Course Information for STAT:5090 “ALPHA Seminar”  
Fall 2018

Instructor
Dale Zimmerman, a.k.a. “Dr. Z,” 217 SH,
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Course Format
Class meetings 12:30-1:20 pm Tuesdays, 51 SH.

Office Hours
10:30 am – noon, Tuesday and Thursday; or by appointment

Department Information
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, 241 SH, Phone 335-2082

Department Executive Officer
Professor Joseph Lang, 241 SH, Phone 335-0712, E-mail joseph-lang@uiowa.edu

Course Description
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; and gain some understanding of how to access the statistical literature.

The class will be very 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.

Here are some of the topics or activities to anticipate:

- The Iowa graduate Statistics program, including elective courses and the research interests of our faculty
- History of Statistics, including here at Iowa
- The statistics profession and its various organizations
- Career and internship opportunities
- Statistical literature: online journals, search engines
- Topics that come up in your courses

Grading
Grading is S—U. If you come to classes, participate, and complete the few required assignments, you will receive a grade of “satisfactory.”
Course website
Some materials may be posted or linked (click on 22S:170 ALPHA Seminar) to Dr. Z’s webpage at homepage.stat.uiowa.edu/~dzimmer/

Classroom Environment
Activities in class which are unacceptable are (1) prolonged conversation with a fellow student, (2) the use of cell phones, and (3) the use of laptops/tablets etc. Please remember to switch your cell phones to silent mode before class starts and put away laptops/tablets/phones etc. when in class.

Administrative Home
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook).

Electronic Communication
Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

Accommodations for Disabilities
UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/).

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom
UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University’s Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at diversity@uiowa.edu or diversity.uiowa.edu.

Academic Integrity
All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College’s Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address.

CLAS Final Examination Policies
The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals. (https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-examination-policies.)
Making a Complaint
Students with a complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chair. Students may then bring the concern to CLAS (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities).

Understanding Sexual Harassment
Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy, see https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/.