Psychology 318: Analysis of Data, Spring, 2015

Instructor: Geoffrey R. Loftus

GENERAL NOTE: The structure of Psychology 318 is identical to the structure of Psychology 317.

Teaching Assistants. (NOTES: all TA office hours will be in Gould Coffee Shop except when noted otherwise; also, office hours will be updated after class begins).

Undergraduate TAs:

Angel Chan: Section AA: F 8:30-9:20 PAR 306
Office hours: M 10:30 - 11:20, Tu 9:30 – 11:20
email: angelcny@uw.edu

Aaron Flaster: Section AB: F 9:30-10:20 MGH 278
Office hours: F 8:30-9:30, 10:30-12:30
email: aaronflaster@gmail.com

Dale Kim: Section AC: F 8:30-9:20 MGH 097
Office hours: MW, 10:30 – 12:00
email: dalekim@uw.edu

Yao Lu: Section AD: F 9:30-10:20 MEB 102
Office hours: Tu, Th 8:30 – 10:00
email: yao0220@uw.edu

Sullivan Swift: Section AE: F 8:30-9:20 DEN 309
Office hours: M 12:30 - 2:00, W 10:30 - 12:00
email: sswift@uw.edu

Joel Tome: Section AF: F 9:30-10:20 SAV 167
Office hours: Tu 9:00 - 10:30, W 1:30 - 3:00
email: jrktome@gmail.com

Graduate TA:

Meg Grounds: Section AG: F 9:30-10:20 BNS 115
Office hours: Tu 12:30-2; Th 1:00-2:30
email: mgrounds@u.washington.edu

Class information: Handouts and web postings

Information will generally be posted on the class web site. To get to the class web site, you can go to

http://faculty.washington.edu/gloftus/

and follow the link to "Psychology 317-318: Statistics." There you find day-to-day class information (e.g., reading assignments, homework assignments, relevant text material for exams, etc). You should bookmark this page and check it at least once daily.

Lectures

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 - 10:20 in SMI 211. Please arrive on time; lectures will begin promptly at 8:30. There will be a 10-minute break between 9:20 and 9:30.

Readings

Readings will be from Loftus and Loftus, *Essence of Statistics*, Second Edition, published by McGraw-Hill. Readings for each lecture will appear on the class web site as soon as possible following the previous lecture. In order to understand the material, we highly recommend that you complete the readings before the lectures to which they're relevant.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Be sure to correct errors using the textbook errata sheet that you should have downloaded from the class web site.

Handouts

You should download and print a handout packet. Every now and then, additional handouts may be posted on the web site.

Examinations

There will be five midterm exams during the quarter, plus the final exam. Each midterm will occur on a Wednesday and will cover reading/lecture/homework since the previous hour exam; **i.e., a midterm will not cover the material from the Monday lecture that just precedes it**. However, the final exam will be cumulative—it will cover all the material in the course. Although you will have the full two-hour class period to do a midterm exam, the exams will be designed such that they should take considerably less than two hours. In other words, it is our hope that there will not be time pressure. Note, however, that the Final Exam, which will also take two hours, will be longer than the midterms.

All exams will be open-book and open-note. In addition, you should bring a pocket calculator or a laptop computer (which you should inspect the night before the exam to ensure that it's in working order). Exams should be written in pencil, not pen.

All exams will be graded on a scale from 0-100. The grade for each question will be based on knowledge of method, on obtaining the correct answer, and on neatness and organization. Exams will be handed back and gone over during the first quiz section after the exam.

You may not use the internet during exams.

Homework

There will be five homework assignments, one covering the material relevant to each of the four midterm exams. In all cases there will be an opportunity to go over the homework in quiz section before an exam. Homework will be due on the Thursday preceding an exam by **12:30 pm in the class mailbox (or hand it to your TA in person any time)**, and will be returned at Friday section. A homework answer sheet will be posted on the class web site on Thursday shortly after 12:30. Homework will be graded in a fairly superficial manner, as there will be an answer sheet for you to refer to. Please staple pages of your homework together so they will not get lost.

Homework due dates are unchangeable, immovable, and sacrosanct. If, God forbid, you should break your leg, get a friend to deliver your homework for you or email it in. **No excuses will be accepted for late homework, nor will late homework be graded**.

Homework can be done either singly, or in groups. Remember that the primary purpose of doing homework is to assist you in learning the material. Learning statistics without practicing is roughly as effective as learning tennis without practicing. You can skip homework or copy it from someone else but you will, in the end, pay dearly if you do this.

Homework will be graded on a scale from 0 to 5. A homework answer sheet will be provided at the same time. There will be a "final homework" covering lecture material from the last week of the quarter, which will be graded on a scale from 0 to 2.5.

Quiz Sections

Quiz sections will be held on Fridays at 8:30 and 9:30. Note that we will assign you to a section during the first week of the quarter, i.e., please ignore your "official" University of Washington assignment. As much as possible, we will keep you in the same quiz section as you were in Psychology 317. Quiz sections will be used primarily to go over homework and exams. A schedule of quiz-section activities is included on the schedule of events (next page).

Course Grading

Each of the five midterm-exam grades (0-100) will be supplemented by its corresponding homework grade (0-5). Thus, supplemented exam grades can range from 0 to 105.

Prior to the final exam we will compute a *midterm score*. This will be done as follows. First, we drop the lowest of your five supplemented midterm-exam grades. We then compute both the mean and median of the four remaining midterm-exam scores. Whichever of the two, mean or median, is higher is your *midterm score*. **WE HAVE ORGANIZED THIS SYSTEM TO ELIMINATE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR MISSING AN EXAM BECAUSE OF SICKNESS OR OTHER LEGITIMATE REASONS. IF YOU MISS AN EXAM, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON IT AND IT WILL BE THE ONE THAT GETS DROPPED (THUS YOU NEED NOT EVEN TELL US IF YOU MISS AN EXAM). There will be no makeup exams. There Will Be No Makeup Exams! THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP EXAMS!!** Please do not request a makeup exam.

Your final exam is graded on a scale from 0 - 100. To it is added your final homework score, which can range from 0 to 2.5. After the final, you will have two scores: your midterm score, computed as described in the previous paragraph, and your final exam score. These two scores will be combined to produce a final score with weightings of 3/4 and 1/4, with the 3/4 weighting going to whichever score is highest. So, for example, if your midterm score were 84, and your final-exam score were 92, your final score would be (1/4)(84) + (3/4)(92) = 21 + 69 = 90.

Finally, your final grade will be converted to a decimal (transcript) grade using the formula,

Decimal Grade = (final score - 55)/10

Useful tools

You will need a calculation tool. It would suffice to have a calculator that can add, multiply, subtract, divide, and take square roots. An additional helpful calculator feature would be the ability to simultaneously compute sums and sums of squares.

In place of a calculator, we **strongly recommend** a laptop computer (and Microsoft Excel). A calculator or a laptop computer will be necessary for exams.

Topics

We will probably get through Chapter 16 of the text.

WEEK	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri Section
Week 1: 3/30	Lecture 1 HW1 assigned (L1-2)	Lecture 2	HW1 due HW2 assigned (L3-5)	HW1 returned and discussed
Week 2: 4/6	Lecture 3	EXAM 1 (L1-2)		Exam 1 returned and discussed
Week 3: 4/13	Lecture 4	Lecture 5	HW2 due HW3 assigned (L6-8)	HW 2 returned and discussed
Week 4: 4/20	Lecture 6	EXAM 2 (L3-5)		Exam 2 returned and discussed
Week 5: 4/27	Lecture 7	Lecture 8	HW3 Due HW4 assigned (L9-11)	HW 3 returned and discussed
Week 6: 5/4	Lecture 9	EXAM 3 (L6-8)		Exam 3 returned and discussed
Week 7: 5/11	Lecture 10	Lecture 11	HW4 Due HW5 assigned (L12-13)	HW 4 returned and discussed
Week 8: 5/18	Lecture 12	EXAM 4 (L9-11)		Exam 4 returned and discussed
Week 9: 5/25	HOLIDAY	Lecture 13	HW5 Due FHW assigned (L14)	HW 5 returned and discussed
Week 10: 6/1	Lecture 14	EXAM 5 (L12-13)	FHW due	Exam 5 returned and discussed
Week 11: 6/8	TUESDAY 6/9 8:30-10:20: Final Exam (L1-14)			

Key

L: Lectures occur on Mondays when there's no holiday and on Wednesdays when there's no exam.

HW: Homework is assigned every other Thursday on the web site; always due Thursdays at 12:30. Numbers in parentheses indicate which lectures are covered by a particular homework assignment.

EXAM: Exams occur every other week; linked to homework due previous Thursday. Numbers in parentheses indicate which lectures are covered by a particular exam.

FHW: Final homework, which goes with final lecture and final exam.