EDMS 769N
Seminar: Nonparametric Structural Equation Modeling

SPRING SEMESTER 2017

Professors
Dr. Gregory R. Hancock
1230D Benjamin Building
tel: 301.405.3621 e-mail: ghancock@umd.edu

Dr. Jeffrey R. Harring
1230E Benjamin Building
tel: 301.405.3630 e-mail: harring@umd.edu

Office hours
by appointment

General Course Information
This is intended to be a course / working group addressing special topics in SEM, including but not limited to nonparametric SEM. It assumes previous coursework in SEM, as well as sound statistical and mathematical background. Unlike most coursework in SEM, this course is more about the methodological underpinnings and extensions of SEM and its special topics rather than a sequence of illustrated applications.

Course Requirements
Four basic elements will comprise your grade in the course – class participation, topic presentation, a short paper, and end-of-semester proposal / presentation.

Participation: Your participation in class discussions is crucial and will ultimately determine the overall success of the course. In this part of the course, each class will provide a forum to discuss a leading research topic in latent variable modeling in hopes of understanding it and its nuances and what potential research avenues exist.

Class Presentation: Each student will be assigned a topic every other week (or so) to present to the class. This will be no more than a 30 minute presentation in which each student will lead the group through a description of the methodology and findings.

Paper on Nonparametric SEM: Specifics of this paper will be announced later in the course.

Research Proposal: The course will culminate in an individually-created research proposal based on a topic discussed in class. It is expected that this research proposal will be submitted to AERA, NCME, IMPS, or other professional venue. Specifics of the proposal will be announced later in the course.

Proposal Presentation: Students will give a conference-style presentation of their research proposal. Presentations will be approximately 15 minutes in length, followed by Q & A.

Course Grades
Participation – 10%
Class Presentations – 25%
NP-SEM Paper – 15%
Research Proposal – 35%
Proposal presentation – 15%

Academic Accommodations
In compliance with and in the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I want to work with you if you have a documented disability that is relevant to your work in this course. If you need academic accommodation by virtue of a documented disability, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your needs. Students with documented needs for an accommodation must meet the same achievement standards required of all other students, although the exact way in which achievement is demonstrated may be altered. All requests for academic accommodations should be made as early as possible in the semester. Further information concerning disability accommodations can be obtained at http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/.

Academic Integrity
The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html for details.