

STA 6166

Statistical Methods in Research 1

Fall, 2025

Tuesdays, 11.45 - 1.40, Griffin-Floyd 0100

Thursdays 11.45 – 12.35, Griffin-Floyd 0100

Course description: To introduce basic tools of data analysis and to train graduate students in the use of these tools to conduct hypothesis testing, build linear models and to plan and conduct designed experiments. The aim is to promote sound scientific research and experimentation based on good statistical thinking and practice. Statistical software will be used.

Prerequisite [STA 2023](#) or equivalent.

Instructor: Dr. David Holmes

Email: david.holmes@ufl.edu

Office: FLO 101C

Instructor Office Hour for this course: Tuesdays 9.00am – 10.00am and by appointment.

Graduate Teaching Assistant and Office Hours:

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course successful students should have achieved the following learning goals:

- 1) construct and interpret confidence intervals for population means, proportions and regression coefficients.
- 2) apply inferential methods to problems in which we want to compare population means and variances.
- 3) analyze data collected from a designed experiment.
- 4) assess how well a regression model fits sample data.
- 5) use plots to detect violations of model assumptions.
- 6) use model building techniques.
- 7) utilize chi-square hypothesis tests on categorical data.
- 8) effectively communicate results of statistical investigations.
- 9) actively work with a statistical package to carry out descriptive and inferential procedures.

Part I: Course Requirements

Recommended (but not required) Textbooks:

An Introduction to Statistical Methods and Data Analysis, 7th Edition, Authors: R. Lyman Ott and Michael T. Longnecker. ISBN-13: 9780495017585

OpenIntro Statistics, 4th Edition Authors: Diez, Cetinkaya-Rundel and Barr. This textbook may be downloaded as a free PDF at: openintro.org/os

Calculator: A calculator capable of basic arithmetic operations and taking square roots will be needed for in-class exams. Internet-enabled electronic devices, such as cell phones or tablets, cannot be used as calculators during exams.

Software: In this course, you will be required to use JMP, a statistical software program, throughout the semester. JMP is available as a free download and UF are now asking faculty and students to use the free “JMP Student Edition” and delete any previous versions. To access this, go to the website https://www.jmp.com/en_us/academic.html

Once there, scroll down and click on Licensing for Students You will then see the following:

JMP® Student Edition

Free single-user 12-month license

JMP Student Edition is a free, comprehensive statistical analysis and visualization tool designed for classroom instruction. Based on the powerful JMP Pro software, it offers a user-friendly interface and a wide range of capabilities for teaching and learning statistical concepts.

Ideal for both introductory and advanced statistics courses, JMP Student Edition provides access to a variety of statistical techniques and graphical tools. It's perfect for demonstrating statistical principles, analyzing real-world data, and helping students develop critical thinking skills.

Finally, click on the button “Get JMP Student Edition for Free” and follow the steps to register. Note that JMP is a SAS product.

Please feel free to bring a laptop to class.

Course Assignments

Your final course grade will be based on exams and investigative tasks. Due dates are posted on the course schedule in Canvas and announced in class.

Investigative Tasks (IT's):

There will be four sets of investigative tasks and these tasks will be completed using statistical software. Answers must be supported and shown to the proper level of accuracy. Your attractively formatted documents are to be submitted on Canvas. Due dates for all IT's are posted on the Course Schedule on Canvas and you will be reminded of these. There will be a 10% penalty per day for late work and no IT's will be accepted more than one day after the due date.

You have a reasonable time after a graded IT is posted to question a grade. If you do not notify me of any issues concerning your score within that “reasonable” time, then the posted grade stands.

Exams: There will be four in-class exams during the course. You will be provided with a packet of formulae and statistical tables to be used with the exams. A copy of this packet is available for you to print in Canvas so that you will know what information will be provided for you. Cell phones must be turned off and put away during an exam (i.e. they cannot be used as clocks or calculators).

The dates for all exams are posted on the Course Schedule on Canvas and you will be reminded of these. In case of conflict or illness, if a student is unable to take an exam at the scheduled time, they must get in touch with the instructor prior to the exam time for any arrangements to be made for a makeup. Each case will be reviewed individually. Valid and detailed documentation is a prerequisite under such extenuating circumstances.

The “reasonable” time rule detailed above also stands for Exam scores.

There is ***no “extra credit” or forgiven grades*** – you are responsible for all your work done (or left undone). If an exam is scheduled on a religious holiday that you observe, see your instructor to make alternative arrangements.

* Incompletes are only assigned when extraordinary circumstances (such as an accident, or extended hospitalization), arising after the date for dropping the course, prevent the student from completing the course requirements. Having a failing grade in the course is not a valid reason for requesting an Incomplete. Information on Medical Withdrawal can be found at <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>. Information on how to Drop a class can be found in UF's Academic Catalog <https://catalog.ufl.edu/> and <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/dropping-courses-withdrawals/>

If you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), <https://disability.ufl.edu/>. The DRC will provide documentation to the students who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodations.

Honor Code on Investigative Tasks

IT's are to be undertaken independently; all graded work is expected to be your original and independent work. It is not appropriate to: (1) give your work on the assignment to someone else to copy, (2) copy directly from someone else's solutions, or (3) use someone else's computer program or output, or a copy of someone else's computer session. ***You are responsible for making sure that there is no reason to doubt that the work you hand in is your own.***

As only your name appears on an assignment, my expectation and assumptions are that you have done the work yourself, fully and independently. Past sanctions that have been given for an Honor Code Violation on Investigative Tasks (for a student's first offense) include zero for the assignment, 10% reduction in the student's final grade, and an Academic Integrity Seminar. Stronger sanctions are given for a second offense. Even stronger sanctions are given for cheating on an exam. It will begin with an E in the course. Please do not cheat. At the end of the story, you are actually cheating yourself and those students working honestly.

I take the UF Honor Code very seriously and will enforce it. Please see the following website for more information. Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code. The Honor Code will be enforced for all investigative tasks and exams.

Homework: There will be no graded homework as such, but at the end of most classes practice problems will be suggested and it is strongly advised that you try these problems. *We will learn by doing.* I will go over solutions in the following class

Communication: The Canvas site for this course will be used to provide you with information relevant to the course. So, please check the Canvas course site regularly for updates. Such information includes announcements, lecture notes, IT Task assignments, reading assignments, classwork solutions, data sets, dates of exams, and any changes to posted office hours.

Study Approach: You are to read the lecture slides before class to familiarize yourself with the material and its organization. The lecture notes will be posted on Canvas. The best way to learn is to print out the notes before class, annotate them during the class, then study carefully the notes along with your annotations after the lecture to increase understanding.

Email policy: You must use your UF email account for all email correspondence having anything to do with your work at UF. Federal laws protecting your privacy rights require that we only communicate student information directly to students – and use of the university email system is our only way to validate your identity. You may forward your campus email elsewhere, but we can respond only to a UF email account. *Please do not simply “reply” to a Canvas announcement – use my UF email.*

Help: Remember to ask for help! In addition to my office hour, I can also answer some questions via email. *I will try to answer any student emails received during the working week within 24 hours, however emails received over the weekend may not be answered until Monday morning.*

Grading Scheme:	Investigative Tasks 1	10%
	Investigative Tasks 2	10%
	Investigative Tasks 3	10%
	Investigative Tasks 4	10%
	Exam 1	15%
	Exam 2	15%
	Exam 3	15%
	Exam 4	15%

Course letter grades are assigned as follows and are not curved:

Numeric Score	Letter Grade
93 – 100	A
88 – 92	A–
84 – 87	B+
70 – 83	B
60 – 69	B–

Your final overall numeric score is rounded to the nearest integer. So, for example, if your weighted mark is 83.4 your grade will be 83. If your weighted mark is 83.5, your grade will be 84. Letter grades will then be assigned according to the table above.

Part 2: University Services and Policies

“This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).”

(The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)

Grading Policies:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course as well as policies regarding absences, religious holidays, illness, and student athletes are consistent with UF Attendance Policies.

Additional make-up policy requirements:

- Only extreme situations will warrant a make-up. Contact the instructor prior to the exam - as soon as you realize you will be unable to take the assignment/exam at the scheduled time. Each case will be reviewed individually. Valid and detailed documentation is a prerequisite for scheduling a make-up under such extenuating circumstances.
- If you have an emergency on the day of the assignment/exam, the instructor must be contacted by midnight on the day of the assignment/exam.
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- Make-up exams will be scheduled within a week from the assignment deadline. Student is responsible for attending scheduled make-up. Instructor reserves the right to utilize the UF posted final exam day as a make-up date.
- The UF Religious Holidays Policy is available at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext>.
- Additional Note: Being on vacation or booking a trip prior to the completion of the semester is not a valid reason to request a make-up. Please reference the most recent Academic Calendar, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/dates-deadlines/pdfs/>.

Classroom Behavior: During class students should silence their cellular phones and refrain from eating, drinking, reading newspapers, doing other work, listening to music, excessive talking and all other behaviors that are distracting and disrespectful to the instructor and their fellow students.

Privacy Policy: Student records are confidential. Only information designated “UF directory information” may be released without your written consent. This applies to parents or anyone else who contacts me about your grades.

Faculty Course Evaluations: “Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.”

U Matter, We Care: Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A night-time and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

***Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Center, 392-1161**

***University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies),**
<http://www.police.ufl.edu>

***Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

***GatorWell Health Promotion Services:** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

Covid Policy

In response to COVID-19 and its variants, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and, as with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.