

PSQF 7375: Bayesian Psychometric Modeling Syllabus; Fall 2024

Version 1.0: 19 August, 2024

Note: *The online syllabus at the address provided above will always have the most current information.*

Course Information

Instructor:	Jonathan Templin
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Course website:	https://jonathantemplin.com/bayesian-psychometric-modeling-fall-2024/
Office:	S300A Lindquist Center
Office Phone:	319-335-6429
Classroom:	Zoom Only at https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/91009790282?pwd=K4T1Da6Nb9iTl1Vfaox1Mki3tq0GUl.1
Course Meeting Time:	T & Th 9:30am-10:45am
Course Office Hours:	W 9:30am-11:30am via Zoom at https://uiowa.zoom.us/my/jonathantemplinuiowa
Teaching Assistant:	Bladimir Padilla
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Teaching Assistant Office Hours:	TBD

Course Objectives, Materials, and Prerequisites

In this course, a unified Bayesian modeling approach will be presented across what have been traditionally taught as separate families of psychometric models. Focusing more directly how to use Bayesian methods in psychometrics, this course will cover Bayesian theory along with applied treatments of popular psychometric models, including confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), item response theory (IRT), latent class analysis, diagnostic classification models, and Bayesian networks. The focus of this course will be on model building directly in Bayesian programs (i.e., *stan* and *JAGS*) rather than the use of packages that build such code automatically. Time permitting, multilevel models and multilevel psychometric models will be presented.

As class will begin promptly at 9:30am each Tuesday and Thursday, I ask that you arrive by that time so as to ensure we have enough time to cover all materials.

Course Readings

The course will follow some of the chapters of Bayesian Psychometric Modeling (2016) by Roy Levy and Bob Mislevy. The University of Iowa Library has electronic access to the book at <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uiowa/detail.action?docID=4532358>. Additional readings will be posted on our course website or via our course ICON site.

Course Topic List

Please note, due to uncertainties in how long instruction will take to be delivered, a list of topics to be covered is presented in this syllabus. The precise schedule for upcoming classes will be posted on the course website. Not all topics may be covered.

Bayesian Topics

- Foundational Bayesian Concepts
- Bayesian Estimation Methods
- MCMC Convergence Diagnostics
- Model fit assessment with posterior predictive model checks
- Missing Data in MCMC Estimation
- Bayesian Software:
 - Stan
 - Using Argon for estimation
- MCMC Algorithms:
 - Gibbs Sampling
 - Metropolis-Hastings
 - Hamiltonian Monte Carlo
- Bayesian Model Comparison using Information Criteria

Psychometric Topics

- Introduction to Psychometric Modeling
- Bayesian Confirmatory Factor Analysis
- Bayesian Psychometric Model Fit Assessment
 - PPMC
 - Model comparison methods
- Bayesian Item Response Theory:
 - Binary Response Models
 - Polytomous Response Models
 - * Graded responses
 - * Partial credit models
 - * Nominal responses
- Bayesian Models for Other Item Response Data:
 - Psychometric Models for Count Data
 - Psychometric Models for Censored or Truncated Data
- Bayesian Models for Non-Continuous Latent Variables:
 - Bayesian Latent Class Models
 - Bayesian Diagnostic Classification Models
- Bayesian Structural Equation Models
- Bayesian Networks
- Bayesian Multilevel Models
- Bayesian Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling

Course Website/Technology

ICON *will* be used for grades, submission of assignments, disseminating course readings, and course communications.

ICON *will not* be used for lecture materials. Instead, we will use freely available commercial software for communication and dissemination of course materials. Course lecture slides, lecture examples, video files, assignments, and information are available on the website, <https://jonathantemplin.com/bayesian-psychometric-modeling-fall-2024/>. Additionally, all course materials will be available using the course Git repository at: <https://github.com/jonathantemplin/Bayesian-Psychometric-Modeling-Course-Fall-2024>.

All lectures will be archived on YouTube (my YouTube channel is <https://jonathantemplin.com/YouTube>).

Statistical Computing

The course will use the R statistical package with the R Studio development suite along with a set of R packages (both Bayesian and Non-Bayesian). Additionally, we will use the stan open-source Bayesian estimation program. R and R Studio work with stan by using a series of downloadable packages which will be used throughout the course.

R, R Studio, and stan are available for free from the following websites: R: <https://www.r-project.org/> R Studio: <https://www.rstudio.com/> stan: <https://mc-stan.org/>

The University of Iowa enables access for many of these programs through their research computing resources: R Studio Notebooks: <https://notebooks.hpc.uiowa.edu/> High Performance Computing: <https://hpc.uiowa.edu/>

Although this software is available at the University of Iowa, I ask that you install all versions on your local computer as campus resources can be difficult to use for many analyses.

Homework, Formative Assessments, and Course Project

Student evaluation will be made based three components: (1) homework assignments (60% of course grade), (2) formative assessments (20% of course grade), and (3) a course project (20% of course grade).

Mathematically, the grade percentage can be expressed as:

$$GP = .6 \times HP + .2 \times FP + .2 \times CP,$$

Where:

- GP is the Grade Percentage
- HP is the Homework Percentage
- FP is the Formative Assessment Percentage
- CP is the Course Project Percentage

Homework Assignments

There will be a set of homework assignments, the number to be determined. For each assignment, students will have a minimum of two weeks to complete the assignment. Homework assignments will weighted equally with respect to the 60% of the course grade accounted for by homework. The lowest homework percentage will be dropped (to allow for grace for late homework).

Mathematically, the homework percentage can be expressed as:

$$HP = \left\lceil \frac{\left(\sum_{h=1}^H P_h \right) - \min_h P_h}{H - 1} \right\rceil,$$

where P_h is the percent correct on homework h , with H total homeworks.

In order to be able to provide the entire class with prompt feedback, late homework assignments will not be accepted. However, extensions may be granted as needed for extenuating circumstances (e.g., conferences, family obligations) if requested at least three weeks in advance of the due date. Additionally, late homework due to emergencies will be accepted with documentation of the circumstances of the emergency.

All assignments must be completed in R, using R Markdown as a file format, and submitted via ICON. Although students are encouraged to work together on the concepts underlying homework, all answers must be from student's own work (writing and syntax) and not be copied or paraphrased from anyone else's answers. Grammar and writing will be assessed by each homework and will factor into the homework grade.

Formative Assessments

Each week, students will take a short formative assessment in ICON. The purpose of the formative assessment is to help students obtain a picture of their understanding of course materials. All genuine attempts (i.e., not haphazard answers) at completion will receive full credit. All formative assessments will be weighted equally with respect to the 20% of the course grade.

Course Project

To help reinforce practice with the material in this course, a course project, as assessed in several parts, is required. This will be an individual project, meaning you will be responsible for all aspects of the work (writing and coding). The project will have several parts but will end with an APA-style formatted paper and the presentation of your work to the class (both will be graded). Ideally, the project would lead to a publishable paper that would be submitted following the semester.

Your project may be on nearly any aspect of Bayesian Psychometric Models, including any data you may have that you wish to analyze. A list of project ideas will also be presented where you can select one.

Part 1: Introduction and Research Questions/Hypotheses (Due Friday, October 11th) Part one of the project should provide a brief literature review of the area of research that your project addresses and provide a set of research questions and/or hypotheses you seek to answer with your study. Please keep this section to no more than 10 pages of double-spaced text (not including the title page, figures, tables, or references).

You may wish to preregister your hypotheses: <https://www.cos.io/initiatives/prereg>

Part 2: Project Presentation (Presentations During Finals Week) Part two is a project presentation where you present your research findings to the class in a 20-minute presentation. The presentation materials are due on December 2nd and you will deliver your presentation during the last week of class.

Part 3: Final Project Paper (Due Friday, December 13th) Your final project paper is due on Friday, December 13th. It must have your (brief) literature review, research questions/hypotheses, methods, results, and discussion sections. Please limit your paper to 20 pages of double-spaced text (not including the title page, figures, tables, or references).

Course Grading System

Point Total	Letter Grade
100 and Above	A+
99-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-70	C-
69-60	D
Below 60	F

Use of Artificial Intelligence or Other Technology

This course assumes that work submitted by students—all process work, drafts, low-stakes writing, final versions, and all other submissions—will be generated by the students themselves, working individually.

This means that the following would be considered violations of academic integrity: a student has another person/entity do the writing of any substantive portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write essays and drafts and/or other assignments, research-based or otherwise, and using artificial intelligence affordances like ChatGPT.

University of Iowa Course Policies and Resources for Students

- Student Complaint Procedure: <https://education.uiowa.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/student-complaint-procedure>
- College policy on student academic misconduct: <https://education.uiowa.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/student-academic-misconduct>
- University policies <https://provost.uiowa.edu/student-course-policies>