

Statistics 154 / 254: Statistical machine learning

UC Berkeley, Fall 2026

Instructors



Instructor: Ryan Giordano Office: 389 Evans Hall Office hours:
Tues + Wed 10:10am-11am Gateway-LL-Golden Quarter B1040 rgiordano@berkeley.edu
pronouns: He / him



GSI: Lucas Schwengber Office: Gateway desk 3330-05 Office
hours: 9-11 AM Thu/Fri Gateway-LL-Classroom B1008 (29) lucas.schwengber@berkeley.edu
pronouns: He / him



GSI: Josh Davis
joshdavis@berkeley.edu pronouns: He / him

Office: TBD **Office hours:** TBD

! Important

If you are a concurrent enrollment (CE) student hoping to enroll in the class, I hope you will be able to join us! Berkeley policies admit CE students only after the Berkeley add / drop deadline. The add / drop deadline for this year is marked on the course schedule. If you would like to join the class, please join BCourses and hand in your assignments as if you were enrolled. We will not retroactively waive assignments that were due prior to being enrolled in the class. Preference will be given to students who are demonstrably participating in the class. More details will be provided on ED and during the first lecture. Please reach out to the GSIs to be manually added to BCourses.

This website will contain lecture materials and assignments. Day-to-day announcements and discussion will be found in ED. (See links above.)

Materials

The course will be based largely on [Lecture notes](#). The notes can be supplemented using subsets of the following texts:

- [Patterns, predictions, and actions: A story about machine learning](#) Hardt, Recht
- [ESL: The Elements of Statistical Learning](#) Hastie, Tibshirani, Friedman
- [ISL: An Introduction to Statistical Learning](#) James, Witten, Hastie, Tibshirani

Additional reading will supplement these texts as necessary.

Some other good sources of reading material are:

- [Understanding Machine Learning: From Theory to Algorithms](#) Shalev-Shwartz, Ben-David
- [Probabilistic Machine Learning: An Introduction](#) Murphy
- [Dive into Deep Learning](#) Many authors

Schedule

Lectures will be held Aug 27th 2026 – Dec 3rd 2026 from 3:30pm – 5pm (starting at Berkeley time, 3:40pm) in Valley Life Sciences 2060.

Labs will be held on Mondays from

- 9am–11am (Gateway B1026)
- 4pm–6pm (Gateway B1012)
- 11am–1pm (Gateway B1023)
- 1pm–3pm (Gateway B1023)

The [official course catalog entry](#) is the ground truth for scheduling. If the catalog conflicts with this webpage, please notify the instructor and trust the catalog.

The tentative week-by-week course calendar is as follows. **The following schedule is aspirational and subject to change as we go.**

According to the [official schedule](#), the final exam has not been scheduled yet .

Table 1: Calendar (tentative)

Date	Day	Note	Unit	Topic	Assign- ment
Aug 27	Thurs- day	Lecture	Course policies		
Aug 31	Monday	Lab			Python review
Sep 1	Tuesday	Lecture	Unit 0: Introduction and review		
Sep 3	Thurs- day	Lecture			HW 0
Sep 7	Monday	Adminis- trative holiday	Unit 1: Regression		
Sep 8	Tuesday	Lecture			
Sep 10	Thurs- day	Lecture			Quiz 0
Sep 14	Monday	Lab			Chal- lenge 1
Sep 15	Tuesday	Lecture			
Sep 16	Wednes- day	Add / drop deadline			

Date	Day	Note	Unit	Topic	Assignment
Sep 17	Thursday	Lecture	Unit 2: Classification		
Sep 21	Monday	Lab			Challenge 1
Sep 22	Tuesday	Lecture			
Sep 24	Thursday	Lecture			HW 1
Sep 28	Monday	Lab			Challenge 1
Sep 29	Tuesday	Lecture	Unit 3: Risk and Complexity		
Oct 1	Thursday	Lecture			Quiz 1
Oct 5	Monday	Lab			Reading 1
Oct 6	Tuesday	Lecture			
Oct 8	Thursday	Lecture			HW 2
Oct 12	Monday	Lab	Unit 4: Trees and weak learners		Challenge 2
Oct 13	Tuesday	Lecture			
Oct 15	Thursday	Lecture			Quiz 2
Oct 19	Monday	Lab			Challenge 2
Oct 20	Tuesday	Lecture			
Oct 22	Thursday	Lecture	Unit 4: Trees and weak learners		
Oct 26	Monday	Lab			Challenge 2
Oct 27	Tuesday	Lecture			
Oct 29	Thursday	Lecture			HW 3
Nov 2	Monday	Lab			Reading 2
Nov 3	Tuesday	Lecture			
Nov 5	Thursday	Lecture			Quiz 3

Date	Day	Note	Unit	Topic	Assignment
Nov 9	Monday	Lab			Challenge 3
Nov 10	Tuesday	Lecture			
Nov 11	Wednesday	Administrative holiday			
Nov 12	Thursday	Lecture			
Nov 16	Monday	Lab			Challenge 3
Nov 17	Tuesday	Lecture	Unit 5: Neural networks and optimization		
Nov 19	Thursday	Lecture			HW 4
Nov 23	Monday	Lab			Challenge 3
Nov 24	Tuesday	Lecture			
Nov 25	Wednesday	Thanksgiving			
Nov 26	Thursday	Thanksgiving			
Nov 27	Friday	Thanksgiving			
Nov 30	Monday	Lab			Reading 3
Dec 1	Tuesday	Lecture			Quiz 4
Dec 3	Thursday	Lecture	Class review		HW 5