In the past I have observed that students have expressed the desire to see practical examples of how to apply the theoretical concepts they are learning. I believe this is indicative of a trend where students prefer to see how the concepts they are learning are used in real-world scenarios rather than just engaging in theoretical discussions. I have found that by demonstrating practical applications of the theories, students are more engaged and retain the information better. Therefore, it is intended that all conceptual and coding materials necessary for STA130 will be available within the content of the course (in prerecorded lectures, lecture notebooks, homework materials, and tutorial materials). Projects will be done in teams, with at least one member being a TA, and TAs may remove non-contributing group members from productive groups if (a) the other group members request that the TA do so (or email sta130@utronto.ca with this request) and (b) the removal is supported by the other group members.

Groups will be assigned based on the number of students in the group and their mutual agreement. The group size will ideally be 5 students and secondarily 4 students, with exceptions for groups of 3 students made in special circumstances. Note that the TA program has the right to alter groups if students are not meeting the expectations of the group.

Grades are calculated based on the following components:
- Weekly Homework (20%)
- Midterm (20%)
- Final Exam (20%)
- Assignments (20%)
- Quizzes (10%)
- Participation (10%)

Weekly Homework Submissions:
- Weekly homework is due by midnight on Monday of the following week.
- Weekly homework cannot be submitted late. Late submissions will receive a 2-point deduction.

Attendance is expected to conform to the UofT Policy on Attendance and Academic Integrity. Absences due to illness will be covered by the "Best 7 of 9" policy, where the best 7 marks out of 9 will be considered. No other absences will be considered as excused, including personal, work-related, or family-related absences.

In the event that a student requires an accommodation for an assessment, they must register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca). If a student has an accommodation letter from their accessibility advisor, they must do the following:
- Provide the accommodation letter to the TA and the professor.
- Request any necessary accommodations.
- Make sure to submit any assessments in a timely manner.

The program entails three pillars of learning & support:
- Teaching Stream Assistant Professor and TAs provide weekly tutorial presentations, TAs have 4-6 project teams so can spend 20-30 min per group.
- The UofT STA130 Mentorship Program designed to facilitate finding opportunities to join in and build community here at UofT.
- Students will engage in multiple opportunities to learn how to apply their learning, including weekly tasking and TA Tutorial Presentations.

The course will focus on the reasoning, computation, and communication skills which are central to the related disciplines of Statistics and Data Science. We'll use the Quercus Course Webpage to enable students to write code to perform data analysis, including normalizing troubleshooting and learning as routine activities of this exercise.

Weekly tutorial presentations:
- Oct 13 Tutorial (2 points): Project Teams must be formed by the Friday, Oct 13 Tutorial (2 points).
- Oct 20 Tutorial (2 points): Stochastic Expectations.
- Nov 3 Tutorial (2 points): Covariance & Correlation.
- Nov 10 Tutorial (2 points): Linear Regression.
- Nov 17 Tutorial (2 points): Multiple Linear Regression.
- Dec 1 Tutorial (2 points): Case Studies.
- Dec 8 Tutorial (2 points): Case Studies.

Late Slides may be turned in by Dec 11 for a 2 point deduction.

EX300 is the "room 300" carrels available in the basement of the library at 125 College Street. Here TAs are available to assist with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the course. You can drop by any time the library is open, and since there is no dedicated office, you can generally find someone in there.

Office Hours
- Mon-Thur 4-7PM
- 2-4 PM Fri, Nov 3
- Mon-Thur 4-7PM
- 2-4 PM Fri, Nov 10
- Mon-Thur 4-7PM
- 2-4 PM Fri, Nov 17
- Mon-Thur 4-7PM
- 2-4 PM Fri, Dec 1

TAs will review poster day (and possibly late) project submissions, and the TA program will conduct a final review of all projects. A breakdown of the project topics and Distributions that students will likely want to devote study time towards:

- Oct 20-21: Probability theory and random variables
- Oct 27-28: Probability distributions and statistical inference
- Nov 3-4: Estimation and hypothesis testing
- Nov 10-11: Regression analysis and correlation
- Nov 17-18: Time series analysis and forecasting
- Dec 1-2: Final project presentations and review

More Info
Assignment.

Tutorial Assignment

TA's have been allotted about 50 minutes to mark the Tutorial Assignment for the ~28 students. This assignment is designed to cover the material from Lecture 1-4 (i.e., the material covered in last week's tutorials) and to prepare TA's for teaching the coming week's tutorials. Each TA will be assigned a set of homework assignments to mark; if there are more than one TA, then the TA's will be assigned approximately equal numbers of assignments.

Marking

Marking is complete within one week of submission with delays expected to be relatively minor occurrences.

Homework

TA's have been allotted about 60 minutes to mark the homework for the ~28 students. Since TA's have about 4 minutes to mark each homework assignment, this means that TA's must complete their marking within about 1 hour and 20 minutes. TA's must complete their marking within this time frame in order to provide feedback to students before the next tutorial.

JupyterHub and MarkUs

Tutorial assignments are directed to manually review, they will deduct 1/4 point from the initial "proportion completed" score for each problem they are not satisfied with (down to a lowset score of 0, as assigned HW scores will not be negative).

The TAs will carefully note which MarkUs autotests are intentionally designed to automatically fail for the purposes of provided example solutions to students and do not count these against the students as "wrong".

Tyically, recieving points for the "General Impression of Written Communication" would be expected to in some sense be prerequesite for recieving points for the "Substantive Correctness of Answer Content".

General Impression of Written Communication: Substantive Correctness of Answer Content

Students may use an AI tool such as ChatGPT for enhancing their learning objectives, however, they must not share the course materials and assessments as all content entered may become part of the tool's training set. ChatGPT and similar tools are designed to assist students in their learning, but students must not use these tools forSubmit an answer without attending Tutorial.

Tutorial Assignments are made at the end of Tutorials on Friday; are due by 9 AM the following Monday.

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