

GG560: Quantitative Methods

Instructor: [Ruixin Yang](#)

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Time & Place: Thursdays, 4:30 pm-7:10 pm, Exploratory Hall 2310

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30 pm-4:30 pm or by appointment.

Text Books:

- Required (Primary): Burt, [James E.](#), [David L. Rigby](#), [Gerald M. Barber](#), 2009: *Elementary Statistics for Geographers*, Guilford Press, New York, New York. (ISBN-10: 1572304847, ISBN-13: 9781572304840).
- **Required** (Secondary): Wong, D. W. S. and J. Lee, 2005: *Statistical Analysis of Geographic Information with ArcView GIS and ArcGIS*, Wiley, Hoboken, New Jersey. (ISBN-10: 0471468991; ISBN-13: 9780471468998)

GMU Catalog Entry:

[GG560](#) - Quantitative Methods (Credits: 3)

Survey of quantitative methods commonly used in geographic research. Emphasizes spatial analysis techniques.

Prerequisites: Previous course work in statistics, [GG310](#) or [550](#). Actually, [GG300](#).

Goals and Objectives:

To introduce basic descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and specially the statistical analysis of spatial data. Both understanding and the implementation of the corresponding analysis methods will be covered.

Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course,

1. Students will understand basic spatial data analysis methods;
2. Students will be able to analyze given general data sets and to compute descriptive measures;
3. Students will be able to draw conclusions based on data and inferential statistics.

Course Web Site: Mason Blackboard System at mymason.gmu.edu

Computing Requirements: No specific statistical package/tool will be required for assignments in this course. No programming is necessary. A hand calculator with standard algebraic functions (not statistical functions) may be useful. Microsoft Excel with Excel Analysis ToolPak will be heavily used for instruction purpose and assignments. GIS (ArcGIS) is also needed for some of assignments. However, it is open for students to choose other statistical tools.

Prerequisite Skills: A good comprehension of algebra and basic trigonometry and familiar with Microsoft Excel and ArcGIS. Basic calculus is helpful but not required.

Other references:

- Devore, Jay L., 2004, “*Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences*,” 6th Ed. Brooks/Cole Publishing Co. (ISBN-10: 0006210171; ISBN-13: 978-0006210177).
- Rogerson, Peter A., 2006, “*Statistical Methods for Geography: A Student's Guide*.” January 2006, Sage Publications, London. (ISBN: 1412907950).
- Jobson, J. D., 1991, “*Applied Multivariate Data Analysis*,” Springer, New York. (ISBN-10: 0387976604; ISBN-13: 9780387976600).
- Goodchild, Michael F., 1986, “*Spatial Autocorrelation*,” Geo Books, Norwich. (ISBN-10: 0860942236; ISBN-13: 9780860942238).
- de Smith, M., M. F. Goodchild, and P. Longley 2012. *Geospatial Analysis*. (<http://www.spatialanalysisonline.com/>).
- Cliff, A.D. and J. K. Ord, 1973, “*Spatial Autocorrelation*,” Pion, London. (ISBN-10: 0850860369; ISBN-13: 9780850860368).
- Moran, P. A. P., 1950, “Notes on Continuous Stochastic Phenomena,” *Biometrika*, Vol. 37, No. 1/2 (Jun., 1950), pp. 17-23.
- ... (see the reference folder of this course on the blackboard system.)

Grading Policy:

Homework Assignments:	50%
Mid-term Exam (in class)	20%
Project	30%
Total	100% (Letter grades based on relative numbers)

The followings are university wide required information from Office of the Provost:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

GMU is an Honor Code (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>) university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Students must use their Mason email accounts—either the existing “MEMO” system or a new “MASONLIVE” account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES:

- WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200;
<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>
- COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;
<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

Tentative Course Schedule (will be adjusted during the semester. Last modified on July 7, 2016):

Please consider this as a list of course contents instead of schedule. The assignment given and due dates will be adjusted accordingly. All efforts will be made to cover as much topics below as possible.

- Week 1: Introduction
 - Syllabus
 - Introduction to Quantitative Methods
 - Math Notations
 - HW#1 given
 - Reading Assignment: Chapter 1; Appendix 3a
- Week 2: Univariate Data Display and Description
 - Distribution Display (Histograms)
 - Central Tendency
 - Dispersion
 - Higher Order Moments
 - HW#1 due
 - HW#2 given
 - Reading Assignment: Sections 2.1, 2.2 (up to Page 62), 3.1-3.3
- Week 3: Spatial Data Description
 - Spatial Data
 - Spatial Central Tendency
 - Spatial Dispersion
 - MAUP
 - HW#2 due
 - HW#3 given
 - Reading Assignment: Section 2.4, Sections 3.5; Appendix 3b.
- Week 4: Probability Theory
 - Random variables
 - Probabilities
 - Distributions: uniform, binominal, and Poisson
 - HW#3 due
 - HW#4 given
 - Reading Assignment: Sections 5.1-5.4; Appendices 5a & 5b
- Week 5: Probability Theory (Continued); Basis for Inferential Statistics
 - Normal distribution
 - Sampling
 - Central Limit Theorem
 - Point Estimations
 - HW#5 given
 - Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 (mainly Section 6.5); Chapters 7
- Week 6: Basis for Inferential Statistics (Continued); Hypothesis Testing
 - Interval Estimations (Confidence Interval)
 - Method and elements of hypothesis testing
 - HW#4 due

- HW#6 given
 - Reading Assignment: Chapters 8 and 9
- Week 7: Hypothesis Testing (Continued); Descriptive Statistics: Bivariate
- Specific tests
 - Mean test against a fixed value
 - Two mean test and testing of variance
 - HW#5 due
 - HW#7 given
 - Reading Assignment: Chapters 4 (4.1-4.4), Pages 486-487, Section 10.5
- Week 8: Descriptive Statistics: Bivariate (Continued)
- Correlations (nominal, ordinal and interval/ratio)
 - Simple linear bivariate regression
 - HW#6 due
- Week 9: Catching-up and In-class Open-book Mid-Term (10/27)**
- HW#7 due
- Week 10: Point Pattern (Spatial) Description;
- Review of Mid-Term
 - Standard Deviation Ellipse
 - ArcGIS Toolbox
 - Applications
 - HW#8 given
 - Reading Assignment: Wong & Lee: Sections 5.3.2
- Week 11: Point Pattern Analysis
- Quadrat Analysis
 - Nearest Neighbor Statistics
 - HW#8 due
 - HW#9 given
 - Project outline due
 - Reading Assignment: Section 14.1; Pages 141-142, 401-405; Wong & Lee: Sections 6.1-6.4
- Week 12: Point Pattern Analysis (Continued); Spatial Autocorrelation, Part I
- K-Function
 - Measures for Spatial Autocorrelation
 - Concept for Spatial Autocorrelation
 - Spatial Weights Matrices
 - HW#9 due
 - Reading Assignment: Section 14.2; Wong & Lee: Sections 6.5, 8.1-8.7, 8.11
- Week 13: Spatial Autocorrelation, Part I (Continued) and Part II
- Joint Count Statistics (Nominal)
 - Moran's I
 - HW#10 (optional) given
 - Reading Assignment: Same as those in previous week
- Week 14: Spatial Autocorrelation, Part II (Continued) and Part III
- G-Statistic
 - Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA)
 - Local Moran's I

- Local G-Statistic
 - Bivariate Spatial Autocorrelation
 - Miscellaneous Topics and Catching-up (May be skipped)
 - Regression with Spatial Data
 - Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR)
 - Linear Features
 - Reading Assignment: Section 14.3; Wong & Lee: Sections 8.8
- Week 15: Final Exam Week:** (Thurs. 12/15)
- HW#10 due
 - Project due
 - Project Presentation (if arranged)
 - All late HW assignments for consideration due