

BUSN 5000

Weekly Schedule

Chris Cornwell

Spring 2026
(updated 31 Dec 25)

Class Room: Amos B010
Recitation Room: TBA

Class Hours: MW, 955-1115a
Recitation Hours: TBA

Deadlines

The *deadline* for submitting all homework and project assignments is 1159p on the *due date*. *Late submissions will not be accepted.*

Week 0 (Jan 12-16) :: Syllabus Day, Getting Started, and Data Fundamentals Part 1

Reading: [Healy, ch 2](#); BUSN 5000 R orientation and getting started guide

IRL: [“University education as we know it is over”](#), *Inexact Science*, 6 Nov 2025. [Comments on “University education as we know it is over”](#).

Due: Homework 0 – **Fri, Jan 16**

Week 1 (Jan 19-23) :: Data Fundamentals Part 2

Reading: Bekes and Kedzi, ch 1; Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 1

IRL: [“How Bad Data Traps People in the US Justice System”](#), *Ted Talks*, April 2022.

Due: pre-Project exercise – **Wed, Jan 21**

Due: Homework 1 – **Fri, Jan 23**

Week 2 (Jan 26-30) :: Beginning to Learn

Reading: Bekes and Kedzi, chs 2-3

IRL: [“What Can Uber Teach Us About the Gender Pay Gap?”](#), *Freakonomics Radio*, Episode 317.

Due: Homework 2 – **Fri, Jan 30**

Week 3 (Feb 2-6) :: Models for Exploration

Reading: Bekes and Kedzi, ch 4; Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 2,4

IRL: Brynjolfsson et al., [“Canaries in the Coal Mine? Six Facts about the Recent Employment Effects of Artificial Intelligence”](#), working paper, 13 Nov 2025.

Due: Homework 3 – **Fri, Feb 6**

Week 4 (Feb 9-13) :: Making Inferences

Reading: Bekes and Kedzi, chs 5-6; Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 6

IRL: [“The Effects of Facebook and Instagram on the 2020 Election: A Deactivation Experiment”](#), PNAS, May 2024.

Due: Homework 4 – **Fri, Feb 13**

Week 5 (Feb 16-20) :: Measurement Error, Sample Selection, and Confounding

Reading: Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 16

IRL: [“Using internal CPS data to reevaluate trends in labor-earnings gaps”](#), *Monthly Labor Review*, August 2009.

Due: Homework 5 – **Fri, Feb 20**

Week 6 (Feb 23-27) :: The Bayesian Approach to Learning from Data + Part I Exam

Reading: Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 15; [“Bayes theorem, the geometry of changing beliefs”](#), 3Blue1Brown. 22 Dec 2019.

IRL: [“Using Bayesian Updating to Improve Decisions under Uncertainty”](#), *California Management Review*, 2020.

PART I EXAM: **Wed, Feb 25**

Weeks 7-8 (Mar 2-6, 16-20) :: Regression Fundamentals

Reading: Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 5; Bekes and Kedzi, chs 7-10; Angrist & Pischke, ch 2

IRL: [“Anybody Can Win, but Everybody’s Gonna Lose”](#), *Against the Rules*, Season 4, Episode 10.

Due: Project progress submission – **Fri, Mar 6**

Due: Homework 6 – **Fri, Mar 20**

Week 9 (Mar 23-27) :: Potential Outcomes and Causal Inference

Reading: Bekes and Kedzi, chs 19-20; Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, chs 3, 9-11; Angrist & Pischke, ch 1

IRL: [“The Cybernetic Teammate: A Field Experiment on Generative AI Reshaping Teamwork and Expertise”](#), Harvard Business School Strategy Unit Working Paper No. 25-043, 21 Mar 2025.

Due: Homework 7 – **Fri, Mar 27**

Week 10 (Mar 30-Apr 1) :: Regression Discontinuity

Reading: Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 12; Angrist & Pischke, ch 4

IRL: [“Does Advertising Actually Work? Part I”](#), *Freakonomics Radio*, Episode 440.

Due: Homework 8 – **Fri, Apr 3**

Week 11 (Apr 6-10) :: Difference in Differences

Reading: Bekes and Kedzi, ch 22; Bueno de Mesquita and Fowler, ch 13; Angrist & Pischke, ch 5

IRL: [“Does Advertising Actually Work? Part II”](#), *Freakonomics Radio*, Episode 441.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE, APR 9

Due: Homework 9 – **Fri, Apr 10**

Weeks 12-13 (Apr 13-17, 20-24) :: Introduction to Machine Learning

Reading: Bekes and Kedzi, chs 13-14; [“Machine Learning: An Applied Econometric Approach”](#), *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Spring 2017.

IRL: [“In Defense of Zillow’s Besieged Data Scientists”](#), Medium, 16 Nov 2021.

Due: Project final submission – **Fri, Apr 17**

Due: Homework 10 – **Mon, Apr 27**

Week 14 (Apr 27-May 1) :: Machine Learning Wrap-up + Part II exam

PART II EXAM: **Wed, Apr 29 at 800a**
