

**Psychological and Quantitative Foundations (PSQF) 6271 Section 0001:  
Longitudinal Multilevel Models Fall 2024**

Instructor and Department Information: **Professor Lesa Hoffman (she/her—you can call me Lesa)**  
Educational Measurement and Statistics Program  
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Zoom Link for Class and Instructor Office Hours: <https://uiowa.zoom.us/my/lesahoffmaniowa>  
Meeting ID: 5044356512; Mobile Access: +13126266799  
(*please use your real name as your account name to be admitted*)

Course Location and Time: 166 North Lindquist Center (LC) or via zoom  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30–1:45 PM

Instructor Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00–4:30 PM in an online format via zoom  
or individually by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistants' Contact Information and Office Hours: **Geraldo “Bladimir” Padilla** (he/him)  
PhD student in Educational Measurement and Statistics in PSQF  
Email: [Geraldo-Padilla@Ulowa.edu](mailto:Geraldo-Padilla@Ulowa.edu)  
Office hours in a hybrid format: Thursdays 11:00–11:59 AM and Fridays 9:00–11:00 AM in N476 LC or via zoom: <https://uiowa.zoom.us/my/bladimirpadilla>

**Nikki “Ten” Tennessen** (she/her)  
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Email: [Nicole-Tennessen@Ulowa.edu](mailto:Nicole-Tennessen@Ulowa.edu)  
Office hours in an online format: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00–3:30 PM via zoom: <https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/98669737217?pwd=1r3U8TeGPIENTYF2WU5s58lck6zMz.1>

### Schedule of Topics and Events:

**This course will meet synchronously in person and on zoom.** The planned schedule of topics and events given here may need to be adjusted throughout the course. The **course website** will always have the **most current schedule of events and due dates**: <http://www.lesahoffman.com/PSQF6271/index.html>

### Course Objectives, Prerequisites, and Materials:

This course will focus on the uses of multilevel models (i.e., general linear mixed-effect models, hierarchical linear models) for the analysis of longitudinal (repeated measures) data. **The course objective is for participants to be able to complete all the necessary steps in a longitudinal analysis involving time-invariant predictors:** deciding which type of model is appropriate, restructuring the data and creating predictor variables, evaluating fixed and random effects and/or alternative covariance structures, predicting multiple sources of variation, and interpreting and presenting empirical findings. Prior to enrolling, participants should be comfortable with general linear models (e.g., regression, ANOVA), such as is covered in [PSQF 6243](#).

Class time will be devoted primarily to lectures, examples, and spontaneous review, the materials for which will be available for download at the course website. Readings and other resources have been suggested for each topic and may be updated later. Synchronous attendance (in person or via zoom) is encouraged but not required, and you do not need to notify the instructor of a single class absence. [Video recordings of each class will be made available on YouTube](#) so that closed captioning will be provided, and supplemental videos for specific topics (e.g., software demos) may be added as well. Auditors and visitors are always welcome to attend class. No required class sessions will be held outside the regular class time given above (i.e., no additional midterm or final exam sessions). However, because the course will have an applied focus requiring the use of statistical software, participants are encouraged to attend group-based office hours (first-come, first-served), in which multiple participants can receive assistance on homework assignments simultaneously.

### Course Requirements:

Participants can earn **up to 100 total points** by completing work outside of class. Up to **86 points** can be earned from submitting **homework assignments** (HW; 5 planned initially) through a custom online system—these will be graded for accuracy. Up to **14 points** may be earned from submitting **formative assessments** (FA; 7 planned initially) through ICON; these will be graded for effort only—incorrect answers will not be penalized. Participants may earn up to **2 extra credit points** for completing homework 0; there may be other opportunities to earn extra credit at the instructor's discretion. Finally, revisions to the planned course schedule and/or content may result in fewer homework assignments and formative assessments (and thus fewer total points) at the instructor's discretion. If that happens, this syllabus will be updated to reflect the new point totals.

### Policy on Accepting Late Work and Grades of Incomplete:

Participants may submit work at any point during the semester to be counted towards their grade. However, to encourage participants to keep up with the class, **late homework assignments will incur a 2-point penalty, and late formative assessments will incur a 1-point penalty (overall, not per day)**. Extensions will be granted as needed for extenuating circumstances (e.g., conferences, comprehensive exams, family obligations) if requested at least **two weeks in advance** of the due date. A final grade of "incomplete" will only be given in dire circumstances and entirely at the instructor's discretion. **All work must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Thursday, December 19, 2024, to be included in the course grade.**

### Final grades will be determined by the *percentage* earned out of the total possible points:

>96% = A+, 93–96% = A, 90–92% = A–, 87–89% = B+, 83–86% = B, 80–82% = B–, 77–79% = C+, 73–76% = C, 70–72% = C– (**PASS**), 67–69% = D+, 63–66% = D, 60–62% = D–, <60% = F

### Course Software:

Participants will need to have access to statistical software—**SAS, STATA, or R+Rstudio**—that can estimate the models presented. Each of these programs are freely available to course participants in multiple ways:

- You can connect to the [U Iowa Virtual Desktop](#) (connect to the [U Iowa VPN](#) first) for free
- You can connect to the [U Iowa Research Remote Desktop](#) (connect to the [U Iowa VPN](#) first) for free
- You can [install R software](#) for free on your local machine, along with the free [graphical Rstudio interface](#) that makes R easier to use (install Rstudio second after R software)
- You could also pay \$48 to install a [6-month student copy of STATA](#) on your local machine

### Course Textbook:

Hoffman, L. (2015). [Longitudinal analysis: Modeling within-person fluctuation and change](#). Routledge/Taylor & Francis. Available for free at the [University of Iowa library in electronic form](#).

### Academic Misconduct:

As a reminder, the University of Iowa College of Education has a [formal policy on academic misconduct](#), which all students in this course are expected to follow. While students can work with each other to understand the course content, all homework assignments must ultimately be completed individually using the student-specific datasets provided for each assignment. Please consult the instructor if you have questions.

**The use of ChatGPT or any other Artificial Intelligence (AI) should not be needed (or helpful)**, as the course materials will provide examples of all software code needed to complete homework assignments. Similarly, the use of AI in completing formative assessments (FAs) will defeat their purpose, as these structured reviews are designed to help participants recognize remaining sources of confusion or inexperience (and FA points will be given regardless, so long as there is some effort made in trying to answer each question).

### Respect for Each Other:

The instructor wants ALL participants to feel welcome and encouraged to actively participate in this course. **There is no such thing as a “stupid” question (or answer).** All course participants—enrolled students and auditing visitors—should always feel welcome to ask whatever questions will be helpful in helping them understand the course content. **Questions or comments are welcome at any point** during class (aloud or using the zoom chat window), in office hours, over email, or in individual appointments with the instructor (available by request). Students with disabilities or who have any special circumstances are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation.

**All participants are welcome to attend class via zoom instead of in person for any reason at any time. If it is possible that you have been exposed to COVID-19 or any other illness, please DO NOT attend class in person!** Similarly, if the instructor has been exposed to illness or the weather prohibits safe travel to class, the course will move to a temporary zoom-only format to protect all course participants.

**When using zoom, please provide the name you wish for us to call you inside your zoom account** (i.e., so that it appears on your window while in use). Student use of cameras and microphones while on zoom is also encouraged but not required (out of respect for your privacy and/or limited internet). Please note that class video recordings posted on YouTube will NOT include any video from course participants—only the class audio and screen share from the instructor will be captured. Participants who do not wish for their audio to be captured can use the zoom chat window (which also allows for private direct messages to the instructor), even while attending in person.

The University of Iowa is committed to **making the class environment (in person or online) a respectful and inclusive space** for people of all gender, sexual, racial, religious, and other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share the names and pronouns they would like their instructors to use to address them. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories. For more information, contact the [Office of Civil Rights Compliance](#). Additional university guidelines about classroom behavior and other student resources [are provided here](#), student complaint procedures [are provided here](#), and the university acknowledgement of land and sovereignty [is provided here](#).

### Respect for The Rest of Your World:

The instructor realizes that this course is not your only obligation in your work or your life. While class attendance in real time is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged because frequent review of the material will be your best strategy for success in this course. However, if work or life events may compromise your ability to succeed, please contact the instructor for a confidential discussion so that we can work together to make a plan for your success. **Please do not wait until you are too far behind to try to catch up!**

**Other Course Readings (all available in [ICON](#) under "Files"):**

**Note—I know this is A LOT of readings, but we are covering a lot of material! I encourage you to prioritize reading the textbook, as it will map most closely onto what we cover in class. Then should come class participation and completing course work, followed by these extra readings as time permits (included to give you some additional background and/or exposure to current best-practices in each topic).**

- Arend, M. G., & Schäfer, T. (2019). Statistical power in two-level models: A tutorial based on Monte Carlo simulation. *Psychological Methods*, 24(1), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000195>
- Castro-Schilo, L., & Grimm, K. J. (2018). Using residualized change versus difference scores for longitudinal research. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 35(1), 32–58. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407517718387>
- Enders, C. K. (2010; chapters 3–5). *Applied missing data analysis*. Guilford.
- Johnson, T. L., & Hancock, G. R. (2019). Time to criterion latent growth models. *Psychological Methods*, 24(6), 690–707. <https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000214>
- McNeish, D. (2017). Small sample methods for multilevel modeling: A colloquial elucidation of REML and the Kenward-Roger correction. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 52(5), 661–670. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00273171.2017.1344538>
- McNeish, D., & Matta, T. (2018) Differentiating between mixed-effects and latent-curve approaches to growth modeling. *Behavior Research Methods*, 50, 1398–1414. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-017-0976-5>
- McNeish, D., Bauer, D. J., Dumas, D., Clements, D. H., Cohen, J. R., Lin, W., Sarama, J., & Sheridan, M. A. (2023). Modeling individual differences in the timing of change onset and offset. *Psychological Methods*, 28(2), 401–421. <https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000407>
- Preacher, K. J., & Hancock, G. R. (2015). Meaningful aspects of change as novel random coefficients: A general method for reparameterizing longitudinal models. *Psychological Methods*, 20(1), 84–101. <https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000028>
- Rights, J. D., & Sterba, S. K. (2019). Quantifying explained variance in multilevel models: An integrative framework for defining R-squared measures. *Psychological Methods*, 24(3), 309–338. <https://doi.org/10.1037/met0000184>
- Rights, J. D., & Sterba, S. K. (2020). New recommendations on the use of R-squared differences in multilevel model comparisons. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 55(4), 568–599. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00273171.2019.1660605>
- Stoel, R. D., Garre, F. G., Dolan, C., & van den Wittenboer, G. (2006). On the likelihood ratio test in structural equation modeling when parameters are subject to boundary constraints. *Psychological Methods*, 11(4), 439–455. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1082-989X.11.4.439>
- Timmons, A. C., & Preacher, K. J. (2015). The importance of temporal design: How do measurement intervals affect the accuracy and efficiency of parameter estimates in longitudinal research? *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 50(1), 41–55. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00273171.2014.961056>

Tuliao, A. P., Hoffman, L., & McChargue, D. E. (2017). Measuring individual differences in responses to date-rape vignettes using latent variable models. *Aggressive Behavior*, 43(1), 60–73.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21662>

Walters, R. W., & Hoffman, L. (2017). Applying the hierarchical linear model to longitudinal data / La aplicación del modelo lineal jerárquico a datos longitudinales, *Cultura y Educación*, 29(3), 666–701.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/11356405.2017.1367168>

Willett, J.B. (1989). Some results on reliability for the longitudinal measurement of change: Implications for the design of studies of individual growth. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 49, 587–602.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F001316448904900309>

### Planned Schedule of Events for Weeks 1–5:

Week Number	Weekday and Date	Topics	Readings for Each Topic
1	M 8/26	<b>NO HOMEWORK (HW) OR FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (FA) DUE; NO LESA OFFICE HOURS TODAY</b>	
	T 8/27	Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course and Multilevel Models for Longitudinal Data	Hoffman (2015) ch. 1 Willett (1989)
	R 8/29	Lecture 1, continued Unit 2: Review of General Linear Models (review PSQF 6270 Lecture 1 and Example 1 on your own as needed)	Hoffman (2015) ch. 2
2	M 9/2	<b>NO HW OR FA DUE; NO LESA OFFICE HOURS TODAY</b>	
	T 9/3	Lecture 3: Introduction to Within-Person Analysis and Repeated Measures (RM) Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Example 3a: Between vs. Within-Person Models	Hoffman (2015) ch. 3
	R 9/5	Example 3a, continued	Castro-Schilo & Grimm (2018)
3	M 9/9	<b>HW0 (online, for 2 points extra credit, over the syllabus) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 9/10	Lecture 3, continued	
	R 9/12	<b>MEET ON ZOOM ONLY TODAY</b> Example 3b: Kinds of Analyses of Variance (ANOVA) Models	
4	M 9/16	<b>FA1 (Quiz in ICON) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 9/17	Discussion of FA1; Lecture 4 and Example 4: Describing Within-Person Fluctuation over Time via ACS Models	Hoffman (2015) ch. 4
	R 9/19	Lecture 4 and Example 4, continued	
5	M 9/23	<b>FA2 (Quiz in ICON) !!! NOW DUE WED 9/25 !!! BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 9/24	Discussion of FA2; Lecture 4 and Example 4, continued	
	R 9/26	<b>MEET ON ZOOM ONLY TODAY</b> Lecture 5 and Example 5, continued	

**Planned Schedule of Events for Weeks 6–11:**

<b>Week Number</b>	<b>Weekday and Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings for Each Topic</b>
6	M 9/30	<b>HW1 (online, based on Lectures 3-4) !!! NOW DUE BY WED 10/2 !!! 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 10/1	Lecture 4 and Example 4, continued Lecture 5: Introduction to Random Effects of Time and Model Estimation	Hoffman (2015) ch. 5 Enders (2010) ch. 3-5 McNeish (2017)
	R 10/3	Lecture 5, continued Example 5: Fixed and Random Effects of Time for Within-Person Change	Stoel et al. (2006) McNeish & Matta (2018)
7	M 10/7	<b>NO HW OR FA DUE</b>	
	T 10/8	<b>NO CLASS TODAY; NO LESA OFFICE HOURS WED</b>	
	R 10/10	<b>NO CLASS TODAY</b>	
8	M 10/14	<b>FA3 (Assignment in ICON) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 10/15	Discussion of FA3; Lecture 5 and Example 5, continued	
	R 10/17	Lecture 5 and Example 5, continued	
9	M 10/21	<b>HW2 (online, based on Example 5) !!! NOW DUE WED 10/23 !!! BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 10/22	Lecture 6: Describing Within-Person Change Example 6a: Modeling Change over Time with Polynomial Trends	Hoffman (2015) ch. 6
	R 10/24	<b>MEET ON ZOOM ONLY TODAY</b> Lecture 6 and Example 6a, continued	
10	M 10/28	<b>FA4 (Quiz in ICON) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 10/29	Discussion of FA4; Lecture 6 and Example 6a, continued Example 6b: Modeling Change over Time with Piecewise Trends	McNeish et al. (2023) Tuliao et al. (2017)
	R 10/31	Lecture 6 and Example 6b, continued	
11	M 11/4	<b>HW3 (online, based on Example 6a) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 11/5	Lecture 6 and Example 6b, continued Example 6d: Modeling Change over Time Using Log Time to Approximate Exponential Trends	
	R 11/7	Lecture 6 and Example 6d, continued  Example 6c: Modeling Change over Time with Truly Exponential Models	Johnson & Hancock (2019) Preacher & Hancock (2015)

**Planned Schedule of Events for Weeks 12–17:**

<b>Week Number</b>	<b>Weekday and Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings for Each Topic</b>
12	M 11/11	<b>FA5 (Quiz in ICON) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 11/12	Discussion of FA5 Lecture 7a: Review of Unconditional Models of Time	Walters & Hoffman (2017)
	R 11/14	Lecture 7b: Time-Invariant Predictors in Longitudinal Models	Hoffman (2015) ch. 7
13	M 11/18	<b>HW4 (online, based on Example 6b) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 11/19	Lecture 7b, continued Example 7b: Time-Invariant Predictors in Longitudinal Models	Rights & Sterba (2019, 2020)
	R 11/21	Lecture 7b and Example 7b, continued	
14	M 11/25	<b>NO CLASS NOR ANY OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK</b>	
	T 11/26	<b>NO CLASS NOR ANY OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK</b>	
	R 11/28	<b>NO CLASS NOR ANY OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK</b>	
15	M 12/2	<b>FA6 (Quiz in ICON) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 12/3	Discussion of FA6; Example 7b, continued	Arend & Schäfer (2019)
	R 12/5	Lecture 7b and Example 7b, continued	Timmons & Preacher (2015)
16	M 12/9	<b>FA7 (Quiz in ICON) !!! NOW DUE WED 12/11 !!! BY 11:59 PM</b>	
	T 12/10	Lecture 7b and Example 7b, continued	
	R 12/12	Discussion of FA7 and More Stories	
17	M 12/16	<b>Lesa office hours 3:00–4:30 PM</b>	
	T 12/17	<b>NO CLASS, but Lesa office hours from 12:30–3:30 PM</b>	
	W 12/18	<b>Lesa office hours 3:00–4:30 PM</b>	
	R 12/19	<b>NO CLASS, but Lesa office hours 12:30–3:30 PM</b>	
		<b>HW5 (online, based on Example 7b) DUE BY 11:59 PM</b> <b>ALL OUTSTANDING WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 PM</b>	