



Statistics for Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJS200)

Teaching Team

Instructor

Britte van Tiem

Pronouns: She/her

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Course Details

Lecture: 11am-12:15pm Tu Th

Classroom: 2205 LeFrak Hall

Discussion: 9-3pm Fri (check your section)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics. We will use criminal justice problems and questions to understand the basics of probability, estimation, confidence intervals, and the conditions for valid statistical inference. You will learn and apply core concepts we need to study criminal justice, crime, its determinants, and its effects on our world using data. This course will prepare you to build on those skills in subsequent coursework on statistics and/or empirical research methods.

Required Resources

- **Lecture Slides** – shared on Canvas.
- **Calculator** - you need to bring a calculator that can take a square and square root to lecture, discussion section, and exams.
- **#2 pencil** for all classes with a quiz or exam.
- **R Application/Software** - download and installation instructions will be shared on ELMS.

Supplementary Textbooks

You may use the below textbooks for supplemental practice problems and examples. The Weisburt & Britt book listed is somewhat dated but it is freely available. Note, however, that where differences exist between definitions used in the below textbooks and those used in class, the class definition will prevail. If you are unsure about differences between the book and the lecture slides, come see us in office hours.

- Bachman RD, Paternoster R, Wilson TH (2022). Statistics for Criminology and Criminal Justice (5th Edition). SAGE, Thousand Oaks, CA. ISBN # 9781544375687 (digital); 9781544375700 (hardcopy)
- Weisburd D, Britt C (2007). Statistics in Criminal Justice (3rd Edition), Springer, NY. ISBN # 10 0-387-34112-9; 987-0-387-34112-5.

Course Expectations

All students are expected to:

- Attend class and discussion sections, be on-time and prepared to learn!
- Ask questions in class. Remember that if you're wondering about something, it is likely that another student is wondering the same.
- Be prepared to answer questions during class. Questions during lecture and discussion are not intended to test you, but to enhance learning during class.
- Come to office hours for assistance.

Office Hours

You should feel free to attend any office hours regardless of the instructor. If you cannot participate in any of the available office hours because of a structural impediment, you are welcome to request an appointment outside the hours listed on the syllabus.

- Prof. van Tiem holds office hours in LeFrak 2133 on Tuesdays and Thursdays after class from 12:30-1:15pm. Office hours are drop in on a first come, first-serve basis.
- Amara holds drop-in office hours in LeFrak 2150 on Monday mornings from 9:00-10:30am. You may also email them to schedule an appointment.
- Julia holds drop-in office hours in LeFrak 2220W on Wednesday mornings from 10:30-12:00pm. You may also email her to schedule an appointment.

Assessment

Your performance in the class will be assessed during in-class quizzes and three in-class exams. Exams and quizzes are closed-book and closed-notes. You will be provided with a formula sheet that covers all formulas on the lecture slides covered in the course to date.

Assignment	Descriptions
Quizzes	• Quizzes will be held most weeks at the start of class on Tuesdays. • Make sure to bring a #2 pencil to complete the quiz. Your quiz answers will be scanned and scanners are designed to read #2 pencil answers. As a backup, it can usually read black ink. No other color ink can be used and/or read by the machines. It is your responsibility to ensure that you can fill out the quiz template so that the machine can read it. • Each quiz will consist of five questions and will be multiple-choice.

Assignment	Descriptions
	- Quizzes will start promptly at 11am and finish at 11:12am. - If you arrive late, please be respectful of other students and enter class with your pencil already out of your bag, so that you make minimal noise. You will not get extra time if you arrive late. - Practice - We will post 5 practice quiz questions on ELMS each week to enable you to check your understanding. Practice quiz questions will mix open-ended and multiple-choice questions, also enabling you to practice for the open-ended sections of the exams. - There will be additional opportunities to practice in your discussion section. Practice questions used in discussion sections will not be posted on ELMS.
Exams	- Exams will cover all material covered up until that point in the course, but will focus most heavily on new material covered since the last exam. - Exams will include both multiple-choice and open-ended questions. - You will not be allowed access to a computer during the exam unless you have specific accommodations (see accommodations section below). - If you arrive for an exam after the first person has completed and exited the lecture hall, you may not sit for the exam and will receive a zero.

Grading

- Your grades will be based on your performance on eight in-class quizzes and three in-class exams.
- Your average quiz grade will be calculated over the four quizzes on which you score highest.
- The final numeric grade calculation at the end of the semester will be: $0.25 \times \text{Exam 1} + 0.25 \times \text{Exam 2} + 0.25 \times \text{Exam 3} + 0.25 \times \text{Average Quiz Grade}$.
- There will also be a second formula: $0.22 \times \text{Exam 1} + 0.22 \times \text{Exam 2} + 0.22 \times \text{Exam 3} + 0.34 \times \text{Average Quiz Grade}$. At the end of the semester, I will calculate your grade using both approaches and I will assign your grade based on the formula that gives you the higher grade.
- Final letter grades are assigned based on the percentage of total assessment points earned. Final grades will be assigned according to the distribution below. I will round up from 0.5 to the closest letter grade; for example, an 89.4% is a B+ and an 89.5% is an A-.

Letter	Minimum	Letter	Minimum	Letter	Minimum	Letter	Minimum	Letter	Minimum
A+	97.00%	B+	87.00%	C+	77.00%	D+	67.00%	F+	
A	94.00%	B	84.00%	C	74.00%	D	64.00%	F	<60.0%
A-	90.00%	B-	80.00%	C-	70.00%	D-	60.00%	F-	

Grade Disputes Throughout the semester, we will endeavor to be as generous as possible with our grading

of assessments. If you find an error in the computation of your grade (e.g. the point total does not match the assigned grade) please alert us immediately and we will correct any discrepancies. If you have questions or concerns about the substance of your grade(s) and believe it should be reviewed; you must submit a written request over email to me and your TA that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week of the day that the grades for the relevant assignment were disseminated. Be advised that requests for a grade dispute review may result in the raising or lowering of the grade in question.

R and R-Studio

CCJS200 is a statistics course. We will do many calculations by hand to help you understand core formulas. R is a free program that will allow us to work with datasets that are much larger than those we can process by hand. We will work with R to reinforce the underlying statistical concepts and to give you a taster for statistics with large datasets. In this course, you will learn to run R code and interpret the output it produces in your discussion section; you will not be expected to write code yourself. Class quizzes and exams may cover the same examples from your R scripts – use this knowledge to your advantage! We will post information on how to download and install R and R-Studio on ELMS. Ask for help from your TA if you get stuck. Students who are interested in learning to write their own code are encouraged to take a programming or coding class.

Accessibility and Disability Support

Students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and provide the teaching team with ADS documentation will be accommodated in the classroom. After submitting your Accommodations Letter through the ADS portal, you are expected to reach out to the teaching team via email to further discuss your specific accommodations. In some cases, the teaching team will ask you to attend office hours in the first few weeks of class to discuss how accommodations will be applied in the course. Please make sure all ADS documentation is submitted through the portal for the teaching team to review by September 15, 2026. ADS students who request to take their [exams or quizzes at the ADS Testing Office](#) need to provide the teaching team with a test request in line with ADS regulations, at least one week prior to each midterm exam or quiz, and at least two weeks prior to the final exam. When scheduling at ADS, the student is expected to schedule and take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class unless other accommodations have been approved by Prof. Van Tiem. Quizzes may be taken before the rest of the class, to avoid you having to miss part of class.

Email & Technology

Electronic Devices (laptops, tablets, phones, etc.) Unless you are instructed to use them as part of an in-class activity, electronic devices are prohibited in this class. If these devices are seen and/or used during the class, outside of a required in-class activity, you will be given a warning or asked to leave class. If you

are waiting for an important call, please notify a TA that you may need to step out if your phone vibrates. Exceptions to this policy may apply if a student has a documented need and has obtained written approval directly from Prof. van Tiem.

E-mail & ELMS We ask that you refrain from emailing us about your substantive questions and instead ask them in office hours or discussion section. If you cannot participate in office hours because of a structural impediment, you are welcome to request an appointment outside the hours that are listed on the syllabus. If you need to reach out and communicate about this class about reasons other than substantive questions, please include all members of the teaching team on your email. You must include “CCJS 200” in the subject line of all emails regarding this course. Please do not use ELMS to communicate about this class. The teaching team will respond to emails during regular business hours (M-F 9am-5pm). We will do our best to reply within 24-48 business hours. We will send important announcements via email and ELMS messaging. You must make sure that your email & announcement notifications (including changes in assignments and/or due dates) are enabled in ELMS so you do not miss any messages. You are responsible for checking your email and your ELMS inbox regularly.

AI You are welcome to use AI tools to support your learning. AI can be useful in introductory statistics because many procedures follow clear rules. However, you remain responsible for your own learning and for the work you submit. If an AI response conflicts with course materials, the course materials are authoritative.

Attendance Expectations and Absences

Attendance Expectations You are strongly encouraged to attend all of the class and discussion sessions. If you have to miss a class or a discussion section, I encourage you to work with other people in the class to get caught up on your notes and contact the teaching team if you ever need clarification or assistance.

Make-up exams and quizzes If you must miss an exam due to an excused absence, please contact the teaching team before the start of the exam so we can discuss a makeup option. After you contact the teaching team, official documentation will be required to verify the excused absence. Since exams are considered major graded assessments, self-signed notes will not be accepted.

Religious observances & athletic obligations If you are unable to attend class or take an exam due to a known religious observance or athletic obligation, you must inform the teaching team by September 15, 2026. Documentation will need to be provided prior to the missed class (religious calendar, university athletic travel schedule, etc.) to excuse your absence. It is your responsibility to arrange an alternative date to complete exams/assignments prior to the missed class. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the relevant assignment.

Self-Identification & Inclusive Learning Environments

The University of Maryland has expressed a recognition of the importance of a diverse student body and has articulated a commitment to fostering equitable classroom environments. We bring multi-dimensional identities to the classroom with us. These identities shape how we engage with the substantive course material and our interaction with one another. Prof. van Tiem's office hours provide space for any conversations you may wish to have about your experiences engaging with the course material. I am always open for feedback on how I can better foster an inclusive learning environment. We invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (ze, they/them, she/her, he/him etc.). We will do our best to address and refer to all students accordingly.

Other

Notice of mandatory reporting Faculty members and TAs are designated as a "Responsible University Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to UMD's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct. Please visit the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct's website at ocrsm.umd.edu for further information.

Copyright notice Course materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced for anything other than your personal use in this course without written permission from the course instructor. Be aware that copyright infringements may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Recording in class Please do not take audio or video recordings of class sessions without my consent and the consent of your classmates.

Other Campus Policies It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses. Please visit <https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html> for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Assessment	Class Topic
1	9/1		Intro to class & What is Statistics?
	9/3		Data Structures: Variables
	9/4		Discussion (+ R installation support)
2	9/8		Data Structures: Empirical Distributions
	9/10		Measures of Location
	9/11		Discussion
<i>End of schedule adjustment period</i>			
3	9/15	Quiz 1	Measures of Dispersion
	9/17		Probability I
	9/18		Discussion
4	9/22	Quiz 2	Probability II
	9/24		Midterm I Review
	9/25		Discussion
5	9/29	Midterm I	No lecture – in class exam
	10/1		Theoretical Distributions I
	10/2		Discussion
6	10/6	Quiz 3	Theoretical Distributions II
	10/8		Theoretical Distributions III: Sampling Distributions
	10/9		Discussion
7	10/13	<i>No class</i>	<i>Fall break: no class</i>
	10/15		Theoretical Distributions IIII: T distribution
	10/16		Discussion
8	10/20	Quiz 4	Hypothesis testing I
	10/22		Hypothesis testing II
	10/23		Discussion
9	10/27	Quiz 5	Hypothesis testing III
	10/29		Midterm II Review
	10/30		Discussion
10	11/3	Midterm II	No lecture – in class exam
	11/5		Hypothesis testing IV
	11/6		Discussion
11	11/10	No quiz!	Hypothesis testing V
	11/12		Hypothesis testing VI
	11/13		Discussion

12	11/17	Quiz 6	Linear regression I
	11/19		<i>No class: teaching team at a conference!</i>
	11/20		<i>No discussion: teaching team at a conference!</i>
13	11/24	No quiz!	Linear regression II
	11/26		<i>Thanksgiving: no class</i>
	11/27		<i>Thanksgiving: no discussion</i>
14	12/1	Quiz 7	Linear regression III
	12/3		Linear regression IV
	12/4		Discussion
15	12/8	Quiz 8	Linear regression V
	12/10		Final exam review
	12/11		Discussion
16	12/14	Final exam	Exam week

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for current deadlines.