

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
Anthropology 235, Quantitative Methods, Section 1,
Spring 2012

Instructor:	Dr. Charlotte Sunseri
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Office Hours:	T/Th 9-10:15AM, Tuesday 3-5:30PM, or by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday 6:00-8:45PM
Classroom:	Clark 204
Prerequisites:	Students must have successfully completed STAT 95 or equivalent.

Course Description

This course presents advanced quantitative methods with the goal of equipping students for applied anthropology research as well as the knowledge to evaluate anthropological and social scientific articles. The seminar emphasis will be on understanding statistics, creating databases, using statistical software packages, and employing proper statistics. Students will engage with hands-on use of statistical software packages and application of methods in a real-world setting through a term project and occasionally lead seminar discussions. Since this is an anthropology course rather than solely a statistical course, the focus will be on teaching students how to think about quantitative data sets in social science settings and think about the role these data play in addressing research questions. Students who have a willingness to think and a desire to learn are fully equipped to be successful in this class, regardless of any prior knowledge of statistics or math-phobias.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Course Content Learning Outcomes (LO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

LO1 Apply common statistical tests to analyze anthropological data sets.

LO2 Critically examine the use of statistical analyzes in anthropological arguments and published articles.

LO3 Build data sets appropriate to statistical analysis to address anthropological research questions.

Departmental Objectives

The Department of Anthropology seeks to enhance student knowledge and skills in the following areas.

Knowledge

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

Skills

6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Professional Values

10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research

Required Texts/Readings

Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, 4/e: A Brief Course, by Arthur Aron, Elaine N. Aron, and Elliot Coups. Fifth Edition. Prentice-Hall. ISBN: 0205797253
(Note: You will not need to purchase the Student Version of SPSS packaged with this!)

Research methods in anthropology: qualitative and quantitative approaches. By Russell H. Bernard. 2005. Fourth Edition. Rowman Altamira. ISBN: 0759108692, 978-0-7591-0869-1.

SPSS Survival Manual, Fourth Edition. 2010. Julie Pallant. ISBN: 0335242391 (strongly recommended)

Electronic readings (in PDF format) made available online.

Classroom Protocol

- Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Students are expected to do readings and activities prior to class, attend class every meeting, and engage in discussion of the material.
- Please turn off all electronic devices during class and use computers only for note-taking or SPSS analysis.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

Seminar participation and preparation (30 pts, 2 pts/wk): Each student is expected to attend class, bring notes on readings assigned for that day's discussion, and bring completed answers to the practice problem sets (when assigned). Students who fail to attend seminar meetings, who arrive late, or who do not substantively contribute to the discussion will not receive credit for the week.

Article analysis and presentation (10 pts): Each student will be responsible for leading occasional discussions of the critical analysis of statistics as applied in published articles. These presentations will be assigned ahead of time and be team-led discussions. The presenters will be expected to each turn in a brief summary to the instructor of their article analysis (2 pages, double spaced). All students should be prepared to participate and support their colleagues who are presenting, and to lead when it is their turn.

Term project (60 pts): Students will complete a statistical analysis of a real-world study. This will involve development of research questions and hypotheses (5 pts), literature review of previous studies on the topic (5 pts), methods (5 pts), data collection to evaluate hypotheses (5 pts raw data, 5 pts structured dataset), and drawing conclusions commensurate with the statistical results. During the course of this project students will report preliminary findings to the instructor for feedback (5 pts), present findings to the

class and discuss problems encountered (5 pts), develop a complete draft of project for peer review of text (5 pts), and produce a final project write-up in the form of an academic article or grant proposal (20 pts).

Grading Distribution

A+ >98, A 94-97, A- 90-93 %

B+ 88-89, B 84-87, B- 80-83%

C+ 78-79, C 74-77, C- 70-73%

D+ 68-69, D 63-67, F <63%

Policies:

- Students will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity and intellectual ethics. The chief product in the social sciences is new knowledge and original thinking. Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with university Academic Integrity Policy.
- **All** course work must be completed to pass this class. **No** late assignments will be accepted without instructor approval and documented cause.
- Unless otherwise specified in the instructions, assignments will not be accepted by email or after the last scheduled class.
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus, exam dates, or course content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class, or to explore timely topics.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

Anth 235, Section 1 / Quantitative Methods, Spring 2012, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 26	Introduction to course and quantitative research
2	Jan 31	Part I: The nature of social science research Research design, hypothesis testing, and social science data sets, types of data, introduce Pallant Read: Aron Ch 1, 12; skim Bernard Ch. 1 (focus on p. 24-27); Angrosino [Ch 10 pdf]
3	Feb 7	Building your research agenda, considerations of numerical data, literature review Read: Bernard Ch 4, 5 (p.130-143); Przeworski and Salomon [pdf] <i>Proposal due: research problem statement</i>
4	Feb 14	Part II: Methods, numerical data collection Methods I: Interviews, surveying Read: Bernard Ch 9-11; Angrosino [Ch 8, 9, 11 pdf] <i>Literature review due</i>
5	Feb 21	Methods II: Unobtrusive observation, participant observation, quantification and fieldnotes Read: Bernard Ch 13-15; Angrosino [Ch 5-6, pdf]; Roberts, Arth, Bush [pdf]
6	Feb 28	Part III: Data analysis and pattern interpretation SPSS, mean, standard deviation, z scores, correlation and prediction, normal curve, probability, sampling Read: Aron Ch 2-4; Bernard Ch 6-8 <i>Methods section due</i>
7	Mar 6	More on hypothesis testing; statistical significance, effect size, statistical power Read: Aron Ch 5-7; Wolf [pdf], Lefkowitz [pdf] <i>Data summary due: 1 page summary of raw data or planned sources</i>
8	Mar 13	Scales and qualitative data analysis Bernard Ch 12, 16, skim Ch 17-18; Angrosino [Ch 4, pdf]
9	Mar 20	Non-parametric tests and non-normal populations, Chi-square, t-tests, rank order Read: Aron Ch 8, 9, 11; case studies [pdf] <i>Datasets due: structured in SPSS</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Spring Break! Mar 26-30		
10	Apr 3	Spatial analysis in anthropology Read: Chalmers & Fabricius 2007 [pdf]; case studies [pdf]
11	Apr 10	Analysis of variance, multivariate analysis Read: Aron Ch 10, skim Bernard Ch 19-21; case studies [pdf] <i>Preliminary results due: 3-4 pg. summary of statistical tests run to date and interpretive results</i>
12	Apr 17	The politics of data, ethics Read: Agrawal 2002 [pdf]; Palsson and Rabinow 1999 [pdf]; Code of Ethics of the American Anthropological Association
13	Apr 24	**Present your project to your peers (project status, tentative findings, problems encountered so far)
14	May 1	Finish presentations, address roadblocks shared on Apr 24
15	May 8	**Peer-review of term project drafts (include research question, hypotheses, brief literature review, methods, data analysis, and interpretations) Read: Przeworski and Salomon [pdf]
16	May 15	Where to go from here, course wrap-up

Final: Fri, May 18 at 5:15-7:30 [*Write-up of term project (article or grant proposal) due by email to instructor*]