

Quantitative Analysis 1

Alex LoPilato

Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 5 PM to 7 PM ET

Location: Zoom Meeting and Smith 307 when in person

Email: alex.lopilato@gmail.com (for quick responses) or alopilato@bentley.edu (for discussions about grades, personal info, etc.)

Office Hours: By request (will likely be virtual as I do not have an office on campus)

Course Format: Hybrid Synchronous

Course Description

This course focuses on applications of linear regression to model data collected from observational, quasi-experimental, and experimental study designs. This course will introduce students to the basics of linear regression and its applications to model and theory building.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will:

- Have an understanding of the general linear model.
- Have an understanding of how to use linear models to empirically test theoretical models.
- Have an understanding of how to use linear regression in your own research.
- Feel comfortable using R to estimate linear models.

Textbooks

- Darlington, A. B. & Hayes, A. F. (2016). Regression Analysis and Linear Models: Concepts, Applications, and Implementation (Referred to as RAGLM)
- Békés, G. & Kézdi, G. (2021). Data Analysis for Business Economics, and Policy. (Referred to as DBEP)

Course Technology

This course will use Brightspace to post important updates and Zoom recordings. Please do not use Brightspace to email me! Use either of the emails listed above.

Course Website

The website for the course is: <https://alopilato88.github.io/quantitative-analysis-1/>. All of the lectures can be found there and will be made publicly available on the day of the lecture.

Statistical Computing

This course will rely solely on the R programming language for all statistical computing. At the very least, you will need to download R to your local machine (or use your lab computer), and I highly recommend also downloading RStudio, which is an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that makes programming in R (and other programming languages) much easier. **Please reach out to me if you are unable to install R.**

While you can use another statistical software program such as SPSS, SAS, or STATA, I will not be providing example code for those different programs. I will only be providing example R code.

Grading Criteria

A combination of homework and a final research project will be used to determine your grade for this course. Homework will account for 90% of your grade and the research project will account for 10%. While I encourage you to consult with your colleagues (your instructor, classmates, professors, etc.) when you are struggling with any of the homework assignments or the research project, your final products must be your own.

Homework

I will send out periodic homework assignments in order to give you students experience applying the methods we discuss in class. These assignments will be a mix of conceptual, statistical, and computational exercises. **Please reach out to me if you find yourself struggling or overly stressing with these assignments. They are meant to be a learning tool not a major stressor!**

Research Project

One of the more exciting things about being a graduate student is that you are able to explore the topics you find interesting. Use this research project to apply the methods we learn to any topic of your choice. Alternatively, I have fictitious data you can use if you do not have access to data of your own. Please talk to me by October 17th about your research project, even if you are not 100% sure about it.

Your final product should include four components:

1. A brief introduction to your topic, the theory you are testing, and your hypotheses.
2. A methods section write-up that parallels methods sections found in published articles.
3. A results section write-up that parallels methods sections found in published articles.
4. The code you used to analyze your data along with the dataset (assuming you are allowed to share the data).

University Honor Code, Academic Honesty Policy, Bentley Core Values

This class will be conducted in full accordance with The Bentley Core Values. Please reread the Values, which can be found at <https://www.bentley.edu/about/mission-and-values>.

Bentley College Honor Code: The Bentley College Honor Code formally recognized the responsibility of students to act in an ethical manner. It expects all students to maintain academic honesty in their own work, recognizing that most students will maintain academic honesty because of their own high standards. The Honor Code expects students to promote ethical behavior throughout the Bentley community and to take responsible action when there is a reason to suspect dishonesty.

Personal Academic Behavior: A student acknowledges that all submitted work (e.g., examination, papers, cases homework assignments) must be his or her own. The exception is the case in which an instructor permits or encourages students to work together on some or all assignments. When a student is in doubt, he or she should consult the instructor for clarification.

Responsible Actions: Each student, as an integral member of the academic community, is expected to make a commitment to act honestly and to reject dishonesty on the part of other students. The students as a community are responsible for maintaining an ethical environment. Policies may be found at: <http://www.bentley.edu/centers/alliance/academic-integrity>

Bias Incident Reporting

The Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) provides students affected by bias or bias-related incidents with access to appropriate resources. Where appropriate, BIRT assists the University in its response to situations that may impact the overall campus climate related to

diversity and inclusion. Working closely with appropriate students, faculty, committees, organizations, and staff, BIRT plays an educational role in fostering an inclusive campus community and supporting targeted individuals when bias or bias-related incidents occur. More information about BIRT and how to file a bias incident report can be found at: <https://www.bentley.edu/offices/student-affairs/birt>.

Special Accommodations

Statement of Disabilities: Bentley University abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which stipulate no student shall be denied the benefits of an education solely by reason of a disability. If you have a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom accommodations, please call (if you are a residential student or on online student) Disability Services within the first 4 weeks of the semester to schedule an appointment. Disability Services is located in the Office of Academic Services (JEN 336, 781.891.2004). Disability Services is responsible for managing accommodations and services for all students with disabilities.

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers one-on-one tutoring to students of all years and skill levels. Located on the lower level of the Bentley library (room 023), the Writing Center provides a welcoming and supportive environment in which students can work on writing from any class or discipline. Writers are encouraged to visit at all stages of the writing process; they can come with a draft, an outline, or just some initial thoughts and questions.

Staffed by highly skilled student tutors, the Writing Center is open six days a week. Most conferences will be conducted online, but limited in-person hours will be held by appointment only. Appointments can be made at bentley.mywconline.net. For specific hours and additional information, please visit the Writing Center SharePoint site.

ESOL

The ESOL Center offers online appointments for helping undergraduate and graduate students strengthen their writing and English language skills. Our ESOL faculty tutors specialize in working with international and multilingual students to provide one-on-one support for all courses writing at any stage in the writing process. Along with individualized help for writing, the ESOL tutors provide guidance and feedback for documenting sources, oral presentation practice, and pronunciation/fluency enrichment.

The ESOL Center offers real-time video appointments Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. These can be reserved through our website: <https://bentleyesol.mywconline.net>.

The complete information about booking appointments and uploading papers is clarified on the website's announcement page.

Course Style

I want this course to be an enjoyable and engaging experience for all, so although I will have lecture slides to talk through, I will also be using this course more as a discussion about statistical topics, not a lecture about them.

In order to meaningfully engage in this discussion, I encourage you to read through the required readings and skim through the supplemental readings (although I think they are all interesting reads!). I understand everyone is busy, so, despite being labeled "Required Readings", I will not make the readings required, but to make this course useful you will need to engage with the material and come with questions!

To be successful in this course, you will need to:

- Do the required readings and skim the supplemental readings
- Come to class and bring questions
- Engage in the course discussions
- Most importantly, **ASK QUESTIONS**

Tentative Course Schedule

NOTE: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course and as such there may be deviations throughout the semester. Supplemental readings are any readings that are italicized or hyperlinked.

Date	Topic	Readings
9/5	Bivariate Measures of Association & Simple Regression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RAGLM – Chapter 1: Statistical Control & Linear Models• RAGLM – Chapter 2: The Simple Regression Model• <i>DBEP – Chapter 4.6: Dependence, Covariance, & Correlation</i>• R for Data Science – Chapter 2: Data Visualization• R for Data Science – Chapter 3: Workflow: Basics

Date	Topic	Readings
9/12	Measures of Partial Association & Multiple Regression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGLM – Chapter 3: Partial Relationship & the Multiple Regression Model • R for Data Science – Chapter 4: Data Transformation • R for Data Science – Chapter 5: Workflow: Code Style • R for Data Science – Chapter 6: Data Tidying
9/19	Statistical Inference for Regression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGLM – Chapter 4: Statistical Inference in Regression • <i>DBEP – Chapter 9: Generalizing Results of a Regression</i> • ModernDive - Chapter 10.1 to 10.3
9/29	Categorical Predictors & Model Building Immersion Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGLM – Chapter 5: Extending Regression Analysis & Principles • RAGLM – Chapter 8: Assessing the Importance of Regressors • RAGLM – Chapter 9: Multicategorical Regressors • ModernDive – Chapter 5: Basic Regression • ModernDive – Chapter 6: Multiple Regression
10/10	Fall Break - No Class	
10/17	Nonlinear Effects, Interactions, & Model Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGLM – Chapter 12.1 & 12.2: Nonlinear Relationships • RAGLM – Chapter 13: Linear Interaction • R for Data Science – 10: Layers • R for Data Science – Chapter 11: Exploratory Data Analysis
10/24	More on Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGLM – Chapter 14: Probing Interactions & Various Complexities • RAGLM – Chapter 11: Multiple Tests • <i>Dawson (2014). Moderation in management research: What, why, when, and how.</i> • <i>Haans et al. (2016). Thinking about U: Theorizing and testing U- and inverted U-shaped relationships</i>

Date	Topic	Readings
11/3	Mediation, Path Analysis, & and Diagnostics Immersion Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGLM – Chapter 15: Mediation & Path Analysis • RAGLM – 16: Detecting & Managing Irregularities • RAGLM – 17.3: An Assortment of Problems • Aguinis et al. (2017). Improving our understanding of moderation and mediation in strategic management research. • <i>VanderWeele (2016). Mediation analysis: A practitioner's guide.</i> • <i>Chatterjee & Yilmaz (1992). A review of regression diagnostics for behavioral research.</i>
11/7	Power, Precision, & Measurement Error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGLM – 17.1: Power & Precision of Estimation • RAGLM – 17.2: Measurement Error • Ree & Caretta (2006). The role of measurement error in familiar statistics. • <i>Cortina (1993). What is coefficient alpha: An examination of theory and application</i>
11/14	Introduction to Causation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBEP – Chapter 19: A Framework for Causal Analysis • <i>West & Thoemmes (2010). Campbell's and Rubin's perspectives on causal inference.</i>
11/21	Thanksgiving Break - No Class	
11/28	Experimental Design & Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBEP – Chapter 20: Designing & Analyzing Experiments • RAGLM – Chapter 6: Statistical versus Experimental Control • <i>Posakoff & Podsakoff (2019). Experimental designs in management and leadership research</i> • <i>Eden (2017). Field experiments in organizations.</i> • <i>Luca & Bazerman (2020). Want to make better decisions? Start experimenting.</i>

Date	Topic	Readings
12/5	Causal Inference with Observational Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBEP – Chapter 21: Regression & Matching with Observational Data • Narita et al. (2023). Causal inference with observational data: A tutorial on propensity score analysis. • <i>Hernan (2018). The C-word: Scientific euphemisms do not improve causal inference from observational data.</i>
12/12	Causal Mediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuartas & McCoy (2021). Causal mediation in developmental science: A primer. • Nguyen et al. (2021). Clarifying causal mediation analysis for the applied researcher • <i>Imai et al. (2010). A general approach to causal mediation analysis.</i> • <i>Bullock et al. (2010). Yes, but what's the mechanism? (Don't expect an easy answer).</i>