Course #: STAT 5195 (CRN 22418)
Course Title: Graduate Seminar
Credit Hours: 1.0
Term: Spring 2024
Course Meetings & Location: Tuesday 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM, Bell Hall 130 (The meeting time may change depending on department colloquiums and other factors. Generally, the department colloquiums are on Fridays from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM in Bell Hall 130/143.)
Prerequisite Courses: None

Instructor: Dr. Abhijit Mandal, Associate Professor
Office Location: Bell Hall 200
Contact Info: E-mail address: amandal@utep.edu
Phone: 915-747-8246 (Math Department)
Fax: 915-747-6502 (Math Department)
Emergency Contact: 915-747-5761 (Math Department)

Office Hours: Thursday 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM at Bell Hall 200 or by appointment by email.

TA: Dr. Evans Etrue Howard (Email: eetruehowa@miners.utep.edu)

Textbook(s), Materials: None

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: Conferences and discussions of various topics in mathematics and statistics by faculty, graduate students, and outside speakers. Required of all graduate students during each semester of full-time enrollment. May not be counted more than once toward the degree requirement.

Course Activities/Assignments: The activities include presentations on a book chapter, a data analysis project, and research topic presentations. Students will also attend presentations by faculty, students, and outside speakers. The department colloquium is a part of this course. The usual in-class meeting will be skipped if there is a colloquium talk that week.

Assessment of Course Objectives:
- Understand how to search the statistics literature.
- Gain experience in preparing and making statistics presentations.
- Learn some basic principles about writing research papers in statistics.
Course Schedule: Duration: 01/16/2024 – 05/02/2024. 
Spring Break: March 11, 2024, to March 15, 2024. 
Course-drop deadline: Thursday, 03/28/2024 (No “W” will be assigned for dropping the course after the deadline!)

Grading Policy: Book Chapter Presentation: 33% 
Data Analysis Presentation: 33% 
Research Paper Presentation: 34%

The usual grading scale will be used for this course (90–100% = A, 80–89.99% = B, 70–79.99% = C, 60–69.99% = D, 0–59.99% = F).

Make-up Policy: Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me - in advance if possible - and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

Attendance Policy: Students are encouraged to attend class presentations, department seminars, and colloquiums.

Course Drop Policy: According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of ‘W’ will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of ‘F’ after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I may drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

Incomplete Grade Policy: Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.
Class Recordings: Some classes/group discussions may be recorded. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. Student presentations may be shared in the class for review. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Technology Requirements: Some course contents are delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop (Windows or Mac). You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Jupyter notebook, PyCharm (or equivalent IDE for Python programming), R, RStudio and Miktex (or MacTeX for Mac). Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with the technological needs of students. Please do not contact the instructor for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped to assist you!
Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues:

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials:

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Accommodations Policy:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Scholastic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.
Guidance on Artificial Intelligence: Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is only allowed with proper attribution given for its use.

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”
Generated using OpenAI. https://chat.openai.com/

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

Plagiarism Detecting Software: Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Resources: Where you can go for assistance: UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.

Last updated: 01/16/2024

Disclaimer: This syllabus may be subject to changes if these are deemed necessary by the instructor.