

**ANDREW ZIEFFLER**  
zief0002@umn.edu



**CLASS**  
M/W. 2:30–3:45pm  
**Zoom**



**OFFICE HOURS**  
W 9:00–10:00am; and  
by appt.



**OFFICE**  
**Zoom;**  
ESB 178 (campus)

# METHODS IN DATA ANALYSIS FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH I

## Course Description

*Methods in Data Analysis for Educational Research I* is the first course in an entry-level, doctoral sequence for students in education. The two semester sequence provides in-depth coverage of widely used statistical methods and models and prepares students for advanced statistical coursework such as: Statistical Analysis Using Structural Equation Methods (EPsy

8266), Applied Multivariate Analysis (EPsy 8267), Hierarchical Linear Modeling in Educational Research (EPsy 8268), Statistical Analysis of Longitudinal Data (EPsy 8282), and Item Response Theory (EPsy 8290). *Methods in Data Analysis for Educational Research I* provides rigorous coverage of estimation and hypothesis testing with a particular focus on ANOVA and multiple linear regression.



<https://zief0002.github.io/epsy-8251/>

## Textbook

The required textbook for the course is:

- Lewis-Beck, C., & Lewis-Beck, M. (2016). *Applied regression: An introduction* (2nd ed.). Sage.

## Course Prerequisites

EPsy 8251 requires that students enrolled in the course have successfully completed previous coursework in data analysis. Previous coursework include EPSY 5261 or a comparable course. Students are responsible for all prerequisite topics which include, but are not limited to, descriptive/exploratory data analysis, ordinary least squares (OLS) parameter estimation, estimators, probability distributions, statistical hypotheses, sampling distributions, type I and type II errors, two-sample t-test of independent means, bivariate regression, and at least an introduction to one-way ANOVA. Students who are unfamiliar with these topics are strongly advised to not enroll in EPsy 8251 and instead to complete one or more of the above prerequisites based on their statistics background before pursuing EPSY 8251.

## Course Requirements

Students will complete nine homework assignments. The homework assignments and due dates will be posted on the course website. These assignments include problems that will help you learn the course material through reflection and practice. *Submit each assignment as a PDF file via email to the TA.*

To foster cooperation and collaboration, you are permitted to form groups of no larger than three to work on the homework. Submit only one assignment per group, and list the names of each group member on the assignment. Each assignment will be scored and this score will be given to all individuals in the group. From past experience, student collaborations work most fluidly when everyone in the group has chosen the same grading option for the course (e.g., A/F, S/N, etc.).



### Communication

Email is the primary source of communication among instructors, teaching assistants, and students for this course. As such, you will be expected to check your email frequently (i.e., at least once per day). As per the University policy, "students are responsible for all information sent to them via their University assigned email account. If a student chooses to forward their University email account, he or she is responsible for all information, including attachments, sent to any other email account."

### Stress Management

Stress management is an important piece of the skill set needed for success in graduate school. Pet Away Worry & Stress (PAWS) is one of the many resources available to students. Find out more at <http://www.bhs.umn.edu/services/wellness-paws.htm>.

Tilly the Therapy Chicken  
(@TherapyChicken)



## Evaluation of Student Performance

Course grades will be based entirely on performance on the homework assignments. The points from the nine homework assignment will be pooled to compute the final course grade. Students who earn below 63% will receive the letter grade of F. If you are taking the course S/N, the minimum criterion to receive an S is 80% (the equivalent of a B– letter grade). Any student who does not complete all homework assignments without making prior arrangements with the instructor will receive a grade of F/N.

| Cutoff | Grade | Cutoff | Grade | Cutoff | Grade |
|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 93%    | A     | 83%    | B     | 73%    | C     |
| 90%    | A–    | 80%    | B–    | 70%    | C–    |
| 87%    | B+    | 77%    | C+    | 63%    | D     |

## Discussion/Participation

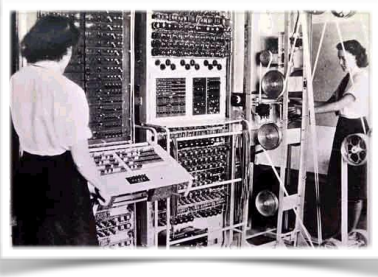
While not a part of the course grade, active participation in the course is expected of all students enrolled in EPsy 8251. Active participation includes, but is not limited to, being engaged during the class, asking questions, providing additional insight and material, responding to other students and the instructor, and always being open and inquisitive.

## Incomplete

An incomplete will be assigned only in extraordinary circumstances (e.g., hospitalization). An incomplete is an arranged grade which requires a written contract between instructor and student that includes by when and how the incomplete will be satisfied. Incomplete contract forms are available at [z.umn.edu/incompletegradecontract](http://z.umn.edu/incompletegradecontract) or from program staff in 250 EdSciB.

## Accessing Course Grades

Shortly after the course, you may access your grades online at <http://myu.umn.edu>. Assignments will be handed back in class or during office hours. Uncollected assignments will be retained for six weeks after the course ends and then discarded. application and practice.



## Statistical Computing

Statistical computing is an integral part of statistical work, and subsequently, EPsy 8251. To support your learning in this area, this course will emphasize the use of R. R is a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics. It compiles and runs on a wide variety of UNIX platforms, Windows and MacOS (<http://www.r-project.org>). It should be noted that while some R syntax and programming is taught during class time, there is also a fair amount that you may need to learn on your own outside of class. There are several tutorials and resources available on the web to help you learn R.

## Technology

The course uses technology on a regular basis during both instruction and assessments (e.g., homework assignments, exams, etc.). Student difficulty with obtaining or operating the various software programs and technologies—including printer trouble—will not be acceptable as an excuse for late work. Due to the variation in computer types and systems, the instructor or TA may not be able to assist in trouble shooting all problems you may have.

## Interacting with R

There are two ways to interact with and use R during the semester. You can install R and RStudio onto your local machine. (There are instructions for how to do this on the course website.) In this scenario, you are responsible for getting things to work on your computer. While it should be straightforward, each OS and computer has their quirks.

You can also access Studio via a University of Minnesota server at:

<https://rstudio-prd-001.cla.umn.edu/>

This requires an internet connection and you may not have access to this after the semester ends. Depending on how many students are logged into the server at one time, you also might experience some lag when you run more time-consuming computations.

## Remote Learning and Office Hours

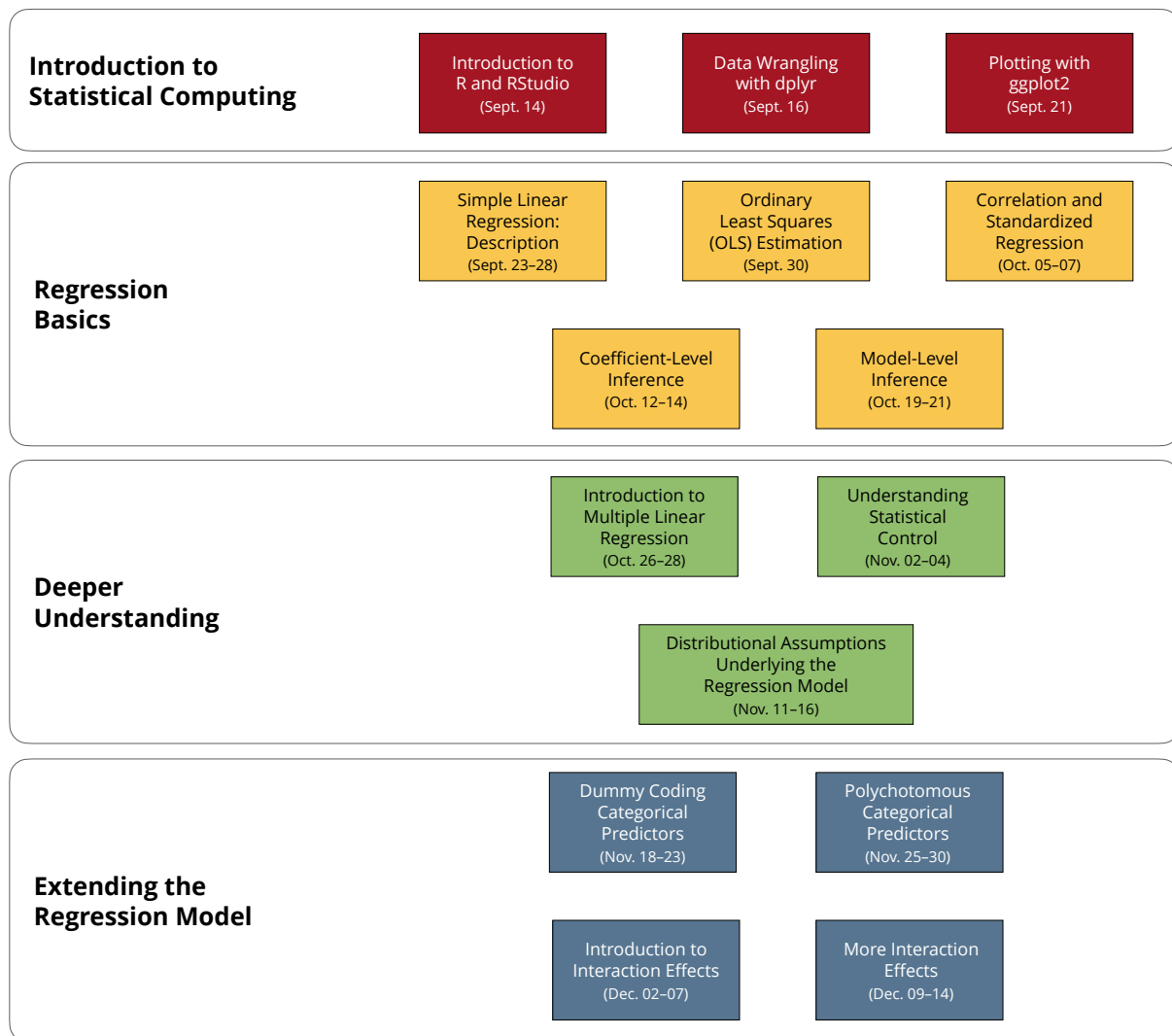
Our class is a remote learning version of EPsy 8251. Remote learning in this class means a blend of (1) in-person and synchronous work where the class meets online twice a week (via Zoom; M/W 2:30–3:45pm) as a whole and (2) asynchronous learning (reading, independent learning, and assignments). The Zoom link is:

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/94255043570?pwd=b1BRQUk2UU9DeE8vdXFJR0xDVGx0dz09>

Instructor office hours (both scheduled and unscheduled) will also be remote, via [Zoom](#). If you schedule an office hour with Andy, it is best to send a Google Calendar invite so it gets on my calendar. You can also include a Zoom link with this invitation by selecting *Add Video Conferencing* within the calendar event.

## Course Outline

The outline below lists the tentative course topics. The dates listed are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. A more nuanced calendar, including links to readings, assignments, and course notes will be posted on the course website.



## Quantitative Methods in Education Mission Statement

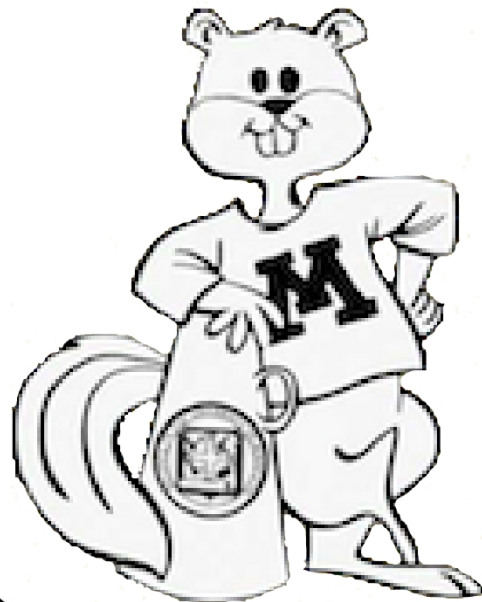
QME strives to be a premier program recognized for leadership, innovation, and excellence, and to enable human potential through the advancement of education. QME prepares students to become cutting-edge professionals in educational measurement, evaluation, statistics, and statistics education, through excellence in teaching, research, and service; and through investigating and developing research methodology in education.

## Department of Educational Psychology Mission Statement

Educational psychology involves the study of cognitive, emotional, and social learning processes that underlie education and human development across the lifespan. Research in educational psychology advances scientific knowledge of those processes and their application in diverse educational and community settings. The department provides training in the psychological foundations of education, research methods, and the practice and science of counseling psychology, school psychology, and special education. Faculty and students provide leadership and consultation to the state, the nation, and the international community in each area of educational psychology. The department's scholarship and teaching enhance professional practice in schools and universities, community mental health agencies, business and industrial organizations, early childhood programs, and government agencies. *Adopted by the Department of Educational Psychology faculty October 27, 2004*

## College of Education + Human Development Mission Statement

The mission of the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development is to contribute to a just and sustainable future through engagement with the local and global communities to enhance human learning and development at all stages of the life span.



Goldy, c. 1965



I have three dogs. You will probably hear them at some point during class.



## University of Minnesota Policies and Procedures

### Academic Freedom and Responsibility

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 (Andrew Zieffler; [zief0002@umn.edu](mailto:zief0002@umn.edu)), the Department Chair (Kristen McMaster; [mcmas004@umn.edu](mailto:mcmas004@umn.edu)), your adviser, the associate dean of the college (Deborah Dillon; [dillon@umn.edu](mailto:dillon@umn.edu)), or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost (Rebecca Ropers-Huilman; [ropers@umn.edu](mailto:ropers@umn.edu)).

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

### 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/education/studentresp>.

### Disability Accommodations

The University of Minnesota views disability as an important aspect of diversity, and is committed to

providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

- If you have, or think you have, a disability in any area such as, mental health, attention, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical, please contact the DRC office on your campus (612.626.1333) to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
- Students with short-term disabilities, such as a broken arm, can often work with instructors to minimize classroom barriers. In situations where additional assistance is needed, students should contact the DRC as noted above.
- If you are registered with the DRC and have a disability accommodation letter dated for this semester or this year, please contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.
- If you are registered with the DRC and have questions or concerns about your accommodations please contact your (access consultant/disability specialist).

Additional information is available on the DRC website: [diversity.umn.edu/disability](http://diversity.umn.edu/disability) or e-mail [drc@umn.edu](mailto:drc@umn.edu) with questions.

### 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://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/administrative/Equity\\_Diversity\\_EO\\_AA.html](http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/administrative/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.html).

### 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/education/makeupwork>.

### 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>.

### 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/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)) If it is determined that a student has cheated, the student 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/education/instructorresp>.

The Office for Community Standards has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty: <https://communitystandards.umn.edu/avoid-violations/avoiding-scholastic-dishonesty>. 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.

### Senate Academic Workload Policy

One conventional credit is hereby defined as equivalent to three hours of learning effort per week, averaged over an appropriate time interval, necessary for an average student taking that course to achieve an average grade in that course. It is expected that the academic work required of graduate and professional students will exceed three hours per credit per week or 45 hours per semester.

### Sexual Assault and Higher Education: Training Modules and Information

The Department of Educational Psychology supports the efforts of the University of Minnesota towards prevention of sexual assault. We encourage all students to participate in the free online training that has been established for undergraduate students and graduate students. The training highlights pertinent issues regarding sexual assault, including, but not limited to: defining healthy relationships, consent, bystander intervention, and gender roles. The guide for the training in your My Training page is available at <https://it.umn.edu/training-guide-preventing-responding>. Additionally, to learn more about how you can help reduce sexual assault at the University of Minnesota, please visit the Aurora Center.



### **Sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking and relationship violence**

In my role as a University employee, I am required to share information that I learn about possible sexual misconduct with the campus Title IX office that addresses these concerns. This allows a Title IX staff member to reach out to those who have experienced sexual misconduct to provide information about the personal support resources and options for investigation that they can choose to access. You are welcome to talk with me about concerns related to sexual misconduct. Within the requirements of my job, I will be as responsive to your requests for confidentiality and support as possible. You can also or alternately choose to talk with a confidential resource that will not share information that they learn about sexual misconduct. Confidential resources include The Aurora Center, Boynton Mental Health and Student Counseling Services.

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### **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: [https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Sexual\\_Harassment\\_Sexual\\_Assault\\_Stalking\\_Relationship\\_Violence.pdf](https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Sexual_Harassment_Sexual_Assault_Stalking_Relationship_Violence.pdf)

### **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](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/education/studentresp>.

## Grading and Transcripts

The University has two distinct grading scales: A-F and S-N.

**A-F grading scale.** The A-F grading scale allows the following grades and corresponding GPA points:

| Grade | GPA Points | Definitions for undergraduate credit   |
|-------|------------|--|
| A     | 4.000      | Represents achievement that significantly exceeds expectations in the course.  |
| A-    | 3.667      |  |
| B+    | 3.333      |  |
| B     | 3.000      | Represents achievement that is above the minimum expectations in the course.   |
| B-    | 2.667      |  |
| C+    | 2.333      |  |
| C     | 2.000      | Represents achievement that meets the minimum expectations in the course.  |
| C-    | 1.667      |  |
| D+    | 1.333      |  |
| D     | 1.000      | Represents achievement that partially meets the minimum expectations in the course. Credit is earned but it may not fulfill major or program requirements. |
| F     | 0.000      | Represents failure in the course and no credit is earned.  |

**S-N grading scale.** The S-N grading scale allows for the following grades and corresponding GPA points:

| Grade | GPA Points | Definitions for undergraduate credit        |
|-------|------------|---|
| S     | 0.000      | Satisfactory (equivalent to a C- or better) |
| N     | 0.000      | Not Satisfactory                            |

For additional information, please refer to: <https://policy.umn.edu/education/gradingtranscripts>.