SOC 1028
305 12100
Social Statistics
2025 Fall
National Taiwan University

Class: Friday 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 (6 & 7 are practicum)
R103 for 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7

Instructor: Meng-Jung Lin 林孟瑢 mjlinmj@ntu.edu.tw
Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00-5:00 PM in R417 or online via Google Meet (please sign up using Calendly: https://calendly.com/mjlinmj/15min) and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
TBA

Does income inequality lead to political polarization? Is social class related to parenting? What accounts for income inequality between ethnic groups in the labor market? We will use statistics and programming to answer these questions throughout the semester. This course introduces tools to summarize the characteristics of data and offers methods to draw conclusions about population from samples. Applying statistics, analyzing data, and interpreting results are the focuses of our class. Although very basic calculation skills are required (e.g., +, -, ×, ÷, √), you do not need further mathematical knowledge to succeed in this class.

Goals of this course
After taking this course, you are expected to be able to:
1. Explain key statistical concepts in your own words.
2. Analyze real-life data using R programming.
3. Interpret results of statistical tests covered in class.
4. Apply statistical methods and computer skills to address daily and social issues.
5. Evaluate statistics and statistical methods used in news, reports, and even academic research.

We will try to accomplish these together. Sometimes, catching up with the class can be challenging if you miss a class or need clarification on just one concept. You have to let me know if you encounter problems along the way. I will enroll you in the Piazza platform for this class (https://piazza.com/ntu.edu.tw/fall2024/soc1028) soon after the first class. Please feel free to ask questions on the platform (and yes, you can do it anonymously).

Who should take this course?

This is a required course for SOCI majors. For those of other majors, I encourage you to join us if you are:

1. Interested in using statistics to understand social phenomena.
2. Willing to spend time outside of the classroom to figure out how statistics and R work.
3. Considering to be a data analyst or go to graduate school.

Course Requirements

Practicum Assignments and Discussion (60%): There will be 11 assignments distributed each Friday during our practicum session and be due on the following **Friday at 9:10 AM**. In the NTU COOL calendar, you can find the exact distribution dates and due dates of the assignments. Usually, two or three problems are included in each assignment. Textbook and R examples in class are the main sources of the problems. For me to help, you must submit your **hand calculating procedures for textbook problems**, and **programming codes and outputs for R problems**. You can collaborate with others to understand the concepts and work through the conceptual programming procedures, but the submitted assignments must be your own work. **Each assignment is worth 50 points, except for Assignment 11, which is worth 100 points.** You are required to contact me beforehand if you want to hand in an assignment late, or I may not accept it.

Since my plan is to have you submit an electronic research poster by the end of next semester, **you are required to meet with me at least once during our practicum or/and my office hours** this semester to discuss your ideas. 10 points will be deducted if you failed to meet with me. Please develop at least one empirically testable research question and apply statistical methods learned in this class to a public dataset to answer your question. **A few questions in the assignments will help you develop your research.** You are encouraged to ask for assistance regarding any aspects (e.g., literature, data acquisition, data analysis, etc.) of your study.

Quizzes (5%): Quiz with 1 or 2 short question(s) for the readings of that week will be available in NTU COOL on Wednesday at 9:10 AM. The due time is **Friday at 9:10 AM**. Quizzes are open books and open notes, but you are not allowed to discuss them with others. Each quiz is worth 5 points. You can miss 1 of the quizzes.

Exams (18%): There will be 3 **in-class** exams throughout the semester. You will be asked to answer multiple-choice questions, summarize key concepts in your own words, and use R to answer programming questions. You will have to answer the multiple-choice questions in NTU COOL. The rest of the questions will be available in a Word (and PDF) file in the same

NTU COOL exam session. Be sure to attach your answer file when you submit your exams. You have to take the exams at the designated time. All of them are open books and open notes, but you have to finish the exam **within the class period**. Remember to have your laptop ready for the exam. Makeup exams are available if you can show me the official proof, but you will have a different version of the exam which may or may not be harder.

Final Exam (12%): The final exam will be a cumulative exam. Similar to the previous 3 exams, there will be multiple choice, short answers, and R programming questions. You have to have your laptop ready for the final exam which will also be available in NTU COOL. You are required to take the final exam at the designated time. The exam will be open book and open notes, but you have to finish it on time. Makeup exam is available if you can show me the official proof, but you will have a different version of the exam which may or may not be harder.

Attendance (5%): Every class (including practicum) counts. For the in-person sessions, I will use **Zuvio** (https://www.zuvio.com.tw/) to take attendance, so please install the App and check in every time you come to class. For online sessions (if necessary), I will use the Google Meet Attendance List to take attendance. Your **participation with Zuvio questions** and **worksheet submissions** will also be used to verify your attendance. Points will not be deducted if you answered the questions wrong. I will only use them to see how well you understood the materials. Worksheets will be distributed in almost every class, but you will only be asked to submit them in several classes. I will announce if you have to turn in the worksheet of the day at the beginning of the class period. You may miss 1 week of classes. **Please contact me for additional absences.** For those who have time conflicts, please let me know beforehand. Class recordings will be posted in NTU COOL. If you miss a class, you must watch the recording before the next class. The NTU COOL video manager will document your name and the time spent watching the recording, which will be counted toward your attendance.

MJ doesn't mind if you occasionally miss class, but MJ does care if you:

1. **Skip classes due to mental or physical illness or emergencies.**
2. **Claim that MJ didn't cover material that appears on assignments or exams.**
3. **Realize too late in the semester that you might not pass or achieve a good grade.**

If you understand all of the above but decide not to attend class on a particular day, you can email me, saying you're tired or just need more sleep. I completely understand and won't count it as an absence, provided your absentee rate stays within the school policy limits. Thank you.

Statistical Software

We will set the open-source statistical software **R** up in our first class. You might have heard of researchers using SPSS, STATA, or SAS. These are convenient but expensive software packages. **R** is free, flexible, powerful, and widely used in many fields (from medical, data science, to social sciences). Although R can be challenging, it opens the door to many career options when you master it.

Textbook

You are required to read the designated chapters/sections of the following textbook **BEFORE** each class. The older versions of the textbook are allowed because the key concepts of statistics haven't been changed and the main organization of the book is almost the same.

Healey, Joseph F. 2020. Statistics: A Tool for Social Research & Data Analysis. 11th Edition. Cengage Learning.

The following books are recommended:

Agresti, Alan. 2018. Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences. Pearson.

Imai, Kosuke. 2018. Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction. Princeton University Press.

Wiley, Matt and Joshua F. Wiley. 2020. Beginning R. Apress: Imprint: Apress. (ebook available: https://ntu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/886NTU_INST/14poklj/alma991038689242404786*)*

Class Policy

1. We will be spending a lot of time doing exercises and analyzing data in class. You **MUST read the textbook BEFORE** class so we can use the concepts and interpret the outputs from R. **Both quizzes and assignments are based on the textbook**. In addition, only will you know what **you and R** are doing after reading the textbook.
2. **Respect others and be responsible.**
3. Use your laptop during class, so we can use R to analyze data together. You can use smartphones to answer Zuvio questions if that is easier.
4. You are welcome to use AI tools to check concepts and aid your learning. However, relying on AI-generated content without critical evaluation may negatively impact your learning and performance. Submitting AI-generated responses without modification or using AI to bypass required coursework is not acceptable. If you use AI in your coursework, you must **disclose the AI platform used and how you applied it**. For now, using AI for proofreading and

grammar checks is acceptable. Otherwise, you must provide the prompts you used.
5. Check your NTU COOL site daily: Check the assignments and quizzes pages. Assignments and quizzes will be available in NTU COOL and should be submitted through COOL.
6. Check your email account daily: Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in COOL and through notification.
7. I will try to reply to your emails within 24 hours during weekdays (Monday thru Friday). I usually answer them between 9 AM to 5 PM, so please arrange your time accordingly to ensure that I have enough time to get back to you before the deadlines.
8. Please be prepared before coming to the office hours.

Honor Code

You have to complete all assignments, quizzes, and exams independently. I will make a checkbox available to you to indicate whether you do the work by yourself when you submit you works. You can familiarize yourself with the **NTU Honor Code here**. The Honor Code of the University is in effect at all times, and the submission of work signifies understanding and acceptance of those requirements. Plagiarism and the use of online educational support platform (e.g., Chegg) will not be tolerated.

While AI tools can support learning, using them to generate assignments, bypass required readings, or replace original thought violates academic integrity. Misrepresentation of AI work as your own may be considered academic misconduct.

Please consult with me if you have any questions about the Honor Code.

Accessibility Resources

Please contact me if you need accommodations due to disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability, or pregnancy complications resulting in barriers to fully accessing the course. You may receive extensions to your exams or/and assignments and be allowed to make up your absences by watching recordings. We can negotiate about your accommodations depending on your circumstances.

Counseling and Psychological Services

The NTU Student Counseling Center is strongly committed to helping students with mental health problems and psychological well-being needs through consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services. Go to their website: https://scc_osa.ntu.edu.tw/ or visit their facilities at Downtown Campus College of Medicine Area C (R204-1) to learn more.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	QOC*	Assignment	Quiz	Keywords
1	9/05	Introduction	Ch.1: pg.xxiii-19	R Setup	1dis	1due	data, hypothesis, variable
		Statistics and Social Research		Data			descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, level of measurement
2	9/12	Descriptive statistics	Ch.2	HSB	1due/2dis	2due	frequency distribution, midpoints, cumulative frequency, ratios, percentage change, charts
		Measures of Central Tendency	Ch.3	War			mode, median, mean, skew
3	9/19	Measures of Dispersion	Ch.4	WVS	2due/3dis	3due	range, standard deviation, variance
		Normal Curve	Ch.5	LLN			normal curve, Z scores, normal curve table, probability and Z score
4	9/26	Exam 1	Ch.1-Ch.4		3due/4dis(Ch.5)	4due	level of measurement, median, standard deviation
		Sampling and Sampling Distribution I	Ch.6: pg.153-161	LLN			representative sample, sampling methods, sampling distribution, Central Limit Theorem
5	10/03	Sampling and Sampling Distribution II	Ch.6: pg.162-170	LLN	4due/5dis	5due	representative sample, sampling methods, sampling distribution, Central Limit Theorem
		Estimation I	Ch.7: pg.173-189	RD			bias, efficiency, confidence interval (interval-ratio)
							confidence interval (interval-ratio), confidence interval (proportion)
6	10/10	National Day (No class)					
7	10/17	Estimation II	Ch.7: pg.189-193	RD	5due	6due	width of interval, confidence level, sample size
		Hypothesis Testing I: One-sample	Ch.8: pg.199-208	Obama			null hypothesis, alternative hypothesis, five-step model
8	10/24	Retrocession Day (No class)					
9	10/31	Exam 2	Ch.5-Ch.7		6dis		Z scores, sampling distribution, confidence interval
		Hypothesis Testing I: One-sample	Ch.8: pg.199-208	Obama			null hypothesis, alternative hypothesis, five-step model
10	11/07	Hypothesis Testing I: One-sample	Ch.8: pg.208-224	Obama	6due/7dis	7due	alpha level, student's t distribution, five-step model
		Hypothesis Testing II: Two-sample	Ch.9	Mental			five-step model (interval-ratio), sample size, independent random samples,
							five-step model (proportions), statistical significance, substantial significance
11	11/14	Hypothesis Testing III: ANOVA	Ch.10: pg.260-279	SWB	7due/8dis	8due	analysis of variance, total sum of squares, sum of squares within/between
							five-step model, interpretation, post hoc test
12	11/21	NTU Sports Meeting (No class)					
13	11/28	Hypothesis Testing IV: Nonparametric Tests	Ch.11: pg.290-310	Parent	8due/9dis	9due	chi-square test, independence, five-step model, goodness-of-fit test
		Hypothesis Testing (Review)	Ch.8-Ch.11				hypothesis testing, five-step model
14	12/05	Exam 3			9due/10dis		association, conditional distribution of y, positive/negative association
		Association/Correlation	Ch.12: pg.321-331				phi, Cramer's V, lambda
		Association-Nominal Variables (Practicum)	Ch.12: pg.331-338	Fertility			gamma, Spearman's rho
15	12/12	Association-Ordinal Variables	Ch.12: pg.338-348	Ethnic	10due/11dis	10due	regression line, intercept (a), slope (b), Pearson's r, r2 (coefficient of determination), correlation matrix
		Correlation-Interval-Ratio Variables	Ch.13: pg.357-384	SP			dummy variable, testing Pearson's r
		Review (Practicum)					
16	12/19	Final Exam	Cumulative Final		11due		

*QOC: Question of the Class.

Practicum Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	QOC*	Assignment	Keywords
1	9/05	Introduction	Ch.1	R Setup	1dis	R studio interface, Import datasets
		Statistics and Social Research		Data		
2	9/12	Descriptive statistics	Ch.2	HSB	1due/2dis	Histogram, plots, measures of central tendency; Public datasets overview
		Measures of Central Tendency	Ch.3	War		
3	9/19	Measures of Dispersion	Ch.4	WVS	2due/3dis	Measures of Dispersion; Idea discussion (4~5 people/class)
4	9/26	Normal Curve	Ch.5	LLN	3due/4dis(Ch.5)	Z table look-up, simulation
5	10/03	Sampling and Sampling Distribution	Ch.6	LLN	4due/5dis	Sampling method demo, simulation (4~5 people/class)
6	10/10	National Day (No class)				
7	10/17	Estimation	Ch.7	RD	5due	Confidence interval; Idea discussion (4~5 people/class)
8	10/24	Retrocession Day (No class)				
9	10/31	Hypothesis Testing I: One-sample	Ch.8	Obama	6dis	One-sample hypothesis testing; Idea discussion
10	11/07	Hypothesis Testing II: Two-sample	Ch.9	Mental	6due/7dis	Two-sample hypothesis testing (4~5 people/class)
11	11/14	Hypothesis Testing III: ANOVA	Ch.10	SWB	7due/8dis	ANOVA, post hoc test; Idea discussion (4~5 people/class)
12	11/21	NTU Sports Meeting (No class)				
13	11/28	Hypothesis Testing IV: Nonparametric Tests	Ch.11	Parent	8due/9dis	Chi-square test; Idea discussion (4~5 people/class)
14	12/05	Association-Nominal Variables	Ch.12: pg.321-331	Fertility	9due/10dis	Phi, Cramer's V, lambda; Idea discussion (4~5 people/class)
15	12/12	Association-Ordinal Variables	Ch.12: pg.338-348	Ethnic	10due/11dis	Gamma, Spearman's rho; Idea discussion (4~5 people/class)
		Correlation-Interval-Ratio Variables	Ch.13	SP		Regression line, Pearson's r, correlation matrix, dummy variable; Idea discussion

*QOC: Question of the Class.

***Question of the Class (QOC) (i.e., R_lab):**

1. HSB: Gender and Math Ability
2. War: Measuring Civilian Victimization during Wartime
3. WVS: Which Country is More Conservative?
4. LLN: Simulation for the law of large numbers
5. RD: Racial Discrimination in the Labor Market
6. Obama: Obama's Supports Rate
7. Mental: Gender and Mental Health
8. SWB: Social Class and Subjective Well-being
9. Parent: Social Class and Parenting
10. Fertility: Level of Development and Fertility
11. Ethnic: Ethnic Diversity and Economic Inequality
12. SP: Subjective Social Position and Attitudes on Economic Inequality

QOCs are subject to change. More examples will be added if time permitted.

*The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.