

Q: Will this course be more theoretical or more applied? How would you compare it to Stat 370 in terms of content? (Asked several ways by multiple students)

A: The class is definitely more applied than Stat 370. We will revisit some theoretical topics, because it is the capstone course, but we aren't going to spend a ton of time on proofs or anything, even though we'll learn some new statistical methods/concepts. We want to get a few new topics in for everyone (many you can build on for your final paper), and then we also want to practice writing up data analyses and do the final research paper.

Q: Will the course be project-based?

A: No. There's homework, a midterm, and the final paper. One homework is a longer data analysis write-up. But with just the final paper as the only "project", I wouldn't say this is project-based.

Q: Will you review concepts from previous semesters if they are relevant?

A: Yes, somewhat, but please ask if you have questions and I'm not including enough review.

Q: What is the workload and difficulty level of the class like?

A: So, it's a 400-level capstone course for the stat major. The usual expectation (used by accrediting agencies) is 12 hours of coursework a week, so with 3 hours in class, that's 9 hours outside of class – reading, homework, etc. I would guess as we get started that it's lower than that, and when we shift into the writing portion for the paper, it will depend on the individual and how you pace yourself. (I saw folks aren't as confident with the pacing – the project has built in deliverables to help). From the syllabus, you can see the timeline has roughly 2 topics a week, one assignment per week, and after Thanksgiving we shift into project mode entirely (and partly, before that). CASI is a challenging textbook, so I would expect to find the reading more challenging than what you encountered in 230/231, 360/370. The workload is probably more like 360/370 than 230/231, but our content is not as theoretical.

If you ever find yourself hitting 12+ hours outside of class, I would come see me. It would be reasonable to spend 1-3 hours on reading and 4-6 hours on the homework each week, but it is still variable by assignment.