

University of Maryland
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

CCJS 200: Introduction to Statistics in Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2026

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am-12:15pm
2205 LeFrak Hall

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:30am-3:30pm, and by appointment

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<i>Office Hours</i>	Wed. 9:00am-11:00am	Tue. 9:00am-11:00am

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the statistical methods necessary to both produce and consume criminological and criminal justice research. We will discuss the foundational concepts and basic hand-calculations that underlie more complex problems including basic descriptive statistics, probability theory, hypothesis testing, and an introduction to regression. This knowledge will allow students to more fully understand the concepts and techniques discussed in CCJS 300.

A note: This course will be challenging. It is important that you ask questions when you have them, because much of what we do builds upon earlier material. However, I understand that it can be daunting to ask a question in a large lecture hall. While I hope you will be more comfortable asking questions in discussion sections, if you still are not getting the clarification you need, please come to office hours to see me or the graduate teaching assistants. The earlier we can solve a problem, the less of a problem it will become.

Required Materials

Bachman, R. and Paternoster, R. 2022. *Statistics for Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 5th ed. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.

ISBN: 978-1-5063-2610-8

Calculator - Some form of calculator (**not** your phone) is required for exams and lecture examples. A fancy graphing calculator is not necessary, but it must have a square root function to use many of the formulas in this course.

Course Website – Canvas

This course utilizes ELMS to provide easy access to important course information. This web site will include copies of the syllabus, lecture supplements to facilitate in class work, and will also

contain class announcements, which contain information that all students are responsible for knowing. Grades will also be posted on ELMS. You are strongly encouraged to access this web site on a regular basis. To access ELMS, go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID (login ID) and password.

Class Conduct

It is important, and expected, that you attend all lectures. Exam and problem set materials are drawn from *both* the text and lecture. While you are in class, you are expected to refrain from any disruptive behavior. In addition, I expect the following:

- No headphones worn or in use during class
- No cell phone use during class (phones should be set to “do not disturb” or equivalent setting). Inappropriate use of cell phones may mean that you are asked to leave for the remainder of the lecture.
- Be respectful to me, your TAs and your fellow students
- Use appropriate language

Handwritten notes are strongly encouraged. Laptops or tablets are best used for accessing uploaded materials and to work on practice problems in class. The statistical formulas we use will be difficult to type, and Microsoft Equation may be time consuming and distracting during lecture.

Discussion Sections

This course utilizes weekly discussion sections to facilitate your understanding of the material. Discussion sections are led by graduate teaching assistants and allow you to ask questions and clarify material taught during the full lecture hall and contained in problem sets. You are expected to go to your *registered* discussion section.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>TA</u>
0101	F	9:00-9:50a	LEF 0135	Grace
0102	F	10:00-10:50a	LEF 0135	Grace
0103	F	11:00-11:50a	LEF 1201	Grace
0104	F	12:00-12:50p	LEF 1201	Amara
0105	F	1:00-1:50p	SQH 1121	Amara
0106	F	2:00-2:50p	LEF 1201	Amara

Attendance

In general, **most people do not learn statistics well from textbooks alone**. For that reason, I strongly encourage students to attend lectures and discussion sections regularly to get practice applying concepts learned in lecture. To especially encourage discussion attendance, it is worth 10% of your overall grade.

Assignments

This course consists of two types of graded assignments: problem sets (“homework”) and exams.

Problem sets are available on the course website and are to be handed in *by the end of the class period on the day they are due*. These assignments are designed to prepare you for

timed assessments and consist of similar problems that you may encounter during exams. Rather than having weekly assignments, there will be four problem sets due one week before each of the exams. You may collaborate on problem sets but are expected to show full work. Using any kind of AI assistance on take-home work is strictly prohibited! AI is well known for being unreliable and often incorrect. If I or the TAs suspect that you have used AI on a problem set it could result in the loss of a significant numbers of points, as anything coming from AI is not your own work! Because this class is explicitly designed to teach you the underlying mathematical processes of statistical output, **problems without work shown will be reduced by 50% of the problem's worth for correct answers and will receive 0 points for incorrect answers.**

Exams are closed book/note, but you will be provided with a formula sheet containing the formulas necessary to solve the problems on the exam. The formula sheets will be available on ELMS prior to the exam so that you know what you do (and, conversely, what you do not) need to spend time memorizing.

***Note on partial credit:* In all possible cases, students arriving at an incorrect final answer will receive partial credit for the parts of the problem they completed correctly. Incorrectly transcribing or multiplying numbers, for example, should result in only a small portion of points lost. You may see notations like “CPE” or “BPE” on graded assignments, noting that your answer is “correct based on previous error” or “based on previous error.” However, this requires that you show your work. Be detailed. Overly detailed, if you must. This will allow me and the TAs to follow your thought processes and give you credit where credit is due.

Participation

Participation in this class is worth 10% of your total grade and has a possible value of 20 points. Those 20 points are allocated based upon attendance in your discussion section. Students MUST email their TA prior to missing a discussion section to discuss receiving credit for the discussion they missed.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined by the following weights:

Problem Sets – 30%
Exam I – 15%
Exam II – 15%
Exam III – 15%
Final Exam – 15%
Participation – 10%

The following number system will be used to generate final grades:

A+ 97% to 100%	C+ 77% to 79%
A 93% to 96%	C 73% to 76%
A- 90% to 92%	C- 70% to 72%
B+ 87% to 89%	D+ 67% to 69%
B 83% to 86%	D 63% to 66%
B- 80% to 82%	D- 60% to 62%
F below 60%	

Grade Disputes

If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe that I should review them, you should submit a written request over email to me and your TA describing your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within 48 hours of the date that grades for that assignment are distributed.

Instructor Policy on Makeup Exams, Assignments, Etc.

If you miss class or lose your notes, you should copy notes from a classmate, or come see me or your TA for a brief overview of what you missed.

Problem sets must be turned in on time and will be subject to a penalty of a 10% grade reduction if submitted within 6 hours of the deadline, after which they will receive a '0'.

Makeup exams and problem set extensions will only be given in cases of excused absences and official documentation is required. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required University activities, and required court appearance. If you go to the Health Center and a doctor will not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this, and it is your responsibility to do so. Official written documentation should verify the dates of treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. Consistent with University Policy, you are allotted one honor code health related excuse per semester, though it cannot be used for a major grading event (i.e., exams or problem sets due).

You must notify me and your TA via email *prior* to missing an exam OR a problem set deadline. Travel plans, except as related to excused absences, are not valid reasons for needing to reschedule an exam or extend a Problem set due date. If circumstances warrant, I may choose to issue you a makeup exam. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam *prior* to the exam date. If you have a problem on the day of an exam, email me immediately (alehman@umd.edu). **TAs can approve of extensions or makeup requests, but you must also be in touch with me to confirm these.**

It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor and their TA of any intended absences for religious observances in advance; prior notification is especially important in connection with final examinations, since failure to reschedule a final examination before the conclusion of the final examination period may result in loss of credits during the semester. I will make every feasible effort to accommodate students' requests based on attendance of religious observances.

Special Accommodations

Students with a documented disability or other situation requiring academic accommodations should see me and their TA within the first two weeks of the semester (by February 12, 2026). Students having academic difficulty are also strongly encouraged to consult with me and their TA as early as possible.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is an absolute requirement. Dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. The University of Maryland Honor Pledge reads:

“I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.”

This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. Students are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>. Suspected violations will be dealt with seriously and promptly.

Copyright

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Course Evaluation

Please take the time to complete the course evaluations during the open time window, which is prior to the beginning of final exams. I will send a reminder email when the evaluations are available.

University Policies

Please refer to the website on University of Maryland course policies and student rights maintained at the following address: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Course Schedule

Below you will find a tentative schedule for the course. I will do my best to keep to this schedule as closely as possible. All exams will be given on the dates indicated. In the event the University is closed on a scheduled exam date (e.g., weather emergency) the exam will be given on the next day that class meets.

LECTURE	DATE	TOPIC	DUET
<i>Descriptive Statistics</i>			
1	January 27	University Closed due to snow/sleet	
2	January 29	University Closed due to snow/sleet Panopto Lecture for Introduction available 1/30 by afternoon No Discussion Sections on 1/30	Chapter 1
3	February 3	Types of Data, Levels of Measurement	Chapter 2
4	February 5	Graphing Data	Chapter 3
5	February 10	Measures of Central Tendency	Chapter 4
6	February 12	Measures of Dispersion No Discussion Sections on 2/13	Chapter 5
<i>Probability</i>			
7	February 17	Rules of Probability	Problem Set I DUE Chapter 6 (pp 150-162)
8	February 19	The Z Distribution	Chapter 6 (pp 173-188)
****	February 24	Exam I - Descriptive Statistics	Chapters 1-5
9	February 26	No Class, Dr. Lehman out of town	
10	March 3	Sampling Distributions, Point Estimates and Confidence Intervals	Chapter 7
11	March 5	Sampling Distributions, Point Estimates and Confidence Intervals	Chapter 7
<i>Hypothesis Testing</i>			
12	March 10	Introduction to Hypothesis Testing	Problem Set II DUE Chapter 8
13	March 12	Two Population Means	Chapter 10
	March 17 & March 19	Spring Break-No Classes-Have Fun!	
14	March 24	Two Population Means	Chapter 10
****	March 26	Exam II - Probability	Chapters 6-7
15	March 31	Two Population Means	Chapter 10
16	April 2	Three or More Means	Chapter 11
17	April 7	Three or More Means	Chapter 11

18	April 9	No Class—Dr. Lehman out of town No Discussion Sections on 4/10	
19	April 14	Three of More Means	Chapter 11
20	April 16	Two Categorical Variables	Chapter 9
21	April 21	Two Categorical Variables	Chapter 9
22	April 23	Two Continuous Variables	Chapter 12 Problem Set III DUE
23	April 28	Two Continuous Variables	Chapter 12
****	April 30	Exam III - Hypothesis Testing	Chapters 8, 10, 11, 9
24	May 5	Two Continuous Variables	Chapter 12
25	May 7	Two Continuous Variables	Chapter 12 Problem Set IV DUE
****	May 11	Final Exam – 10:30am-12:30pm	Chapter 12