

**STA 248 - Statistics for Computer Scientists L0101**  
**MW 6PM-9PM SS 2135**

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**Instructor:** Jeffrey Negrea - [jeffrey.negrea@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jeffrey.negrea@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Office Hours:** MW 4PM - 5PM , or by appointment in SS 6025

**Textbooks:**

1. Milton & Arnold: *Introduction to Probability and Statistics*, 4th ed., 2003
2. *OpenIntro Statistics*, 3rd ed. which can be found [here\\*](#).
3. Devore & Berk: *Modern Mathematical Statistics with Applications*, 2nd ed., 2012 which can be used online through [university library web page†](#)

**Use of Textbooks:** I do not *require* you to purchase a book. All testable material will be covered in class. The textbooks should be used for further reading and for practice problems. I will recommend one or more sets problems and/or readings from the textbooks for each topic in the course, at least one of which will be accessible if you do not purchase a book (via books enumerated 2 and 3).

**Course Website:** All lecture slides, problem sets, course information will be posted on Blackboard.

**Course Description:** A survey of statistical methodology with emphasis on data analysis and applications. The topics covered include descriptive statistics, data collection and the design of experiments, univariate and multivariate design, tests of significance and confidence intervals, power, multiple regression and the analysis of variance, and count data. Students learn to use a statistical computer package as part of the course (Note: STA248H1 does not count as a distribution requirement course).

**Prerequisites:** STA247H1/STA257H1; CSC108H1/CSC148H1

**Exclusions:** ECO220Y1/ECO227H1/GGR270Y11/PSY201H1/SOC202H1/SOC300Y1/STA220H1/STA221H1/STA250H1/STA255H1/STA261H1/EEB225H1

**Grading:** There will be 3 assignments, a midterm, and a final exam. The grade breakdown is as follows:

Item	Weight	Number	Date	Duration
Assignments	10% each	3	July 17th, August 2nd, August 14th	N/A
Midterm	20%	1	July 26th	2 hours
Final Exam	50%	1	TBD	3 hours

\*[https://www.openintro.org/stat/textbook.php?stat\\_book=os](https://www.openintro.org/stat/textbook.php?stat_book=os)

†<http://search.library.utoronto.ca/details?8331046&uuid=c3b39667-fbb8-4c18-9628-41302005748a>

**Grading Policy:** Any answers on assignments, midterms, and final exam without justification and showing your work **will not receive any credit**, regardless of the “correctness” of the answer. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and show that they have learned and can manipulate the course concepts sufficiently. This includes **defining variables/random variables, distributions, relevant parameters, providing brief explanations, etc.** as necessary.

All assignments, midterms, and final exam will be graded according to a clearly laid out marking scheme. If you believe you have earned more credit than what was awarded, or that marks were added incorrectly, please submit your test/assignment **no later than 2 weeks after** the date handed back with a brief explanation. Late assignments will not be accepted. **If you require an extension for an assignment with valid reasons and documentation, please notify the instructor prior to the due date** to have something arranged.

**Homework:** Suggested practice problems from the textbook and exercises will be provided in the lecture slides for each chapter section covered. I strongly recommend that you attempt as many as possible with and without notes to assess your own understanding of concepts.

**Extra Help:** The instructor and the TAs will be holding regular weekly office hours. If you are experiencing difficulty with course content, or have questions related to course material, please attend the available office hours.

This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly tailored to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TAs, and the instructor. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching staff, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email [team@piazza.com](mailto:team@piazza.com). Find our class page [here](#)<sup>‡</sup>. Use of Piazza is **entirely optional** and students who choose to use it should read the Privacy Policy agreement and post only what they are comfortable sharing as stated in the agreement.

The instructor and TAs will **NOT** be responding to questions posted on the Blackboard discussion board due to its poor support for mathematical notation. **DO** use Blackboard access course materials, **DO NOT** use Blackboard for the discussion board. If you opt not to use the Piazza discussion board, please ask course content questions during office hours and not via email.

#### Course Conduct:

- **Email:** Any administrative questions regarding the course can be addressed by me via email. Questions regarding course material and concepts should be addressed in office hours or on the piazza discussion board and **NOT** via email. If the office hour times do not work for you, please arrange an appointment to see me. Please include “**STA 248**” in the **subject line** of any email sent to the instructor or TAs.
- **During Lecture:** Please practice classroom etiquette – arrive on time, put your devices on silent, hold your conversations for later, and most of all, be respectful of your peers. If you anticipate that you will have to leave early for any reason, please seat yourself so that you may do so without disrupting your fellow peers.
- **Programming Languages:** In this course, we will occasionally be using [R statistical soft-](#)

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<sup>‡</sup>[piazza.com/utoronto.ca/summer2017/sta248/home](http://piazza.com/utoronto.ca/summer2017/sta248/home)

ware<sup>§</sup> which is available for free download. Any code required for assignments will be provided either in lecture or easily found using a search engine. **You will not be tested on coding** however you will be expected to read and understand R output during midterms and/or the final exam.

- **Missed Tests:** There are no make-up tests. Any missed tests that are a result of illness requires a **U of T Student Medical Certificate** to be completed by you and your doctor within one week of the test. This can be obtained from your college registrar, the Office of the Faculty Registrar (SS1006), the Statistics Department office, or the Koffler health service. The weight of the missed term test will be shifted to the final exam. A missed test without proper documentation will receive a mark of zero.

**Accessibility Services:** The University of Toronto provides accommodations through accessibility services to students with diverse learning styles and needs. If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to reach out to me and/or Accessibility Services at 416-978-8060 or through [accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://accessibility.utoronto.ca).

### Important Dates:

First Day of Classes .....	Jul. 5
Last Day to Add .....	Jul. 10
Last Day to Drop .....	Jul. 31
Civic Holiday (University Closed) .....	Aug. 7
Last Day of Classes .....	Aug. 14
Exam Period .....	Aug. 15 - 18

**Academic Integrity:** Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. Familiarize yourself with the [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matter<sup>¶</sup>](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

#### Assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes)
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
  - working in groups on individual assignments
  - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while editing.
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own with or without your permission

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<sup>§</sup><https://www.r-project.org/>

<sup>¶</sup><http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aids, including a cell phone, smart watch, programmable calculators.
- Looking at someone else's answers or allowing someone to look at yours
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from the instructor, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to the instructor or seek the advice of your college registrar. Note that because of crowding in the classroom, multiple versions of the quizzes and midterm exam may be administered. The differences between versions will be slight and should not affect the difficulty of particular problems.

#### Tentative Schedule:

Lecture Number	Topics
1	Brief Review of Prior Concepts, Plots, Descriptive/Summary Statistics
2	Unbiasedness, Consistency, M.O.M, M.L.E, What makes a good estimator?
3	Bootstrap, Chi-Squared Distribution, Confidence Intervals for Estimates
4	<b>HW1 Due</b> , Statistical Testing, Type 1 & Type 2 Errors, Power, Connection to CI
6	Paired t-Test, Sign Test, Comparing Two Samples, F Distribution
7	<b>Midterm</b>
8	Design of Experiments, Analysis of Variance, Inference on Categorical Data
9	<b>HW2 Due</b> , Linear Regression I
10	Linear Regression II
11	<b>HW3 Due</b> , Linear Regression III