



San José State
UNIVERSITY

JS 203: Seminar in Applied Statistics in Justice

Spring, 2016

M 4:30 – 7:20 PM

MacQuarrie Hall 526

Instructor:	Dr. Bryce Westlake
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Office Hours:	Monday (2:00pm to 4:00pm) Wednesday (2:00 to 4:00pm)
Companion Website:	SJSU Canvas

JUSTICE STUDIES DEPARTMENT READING & 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

An evaluation of specific statistical methods for quantitative and non-quantitative analyses, concentrating on applications and interpretations in justice related settings.

Prerequisite: STAT 95 or equivalent, JS 105 or equivalent, and graduate standing.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- 1) Learn the quantitative statistical procedures most commonly used by social scientists.
- 2) Learn how quantitative social scientists analyze information when discovering new knowledge or evaluating organizations.
- 3) Learn how to read scientific research reports and appropriately criticize them.
- 4) Read, write, and contribute to discussion at a skilled and capable level.

TEXTBOOKS

REQUIRED

Bickel, R. (2007). *Multilevel Analysis for Applied Research*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Brown, T. (2014). *Confirmatory Factor Analysis for Applied Research (2nd Edition)*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Borgatti, S.P., Everett, M.G., & Johnson, J.C. (2013). *Analyzing Social Networks*. London: Sage.
Additional Readings Supplied via Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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>.

ASSIGNMENTS

Critical Discussion (10%): All participants are expected to take an active role in each seminar as both learners and teachers. You are expected to complete the weekly required readings prior to each seminar. You are going to benefit the most from class discussions, explanations, and activities if you have some knowledge about the concepts studied each week. In each class you should demonstrate that you have read the assigned materials ahead of time, raise and discuss issues, and fully engage with the class. Discussion in seminars will focus on both the readings and on your research projects.

Leading Discussion (20%): The week *following* the learning of a new statistical method, two students will be required to lead a 45-minute discussion surrounding two research articles that use that method. During this discussion you are to critically assess the appropriateness of the method used by the authors, note any methodological limitations not adequately addressed, and connect the method back to the field of criminal study.

Research Paper (40%): Students will write an original, quantitative, research paper. You are responsible for finding your own dataset to analyze. There are plenty of datasets available, free of charge, through public repositories. You may use any of the techniques covered after Week 4 (Issues with Data). In addition to your research paper, you are to submit your final dataset(s) and a copy of the syntax file with notations, used to create the datasets and analyze the data.

The research paper is a journal quality, formatted, article based on your dataset. You will follow the stylistic requirements of *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. You will notice that I have omitted minute details such as 'How many references do I have to use for the literature review?'

and 'How many pages should the paper be?' In the real world of research, these issues are generally left to the judgement of the researcher. It is up to you to determine what and how much is sufficient to cover the topic you have chosen.

Big Quiz (30%): The big quiz will take place at the end of the semester and will be primarily based on the readings and on the lecture materials. There may also be a lab component. The big quiz will be comprehensive and closed-book. More details will be provided as the date draws near.

Grading

In order to receive a grade for this course, all course requirements must be met and every assignment must be completed. Failure to complete any one assignment may result in a failing grade for the course. Deadlines are firm. Late assignments/papers will not be accepted for full credit (without extenuating personal circumstances due to own or family health; or other university recognized excuse). In such cases, appropriate documentation must be shown to the instructor. **Late assignments/papers will lose 10% for every calendar day that they are late, including weekend days.**

97-100%	A+	92-96%	A	87-91%	A minus
83-86%	B+	79-82%	B	75-78%	B minus
70-74%	C+	65-69%	C	60-64%	C minus
57-59%	D+	53-56%	D	50-52%	D minus
0-49%	F				

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.

Additional Notes

Office Hours: I am very flexible with office hours for graduate students. Let me know when you want to see me and we'll arrange something.

Email: Although I am receptive to email correspondence, I will only reply (to course-related emails) if I can do so in a few sentences. Please do not ask me to explain course concepts via email. If it requires more than a few sentences, you need to see me in person.

Expectations: I have very high expectations for graduate students that includes treating you as adults capable of prioritizing your own schedule and seeking guidance/assistance when needed. However, with high expectations comes my dedication to helping you meet those expectations. If issues arise or if you are having struggles, the best advice I can give you is to contact me sooner rather than later. The less information I have to work with, the less I can be of assistance. It is your responsibility to seek out assistance when you need it. It is my responsibility to provide assistance when you request/need it.

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 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, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/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 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop 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 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>, 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.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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 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 \(AEC\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/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 Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

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>.

SEMINAR IN APPLIED STATISTICS IN JUSTICE

SPRING, 2016, COURSE SCHEDULE

This course schedule is subject to change with fair notice, at the instructor's discretion. All reading assignments listed should be completed prior to class on that date. Additional readings may be assigned.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	February 1 st	Introduction Linear Regression (Review)	
2	February 8 th	Multiple Regression	Tech 1 & 4 Article 2
3	February 15 th	Logistic Regression	Tech 2 & Article 1 <i>Optional: Tech 3</i>
4	February 22 nd	Issues with Data	Article 3, 4, 5, & 6
5	February 29 th	Longitudinal Regression Analysis (Survival/Cox)	Survival 1, 2, & 3
6	March 7 th	Principal & Exploratory Factor Analysis <i>Survival Analysis Discussion</i>	Brown Ch. 2
7	March 14 th	Confirmatory Factor Analysis	Brown Ch. 3-5 <i>Opt: Brown Ch. 6-9</i>
8	March 21 st	Introduction to Multilevel Modeling <i>Confirmatory Factor Analysis Discussion</i>	Bickel Ch. 1-4
9	April 4 th	Multilevel Modeling I	Bickel Ch. 5 & 7
10	April 11 th	Multilevel Modeling II <i>Multilevel Modeling I Discussion</i>	Bickel Ch. 11
11	April 18 th	Introduction Social Network Analysis <i>Multilevel Modeling II Discussion</i>	Borgatti Ch. 1-5
12	April 25 th	Social Network Analysis I	Borgatti Ch. 6, 8-12
13	May 2 nd	Social Network Analysis II <i>Social Network Analysis I Discussion</i>	Borgatti Ch. 14, 15
14	May 9 th	Social Network Analysis III <i>Social Network Analysis II Discussion</i>	Borgatti Ch. 7, 13
15	May 16 th	Course Review (Final Paper Due)	No Readings
Exam Week	TBD	BIG QUIZ	