



**Sociology 2205a (571)
Statistics for Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: J. Michalski

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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.

**King's University College at Western University
Department of Sociology**

Sociology 2205A, Section 571 (Fall 2025)

Statistics for Sociology

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Instructor: Joseph H. Michalski

Teaching Assistant: Nicolas Rojas

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2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course introduces students to a variety of descriptive and inferential statistics, as well as their applications in sociological research. Students will be expected to develop basic competencies in identifying and using appropriate statistical techniques to summarize and evaluate sociological information. The importance of understanding why, when, and how to use the analytic techniques will be stressed as opposed to the memorization of formulae. Some basic math skills will be required, but the emphasis will be on the application and interpretation of statistics. Students are expected to understand basic mathematical procedures, however, and should own (and know how to operate) a calculator that has the capacity to perform square roots.

IMPORTANT!: Students *must* make time to work at their computers virtually or in the lab to develop their understanding of SPSS fundamentals. Additional details will be provided in class.

Key Course Learning Objectives. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Calculate basic descriptive statistics, including measures of central tendency and dispersion
- Understand the logic of the normal curve and the important features for drawing inferences
- Apply the logic of the normal curve to explain sampling distributions and estimation procedures for sample means and proportions (including confidence intervals)
- Determine, calculate, and interpret appropriate measures of associations for variables measured at the nominal, ordinal, and interval/ratio levels
- Understand hypothesis testing and properly evaluate tests of statistical significance, including basic analysis of variance procedures, correlation, and bivariate regression
- Have some basic competencies in the use of SPSS to compute and analyze statistics

3. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS

Students must have access to the following, required textbook: Healey, Joseph F., Christopher Donoghue, and Steven Prus. 2023. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research* (5th Canadian edition). Toronto: Cengage (ISBN-13: 978-0-17-692204-7). **Cost: \$135.65**

IMPORTANT! The course lecture materials will be available weekly through the Brightspace system, usually posted in advance of each class. Students must know their unique, eight-character UWO username and password. Anyone who has forgotten the information should consult the Registrar's office immediately or the IT Department at King's.

4. COURSE EVALUATION

Homework #1 - #5:	50%
Mid-Term Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	30%

Homework #1 - #5: Each homework assignment will be worth 10% of your final mark. The assignments help students apply the logic of various statistical techniques to social science problems, while practicing their interpretations of the results. Full details will be provided at least one week in advance of due dates. While some aspects require graphing, statistical computation, and other descriptive forms of presentation, the written interpretations of the analyses should be typed or printed clearly—all work must be legible!

Important: All assignments must be handed in on Brightspace. Any assignments turned in after the deadline will be penalized 5% per day.

Mid-Term Exam (Oct 15): The mid-term exam is worth 20% of one's final mark. The exam will include "objective" questions (multiple choice and true/false questions), as well as a set of problems that students must solve. The exam will cover only the materials from the seminars prior to reading week (including Chapter 1-6 in the text). Materials will be drawn from the readings, lectures, and homework assignments.

Final Exam (TBA): The final exam will be scheduled during the final exam period for the winter term, focusing on the second half of the course. The exam will be worth 30% of the overall mark. The exam will include both multiple-choice questions and a set of problems that students will be asked to solve, as well as a major question requiring interpretation.

IMPORTANT!: Students are not allowed to have a cell phone or other electronic devices during tests or examinations, with the exception of a calculator. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests may be subjected to similarity reviews by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. If students do better on the final exam than on their mid-terms, the weighting can be increased to 40% for the final and their mid-term exams reduced to 10%.

6. SESSION OUTLINE

Please note that under the “Required Readings” below, the “H” simply refers to the Healey et al. text (with designated chapters assigned for each week).

SESSION OUTLINE (FALL 2025): DATES, TOPICS, AND REQUIRED READINGS

Date	Topic	Required Readings
Sep 10	Course Introduction Basic Descriptive Statistics	H: Ch.1 H: Ch. 2
Sep 17	Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion (Homework #1 Due)	H: Ch. 3
Sep 24	The Normal Curve: Z scores and Estimating Probabilities	H: Ch. 4
Oct 1	Inferential Statistics: Sampling and Sampling Distributions (Homework #2 Due)	H: Ch. 5
Oct 8	Estimation Procedures: Sample Means and Proportions	H: Ch. 6
Oct 15	Mid-Term Exam	(No New Readings)
Oct 22	Hypothesis Testing: Nominal and Ordinal Variables	H: Ch. 7
Oct 29	Measures of Association at the Nominal Level Measures of Association at the Ordinal Level (Homework #3 Due)	H: Ch. 8 H: Ch. 9
Nov. 5	Reading Week (no classes)	
Nov 12	Hypothesis Testing with Means and Proportions (one-sample case)	H: Ch. 10
Nov 19	Hypothesis Testing with Means and Proportions (two-sample case) (Homework #4 Due)	H: Ch. 11
Nov 26	Hypothesis Testing with More than Two Means: ANOVA	H: Ch. 12
Dec 3	Interval-Level Associations and Hypothesis Testing: Regression (Homework #5 Due)	H: Ch. 13
Dec 10	Study Day (no classes)	
Dec 11-22	Final Exam (TBA)	

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.