Welcome to 432 Survey Results

Thomas E. Love and Students in 432

2023-01-18

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1 Have you taken the 431 Course?

Response	Count
No, I haven't taken 431	4
Yes, I took 431 in 2021 or earlier, with Dr. Love	2
Yes, I took 431 in 2022, with Dr. Zhang	5
Yes, I took 431 in 2022, with Dr. Love	42

2 Why are you taking 432?

(Responses edited and collapsed by Dr. Love. Some people offered more than one of these responses, which I've sorted from more common to less common.)

- I got something useful out of 431 and I want more of that.
- My degree program requires me to take this course.
- I want to get better at biostatistics / statistics / data science / coding in R.
- I like Dr. Love's style of teaching.
- I have a strong interest in biostatistics (or statistics or data science.)
- I want to do more of my own statistical work for my projects.
- I have heard that 432 is a good class.
- I think this course will help me with my professional aspirations.
- I'm interested in a degree program that requires this course.

3 How Excited Are You About Taking This Course?

- 1 = I have nightmares about this class
- 6 = I can't wait to get started

Response	1 or 2	3	4	5	6	Mean	SD
Students		4	6	12	16	15	4.58	1.28

4 What Do You Hope To Learn from 432?

(Responses edited and collapsed by Dr. Love: within these subheadings, responses are not in any particular order.)

4.1 Things We'll Definitely Discuss In Detail

- Get more comfortable with regression and other things learned in 431.
- Accurately ingesting, analyzing and interpreting data from various data sources

    – Analysis techniques for applying to real-world bio-medical data.

- Get better at R coding. / Learn how to get R to do more things.
- Quarto (newer version of R Markdown).

    – building websites, presentations, as well as reports.

- Improve my self-confidence with regard to doing statistical work.
- Logistic Regression
- Improve my data visualization skills
- Applying more sophisticated regression approaches

    – such as regression for count outcomes, multi-categorical outcomes, time-to-event (survival) outcomes with censoring
    – variable selection ideas like ridge regression and LASSO
    – robust regression approaches
    – incorporating non-linear terms
    – tidymodels approaches to fitting more complex regression models

- How to be a better data scientist.
- How to be a better scientist.
- How to better design experiments.
- How to communicate my work more effectively.
- Building two more projects for my portfolio of work.

4.2 Things We'll Discuss; Less Than The Items Above

- Working with survey weights
- Clinical Trial analyses
- Power and Sample Size
- Receiver Operating Characteristic Curves and Area Underneath Them
- Getting through a qualifying exam or an interview with a potential employer
- Learning from Electronic Medical Records Data

4.3 Things That Aren't Part Of The Plan

- A set of tools that get me going with analyzing big data or large data bases.

    – *Note from Dr. Love: It depends on how "big" you're talking about. Most of the tools learned in 432 apply well to a few million observations, but not all.*

5 How Comfortable Are You with R?

- 1 = I'm going to need a lot of refreshing.
- 4 = I use R all the time.

Response	1	2	3	4	Mean	SD
Students	3	12	24	14	2.92	0.85

6 How comfortable are you with Quarto?

Response	Count
I don't know much about R Markdown, let alone Quarto.	1
I have used R Markdown, but never Quarto.	44
I've dabbled in Quarto, but not used it seriously.	7
I'm pretty comfortable with Quarto.	1

7 How Are You Feeling?

Dr. Love restricted this to adjectives only. Lots of people used more than one of these. About 40% of the class seems essentially positive about their current situation (although this would be a bit higher when discussing 432 in particular) and perhaps another 30% are in the middle, or at least highlighted both worries and delights.

Some words used to describe **more negative** feelings:

- Afraid, Anxious, Apprehensive, Intimidated, Nervous, Overextended, Overwhelmed, Stressed, Worried

Some words used to describe **more neutral** feelings:

- Busy, Comforted, Determined, Fine, OK, Productive

Some words used to describe **more positive** feelings:

- Better, Confident, Eager, Energized, Excited, Good, Grateful, Great, Happy, Hopeful, Prepared, Ready, Rested, Super, Well

8 Tell us something interesting or fun (or both) about you.

(Grouped by Dr. Love, and edited a little in some cases.)

- I am bad at answering these types of questions.
- I am working on a project to teach matchboxes to play tic-tac-toe.
- I use to be left-handed until the age of 4

8.1 Place of Origin

- Born in Ireland but have never had a Guinness
- I am a proud North Carolinian who now calls Northeast Ohio home.
- I am from Australia.
- I come from Croatia.
- I am from Lebanon.

  – *Dr. Love was born on Long Island, and has been in Northeast Ohio since 1994 (more than half his life), but still thinks of himself as a New Yorker, for some reason.*

8.2 Hobbies

- I am on CWRU's Dhamakapella team which is a competitive Indian fusion a Capella group.
- I am an avid plant collector and enjoy plant biology
- I love collecting old, used post cards (prefer ones that are around 100 years old or older!)
- I make and solve variant sudoku puzzles as a hobby.

  – *Dr. Love watches Cracking The Cryptic regularly, and solves lots of GAS puzzles, in addition to crosswords.*

- I still do the Wordle every day.

  – *Dr. Love still does it about 5 days out of 7.*

8.3 Pets and Animals

- We have a Doberman.
- I have 5 different plants in my studio apartment.
- I have a 3-legged dog, 2 cats, an assortment of shrimps, and an axolotl as pets.
- I have a cat.

  – *Dr. Love's family cat is named Fuzzington. He's a delightful lump of fur.*

- I have a dog.
- I am afraid of furry animals, but I have to work with mice for research.
- I have a special pet which is a lovely rabbit.
- I love animals and I will be bringing my own cat home soon! Help me choose a breed!
- I love parrots!
- I am a new dog mom.
- I was once attacked by a koala
- Last night I saw a stray cat. It ran away from me, unfortunately. I went home, then I went and bought some cat food and water, and came back to work and put them where I saw the cat. I hope I get to see it again and befriend it.

8.4 Trips

- I enjoy traveling internationally with my wife and daughter. I'm proud that the number of countries my daughter has visited (19) is nearly double her age (10).
- I almost caught a crab while fishing
- I went snorkeling for the first time in the Bahamas over break.
- I enjoy the Metroparks and am always looking for good recommendations for a hike.
- I'm a sport climber and frequently travel around the US to climb outside. My favorite location for weekend trips is the New River Gorge in West Virginia. I've climbed at Lime Kiln Canyon in Arizona and Red Rock Canyon in Nevada.
- I'm trying to overcome my fear of animals by visiting zoos and farms.
- I've visited the Westernmost point of mainland Europe, which is Cabo da Roca, Portugal.
- In undergrad, I studied abroad in Greece.
- *Dr. Love will be back in New York for a few days in April. That's the only planned trip on the schedule right now.*

8.5 Sports

- I used to be a professional soccer player
- I am a crazy fan of soccer
- I enjoy kayaking and paddle boarding
- I like skiing and meeting new people
- I was a rhythmic gymnast
- I like sporty games
- I like to backpack solo
- I love playing racket sports (table tennis, pickleball, ping pong)
- I play ice hockey
- I still commute to campus on my bicycle in the winter.
- I like to rock climb
- I really enjoy swimming.

- *Dr. Love needs to get back to playing golf, at least. He is a crazy baseball fan (especially the Mets) but also enjoys watching several weird sports.*

8.6 Special Skills

- I can imitate voices pretty well
- I met Kevin Bacon at the West Side Market in 2004.
- I dream in black and white.
- I have a 7 year long duolingo streak
- I have done pottery for over 15 years and plan to showcase my work at an expo in Philly soon.
- I took ballroom dancing lessons last year
- I used to be a doctor!
- I won a culinary school scholarship after winning a statewide competition in servsafe jeopardy
- I'm a severe sleepwalker
- My birthday is on Earth Day.

    - *Dr. Love's birthday is Valentine's Day, which (given his last name) is more fun as an adult.*

- I have never been without mustache and beard in my entire adult life!

9 Your Questions and Comments: My Answers

1. Can I make an appointment to discuss something with you?

- Yes, just email me at Thomas dot Love at case dot edu, and we'll set something up. It helps if you let me know what you want to discuss.

2. I want to work on interesting health services research projects. Does Dr. Love have any openings at the moment to work with him?

- Not this semester, no. I'm mostly working on other peoples' grants at the moment. I may have some opportunities worth discussing starting in April, however. Not clear yet. Ask me in March.

3. I just submitted a manuscript this week with figures made in R using the skills I learned in 431. Thanks!

- **FANTASTIC**! Congratulations!

4. According to prior students, is the workload for 432 the same as 431?

- Yes, but the course changes enough year-to-year that I don't know how reliable that would be. Also, people who don't like 431 very much often elect not to take 432.

5. Did you have a good holiday break?

- I saw a good deal of my sons, which was great, since they're off living their lives most of the time. I also spent a lot of time working on and rehearsing "The Play That Goes Wrong" so that was both exciting and exhausting.

6. I have not read the syllabus yet so I'm worried I will ask about something that is already in there.

- Ask anyway, please.

7. How do you feel about the Mets-Correa contract not going through?

- Well, it's a little disappointing, but it's not especially surprising that Cohen got a little ahead of the medical report. It's also not surprising that the Mets and Giants each went to the same doctor for an opinion. They're a 95 win team on paper. It would have been nice to be a 100 win team on paper before the season, but that's only been true of the 1986 Mets team in my lifetime.

8. I understood the models presented in a talk at the SICB conference I went to in January, and was elated- thanks to 431!

- That's great to hear. Thanks!

9. Is there a way to download the Quarto class notes to keep for later viewing?

- I assume you mean the HTML class notes, which you can certainly print to PDF, but they would look terrible. I wouldn't worry about it before May. After that, the notes will continue to exist, but they will evolve over time. I don't know if I can build a PDF of this size or not - but I won't try until May.