

San José State University
JS 15, Introductory Statistics in Justice Studies, Section 3, Fall, 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Michael Vallerga, M.A.
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Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00AM-11:30AM @ MQH 528 Tuesdays, 10:00PM-11:30PM @ DMH 216 By Appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday 4:30PM to 7:15PM
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 149B

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas system to learn of any updates.

Justice Studies Department Reading and Writing Philosophy

The Department of Justice Studies is committed to scholarly excellence. Therefore, the Department promotes academic, critical, and creative engagement with language (i.e., reading and writing) throughout its curriculum. A sustained and intensive exploration of language prepares students to think critically and to act meaningfully in interrelated areas of their lives—personal, professional, economic, social, political, ethical, and cultural. Graduates of the Department of Justice Studies leave San José State University prepared to enter a range of careers and for advanced study in a variety of fields; they are prepared to more effectively identify and ameliorate injustice in their personal, professional and civic lives. Indeed, the impact of literacy is evident not only within the span of a specific course, semester, or academic program but also over the span of a lifetime.

Course Description

Introduction to measures of central tendency, variation, correlation and regression, probability, estimation and hypothesis testing as used in Justice Studies.

Required Software

SPSS will be required for this course. A student license is available for purchase, for \$15, at the Academic Technology Computer Center in CL102 (Their hours are: Monday thru Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 9:45 p.m. / Fridays: 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m).

Alternatively, you may borrow a computer with SPSS from the Student Computing Services at the Library.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Statistics are a central tool used in the application of justice, whether in criminal or social justice. Leaders in justice-oriented organizations are expected to be statistically literate, and in many cases, skilled at applying statistics to solve problems. Therefore, statistics are an important component of education for students interested in Justice Studies.

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

1. Compute statistics commonly used in justice studies.
2. Properly apply and interpret statistics to solve novel problems in justice studies.
3. Critically evaluate statistical information commonly used in justice studies.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Salkind (2013). *Statistics for People Who Think They Hate Statistics*, 5th Edition. SAGE Publications. ISBN-10: 1452277710

Required Software

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Alternatively, students may borrow a computer with SPSS from the Student Computing Services at the Library for a week at a time.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408) 808-2118
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/justicestudies>

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

In-Class Assignments (24 Points)

There will be time within each class meeting to complete an In-Class assignment. It will usually be multi-part, as these night classes need to be broken up by activity: pen-on-paper activity to make sure that you are following along and to help you remember important parts of what was covered. There will be 13 of these over the course of the semester. The lowest score on these will be dropped, leaving you with 12 In-Class Assignments, each worth 2 Points.

These assignments will be on paper and only handed out and turned back in during class. Absent students may make up the missed In-Class Assignment in person, under my supervision, within a week of the missed class,

by appointment (this is important – please be sure to contact me to set this up). Extenuating circumstances that make this not possible should be brought to my attention ASAP.

Homework (24 Points)

Almost every class meeting will involve a homework component. The first half of the course will involve homework assignments involving conceptual understanding of foundations of statistics, as well as some that include simple SPSS assignments. The second half will be exclusively SPSS assignments. The last homework will be briefly reviewed at the top of each class meeting. There will be a total of 14 Homework Assignments over the course of the semester. The two lowest scored of these will be dropped, leaving you with 12 Homework Assignments, each worth 2 Points, totaling 24 points.

Quizzes (24 Points)

There will be three Quizzes. Each Quiz will cover the past topics covered in the last three class meetings. Each Quiz is worth 8 points, totaling 24 points.

Final (28 Points)

The Final will be cumulative and worth 28 Points.

Extra Credit

There will be no Extra Credit assignments.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

The final course grade will be based on a 100-point scale. Since the grade is based on mastery of the material, it is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A.

My grading scale is:

98 – 100 A+	92 – 97 A	90 – 91 A-
88 – 89 B+	82 – 87 B	80 – 81 B-
78 – 79 C+	72 – 77 C	70 – 71 C-
68 – 69 D+	62 – 67 D	60 – 61 D-
59 and below F		

The grade is composed of:

In-Class Assignments	24 points
Homework	24 points
Quizzes	24 points
Final Exam	28 points
Total:	100 points

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Instructor’s Note on Communication

As you know, a university degree is a significant undertaking and requires a high level of commitment, time management, organization, and initiative. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay on top of the readings and keep in touch with the instructor. The best way to keep in touch is in-person during office hours, or at another time by appointment. If you cannot meet with me in person, I prefer that you email me. Emails will be mostly only responded to during business hours (Monday through Friday only). When you send me an email please put “JS 15” and your full name in the subject line. Please note: all communication regarding assignment grades and exam grades must be conducted in person and not via email.

Classroom Etiquette

Please try to avoid being late. It is understood that many have numerous other commitments, but students must also understand that they have enrolled in school aware of the demands of those commitments. Please make arrangements in order to arrive in time for class to begin promptly at the designated time. Please silence all cell phones, laptops, and any other electronic device. The use of anything that beeps or consistently vibrates during class is disruptive and then the instructor will need to ask that it be turned off, and then no one is happy. Please don’t do rude things like texting or browsing the internet during class. That can be distracting to students behind you. Students are responsible for all missed notes, materials, and announcements due to absence (i.e., do not email the instructor asking about what you missed). Students are encouraged to exchange contact information with someone in class just in case you miss class.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90–5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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 year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. 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/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - Audio and video recording of lectures is not allowed without written permission. In such cases, the number of class meetings to be recorded must be indicated.
 - Due to the active participation of students that may be on the recording, either recording of the lecture must be precise to omit their participation, or permission of those students should be obtained as well.
 - Generally, due to in-class assignments and the lecture slides being available on CANVAS, recording lectures will not likely be very helpful.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

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Course Schedule (*subject to change with fair notice*)

Week	Date	Topics	Readings / Assignments Due
1	Aug 24	Introduction to Statistics / Levels of Measurement	
2	Aug 31	Central Tendency	(Skim Chapter 1 & Read Chapter 2; HW1 ; Get SPSS
3	<i>Sep 7</i>	<i>Labor Day – No Class</i>	
4	Sep 14	Variability	Read Chapter 3; HW2
5	Sep 21	Frequency Distributions and Visualizing Data	Read Chapter 4; HW3
6	Sep 28	Quiz 1 ; Intro to Hypothesis Testing	Read Chapter 7; HW4
7	Oct 5	Probability	Read Chapter 8; HW5
8	Oct 12	Significance Tests	Read Chapter 9; HW6
9	Oct 19	Quiz 2 ; Z-Test	Read Chapter 10; HW7
10	Oct 26	T-Test	Read Chapter 11 HW8
11	Nov 2	T-Test	Read Chapter 12; HW9
12	Nov 9	ANOVA	Read Chapter 13; HW10
13	Nov 16	Quiz 3 ; Correlation & Regression: The Basics	Read Chapter 5; HW11
14	Nov 23	Correlation	Read Chapter 15; HW12
15	Nov 30	Regression	Read Chapter 16; HW13
16	Dec 7	Chi-Square	Read Chapter 17; HW14
Final Exam	Thursday, December 10	DMH 149B at 2:45PM-5:00PM	