

AESC 8150
SEMINAR IN AGRICULTURAL DATA SCIENCE
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING SEMESTER 2025

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructors may be necessary.

Course goals: Seminar course featuring UGA and external (industry and academia) speakers highlighting diverse concepts and applications of data science and analytics to applied problems in the food, agricultural, and forestry sciences.

Class period: Fridays, 12:40 to 1:30 p.m.,
Athens: Room 2102 Miller Plant Sciences (MPS)
Griffin and Tifton by Zoom (link will be provided to the off-campus students by the instructors)

Instructors: Dr. Harald Scherm 2105 Plant Sciences ☎ 706-542-2571 E-mail: scherm@uga.edu	Dr. Md Sultan Mahmud 4301 Plant Sciences ☎ 706-542-0923 E-mail: s.mahmud@uga.edu
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Attendance: Athens students are expected to attend all presentations in-person. Not all presentations can be recorded (based on presenter preferences), and students who miss a class period with a valid excuse will need to work with the instructors and their fellow students to gain access to the information presented in class.

Tifton and Griffin students will attend using the Zoom link provided, either from the designated classrooms (NESPAL 533 in Tifton) or from their personal devices.

Grading: Assignments:
Students are required to submit a brief assignment sheet for 10 of the 14 seminars. Submission is via elc.uga.edu using the “Assignment” function. The due date for each assignment is the **Thursday after the seminar** (11:59 PM). Each assignment counts up to 10 points, giving a maximum of 100 points total. If you submit more than 10 assignments, we will count your 10 highest scores.

The assignment sheet will ask for short answers (brief paragraph) to the following questions:

- Describe the types, sources, and complexity of data used in the speaker’s work
- Describe the main statistical, computational, or analytical approaches used to generate, pre-process, and analyze the data
- Can you think of any alternative approaches for extracting information from these data?
- What might be some of the challenges in applying the approach outlined by the speaker, either in data collection, data analysis, or practical application in agriculture?
- Describe ways in which the approach presented in this seminar could be used to generate new insights in your discipline of study

Scale:

If you achieve this percentage out of 100 points you can expect to receive at least this letter grade: A >93%, A- 90-93%, B+ 87-90%, B 83-87%, B- 80-83%, C+ 77-80%, C 70-77%, C- 65-

70%, D 60-65%, F 60% and below. Consideration of an individual's specific performance, participation and class attendance may help raise grades close to the cut-off.

Academic honesty:

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. All students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the university's policy on academic honesty (<https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>).

AI Policy: The use of Zoom's AI Companion to summarize the presentations is not allowed.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu> They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://caps.uga.edu/well-being-prevention-programs-mental-health/>) or crisis support (<https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>).

If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://caps.uga.edu/well-being-prevention-programs-mental-health/>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.