

College of Public Health & Health Professions  
Course Syllabus  
PHC 7091: Advanced Biostatistical Methods II  
Spring 2025  
Tuesdays 9:35 AM – 10:25 AM, Room HPNP G-105  
Thursdays 9:35 AM – 10:25AM and 10:25 – 11:15, Room HPNP G-105

### **Instructor Information**

Susmita Datta, PhD  
Tenured Professor and Preeminent Hire  
Department of Biostatistics  
College of Public Health & Health Professions College of Medicine  
University of Florida  
2004 Mowry Rd, 5th Floor CTB  
P.O. Box 117450  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7450  
Office: 5240  
Email: [susmita.datta@ufl.edu](mailto:susmita.datta@ufl.edu)  
Phone: (352)294-5923  
Fax: (352) 294-5931  
Web: <https://directory.ufhealth.org/datta-susmita>

Office hours: Thursdays 1-2 PM or by appointment

### **Departmental Course Contact:**

King, Malaysia A; Office: CTB 5220; Ph. No.: 352-294-5926; email: [king33@UFL.EDU](mailto:king33@UFL.EDU)

### **Course Overview**

This is the second course of a two-course sequence with the purpose of providing students with advanced knowledge and practice of general regression models for independent and dependent outcomes. Students will learn generalized linear model regression methods and generalized linear mixed model regression methods. Bayesian and Frequentist inference will be covered. Students will be expected to use learn to use the statistical packages R for data analysis.

### **Prerequisites**

Advanced Biostatistical Methods I, or permission of the instructor. Students must own a laptop that can run the statistical package R, which is freely available at <http://cran.r-project.org/>.

### **Course Objectives and/or Goals**

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

- Formulate a statistical problem in terms of a Frequentist or Bayesian generalized linear or generalized linear mixed model in a way that meets the goals of a collaborating health scientist.
- Apply and interpret generalized linear and generalized linear mixed models.
- Describe and interpret the advanced theory of generalized linear and generalized linear mixed models.
- Interpret statistical analyses while remaining aware of limitations.

### **Course Materials**

**Required text:** *An Introduction to Generalized Linear Models (Texts in Statistical Science)*, Third or Fourth Edition, by Annette J. Dobson and Adrian G. Barnett, Chapman & Hall/CRC Texts in Statistical Science). ISBN: 978-1351726214 or 978-1351726215

Reference Text:

[1] *Generalized Linear Models (Chapman & Hall/CRC Monographs on Statistics and Applied Probability)* 2nd Edition

[2] *Extending the Linear Model with R: Generalized Linear, Mixed Effects and Nonparametric Regression Models*, Second Edition (Chapman & Hall/CRC Texts in Statistical Science)  
by Julian J. Faraway | Mar 24, 2016

[3] *Generalized Estimating Equations* 2nd Edition by James W. Hardin and Joseph M. Hilbe

### **Course Requirements/Evaluation/Grading**

Students are responsible for all course material, including reading required materials prior to each class. Failure to complete assignments will result in a failing grade.

The assessment will include class participation, two quizzes and two exams. Class participation will include regular attendance and participation in assignment discussions.

Class participation: 10%

Quiz 1: 20%

Quiz 2: 20%

Exam 1 (mid-semester): 25%

Exam 2 (Take Home Exam): 25%

The grading scale for this course consists of the standard scale, including minus grades, below. The conversion factors for grade point values that are assigned to each grade are also included (in parentheses):

#### **Grading Scale**

97-100% - A+	92-96% - A	90-91% - A-
88-89% - B+	82-87% - B	80-81% - B-

78-79% - C+	72-77% - C	70-71% - C-
	65-69% - D	

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Critical Dates and Tentative Outline (\*\*Please note that the teaching and exam schedules are tentative)**

**Class begins: Jan 13, 2025;**

**Spring Break 15 to 22 March (i.e. March 18 and 20 no class for us)**

**Classes end on April 23, 2025;**

**Quiz 1: February 4;**

**Exam 1: March 13;**

**Quiz 2: April 9;**

**EXAM 2 (Take home Exam) due by 5 PM on Apr 26**

Class Session	Topics	Material to read
Week 1-2	Review of linear models, nonlinear models; General principle of model fitting and diagnostics; Introduction of GLM, Exponential family	Chapters1-3 (Dobson); Handouts/class notes
Feb 4, 2025	Quiz 1	
Week 3-5	Generalized linear models, Estimation, Inferences	Chapters 3-5 (Dobson); Chapter 3&4 (Hardin & Hilbe); Handouts/class notes
March 13, 2025	Exam 1	
Week 6-9,	Software for GLM; Logistic and Poisson regression models; Gamma family, Inverse Gaussian family; Overdispersion issues. (Note: Student's assignments for lectures may be given here)	Chapters7-9 (Dobson); Handouts/class notes
March 18 and 20, 2025	Spring break	
April 9, 2025	Quiz 2	

Week 10-14	Quasi-likelihood function; GEE; Population-averaged GEE; Sandwich estimate; Missing data; Diagnostics; Software for GEE.	Chapter 11 (Dobson); Handouts/class notes
April 26, 2025	Exam 2 due	Comprehensive and Take-home

**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, the Graduate Student Handbook and these web sites for more details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

**Policy Related to Class Attendance and Late or Missed Assignments:**

Attendance of all class sessions is required. Please see the instructor as early as possible regarding possible absences. All assignments need to be handed in on time. Grading will penalize late assignments. Missed assignments will receive a zero score. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements (assignments, final presentation, class discussion) will be handled on an individual basis.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://dss.ufl.edu/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework. We all learn differently: however, if you have experienced problems in university classes with writing, in-class exams, understanding or concentrating in class; please talk to us or access a learning or education testing resource at the University or in another professional setting.

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online 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>.

### **Counseling and Student Health**

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the University of Florida Counseling Center, 352-392-1575, or Student Mental Health Services, 352-392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/> or <http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent>

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, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy 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: [www.health.ufl.edu/shcc](http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc)

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:

Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

**<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>**

*BUT – 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.*

### **Class Demeanor Expected by the Professor (late to class, cell phones) :**

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.