Statistics for Behavioral Sciences (PSYC A160)

Online Orange Coast College

Fall 2026

Course Information Section #25376

Instructor Information

Name: Lora Connor

Email: lconnor1@occ.cccd.edu

Office Hours Upon Request (via CCCD Zoom in Canvas): **Mon 12:30 PM –1:30 PM**

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to critically evaluate statistical concepts, research designs, and applications in the behavioral sciences.

Course Description

This course emphasizes the calculation, interpretation, and application of descriptive and inferential statistics in the behavioral sciences. Topics include research methods, mathematical concepts, distributions, estimation, correlation, regression, sampling and probability, hypothesis testing, z and t-Tests, ANOVA, nonparametric tests, and statistical analysis and interpretation using technology such as SPSS and Excel. Application of statistical concepts will incorporate data from social and behavioral sciences, business, life science, health science, and education. Students completing Mathematics A160 may petition for alternative credit for Psychology A160. May be taken for grades or on a pass-no pass basis. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC

Prerequisite

Successful completion of a course at the level of intermediate algebra or appropriate OCC math placement.:

- MATH A030: Intermediate Algebra with a minimum grade of C or better
- MATH G030: Intermediate Algebra with a minimum grade of C or better
- MATH C030: Intermediate Algebra with a minimum grade of C or better
- MATH A045: Combined Elementary & Intermediate Algebra with a minimum grade of C or better

Syllabus Notes

Please become familiar with the information provided in the syllabus as this is considered course reading material. The syllabus contains essential information about the course (e.g., requirements, deadlines), your success in college, and your overall experience at OCC. I strongly recommend you keep a copy of this syllabus for future reference and documentation (e.g., verification of content covered for transfer credit, clinical licensure, employment).

–This syllabus is subject to change or revision due to the need to make course adjustments based on the instructor's judgement. This syllabus (and any changes to it) should be seen as a roadmap to help students attain academic success and maximize their potential.

I am here to facilitate your learning success in college, goal attainment, and overall educational experience at OCC. If you have any questions or if I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regular and Substantive Contact

Online courses require regular and substantive contact between students and the instructor. Students can expect this to be accomplished through student office hours, weekly announcements, timely feedback on assignments, discussion responses, email, or other forms of contact as required. Students can expect to receive a response to emails within 24 to 48 hours if sent Monday through Friday.

Required Text

MindTap Account: Login to Canvas for registration instructions. The MindTap Account will contain assignments, assessments, and access to the book for this course:
Gravetter, F., Wallnau, L., Forzano, L. B., & Witnauer, J. E. (2021). *Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences* (10th Edition). Boston, MA: Nelson Education, Ltd. IBSN: 9780357035535

Required Applications

IMB SPSS Statistics:

- Accessed through 3 Possible Options
  1. Can be obtained through IBM Statistics for a small fee using your student email address: **https://www.ibm.com/products/spss-statistics/gradpack**
  2. The **Apporto** VPN provided by OCC (This can run a little slow at times, but it is free)
  3. The campus Library or Computing Center

Microsoft Excel App: **Download the Excel App** and sign in using your student school account. FYI: The online version does not have all the capabilities we will be using in class.

Recommended Materials

Scientific calculator TI-30X IIS

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading assignments: You are responsible for reading all assigned chapters and you are expected to read and understand the concepts discussed in each of the assigned chapters. This will better help you to understand and absorb lecture material, ask pertinent questions, and will better prepare you for assignments and exams. *Readings can be found in the MindTap application.*

Lecture: *Lectures will be provided in video format through Canvas* and will include information from the assigned readings and additional information from other sources. Students are responsible for all information presented in the assigned readings and in lectures. Test questions will come from both lecture and reading.

Homework: Each discussion topic in the course will have associated homework problems and quizzes that *must be completed using the MindTap application*, which can be accessed through Canvas. Each SPSS & Excel Exercise and Exam *will be completed in Canvas*. These tasks provide an opportunity for you to apply the course material, self-assess your conceptual mastery of the course content, and target specific concepts to review. Each assignment will be graded according to the

number of questions you answer correctly.

Exams, Quizzes, Assignments, Exercises:

- Exams: There are five exams in the semester. The exam with the lowest score will be dropped. Each exam will include multiple-choice questions and computational questions. Exams will be taken online. *There will be NO make-up exams.*
- Quizzes: There will be a total of 15 quizzes. The lowest 5 quiz scores will be dropped. These quizzes will consist of items based on lectures and reading assignments. *Late quizzes are penalized by 10% of points earned for each day* they are late.
- Problem Sets: There will be various training labs and problem sets that will require you to organize raw data, perform appropriate analyses, and make a conclusion about questions of interest. *Late assignments are penalized by 10% of points earned for each day* they are late.
- SPSS & Excel Exercises: There will be video demonstrations provided each weak that will step students through SPSS and Excel trainings related to data manipulation and statistical analyses as discussed in lecture and your readings. These exercises will help students to apply the content learned from readings and lectures and build tangible skills in mathematics and technology. *NO LATE SPSS & Excel exercises will be accepted.*

Grading

Assignment	Points	Percent
Exams (5 total; drop lowest 1)	360	31%
Homework: Problem Sets (21)	320	28%
Quizzes (15 total; drop lowest 5)	250	22%
SPSS/Excel Exercises (5 total)	225	19%
Total	**1155 points**	**100%**

Grading Scale: Grading is done using a straightforward point system (total points earned / total points possible). I do not anticipate curving grades.

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	< 60%

Class Policies

Withdrawal and drop policy: Please be aware that I will drop you if you fail to establish attendance through the provided space in Canvas by Wednesday of the first week of the semester without notification (in which case you are probably not reading this). Students who do not perform any work will also be dropped, but ultimately you are responsible for add/drop/withdrawal procedures described in the Orange Coast College catalog. Please be aware of the deadlines and consult the Admissions and Records website for further information.

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Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the written work of others is considered a very serious offense & will not be tolerated in this course. If a student is suspected of or caught cheating on any test or assignment, he/she will receive a grade of zero on that test or assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean's office to be retained on record. It is very important to avoid putting yourself in the position of even being suspected of cheating (e.g., looking at another student's exam or copying an assignment) or plagiarism (i.e., using another's words as your own written words), as very serious consequences may result and remain on your student record. If you would like more information on the academic honesty policies of Orange Coast College, please refer to the Orange Coast College Class schedule catalog.

Sending emails: I will do my best to respond to your e-mails within 24 hours Monday-Friday. E-mails sent Friday afternoon or over the weekend will be responded to by Monday afternoon. I actually really enjoy receiving e-mails from students, and you should feel free to shoot me an e-mail if you have a quick question or concern. However, I ask that you adhere to the following simple but very important guidelines:

Tell me who you are! This includes telling me your first and last name and the course your attending. *Please check the syllabus before asking me your question*! The syllabus includes a lot of information that may contain the answer to your question. *Ask yourself if your question can be answered by another student.*

Academic Accommodations: If you have a documented disability and need accommodations for this class, please see me as soon as possible or contact the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) for assistance. The DSPS offices can be reached at (714) 432-5807. Students with disabilities are protected under Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Students must provide documentation before they are entitled to accommodations.

Other Student Services: Consult the Student Services website for a list of important campus agencies and phone numbers including Learning Resource Center, Counseling, Student Health Services, and the Success Center. Please see the Orange Coast College Class schedule catalog for more details on these services.

Class Schedule

Week	Week Starting Date (i.e., Monday)	Due Dates	Lectures, Homework, Quizzes, Exams
1	Aug 24		*Welcome Message and course overview*
			Chapter 1
		Aug 30	Problem Set
		Aug 30	Quiz
2	Aug 31		*Chapter 2*
		Sep 6	Problem Set
		Sep 6	Quiz
3	Sep 7		*Chapter 3*
		Sep 13	Problem Set

		Sep 13	Quiz
		Sep 11 – 13	Discussion: Chapter 1, 2, 3 SPSS & Excel Exercises
		Sep 13	**Exam #1 Chapters 1, 2, 3**
4	Sep 14		*Chapter 4*
		Sep 20	Problem Set
		Sep 20	Quiz
5	Sep 21		*Chapter 5*
		Sep 27	Problem Set
		Sep 27	Quiz
6	Sep 28		*Chapter 6*
		Oct 4	Problem Set
		Oct 4	Quiz
		Oct 2 – 4	Discussion: Chapter 4, 5, 6 SPSS & Excel Exercises
		Oct 4	**Exam #2 Chapters 4, 5, 6**
7	Oct 5		*Chapter 7*
		Oct 11	Problem Set
		Oct 11	Quiz
8	Oct 12		*Chapter 8*
		Oct 18	Problem Set
		Oct 18	Quiz
9	Oct 19		*Chapter 9*
		Oct 25	Problem Set
		Oct 25	Quiz
		Oct 23 – 25	Discussion: Chapter 7, 8, 9 SPSS & Excel Exercises
		Oct 25	**Exam #3 Chapters 7, 8, 9**
10	Oct 26		*Chapter 10*
		Nov 1	Problem Set
		Nov 1	Quiz
11	Nov 2		*Chapter 11*
		Nov 8	Problem Set
		Nov 8	Quiz
12	Nov 9		*Chapter 12*
		Nov 15	Problem Set
		Nov 15	Quiz
		Nov 13 –15	Discussion: Chapter 10, 11, 12 SPSS & Excel Exercises
		Nov 15	**Exam #4 Chapters 10, 11, 12**
13	Nov 16		*Chapter 13*
		Nov 22	Problem Set
		Nov 22	Quiz
14	Nov 23		*Chapter 14*
		Nov 29	Problem Sets
		Nov 29	Quiz

15	Nov 30		*Chapter 15*
		Dec 6	Problem Sets
		Dec 6	Quiz
16	Dec 7	Dec 9 – Dec 11	Discussion: Chapter 13, 14, 15 SPSS & Excel Exercises
		Dec 11	**Exam #5 Chapters 13, 14, 15**

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