

STA 490H1Y: Statistical Consultation, Communication, and Collaboration
2013-14

Instructor: Dr. Alison Gibbs

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Office hours: Wednesdays 15:00-16:00
Please make appointments for other times by e-mail.

Course

web page: Available through <https://portal.utoronto.ca>

TA advisors: Edwin Lei, Zheng Li, Shivon Sue-Chee, Jinyoung Yang

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 student working on a research project in another discipline. Many course activities will focus on developing oral and written communication skills.

Project

Most 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 TA advisor who is a senior 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 TA advisor will be monitoring each student's contribution to the project.

Class meetings

Class meetings are on Wednesdays 13:10-15:00 in UC 67 on the dates indicated on the attached schedule. 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 which must be done in preparation.

Project team meetings

On weeks when there is no class meeting you will have project team meetings with your TA advisor. You will meet either at 13:10 or 14:10, depending on your project assignment. Rooms, times, and your TA advisor will be distributed in class before your first project team meeting. Meetings with your TA advisor will take place on the dates indicated on the attached schedule. Your collaborator is scheduled to be at the meetings on some of these dates.

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

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

Computing

Computing can be done in SAS or R and this will be something you decide with your TA advisor. You can access both on the CQUEST system. If you don't already have an account, or need to reset your password, go to <http://www.cquest.utoronto.ca>.

A license for SAS for personal use can be purchased from the Information Commons Licensed Software Office. Go to <http://www.utoronto.ca/ic/software> for more information. R can be downloaded for free from <http://cran.r-project.org>.

Student research days

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

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

How to do well 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.