

Matéria de Análise de Dados
Doenças Infecciosas – Pós-Graduação
Segundo Semestre 2020

MAD in Times of Pandemic

Life absolutely sucks right now. None of this is really okay. **We're all just pretending.**

You most likely know people who have lost their jobs, who have tested positive for COVID-19, have been hospitalized or perhaps have even died. You all have increased (or perhaps decreased) work responsibilities and increased family care responsibilities – you might be caring for extra people (young and/or old) right now and you are likely facing uncertain job prospects (or have even been dismissed).

I and the entire MAD team are fully committed to making sure that you learn everything you were hoping to learn from this class! I will make whatever accommodations I can to help you finish your exercises, do well on your projects and learn and understand the class material. Under ordinary conditions, I am flexible and lenient with grading and course expectations when students face difficult challenges. Under pandemic conditions, that flexibility and leniency is intensified.

If you tell me you're having trouble, I will not judge you or think less of you. I hope you'll extend me the same grace.

You **never** owe me personal information about your health (physical or mental). You are **always** welcome to talk to me about things you're going through, though. If I can't help you, I usually know someone who can.

If you need extra help, or if you need more time with something, or if you feel like you're behind or not understanding everything, **do not suffer in silence!** Talk to me. I will work with you. **I promise.**

I will maintain hours for physical meetings with one (masked) student at a time during the semester, generally Thursdays after 10.30h. I would appreciate it if you could arrange the session in advance via email or WhatsApp (jameshunterbr@gmail.com or +55-11-95327-5656). We will meet at my office in EP2, 6th floor rear.

I want you to learn lots of things from this course, but I primarily want you to stay healthy, balanced and grounded during this extended crisis.

– James R. Hunter, PhD, Professor Afiliado

[This text originally was written by Professor Andrew Heiss, Assistant Professor at Georgia State University in the US. I have adapted it a bit and use it with his permission and invitation. It very closely reflects my sentiments on the difficulties we are all facing, teachers and students, in 2020.]