

Teaching Statistics in Criminology & Criminal Justice: Popular
Culture Pedagogy

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ABSTRACT

The challenges of teaching statistics to students majoring in criminology and criminal justice are well known. The professor has to deal with an array of obstacles among students, including **d**isinterest, **r**elevance **a**rgumentation (viewing statistical skills as detached from the “real world”) and **m**ath **a**nxiety (DRAMA). One technique that has become popular in attempting to allay these difficulties is the incorporation of popular culture to convey substantive skills in the context of material that captures student attention and often incorporates humor. This paper addresses this approach in teaching statistics within criminology/criminal justice programs. Experiences from utilizing the violent, but comical, antics of the “Three Stooges” in teaching statistical concepts are presented.

