

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## SOC 350: Methods and Statistics for Social Research

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 4

Lecture Hours/Week: 4

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites:

SOC 110 - Introduction to Sociology

Corequisites: SW 400

MnTC Goals: None

Focus on the logic of science, a survey of basic methodologies, and introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 04/05/2005 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to scientific inquiry, including conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement; quantitative and qualitative methods of inquiry; the role of statistics in scientific inquiry.
2. Introduction to statistics with an emphasis on social science applications, thus developing basic statistical literacy, including descriptive statistics; inferential statistics; bivariate measures of association; and multivariate techniques.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will be able to assess and analyze researchers' decisions regarding techniques of designing research and reporting data.
2. Students will be able to describe and interpret major trends revealed by data, including evaluating the authors' interpretations.
3. Students will be able to evaluate procedures used to collect data underlying the statistics presented.
4. Students will become familiar with the advantages and limitations of the more commonly used statistical techniques.
5. Students will know which techniques are appropriate for a given set of data and a given purpose.
6. Students will develop sufficient statistical and computational skills and enough experience in the interpretation of statistics to be able to carry out some elementary forms of data analysis by themselves.

### E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

### F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

### G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted