Instructor Name: Qing Lu, PhD  
Room Number: Room 5233 CTRB  
Phone Number: 352-294-5928  
Email Address: lucienq@ufl.edu

Class Schedule: Class meets on Zoom between 12:30 PM and 1:35 PM on Monday and Friday. Students can use Wednesday to review the course material, complete the weekly quizzes (due by 3pm on Wednesday unless otherwise specified), and work on the problem set. If Monday or Friday is a holiday, or it is the final week, then the zoom meeting will be moved to Wednesday (see details below). The due day for the quizzes will also be changed accordingly. Please see the detailed info in the Course Schedule table.

Office Hours: Course-related questions can be addressed right after the lecture or by appointment (lucienq@ufl.edu).

Preferred Course Communications: Email or Canvas Message

Prerequisites

Prior training in statistics (PHC 6052 or equivalent) and knowledge of multiple regression (PHC 6053 or equivalent). R programming experience will also be helpful.

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

Survival analysis is about the analysis of time-to-event data. The goal of this course is to help you understand the fundamental concepts of survival analysis and their applications in epidemiology and biomedical sciences. Basic concepts from probability and introductory statistics will be reviewed as needed.

Relation to Program Outcomes

Survival analysis is one of the most widely applied branches of statistics. In public health and medicine, it is the theoretical foundation for the design and analysis of cohort and case-control studies.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the purpose and role of survival analysis in the field of Biostatistics
2. Utilize analytical methods to produce numerical and graphical summaries of time-to-event data
3. Conduct hypothesis testing to make inference on key survival analysis parameters
4. Formulate parametric and semi-parametric regression models for time-to-event data
5. Execute these functions in R software
6. Interpret results from studies in the literature that use survival analytic methods

**Instructional Methods**

Monday will be one period of lecture. Each lecture will review the material in that week’s lecture notes. Students are expected to prepare by reading the lecture notes before class. Students can use the Wednesday class time to review the course material, complete the weekly quizzes (due by 3pm on Wednesday unless otherwise specified), and work on the problem set. Friday will be a one period problem-solving session where we work on the problem sets. This will be crucial for reviewing concepts, learning to apply them, and preparing for the exams.

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT**

**Topical Outline/Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Quizzes and Exams</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Lecture 1: <em>Introduction to time-to-event data</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Problem Set 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lecture 2: <em>Key functions in survival analysis</em></td>
<td>Quiz 2 and Problem Set 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Quiz 2 and Problem Set 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Lecture 3: <em>Parametric survival distributions</em></td>
<td>Quiz 3 and Problem Set 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Quiz 3 and Problem Set 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Memorial Day (no class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Lecture 4: <em>Kaplan-Meier and Nelson-Aalen estimators</em></td>
<td>Quiz 4 (due 3rd)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 4</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Lecture 5: <em>Log-rank test</em></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Quiz 5 and Problem Set 5</td>
<td>Midterm (due 18th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 5</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Lecture 6: <em>Introduction to Cox proportional hazards regression</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Quiz 6 and Problem Set 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 6</td>
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<td>21-25</td>
<td>Summer Break (no class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Lecture 7: <em>Building Cox proportional hazards models</em></td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Quiz 7 and Problem Solving Session 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 7</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Independence Day (no class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lecture 8: <em>Cox model extensions</em></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 8</td>
<td>Quiz 8 (due 8th)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Lecture 9: <em>Residuals and model diagnostics</em></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Quiz 9 and Problem Set 9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Lecture 10: <em>Alternative data structures in survival analysis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Quiz 10 and Problem Set 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lecture 11: <em>Accelerated failure time models</em></td>
<td>Quiz 12 (due 27th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Problem Solving Session 11</td>
<td>Final exam (due 4th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Final exam due</td>
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**Course Materials and Technology**
There is no required textbook for the course. The primary readings will be lecture notes.


All statistical computing in the class will be done in R (https://cran.r-project.org/). The free Open Source Edition of RStudio (https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/) is recommended for its easy to use graphical interface. An introduction to R is available online (https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-intro.pdf). Many of the functions we use will be in the survival package (https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/survival/survival.pdf). From within R, this can be installed using the command: install.packages("survival").

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml

**ACADMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

**Grading**

The assessment will include class participation, one midterm exam, and one final exam. Students are responsible for all course material, including reading required materials prior to each class.

- 10% Class participation
- 10% Weekly quizzes
- 35% Midterm exam
- 45% Final exam

The point system used for this course consists of the standard scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>93-100</th>
<th>90-92</th>
<th>87-89</th>
<th>83-86</th>
<th>80-82</th>
<th>77-79</th>
<th>73-76</th>
<th>70-72</th>
<th>67-69</th>
<th>63-66</th>
<th>60-62</th>
<th>Below 60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>E</td>
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</table>

**Class Participation**

Student class participation grade will be determined by attendance (10 points). Attendance at all class sessions is required.

Please email the instructor as early as possible regarding potential excused absences. Please note all faculty are bound by the UF policy for **excused absences**. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Students exhibiting superior professionalism will come to class prepared, actively participate in class discussions, ask questions, and listen actively to lectures. A professionalism rubric is provided in Canvas.

**Quizzes (Weekly, Online)**
There will be weekly quizzes to assess your comprehension of concepts and knowledge of requisite information needed to be successful in this course. The quizzes are in the Canvas course site and are directly related to each week’s required readings. You will have 2 attempts to complete each quiz and the highest score will be recorded. Quizzes are due by 3pm on Wednesday providing the instructor time to review quiz results and address any common questions about the material in that week’s lecture. These quizzes will help you evaluate your understanding of course content by providing you feedback on your performance.

**Problem Sets**

Problem sets will be given each week. You are encouraged to work together, but you should write up your own results. They will not be graded, but they will important for learning the material and preparing for the exams.

**Midterm Exam**

There will be one midterm exam. The midterm exam will be take-home exam.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will be a take-home exam. The exam will be cumulative with greatest focus on material not covered in previous exams. This exam will require some short answer and R computing. Students will prepare neatly typed exams in Word or LaTeX that can be submitted online in Canvas or email to TA and the instructor. Students are not allowed to work together on the final exam. Students will be asked to include an honor code statement at the beginning of their exam. Questions about the final exam should be directed to the instructor as early as possible, at least 24 hours before the exam is due.

**Policy Related to Make-Up Exams**

All students are expected to take the exams at the time and place communicated by the instructor. Make-up exams will not be considered except for an excused absence, per UF policy noted above. Students should contact the instructor as early as possible regarding a potential make-up exam.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

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**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT**

**Expectations Regarding Course Behavior**

Students are expected to show up for class prepared and on time. Cell phones are to be silenced during class unless there is an emergency, in which case please inform the instructor.

**Communications Guidelines**

Course discussions (online and in-class) should be respectful, thoughtful, and courteous. Please review and follow the UF Netiquette Guidelines:


**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/
http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

On Campus Face-to-Face

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

• You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
• This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
• Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
• Follow your instructor’s guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
• If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), please use the UF Health screening system
and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class.

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work (https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/).

Online Synchronous Sessions:

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Policy Related to Guests Attending Class:

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are not permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy: http://facstaff.phhp.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office http://www.dso.ufl.edu within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.
The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu. On line and in person assistance is available.

You Matter We Care website: http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: https://shcc.ufl.edu/

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
  o Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789
  o http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

Inclusive Learning Environment

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida’s Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, “The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.” If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: www.multicultural.ufl.edu.