitted under any circumstance. Please see the course policies below for additional details.

Course Outline and Readings (subject to minor variations)

| Date | Topic | Readings |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Week 1 (September 4) | Introduction and review of elementary math concepts | Prologue Chapter 1 |
| Week 2 (September 11) | Descriptive Statistics - Basic Descriptive Statistics - Measures of Central Tendency - Measures of Dispersion | Chapters 2-3 |
| Week 3 (September 18) | The Normal Distribution - The Normal Curve - Probability - Z scores Assignment 1 due | Chapter 4 |
| Week 4 (September 25) | Inferential Statistics -The Sampling Distribution | Chapter 5 |
| Week 5 (October 2) | Inferential Statistics (continued) -Estimation Procedures (means and proportions) -Confidence Intervals Assignment 2 due | Chapter 6 |
| Week 6 (October 9) | Hypothesis Testing (means and proportions) - One sample case | Chapter 10 |

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| Week 7 (October 16) | Hypothesis Testing (means and proportions) - Two sample case - Midterm review Assignment 3 due | Chapter 11 |
| Week 8 (October 23) | Midterm Examination | |
| Week 9 (October 30) | Hypothesis Testing - Bivariate Tables - Chi-Square Test | Chapter 7 |
| Reading Week (November 6) | No Class | |
| Week 10 (November 13) | Measures of Association - Nominal - Phi, Cramer's V, and Lambda Assignment 4 due | Chapter 8 |
| Week 11 (November 20) | Measures of Association - Interval-Ratio - Linear Regression | Chapter 13 |
| Week 12 (November 27) | Measures of Association (continued) - Interval-Ratio - Linear Regression Assignment 5 due | Chapter 13 |
| Week 13 (December 4) | Final exam review -Strategies for choosing the correct test | No readings |

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.