

STA490Y1Y: Statistical Consultation, Communication, and Collaboration
2018–19

Section L0101

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Section L0201

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Office hours:

- Wednesdays 11:00–13:00
(open to all students)
- Thursdays 12:00–13:00
(priority to STA490 L0201 students)

Course web page

All materials will be posted on <https://q.utoronto.ca>

Graduate student mentors

Cédric Beaulac, Alex Gao, Michaël Lalancette, Jeffrey Negrea, Alex Stringer, Yanbo Tang, Lin Zhang

Course content

The purpose of the course is to develop skills in the collaborative practice of statistics. This will be done through class discussion, readings, case studies, and a collaborative project with a researcher working on a research project in another discipline. Many course activities will focus on developing oral and written communication skills.

Project

Much of the course will be structured around the collaborative project. Two or three students will be assigned to one project and you will be guided in the work on the project by a graduate student mentor who is a PhD student in statistics. Discussion about your project with the classmate(s) assigned to the same project is encouraged, however you are expected to hand in independent work. Your graduate student mentor will be monitoring each student's contribution to the project.

Class meetings

Class meetings are typically on Thursdays 10:10–noon. You should attend the meeting for your section only. Attendance at all meetings is mandatory as there is no substitution for participating in the discussion that will take place. For most meetings, there will be assigned reading or work which must be done in preparation.

Project team meetings

Project team meetings with your graduate student mentor will take place on Tuesdays (L0101) or Wednesdays (L0201) on the dates indicated on the course schedule, or as arranged with your graduate student mentor. You will meet either at 9:00 or 10:00, depending on your project assignment. Your collaborator is scheduled to be at the meetings on some of these dates. Rooms, times, and your graduate student mentor will be distributed in class before your first project team meeting.

Project teams

Note that you will be working with one or two other students on your project. Sometimes you might share the work, sometimes you might each take on a different aspect of the project, sometimes you might work together, and sometimes you might duplicate each other's work. All written work is to be done individually and you will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Readings and references

Required readings will be posted on Quercus. Anytime you need a reference on a statistics topic (software or methodology) see what you can find on your own. Then ask your graduate student mentor or your instructor.

Communication

Email is best if you are unable to come to campus because of illness or if it is necessary to make an appointment outside of office hours. The entire class may be contacted by email, at your address that is on your student account. Please make sure your read the email that goes to that account.

Evaluation (dates are tentative, but unlikely to change)

	Weight	Date
Attendance, participation, and preparation for class meetings	10%	Thursdays
Attendance, participation, and preparation for project team meetings	10%	Tuesdays / Wednesdays
First term data assignment		
Analysis (interim and final)	8%	various
Draft Report	4%	November 15
Final Report	8%	November 29
BMJ presentations	5%	February 28, March 7
Career Panel Reflection	5%	February 28
Project		
Three project presentations to class	10%	various
Project log and summary	5%	various
First draft of project:		March 19, 20
Draft of final report for collaborator	5%	
Technical summary	5%	
Results presentation to collaborator	5%	March 19 or earlier
Final project work:		April 2, 3
Statistical work	10%	
Writing	10%	

No late assignments will be accepted without documentation of a valid reason.

Accessibility needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca>.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the University of Toronto 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 Matters available at <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>.

Computing

Computing for your project can be done using software of your choice. This will be something you decide with your graduate student mentor.

For the first term data assignment we will use R Studio and an R Notebook. You need to install R first, and then R Studio. R can be downloaded for free from <http://cran.r-project.org>. R Studio can be downloaded for free from <http://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/>.

Student research days

Your collaborator may be presenting his/her project at his or her department's Undergraduate Research Fair in late March or early April. Plan to drop by to offer support to your collaborator and see what other work is being done.

We also hope that you will participate in the Department of Statistical Sciences Student Research Day. More details to come.

How to succeed in the course

- Be prepared and on time for all classes and meetings.
- Ask good questions.
- Do all of the assigned work on time.
- Demonstrate that you are trying.
- Work on your project every week, even before you get the data.

Course Mantra

*It's OK not to know.
Expressing ignorance is encouraged.
It's not OK to not have a willingness to learn.*