

Fall 2008
Statistics 795: Practicum in Statistical Consulting

I. General Information

Lecture: TTh 4 -5:15pm, GMCS 405
Course web page: rohan.sdsu.edu/~jjfan/sta795

Instructor: Juanjuan Fan
Office: GMCS 519
E-mail: jjfan@sciences.sdsu.edu
Office Hours: T 3-4 pm, Th 1:45-2:45pm, GMCS 519

Textbook: *Statistical Consulting*
by Cabrera and McDougall (2002), Springer

References: 1. *Statistical Consulting: A Guide to Effective Communication*
by Derr (2000), Duxbury/Thomson Learning
2. *Problem Solving: A Statistician's Guide, 2nd Ed.*
by Chatfield (1995), Chapman & Hall/CRC

Prerequisites: 1. At least one statistics theory course: Stat 551B or 670B
2. At least one applied statistics/data analysis course: Stat 510, 520, or 700

Grading: Class participation and presentation: 30%
Data analysis and report writing assignments: 35%
Consulting activities: 35%

Homework: There will be 3-4 homework assignments this semester. The homework will be in the format of data analysis and report writing. You will be given 2 weeks to finish each homework.

Presentations: Each of you will be asked to give two presentations. The first presentation will be in the beginning of the semester on oral and written presentation skills. The second presentation will be at the end of the semester on popular topics and their extensions that are useful for a career as a statistician but that we normally do not cover in our curriculum due to time constraint. Reference articles for presentation will be provided.

II. Course Content

This course will serve as a practicum in statistical consulting. As such, the course content will include:

1. Review and introduction of necessary statistical methods and tools: these will be linked to case studies and real data sets from clients
2. Oral and written presentation skills
3. Group and individual contacts with clients