STA6126 - 2058   Statistical Methods in Social Research I   Fall 2021

Instructor: Bikram Karmakar (`bkarmakar@ufl.edu`)**.**

Class hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday — Period 3 (9:35 AM–10:25 AM).

Classroom location: Keene-Flint Hall (FLI) 0121.

Course website: Canvas page. Please check regularly.

Instructor's office: 226 Griffin-Floyd Hall (FLO). (Phone. 352-273-2994)

   Instructor Office Hours: Fridays 2:00 pm–4:00 am, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Arek Kesiz-Abnousi (`arek.kesizabnous@ufl.edu`).

   TA Office Hours: TBD.   **Location:** TBD.

Objectives:

To enable the students in social sciences and related fields to develop a firm understanding of the fundamental ideas behind statistical reasoning and experimental design, and to learn some of the basic techniques of data analysis.

Course materials

Textbook: *Quantitative and Statistical Research Methods: From Hypothesis to Results*, 1st Edition by William E. Martin and Krista D. Bridgmon.

Reference book: Alan Agresti, *Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences* (5th Edition) Pearson.

Lecture notes: Lecture notes/overheads will be posted on Canvas after each lecture. They are not meant to be substitutes for the lectures. You are responsible for learning all the material presented during the lecture, and *any topic covered in a lecture is a potential exam topic* (unless otherwise stated). The lecture notes may not reproduce everything covered in the lectures. On occasions, there may be additional information in the lecture notes.

Computing: We will use the free statistical computing language R. You should download it from `https://www.r-project.org` and install it before Wednesday September 1. You may wish to also download Rstudio from https:// www.rstudio.com (go to `https://www.rstudio.com/products/ rstudio/` download to get the free Open Source License).

You can ask for assistance in installing R from our TA. R code will be provided for all methods covered in the course either in the lecture notes or separately on Canvas.

Additional materials, e.g., R programs and data sets, may be posted on Canvas and you will be notified of them using Canvas announcements. Canvas announcements will be regularly used to provide updates regarding the class. Please make sure you get alerts on all Canvas announcements.

Course structure

Remark: Some parts of the following course structure may change to make the course accessible to everyone depending on how we adapt to returning to in person classes. You will be informed well in advance of any changes, and university policies will be followed.

Take-home exercises: Exercises will be posted regularly on Canvas. They will not be graded. Thus, you are not expected to hand in your answers to the exercises. But, you should solve or attempt to solve all of them to thoroughly learn the material and *be best prepared for the exams.* You may work with other students to solve the suggested problems and to study the course material in general. Although, you will be assessed individually. We will post solutions to all the exercises on Canvas. Naturally, you will learn best if you attempt to solve the exercises before consulting the solutions.

Quizzes: There will be approximately 5 in-class quizzes, typically scheduled for Fridays. Each will take place during the final 10 to 15 minutes of class time. All quizzes have equal weight for grading, but 2 of your quizzes will be dropped – whichever the rest gives you the highest final score in the course, as determined by the instructor. No make-up quizzes will be offered. You will be notified of an upcoming quiz at least one week in advance.

Exams: Four within-term exams are tentatively scheduled on:

Monday, Sep 20– Exam 1

Monday, Oct 25 – Exam 2

Monday, Dec 6 – Exam 3

Attendance: Classroom lecture attendance and participation is fully expected. You are responsible for learning all material presented during lecture, and any topic covered in lecture is a potential exam topic (unless otherwise stated).

Grading: Grading will be based on a composite score: 10% class participation + 30% quizzes + 60% from within-term exams 1–3 (equal weighting). There may be opportunities for earning extra credits.

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the University's grading scale that includes minus-grades (this may change depending on any changes in policies). You can familiarize yourself with the University's grading policy here: `https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx`.

Tentatively, we will follow the following percent to letter grading scale: $A = 95$–100 or above, $A- = 90$–94, $B+ = 85$–89, $B = 80$–84, $B- = 75$–79, $C+ = 70$–74, $C = 60$–69, $C- = 50$–59, and so on. The lower limits on this grading scale may be lowered. The calculation of your final composite score will be done outside of Canvas using the details provided above. Please note that the formula used by Canvas will not necessarily produce the final average according to the course grading scheme.

Course Policies

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, `dso.ufl.edu/drc`) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which

must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Relevant links: gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/; ufl.bluera.com/ufl/; gatorevals.aa. ufl.edu/public-results/.

https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/masking-and-physical-distancing/

Campus Resources:

Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/.

Academic Resources: http://www.ufl.edu/academics/resources/.

Disability Resource Center: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

Student Health Care Center: http://shcc.ufl.edu.

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter@ufl.edu.