General Information

This course is designed to give you a working knowledge of regression methods that you can use to analyze data, along with enough theory to understand when it is appropriate to use those methods and how to apply them effectively. We cover most of the topics in the textbook, but we may not always cover chapters in the order they appear in the book.

You must be registered to attend this class. If you are taking this class Pass/Fail (registered S/N), then you should know that only work at C− or better level earns a passing grade. (A grade of D+ would become an N.) If you want to audit the class, you must register as an auditor (V). A request for an I grade is granted only in exceptional situations—you would be earning a passing grade on all the course work before the final exam but events beyond your control prevent you from taking the final exam at the usual time. An I will not be given merely to postpone a test you have not prepared for, nor to allow retaking the course later as an attempt to avoid receiving a low grade this term.

Homework

Homework will usually be due in labs. A subset of the assigned homework problems will be graded and returned in lab. Late homework may not be graded. If you receive more than 80% of the points on your homework, you will be given full credit for the homework portion of the course grade. Homework is for learning. Working together on the homework is acceptable, perhaps even encouraged, as it can be a good way to learn the material. (Write on your homework telling us with whom you worked.) It is very difficult to learn the material and pass this course without doing the homework.

Part of the grade for homework is for organization and presentation of ideas. In particular, do not simply include a slug of unannotated computer output; that will obtain little credit. Include only the relevant output and comment about what the output tells you. The goal is like a report to coworkers: you don’t have to teach us what you’ve done, but you do need to tell us what you’ve done, why you did it, and what it means. We can’t read your mind.

Computing

You will need to use a computer to do much of the work in this course. We will use (and the labs will teach) R, which is available for Macintosh, Windows, and Linux. If you wish to use some other program (such as SAS, Minitab, etc), that’s OK too, but we will not be able to help you if you run into trouble. The advantages of R are: (1) it’s free, (2) it does what we need, and (3) it’s reasonably easy to get up and running and do the easy stuff. The major disadvantage of R is that it’s not SAS.

Watch for changes to this information that may be announced in class or on the web page.
or whatever the favorite package is in your discipline. You can learn about about downloading R in the lab sessions, and I’ll put some links on the class website. Prof. Weisberg has written an R package for this course; a link to information on downloading that package and installing it in R will also be on the class website.

Test Schedule
The material covered and the dates for the midterm tests are subject to change, but any changes would be announced in class or posted on the class web page or sent to your University e-mail address. The University sets the time and date for the final exam, and you commit to being present for that test when you register for this course. The final examination will be on May 11 and you should expect midterm tests on March 11 and April 22. Each midterm test will take the entire class period and cover about half of the course content. The final examination lasts for two hours and covers the entire course.

The midterm tests and the final exam may include in-class and take-home problems. You are expected to be ready to take the tests and exams when they are scheduled. Usually there are no makeup tests. If an unavoidable conflict develops, then you must contact me before the test or exam is given, so we can discuss your options. Otherwise, you risk getting a score of zero if you miss a test. You are expected to provide documentation for any medical excuse.

Academic Honesty and Academic Dishonesty
The following definition of student academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty is slightly modified from the webpage of the University’s Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, http://www.oscai.umn.edu:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

All School of Statistics teaching faculty are instructed to refer students who violate the policy for academic honesty and dishonesty to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

A student responsible for scholastic dishonesty may also be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” final grade for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask. The purpose of homework is to help you learn the material covered in this class. Many students find working on homework in groups to be helpful to their learning, and so this is specifically allowed. Even if you study and do homework in groups, however, your submitted solutions must include your own computer coding, computer output that you produced, and descriptions/summaries of results in your own words. Students who turn in identical papers or nearly identical papers are potentially guilty of academic dishonesty and may face sanctions.

Help
Both the lecturer and your TA will have regular office hours and I’m usually available briefly after class. If you send me e-mail with questions about course content or about scheduling an appointment, please put “STAT 5302” in the subject line.

University of Minnesota Accommodation Statement
The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Resource Center (DRC) https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/ is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DRC at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations. If you are registered with DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, you are encouraged to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

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University Policies
Many of the points discussed in this handout are based on official University policies. There is an Official University Policy on just about any topic. You can find more information about them at http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/index.htm#ctgeducation.

Web Disclaimer
The web page is not intended to be a substitute for attendance. Students are held responsible for all announcements and all course content delivered in class.

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