



Statistics for the Communication Industry

MMC 6936

Academic Term: Summer 2020

3 Credit Hours

Instructor

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Office Phone Number and Times: 202-658-3535 (Please only call in emergency situations or if a call has been pre-arranged)

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistants

- N/A

Course Description & Prerequisites

In this course, the students will learn to use common research statistical methods utilized within the communications and media industries. The overall goals of the course are for students to develop an understanding of statistical principles and concepts as well as develop the ability to perform statistical tests within various research contexts. The students will work on critically evaluating the statistical tests and results of empirical studies to assess whether the findings have relevant implications for individual research and/or industry projects.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

None

Course Delivery Mode & Time Commitment

This is a fully online course and you must log into Canvas with your gatorlink and password to access the materials and assignments. The course is organized into modules with due dates. Unless otherwise specified, each module begins on Monday at 12:00 AM, ET, and ends on Sunday at 11:59 PM, ET. The course begins with the Course Orientation (START HERE) Module, which will familiarize you with the course.

Time Commitment

Expect to spend between 10 to 20 hours per week, per course, watching or attending lectures, reading, working on assignments and projects, and engaging in discussions.

Course-Level Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain key statistical terms and concepts used in communications and media industry journals such as statistical significance, p-value, confidence interval, and power. (CO:1)
2. Discern whether statistical tests have been appropriately selected and whether the results have been appropriately interpreted in published research. (CO:2)
3. Evaluate the statistical portions of relevant research articles and be able to interpret and apply data findings when presented in figures and graphs of publications. (CO:3)
4. Perform statistical tests in SPSS for their own research or commercial projects. (CO:4)

(CO = Course-Level Objective)

Textbooks & Materials

Required Course Textbook(s)

Online Statistics Education: A Multimedia Course of Study (<http://onlinestatbook.com/2/index.html>) Project Leader: [David M. Lane](#), Rice University.

Mertler, C. & Vannatta Reinhart, R. (2017). *Advanced and multivariate statistical methods* (6th ed.). Routledge. E-book available via UF Libraries page (VPN required).

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ufi/detail.action?docID=4732821> (with VPN)

Byrne, BM. (2016). *Structural equation modeling with AMOS: Basic concepts, applications, and programming, third edition*. Routledge. E-book available via UF Libraries page (VPN required).

<http://eds.a.ebscohost.com.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/eds/detail/detail?vid=1&sid=4797bf15-c574-4305-8e4e-194657dcf300%40sessionmgr4010&bdata=JkF1dGhUeXBIPWlwLHVpZCZzaXRIPWVkcys1saXZl#AN=1249128&db=nlebk>

For help with SPSS, you are also encouraged to use Google to find tutorials for the specific question you are having.

Minimum Technology Requirements & Computer Skills

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

Basic Computer Specifications for Canvas

- [Specifications](#)
- Reliable Web Browser: Login to Canvas and make sure your Internet browser is compatible.

Peripherals

- A backup option should be available to minimize any loss of work such as an external hard drive, a USB drive, cloud storage, etc.

Hardware

- Dependable computer.
- Computer speakers.
- Headset with microphone.
- Webcam.

Software

- [Microsoft Office 365](#).
- [UF Apps](#) – access UF software applications from any device from any location, at any time.
- Canvas Mobile App: Download instructions for [iOS device](#) or [Android device](#).
- [Adobe Reader](#)
- <https://ufl.zoom.us/>

Internet Connection

- Recommended: Broadband Internet connection with a speed of 4 Mbps or higher.
- To function properly, Canvas requires a high-speed Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, T1, etc.). The minimum Internet connection speed to access Canvas is a consistent 1.5 Mbps (megabits per second) or higher.
- [Check your Internet speed here](#).

Subscriptions, Plug-Ins, and Other Tools **(Add any additional tools such as Hootsuite, CoSchedule, etc., in this section.)**

- [Adobe Flash Player](#) (Good until the Microsoft update December 31, 2020.)
- [JAVA](#)

MINIMUM COMPUTER AND DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

The general and course-specific computer and digital information literacy skills you must have to succeed in the course include, but are not limited to, the following: [Revise, as necessary](#).

- Accessing the Internet.
- Using Canvas.
- Using email with attachments.
- Creating and submitting files in processing program such as Microsoft Office Tools.
- Copying and pasting functions.
- Downloading and installing software.
- Using presentation, graphics, and other programs.
- Posting and commenting in an online discussion.
- Searching the University of Florida library and websites.

Technical Support

In the event that you have technical difficulties with your course, please contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) either by filling out an [online request form](#) or calling 352-392-4357 - select option 1. The Help Desk is located on the ground floor of the Hub on the UF campus.

If your technical difficulties caused you to miss a due date, you **MUST** report the problem to the Help Desk and then email your instructor. Include the ticket number that you are given from the Help Desk in an email to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test.

IT Support

For all Technical assistance questions please contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Phone: 352-392-HELP (4357)

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Please Note

Your instructor is not able to handle technological issues or answer questions related to computer issues. If a problem of this nature arises that causes you to miss an assignment, you must provide your Help Desk ticket number to the instructor in order to receive an extension.

Course Grading Policies Grading Criterion, Late Assignment Policy, and Expectations for Assignments

GRADING CRITERION

Homework (70%)

A homework assignment will be due every other week. Homework assignments can consist of any combination of the four following components:

1. Short answer questions based on the reading and lectures.
2. A short presentation (<10 minutes, recorded on Zoom) to present the statistical component of a published research paper (more detailed instructions to follow).
3. Short answer questions based on the statistical component of a published research paper.
4. Performing a statistical test in SPSS.

Short answer questions and SPSS outputs will be graded by points/percentages based on number of correct questions.

Your presentation for the Module 7 Homework will be evaluated using the following rubric:

0	No presentation is made or presentation includes plagiarized content.
1-2	Presentation fails to meet the length requirement. The presentation does not address the required content elements of the assignment or does not do so completely. Project content is not very thoughtful or well-developed. Presentation is not well organized. There are many spelling or grammar errors, or outside content is not appropriately cited.
3-4	Presentation fails to meet the length requirement but does address the required content elements of the assignment. The presentation content, however, is not thorough, well presented or well thought out. Content is not well organized. There may be several grammatical or spelling errors or outside content is not appropriately cited.
5-6	Presentation meets the length requirement and addresses required content elements, but could be elaborated on or explicated more completely or thoughtfully. The content may be disorganized or not well presented. There may be grammatical or spelling errors as well, or outside content is not appropriately cited.

7-8	Presentation is thoughtful, relevant, and well written, addressing the required content elements of the assignment with adequate substance and depth. Outside content is cited appropriately (Ex. "According to Jones (2017)..."). Presentation either does not meet length requirement or has spelling/grammatical errors.
9-10	Presentation is thoughtful, relevant, and well written, addressing the required content elements of the assignment with appropriate substance and depth. Outside content is cited appropriately (Ex. "According to Jones (2017)..."). Presentation meets length requirements and is without grammatical or spelling errors.

Quizzes (20%)

There will be two quizzes. They will consist of short answer questions based on all material covered in readings, lectures, and homework assignments. The quizzes will be available in Canvas for at least four days so that you can take the 2.5 hour quiz at a time that best suits your schedule. The quizzes will be open "everything" (open notes, open book, open lecture, etc.).

Final Presentation (10%)

Using the data in either of two SPSS sample datasets (telco or car_sales), you must formulate two of your own research questions and do two different statistical analyses from among the following tests:

- Factorial ANOVA
- Repeated measures ANOVA
- ANCOVA
- Factorial ANCOVA
- MANOVA
- Factorial MANOVA
- MANCOVA
- Factorial MANCOVA
- Multiple linear regression
- Exploratory factor analysis (not with the telco dataset)
- Multiple logistic regression

You will record a <20 minute presentation (and turn in a Powerpoint presentation in Assignments in Canvas) that includes the following:

1. Brief background of your analysis
2. Two appropriate research questions for main effects; if doing a factorial analysis, list the research question(s) for interactions as well.
3. Confirmation that the tests that you chose was appropriate given the number and levels of measurement for independent variables, dependent variables, and covariates, as well as the purpose of the tests (group differences, underlying structure, predictive model, etc.)
4. Confirmation that the assumptions for doing the particular statistical tests are met
5. The results (either relevant SPSS output tables or figures and tables created by you)
6. Your interpretation of the results; this should include answers to all of the research questions from part 2).

You can arrange to meet with me (or email me) to ensure that you are using the appropriate statistical test for your research questions.

You are free to record your presentation on any platform that you desire, as long as I can view it. Your presentation should include video as well as audio, and is intended for a professional audience. Your presentation will be evaluated using the following rubric:

0	No presentation is made or presentation includes plagiarized content.
1-2	Presentation fails to meet the length requirement. The presentation does not address the required content elements of the assignment or does not do so completely. Project content is not very thoughtful or well-developed. Presentation is not well organized. There are many spelling or grammar errors, or outside content is not appropriately cited.
3-4	Presentation fails to meet the length requirement but does address the required content elements of the assignment. The presentation content, however, is not thorough, well presented or well thought out. Content is not well organized. There may be several grammatical or spelling errors or outside content is not appropriately cited.
5-6	Presentation meets the length requirement and addresses required content elements, but could be elaborated on or explicated more completely, thoughtfully, or accurately. The content may be disorganized or not well presented. There may be grammatical or spelling errors as well, or outside content is not appropriately cited.
7-8	Presentation is thoughtful, relevant, and well written, addressing the required content elements of the assignment with adequate substance, depth and accuracy (including choice of statistical test and interpretation of results). Outside content is cited appropriately (Ex. "According to Jones (2017)..."). Presentation either does not meet length requirement or has spelling/grammatical errors.
9-10	Presentation is thoughtful, relevant, and well written, addressing the required content elements of the assignment with appropriate substance, depth, and accuracy (including choice of statistical test and interpretation of results). Outside content is cited appropriately (Ex. "According to Jones (2017)..."). Presentation meets length requirements and is without grammatical or spelling errors.

Your grade will be calculated based on the following:

Assignments/Assessments	Points	Weight (%)
Course Orientation: These assignments are required; however, they do not count towards the final grade. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Introduction • Course Evaluation 	0	0%
7 Homework assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worth up to 10 points each. 	70	70%
2 Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worth up to 10 points each. 	20	20%
1 Final Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worth up to 10 points each. 	10	10%
TOTAL	100	100%

Grade	Percentage
A	92.5-100%
A-	89.5-92.4%
B+	86.5-89.4%

B	82.5-86.4%
B-	79.5-82.4%
C+	76.5-79.4%
C	72.5-76.4%
C-	69.5-72.4%
D+	66.5-69.4%
D	62.5-66.4%
D-	59.5-62.4%
E	0 – 59.4%

The only passing grades for graduate students are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, and S. Grades of B-, C+ or C count toward a graduate degree if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with grades of B+, A- and A, respectively. Grade points are not given for S and U grades; S and U grades are not used to calculate grade point averages. All letter-graded courses eligible to count toward the graduate degree, except 1000- and 2000-level courses, are used to calculate the cumulative grade-point average. Letter grades of C-, D+, D, D- or E are not considered passing at the graduate level, although the grade points associated with these letter grades are included in grade point average calculations. See the [UF grading policy](#) for more information.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Late assignments will not be accepted unless it is a [University excused absence](#) as stated in the attendance policies. **No late work will be accepted for final projects or work due in the final week of class due to the university grading deadlines.** If potential issues arise concerning submitting final work, students should contact their instructors before deadlines to discuss the possibility of an Incomplete Grade Contract.

1. Late Assignment Grade Reductions
 - a. 0-24 Hours Late: 10% reduction in grade.
 - b. Over 24 Hours (24 hours and 1 minute) to 7 Calendar Days Late: 20% reduction in grade.
 - c. After the 7th Calendar Day: Work will not be accepted.
2. Late Discussions will not be accepted.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

- **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Accessibility Policy

Students requiring reasonable access to services and resources required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other applicable federal and state regulations, please access [UF Accessibility](#) for all options available to you. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Please register early!

Contact Information

- For ADA questions: Dr. Russ Froman, rfroman@ufl.edu , Phone: 352 - 273-1094
- Disability Resource Center: Gerry Altamirano, galtamirano@ufl.edu , Phone: 352 - 392-8565
- Electronic Information Technology & Communication Accessibility: Anne Allen, alallen@ufl.edu , Phone: 352- 871-2707
- For persons with hearing or speech related accessibility needs: When trying to access an office on campus that does not list a TDD/TTY number, contact the Florida Relay Service at 800-955-8771(TDD) or 711 (V/TDD).

Accessibility Resource Center

University of Florida

PO Box 114085

Gainesville, FL 32611-4085

Phone: 352-392-8565

Email: accessuf@dso.ufl.edu

Address

Environmental Health and Safety Administrative Offices

916 Newell Dr

Gainesville, FL 32603

For more information, see UF's [Electronic Information Technology Accessibility \(EITA\) Policy](#).

Communication Policy

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS *(Revise, as necessary.)*

Announcements

You are responsible for reading all announcements posted in the courseroom each time you log in.

Email

You are responsible for reading all your course email and responding in a timely manner (within 24 hours).

Video Conferencing

You are responsible for attending course video conferencing meetings. If you cannot attend the video conferencing meeting, please advise the instructor and/or your team at least 24 hours in advance (exceptions can be made for legitimate emergencies). You are expected to demonstrate netiquette and etiquette communication expectations.

Course-Related Questions

Post course-related questions to the FAQ discussion board. This allows other participants with the same question to benefit from the responses. Also, make sure you review this forum prior to posting a question. Someone may have already asked and answered the question in previous posts.

INSTRUCTOR'S PLAN FOR CLASSROOM RESPONSE TIME AND FEEDBACK

Email Policy

Except for weekends, holidays, and University breaks, the instructor will typically respond to emails within 48 hours. You should ask course-related questions in the FAQ discussion board. If you have questions of a personal nature, please

email the instructor.

Assignment Feedback Policy

The instructor will provide feedback on submitted assignments within one week of the submission date. Some assignments may require a longer review period, which the instructor will communicate to you.

Course-Related Questions Policy

Except weekends and holidays, the instructor will generally answer questions within 48 hours.

Video Conferencing

The instructor will provide any information on required video conferencing within the courseroom.

Electronic Communication Policy

In addition to the University's policy, please consider the following:

- Privacy, confidentiality, and security in all electronic communications. See [Information Security](#).
- All electronic communication resources must be used for the course and in alignment with to the CJC Online and University mission. See the [Acceptable Use Policy](#).
- Prohibited use of false identity, false identity pseudonyms, or anonymous (sender's name or electronic identification is hidden).
- Prohibited online access without consent.
- Prohibited disruption of services including introducing computer contaminants (viruses).
- Prohibited [harassment](#) of any kind.

Please see UF's Information Technology [policies](#) for additional information.

Select CJC and University Policies and Guidelines

Academic Integrity Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." The [Student Honor Code](#), Violation of the Student Honor Code, specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to the appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA's in this class.

Netiquette

Casual style of communication is commonly found in the online environment and students are sometimes tempted to relax their grammar, word choice, syntax (arrangement of words to create well-formed sentences), writing mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling), and/or professionalism. Keep in mind when communicating with others to be courteous, civil, respectful, and professional. Please remember that you are adult students and professionals—your communication must be appropriate.

Online Attendance Policy

Since the course is online, you should access your course at least four times per week to ensure you do not miss pertinent postings, messages, or announcements. It is imperative that you meet course deadlines and stay active in discussion boards, group projects, etc. If you are experiencing a major illness, absences due to University duties, or other large-scale issues, contact the instructor immediately.

Students are responsible for meeting all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. In general, acceptable reasons for absences include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, [severe weather conditions](#), [religious holidays](#), and participation in official University activities. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. [Excused absences](#) must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation. For additional information, see the [attendance policies](#).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is unacceptable; especially, in the academic communities. All academic work must be an original work of your own thought, research, or self-expression. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, prohibited collaboration, consultation, submission of academic work that has been purchased or obtained (see the [UF Policy: Student Conduct Violation](#)). Remember that plagiarism is not acceptable in any of your work including all discussion board posts, journal entries, wikis, and other written and oral presentation assignments. Always cite your sources!

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Notification to Students of FERPA Rights

There are federal laws, [FERPA](#), protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments.

Video Conferencing Etiquette

Video conferencing is an excellent tool to interface with your peers and instructor(s) and there are also netiquette expectations to ensure that all participants are respected and treated with civility. Please make sure that you follow all of the netiquette and [etiquette](#) expectations including the following:

1. Be punctual and courteous.
2. Position your camera at eye level with good lighting.
3. Show respect and professionalism by dressing business casual or business professional.
4. Make sure your background is in a proper setting with minimal distractions.
5. Mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

Writing Style

In order to meet the academic rigor and standards of a graduate program, all students are required to use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) 7th Edition style in their courses. The APA 7th Edition Manual has a plethora of guidelines that includes scholarly writing, publishing principles, elements and format for your papers, writing style and grammar, bias-free language guidelines, mechanics of style, in-text citing and references, etc. For additional information on notable changes, see [changes between APA 6th Edition and APA 7th Edition](#).

Academic and Student Resources

Academic Resources

- [One UF Student Portal](#) – Course registration, final grades, transcript requests, degree audit.

- [GatorEvals](#) – Online faculty evaluations and results.
- [UF Bookstore](#): Phone: 352-392-0194, Email: ufbookstore@bsd.ufl.edu
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
[UF Library Services for Distance Students](#)
[Ask a Librarian](#) – chat with librarians online.
 CJC Librarian - [April Hines](#), Phone: 352-273-2728, Email: aprhone@uflib.ufl.edu.
[Course Reserves](#): Electronic resource reserve items that can be accessed via links or files.
- [Copyright Concerns of Graduate Researchers](#): Information and resource guide on copyright concerns.
- [Teaching Center](#): General study skills and tutoring. Broward Hall, Phone: 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420.
- [Writing Studio](#): Provides one-on-one consultations and workshops tailored to specific classes (graduate and undergraduate). 302 Tigert Hall, Phone: 352-846-1138.
- [Online Student Complaints](#): This process is designed to make every attempt to resolve student complaints within its academic and administrative departments at the program level.
- [Information for Veterans](#): Veterans Affairs Certification: Phone: 352 - 294-2948

Student Resources

- [Graduate Student Resources](#): Available resources for graduate students. Your advisors are here to support you, answer questions, help with registration, and other sources. Email onlineadvising@jou.ufl.edu.
- [U Matter, We Care](#): If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or Phone: 352-294-2273 so that a team member can reach out.
- [Counseling and Wellness Center](#): [3190 Radio Road, Gainesville, FL 32611](#)
[Phone: \(352\) 392-1575, Fax: \(352\) 273-4738](#)
- [Sexual Violence Response](#): Victim services, Care Area, UF Police Department, and Title IX.
- [University Police Department](#): Resources available include the Office of Victim Services and Community Services Division. Emergency: 9-1-1; Non-Emergency: 352-392-1111.
- [Gator Connect](#): Online database of student organizations.
- [Career Connection Center](#): Career assistance and counseling. Reitz Union, Phone: 352-392-1601.
- [Veteran Services](#): Office of Student Veteran Services, Phone: 352-294-2948, email: vacounselor@ufl.edu.
 | Collegiate Veterans Success Center, Phone: 352- 294-7215, email: charlotte.kemper@va.gov.
- [Student Financial Affairs](#): Financial aid counseling including Aid-a-Gator program. Phone: 352-392-1275.

- [Student Success Coach](#): Meet with a graduate student coach that can support you in numerous ways during your time in graduate school, such as time and stress management, motivation, organization, and much more.



The instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus, as necessary.