The University of Iowa
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Spring, 2024

DATA 4750:001 Probabilistic Statistical Learning
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in W268 CB

Title of Course: DATA 4750:001 Probabilistic Statistical Learning
Course meeting time and place: 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. MWF in W268 CB
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science: https://stat.uiowa.edu
Course ICON site: https://uiowa.instructure.com/courses/223096
Course Home: https://clas.uiowa.edu

Instructor: Sanvesh Srivastava
Office location: 219 SH
Student drop-in hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Students are invited to drop by during these hours to discuss questions about the course material or concerns. I am also available by appointment if you are unable to attend my drop-in hours.
Phone: 319-335-0824
E-mail: sanvesh-srivastava@uiowa.edu
DEO: Kung-Sik Chan, 241 SH, and kung-sik-chan@uiowa.edu

Course Description
This course focuses on essential machine learning and statistics ideas that are critical in analyzing modern complex and large data. Selected topics are covered in supervised learning: linear models, deep neural networks, and non-parametric models. Besides supervised learning, essential topics from non-linear dimension reduction, clustering, and causal inference are part of the course.

Learning Objectives
The students will develop an understanding of various statistical learning methods and will learn the computational skills to apply these methods to real-world data sets, to pursue a career in applied statistics, and to pursue research in statistical sciences and other data sciences. The students also learn about elementary theoretical ideas behind popular statistical/machine learning methods.

It is expected that students will read the book, work on problems as required to master the material, and spend time applying the statistical learning methods to real-world data sets. You are expected
to put in 6-8 hours of work outside of class. A few of you will do well with less time than this, and a few of you will need more.

**Textbook and course materials**

The required textbook for this course is:

- **Title:** Patterns, Predictions, And Actions: Foundations of Machine Learning
- **Authors:** Moritz Hardt and Benjamin Recht
- **Publisher:** Princeton University Press
- **Edition:** First

A pdf copy of the book is available on the web ([https://mlstory.org/](https://mlstory.org/)) and Canvas. Note the pdf has slight differences from the print version, but they have little pedagogical/learning consequences.

Unfortunately, the assigned book has no exercises; therefore, all the exercises will be assigned based on problems from other books. For example, Probabilistic Machine Learning (PML) book series by Kevin P. Murphy of Google. This book has two versions Probabilistic Machine Learning: An Introduction (2022) and Probabilistic Machine Learning: Advanced Topics (2022), which are freely available from [https://probml.github.io/pml-book/](https://probml.github.io/pml-book/) I do not recommend buying these books. You can use these books for solving problems similar to those assigned for homework.

The instructor will post announcements, homework problems, lecture notes, and other course information in Canvas.

**Pre-requisites**

STAT 4540 and some prior exposure to mathematical statistics and programming in R, Python, or Matlab is recommended.

**Attendance**

Attending classes is required, but the instructor won’t take attendance.

**Office hours**

The instructor is available for in-person office hours every Monday, Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in SH 219.

The instructor is available for office hours via Zoom. A student is required to email the instructor about scheduling the meetings and give the instructor sufficient time to respond. A student can also schedule the meeting before or after the lecture but not during the lecture. If you are unable during these times, then you should email the instructor for an appointment and suggest a set of
time slots that suit you. *You should email early enough so that the instructor has enough time to schedule a meeting.*

The *zoom link* for all the personal meetings for office hours is [https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/4107308187](https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/4107308187).

**Grading System**

Your grade will consist of homeworks (30%), two midterms (10% each, 20% total), a project (20%) and a final exam (30%). At the end of the semester, homework, midterm, project, and final grades are normalized within each category in order to calculate the final course grade.

A *plus-minus* grading system will be used. Here is a tentative grading scale: A,A-: 88%–100%, B+,B,B-: 70%–88%, C+,C,C-: 60%–70%, D: 50%–60%, F:<50%. A+ will be given only in exceptional cases. I reserve the right to change the grade distribution by 10% so that it suits the diversity of students in the class.

**Homework**

Homework will be usually assigned every other week on Fridays and will be due two weeks later on Friday. Homework submission will be online. Any exceptions, which are possible, will be announced in class or in Canvas. Your work must be legible and include your name at the top to receive credit. Due to time constraints, the grader may grade only some of the assigned questions, but you are responsible for understanding all questions.

All homeworks will contribute towards your final grade. Unless prior arrangements are made well in advance, for reasons judged to be acceptable by me, late homework will receive zero credit as solutions will be posted soon after the homework is due.

**Exams**

There are no quizzes in this class. There are two midterm and one final exams. The midterm and final exams will emphasize examples and key concepts repeatedly mentioned in class and in homework problems. All exams will be closed book. The final exam will be comprehensive and cumulative. You will be allowed one A4-sized handwritten “cheat-sheet” for every exam.

**Project**

The project is assigned (typically) after the second midterm (second or third week of April). It consists of a series of questions for analyzing a real-life data set and the students will answer these questions based on the methods and tools learned in the class. A project report summarizing the answers to the questions and related findings will be submitted online. More details will be announced on Canvas as the course progresses.

**Grading Errors**

Although every effort will be made to mark your work accurately, sometimes grading mistakes happen. If you believe that an error has been made on an in-class problem or exam, then please
email the instructor immediately stating your claim in writing.

**Important Dates**

Check the office of the registrar website for the academic calendar:

[http://registrar.uiowa.edu/academic-calendar#!spring-2024](http://registrar.uiowa.edu/academic-calendar#!spring-2024)

Some important **tentative** dates for DATA 4750 are as follows:

| Midterm I: | Monday, February 19 |
| Midterm II: | Friday, April 5 |
| Final Exam: | Mon, May 6 – Fri, May 11 (to be decided by the university) |

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>HW (Assigned)</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>01/15 – 01/19</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>01/22 – 01/26</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>01/29 – 02/02</td>
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<td>HW 1</td>
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<td>02/05 – 02/09</td>
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<td>02/12 – 02/16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>HW 2</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>02/19 – 02/23</td>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>02/26 – 03/01</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>03/04 – 03/08</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HW 3</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>03/15 – 03/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>03/18 – 03/22</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>03/25 – 03/29</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>HW 4</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>04/01 – 04/05</td>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
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<td>04/08 – 04/12</td>
<td>Project</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>04/15 – 04/19</td>
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<td>04/22 – 04/26</td>
<td>Project</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>05/06 – 05/10</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**UI and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**Information for Undergraduate/Graduate Students**

**Academic Honesty and Misconduct**

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

**Student Complaints**

Students with a complaint about a grade or a related matter should first discuss the situation with the instructor, and finally with the Director or Chair of the school, department, or program offering the course.

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.

**University Policies**

- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- 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