

STAT 3450 SYLLABUS

STATISTICAL LEARNING WITH R

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Winter 2024

Dalhousie University acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

Course Instructor

Théo Michelot

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Office: Chase Building – 201

Office hour: Monday 1 – 2pm

Course Description

This course explores the theory and application of common statistical methods used by data scientists, including classification, linear and non-linear models, unsupervised learning, and deep learning.

- Course prerequisites: STAT 2450 (Introduction to Data Mining in R)
- Course exclusions: None

Course structure

Lectures will be delivered in person, and will not be recorded.

- Monday 2:35pm – 3:55pm
- Wednesday 2:35pm – 3:55pm

Room: Life Science Centre – P4260

Course materials

The main reference for this course is the free textbook:

- ☰ James, Witten, Hastie & Tibshirani (2021). *An Introduction to Statistical Learning, with Applications in R (Second Edition)*, Springer. <https://www.statlearning.com/>

Reading will be assigned weekly throughout the term. Relevant course materials, including notes, slides, and assignments will be shared on Brightspace.

Assessment

Your final grade will combine assignments, a midterm exam, and a final exam, with the following weights.

	Weight	Date
5 assignments	$5 \times 10\% = 50\%$	Every two weeks
Midterm exam	20%	February 26, 2:35pm – 3:55pm
Final exam	30%	TBD by registrar's office

Conversion of numerical grades to final letter grades follows the Dalhousie Grade Scale

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (0-49)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

Course Policies on Missed or Late Academic Requirements

Late assignment submissions will result in a penalty of 10% per day, with a limit of three days. If the submission is more than three days late, the assignment mark will be zero. If there is a good reason why you will not be able to submit an assignment on time (or at all), you should contact me about it as early as possible.

Course Policies Related to Academic Integrity

Students are not allowed to work together on assignments.

You can use generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) for assignments, for help generating ideas and computer code. You should not directly copy any text generated by AI, as this poses a difficult problem regarding indirect plagiarism and the inability to identify original sources. If you use AI, your submission must include a statement describing the specific tool that you used, and what you used it for (e.g., help with code, brainstorming). You are responsible for checking the accuracy of the information.

Learning Objectives

- Understanding the connection between statistical inference and machine learning.

- Understanding classification, regression, and unsupervised learning methods.
- Being able to analyse a wide range of data sets using statistical learning methods in R.

Course Content

This is a tentative overview of the topics covered in the course, subject to change.

1. Introduction to statistical learning
2. Introduction to classification
3. Tree-based methods
4. Linear models and beyond
5. Unsupervised learning
6. Deep learning

University Policies and Statements

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre at 1321 Edward St or elders@dal.ca. Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html.

Internationalization

At Dalhousie, 'thinking and acting globally' enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is "interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders". Additional internationalization information can be found at: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html>.

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Additional academic integrity information can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html.

Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact the Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) for all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro. For

courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture, please contact the Student Success Centre in Truro (<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html>).

Conduct in the Classroom – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Additional diversity and inclusion information can be found at: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>.

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner - perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. The full Code of Student Conduct can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html.

Fair Dealing Policy

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie. Additional information regarding the Fair Dealing Policy can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html.

Originality Checking Software

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes of their intent to choose an alternate method. Additional information regarding Originality Checking Software can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/

academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html

Student Use of Course Materials

Course materials are designed for use as part of this course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.