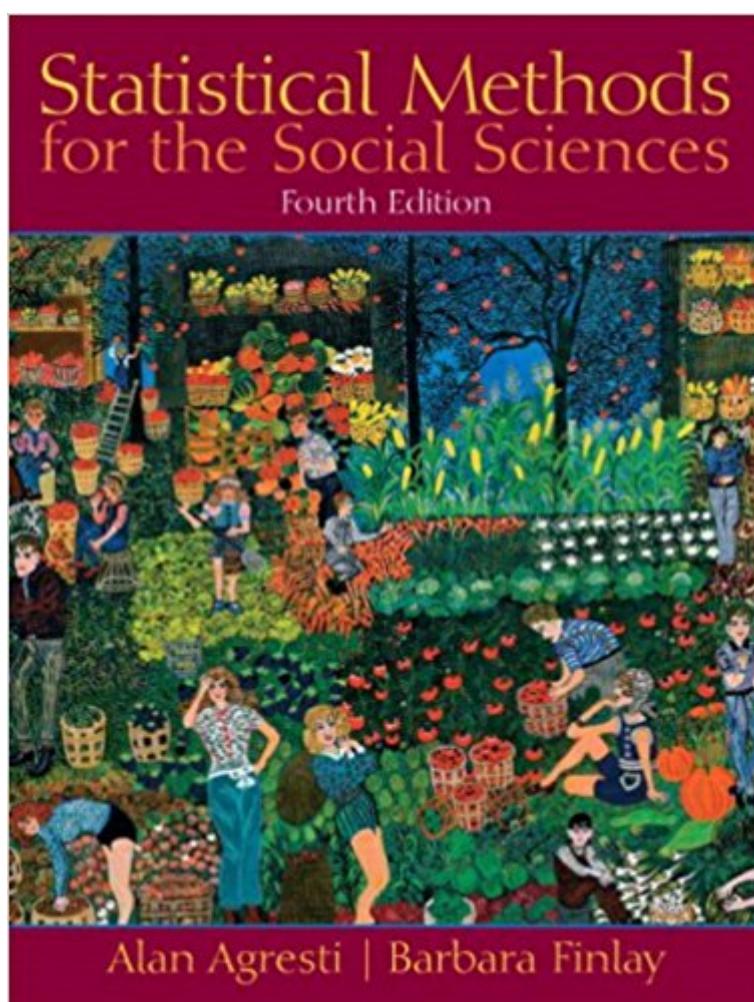


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Statistical Methods For The Social Sciences (4th Edition)



Synopsis

The book presents an introduction to statistical methods for students majoring in social science disciplines. No previous knowledge of statistics is assumed, and mathematical background is assumed to be minimal (lowest-level high-school algebra). The book contains sufficient material for a two-semester sequence of courses. Such sequences are commonly required of social science graduate students in sociology, political science, and psychology. Students in geography, anthropology, journalism, and speech also are sometimes required to take at least one statistics course.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This text is readable, understandable, and well-organized. It provides good examples with SPSS output." (Robert Wilson, University of Delaware). "Overall, [Agresti/ Finlay] is a good book for introductory statistics that targets general audiences...it covers most topics you want to cover and allows the instructor to choose which topics to include." (Youqin Huang, State University of New York, Albany) "I originally started using the Agresti/ Finlay book based on its reputation as "the class of the market", in terms of being unfailingly statistically correct and having a "modern" perspective. By "modern", I mean that it is model rather than test oriented, that it gives heavy emphasis to confidence intervals and p-values rather than using arbitrary levels of significance, and that it eschews computational formulae. It has met those expectations..." (Michael Lacey, Colorado State University) "..the book has been a good and helpful resource for me in preparing the class notes and assigning homework questions. The main concepts to be understood by students are

sampling distribution, confidence interval, p-value, linear regression. The book helps in this..." (Arne Bathke, University of Kentucky)

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Perfect condition, purchased for stats class.

Well... the text is pretty straightforward. It markets itself particularly to the social sciences, but in reality it is nothing more than an introductory statistics text. Nonetheless, it is very clearly written and covers most of the basics you need to do any kind of research (multiple regressions, ANOVA, basic t,z, and F-tests, etc.). This is by no means a theoretical textbook: if you want to learn about distribution theory and the proofs behind the tests look elsewhere. If you want a quick introduction and reference to the different methods and tests with all the assumptions and potential pitfalls then this text is perfect.

This book has solid formulae, but some of the exercises weren't checked for validity. I wasted an hour when a prediction equation contained a negative coefficient, when it in fact should have been positive. I hate when this happens, because students often assume that these things are adequately proofread and mathematically sound. For the amount students are charged for academic texts such as these, this is simply unacceptable. Also, some of the terminology in the exercises deviates from that covered in the chapters. Eg; strength in association suddenly becomes magnitude. You eventually infer these relationships, but when you're in the middle of trying to complete your homework and you're constantly cycling back to the chapter in order to verify the correct processes needed to complete the problem, the last thing you need is to have an author suddenly deviate from the standard (pardon the pun) terminology. I understand that these books take a lot of time and energy to produce, hence the significant cost, but my time is valuable as well and given this, the overall cost is not worth it for this book.

The book is way to expensive. I am satisfied, though, because it was essential for my course and had a necessary option of extending the rental for 15 days for \$10 more. Considering I would have to pay \$155 more to buy the book, the lease totalling \$45 was worth it.

I personally didn't find this textbook's explanations or presentation of material entirely intuitive, especially for anybody who hadn't already been exposed to statistics. It serves a purpose just fine, but I think some of the topics could have benefited from clearer conceptual explanations. I was assigned it in a first-year PhD class, and found myself rereading a previous textbook when I couldn't remember certain ideas.

I needed this book for HW assignments for a class I am taking. Although it may be to make the material more digestible, I have to say the book does a poor job of explaining concepts and makes it more confusing without prior knowledge. Also a lot of the exercises are vague and odd imo.

As a doctoral student with an interest in quantitative research and evaluation methodologies, I am currently using this book for a course in regression analyses. It is a fairly easy read for those who are familiar with statistics and I would recommend it to those wanting to learn more about quantitative analyses. The examples are up-to-date compared to previous editions. There appear to be no substantial content differences between this edition and the previous editions (in my experience having read both).

The paperback version is missing key portions of the textbook. But it doesn't tell you that

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