

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Educational Psychology**

EDRS 620.001 – Quantitative Inquiry in Education  
3 Credits, Spring 2017  
Thursdays, 7:20pm-10:00pm, Thompson Hall L014

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

EDRS 590 or equivalent experience.

**University Catalog Course Description**

Examines fundamental concepts and methods of statistics as applied to educational problems, including descriptive and inferential statistics.

**Course Overview**

EDRS 620 is a graduate quantitative analysis course that facilitates student understanding of the basic concepts, and principles of descriptive and inferential statistics. It emphasizes comprehension, skill development and application of statistical knowledge to quantitative inquiry in education. Students learn through a combination of text reading assignments, data analysis and interpretation of SPSS printouts (Statistical Package for Social Sciences), and application activities. The course lays the foundation for advanced study of quantitative analysis for students desiring to continue their studies in this endeavor. The course explores hypothesis testing, correlational techniques, t-tests, analysis of variance, post-hoc comparison, factorial designs, regression, and non-parametric statistics.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered using a lecture and lab format.

## **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Understand basic concepts, terminology, and assumptions pertinent to statistical analyses;
2. Identify the type of statistic appropriate for a given research question;
3. Use basic inferential statistics to test hypotheses;
4. Interpret statistical findings;
5. Compute, by hand and computer, basic statistical analyses;
6. Design the basic components of a small-scale quantitative research study;
7. Write clearly and coherently about the conceptual framework, research questions and methods used in a study;
8. Report statistical results in correct APA format.

**Professional Standards** ([Name of relevant Professional and Accrediting Organization(s) or Association(s), if applicable])

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards: [State and enumerate specific standards met through this course or “Not Applicable.” This information is available from your Academic Program Coordinator, Division Director, or Accreditation and External Reporting Office.]

## **Required Texts**

Gravetter, F. J. and Wallnau, L. B. (2014/2011). Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. ISBN:978-1-133-95657-0

Students will also need access to SPSS software. There are computer labs on campus that provide access to SPSS. You can access SPSS software through GMU’s virtual computer library at [www.vcl.gmu.edu](http://www.vcl.gmu.edu). Information about how to use the virtual computer library is available at [http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel\\_dataPageID\\_4609=5689](http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel_dataPageID_4609=5689). It is the student’s responsibility to ensure access to SPSS outside of class time as there will not be sufficient time in class to complete required assignments.

### ***Recommended/Related Resource:***

American Psychological Association. (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association. 6th Ed. Washington, D. C.: American Psychological Association.

## **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

**Late Assignments:** As a general rule, late papers/homework will not be accepted. If you believe you have EXCEPTIONAL circumstances and wish to negotiate to have extra time to complete course work, you must discuss this with me before the day the assignment is due. (Negotiating means that you may be sacrificing a portion, perhaps substantial, of your grade for extra time).

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

Online Quizzes (10%): Each week there will be a short quiz posted on Blackboard. The quizzes are composed of short answer and multiple choice items which will cover the basic concepts presented in class and in the textbook. Quizzes are timed (usually 25 minutes) and must be completed during the specified time period. These quizzes are designed to provide you (and me) with feedback about your course progress. Your quiz score cannot lower your overall course grade (unless you have received 0's on quizzes due to failure to complete them). You must complete the online quiz by midnight the day before class meets. You are encouraged to take the quizzes soon after the class meeting; the purpose of the quiz is to help you to isolate key concepts from the class period and to focus your study time. Final grades are calculated both with and without the online quiz grades, with the higher final grade entered into PatriotWeb; therefore, the quizzes cannot lower your grade in any way unless you fail to complete them.

Homework Assignments (20%): You will have 4 homework assignments. Assignments will be posted weekly on Blackboard with their corresponding rubrics. Each week's assignment will include problems that are recommended as well as problems that will be graded. The graded problems will be collected periodically (see tentative schedule). All assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Each assignment should be completed on the computer, printed out, and handed in at the beginning of the class on the date. These assignments are meant to apply and practice the course material. Questions will ask students to explain statistical concepts, work out problems, and or run analyses using SPSS and interpret results. Students should show all of the work for any problem completed and include appropriate computer printouts (please cut and paste from SPSS to Word). You may work together on your assignments; however, students should submit their own independent write-up of results.

Exams (25% each; 50% total) \*\*: The two exams will cover the material from the class and textbook and include multiple choice and short answer questions as well as interpretation of SPSS output. The midterm exam is worth 25% and the final exam is worth 25%.

\*\*Performance-Based Assessment that must be submitted via TK20 on Blackboard.

Article Summaries (10% each—20% total): Students will complete two article summaries with a particular emphasis on the research questions, methods, analysis, and results. For the first article summary, students will respond to a series of questions using an article that has been selected by the instructor. For the second article summary, each student may select from options provided by the instructor or identify an empirical journal in the student's area of interest that includes both ANOVA and correlation. Students will read the entire article, identify key components of the methods/analysis and write a short commentary/critique (2 pages maximum) of the Methods & Analysis section. Rubrics are available on blackboard.

Helpful hint: Pay attention to the methods and analyses sections of articles from other courses or research projects. These are great candidates for this course requirement.

- **Other Requirements**

Class Attendance & Participation: It is expected that all students will read assigned materials before coming to class, come to class on time, participate in class discussions/activities, and complete in-class assignments. The class sessions will include lecture, small group discussion, and discussion of SPSS outputs in a computer classroom. Each class session will include: lecture with accompanying PowerPoint slides (available on Blackboard before class begins), a short break, and lab work. The lab portion of the class will provide time for hands-on computer work that is directly related to the homework and course goals.

*Questions are encouraged.*

Blackboard: The course is technology-enhanced using Blackboard (<http://courses.gmu.edu>). Students are expected to have a MESA account (go to <http://password.gmu.edu> to set an account) and are responsible for any information posted on the course Blackboard site. For assistance with Blackboard students may email [courses@gmu.edu](mailto:courses@gmu.edu), call (803) 993-3141, or go to Johnson Center Rm 311 (office hours: 8:30 am-5 pm). For general technical assistance, students may call (703) 993-8870 or go to the counter in Innovation Hall.

- **Grading**

Grades will be assigned based on the following:

A+ 98-100%	B+ 88-89%	C 70-79%
A 93-100%	B 83-87%	F below 70%
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	

Final grades are based in the assessments described above. “Extra credit” is not available.

*Statistics Study Tips:*

1. Read widely; then read some more.
2. ‘Google’ difficult concepts. There is lots of helpful statistical information on the web.
3. Check for understanding frequently. This means that when a formula is presented; take time to see if you can explain how the formula works. If Greek letters are difficult for you, write out what each letter means.
4. Complete as many questions/problems as possible at the end of the chapters.
5. Develop examples of research questions and hypotheses that are appropriate for each statistical technique.
6. Form a study group.
7. Start the homework as soon as possible after class; waiting until the night before it is due does not help you process the material.

## **Professional Dispositions**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

## Class Schedule

Date	Class	Topic	Reading/Due
1/26	1	Course Info Intro to Statistics & Frequency Distributions Intro to SPSS	Ch. 1 &2 Appendix A: Basic Math Review
2/2	2	Central Tendency Variability	Ch. 3 & 4
2/9	3	Z-scores: location Standard Distributions	<b>HW #1</b> Ch. 5
2/16	4	Probability	Ch. 6
2/23	5	Distributions of Sample Means	Ch.7
3/2	6	Hypothesis Testing & Power	<b>HW #2</b> Ch. 8
3/9	7	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
3/16		Spring Break	
3/23	8	The t distribution	Ch. 9
3/30	9	T-tests	Ch. 10 & 11
4/6	10	ANOVA	Ch. 12 <b>Article Summary #1</b>
4/13	11	Correlation & Simple Regression	<b>HW#3</b> Ch. 14
4/20	12	Chi-Square	Ch. 15
4/27	13	[Professor at AERA] Review Materials will be posted to BB	<b>HW#4</b>
5/4	14	ANOVA: Repeated Measures & Factorial Review	Ch. 13 <b>Article Summary #2</b>
5/11	15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

## Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- The Writing Center provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (see <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>).
- The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs)

to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (see <http://caps.gmu.edu/>).

- The Student Support & Advocacy Center staff helps students develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through confidential one-on-one support as well as through interactive programs and resources. Some of the topics they address are healthy relationships, stress management, nutrition, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use, and sexual health (see <http://ssac.gmu.edu/>). Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone at 703-993-3686. Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community by going to <http://ssac.gmu.edu/make-a-referral/>.

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/>.**