14.310x: Grading and Homework Policy

The cutoff to pass the online class will be a 50% grade. The grades for the online class are explained below:

- **Overall edX Course Grade:**
- Homework Assignments: **45%**
- Finger Exercises: **30%**
- Final Exam: **25%**

- **Homework (HW): Lowest 2 homework assignments will be dropped**

We want you to succeed in this course! We will be dropping each student's two lowest homework grades. If you do miss a deadline, we strongly encourage you to complete the homework assignment in any case. These are an important part of the course and will be a great learning experience!

- **Finger Exercises (FE): Lowest 3 lecture sequence FE will be dropped**

In order to facilitate engagement and learning while watching lectures, we hope that students will complete and score well on the finger exercises placed throughout the lectures. However, we understand that some questions are harder than others. Since our focus is to facilitate engagement, if you put in the effort to answer FE questions, we will drop the 3 lowest FE lecture sequence scores.

- **Final Exam**

The final exam will be multiple choice and will span content from the entire course. The final exam will be worth 25% of your final edX course grade.

Homework Policy

- **About the homework assignments**

The homework assignments will be educational and challenging. You will have the chance to work with real data using a statistical software package R (open-source and free). Most of which have a component requiring you to generate output using R. Once you have worked through the homework assignment, you will answer a series of numerical entry or multiple choice questions online (using the output you generated) to submit your answers for grading.

The course team will provide you with resources for getting started with R, but we also encourage you to use the extensive resources available on the web that exist for R. We encourage you to stick with it and do your best!

- **Due Date: Deadlines are firm**

Homework will typically be released at 12am UTC on Mondays along with the video lectures and finger exercises for each unit. Homework assignments will then be due at 11:30pm UTC on Sundays, just under a week later. The homework assignments will challenge you and make take some time to work through.

We understand that all of our students have other time commitments and it may sometimes be difficult to complete the homework on time. That said, we will be unable to grant extensions to the homework assignments. The course progresses at a certain pace, and we encourage you to plan ahead and keep up with the course.

- **Time Zones: Please pay attention to time zone differences**

All release dates, due dates etc. will automatically be converted to your preferred zone rather than UTC time. However, if you do not set your preferred time zone then the deadline will remain in UTC. If you do not convert to UTC, you will notice that all deadlines in the course are mentioned in UTC, Universal Coordinated Time. You are responsible for making time zone conversions to your local time zone to meet the deadlines. You will have about a week to complete each homework, so please budget your time accordingly for the due date.

We suggest this website for determining the deadline in your local time zone. (Please keep in mind that some location will begin Daylight Savings Time during the course.)

- **Solutions: Solutions will be posted after the due date**

Solutions to the homework will be posted after the deadline and will be available until the end of the course. Our goal is for you to learn as much as possible! If you are here to learn and love the course, then please take the time to review your answers. Even if you did not finish the homework, please look at the questions, attempt them, and then look at the solutions to make sure you understand the concepts!