

MATH/STAT 389: Statistical Learning, Spring 2021, ONLINE

Instructor: Taylor Arnold
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Website: <https://statsmaths.github.io/stat389-f21>
Office Hours: Following Class or By Appointment

Format:

The course will be taught remotely over Zoom. During the first week of the semester students will be placed into teams of around 4 people each. A large portion of the course work will be done using break-out groups within these teams. Materials and assignments for the class will be posted on the course website. All assignments will be submitted through shared Google Drive folders.

Class Components:

Course meetings will typically start with a short introduction to a new topic. We will then use breakout rooms to split into groups. Each group will then collectively work through questions posed as a R markdown notebook. Teams will work together by picking a ‘driver’ (which should alternate between classes) to share their screen and take notes or write/run code. At the end of class, the notes or code should be uploaded to the team’s shared Google Drive folder.

Projects:

The core output of the course will be the completion of four projects. These will be assigned throughout the course of the semester and focus on the application of the course material to various textual corpora. Projects will typically be completed together in your class group. There will usually be plenty of class time to work on each project. We will also have time to present a subset of the projects to the rest of the class.

Attendance:

Given the amount of group-work required during the course meetings, it is important for students to make an attempt to attend every class. With the exception of extended absences due to serious illness or family emergencies, students will receive a reduction in their final grade (including a failing grade) after missing more than two class meetings.

Final Grades:

Final grades will be computed by weighting the following course elements:

- Classwork (notes and code submitted by the group), 20%
- Projects, 80% (weighted evenly)

No specific grades for the classwork will be given. Students or groups that are failing to achieve full marks will receive a warning during the semester.

Getting Help:

Given social distancing rules, I find the easiest way to answer questions is by finding time before, during, or after our scheduled class meeting times. I will always make a habit of staying after class as long as students have questions. If you want to meet right before class, just let me know. If you have extended questions or personal concerns, please feel free to email me or ask in class for a dedicated appointment.