Syllabus

Semester/Year: Fall/2012

Time/Location: 100% Online

Instructor: Diana Mindrila, PhD

Office Location: Education Annex, room 128

Online Hours: Wednesday 11-4 pm & by appointment

Office Hours: Thursday, 11-4 pm

Email: dmindril@westga.edu

Online Support: CourseDen Home Page
https://westga.view.usg.edu/

CourseDen Help & Troubleshooting
http://www.westga.edu/~distance/webct1/help

UWG Distance Learning
http://distance.westga.edu/

UWG On-Line Connection
http://www.westga.edu/~online/

Distance Learning Library Services
http://westga.edu/~library/depts/offcampus/

Ingram Library Services
http://westga.edu/~library/info/library.shtml

University Bookstore
http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/

Course description:
This course introduces the graduate student to methods of empirical inquiry used in nursing. Quantitative research designs and quantitative approaches to scientific inquiry will be emphasized. Students will select samples, identify appropriate measurement instruments, analyze data descriptively, and apply a variety of inferential statistical tests to answer nursing research questions.

APPROACHES TO INSTRUCTION
This course will be delivered entirely at a distance with no face-to-face meetings. Students are expected to use *WebCT CourseDen* for corresponding with each other and the instructor. Work will be submitted through the online course management system, using tools such as the assignments feature, discussion board, or testing feature of *WebCT CourseDen*. Please follow the directions in *WebCT CourseDen*. This class will also employ multiple methods of communication and interaction including a variety of Web 2.0 and distance technologies.

The following are the minimum requirements for completing this class successfully. You must meet these requirements to participate in the class.

- Access to a personal computer (PC or MAC) with speakers and a microphone (headset) to complete the course work.
- High-speed internet service (DSL, Cable, etc.) is **strongly recommended**. If high-speed internet is not available in your area, contact your instructor immediately. Completion of course requirements will be very difficult and cumbersome without high-speed service.
- Software requirements:
  - *Microsoft Office 2003* or higher (available free of charge at UWG),
  - Adobe Reader,
  - IBM SPSS 20.0 (Statistical software)
    For the purpose of this course, The "Base" version of SPSS will suffice. IBM SPSS offers discount prices for students ("IBM SPSS Statistics Grad Pack 20.0 BASE"). This package can be purchased from the following websites:

    http://studentdiscounts.com/ibmspssstatisticsgradpack190base-instocknowwindowsormac-12monthlicense-caninstallonupto2computers-1.aspx

    http://e5.onthehub.com/WebStore/OfferingsOfMajorVersionList.aspx?ws=49c547ba-f56d-dd11-bb6c-0030485a6b08&vsro=8&pmv=123c1b20-14db-e011-b09a-f04da23e67f6&cmi_mnuMain=2ff73789-74c7-e011-ae14-f04da23e67f6&cmi_mnuMain_child=2a1143f0-74c7-e011-ae14-f04da23e67f6&utm_source=LandingPage-SPSS-Statistics-20&utm_medium=LandingPage&utm_campaign=SPSS

  - other potentially required downloads listed in *WebCT CourseDen*.

This course will be delivered 100% online. This requires the online equivalent of 2250 minutes of instruction (seat-time) and an additional 4500 minutes of supporting activities.

As such, you will be required to complete the following online activities during this course:

Activity	Instructional Equivalent
Discussion posts	225 minutes
Audio/video instruction	2250 minutes
Online assignments	4275 minutes

Additionally, it is anticipated that students will need to work independently for twice the number minutes listed above to complete the online activities.

Learning outcomes:

1. Compare and contrast research designs.
2. Evaluate characteristics of effective research designs
3. Apply the principles of sampling to support the generalization of findings to the population.
4. Identify the relationships among constructs, variables, and measurement instruments and how they influence the selection of data collection tools.
5. Analyze data using descriptive statistics.
6. Test hypotheses using a variety of inferential statistical tools.
7. Critique published nursing research studies
8. Identify issues related to protection of rights of human subjects
9. Begin work on dissertation

TEXTS, READINGS, INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES

Required Text(s)

Moore, D.S. Notz, W.I., Fligner, M.I. (2013). The Basic Practice of Statistics, Sixth Edition, W.H. Freeman, New York.
(ISBN: *978-1-4641-1125-9)*

The textbook is included in a course package, which will be available at the university bookstore.

The course package includes:
1. Textbook in loose-leaf format (The Basic Practice of Statistics)
2. The student CD for The Basic Practice of Statistics
3. Access card to the StatsPortal for The Basic Practice of Statistics
   The stats portal can be accessed at the following link:
   http://portals.bfwpub.com/bps6e.php

Temporary access code for the Stats Portal can be obtained using this code:
Temporary Activation Code: 7td-cvu-ac28ar9x

Direct access to the StatsPortal can be purchased at the following link (all resources are included here, including the textbook):
https://purchase.bfwpub.com/purchase/transaction/transaction.php?productId=bps6e_p

Course References

Moore, D.S. Notz, W.I., Fligner, M.I. (2013). The Basic Practice of Statistics, Sixth Edition, W.H. Freeman, WH Freeman & Company: New York.

Floyd J., Fowler, Jr. (1995).Improving Survey Questions: Design and Evaluation. Sage Publications Inc.

Fraenkel, J. R., Wallen, N.E. (2012). How to design and evaluate research in education. WH Freeman & Company: New York;

More, D.S., Notz, W.I. (2009). Statistics concepts and controversies. WH Freeman & Company: New York.

Moore, D.S., McCabe, G.P., Craig, B.A. (2012). Introduction to the practice of statistics. WH Freeman & Company: New York.

Moore, D. (2010). Essential Statistics. WH Freeman & Company: New York.
Larose, D. (2011). Discovering statistics. WH Freeman & Company: New York.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Multimedia presentations
Discussions
Assigned readings and online activities
Independent applications of statistical procedures
Students' research projects (assignments)

ASSIGNMENTS, EVALUATION PROCEDURES, AND GRADING

Evaluation Procedures

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Online activities 20	**20**	**On going**
Assignment 1	**20**	**Sep 24th**
Assignment 2	**20**	**Oct 8th**
Assignment 3	**20**	**Nov 12th**
Assignment 4	**20**	**Dec 3rd**
Total Points	**100**	

Online exercises will be available through the Stats Portal at the following link:
http://portals.bfwpub.com/bps6e.php

Grading scale:
A = 100 - 90;

B = 80 - 89;

C = 70 - 89,

F <= 69

Assignments 1-4 may be resubmitted if grades are below the mastery level (80% of the maximum possible score). Students have one week to resubmit their work after receiving feedback. Resubmitted assignments must include the feedback provided. Students will receive 80% of their score for any resubmitted work. For instance, if the resubmitted assignment meets all the assessment criteria, the student will receive 80% of the maximum score.

CLASS, DEPARTMENT, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Honesty: All work completed in this course must be original work developed this semester. Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism occurs when a student uses or purchases ghostwritten papers. It also occurs when a student utilizes ideas or information obtained from another person without giving credit to that person. If plagiarism or another act of academic dishonesty occurs, it will be dealt with in accordance with the academic misconduct policy as stated in the latest *Student Handbook* and the *Graduate Catalog*.

Disability: All students are provided with equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc. If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make those known, either yourself or through the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. For more information, please contact Disability Services at the University of West Georgia: http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php. Any student with a disability documented through Student Services is encouraged to contact the instructor right away so that appropriate accommodations may be arranged. In addition, certain accommodations (which will be discussed in class) are available to all students, within constraints of time and space.

Extra Credit:
Depending on students' performance, extra credit opportunities may be offered throughout the semester.

Late Work:
To keep up with the topics, please turn in your assignments on time. Work that is turned in late will be reduced by 20%, and items more than 2 weeks late will not be accepted.

Professional Conduct:

Student Email Policy: University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG email account, which is the official means of communication between the University and student. It is the student's responsibility to check this email account for important University related information.

Student emails should be sent via CourseDen, and will be addressed during working hours, on business days.

Tentative Course Outline (may be Subject to Change)

Dates	Class Topic	Reading/ Assignments
Week 1 (Aug 20-24)	Sampling & data collection	Chapter 8 Online Activity 1 (Due Aug 27th)
Week 2 (Aug 27-31)	Exploring Data – Picturing Distributions with Graphs	Chapter 1 Online Activity 2 (Due Sept 4th)
Week 3 (Sep 4-7)	Exploring Data Describing Distributions with Numbers	Chapter 2 Online Activity 3 (Due Sept 10th)
Week 4 (Sep 10-14)	Normal Distribution	Chapter 3 Online Activity 4 (Due Sept 17th) **Assignment 1 (Due Sep 24rd)**
Week 5 (Sep 17-21)	Scatterplots and Correlations	Chapter 4 Online Activity 5 (Due Sept 24th)
Week 6 (Sep 24-28)	Regression	Chapter 5 Online Activity 6 (Due Oct 1st) **Assignment 2 (Due Oct 8th)**
Week 7 (Oct 1-5)	Confidence Intervals	Chapter 14 Online Activity 7 (Due Oct 8th)
Week 8 (Oct 8-12)	Tests of Significance	Chapter 15 Homework 8 (Due Oct 15th)
Week 9 (Oct 15-19)	Test of Significance	Chapters 16 & 17 Online Activity 8 (Due Oct 22nd)
Week 10 (Oct 22-26)	Inference about a Population Mean	Chapter 18 Online Activity 9 (Due Oct 29th)
Week 11 (Oct 29-Nov 2nd)	Two Sample Problems	Chapter 19 Online Activity 10 (Due Nov 5th) **Assignment 3 (Due Nov. 12th)**
Week 12 (Nov 5-9)	Chi-square Tests	Chapter 23 Online Activity 11 (Due Nov 12th)
Week 13 (Nov 12-16)	One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	Chapter 25 Online Activity 13 (Due Nov 26th) **Assignment 4 (Due Dec 3rd)**
Week 14 (Nov 19-23)	*Thanksgiving Break*	
Week 15 (Nov 26-30)	Research designs and issues related to protecting the rights of human subjects.	Assigned Readings will be posted in CourseDen Online Activity (Due Dec 7th)