Course Syllabus

PubH 6450
Biostatistics I Online
Fall 2014

Credits: 4
Meeting Days: online
Meeting Time: online
Meeting Place: online

Instructors: Robert Leduc, PhD
Office Address: Personal Office: 2221 University Ave SE, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55414
Division of Biostatistics Office: A-460, Mayo Building, open Mon-Fri 9:00am - 4:30pm
Office Phone: 612-626-8618
Fax: 612-626-9054 (Attn: Rob Leduc)
E-mail: leduc006@umn.edu or robertl@ccbr.umn.edu
Moodle page: https://moodle.umn.edu
Office Hours: T 3:30-4:30, Wed 11-12, Th 3:30-4:30

Teaching Assistant: Carrie Groth (groth203@umn.edu), Charlotte Bolch (bolch001@umn.edu)
TA Office Hours: Carrie (M 1-2pm, 7-8pm, F 9:30-10:30am) Charlotte (M 9-10am, T 7:30-8:30pm, W 7:30-8:30pm). TA’s alternate weekends, checking in periodically with no set schedule.

I. Course Description

Descriptive statistics. Gaussian probability models, point/interval estimation for means/proportions. Hypothesis testing, including t, chi-square, and nonparametric tests. Simple regression/correlation. ANOVA. Health science applications using output from statistical packages. Effective: Fall 2005

II. Course Prerequisites

College Algebra (e.g. Math 1031), health science grad student, or instructor permission.

III. Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of the course, students should have a basic understanding of the fundamentals of biostatistical methods. This includes:

- Numerical Summary Measures
- Gaussian Probability Models
- Point/Interval Estimation for Means and Proportions
• Hypothesis testing for Means and Proportions
• Contingency Tables: Odds Ratios, Relative Risk, Chi-Square
• Simple Linear Regression, Correlation
• ANOVA
• Nonparametric tests
• Basic SAS and/or R programming language skills

IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

• Weekly online lecture slide sets (with audio) and text readings, excepting exam weeks.
• 14 computer lab sessions – one per week beginning Week 1. Lab assignments will be available in the statistical software packages SAS and R. Students may use one or both of those packages, or are welcome to use any other statistical software of their choosing. Course staff will not be able to support any other software except SAS and R. Certain degree programs may require use of particular software. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their program or intended program for such requirements.
• Online discussion forums for asking questions about the material and course.
• Two midterm exams – online, conducted in Moodle.
• One final exam – online, conducted in Moodle.
• 12 homework assignments – due approximately weekly. Submitted through Moodle.

IMPORTANT: PUBH 6450 Online is NOT a “go at your own pace” online course. There are weekly units to keep up with and fixed deadlines for homework (weekly, except exam weeks) and exams (approximately every 5 weeks). Exams will be two hours long. You may start the exam at any time on the designated weekend, but once started, you have two hours to fully complete the exam. You cannot “stop the clock” by logging out and coming back later.

Course Web Page

• The course web page, or Moodle page, is available through Moodle: https://moodle.umn.edu Click “Login” in the upper right hand corner and log in using your X500. You should see a link for this class.

Course Communication

• Course-related announcements (changes to the schedule or due dates, topics covered on exams, etc.), will be made available on the class Moodle page in the Course Q&A forum. It is your responsibility to be aware of any announcements made. All students are subscribed to this forum and will receive copies of all posts by email.

• Communications during the online course consist of email and discussion forums:
  o The Discussion Forums on the Moodle page are the primary mechanism for interaction between students and the instructor and TAs, as well as among students. All of the students, the teaching assistants and the instructor can read all of the postings in the General Q&A Forums. Normally, someone initiates a topic and others reply to this topic. Please use thoughtful subject headings if you initiate a topic. This will help cut down on starting redundant or duplicate topics on the same question and help everyone find the topic at a later date. Because the instructor and the TAs check the forums regularly on a rotating basis, asking a question in the Forums is the quickest way to get an answer to your question. You may also subscribe to any forum in order to receive emails of each post. This setting is available on the left hand side of the page after clicking on a forum link.
- **Email** is available as a secondary method of contact. Email is best used for specific questions about grades or grading of assignments. We strongly prefer questions on course material or routine administrative matters be asked in the forums so that everyone can benefit from the answer to the question and the instructors and TAs do not receive multiple emails asking the same question. However, if you would be more comfortable asking a question about material in private, then email is encouraged and an appropriate way to do this. Generally, your question (without your name) and the answer will be added to the forums as a thread afterwards.

- You **MUST** use your University of Minnesota email address (X.500 address) for email. All course communication will be sent to your email account. If you have not yet initiated your U of M email account, you will need to do so at [http://www.umn.edu/initiate](http://www.umn.edu/initiate). The instructor and TAs cannot respond to emails sent from other accounts.

- **Video conferencing.** Your instructor or TAs can be available by appointment at a mutually agreeable time for video conferencing through services such as Skype, Google+ Hangouts, or the University’s service, UMConnect Meetings. More information on UMConnect Meetings is available at [http://www.oit.umn.edu/umconnect/index.html](http://www.oit.umn.edu/umconnect/index.html). Requirements include a supported browser and Adobe Flash player, which are free and nearly universally used.

- **In-person contact.** Anyone may make an appointment for meeting by telephone or video conferencing. Students located in the area may make appointments to see your instructor or TA during regular business hours. Per University policy, we cannot support face-to-face in-person meetings when the University offices are closed, but can video conference or talk on the phone.

V. **Course Text and Readings**

**Required:**


Since homework problems and readings will be assigned out of the sixth edition, students with alternate editions of the book (e.g., fifth or seventh) are responsible for obtaining the homework problems and readings from the sixth edition (numbering of problems and page numbers change across editions). For students on campus, a copy of the textbook is on reserve in the Bio-Med Library, Diehl Hall. We do not recommend using any edition older than the fifth.

You **do NOT** need the CD that comes with the textbook; any material we require on the CD can alternatively be obtained directly from the publisher’s web site: [http://bcs.whfreeman.com/ips6e/](http://bcs.whfreeman.com/ips6e/)

Optional books (SAS and R software – also note free online tutorials available below):


Recommended alternative sources:

SAS tutorials at UCLA: [http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/](http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/)

R tutorials at UCLA: [http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/r/](http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/r/)

Introduction to R: [http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-intro.pdf](http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-intro.pdf)
Software

Students will require a personal computer and statistical software to complete homework assignments and exams in the course. This course will be taught using SAS and R. Students may choose to use one or both of these programs. R is free and open source. SAS is available for a nominal fee under the University’s site license; however, when you are no longer enrolled at the University, the site license and the software will eventually expire. More information on choosing between R and SAS (or using both) is given on the course Moodle page. Students are free to use any software, but instructional staff can only support SAS and R. Some programs within the University of Minnesota may require either SAS or R for students in their program. You will need to consult with your degree program (or intended program) for their requirements.

VI. Course Outline/Weekly Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week Starts</th>
<th>Text (6th edition)</th>
<th>Homeworks and Labs</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 9/2         | Chapter 1: pages 1-48
Chapter 3: pages 171-208 | Homework 1
Install Software
Lab 1 | • Introduction, Types of Data, Bar Charts, Pie – Charts, Stem-Plots, Histograms Exploratory Data Analysis for Univariate Data: Measures of Central Tendency, Measures of Dispersion, Box-plots
• Study designs |
| 2    | 9/8         | Chapter 3: pages 212-221
Chapter 4: pages: 237-255 and 289-303 | Homework 2
Lab 2 | • Overview of Sampling Variability
• Probability, Probability Models, Conditional Probability and Diagnostic Testing |
| 3    | 9/15        | Chapter 4: pages 258-267
Chapter 1: pages 53-72
Chapter 5: pages 311-331 | Homework 3
Lab 3 | • Random Variables, Probability Distributions for Discrete and Continuous Variables, The Normal Distribution, The Binomial Distribution |
| 4    | 9/22        | Chapter 4: pages 270-286
Chapter 5: pages 335-346
Chapter 6: pages 353-369 | Homework 4
Lab 4 | • Expected Value (Mean) and Variance of a Random Variable, Sampling Distribution of the Mean and the Sample Proportion, The Central Limit Theorem
• One-sample: Moving from Point Estimates to Interval Estimates, Confidence Intervals. |
| 5    | 9/29        | Lab 5 | • Exam 1 (October 4-6) |
| 6    | 10/6        | Chapter 6: pages 372-390
Chapter 7: pages 417-428 (up to matched pairs) | Homework 5
Lab 6 | • Confidence Intervals When Sigma is Unknown, Student's T Distribution
• Introduction to Hypothesis Testing When Sigma is Known and When Sigma is Unknown |
<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7    | 10/13       | Chapter 6: pages 394-410  
Chapter 7: pages 428-441 | Homework 6  
Lab 7 | • Type I and II Errors and Power for Hypothesis Testing  
• Linking Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Testing; Matched Pairs t-test |
| 8    | 10/20       | Chapter 7: pages 447-479  
Chapter 8: pages 487-502 | Homework 7  
Lab 8 | • Two-Sample t-tests and Two-Sample Confidence Intervals  
• Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Testing for One Proportion |
| 9    | 10/27       | Chapter 8: pages 505-516  
Odds Ratios and Relative Risks not in the book | Homework 8  
Lab 9 | • 2 by 2 Tables: Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Testing for the Difference in Two Proportions  
• 2 by 2 Tables: Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Testing for Odds Ratios and Relative Risks |
| 10   | 11/3        | Lab 10              |                   | • Exam II (November 8-10) |
| 11   | 11/10       | Chapter 2: pages 142-152  
Chapter 9: pages 525-548  
Matched Pairs for Binomial Data not in book | Homework 9  
Lab 11 | • Contingency Tables: Simpson's Paradox; Chi-Square Test  
• 2 by 2 Tables: McNemar's Test for Matched Pairs in the Binomial Setting |
| 12   | 11/17       | Chapter 2: pages 83-137 | Homework 10  
Lab 12 | • Relationships Between Quantitative Variables: Correlation, Scatterplots  
• Simple Linear Regression, Residuals, and Cautions |
| 13   | 11/24       | Chapter 10: pages 559-594 | Homework 11  
Lab 13 | • Simple Linear Regression: Inference, Predictions, and Diagnostics |
| 14   | 12/1        | Chapter 12: pages 637-670  
Chapter 13: pages 733-763 | Homework 12  
Lab 14 | • Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)  
• Nonparametric Methods |
| 15   | 12/8 (short week) |                   |                   | • Other Topics or Catch-up |

• **FINAL EXAM: December 13-16 (Saturday-Tuesday)**
VII. Evaluation and Grading

Homework

- There will be 12 homework assignments each worth 10 points. We will drop your two worst scores before computing your homework total for the semester.

- Homework is posted on the Moodle page in each unit, listing a future due date. Homework is to be submitted through the Moodle page using the link at the bottom of the assignment. Homework is often due on Tuesday evening by 11:55pm, but some exceptions occur due to holidays or exams.

- Homework should not be emailed to the instructors.

- Most homework assignments will be made up of textbook questions from Moore/McCabe/Craig AND questions that require learning and using statistical software. Similar problems may be covered step-by-step in the lab in the week before the assignment is due. You are NOT required to use SAS or R to do the problems that require statistical software; you may use another statistical software package of your choosing. However, course staff cannot offer assistance with any other package besides SAS and R.

- We encourage you to work together in computing and discussing the problems. However, each student is expected to independently write up the submitted assignment using her or his own computing and giving explanations in her or his own words. Using your own computing means writing your own code, generating your own graphs and output, and editing and incorporating that output in a final version. Copying someone else’s code or using their graphics or statistical output is not allowed. All assignments will involve computing; please attach only relevant computer output to what you turn in.

- Homework may be submitted up to 24 hours late at a 2 point penalty. Homework that is more than 24 hours late will not be accepted. Extensions may be requested from the instructor in advance of the original due date and may be granted at the instructor’s discretion.

Exams

- Exam 1: October 4-6 (Saturday-Monday)
- Exam 2: November 8-10 (Saturday-Monday)
- Final Exam: December 13-16 (Saturday-Tuesday)

You may use any or all of the following to use during the exams: class books, lecture notes and any other lecture materials (e.g., personal class notes, lecture worksheets, homework and their solutions, labs). A calculator capable of natural log transformations (or equivalent computer software) is required (“ln” button) for all of the exams. Sharing of books, notes, worksheets, homework/solutions, labs, calculators, or verbal or electronic comments is not permitted during the exams. Note: the R statistical software is very handy as a calculator.

Labs

- There will be 14 lab sessions, one per week. Lab exercises will be posted to the class web site; you may wish to print or have the lab document open as you view the lab video for taking notes or following along with the TA.

- By completing the lab exercises, you will learn how to program your own statistical data summaries and analyses using the SAS statistical package (www.sas.com) or the R statistical package (www.r-project.org). Students may use SAS and/or R, or are welcome to use any other statistical software. Course staff will not be able to support any other software except SAS and R. Only SAS and R are
installed for this course in the SPH Computer Lab. Students in the Division of Epidemiology are required by their degree program to use SAS.

- The lab exercises will NOT be graded. You do NOT need to turn them in.
- Occasionally part of a homework assignment will be included in a lab exercise; in this case, computer code and output relevant for the homework assignment should be turned in with your homework.

**Grading**

- Exams 1 and 2: 25% each.
- Final Exam: 25%.
- Homework Total: 25%.
- The grading scale based on the total percentage is the following:
  - 93-100 A
  - 90-92 A-
  - 85-89 B+
  - 75-84 B
  - 70-74 B-
  - 65-69 C+
  - 55-64 C
  - 50-54 C-

The University utilizes plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale in accordance with the following:

A  4.000 - Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements

A-  3.667

B+  3.333

B  3.000 - Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements

B-  2.667

C+  2.333

C  2.000 - Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect

C-  1.667

D+  1.333

D  1.000 - Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements

S  Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.

For additional information, please refer to: [http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html](http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html).
Course Evaluation
The SPH will collect student course evaluations electronically using a software system called CoursEval: www.sph.umn.edu/courseval. The system will send email notifications to students when they can access and complete their course evaluations. Students who complete their course evaluations promptly will be able to access their final grades just as soon as the faculty member renders the grade in SPHGrades: www.sph.umn.edu/grades. All students will have access to their final grades through OneStop two weeks after the last day of the semester regardless of whether they completed their course evaluation or not. Student feedback on course content and faculty teaching skills are an important means for improving our work. Please take the time to complete a course evaluation for each of the courses for which you are registered.

Incomplete Contracts
A grade of incomplete “I” shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or hospitalization, death in family, etc.), the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an “I” requires that a contract be initiated and completed by the student before the last official day of class, and signed by both the student and instructor. If an incomplete is deemed appropriate by the instructor, the student in consultation with the instructor, will specify the time and manner in which the student will complete course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year (or earlier if designated by the student’s college). For more information and to initiate an incomplete contract, students should go to SPHGrades at: www.sph.umn.edu/grades.

University of Minnesota Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy
A link to the policy can be found at onestop.umn.edu.

VIII. Other Course Information and Policies

Grade Option Change (if applicable)
For full-semester courses, students may change their grade option, if applicable, through the second week of the semester. Grade option change deadlines for other terms (i.e. summer and half-semester courses) can be found at onestop.umn.edu.
Course Withdrawal

Students should refer to the Refund and Drop/Add Deadlines for the particular term at onestop.umn.edu for information and deadlines for withdrawing from a course. As a courtesy, students should notify their instructor and, if applicable, advisor of their intent to withdraw.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the noted final deadline for a particular term must contact the School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Resources at sph-ssc@umn.edu for further information.

Student Conduct Code:

The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf.

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

Using personal electronic devices in the classroom setting can hinder instruction and learning, not only for the student using the device but also for other students in the class. To this end, the University establishes the right of each faculty member to determine if and how personal electronic devices are allowed to be used in the classroom. For complete information, please reference: http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. (Student Conduct Code: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf) If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" or an "N" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the University. For additional information, please see: http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/INSTRUCTORRESP.html.

The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html. If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor for the course. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class-e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.

Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences:

Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please see: http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html.
Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials:
Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. Such actions violate shared norms and standards of the academic community. For additional information, please see: http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html.

Sexual Harassment
"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf

Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action:
The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please consult Board of Regents Policy: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf.

Disability Accommodations:
The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center Student Services is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DS at 612-626-1333 or ds@umn.edu to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact your instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

For more information, please see the DS website, https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/.

Mental Health and Stress Management:
As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website: http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu.

The Office of Student Affairs at the University of Minnesota:
The Office for Student Affairs provides services, programs, and facilities that advance student success, inspire students to make life-long positive contributions to society, promote an inclusive environment, and enrich the University of Minnesota community.

Units within the Office for Student Affairs include, the Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, Boynton Health Service, Central Career Initiatives (CCE, CDes, CFANS), Leadership Education and Development – Undergraduate Programs (LEAD-UP), the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Office for Student
Conduct and Academic Integrity, the Office for Student Engagement, the Parent Program, Recreational Sports, Student and Community Relations, the Student Conflict Resolution Center, the Student Parent HELP Center, Student Unions & Activities, University Counseling & Consulting Services, and University Student Legal Service.

For more information, please see the Office of Student Affairs at http://www.osa.umn.edu/index.html.

**Academic Freedom and Responsibility: for courses that do not involve students in research:**

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.*

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Contact the instructor, the Department Chair, your adviser, the associate dean of the college, or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost.

*Language adapted from the American Association of University Professors "Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students".*