

# Introduction to Probability and Statistics

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COURSE	Course: PS 403	TA: Jennifer Lin
OVERVIEW	Term: Fall 2022	Email: <a href="mailto:jenniferlin2025@u.northwestern.edu">jenniferlin2025@u.northwestern.edu</a>

## *Discussion Section*

*Time:* Thurs. (2 - 3 PM)

*Room:* Kresge Centennial Hall 2325

## *Office Hours*

*Time:* Tues. + Fri. (11 AM - 12 PM)

*Room:* Scott Hall 229

*Syllabus Revision:* September 20, 2022

## About TA Sessions

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NOTE	<i>Please note that this syllabus is only for the TA Sessions. For the complete syllabus, please consult the course Canvas site.</i>
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PURPOSE	Each week, we will meet for an hour outside the lecture times to discuss the course materials. This is your opportunity to ask questions, review the material and clarify anything that can be confusing from the course. As such, here are some helpful tips to ensure that you are getting the most of this time:
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- Come to section prepared to discuss the materials from the readings and lectures. I will briefly review the lecture material for the week during each section. However, the emphasis will be on your questions.
- Please be respectful of others when speaking, listening and responding.
- Please try to check your emails and Canvas at least once daily for any course readings and updates.

If you have any questions at any point in this course, please do not hesitate to email me. If you would like to speak to me and cannot make my office hours, I am happy to set up an appointment to meet. Please note that if you email me after 7 PM Central Time on the weekday or at any point during the weekend, I may not respond to your question until the next business day. If I can be of assistance in any way to you in this class, please do not hesitate to reach out.

SOFTWARE	The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the fundamentals of probability and statistics for Political Science research. However, a secondary goal is to get you familiar with software that are popular for computational social science. Therefore, please ensure that you have the following:
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- [R](#) and [R Studio](#) on your computer
- The [tidyverse](#) R package (Install *after* you installed R and R Studio)
- An [Overleaf](#) account
- (Optional) A [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X](#) distribution on your computer such as [MiKTeX](#) for PC or [MacTeX](#) for Macs

Throughout the quarter, I will demonstrate tools and techniques in both R and [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X](#) during TA sessions. I recognize that learning both of these programs can be akin to learning a new language. Therefore, please do not hesitate to reach out to ask questions, especially if you are stuck. I encourage you to seek assistance if you have been debugging something for 15 minutes without success.

## Important Course Information

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ASSIGNMENTS	This course consists of weekly assignments that may take the form of a problem set or exam. I encourage you to come talk to me if you have any questions regarding the problem sets and I will strive to ensure that you are prepared for each of the exams.
DUE DATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problem Sets due on Fridays at 8 PM Central Time</li><li>• Midterm Exam – TBD</li><li>• Final Exam – TBD</li></ul>

## Wellness, Accessibility and Other Campus Resources

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OVERVIEW	I strive to make learning as accessible and as welcoming as possible. Therefore, I am very happy to work with each student to make sure that this TA section is suitable to their learning needs. Here are some notes on Wellness, Accessibility and other resources on campus.
ACCESSIBILITY	If you require accommodations for this course, please communicate with <a href="#">AccessibleNU</a> at <a href="mailto:accessiblenu@northwestern.edu">accessiblenu@northwestern.edu</a> or 847-467-5530 and J. Seawright as soon as possible. Please also confirm with me that J has passed this information to me as soon as possible as well. All information will remain confidential.
WELLNESS	It is difficult to perform well in your studies if you are not feeling well. Therefore, Northwestern University provides a variety of health and wellness services to students to support them through their studies. Students can access primary care and sports medicine services through <a href="#">Northwestern Medicine Student Health Services</a> . Additionally, graduate school can be stressful. Students can also receive mental health services through Northwestern <a href="#">Counseling and Psychological Services</a> . Reach out to them by calling 847-491-2151 or reach out to their staff using the <a href="#">staff directory</a> .
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION	Students will not be discriminated based on race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, disability, or any other qualities in this TA section. For more information on Northwestern University's diversity, equity and inclusion policies, please visit the Office of <a href="#">Institutional Diversity and Inclusion</a> .