PSY 3620.001- Parma

Topics in Psychology: Digital Skills for Career Growth

(3 Credit Hours)

Spring 2020 Semester

Class Times: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12-12:50pm

Location: MWF - Gladfelter Hall 00230

Instructor: Valentina Parma, Ph.D.

Email: valentina.parma@temple.edu

Office: Weiss Hall 874

Telephone Number: 215-204-5505

Office Hours: Mondays 1-2 pm and Wednesdays 4-6 pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

Digital applications are increasingly impacting the way we work and mastering them will help to successfully grow your career in the modern workforce. This course has two main goals. First, to provide skills to autonomously produce high-quality, technical and non-technical documents (e.g., papers, books), presentations and websites in a fast and replicable way via R and RMarkdown. R is a free, open source, powerful and highly extensible programmable environment that uses command-line scripting to create and edit specific workflows (e.g., replicate data analysis and graphs step-by-step). RMarkdown is a format for writing reproducible, dynamic reports with R. It is widely used: from college students, who want to give a professional look to their work to Airbnb, who prepares most of their reports with these methods and shares them with their business partners. Second, to learn how to find support for your digital endeavours (e.g., write a paper, create a website, speed up repeated computations, create professional-looking graphics) and keep learning to reach your goals. Class activities include discussions, hands-on experiences with R and resources at Temple, and a Presentation project.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Xie Y, Allaire J, Grolemund G (2018). *R Markdown: The Definitive Guide*. Chapman and Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, Florida. ISBN 9781138359338, https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown.

Additional materials indicated in the slides in class or announced in CANVAS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course will provide multiple learning opportunities for you to engage with the class material and refine and practice your digital skills. You will earn points towards your final grade in several ways.

1. **Attendance and participation:** Although attendance is not compulsory, it will be difficult for you to succeed in this class if you do not regularly attend lectures. You will not need to take notes (I will post all code and Power point slides for each class), but we will be using R and some other piece of software during every class. In class, you are encouraged to actively participate and in-class assignments that will contribute to your final grade will be offered. Some class assignments will be discussions, others will be problem sets. You are expected to engage and disagree with your peers and with me. Any in class assignments requiring written work will be due by 11:59pm of that class day. Assignments uploaded after 11:59pm will be given a zero. Feedback on attendance and participation will be provided from the mid-term.

2. **Presentation project:** Presentation Projects represent an application tailored to your specific needs that addresses various aspects of Digital Skill learning and makes use of the tools learned in class. Depending on the number of students, it may include individual and/or group assignments, which will result in the presentation of one's work at the end of the semester. Project details and specific requirements will be defined with the student on Week 2 of the course.

3. **Exams:** There will be three in-class (partial) exams, whose grade will be averaged into the exam portion of your final grade. If you failed one of the in-class (partial) exams or you want to improve your final grade, you can opt in and take the final exam on the whole course material at the end of the course. If you end up completing your three in-class (partial) exams and your optional final, I will keep as your final grade the highest grade you received between the average of the in-class (partial) exams and the final. In all cases, the materials on which you will be tested refer to the material covered in class. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions and will be graded on a 100-point scale. On exam days, you are required to remain in the classroom until you submit your exam unless accommodations have been made through Disability Support Services. All partial exams or the optional final exam must be taken in order to earn a passing grade in this class.

4. **Possibility of excusing oneself:** Life happens, and sometimes unpredictably so. For this reason, I will grant two excuses for any of the course activities, **except for exams and**

for the final presentation of the presentation project. The two excuses are valid only if presented at least 24 hours before any assignment is due. In principle, I will not grant the possibility for additional excuses. You must take exams when they are scheduled. In rare and extreme circumstances, I will make an exception, but in order to be considered for an exception, you must contact me at least 24 hours before an exam. Not using your two free excuses by the end of the semester will give you a bonus of 10 points per unused excuse.

GRADE CALCULATIONS:

All of these activities will count toward your final grade:

Problem Sets: max 100 points - 20% of the final grade

Presentation project: max 100 points - 35% of the final grade

Exams: max 300 points - 45% of the final grade

Unused excuses: max +20 points – 4% of the final grade

The following grade equivalencies will be considered (cut-off points will be strictly enforced):

93.00% to 100%	A	73.00% to 76.99%	C
90.00% to 92.99%	A-	70.00% to 72.99%	C-
87.00% to 89.99%	B+	67.00% to 69.99%	D+
83.00% to 86.99%	B	63.00% to 66.99%	D
80.00% to 82.99%	B-	60.00% to 62.99%	D-
77.00% to 79.99%	C+	Below 60.00%	F

CLASS POLICIES (*italicized* text is official TU policy language)

Learning Management System (Canvas): I will communicate outside of the classroom (e.g., posting assignments & announcements) using Canvas (canvas.temple.edu). You need to have access to this site, check it regularly, and be able to receive emails through the system. Use the "Help" tab on Canvas or visit Temple's Help Desk at The TECH CENTER (room 404, Phone 215-204-8000) for technical difficulties (i.e., do not contact me for technical problems).

Disabilities Statement: *Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate*

reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.
https://disabilityresources.temple.edu/register-drs

PLEASE NOTE: Disabilities are NOT limited to learning difficulties and include medical illnesses (anemia, irritable bowel syndrome, migraines, etc.), and mental or emotional illnesses that have been diagnosed by a medical doctor or therapist. Accommodations can include many things beyond adjusted testing times. Please consult with disabilities services regarding eligibility for accommodations if you feel you have any of these illnesses. Exceptions to course policies for students with disabilities will not be granted without notification from Disability Resources and Services.

Statement on Academic Freedom: *Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link:* http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02.

Policy on Academic Honesty: *Temple University believes strongly in academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism and academic cheating are, therefore, prohibited. Essential to intellectual growth is the development of independent thought and a respect for the thoughts of others. The prohibition against plagiarism and cheating is intended to foster this independence and respect.*

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, another person's assistance. Normally, all work done for courses -- papers, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. It is the instructor's responsibility to indicate the appropriate manner of citation. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism.

Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of the individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course which was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person.

Students must assume that all graded assignments, quizzes, and tests are to be completed individually unless otherwise noted in writing in this syllabus as group work. I reserve the right to refer any cases of suspected plagiarism or cheating to the University Disciplinary Committee; I also reserve the right to assign a grade of "F" for the given paper, quiz or test.

CLASS ETIQUETTE:

Punctuality: Please be on time for class. If you must be late, take a seat in the back of the class, quietly.

Schedule changes: In the event the college has an unscheduled closing (e.g., due to weather) I will notify you via Canvas and/or email of any schedule changes. In the unlikely event that I have to cancel class, please check Canvas for assignments and announcements. The schedule is subject to change at my discretion. Changes to the exam dates will be announced in class and/or on Canvas.

Don't be shy: Please feel to ask questions during class: if you are confused about something, others probably are, too. Please do not assume you are the only one not getting it. So, contribute to the public good and your private gain by asking a question. Feel free to reach out to me or to the TA, if you need clarification. We are tools to help you learn. In email to the TA or to me, please include a respectful salutation (e.g., Dear Professor), use standard grammatical English, and sign your full name.

Social contract: In order for this course to have the expected results, we both have a part to play and when each of us do their part, everybody benefits.

As professor, I promise to do my very best to be clear in my explanations, to select captivating materials and assignments and to prepare the course materials to the best of my abilities. I will make decisions about the course with the goals of maximizing your learning experience. I will do my best to promote a positive learning environment, to act fairly and provide equal opportunities for success, while proposing high standards of learning. I welcome your requests for help.

As student, you promise to prepare for class, to contribute to the best of your abilities, not to cheat or act dishonestly and to treat your classmates and me with the respect (racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, etc. comments will not be tolerated). You will do your best to attend class and to be on time. You will not ask me to grant you special privileges that aren't available to the rest of your classmates in order that I may adhere to my promise to be fair and just to all of you. You are welcome to ask for help, if needed.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

Wellbeing is an important factor that influences learning and performance. If you are in need of any of the services listed below, please be aware that they exist for Temple Students and I encourage you to explore them.

Medical Appointments: Please be aware that you have FREE medical care available for you as a full- or part-time student at Temple University. The student health center is located at 1810 Liacouras Walk, 4th floor. They have early morning, evening, and Saturday appointments. (215) 204-7500. https://www.temple.edu/studenthealth/

Mental Health Care: You are entitled to FREE private and confidential mental health counseling as a full- or part-time student at Temple University. There are several walk-in hours available in mornings, evenings, and on Saturdays. The student counseling center is located at 1700 North Broad St., 2nd floor. (215) 204-7276. There is someone available for you to talk to at this number 24 hours a day. You can also call psychiatric services (215) 707-2577. https://counseling.temple.edu/walk-clinic

CARE Team: In the event that life circumstances become challenging or you have a medical, mental, or life crisis it is highly recommended that you contact the Temple CARE Team. This is a group of administrators and students that work together to help Temple students navigate life events that interfere with attendance, course work, living situations, and family issues among many other events. The CARE Team can communicate on your behalf with your professors to come to a suitable arrangement regarding any extenuating circumstances. Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the CARE Team in the Dean of Students Office for support. The CARE Team web address is careteam.temple.edu or you can email CARETeam@temple.edu. Furthermore, please notify your professors if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any other resources that we may possess.

Cherry Pantry: Any student who has challenges affording healthy food or is facing financial hardship and finding it difficult to feed themselves may visit the Cherry Pantry to select donated goods from the Temple Community. https://studentaffairs.temple.edu/cherry-pantry The Pantry is located in the Howard Gittis Student Center, RM 224A. Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the CARE Team in the Dean of Students Office for support.

CALENDAR:

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	M 01/13	Welcome!	Read syllabus
	W 01/15	Introduction to R	
	F 01/17	Introduction to R	Assignment not graded
2	M 01/20	MLK Jr day - No class	
	W 01/22	Introduction to RMarkdown	Assignment not graded
	F 01/24	Introduction to RMarkdown	
3	M 01/27	Data visualization	**Problem set #1 due Monday 01/27 11:59<u>am</u>**
	W 01/29		**Definition of personal project**
	F 01/31		**Problem set #2 due Sunday 02/2 11:59pm**
4	M 02/03	Write reproducible documents	**Bookdown Chapter 3**
	W 02/05		
	F 02/07		**Problem set #3 due Sunday 02/9 11:59pm**
5	M 02/10	Write reproducible documents	
	W 02/12		
	F 02/14		**Problem set #4 due Sunday 02/16 11:59pm**
6	M 02/17	Review	
	W 02/19	**EXAM #1**	*Based on instructions given on the day of the exam, write a reproducible document in RMarkdown*
	F 02/21	**Review exam + project update**	

7	**M 02/24**	Presentations in RMarkdown - Slides	**Bookdown, Chapter 4**
	W 02/26		
	F 02/28		**Problem set #5 due Sunday 03/1 11:59pm**
8	**M 03/02**	Spring break	
	W 03/04		
	F 03/06		
9	**M 03/09**	Presentations in RMarkdown - Slides	
	W 03/11		
	F 03/13		**Problem set #6 due Sunday 03/15 11:59pm**
10	**M 03/16**	Presentations in RMarkdown - Poster	
	W 03/18		
	F 03/20		**Problem set #7 due Sunday 03/22 11:59pm**
11	**M 03/23**	Review	
	W 03/25	**EXAM #2**	*Based on instructions given on the day of the exam, prepare a reproducible presentation in RMarkdown*
	F 03/27	**Review exam + project update**	
12	**M 03/30**	Website in RMarkdown	
	W 04/01		
	F 04/03		**Problem set #8 due Sunday 04/05 11:59pm**
13	**M 04/06**	Website in RMarkdown	
	W 04/08		

	F 04/10		**Problem set #9 due Sunday 04/12 11:59pm**
14	**M 04/13**	Review	
	W 04/15	**EXAM #3**	*Based on instructions given on the day of the exam, prepare a website in RMarkdown*
	F 04/17	**Review exam + project update**	
15	**M 04/20**	**Presentations**	**Presentation**
	W 04/22	**Presentations**	**Presentation**
	F 04/24	**Presentations**	**Presentation**
16	**M 04/27**	**Presentations**	**Presentation**
	F 05/01 10:30 to 12:30	**FINAL EXAM**	