

# ST 495 Advanced computing for statistical methods; Spring 2022

Lecture: Mondays/Wednesdays, 13:30–14:45, 1108 SAS Hall

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan P Williams

Email: [jwilli27@ncsu.edu](mailto:jwilli27@ncsu.edu)

Course website: <https://jonathanpw.github.io/ST495>

Office location: 5218 SAS Hall

Office hours: 16:00–18:00 Wednesdays, or by appointment

Office phone: 919.513.0191

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Email: [TBA@ncsu.edu](mailto:TBA@ncsu.edu)

**Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes:** This course is a survey of topics and tools needed to begin to develop a broad and thorough working knowledge of modern computational techniques for statistical applications and data analyses. Topics surveyed can broadly be categorized as either optimization-based or sampling-based. Rather than focusing on learning standard software packages for implementing common statistical routines, all codes will be written from scratch the R programming language. Emphasis is placed on developing a practical understanding of how and why existing methods work, and when to apply a particular method. Some programming proficiency is assumed.

**Prerequisite(s):** Introductory statistics (ST 311 and ST 312), Calculus 3 (MA 242), Introductory linear algebra (MA 305 or MA 405), and Introduction to Stat Programming – R (ST 308)

## Optional Texts:

G. Givens and J. Hoeting (2013). *Computational statistics*, 2nd edition. John Wiley & Sons.

A. Hunt and D. Thomas (2000). *The pragmatic programmer: from journeyman to master*. Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.

J. Kloeke and J. McKean (2015). *Nonparametric Statistical Methods Using R*. CRC Press.

W. Shotts, Jr. (2013). *The Linux Command Line*, 2nd internet edition.

L. Trefethen and D. Bau (1997). *Numerical linear algebra*. SIAM.

## Grade Distribution:

Assignments	40%
Midterm project: simulation study part 1, evaluating estimators	25%
Final project: simulation study part 2, evaluating predictors	25%
Final presentation	10%

## Letter Grade Distribution:

$\geq 93.00$	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	$\leq 59.99$	F

For students taking the course as credit-only, S is equivalent to C- or better; otherwise U. No requirements, procedures, or expectations apply to students choosing to audit the course.

**Final exam period:** 12:00–14:30 Monday, May 2, 2022 in 1108 SAS Hall

**Personal note to students:** Please do not feel intimidated about interacting with the me. Regardless of how busy or stressed I may appear to you, teaching your class is a part of my job, and I take that very seriously. I care deeply about the quality of your learning. Please always reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or need help. I understand that it can be difficult and can even feel embarrassing to ask for help. However, I was once in your position, and I promise to always treat you with respect, empathy, and kindness. Nobody that ever did anything meaningful did so without first failing over and over again.

### Course policies and commentary:

- **Assignments**

- **Homework will be assigned each Monday evening, and will be due the following Monday at the beginning of class. Completed assignments must be turned in as script files on Moodle. The grader *\*will\** run your code to assess your solutions.**
- Each homework assignment will receive the same weight in the calculation of the final course grade (i.e., longer (shorter) assignments do not count for a larger (smaller) portion of the overall assignment course grade). For each assignment, each exercise has the following point distribution:
  - \* 2 points – solution is correct
  - \* 1 point – solution is mostly correct
  - \* 0 points – solution is not relevant to the question, or the script file does not run.
- No late assignments will be accepted. Reach out to the instructor if you begin to fall behind! The lowest 2 assignment grades will be dropped from each students' course grade at the end of the semester.
- Take responsibility for understanding solutions to all assignments. For example, if you find a solution on StackExchange, then convince yourself that the solution is actually correct.
- **Learn to distinguish between the things you *do* know and the things you *do not* know** (this is one of the most important results of all education). To understand, to *a* particular degree, that a given statement is true means that you can explain why the statement is true, to *the* particular degree.

- **Projects**

- Students work individually on the midterm and final course projects.
- A detailed outline of the project requirements and grading rubric will be provided.

### Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Install the R programming language</li><li>• Review data structures, functions, control structures, matrix arithmetic, random numbers, plotting, and logic</li><li>• Good coding practices from Hunt and Thomas</li></ul>
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review data structures, functions, control structures, matrix arithmetic, random numbers, plotting, and logic, continued</li><li>• Good coding practices from Hunt and Thomas</li></ul>
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linear algebra and the singular value decomposition</li><li>• Chapter 1 of Trefethen and Bau</li></ul>
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linear algebra and the singular value decomposition, continued</li><li>• Chapter 1 of Trefethen and Bau</li></ul>
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projection matrices, QR factorization, and Gram-Schmidt orthonormalization</li><li>• Chapter 2 of Trefethen and Bau</li></ul>
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linear models and least squares problems</li><li>• Chapter 2 of Trefethen and Bau</li></ul>
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Likelihood inference</li><li>• Chapter 1 of Givens and Hoeting</li></ul>
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maximum likelihood estimation for linear regression parameters</li><li>• Chapter TBD</li></ul>
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intro to maximum likelihood estimation for logistic regression parameters</li><li>• Chapter TBD</li></ul>
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optimization and gradient descent algorithms, applied to logistic regression</li><li>• Chapter 2 of Givens and Hoeting</li></ul>
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optimization and gradient descent algorithms</li><li>• Chapter 2 of Givens and Hoeting</li></ul>
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Simulation and Monte Carlo integration</li><li>• Chapter 6 of Givens and Hoeting</li></ul>
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Simulation and Monte Carlo integration, continued</li><li>• Chapter 6 of Givens and Hoeting</li></ul>
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bootstrapping</li><li>• Chapter 9 of Givens and Hoeting</li></ul>
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bootstrapping, continued</li><li>• Chapter 9 of Givens and Hoeting</li></ul>
Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBD</li></ul>

**NCSU Policies, Regulations, and Rules:** Students are responsible for reviewing the NC State University Policies, Rules, and Regulations (PRRs) which pertain to their course rights and responsibilities, including those referenced both below and above in this syllabus:

- Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy Statement <https://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-04-25-05> with additional references at <https://oied.ncsu.edu/divweb/policies/>
- Code of Student Conduct <https://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>
- Grades and Grade Point Average <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03>
- Credit-Only Courses <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-15>
- Audits <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-04>

**Policy on Academic Integrity:** Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Violations of academic integrity will be handled in accordance with the Student Discipline Procedures (NCSU REG 11.35.02).

**Disability Services for Students:** Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with the Disability Resource Office at Holmes Hall, Suite 304, 2751 Cates Avenue, Campus Box 7509, 919-515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (NCSU REG 02.20.01).

**Privacy:** Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via digital tools, such as email or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.