



**ISE 529 Predictive Analytics**  
4 Units

**Day/Time:** Tue & Thu: 4:00-5:50 PM, 2025 Spring  
**Location:** THH 208

**Instructor:** Dr. Tao Ma  
**Office:** GER 216  
**Office Hours:** Thu 2:00-3:00 PM or by appointment via email

**Contact Info:** [ma.tao@usc.edu](mailto:ma.tao@usc.edu)

**Teaching Assistants:** Shahriar Tanvir Alam  
**Office Hours:** GER 242B, Thu 4:00-5:00 PM  
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## Course Description

This course aims to learn fundamental statistical (machine) learning methods for quantitative prediction and categorical classification through intensive programming exercises with Python. The course covers the following topics:

- Linear Regression: model estimation, assessment and selection, shrinkage and regularization, cross-validation and bootstrap
- Generalized Linear Models for Classification: Logistic regression, Poisson regression, Linear Discriminant Analysis, Naïve Bayesian Method
- Dimension Reduction Methods: Principal Component Analysis for high-dimensional data
- Nonparametric Methods for Nonlinear Variables: Spline and Kernel regression
- Tree-Based Methods and Ensemble Models: Decision Trees, Bagging, Boosting, Random Forest
- Support Vector Machine for classification
- Deep learning Neural Networks: MLP, CNN and RNN for prediction and classification

## Learning Objectives and Outcomes

- Understand key concepts for measuring the performance of analytical models and techniques and evaluate and determine appropriate machine learning models.
- Analyze the given data set and apply appropriate modeling techniques for quantitative prediction and/or categorical classification
- Develop supervised Neural Network models for prediction and classification.
- Develop skills in using the Python programming environment and the primary packages and tools to implement basic machine learning tasks.

## **Prerequisite(s):**

Working knowledge on Python programming, statistics and probability, linear algebra

## **Recommended Preparation:**

ISE 150 Python programming, ISE 220/225 Probability/Engineering Statistics  
<https://www.datacamp.com/courses/intro-to-python-for-data-science>

## **Course Policies**

All course materials (lecture slides, homework, labs/exercises, etc.) will be distributed via Brightspace. They are only for the students who are enrolled in the course. Do **NOT** post or duplicate the course materials online or distribute them electronically or in print without prior explicit permission from the instructor. All assignments will be submitted through Brightspace.

## **Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required**

The course requires Python programming language and several of its key data science packages. Jupyter Lab or Notebook is used as the main interface for documenting the scripts and results. These are all open source and can be downloaded by the student for no cost. The computing platform can be personal laptop, the Viterbi VDI (virtual desktop) or HPC in USC CARC

## **Textbooks**

Required:

- James, Gareth et. al., An Introduction to Statistical Learning with Applications in Python (ISLP), Springer 2023, ISBN 978-3-031-38746-3. This textbook can be downloaded free of charge from the author's website at: <https://www.statlearning.com/>

Optional:

- Trevor Hastie et. al., The Elements of Statistical Learning Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction, 2nd Edition, 12th printing, Springer 2017
- Max Kuhn and Kjell Johnson, Applied Predictive Modeling, Springer 2013, ISBN 978-1-4614-6848-6
- Sebastian Raschka and Vahid Mirjalili, Python Machine Learning, 2nd Edition, Packt Publishing 2017 ISBN 978-1-78712-593-3
- José Unpingco, Python Programming for Data Analysis, Springer 2021, ISBN 978-3-030-68951-3

## **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

The course grade distribution is as follows:

- Homework assignments (approximately 6-7) – 50% of final grade
- Midterm exam (in class) – 20% of final grade
- Final exam – 30% of final grade

## **Grading Scale**

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
F	59.9 and below

Up to two points may be added to the overall grade based on class participation.

## **Assignment Submission Policy**

Assignments will all be prepared and submitted using Jupyter Lab .ipynb file or .pdf file as directed. Any other file format (e.g., jpeg) will not be accepted for grading. They should be submitted via Brightspace by the due date. No make-up exams are considered.

## **Timeline and Rules for Submission**

Homework assignments will be posted on Brightspace. All assignments must be submitted by the due date. No late assignments will be accepted, or late submission will incur 15% deduction for special cases (e.g., due to sickness, but doctor's note is required). Any student who fails to submit an assignment will result in a zero grade for that assignment.

## Course Schedule

This following table is a weekly breakdown tentative schedule and subject to change according to the actual class situation throughout the semester. Please follow the announcement in class or Brightspace for the latest update.

Week	Tue/Thu	Topics/Contents	Homework	Reading Reference (ISLP)
1	1/14	Introduction		
	1/16	Prob & Stats Review		
2	1/21			
	1/23	Predictive Modeling		Chapter 2, 3, 5, 6
3	1/28		HW 1	
	1/30	Linear Regression		
4	2/4			
	2/6		HW 2	
5	2/11	Logistic Regression		Chapter 4, 5
	2/13			
6	2/18	Discriminant Analysis, Naïve Bayes		
	2/20	Poisson Regression / General Linear Model	HW 3	
7	2/25			
	2/27	Review Session		
8	3/4	Midterm Exam		
	3/6	Tree-Based Methods		Chapter 8
9	3/11			
	3/13	Resampling Methods	HW 4	Chapter 5
10	3/18	Spring Recess		
	3/20			
11	3/25	Dimension Reduction Methods		Chapter 6, 7
	3/27			
12	4/1	Support Vector Machine		Chapter 9
	4/3		HW 5	
13	4/8	Neural Network		Chapter 10
	4/10			
14	4/15	Deep Learning		
	4/17		HW 6	
15	4/22	CARC High Performance Computing (HPC)		
	4/24			
16	4/29	Review Session		
	5/1	Final Exam		

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity <http://equity.usc.edu> or to the Department of Public Safety <http://capsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> describes reporting options and other resources.

### Support Systems:

*Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

[engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*

[engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086*

[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

*Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*

[studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssu](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssu)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.