Course Syllabus
STAT 302:
Statistical Software and its Applications
Winter 2013

Instructor: Fritz Scholz
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Office hours: TTH 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Course Website:

Class Schedule: TTh 10:30-11:50 THOMSON 119, for now, but trying to change the room.

Course Overview: This course is an introduction to data structures, data import and export, some programming, and basic analyses in statistical computing packages. This term, the course will focus on using R for data analysis, graphics, and simulation, but we will also work with SAS. We start by introducing the typesetting system \LaTeX, widely used in the scientific community. This course is intended to precede other applied statistics courses so that students enter these courses with a reliable common background in statistical software use. Such courses would deal with the more sophisticated analyses not covered here.

Prerequisites: Basic statistics (either STAT 311, STAT 390 or equivalent).

Course Format: I will lecture from slides, interspersed with live computer demonstrations, and occasionally with in class exercises, for which you need your own laptops. Lecture slides will be posted on the class web site, as are other course materials. The fact that the slides are posted should not invite you to skip class. There will be homework assignments, to be completed using \LaTeX and a midterm.

Objective: The main point of this course is to give you a working start with the covered software \LaTeX, R, and SAS. You can spend a lifetime mastering each. I am still learning each one of these systems, especially SAS which is new to me.

This course was created out of a student initiative. It is up to you to get the most out of it. Grades are secondary.

Grades: The midterm will count for 1/3, HW for 1/2 and 1/6 is determined by my perception of your efforts.

Suggested Textbooks: