Section L0101
Instructor: Prof. Nathalie Moon
Email: nathalie.moon@utoronto.ca
Office: SS 6024A

Section L0201
Instructor: Prof. Alison Gibbs
Email: alison.gibbs@utoronto.ca
Office: SS 6009
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 you read the email that goes to that account.

Evaluation (dates are tentative, but unlikely to change)

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