

Data Analysis

Code: 100452
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	OB	2	2

Contact

Name: Marc Ajenjo Cosp
Email: Marc.Ajenjo@uab.cat

Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

It's recommended to have passed the course of quantitative methods.

For those students who have problems with mathematics and/or statistics, I recommend to do the Preparatory course on quantitative methods offered by the faculty of sociology and political science.

(http://www.uab.cat/web/noticies/Retail-New_1192707409639.html?noticiaid=1345685132141).

The course is taught on September (beginning of the month) and it is useful for following both courses: Data Analysis and Quantitative methods.

Objectives and Contextualisation

To use specific criminological methods and research techniques for analyzing the data and experiences of conflict and crime control that exists on a particular social context

In this context, the objectives of the course are:

- Understanding and consolidating the concepts of statistical inference.
- Introducing multivariate analysis techniques for both the primary and secondary data analysis.
- Applying these concepts to criminological research.
- Consolidating and going in depth into the use of data analysis tools applied to quantitative criminology.

Skills

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Accessing and interpreting sources of crime data.
- Applying the quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques in the criminological field.
- Clearly explaining and arguing a carried out analysis about a conflict or crime problem and its responses in front of specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Designing a criminological research and identifying the appropriate methodological strategy to the proposed goals.

- Drawing up an academic text.
- Working autonomously.
- Working in teams and networking.

Learning outcomes

1. Ability to analyse and summarise.
2. Applying the quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques in the criminological field.
3. Choosing the appropriate research methodology in criminological works.
4. Drawing up an academic text.
5. Interpreting in a scientific way statistical data from the criminological field.
6. Transmitting in a reasoned manner the results of a criminological research.
7. Working autonomously.
8. Working in teams and networking.

Content

The subject is structured in two parts. First, and as a continuation of the previous course, Quantitative Methods , we revise the inference techniques introduction and go in depth into some of the techniques most used at criminology research. It's important the knowledge of statistical data analysis packages. Second, we give an overview on the data treatment done when there is a significant number of variables, giving special weight to the logistic regression, using computer tools as a support.

PART I. Bivariate inference applied to criminology

1. Introduction to statistical inference: hypothesis testing.

- 1.1. Descriptive statistics versus inferential statistics. The statistical tests in solving problems posed in the field of criminology.
- 1.2. The approach of hypothesis testing. The null hypothesis and the alternative hypothesis. Significant differences and no significant differences
- 1.3. Test hypothesis errors. Type I error (significance level and confidence level) and Type II error (power of a test).
- 1.4. Difference between causality and statistical relation. The importance of designing experiments.
- 1.5. Resolution of hypothesis testing. Steps when solving hypothesis testing.

2. Hypothesis testing based on proportions.

- 2.1. Goodness of fit tests for qualitative variables. The confidence interval compared to a ratio of observed and theoretical.
- 2.2. Comparison of proportions with independent data. The contingency table. The chi-square test and some statistical coefficients: Cramer V, Goodman and Kruskal Lambda, Gamma...

3. Hypothesis testing based on averages or other measures of central tendency.

- 3.1. Parametric and nonparametric statistical tests. The importance of application conditions when the sample size is small.
- 3.2. T-test to compare theoretical and observed averages.
- 3.3. T-test to compare two matched means and two independent means. The nonparametric tests.
- 3.4. Variance analysis to compare more than two independent means. Post hoc tests: Scheffe method. The corresponding nonparametric tests.

4. Inferential statistics in the regression.

- 4.1. Regression line inferential level. The conditions of the model.

4.2. Tests on the parameters of the line and on the coefficient of determination. Results interpretation.

5. Data analysis and inference based on bivariate statistical packages.

5.1. Proportions comparisons. The goodness of fit tests. The chi-square test and related statistical coefficients.

5.2. Comparing means. Tests parametric and nonparametric. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test to assess normality. Comparing theoretical and observed means. Paired comparison of two means. Comparison of two or more independent means.

5.3. The linear regression.

PART II. Introduction to multivariate analysis

6. An overview of the most common multivariate techniques in criminological research

6.1. Multivariate analysis.

6.2. The importance of the control of a third variable. Simpson's paradox.

7. Logistic regression

7.1. Conceptual introduction. Logistic regression and models Loglinear as a variant. The logit, odds and odds ratio.

7.2. Bivariate logistic regression.

7.3. To introduce multiple variables in the regression. The selection of variables and the goodness of fit of the model.

8. Logistic regression on statistical packages.

8.1. Logistic regression with one independent variable.

8.2. Introducing a second variable. Multivariate logistic regression.

8.3. The development of logistic regression models. The different methods of selection of variables and statistical goodness of fit.

8.4. Introduction to the interaction between variables.

Methodology

Part of the activities is carried out with the teacher's support:

1. Lectures that are designed to introduce the main concepts and content of the course.
2. Following the presentation of content there will be several practical sessions. These are aimed at:
 - a) to solve simple cases without computer support and
 - b) to solve complex cases by using appropriate software.

In order to consolidate the knowledge, these activities should be complemented outside the class by:

1. At the end of each session, a case study will be given to students in order to solve it at home. At the beginning of the next session, students will deliver their answers and the teacher will reveal the solution.
2. Sessions with statistical packages follow the same logic. In this case, however, students must upload solved exercises, and the solution will be sent. Allowing self-evaluation by students.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	22.5	0.9	2, 3, 1, 6
Practical class	22.5	0.9	2, 3, 5, 1, 6, 7, 8
Type: Supervised			
Group work preparation and development	40	1.6	2, 3, 5, 4, 1, 6, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Mock test. Reading, understanding and synthesis of materials	60	2.4	2, 3, 5, 4, 1, 6, 7
Test	5	0.2	2, 3, 5, 1, 6, 7

Evaluation

1. Assessment Model

The course involves active participation of the student and includes regular attendance at all sessions. For this reason, at the end of each session a brief questionnaire with 10 questions about the content explained will be passed. Without an adequate monitoring of the classes the student will not be evaluated.

After the middle of the course, an assessment will be conducted to show if the student has achieved the minimum knowledge to follow the course. A test assessing knowledge of Part I of the program (Bivariate inference applied at criminology) will be performed. Student's achievement is a prerequisite to continue with the last part of the course. Students who initially do not have successfully passed this assessment will conduct a reinforcement class consisting on support classes in order to achieve the skills for repeating the assessment. If a student does not reach the minimum required, he/she cannot continue the course.

Part II (Introduction to multivariate analysis) is assessed through a research project which will demonstrate the concept and logic a mastery of logic of logistic regression. A group work must be performed, a personalized visit to the teacher should be done within a week from the deliver in order to correct the most important shortcomings. In this sense, if students wish to correct their work they must modify and deliver it a week later. To be evaluated students must have followed the logistic regression classes.

2. Conditions to to pass the course and re-assessment

To access the calculation of the final mark students are required to have passed the individual test, as well as group work. Therefore, it is contemplated that the failed activities can be reassessed during the course.

3. Fraudulent conduct

A student that cheat or attempt to cheat in the exam will get a 0, losing the right to a second chance. Plagiarism will conduct to a fail of the essay.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Individual written test (Part I of the program)	60%	0	0	2, 3, 5, 1, 7

Research work in criminology (Part II of the program)	40%	0	0	2, 5, 4, 1, 6, 8
---	-----	---	---	------------------

Bibliography

For the whole of the subject:

"Material bàsic i complementari de seguiment de les classes" available at the Virtual Campus

"Tutorials pas a pas, i exercicis (amb solucions)" available at the virtual campus

Specific readings Part I:

Fox, Levin & Forde (2009). Elementary Statistics in Criminal Justice Research. Boston [etc]: Pearson Education, 3rd Edition.

Sánchez Carrión, Juan Javier (1995) Manual de análisis de datos, Madrid: Alianza Universidad Textos.

Specific readings Part II:

Cea D'Ancona, María Ángeles (2002) Análisis multivariable. Teoría y práctica en la investigación social, Madrid: Editorial Síntesis.

Etxeberria, Juan (1999) Regresión múltiple, Madrid: Editorial La Muralla / Hespérides, Cuadernos de Estadística 4.

Guillén, Mauro F. (1992) Análisis de regresión múltiple, Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, Cuadernos Metodológicos 4.

Jovell, Albert J. (1995) Análisis de regresión logística, Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, Cuadernos Metodológicos 15.

VV.AA. (1991) L'anàlisi multivariable de dades, Monogràfic de Papers, Revista de Sociologia, 37. Barcelona: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Specific readings on software tools for data processing:

Camacho Rosales, Juan (1995) Análisis multivariado con SPSS/PC+, Barcelona: Promociones y Publicaciones Universitarias, SA.

Ferran Aranaz, Magdalena (2003) SPSS para Windows. Análisis estadístico, Madrid: Mc Graw-Hill.

Pardo Merino, Antonio i Ruiz Díaz, Miguel A. (2005) Análisis de datos con SPSS 13 Base, Madrid: McGraw-Hill.

Note

Materials and bibliography of the different parts of the program will be available on the Virtual Campus bibliography.

Given the eminently practical nature of the course readings that appear in these references are not compulsory, but to consult for complementing the classes explanations and clarify any queries that arise in the same explanation. They can be very useful for those students for some reason someday can not attend classes.