

Baumgartner, POLI 203 Fall 2014

I am Troy Davis, part 1

Reading: I am Troy Davis, pp. 1-160

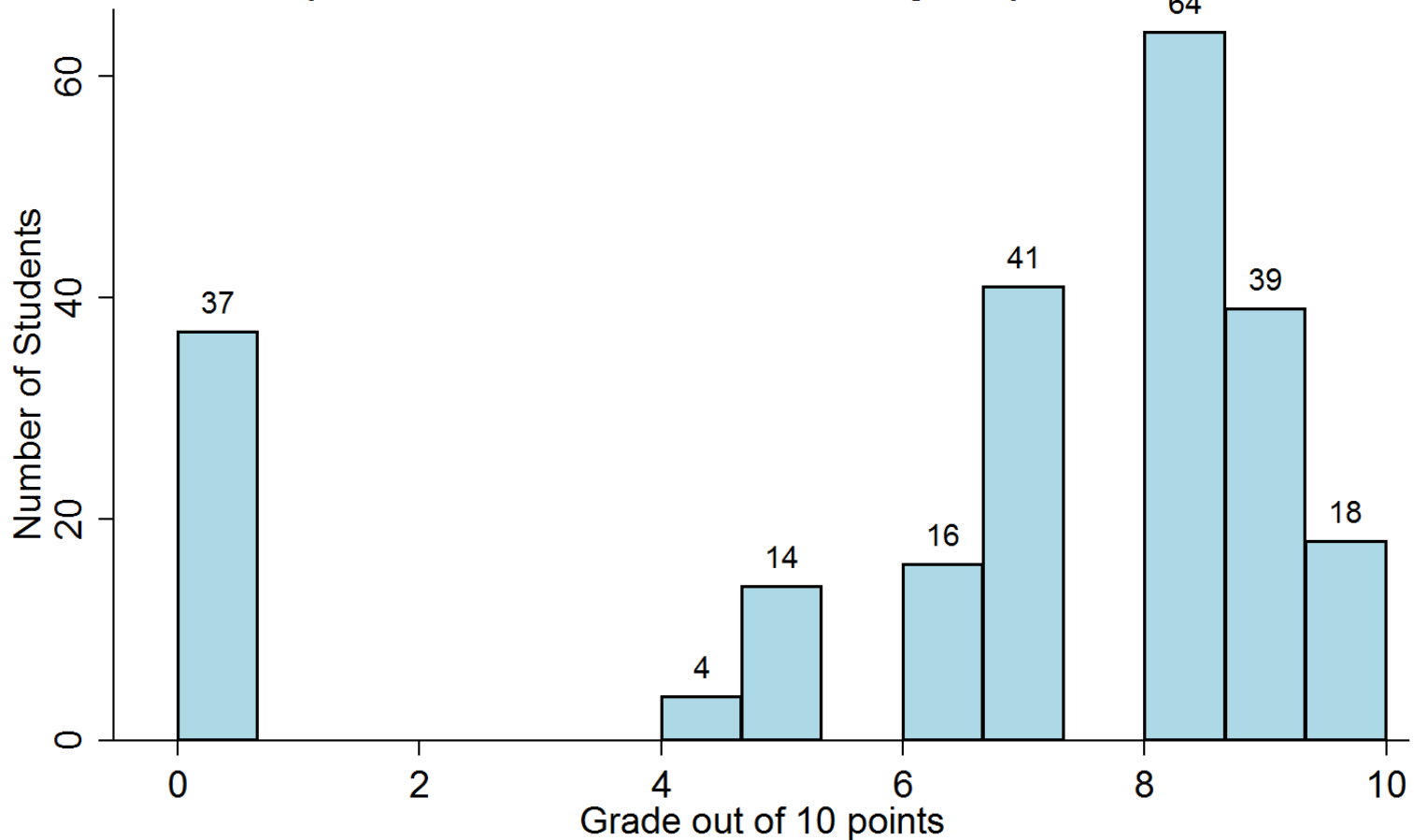
September 15, 2014

Catching up: Quiz results pretty bad

People, you need to STUDY!!!

Or just pay attention, it's not that hard.

And 37 of you need to attend class more regularly.



Catching up: Race

- See paper regarding NC executions, 40 to 1 difference in likelihood of execution depending on if victim is BM or WF
- <http://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/Innocence/NC/Racial-discrepancies-NC-homicides-executions.pdf>

Troy Davis

- Chronology
- Relevant elements in the chronology and background
 - Savannah: 55% white, 38 % Black.
 - Cloverdale neighborhood:
 - <http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Cloverdale-Savannah-GA.html>
 - Party on the “wrong side of town,” gang or other violence. From there to the pool hall / bus station.

Officer McPhail down

- The crime, the lack of clarity not unusual
- The mobilization of the police force
- The confession is key

He who flips first, suffers least?

- Redd Coles as the informant

How to assess unreliable witnesses

- Boy scouts and church choir masters may not be at the pool hall / bus station at 1am on a Saturday morning
- Lots of people have criminal records, something to gain, a charge reduced, another benefit if they cooperate
- Not to mention, avoid being the target

Possible tunnel vision

- Close the case
- Make someone pay
- Get an air-tight case that will lead to conviction
- Eyewitness testimony very compelling
- Confessions very helpful (none in this case)
- Recanting testimony later: perjury?
Trustworthiness easily questioned...

Troy's case exemplifies...

- Reversing an initial conviction very hard
- Lack of good attorneys, limited resources available for indigent defense
- Entire family goes down
- Terrible divisions in the community, as people divide based on trust in police / race
- If wrong person is convicted, true perpetrator gets away with murder...