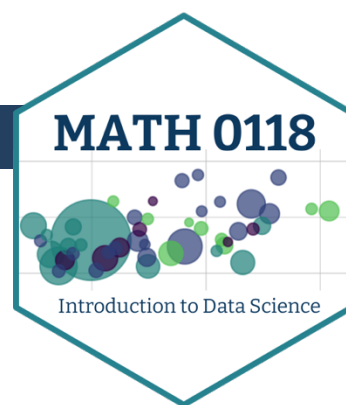


Spring 2024

STAT 0118: Introduction to Data Science



Instructor: Emily Malcolm-White (she/her)
Please address me as "Professor Emily"
emalcolmwhite@middlebury.edu

Office Hours: Drop-In Office Hours in WNS 215
Tuesday 3:30 - 4:45pm
Wednesday 2:15 - 3:30pm
Thursday 9:45 - 11am

TA Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays 7-9pm in WNS 216

CLASS MEETING FORMAT

Class: Section A: 8:15am-9:30am on Tuesday, Thursday in Warner 104

Class meetings will involve a combination of lecture, live coding, and active learning for the first 30-40 minutes, followed by group activities and homework for the last 30-40 minutes. The instructor and a teaching assistant will be available for support.

Students are required to bring a laptop to class each day. See more details below.

MATERIALS

- Students must have access to a laptop with R (<http://www.r-project.org>) and RStudio (<http://www.rstudio.com>) installed. Both are free and installation instructions are available on Canvas. We will walk through installation together on the first day of class.
 - Laptops with pre-installed R/RStudio can be borrowed from the Davis Family Library. This is a good option for those of you without access to a laptop or those of you who may be having a short-term issue with your laptop. See your instructor or the front desk of the Davis Library for more info.
- The website for this course is on Middlebury Canvas. Please check Canvas often for assignments, deadlines, resources, and announcements.
- There is no textbook requirement for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will gain exposure to the entire data science pipeline: forming a statistical question, collecting, and cleaning data sets, performing exploratory data analyses, identifying appropriate statistical techniques, and communicating the results, all the while leaning heavily on open-source computational tools, in particular the R statistical software language. We will focus on analyzing real, messy, and large data sets, requiring the use of advanced data manipulation/wrangling and data visualization packages.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

A detailed list of assignments and due dates is listed on the course Canvas page:

<https://middlebury.instructure.com/courses/14029>

The following components will determine your final grade. They will be weighted as follows:

- | | | |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| 50% | Homework | <i>The lowest two homework grades will be dropped.</i>
You are encouraged to discuss the homework problems with your peers, the teaching assistant, and the instructor. Check the course website regularly for homework assignments and deadlines. Typically, there will be a homework assignment for each class and homework will be due on Fridays and Tuesdays by 11:59pm. Assignments should be submitted on Canvas. |
| 20% | Midterm Project | You will analyze a provided dataset. You are encouraged to work in pairs, but you can also choose to work independently. More details to follow. |
| 30% | Final Project | You will analyze a dataset of your choice. You are encouraged to work in pairs, but you can also choose to work independently. More details to follow. |

You will be given a numeric grade (out of 100) at the end of the course. It will be translated into a letter grade using the following scale.

F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
0 - 59.9	60 - 62.9	63 - 66.9	67 - 69.9	70 - 72.9	73 - 76.9	77 - 79.9	80 - 82.9	83 - 86.9	87 - 89.9	90 - 92.9	93 - 100

LATE POLICY

Consistent engagement with the course material is essential for your learning and academic growth. However, I understand that unforeseen circumstances may occasionally arise.

- When you become aware that you won't be able to make a deadline, please email Professor Emily to let her know which homework you won't be submitting on time and what date you anticipate the homework will be done. You do not need to disclose *why* you are missing the deadline. **So long as you communicate to me before the deadline, no late penalty will be applied.**
- If you do not communicate with me before the deadline, late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 20% per day.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are bound by Middlebury College's honor code, including its policies on plagiarism and cheating. Violation of these rules is ground for failure.

I encourage you to seek help in understanding the concepts and problems in your assignments from various sources, including peers, instructors, peer tutors, class notes, textbooks, and online sources. To maintain academic integrity and properly credit your resources, it is important to:

1. Write up your own solutions to assignments independently and in your own words
2. Include an Acknowledgements section at the beginning or end of your assignment. In this section, give credit to people who have helped you, acknowledge useful websites, and list any other resources you used.

NAME/PRONOUN POLICY

I respect your right to be addressed by your preferred name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I can update my records accordingly. If anything changes throughout the semester, please let me know.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT

It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, and that students' learning needs be addressed both inside and outside of class. I value the diversity that students bring to this class and view it as a resource and strength. I strive to present materials and activities that are inclusive and respectful of all backgrounds, including but not limited to: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, religion, culture, and perspective. Your feedback about how to improve this course for yourself and other students is encouraged and appreciated. Feel free to reach out to me with suggestions.

STATEMENT ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policies regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students, who because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please have a look through the course calendar and let me know as soon as possible if you anticipate such conflicts so that we can agree upon alternative arrangements.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

Students who have Letters of Accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact me as early in the semester as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For those without Letters of Accommodation, assistance is available to eligible students through the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact ADA Coordinators Jodi Litchfield, Peter Ploegman or Dierdre Kelly of the DRC at ada@middlebury.edu for more information. All discussions will remain confidential.

STUDENT ATHLETES

Please have a look through the course calendar and let me know as soon as possible if you anticipate any conflicts with your athletic schedule so that we can agree upon alternative arrangements. Whenever possible, I would appreciate notice at least a week ahead of time of any explained absences.