



Students requiring accommodations as a result of disability, must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities 604-291-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca

Instructor: [Dr. Tim Swartz](#)

Prerequisite:

STAT 330 and STAT 350.

Textbook:

No textbook required.

References:

Bayes and Empirical Bayes Methods for Data Analysis (Carlin & Louis)

Bayesian Data Analysis (Gelman, Carlin, Stern & Rubin)

Calendar Description:

The Bayesian approach to statistics is an alternative and increasingly popular way of quantifying uncertainty in the presence of data. This course considers comparative statistical inference, prior distributions, Bayesian computation, and applications.

Outline:

1. The basics:

- the Bayesian paradigm
- comparative statistical inference

2. Priors:

- conjugate priors
- prior elicitation
- reference priors
- improper priors
- discrete mass priors

3. Computations:

- quadrature
- importance sampling
- Markov chain Monte Carlo

4. Other topics:

- testing via Bayes factors
- interval and point estimation
- elementary decision theory
- hierarchical models
- Dirichlet process

5. Applications:

Grading Scheme:

Assignments – 20marks

Midterm 1 – 15marks

Midterm 2 – 15 marks

Final – 50marks

Students should be aware that they have certain rights to confidentiality concerning the return of course papers and the posting of marks. Please pay careful attention to the options discussed in class at the beginning of the semester. Students are reminded that Academic Honesty is a cornerstone of the acquisition of knowledge. Scholarly integrity is required of all members of the University. Please consult the General Guidelines of the calendar for more details.