

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**



**SWRK 344: Social Work Statistics and Data Analysis  
(3 credit hours)**

**Fall 2024 – All Online Course**

Instructor: **Dr. Austin Griffiths**  
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**Office Hours:** Online and by appointment  
Office 1: Academic Complex Room 112C  
Office 2: Community Health Sciences  
Complex (CHSC) at South Campus - 118D

**Course Description:**

Prerequisites: MATH 109 or MATH 112 or MATH 115 or MATH 116 or MATH 117 or MATH 123 or MATH 136 or MATH 142 or MATH 183 or CS 146 or PHIL 215

**Required Text:**

Royse, D., Montcalm, D., & Griffiths, A. (2022). *Statistics for social workers: Essential concepts* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Cognella.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of levels of measurement.
2. Demonstrate how to organize data.
3. Describe the importance of diversity and ethical considerations on research questions, sample selection, and analysis.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the selection and utilization of appropriate inferential statistics for hypothesis testing.
5. Display professionalism in interactions with peers and instructor, and via oral and written communication of ideas

**Description of Course Assignments**

***Reading Quizzes – 130 points (13 @ 10pts each)***

There will be 13 reading quizzes over the course of the semester. The reading quizzes will include multiple choice and true/false questions that will assess your understanding of the various statistical concepts. Mastery of the reading quizzes will help your performance on the midterm and final exam. The reading quizzes are administered during specified time periods on Blackboard. They will open on Monday at 8am CST and close on Sunday at 11:59pm CST the week they are due. You may take the reading quiz at any time during the week; however, once you begin the reading quiz, you must finish it within the timeframe given.

**Unit Exam – 200 pts (2 @ 100pts each)**

The two (2) unit exams (e.g., midterm and final exam) contain multiple choice and true/false questions to demonstrate mastery of the various statistical concepts. The exams are administered during specified time periods on Blackboard. They will open on Monday at 8am CST and close on Sunday at 11:59pm CST the week they are due. You may take the exam at any time during the week; however, once you begin the exam, you must finish it within the timeframe given.

**Evaluation & Grading**

Reading Quizzes	130 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
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Total Points	330 points

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

**Other Details and Performance Expectations**

**Format:** An online lecture format will be used. Students are encouraged to ask questions, seek clarification, and discuss course content with the instructor.

**Texts and Handouts:** The one required text for the course is: *Statistics for Social Workers: Essential Concepts* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) by Royse, Montcalm, and Griffiths (2022). It is available for purchase at the WKU campus bookstore and online outlets. The e-version is acceptable for use in the course if preferred. This version will be the only acceptable one to use for the course. As well, students will need to have a calculator that can perform basic as well as square root functions. Students may use calculators on the unit tests.

**Technology and Assignments:** This class is conducted entirely online. Consequently, students will need to be self-motivated and be able to work well independently in completing all course readings, assignments, and other activities. Students watch regular video lectures from the professor, to enhance the didactic aspect of the course. Students must watch all of these video lectures in order to pass the course and receive the maximum grade for participation. Due to the cumulative nature of statistics, watching lectures is absolutely necessary to pass the course.

It is the responsibility of the student to secure the proper computer equipment and technology to access the Blackboard site for this all online course. All technological problems and issues should be addressed to the WKU IT HelpDesk (745-7000) first before consulting the professor. Technological problems are not a legitimate excuse for work submitted late. Students will be required to view online lectures on their home computers recorded using Zoom. Students will also take both exams in the course online, so a reliable connection is required.

Any make-up exams will be for EMERGENCY reasons only and it is the discretion of the professor as to what constitutes an emergency. The professor will only reset an online exam when a technological problem is documented and verifiable-no exceptions!

**The two exams** will be administered online, timed, and will be open book/open notes. **Students are not to consult each other while taking these exams, nor are they to talk with each other about the exam until after the exam period is over. This policy will be enforced with zero tolerance.**

The professor will provide the students more detail on how to access the online exams closer to the time of their administration. Exams will be based on readings, lectures, and statistical problems worked. The second exam will not be cumulative. The format for the exams will be multiple choice and true/false. Statistics problems and all responses will be typed on the computer screen (students will need to provide evidence on the screen that they have worked through the steps of the various statistical problems). The expected sequence for approaching each date on the syllabus will be to read the chapter(s) by the assigned dates, watch the assigned video lectures, and work supplemental problems assigned for each chapter (in addition to the ones in the text).

**Office Hours:** You can contact me at any time via email at [austin.griffiths@wku.edu](mailto:austin.griffiths@wku.edu) and I will promptly respond to your queries. You can also access me via phone at (270) 745-2676. I will also be available for individual appointments if needed.

### **Course Expectations and University Assistance**

Please note the following general guidelines concerning shared responsibilities of the professor and students in this course:

1. ***Inclusion Statement*** - Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to ensuring all members of our campus community have access to equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. Consistent with our campus purpose statement and creed, this classroom will be a respectful space, welcoming all sexes, races, ages, national origins, ethnicities, gender identities/labels/expressions, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, faith/non-faith perspectives, income levels and socio-economic classes, political ideologies, educational backgrounds, primary languages, family statuses, military experiences, cognitive styles, and communication styles. If at any time during this course you are excluded or feel a sense of alienation from the course content, please feel free to contact me privately without fear of reprisal.
2. ***Land Acknowledgement*** - The history of our community and land gives us the opportunity to recognize, respect, and appreciate our place within that history. Western Kentucky University (WKU) honors and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples' land on which this University was built. All land in the state of Kentucky was once Indigenous territory, which is why it is our duty to acknowledge that WKU exists on Native land. This particular region of Kentucky was home to both the Shawnee (Shawandasse Tula) and Cherokee East (GWJᎦᎵᎩ Tsalaguwetiyi) tribes. We also honor and acknowledge the former residents of Jonesville. According to the Jonesville History Project, "Jonesville was a predominantly African American community in Bowling Green, Kentucky, that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of the WKU campus. This incident echoed a pattern across the country where the power of eminent domain was utilized to seize property from minority communities for large public works projects under the guise of urban revitalization."
3. Western Kentucky University does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational programs or activities, including classes or extracurricular activities, on the basis of pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related conditions such as, but not limited to, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Students who seek pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations should make their requests as soon as possible via WKU's Title IX Website at [www.wku.edu/titleix/](http://www.wku.edu/titleix/) under the heading, "Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Conditions." Students can also contact the Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, via email at [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu) or by phone at (270) 745-6867 to request accommodations or seek assistance. We encourage students and faculty to work together to establish a plan that allows the student to complete the class and coursework without

- jeopardizing academic integrity and course standards. The Title IX Coordinator can help facilitate conversations between students and faculty regarding appropriate and reasonable accommodations.
- a. If you are a WKU student and believe that you have experienced an incident(s) of discrimination or harassment based on pregnancy (or pregnancy related conditions or issues), please report it to the Title IX Coordinator via email at [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu) or by phone at (270) 745-6867.
  - b. Additional resources for pregnant and parenting students can be found on WKU's Title IX Website at [www.wku.edu/titleix/](http://www.wku.edu/titleix/).
4. Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators or Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.
  5. In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the [Student Accessibility Resource Center](#). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the [Student Accessibility Resource Center](#).
  6. Students are expected to adhere to all policies contained within the [Student Code of Conduct at WKU](#). Students are expected act in a professional manner within the classroom and with respect to their peers and faculty.
  7. Plagiarism, cheating, and any other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Any instances of such will result in a grade of "zero" for the assignment and/or course failure.
  8. Students are expected to use APA (current edition) for writing, citing, and listing references (if applicable). This is for all coursework including papers, pamphlets, and online assignments. Online assignments must include in-text references and full text references at the end of the assignment just as all other written documents in this course.
  9. Students are encouraged to utilize academic support services such as [The Writing Center](#) and [The WKU Libraries](#) to help you be successful in this course.
  10. *Limited or Specific Use of AI Permitted* - In general, I expect that the work you submit in this class will be your own and you are not authorized to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, etc. However, there may be specific assignments or activities in which we will utilize these tools to enhance your learning experience. In these instances, I will provide you with additional information about the assignment and how AI will be employed and cited. Again, unless permission is granted, you are expected to complete assignments without substantive assistance from others, including AI tools. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, etc. may be used for types of activities such as brainstorming or gathering ideas with appropriate citation, but not for the contribution to actual assignments unless otherwise explicitly approved. If you are unsure if you are using AI tools appropriately in this course, I encourage you to visit with me. Examples of how to cite AI tools are available at <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>

11. All class schedules and activities are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed with reasonable notice and accommodations.
12. Regular and Substantive Interaction (Online Courses Only) - The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage](#).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Availability for synchronous sessions with faculty and students during office hours,
- Weekly announcements,
- Setting assignment due dates that are spread throughout the term of the class, and
- Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission.