1 Contact Information

The website for this course is www.psychology.mcmaster.ca/bennett/psy710. Students should check the website periodically during the term for announcements and course notes.

2 Course Information

This course covers statistical techniques that are commonly used in behavioural research, especially Psychology, and therefore emphasizes the use of linear models to analyze data that have been collected using balanced experimental designs. The course material is designed with the assumption that students have completed an undergraduate statistics course. A review of basic statistical concepts is provided in the Basic Statistics tutorial on the CD that comes with the course textbook. A link to the tutorial also is provided on the course website.

3 Meeting Times

The course consists of a weekly lecture, held on Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30, in PC-335, and a two-hour, computer-based laboratory held on Wednesdays in PC-154 at 10:30-12:30 or 12:30-2:30.

4 Statistical Laboratories

The purpose of the labs is to provide students with opportunities to work on statistical problems related to the lectures. At the beginning of each lab, students will be provided with materials that describe the lab exercises. Students are expected to complete all lab exercises, but they will not be graded. Answers to the exercises will be posted on the course website.
5 Required Textbook


6 Software

Laboratory exercises will use the statistical computing environment, R. No familiarity with R is assumed. Versions of R for Windows, OS X, and Linux can be obtained at http://cran.r-project.org/. Students are encouraged to install R on their own computers.

The following documents – which can be obtained at http://cran.r-project.org/other-docs.html – are recommended for people who are unfamiliar with R.


Finally, several website contain valuable information about how to use R. Here are a few that I’ve found useful:

- Quick-R (http://www.statmethods.net/index.html)
- R-bloggers (http://www.r-bloggers.com)

7 Grading

Grades will be based on three in-class exams administered in the statistics laboratory. Each exam constitutes one-third of the final grade. Students will have access to R during the exams.

Missed Exams: All students must complete all three exams. If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to contact the the instructor or a TA as soon as possible and explain why you missed the exam. If you have a valid excuse, then you will be allowed to take a make-up exam at another time (usually one week following the original exam).

8 Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for demonstrating behaviour that is honest and ethical in their academic work, and are expected to be familiar with the University’s regulations regarding academic integrity.

The Graduate Calendar can be obtained here:
http://graduate.mcmaster.ca/grad-council/graduate-calendar.html.

Academic integrity regulations can be found here:
http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?coid=4&navoid=188
9 Schedule of Lectures

The following schedule is approximate: Dates for specific lecture topics may change as we progress through the term, but every attempt will be made to keep the same dates for the tests/exams. Also, the exact reading assignments may be altered as we go through the term: please check the course website periodically. Unless noted otherwise, all readings refer to Designing experiments and analyzing data (DEAD). Students should try to complete the readings before the lectures. Not shown in the reading list are references to extensive course notes on most of the chapters covered in class. Links to the notes can be found on the course website. Finally, lab assignments will be distributed just prior to the start of each lab.

1. Sep. 9: Review of statistical inference
   Reading: Please read the chapter in DEAD that reviews basic statistics. A copy of that chapter is available on the CD that comes with the textbook and at the course website. You may also want to read my notes on this topic, which can be obtained here: www.psychology.mcmaster.ca/bennett/psy710/notes/testing_means.pdf.

2. Sep. 16: Testing hypotheses about group means in a one-way design
   Reading: DEAD: Chapter 3

3. Sep. 23: Linear Contrasts & Trend Analysis
   Reading: DEAD: Chapter 4 (149-63; 177-80). Also read my notes on Chapter 6 (Trend Analysis): http://www.psychology.mcmaster.ca/bennett/psy710/notes/maxwell_chp6.pdf

4. Sep. 30: Multiple comparisons & the Garden of Forking Paths

5. Oct. 7: Review & Exam 1
   Review: Oct. 7; Exam: Oct. 8

   Reading: DEAD: Chapter 7 (275-297) & Chapter 8 (354-60)

   Reading: DEAD: Chapter 7 (297-309)

8. Oct. 28: Designs with covariates
   Reading: DEAD: Chapter 9 (399-428)

9. Nov. 4: Review & Exam 2
   Review: Nov. 4; Test: Nov. 5

10. Nov. 11: Designs with random or nested factors
    Reading: DEAD: Chapter 10 (pp. 469-81; 494-507)

11. Nov. 18: One-way within-subject designs
    Reading: DEAD: Chapter 11 (pp. 525-50; 563-67)

12. Nov. 25: Higher-order within-subject designs
    Reading: DEAD: Chapter 12 (573-82; 592-605)

13. Dec 2: Review & Exam 3
    Review: Dec. 2; Exam: Dec. 3