

Psychology 611 Lab
FALL 2007

Instructor: David Kidd
Office: 2063 David King Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00am-10:00am
E-mail: dkidd3@gmu.edu
Class Location: Innovation 318
Class Section 203 Date/Time: Monday, 6:00pm-7:50pm
Class Section 204 Date/Time: Monday, 8:00pm-9:50pm
Course Website: <http://archlab.gmu.edu/people/dkidd3/teaching.html>

Course Objectives

The three goals for the lab are as follows:

1. Conduct statistical analyses
2. Increase statistical comprehension
3. Gain a basic understanding of a statistical software package

Lab Structure

Review of Lecture

The first part of lab will be spent reviewing material covered in lecture. We will review and discuss statistical techniques covered in lecture and how to conduct these analyses in SPSS. Additionally, we will identify and review important assumptions and considerations for each statistical technique.

Application

The second part of lab will be spent conducting analyses on your dataset and writing your lab report. While seeking help from other students is encouraged it is important that each student is not only able to conduct these analyses on their own but understands why the chosen analysis is appropriate and how it is applied. Additionally, students are expected to turn in their own lab report based upon their own dataset.

Lab Report Criteria

After each lab, students will be responsible for writing a lab report based upon the statistical techniques they have learned. Lab reports are due by **Thursday, 11:59 pm** the week in which they are assigned. Late lab reports or lab reports from previous weeks will not be accepted beyond this Thursday deadline. Lab reports can be turned in electronically or as a “hard-copy.” Electronic lab reports **must** be in a Microsoft Word format and “hard-copy” lab reports should be placed **in my mailbox**.

Lab reports will be similar in structure to an APA style manuscript and will be **500-700 words** in length. Lab reports should follow the guidelines set forth in The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th Edition). Similar to an APA style manuscript, lab reports will also contain the following sections: Introduction,

Method, Results, and Discussion. The required components of the lab report are discussed below.

1) Name

Your name, G-number, and section number need to be at the top of the lab report.

2) Introduction

In the introduction students will discuss why they collected a specific dataset. Ideally, students should provide a logical argument in support of a research question that relates to the collected data and the chosen analysis.

3) Method

Students should discuss what the data consists of, how it was collected, where it was collected, and any other relevant information related to the data collection process.

4) Results

The results section should begin with a logical argument about why the chosen statistical technique is well suited for the research question. Additionally, any relevant assumptions of the chosen statistical technique should be addressed. Lastly, students will present the results of the chosen analysis. Be sure to include all relevant statistics in your results section where appropriate (e.g., MS, SS, r , R-squared, F-ratio, significance levels). The use of figures and tables is encouraged and should be in APA format.

5) Discussion

In this section you will explain what the analysis output means. Explanations should be comprehensive and include statements about the inferences that can be made based upon the results and how other relevant aspects influence this interpretation.

Attendance Policy

Attending lab is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. The lab is where you will apply the lessons you have learned in lecture and practice your presentation skills. If you miss a lab it is your responsibility to ask a fellow student or the instructor what work you need to perform. If you know of an upcoming lab that you will be unable to attend contact the lab instructor as soon as possible.

Grading Policy

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation will make up 10% of your final lab grade. You will be given an attendance grade based upon the number of labs that you attend, thus attending lab will be beneficial to your grade in addition to your overall learning experience.

Each student will be responsible for presenting a lab report at the beginning of one lab (e.g., the dataset used, the analysis used, outcomes). Presentations will also contribute to your 10% attendance/participation grade. Each student will be expected to make one presentation during the semester.

Lab Reports

Each lab report contributes equally to your final grade and is graded based upon perceived effort and completeness. Lab reports will be graded based upon the appropriateness of the statistical analysis and the quality of the work. There is no specific set of grading criteria for lab reports. Instead, lab reports will be given a grade of 1 through 5 depending upon the quality of the work. The grading categories are described below:

Grade	Criteria
5	Overall outstanding effort. Correct application and interpretation of analysis with sound rationale for using with the dataset.
4	-----
3	A moderate amount of effort evident in the report. Flawed interpretation and/or application of analysis for the dataset. Inconsistencies throughout the report.
2	-----
1	Poor effort is apparent. Poor or incorrect application and interpretation of analysis. Incorrect statistical analysis used with the dataset.

You will be allowed to revise and resubmit two lab reports. Revised lab reports must be handed in for grading by the **Thursday** after the report was handed back by **11:59 pm** to be re-graded. The grade of the resubmitted lab will replace the grade of the original lab **even if** it is a lower grade.

Statistical Program

The standard statistical program used by faculty is SPSS. I will also be using SPSS for classroom examples and will expect you to do the same.

Disability Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Academic Honesty

Cheating of any kind will be dealt with by rules set forth in the University Honor Code (see <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/index.html>). I prefer never to have any academic integrity issues arise during the semester. The aim of graduate education is to learn material that many others have not learned and master this material to ensure your future success. The grade you receive reflects the hard work you put into the course work. Please do not cheat yourself by misrepresenting your effort.

Class Schedule and Report Due Dates

Class Date	Report Due Date
Monday, August 27 th	No Assignment
Monday, September 3 rd	Thursday, September 6 th ?
Monday, September 10 th	Thursday, September 13 th
Monday, September 17 th	Thursday, September 20 th
Monday, September 24 th	Thursday, September 27 th
Monday, October 1 st	Thursday, October 4 th
Tuesday, October 9 th	Thursday, October 11 th
Monday, October 15 th	Thursday, October 18 th
Monday, October 22 nd	Thursday, October 25 th
Monday, October 29 th	Thursday, November 1 st
Monday, November 5 th	Thursday, November 8 th
Monday, November 12 th	Thursday, November 15 th
Monday, November 19 th	Thursday, November 22 nd
Monday, November 26 th	Thursday, November 29 th
Monday, December 3 rd	Thursday, December 6 th

*The TAs reserve the right to make changes to the Syllabus as needed.