Statistics for the Social Sciences – ND.SS 214
Fall, 2004
10:00 – 10:50 MWF, Room 202 Good Hall
Ronald K. McLaughlin, Office: 404 Good Hall, Phone: 3681, E-mail: rkm@juniata.edu
Office Hours: 2:00 – 4:00 Monday, 9:30 – 10:30 Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 – 2:30
Wednesday, and by appointment

Course Goals:
The goals for this course are as follows:

1. Develop the skills necessary for extracting useful information from social science data.
2. Provide an understanding of the logic behind the use of various statistical tests.
3. Develop the ability to appropriately generalize findings from sample data to populations.
4. Enhance students’ computer literacy through the use of the Minitab statistical analysis software.
5. Promote the development of students’ problem solving abilities.


Assessment Process:
*Homework:* Several homework assignments will be given. They will be recorded as being finished when they are completed without any errors, but they will not be graded. Any homework assignment not completed correctly within one week of the due date will lead to a reduction of your final course average by one percentage point. Any homework assignment not completed correctly by the beginning of class on December 13 will result in an additional one percentage point reduction in your final course average. Failure to turn in error free homework assignments in a timely manner can have a large, negative effect on your course grade. Don’t let this happen.

*Quizzes:* Short quizzes will sometimes be given at the beginning of class. The purpose of these quizzes is to motivate students to keep up with the material assigned as readings and to come to class prepared. Hence, these quizzes will be unannounced. Be sure to bring your CPS remotes to class with you everyday. Failure to do so on a day on which a quiz is given will result in a score of zero on that quiz. One’s average across all quizzes given in the course will account for 10% of one’s course grade.

*Hourly Exams:* Three hourly exams will be given. Each exam will have two parts. One part will consist of problems and will be given as a take-home exam. The second part will be taken in class and will consist of multiple-choice questions. You will need your CPS remotes for the in-class section of the exam. Each part of the exam will account for 50% of one’s total score on the hourly exam. Take-home sections are to be turned in on or before the beginning of class on the due date. Unless otherwise instructed, take-home exams are
to be done using the Minitab statistical software. One’s average across the three hourly 
exams will account for 60% on one’s course grade. The tentative dates for the hourly 
exams are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>First Exam Take-Home Section due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>First Exam In-Class Section given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Second Exam Take-Home Section due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Second Exam In-Class Section given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Third Exam Take-Home Section due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Third Exam In-Class Section given</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comprehensive Final Exam: A comprehensive final exam accounting for 30% of one’s 
course grade will be given. This exam will also consist of equally weighted take-home and 
in-class sections similar to those on the hourly exams. The take-home section will be due 
72 hours after it is distributed. The in-class section will be given at the time scheduled by 
the Registrar. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAM EARLY. DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS THAT REQUIRE YOU TO LEAVE CAMPUS BEFORE THE FINAL EXAM IS GIVEN!**

Make-up exams will be given only under exceptional circumstances. It is expected that 
every student will take his or her exam on the scheduled date. If a student knows that he 
or she will be unable to take an exam at the scheduled time (e.g., if he or she is going to be 
out of town participating in an athletic event), the student should arrange to take the exam 
early.

Grades:
Letter grades for the exams will be based on the percentage of questions answered correctly 
by the student. Letter grades for the course will be determined as indicated above. The 
percentage scores needed to obtain a particular grade are presented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cutoff for a(n)</th>
<th>Percentage Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance Policy:
Although a roll call will usually not be performed during class time, it is expected that each 
student will attend all regularly scheduled classes. A student who fails to attend a 
regularly scheduled class WILL BE RESPONSIBLE for knowing the material presented 
during the missed class period.

Academic Honesty Policy:
It is expected that all students will maintain the highest standards of academic honesty at 
at all times. It is also expected that students are aware of the academic honesty standards
explained in the Juniata College *Pathfinder*. Violations of the academic honesty standards will result in sanctions ranging from receiving a zero on the assignment on which the standards were infringed to receiving an F for the course.

**Withdrawal Policy:**
A student may withdraw from this course at any time prior to 11:00 a.m. on the last Monday of classes (December 13).

**Flexibility Clause:**
Students should be aware that this syllabus is not a contract nor is it written in stone. From time to time, circumstances may arise that will require making adjustments to the syllabus. Should any changes be required, I will inform the class about the nature of the changes as far in advance as possible.

**Philosophy and Principles of Academic Responsibility**

As a community, Juniata is dedicated to providing an academically challenging and personally enriching liberal arts education. It is the responsibility of students to expand and fulfill their educational careers to the best of their abilities. The Student Government of Juniata College approved the following principles of academic responsibility, and believes that students are more likely to meet success when certain academic and personal attitudes are adopted.

The academically responsible Juniata College student takes a holistic approach to education; has a genuine sense of purpose; exhibits integrity, curiosity, assertiveness, and humility in the learning process; and understands that the fundamental nature of learning is change. Furthermore, an academically responsible student:

- Recognizes learning as a life-long process.
- Assumes responsibility for identifying and achieving academic goals as well as monitoring academic progress.
- Attends class regularly, is well prepared, and participates actively in class activities including discussions, debates, and group assignments.
- Establishes and maintains a mutually beneficial and supportive relationship with faculty, administrators, and peers.
- Prioritizes responsibilities, effectively manages time, and wisely incorporates outside interests.
- Maintains a healthy balance of social life and academic responsibilities, choosing social opportunities and personal relationships that advance educational goals.
- Is well informed about local, national, and world issues.
- Leads a balanced lifestyle recognizing that proper rest, nourishment, and recreation play a key role in academic success.

*FORMULATED BY THE STUDENTS OF JUNIATA COLLEGE AND APPROVED BY STUDENT GOVERNMENT, APRIL 15, 1999*