

Stat 544 – Spring 2005

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROJECT

As you know, 25% of your grade this semester will be based on the project. Since there are only five short weeks remaining in the semester, it is time to get started. Here is some information:

Teams:

I expect you to work in teams. The ideal team will have 3 – 4 members, but I will also accept teams with as few as 2 and as many as 5 students. For any other team structure, please talk to me. Please let me know who will work with whom, by *Monday, March 28*.

Scope of project:

A project will typically consist of a serious data analysis, but it may also consist of a review of the literature on a topic of your choice, a theoretical result, or any other substantive piece of work that can be written up in the form of a “paper” and that can be presented to the rest of the class.

Topic:

The topic for the project will be your choice entirely, but it might be a good idea to discuss it with me before you get started. You should begin thinking about the project no later than NOW, because I expect not only a nice piece of work but also a report written in the form of a manuscript, with references and all. Most students in the past have chosen to analyze a set of data and have typically contributed the data they wished to analyze. Good choices include data used for a creative component, or in a consulting project or provided by one of your friends in another department. If you run into a wall and cannot think of a dataset you would like to analyze, let me know and I will provide you with some. Alternatively, you may choose to do any of the “big” problems in the course textbook and in particular any of the applications discussed in Chapters 15-21.

Presentations:

An oral presentation is part of the project. Teammates will jointly present the result of their work to the entire class during the last week of classes. We can discuss details about the presentations themselves later, but everyone needs to plan to present a portion of the work carried out by the team. We will schedule the presentations for sometime during dead week; the number of hours that we dedicate to presentations will depend on the number of teams that get formed. Each team will have at least 15 minutes for presenting the work.

Deadlines:

Papers are due on **Friday, April 22** by 5:00 pm. And then you are free as a bird (except for the oral presentation).