Homework Guidelines

Essentially every week in this course you will need to turn in written homework. Here are some guidelines that will help you do well on the homework:

• The homework problems come from the book. They are listed on the class webpage, and are assigned every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They are collected on Mondays.

• Solutions are to be written up neatly on loose-leaf paper. Please avoid ratty edges (i.e. don’t tear paper from a spiral notebook), staple your work, and write your first and last name.

• Since homework is collected once a week, it can be tempting to put it off until the night before it is due. I recommend against this policy. You will be better served if you do the relevant homework every day after coming to class. This approach not only allows you to distribute the workload, but it gives you the opportunity to ask questions in class if you get stuck or have issues. I will be happy to spend class-time addressing your questions on the homework, just make sure to ask me (eg. at the beginning of class.)

• I ask that all your homework be written up in complete sentences, paying particular attention to elements of communication. Ask yourself: would my answer make sense to someone who doesn’t have the book handy? You don’t need to re-write the problem statements, but you should include at least enough information that the reader understands the issues. For example, if the problem in the book gives a long paragraph of description about a randomized drug trial, followed by a simple question like “identify each variable as categorical or quantitative”, you could start your answer: “The quantitative variables in this random drug trial are the following:” followed by a list of the quantitative variables + an explanation for each one as to why you tagged it as such. **Always include an explanation!** An answer alone is never sufficient.