Course Goals and Objectives

The course is organized into theoretical and practice sessions

- Theoretical sessions introduce a topic, there are slides
- In practice sessions, we apply the methods of the previous session in a live-coding hands-on fashion
- Practice sessions are there to decompress and to slow down the pace of the course
- Gives you the opportunity to ask questions that came up after that week’s theory session

Topics we are going to discuss:

- What is computational modelling for?
- Relationship between models and the real world
- Simple inferential models
- Modelling of causal implications: what causes the patterns I see in the data?
- Multi-level models: overfitting/underfitting control
- Different data types: categorical (classification), continuous, ordered, etc.
- Latent variables and missing data: modelling what we can’t observe.
- Foundations of ML – Gaussian processes
- Spline models
- State-space models
- Modelling of dynamic processes

Requirements:

In order to take part in the course, a syllabus quiz must be passed by the date given below 11.59pm. This quiz is a multiple-choice test that tests whether students have read
and understood the items on the course syllabus. The quiz will be uploaded to canvas can be retaken as many times as are needed to pass. The syllabus quiz does not count towards the final grade.

**Canvas:**

I will upload the following files:

- lecture slides
- lecture script & datasets

We will have a linguistic dataset repository online where we store different datasets that are derived from actual research (my research, research of colleagues’ replication datasets provided by researchers online) *Do not share the datasets with people outside of this course!* 

**Recommended Reading:**

*There is no course book per se but the course is inspired by the books:*


*Those are available as e-books at the library.*

**Communication with the instructor and TA:**

Questions concerning course organization, deadlines etc. and for help with technical issues, first contact our TA(s).

I am happy to answer all other questions via email or at scheduled meetings. If I get many questions about the same topic, I might wait until our next session to answer them for everyone.

*The following rules apply in the interaction with me and the TA:*
When you write an email, I will get back to you in within a reasonable time span during business hours (Mo-Fri, 8am to 5pm). I will not respond to any emails outside of these business hours. Meetings with students will be scheduled by appointment only and only over Zoom unless otherwise agreed upon with me or the TA. Scheduling a meeting can only be done via email.

Due to scheduling reasons, I or the TA might not be able to answer questions after class. If you have questions after class and I or the TA inform you that we do not take questions after this particular class, please ask the questions via email or ask for a meeting appointment.

Students are expected to adhere to the UNT policy of conduct (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012/). Violations of this policy (e.g. student misconduct or student disruptive behavior) will be reported to the Dean of Students. On academic misconduct see the section plagiarism policy below.

Examination:

There are two academic examinations (assignments) over the course of the semester. The final grade will be calculated from all examinations where the assignments make up 1/2 of the final grade each. This means that a failing grade on any of the assignments does not result in a student failing the course, provided that the final grade (calculated as outlined above) is not a failing grade.

The assignments are due on the dates given below respectively (at 11.59pm on those days) and will go online on Canvas one week prior to each due date. The assignments will cover the topics discussed in the weeks prior to the assignment start date and since the start date of the previous exam. After the start dates of each assignment, you will find a sheet with detailed instructions in the assignment rubric on Canvas. To complete each assignment, you must upload two documents to the designated rubric in Canvas: a documentation sheet and a code script. Details such as minimum word counts can be found on the instruction sheet of each assignment.

Both failure to turn in an assignment by the end of the deadline and failure to adhere to the rules and conditions outlined on the assignment description sheet results in an F on this assignment. There will be no extensions of the deadline, no acceptance of late submissions, no and no bonus assignments.

The grading scale is the US Letter Grade with A (best), B, C, D, F (fail).
Class schedule and important dates (subject to changes):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bayesian inference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MCMC and linear models</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MCMC and linear models II</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Causality</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Causality II; Logistic models</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Linear and nonlinear models</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Categorical classification &amp; ordered models</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hierarchical models I</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Hierarchical models II</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Latent variables, missing data</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Gaussian processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Splines</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dynamics</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Final discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Finals week</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus quiz</td>
<td>1/19/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>2/29/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>4/25/24</td>
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</tbody>
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Plagiarism policy:

Students are expected to adhere to UNT policy of academic integrity (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003). Violations thereof will be reported and sanctioned following UNT protocol (Section IV.D. of policy 06.003 Student Academic Integrity) on this matter.

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements
The following are minimum technology requirements for students to attend the course and communicate with the instructor:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy
Course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course include:
• Using Canvas
• Using email with attachments

Rules of Engagement
Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

• Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
• Always use your professors’ proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
• Unless specifically invited, do not refer to your instructor by first name.
• Use clear and concise language.
• Remember that all college level communication should have appropriate language (this includes discussion boards).
• Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
• Be careful with personal information (both yours and other’s).
• Do not send confidential information via e-mail

Getting Help

Technical Assistance
Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130
Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm
Telephone Availability:
• Sunday: noon-midnight
• Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
• Friday: 8am-8pm
• Saturday: 9am-5pm
Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Student Support Services
UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

• [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
• [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
• **UNT Care Team** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
• **UNT Psychiatric Services** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
• **Individual Counseling** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Other student support services offered by UNT include
• **Registrar** (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
• **Financial Aid** (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
• **Student Legal Services** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
• **Career Center** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
• **Multicultural Center** (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
• **Counseling and Testing Services** (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
• **Pride Alliance** (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
• **UNT Food Pantry** (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

**Academic Support Services**
• **Academic Resource Center** (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
• **Academic Success Center** (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
• **UNT Libraries** (https://library.unt.edu/)
• **Writing Lab** (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
• **MathLab** (https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)

**UNT Policies**

**Academic Integrity Policy**
Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**ADA Policy**
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

**Emergency Notification & Procedures**
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety
emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect
Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences
related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation
To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:
(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance
To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:
(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification
UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).
Use of Student Work
A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student’s permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student’s written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings. Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.