

Concerns About Stat 313

Missing Due Dates

I'm worried about missing assignments because I didn't see it.

Every assignment for each week will be outlined in the page at the beginning of the module. Additionally, each assignment or a link to the assignment will be posted in the weekly module. In general, you should expect the following assignments **every week**:

- concept discussion
- think out loud discussion
- group collaboration participation/recording
- lab assignment

I'm worried I'll forget due dates, or miss posted assignments.

The due dates for every assignment is the Sunday of that week. While I hope that you accomplish the assignments before that date, that is the formal deadline for every assignment each week.

Internet Connection

I'm worried my unstable internet connection will limit my ability to attend course meetings.

The synchronous course meetings will also be recorded, so that if you lose your connection, you will be able to watch the recording on your own time. During the synchronous course meetings, I will not require that you turn on your video. While I appreciate seeing everyone's faces, so I feel less alone, I understand that sharing your video sometimes sucks up all of the bandwidth in your internet.

I'm worried my internet will be an issue with oral exams.

When we come around to scheduling oral exams, I will make sure to communicate exactly what I expect from you as far as Zoom connectivity. If you do not feel comfortable with your internet connection, I am willing to work out alternative solutions, such as using a video call on a cell phone.

I'm worried about traveling to locations without stable internet connection.

If you will be traveling during the quarter and you are worried about there being internet wherever you are going, please communicate that to me **and** to the members of your discussion group. I can be flexible with deadlines for submitting assignments, but I expect that you communicate with your group members, so they are not left waiting for you to post in the discussion forum.

Group Participation

It is difficult to ask other students questions in an online course.

I know this is difficult, and I will try and make the course as conducive to peer communication as I can! I have opened up the People tab on Canvas, so you can see who your classmates are, and send them direct messages. I am using groups for the weekly discussions, so you are able to talk with others about the concepts

you are learning and the assignment you are working on. I will also be using breakout rooms during our weekly synchronous meetings, so you can work with others and ask questions.

I learn by interacting with others, which is really difficult in an online course.

I totally agree, and I learn the same way. My hope is that the weekly discussions will help you to identify students with which you feel comfortable working with. You are welcome to discuss assignments or concepts with others, it will, however, require more effort on your part. You will need to reach out to other students to collaborate. I understand that for some this may cause you anxiety, since I would feel the same way. If you are having difficulties meeting with other students, I would encourage you to meet with me and I am happy to make course announcements that help to facilitate group collaborations.

I worry that the group discussions won't have meaningful interactions. I also worry that my group members will not respond to my messages in a timely manner, so that I can learn.

I understand these concerns, since I have been in an online course where I was required to post chapter summaries for absolutely no one to read. I want for the discussions to be meaningful for your learning, so I will not ask you to "discuss" stupid things (e.g. chapter summaries). Instead, I will try to pick out big picture ideas that may be confusing, so you can voice your ideas or questions to your group.

I also understand that group discussions are tricky, because you are working on other people's schedule. For this reason, I request that everyone complete their first concept discussion post by Wednesday, so that your group members will have a sufficient amount of time to respond. As for the think out loud discussion, this topic will be related to the lab assignment that week. I will intentionally pick a question from the lab assignment that I think is tricky, so everyone in the group can help each other complete the assignment.

Time Since Last Statistics Class

It's been a long time since I took Intro Stat.

I'm nervous that I forgot everything.

It would be nice to have some review before we start doing stuff I've never seen before.

I totally understand that it has been a while since some people have taken a statistics course. It is **very** unlikely that you have forgotten everything you learned. Instead, it is likely that with a bit of review the concepts will start coming back to you. Almost everyone in the course is coming in with a different background, so it is likely that some of the "review" stuff may be new to some of you. For this reason, we will be taking three weeks to review the building blocks of the statistics we will be using for the rest of the quarter.

Online Format

I struggle to work on my own.

I encourage you to use your group members to make connections with others, so that you feel less alone. I know that I do much better with a study/homework partner, so I suggest that you use the group discussions to find a student with whom you feel comfortable working.

I struggle to motivate to do my work.

Let's be honest, we all do. It is possible that some weeks we will all feel pretty blah, and not really excited about learning statistics. That's how it goes. If life is really getting you down and you are having a difficult time doing your coursework, please communicate with me. I am happy to work with you for deadlines, but also talk to you so you feel less blah.

I'm afraid of not understanding the content.

There are multiple outlets for you to ask questions about the course content each week. You will have groups with whom you will discuss concepts from the reading, and a problem from the lab assignment. You will interact with these same group members when working on an exercise during our synchronous course meetings. You are always welcome to post questions in the Course Questions discussion forum, which I will try to respond to ASAP. Finally, you are always welcome to come to my office hours to talk about anything that is confusing you.

I dislike assignments that are repetitive and take a lot of time.

I dislike writing assignments that are repetitive, since they are boring. I promise you that I will try my hardest to not assign you anything that is repetitive. There will be activities and labs that cover the same content that you learn in the textbook, but these assignments **will not** ask you the same questions over and over and over.

I worry about having enough time on quizzes.

I like to take time on quizzes, so I've given everyone as much time to complete the quizzes as you need. I've also created the quizzes so that you are able to see all of the questions at once, in case your answer for one question helps you decide your answer for another question.

I had a bad experience in the last statistics course I took online.

I'm really sorry to hear this and I will do my best to make this course as great of an experience as I can. I will be checking in with everyone every few weeks, so I can gauge how the course delivery is going, and what changes you feel would make the course better.

Learning R

I worry about memorizing R code.

You will not have to memorize R code. You will be given exercises that help you learn R, which will then be helpful when you complete your lab assignment. The R code required to complete each lab assignment will have been covered in previous activities or exercises.

I've never programmed, so learning to program online sounds terrifying.

Learning to program is scary. I understand that many of you are not feeling super great about learning to program in R, but I would like to encourage you that I will give you as much support learning to program as I can. There will be weekly activities that give you the chance to practice your programming, where there will be hints and solutions to the exercises.