**ANTH 6413**

**ANALYTICAL METHODS IN HUMAN EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Instructor: W. Andrew Barr  Email: [wabarr@gmail.com](mailto:wabarr@gmail.com)  Office: SEH 6685  Office Hours: Tues, 12PM – 2PM or by appt. | FALL 2016  Class Time: Monday 11AM – 1:30PM  Location: SEH 6845  Website: hompal-stats.wabarr.com |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides a survey of analytical methods in human evolutionary studies, with an emphasis on practical implementation. Topics to be covered include descriptive statistics, regression and related techniques, ANOVA and related techniques, analysis of categorical data, multivariate statistics, phylogenetic comparative methods, and randomization approaches.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course is meant to provide a practical introduction to statistical methods in human evolutionary studies. After completing this course, you should be able to:

* Understand enough statistical theory to critically evaluate the use of methods reported in the published literature.
* Have enough practical experience to choose appropriate statistical analyses and implement them on your own data sets.
* Use R – the emerging standard software for statistical analysis.

**COURSE MECHANICS**

The course meets once per week. Each meeting will consist of a short lecture and demonstration, followed by exercises that focus on practical implementation. Readings will be assigned each week and should be completed before the class period for which they are assigned. **This course requires the use of a laptop with a working installation of the RStudio software. Please contact instructor BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS MEETING if this is a problem so that alternative arrangements can be made.**

There are two required texts for this course and one that is recommended:

Gotelli NJ. 2012. A Primer of Ecological Statistics, Second Edition. Sunderland, Massachusetts:

Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Manly BFJ. 2004. Multivariate Statistical Methods: A Primer, Third Edition. Chapman and Hall.

**Recommended**: Dalgaard P. 2004. Introductory Statistics with R. New York: Springer.

**EVALUATION**

Your grade will be calculated based on exams, homework assignments, and one class presentation of the week’s methods. For this presentation, you must find a real world dataset with an associated published dataset (that you can access). You will walk the class through a relevant question related to this dataset, including how to do this analysis using R. The demonstration should take approximately 45 minutes. Please consult with the instructor about this demonstration before the week it is due. If you have any concerns about your grade on a particular assignment, please contact the instructor as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the end of the semester.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exam I | 25% |
| Exam II | 25% |
| Combined Homework | 40% |
| Class Presentation | 10% |

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are responsible for upholding the GW Code of Academic Integrity. Please review the code here <http://studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity>. You are expected to do your own work. Class presentations and exams must be the sole work of the student. Collaboration is allowed on homework assignments, but copying the answers or R code from another person constitutes cheating, and will be dealt with by reporting the violation to the Office of Academic Integrity.

**ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

You should attend every class session unless you have a legitimate excused absence. Late work will only be accepted, and make-up exams will only be offered, if there is a valid (*e.g.*, medical, religious) justification. See below for a summary of the university policy on religious holidays:

1. Students should notify instructors during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Instructors should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations
3. Instructors who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

**COURSE SCHEDULE**