



Course Syllabus and Schedule Summer 2025
MET CS544 Foundations of Analytics
BOSTON CAMPUS
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MET CS544 Course Description

The goal of this course is to provide students with the mathematical and practical background required in data analytics. The R tool is introduced for statistical computing and graphics, starting with an introduction to probability and statistics. Various types of data are investigated, along with data summarization techniques and plotting methods. Data populations with discrete, continuous, and multivariate distributions are explored. Sampling methods and errors during measurements and computations are analyzed. String manipulations and data wrangling methods are examined in detail. The concepts covered in the course are demonstrated using R. This is a laboratory course

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Learning Objectives By successfully completing this course, you will be able to: • Acquire the basic concepts of R • Model random experiments using R • Analyze univariate, bivariate, and multivariate data • Learn various discrete and continuous probability distributions • Understand sampling methods and errors • Understand string manipulation methods and regular expressions • Perform data wrangling tasks using tidyverse suite of R packages

Prerequisites:

- CS546 and (MET CS 520 or MET CS 521)
- or equivalent knowledge
- or instructor's consent

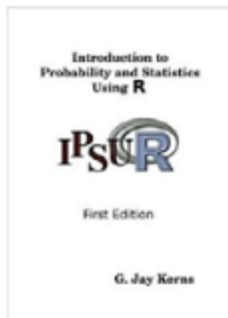
May 27, 2025

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Books:

- No Required Books

Recommended Books:



Kerns, G. J. (2010). Introduction to probability and statistics using R.
Publisher: G. Jay Kerns.

ISBN-13: 978-0557249794

ISBN-10: 0557249791

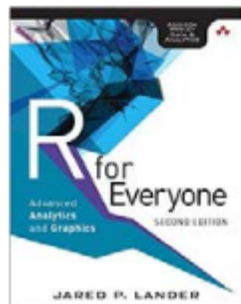
This book is available for download at https://gis-lab.info/docs/books/kerns10_ipsur.pdf



Verzani, J. (2014). Using R for introductory statistics - 2nd Edition.
New York: Chapman & Hall.

ISBN 9781466590731.

This book can be purchased from Barnes & Noble at Boston University.



Lander, J. (2017). R for Everyone: Advanced Analytics and Graphics - 2nd Edition.

Publisher: Addison-Wesley Professional

ISBN 978-0134546926.

This book can be purchased from Barnes & Noble at Boston University.

Class Policies:

- 1) **Attendance & Absences** – Full attendance and participation are expected. If there is a reason to miss a session, an advanced notice should be sent to the lecturer.
- 2) **Assignment Completion & Late Work** – All assignments should be submitted on time. If there is a delay, the student must be in touch with the instructor before the submission deadline. Late submissions without reasons will result in a grade deduction.
- 3) **Academic Conduct Code** – Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in any Metropolitan College course. They will result in no credit for the assignment or examination and may lead to disciplinary actions. Please take the time to review the Student Academic Conduct Code:
http://www.bu.edu/met/metropolitan_college_people/student/resources/conduct/cod e.html.

NOTE: [This should not be understood as a discouragement for discussing the material or your particular approach to a problem with other students in the class. On the contrary – you should share your thoughts, questions, and solutions. Naturally, if you choose to work in a group, you will be expected to come up with more than one highly original solution.]

Grading Criteria:

- **Programming Assignments:** Students are expected to program the assignments independently using the respective technologies. Each assignment is graded based on correctness and the programming style.
- **Final Project:** Students are expected to complete a data analysis project independently, present the project, and submit the relevant files. Check Final Project details on the Assignments page in the Blackboard.
- **Quizzes:** There will be quizzes. The primary goal of quizzes is to let students keep current with the course material.
- **Final Examination:** The final exam will be comprehensive and will cover material from the entire course. The final exam lasts for 2 hours. This will be an open book/open notes format.

- **The final grade**
 - Active class participation 10%
 - Quizzes 10%
 - Assignments 15%
 - Final Project 25%
 - Final Exam 40%

Note: The instructor's subjective assessment of your Final Project is made after review of your project submission and presentation.

Note: The instructor's subjective assessment of your Active class participation are made after the last class and upon reviewing your performance over the whole term.

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Study Guide:

Module 1 (Lecture 1 & 2) – Introduction

- Introduction to Statistics and Probability
- Basic Concepts of R • Data Types and Structures

Module 2 (Lecture 3 & 4) – Probability

- Probability
- Conditional Probability
- Random Variables
- Basic Concepts of R - Programming Constructs

Module 3 (Lecture 5 & 6) – Data Description

- Univariate Data
- Bivariate Data
- Multivariate Data

Module 4 (Lecture 7 & 8) – Distributions

- Discrete Distributions
- Continuous Distributions

Module 5 (Lecture 9 & 10) – Sampling and Errors

- Central Limit Theorem
- Sampling Methods
- Errors, Measurement of Errors
- Biases, Noise, Data Dredging
- Resampling Methods

Module 6 (Lecture 11 & 12) – Strings and Data Wrangling

- Strings and Regular Expressions
- Data Wrangling

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:



Behdad Shahossini is an innovative, accomplished, and well-respected high technology professional who focuses on IT project management, qualitative and quantitative analysis and corporate strategy. Behdad has over 20 years of experience in software application development projects. He has expertise in managing Web application projects. He possesses strong consulting and analytical knowledge from various industries including government, telecommunication, and insurance. He also brings practical experience and useful anecdotes that he shares in his teaching from his prior work as a consultant for IBM Global Services Division (based in New York City)

dealing with strategy and IT services and management for a variety of organizations – small and large – in the academic, government, and business worlds. Behdad is currently an instructor at Boston University lecturing classes in Software Engineering, System Analysis and Design, Data Base Management, Web Development, and Computer Languages. He holds a B.S in Information and Computer Science from University of California at Irvine (UCI) and a Masters from Boston University MET College.

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Office Hours: Schedule for mutual convenience, can remain after class to meet with students

WHEN EMAILING - Always put the course/section number “CS544” (and any other relevant information) at the beginning of your “Subject” line of email; otherwise I may not see it among the clutter, and your email may be lost or mixed in with another class. All assignments must be electronically submitted through BLACKBOARD not through ordinary email (see below for details and correct filename format) or they will not be credited.

Boston University Link Library:

As Boston University students, you have full access to the BU Library—even if you do not live in Boston. From any computer, you can gain access to anything at the library that is electronically formatted. To connect to the library use the link <http://www.bu.edu/library>. You may use the library's content whether you are connected through your online course or not, by confirming your status as a BU community member using your Kerberos password. Once in the library system, you can use the links under “Resources” and “Collections” to find databases, eJournals, and eBooks, as well as search the library by subject. Go to <http://www.bu.edu/library/research/collections> to access eBooks and eJournals directly. If you have questions about library resources, go to <http://www.bu.edu/library/help/ask-a-librarian> to email the library or use the live chat feature. To locate course eReserves, go to <http://www.bu.edu/library/services/reserves>. Please note that you are not to post attachments of the required or other readings in the water cooler or other areas of the course, as it is an infringement on copyright laws and department policy. All students have access to the library system and will need to develop research skills that include how to find articles through library systems and databases.

Academic Conduct Policy

For the full text of the academic conduct code, please go to <http://www.bu.edu/met/for-students/metpolicies-procedures-resources/academic-conduct-code/>.

A Definition of Plagiarism

“The academic counterpart of the bank embezzler and of the manufacturer who mislabels products is the plagiarist: the student or scholar who leads readers to believe that what they are reading is the original work of the writer when it is not. If it could be assumed that the distinction between plagiarism and honest use of sources is perfectly clear in everyone’s mind, there would be no need for the explanation that follows; merely the warning with which this definition concludes would be enough. But it is apparent that sometimes people of goodwill draw the suspicion of guilt upon themselves (and, indeed, are guilty) simply because they are not aware of the illegitimacy of certain kinds of “borrowing” and of the procedures for correct identification of materials other than those gained through independent research and reflection.”

“The spectrum is a wide one. At one end there is a word-for-word copying of another’s writing without enclosing the copied passage in quotation marks and identifying it in a footnote, both of which are necessary. (This includes, of course, the copying of all or any part of another student’s paper.) It hardly seems possible that anyone of college age or more could do that without clear intent to deceive. At the other end there is the almost casual slipping in of a particularly apt term which one has come across in reading and which so aptly expresses one’s opinion that one is tempted to make it personal property.”

“Between these poles there are degrees and degrees, but they may be roughly placed in two groups. Close to outright and blatant deceit-but more the result, perhaps, of laziness than of bad intent-is the patching together of random jottings made in the course of reading, generally without careful identification of their source, and then woven into the text, so that the result is a mosaic of other people’s ideas and words, the writer’s sole contribution being the cement to hold the pieces together. Indicative of more effort and, for that reason, somewhat closer to honest, though still dishonest, is the paraphrase, and abbreviated (and often skillfully prepared) restatement of someone else’s analysis or conclusion, without acknowledgment that another person’s text has been the basis for the recapitulation.”

The paragraphs above are from H. Martin and R. Ohmann, *The Logic and Rhetoric of Exposition*, Revised Edition. Copyright 1963, Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Academic Conduct Code

1. Philosophy of Discipline

The objective of Boston University in enforcing academic rules is to promote a community atmosphere in which learning can best take place. Such an atmosphere can be maintained only so long as every student believes that his or her academic competence is being judged fairly and that he or she will not be put at a disadvantage because of someone else’s dishonesty. Penalties should be carefully determined so as to be no more and no less than required to maintain the desired atmosphere. In defining violations of this code, the intent is to protect the integrity of the educational process.

2. Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is conduct by which a student misrepresents his or her academic accomplishments, or impedes other students' opportunities of being judged fairly for their academic work. Knowingly allowing others to represent your work as their own is as serious an offense as submitting another's work as your own.

3. Violations of this Code

Violations of this code comprise attempts to be dishonest or deceptive in the performance of academic work in or out of the classroom, alterations of academic records, alterations of official data on paper or electronic resumes, or unauthorized collaboration with another student or students. Violations include, but are not limited to:

- a) **Cheating on examination.** Any attempt by a student to alter his or her performance on an examination in violation of that examination's stated or commonly understood ground rules.
- b) **Plagiarism.** Representing the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following: copying the answers of another student on an examination, copying or restating the work or ideas of another person or persons in any oral or written work (printed or electronic) without citing the appropriate source, and collaborating with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution. Plagiarism can consist of acts of commission-appropriating the words or ideas of another-or omission failing to acknowledge/document/credit the source or creator of words or ideas (see below for a detailed definition of plagiarism).

It also includes colluding with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution, using audio or video footage that comes from another source (including work done by another student) without permission and acknowledgement of that source.

- c) Misrepresentation or falsification of data presented for surveys, experiments, reports, etc., which includes but is not limited to: citing authors that do not exist; citing interviews that never took place, or field work that was not completed.
- d) Theft of an examination. Stealing or otherwise discovering and/or making known to others the contents of an examination that has not yet been administered.
- e) Unauthorized communication during examinations. Any unauthorized communication may be considered prima facie evidence of cheating.
- f) Knowingly allowing another student to represent your work as his or her own. This includes providing a copy of your paper or laboratory report to another student without the explicit permission of the instructor(s).
- g) Forgery, alteration, or knowing misuse of graded examinations, quizzes, grade lists, or official records of documents, including but not limited to transcripts from any institution, letters of recommendation, degree certificates, examinations, quizzes, or other work after submission.
- h) Theft or destruction of examinations or papers after submission.
- i) Submitting the same work in more than one course without the consent of instructors.
- j) Altering or destroying another student's work or records, altering records of any kind, removing materials from libraries or offices without consent, or in any way interfering with the work of others so as to impede their academic performance.

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- k) Violation of the rules governing teamwork. Unless the instructor of a course otherwise specifically provides instructions to the contrary, the following rules apply to teamwork: 1. No team member shall intentionally restrict or inhibit another team member's access to team meetings, team work-in-progress, or other team activities without the express authorization of the instructor. 2. All team members shall be held responsible for the content of all teamwork submitted for evaluation as if each team member had individually submitted the entire work product of their team as their own work.
- l) Failure to sit in a specifically assigned seat during examinations.
- m) Conduct in a professional field assignment that violates the policies and regulations of the host school or agency.
- n) Conduct in violation of public law occurring outside the University that directly affects the academic and professional status of the student, after civil authorities have imposed sanctions.
- o) Attempting improperly to influence the award of any credit, grade, or honor.
- p) Intentionally making false statements to the Academic Conduct Committee or intentionally presenting false information to the Committee.
- q) Failure to comply with the sanctions imposed under the authority of this code.

Disability Services

Boston University makes every effort to accommodate the unique needs of its students. In keeping with university policy, students are expected to contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (www.bu.edu/disability/) each time they register for a course to request accommodations for that course.

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation for a documented disability should contact the Office for Disability Services at (617) 353-3658 or at access@bu.edu for review and approval of accommodation requests

Technical Support

Experiencing issues with BU websites or Blackboard? It may be a system-wide problem. Check the BU Information Services & Technology (IS&T) news page for announcements: <https://www.bu.edu/tech/news/>

Boston University technical support via email (ithelp@bu.edu), the support form (<http://www.bu.edu/help/tech/>), and phone (888-243-4596) is available from 8 AM to midnight eastern time. For other times, you may still submit a support request via email, phone, or the support form, but your question won't receive a response until the following day. If you aren't calling, it is highly recommended that you submit your support request via the technical-support form at <http://www.bu.edu/help/tech/learn> as this provides the IS&T Help Center with the best information in order to resolve your issue as quickly as possible.

Examples of issues you might want to request support for include the following:

- Problems viewing or listening to sound or video files
- Problems accessing internal messages
- Problems viewing or posting comments
- Problems attaching or uploading files for assignments or discussions
- Problems accessing or submitting an assessment

To ensure the fastest possible response, please fill out the online form using the link below:

Web: <https://www.bu.edu/tech/contact/>

Phone: 888-243-4596 or local 617-353-4357