

# STAT:5090 Fall 2025

## Alpha Seminar

**Lectures**   **Thursday 12:30 PM – 1:20 PM**          60 SH

**Instructor**      Boxiang Wang, 261 SH, [boxiang-wang@uiowa.edu](mailto:boxiang-wang@uiowa.edu)  
**Office Hours**    10:20 AM – 11:20 AM Monday, 10:20 AM – 12:20 PM Wednesday  
**Department**    Statistics & Actuarial Science, 241 SH.  
                         <http://www.stat.uiowa.edu>  
**DEO**              Professor Kung-Sik Chan, DEO, 319-335-0712,  
                         [kung-sik-chan@uiowa.edu](mailto:kung-sik-chan@uiowa.edu)

### Course Website

Announcements, homework, project, etc: <http://icon.uiowa.edu>.

### Course Description and Objectives

The goal of this course is to orient, guide, and perhaps build some community among first-year graduate students in Statistics. Included in that is ensuring that you understand the program requirements and what it takes to succeed; become acquainted with the research interests of our faculty and learn what is involved in statistical research; learn about statistical organizations, the statistics profession and career opportunities; ethics; and gain some understanding of how to access the statistical literature.

The class will be rather informal and no huge time demands will be placed on you to prepare for each week. However, that does not mean you can be passive. You will have an occasional reading/writing/computing assignment, constructed with the above goals in mind.

### Course Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the home of this course, and CLAS governs the policies and procedures for its courses. Graduate students, however, must adhere to the [academic deadlines set by the Graduate College](#).

### Attendance

Attendance is required. If you must be gone for a class, please inform me in advance and we will discuss options for you to make-up the absence. See the college of liberal arts and science (CLAS) policy on student attendance and absences.

<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/student-attendance-and-absences>

Attendance at our department colloquium is required for this class. You must attend at least 70% of the colloquium talks unless there is a scheduling conflict with your course or TA assignment. Talk to me first if there are such conflicts.

If there are 9 talks in this semester, you must attend at least  $9 \times 70\% \approx 7$  talks. Below is the sign-up sheet.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1d\\_lg80Zd9fmbk5VqvYl\\_oLuq-kDHB\\_g77etE70yl53s/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1d_lg80Zd9fmbk5VqvYl_oLuq-kDHB_g77etE70yl53s/edit?usp=sharing)

### **Grading**

Grading is S/U. If you come to classes, participate, and complete the required assignments, you will receive a grade of S = satisfactory.

There is no final exam in this class.

**“Incomplete” Grades** A grade of “Incomplete” will only be given under extraordinarily extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from completing the course requirements. Having a failing grade in the course is not an extraordinarily extenuating circumstance.

### **Academic Honesty and Misconduct**

All students in CLAS courses are expected to abide by [the CLAS Code of Academic Honesty](#). Undergraduate academic misconduct must be reported by instructors to CLAS according to these procedures. Graduate academic misconduct must be reported to the Graduate College according to Section F of the Graduate College Manual.

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**

The faculty interview report must be entirely your own work; AI-generated content is not allowed.

### **Attendance.**

Attendance is required. See instruction for Absence from Class due to illness, emergence, or extenuating circumstances in <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/absence-class>.

See COVID-related questions in <https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu/>.

A student who is absent for more than five days or miss an exam due to an emergency or an illness may request the UI Service Center, 17 Calvin Hall, registrar@uiowa.edu, to notify me of the reason for the absence.

**“Incomplete” Grades** A grade of “Incomplete” will only be given under extraordinarily extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from completing the course requirements. Having a failing grade in the course is not an extraordinarily extenuating circumstance.

### **Academic Honesty and Misconduct**

All students in CLAS courses are expected to abide by [the CLAS Code of Academic](#)

**Honesty.** Undergraduate academic misconduct must be reported by instructors to CLAS according to these procedures. Graduate academic misconduct must be reported to the Graduate College according to Section F of the Graduate College Manual.

### **Student Complaints**

Students with a complaint about a grade or a related matter should first discuss the situation with the instructor and/or the course supervisor (if applicable), and finally with the DEO (Chair) of the department, school or program offering the course. Sometimes students will be referred to the department or program's Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) or Director of Graduate Studies (DGS).

Undergraduate students should contact [CLAS Undergraduate Programs](#) for support when the matter is not resolved at the previous level. Graduate students should contact the [CLAS Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Outreach and Engagement](#) when additional support is needed.

### **Drop Deadline for this Course**

You may drop an individual course before the deadline; after this deadline you will need collegiate approval. You can look up the [drop deadline for this course](#) here. When you drop a course, a "W" will appear on your transcript. The mark of "W" is a neutral mark that does not affect your GPA. Directions for adding or dropping a course and other registration changes can be found on the [Registrar's website](#). Undergraduate students can find policies on dropping and withdrawing [here](#). Graduate students should adhere to the [academic deadlines](#) and policies set by the Graduate College.

### **Communication: UI Email**

Students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for any communication with instructors or staff in the UI community. For the privacy and the protection of student records, UI faculty and staff can only correspond with UI email addresses.

### **Where to Get Academic Support for This Course**

Instructors: Remind students here about your drop-in student hours and also provide information on departmental, collegiate, or university resources helpful for this course, such as the Writing Center <https://writingcenter.uiowa.edu> or the Tutor Iowa central academic support site <https://tutor.uiowa.edu/>.

### **Mental Health Resources and Student Support**

Students are encouraged to be mindful of their mental health and seek help as a preventive measure or if feeling overwhelmed and/or struggling to meet course expectations. Students are encouraged to talk to their instructor for assistance with course-related concerns. For additional mental health support, please see the guidance and resources at [mentalhealth.uiowa.edu](https://mentalhealth.uiowa.edu), including the 24-7 [UI Support and Crisis Line](#).

Additionally, the Office of the Dean of Students can help students navigate personal crisis situations. They can provide one-on-one support, help with identifying options, and access to [basic needs resources](#) (such as food, rent, childcare, etc.). Student Care and Assistance: 132 IMU, [dos-assistance@uiowa.edu](mailto:dos-assistance@uiowa.edu), or 319-335-1162 and more info: [dos.uiowa.edu/assistance](https://dos.uiowa.edu/assistance).

### **[Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)**

The University is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all. If a student has a diagnosed disability or other disabling condition that may impact the student's ability to complete the course requirements as stated in the syllabus, the student may seek accommodations through [Student Disability Services](#) (SDS). SDS is responsible for making [Letters of Accommodation \(LOA\)](#) available. The student must provide an LOA to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, but requests not made at least two weeks prior to the scheduled activity for which an accommodation is sought may not be accommodated. The LOA will specify what reasonable course accommodations the student is eligible for and those the instructor should provide. Additional information can be found on the SDS website.

### **University Policies**

[Basic Needs and Support for Students](#)

[Classroom Expectations](#)

[Exam Make-up Owing to Absence](#)

[Free Speech and Expression](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Military Service Obligations](#)

[Non-discrimination](#)

[Religious Holy Days](#)

[Sexual Harassment/Misconduct and Supportive Measures](#)

[Sharing of Class Recordings](#)