

**Cedar Crest College**  
**Psychology 212: Statistical Methods**  
**4 Credits**  
**Spring, 2009**

**Class 6:00 – 8:30 (HBB 6)**  
**Recitation 8:30 – 9:30 (CUR 208)**  
**Dr. James Scepansky**

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<b>Tutor: Gary Moll (Professional Tutor)</b>
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<b>Contact : (CUR 113; x 3485; glmoll@cedarcrest.edu) MTWR, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., F 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</b>
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**Required Texts and Materials:**

- **Regular Access to eCollege.** You should automatically be enrolled in eCollege if you are on the roster for this class at the beginning of the semester (if you register late, you need to contact the Registrar immediately). eCollege will enable me to send/receive emails to/from everyone in the class who has an email account, and I can also post handouts or assignments to the course space which you can then print. You will be able to track your scores on assignments across the semester, so that you should always have a sense of your current grade. College policy now mandates that your "@cedarcrest.edu" account must be used (NOT hotmail, yahoo, etc.) for all official communication. It is your responsibility to regularly check your email (At least a couple times per day) from your own computer, a library computer, or from any computer that has email access--I WILL NOT ACCEPT "I DIDN'T GET IT" as an excuse for missing class, missing a deadline or submitting incomplete work. Points will be deducted under each of these circumstances.
- **Use of Turning Point Clicker.** This class will utilize the Turning Point Clicker system. Each student must purchase a clicker at the bookstore and bring it to class each day. The clicker will be used to track attendance and assess student comprehension throughout the semester. Once a student purchases a clicker, it should work for all current and future classes utilizing the Turning Point Clicker system (i.e., you only need buy one clicker). Once you purchase your clicker, you will need to electronically register it for use in this class, as well as any other classes which use the Turning Point Clicker system (directions will be provided).
- **Regular Access to Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th Ed.).** All experimental write-ups will follow strict APA style guidelines. This book is also required in PSY 365/366 (Senior Year Research) and PSY 364 (Literature Review), and is especially valuable for those contemplating graduate school.
- **Required:** Holcomb, Z. (2007). *Interpreting basic statistics* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Pycrzak Publishing

- **Required:** A calculator capable of squares and square roots is required. It is very important that you bring it to each and every class. We will be working on problems in class almost every day, and each student is expected to participate in these exercises. Failure to bring a calculator will count against your class participation grade (see below). **NOTE: A calculator will be provided for you on test days—you will not be permitted to use your own calculators for exams.**
- **Required:** SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) Version 15.0. You must have regular access to this program. You may use the labs or purchase/rent a student version.

**Course Description:** A continuation of the exploration of the scientific field of psychology research and data analysis. Topics include theory, computation, and application of various descriptive and inferential (nonparametric and parametric) statistics. The SPSS computer package will be used for each data analysis method, and data analyses will be tied to specific research designs and mini-field experiments. This course **MUST** be taken immediately after PSY 211. Students **MUST** receive a passing grade in PSY 211 in order to enroll in this class. This class is for declared Psychology Majors only.

**Course Objectives:** To provide an introduction into the scientific field of research and data analysis that is required for working in and exploring any area of psychology. After successful completion of this course, you will

1. demonstrate the ability to conduct various statistical tests, both by hand and using SPSS
2. demonstrate the ability to make and write appropriate interpretations based on data analyses
3. demonstrate the ability to present data graphically, by hand, and using SPSS
4. demonstrate the ability to read results and interpret data and analyses presented in professional publications

**Teaching Format:** The course will consist of some lecture and discussion, but will predominantly involve demonstration of statistical procedures and opportunity for students to practice those procedures. You should read any assigned material **before** coming to class, so that you can be an active participant and keep current with the material.

**Statement on Disability Accommodations:** Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with me during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Academic Services Center. According to college policy, documentation must be provided to me before accommodations will be made.

**Psychology Department Attendance Policy:** The Psychology Department is committed to the principle that regular and punctual class attendance is essential to the students' optimum learning and successful academic achievement. Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and students are responsible for all work, tests and written assignments. Therefore, students are expected to be present for all class sessions. The Psychology Department's attendance policy recognizes that there will be times when attendance at class is not possible. You may think of the policy as being similar to the type used in the corporate world where each employee is given a certain number of "personal/sick days." Based on the number of regularly scheduled class meetings, you will be allowed a certain number of absences (see below) with no consequences, no questions asked. In other words, there is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. You are of course responsible for anything covered during those missed classes, and for submitting assignments on time, regardless of whether or not you attend. Beyond the allowable number of absences, there are consequences that will adversely impact your grade, much as missing too many days of work can adversely impact your employment status. Above all else, you should carefully consider each decision to not attend class, as once your allotted absences have been used, they are gone. It is important that students arrive for class on time. Late arrivals are very distracting, not only to the instructor, but also to fellow students. Repeated late arrivals are not acceptable and will be addressed on an individual basis. It is each student's responsibility to understand this policy and to keep track of absences throughout the semester.

**Application to this Class:** Formal attendance will be taken during all class sessions. This class meets once per week (14 class meetings). As such, you may miss 2 classes without penalty. If you miss 3 classes, your final grade (cumulative percentage of points) will be lowered by 5%. That means that if you have earned 84% of the available points in the class, which is a B grade, you would be lowered to 79%, which is a C+. Likewise, if you have earned 77% of the points available, the penalty would take you down to 72%, which is a C-. As a reminder, a C grade (73%) is required in all Psychology courses. If you miss 4 classes, you will receive a failing grade for the course. If you miss four classes, you have missed approximately 25% of the class meetings.

Furthermore, you alone are responsible for all assignments and material covered in class whether or not you attend. Why is attendance SO important?? We will cover a rather large number of statistical procedures and operations and class time will be used for introduction, demonstration, application, and practice. Further, the skills you learn at one point in the semester will be used as building blocks for more advanced skills that come later. In short, you will be at a great disadvantage if you are not able to attend class. If you do miss a class, you are encouraged to borrow the lecture notes from a classmate, and then I will be happy to sit down and meet with you if there are topics/concepts/procedures that give you trouble. I have created PowerPoint handouts that serve as an outline for what I will cover in class on a topic by topic basis. I will provide these outlines, in advance, as electronic files that can be downloaded and printed before coming to class. The outlines will provide definitions and key formulas so that you do not have to spend the majority of class time writing unnecessarily—more time to listen, process, and most importantly, work on problems. However, the PowerPoints are incomplete; they do not contain everything I will be discussing in class. In other words, the PowerPoints should be treated as a starting point, NOT as “all you need to know.” You should take notes during class time to add to what is contained in the PowerPoints, paying particular attention to examples used to illustrate the concepts that are covered. From my experience, given the hands-on nature of research methodology and statistics, failure to attend even a single class can strongly hinder performance. **It is up to you** to obtain handouts, notes, or any materials that you have missed.

**Lab/Recitation Session:** Due to the hands-on and applied nature of this course, a recitation session has been included similar to the one attached to PSY 211. The sessions will serve to aid students in understanding the lecture material and may consist of some combination of review and extra practice, assistance with experiment write-ups, and/or a question-and-answer period for homework assignments. The sessions will also be used to introduce procedures involving SPSS and will therefore take place in a lab (CUR 208) where students can practice what they learn and prepare for assignments utilizing SPSS. In short, the session will provide structure to the lab component of the course and enable you to receive focused assistance on content that often warrants additional instruction for many students. Attendance at recitation sessions is mandatory. **Important:** As with lecture, you are responsible for material covered/discussed/worked on during recitation if you are absent.

**Academic Honesty and Classroom Protocol:** All Cedar Crest College students are expected to be familiar with and fully supportive of the college’s policy regarding the Honor Code and academic integrity. For any instances of dishonesty (e.g., cheating on tests, copying other students’ work, plagiarism, etc.), appropriate penalties will be applied. See the Student Guide for more information regarding the enforcement of these policies.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one’s own. The use of other people’s work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material. The use of material without acknowledgement is an offense.
- **Cheating:** Bear in mind that allowing another to copy one’s work is an academic offense just as is copying from someone. Furthermore, submitting the same paper for two courses without arrangement is also an academic offense.
- **Important:** It is each student’s responsibility to not only abide by, but also uphold the Honor Code. As such, any instances of dishonesty should be brought to my attention immediately. In addition,

appropriate classroom behavior is defined and guided by complete protection for the rights of all students and faculty to a courteous, respectful classroom environment. That environment is free from distractions such as late arrivals, early departures, inappropriate conversations, cell phone use and any other behaviors that might disrupt instruction and/or compromise other students' access to their Cedar Crest College education. Behavior that is deemed disruptive or disrespectful will result in penalties at the discretion of the instructor. To that end, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- You may eat in class, so long as you do so with courtesy to the class in terms of manners and noise level.
- Turn your cell phones to VIBRATE/SILENT **immediately upon entering the classroom**. If you are expecting an URGENT call, notify me ahead of time, situate yourself near the exit, and quietly exit the room before answering.
- Try to get a good night sleep before coming to class. Falling asleep in class is very distracting and disrespectful; if you are asleep, technically, you are absent and will be treated as such.
- **Conducive Classroom Environment:** When you come to class, it is expected that you are there to learn, and contribute to the learning of others, through participation. This is a class that students come to with varying degrees of experience and comfort. For that reason, it is crucial that the class environment is conducive to learning. When practice problems are assigned, it is expected that each student will work on the problems at their desk individually. As instructor, I need to know when there are problems or when people are not clear on how or why to perform a statistical procedure; if you have questions, please ask me for assistance, rather than engaging in conversation with other students. This is how I can determine if everyone is on the same page! Failure to work on the problems, sleeping, outside reading, or engaging in any other behaviors that detract from the learning environment will result in points being deducted from your grade as I see fit. In particular, use of computers at times and in manners other than those authorized (checking email, playing games, web surfing, using printers) is very distracting to students who are trying to concentrate and will therefore NOT be tolerated.

**Assessment:** Altogether, there will be three (3) exams (See course schedule below), each worth 100 points, which are designed to test your ability to conduct specific statistical tests, make appropriate interpretations, present data graphically, and read interpretations in published research (**Objectives 1 – 4**). Exams will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, computation questions, and SPSS problems designed to measure your knowledge, understanding, and application of course material. As a word of caution, issues in research methodology and statistics early in the semester will serve as building blocks for concepts covered later in the semester; in other words, material in this course is cumulative in nature, and to an extent, so will be the exams (I will have more to say when the exams are approaching). The third exam will be given during Final Exam Week, according to the College-wide schedule which is/will be available on the Registrar's Homepage. Exams must be taken during the scheduled time period. Make-up exams will NOT be given without written documentation from the Dean of Student's Office of an excused absence according to college policy (i.e., serious illness that results in hospitalization or physician-mandated bed-rest, college-sponsored event, death of immediate family member)—NO EXCEPTIONS. Advanced notice should be given whenever feasible. Documentation must be presented and the make-up exam scheduled as soon as possible.

**SPSS Experimental Write-ups:** It is important that students of psychology develop skills in the use of statistical software packages, as this is in reality the way that most statistical procedures are performed by psychologists doing research. **This class satisfies the Cedar Crest College-wide Technology requirement, which all students must complete in order to graduate.** Throughout the semester, there will be demonstrations for how to use SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) to conduct the statistical procedures you have learned to do by hand, and you will have several opportunities to practice with SPSS on smaller assignments (See Homework Below). In PSY 211 you participated in lab "experiments" demonstrating different research designs (Anagrams, Sexual Harassment, Just World Beliefs) and wrote APA-format Introduction and/or Method sections based on those experiments. This semester, you will complete the manuscripts by writing Results and/or brief Discussion sections based on analyses conducted on data from those

same studies. Working with the raw data, which I will provide in the form of an MS Excel spreadsheet, you will enter the data into SPSS and perform the appropriate statistical procedures for each experiment; you will then write a partial APA format manuscript (Results and Discussion sections, along with supplemental figures) to support those analyses (**Objectives 1 – 3**). The papers must conform to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Specific due-dates for each experimental write-up are listed under “Homework” on the course schedule. More detailed instructions will be provided for each experimental write-up. Points will be deducted for late assignments (5 points per day late). Each paper is worth a maximum of 25 points.

**Class Participation:** Class participation will be factored into your grade in this class in two ways. Specifically, the balance of class time will be spent practicing statistical procedures learned in class. It is expected that you will be working on those problems at the appropriate times, and that you will be prepared to do so (with a calculator or anything else that is announced as necessary). Furthermore, during each class period, clickers will be used to assess students’ comprehension and progress in learning the statistical procedures covered in class. Each class session will be worth 5 points (regardless of the number of clicker questions asked, or how many problems are worked on). If you are in class, and you have your calculator and are clearly working on the problems assigned, and you are properly using your clicker to answer the questions, you will get all 5 of that day’s points. **If you 1) are absent, 2) do not register your clicker correctly, or 3) forget your clicker or calculator, you will not receive the points for that day’s class, and those points MAY NOT BE MADE UP.** Altogether, your Homework and Class Participation will be worth up to a maximum of 60 points (12 non-exam class sessions, each worth 5 points). NOTE: It is absolutely important that you register your clicker and bring it (and your calculator) to each and every class session.

**Homework:** Statistics is a skill. To be able to perform any skill proficiently, you must practice. In this course, you will not be able to walk into an exam and expect to do very well without doing several repetitions of each problem type ahead of time. In any case, homework will be assigned on a weekly basis, and it will count towards your grade. Some homework assignments will be in the form of handouts distributed in class or come directly from the class workbook. Others will be placed on eCollege as electronic files. There are two types of homework assignments you will complete on a weekly basis.

**Statistical Reading Comprehension:** The *Interpreting Basic Statistics* workbook presents excerpts from actual journal articles, specifically Results sections and accompanying figures. You will read the excerpts for selected articles (See below) and then answer the 6 – 10 subsequent “Factual Questions;” these questions can be answered either by referring to the excerpt directly, examining the accompanying tables and figures, and/or by simple calculations based on the data in those tables/figures (**Objective 4**). Each exercise is worth a maximum of 3 points and will be graded using the following scale:

0 – 2 incorrect answers = 3 pts

3 – 4 incorrect answers = 2 pts.

5+ incorrect answers = 1 pt. (assuming entire assignment is attempted)

Incomplete, late, not submitted = 0 pts.

**Computational Problem Sets:** On a nightly basis, you will be asked to conduct analyses on problem sets for each type of statistical analysis you will be tested on (**Objectives 1 – 3**). The majority of the analyses must be completed using a calculator, done by hand. Some assignments may require analysis of a small data set using SPSS. In all cases, any interpretations (i.e., “write-ups”) that are required for homework problems **MUST** be typed. Each assignment is 5 - 15 points and will be graded based on completeness, neatness and correctness of answers.

**Important:** To be most effective, feedback for learning new skills needs to be immediate, so I will go over homework (provide answers and answer your questions) during the first few minutes of the next class period. This only helps if you can compare your own work against the answer sheet I provide. For

this reason, I strongly recommend photocopying your completed assignments before turning them in. This way you may compare your answers to those I provide, and will not have to wait until the following week when you will get the assignments returned.

It is each student's responsibility to get and submit homework assignments individually. It does not benefit you if you cannot do the work on your own. You will not be permitted to work together on exams, so please work on homework assignments on your own. Working together on any assignment is considered collusion (i.e., cheating) and is a violation of the Honor Code. If you miss a day when homework is assigned, you are responsible for getting the notes, and meeting with either me or a classmate to discuss the material so that you can still complete the assignment and submit it on time. Homework that is not completed on time will result in points deducted. Writing "I did not understand this" on your homework is not acceptable--it is your job to understand the assignment so that you can complete it correctly. This means, if necessary, attempting the homework early enough so there is time to get help if there is a problem. **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to attempt the homework. If you earn full credit on every assignment you will earn the maximum homework points (150 points).

**Extra Credit:** You may volunteer to serve as a research participant on campus at any time during the semester and earn extra credit, provided you submit proper documentation of your participation. A Research Subject Pool Bulletin Board is located in the basement of Curtis Hall, adjacent to the Psychology Department main office. Check this board periodically for research participation opportunities. You will be given one point for each study you complete, and you may participate in up to 5 studies for credit. This participation is a valuable service to the department and to our discipline. First, it benefits you in that you see first-hand how psychological research is done. Second, it allows our upper-class students and faculty a means of studying topics of interest and may ultimately lead to publications and conference presentations, the very way the scientific discipline of psychology advances. The number of opportunities for research participation varies from semester to semester, and my advice is to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Spring semester is the time during which seniors are conducting their research, typically during the early middle of the semester. Students who are unable to participate in experiments, or who would prefer alternative opportunities, should speak with me and I will make alternate arrangements, but this must be done early in the semester—do not wait until the last few weeks of the semester. Altogether, each student may earn up to 5 extra credit points through research participation and and/or through completion of class-related assignments (Maximum of 5 extra credit points applied to your total points at the end of the semester—these are not percentage points).

**Grading:** Your final grade will be assigned on the basis of the percentage of points you earn out of a possible 610 points (three exams, class participation, homework, the papers, plus any extra credit you earn):

Exams	300 points
Class Participation	60 points
Homework	150 points
<u>SPSS Experiment Write-ups</u>	<u>100 points</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>610 points</b>

<b>A</b>	<b>93.0 - 100%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>73.0 - 76.9%</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90.0 - 92.9%</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70.0 - 72.9%</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87.0 - 89.9%</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67.0 - 69.9%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83.0 - 86.9%</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>60 - 66.9%</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80.0 - 82.9%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>below 60%</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77.0 - 79.9%</b>		

**Note:** In order for this course to count for the Psychology major or minor, you must earn a grade of C or better in this course (The grade of C- will not satisfy this requirement).

**Strive to do well!!** The wisdom of the ages in academia (faculty and academic advisors agree) is that in order for students to do well in college, they should study outside of class approximately 2 hours for every credit/hour

of class time. In other words, for a class like ours that meets for three hours per week (excluding recitation), you should be studying or working on problems roughly 6 hours outside of class, per week—just for this class. However, please keep in mind that this is a lab class worth four credits, and so the expectation for work outside of class is higher. This class is very applied in nature; each of you will need to determine individually how much time is necessary for you to grasp the concepts covered and complete the assignments. My advice is to stay ahead with any readings and do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments. Above all else, know that I am available to assist you. As a former colleague often said, “it is the student’s job to learn, and the faculty’s job to help them do it!”

**Spring 2009 Schedule:** Changes in this schedule may be necessary; you will be notified when these situations arise. All homework assignments are due on the date listed below; they will be collected and returned the next class period. For all IBS Homework assignments, you **MUST** complete the Part A: Factual Questions (answers **MUST** be typed); you do **NOT** need to complete the Part B: Questions for Discussion.

While there is **NOT** an official “Textbook” for this course, I have identified several well constructed online resources for students who wish to read more about statistics, or who are having trouble grasping concepts covered in class. The links to two of those websites are provided below, and specific recommendations for reading connected to our class topics are provided in the outline below. These readings, as well as the exercises provided on the websites, are **OPTIONAL**. If you read this material, keep in mind that formulas and symbols may differ from those presented in class. This information is suggested simply to aid you in your conceptual understanding of material.

- 1) The following link (Hyperstat) is associated with Rice University and the website is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation:

<http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/index.html>

- 2) The following link (Wadsworth) is to a website maintained by Wadsworth Cengage Learning (Publishing Company). There are topical tutorials for not only Statistics, but also for Research Methods.

[http://www.wadsworth.com/psychology\\_d/templates/student\\_resources/workshops/stats\\_wrk.html](http://www.wadsworth.com/psychology_d/templates/student_resources/workshops/stats_wrk.html)

Date	Topics Discussed in Class	Homework Assignments (IBS, Computational HW and Papers)	Recommended Web Link
1/21	Syllabus & Intro to Statistics and SPSS		Hyperstat CH 1 (Topics 1 – 7) Wadsworth (Scale of Measurement)
1/28	Frequency Distributions and Graphing	IBS 2 & 3 (6 pts.)	
2/4	Central Tendency & Variability	IBS 5 & 8 (6 pts.) Computational #1 (10 pts.)	Hyperstat CH 2 (Topics 1 & 2) Wadsworth (Central Tendency and Variability)
2/11	Catch-up and Review/SPSS Time	IBS 11 & 14 (6 pts.) Computational #2 (10 pts.)	
2/18	EXAM #1		
2/25	Probability and Hypothesis Testing Single z and t		Hyperstat CH 5 (Topics 1 – 3) Hyperstat CH 6 (Topics 1 – 6) Hyperstat CH 9 (Topics 1 – 8) Hyperstat CH 10 (Topics 1 – 3) Wadsworth (Standard Error, Hypothesis Testing, Central Limits Theorem, Sampling Distribution, Single-Sample t Test)
3/4	Independent t and Dependent t	IBS 17 & 18 (6 pts.) Computational #3 (15 pts.)	Wadsworth (Independent versus Repeated t Tests)
3/11	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS		

3/18	Correlation (and Regression)	IBS 37 & 40 (6 pts.) Computational #4 (15 pts.) Paper #1: Anagrams (25 Points)	Wadsworth (Bivariate Scatter Plots, Correlation)
3/25	Catch-up and Review/SPSS Time	IBS 29, 46 & 48 (9 pts.) Computational #5 (15 pts.)	
4/1	EXAM #2	Paper #2: JWB & LO (25 Points)	
4/8	One Way ANOVA		Hyperstat CH 12 (Topics 1 – 3.2.3) Wadsworth (One-Way ANOVA)
4/15	RM ANOVA	IBS 50 (3 pts.) Computational #6 (15 pts.)	Hyperstat CH 14 (Topics 1 – 5, 7)
4/22	Two Way ANOVA	Computational #7 (15 pts.) Paper #3: Math Skills (25 Points)	Hyperstat CH 13 (Topics 1 & 2) Wadsworth (Two-Way ANOVA, Factorial ANOVA)
4/29	Catch-up and Review/SPSS Time	IBS 52 (3 pts.) Computational #8 (10 pts.) Paper #4: S.H. (25 Points)	
5/6	EXAM #3		

**NOTE: Spring Break, Semester Break and Final's week are scheduled by the college and will be adhered to. You are responsible for anything covered, assigned or due on dates preceding or following breaks. The 3<sup>rd</sup> exam must be taken at the time arranged by the Registrar's Office—please wait to make arrangements for starting your summer until this schedule is set, and please plan your departure accordingly.**