NetCourseNow™

There is now a more flexible way to take a NetCourse—a way that better fits your schedule—NetCourseNow. With NetCourseNow, you choose when to begin, and you can take the course at your own pace and at convenient times. Finish the course in days, or fit it between other commitments over months; it is up to you. With NetCourseNow, you get a personal instructor to answer your questions and help guide your study.

NetCourseNow lectures are based on the same materials as the scheduled NetCourses—materials that have taught Stata concepts to over 5,000 NetCourse participants and have benefitted from the questions and comments of those participants.

NetCourse or NetCourseNow? You make the choice. In a scheduled NetCourse, you see the questions asked by other students and the responses from course instructors, which often involve interesting topics beyond the course materials. In a NetCourseNow, you have complete control and a personal instructor to answer questions. Both courses are great ways to improve your data-analysis efficiency and your Stata fluency.

Enrollment information

- Enroll in a NetCourse (see page 2 for latest schedule)
  - use the enclosed form
  - visit [www.stata.com/netcourse/enrollment.html](http://www.stata.com/netcourse/enrollment.html)
- Enroll in a NetCourseNow
  - visit [www.stata.com/netcourse/ncnow.html](http://www.stata.com/netcourse/ncnow.html)

Inside this issue:

- 20th anniversary
- NetCourseNow
- Latest NetCourse schedule
- From the Stata Bookstore
- Stata Users Group meetings

THE STATA NEWS is published four times a year and is free to all registered users of Stata.
Stata NetCourses™ teach you how to exploit the full power of Stata. They are web-based training courses for Stata users of all experience levels, from beginner to advanced. The courses cover topics ranging from getting started and data management to bootstrapping and simulation. A brief summary of upcoming NetCourses is listed below. For more details on how NetCourses work and for course syllabi, visit www.stata.com/netcourse/.

NC-101. Introduction to Stata

NC-101 is designed to take smart, knowledgeable people and turn them into proficient interactive Stata users. The course covers not just the obvious, such as getting data into Stata, but also covers detailed techniques and tricks to make you a powerful Stata user. Many of Stata’s key concepts are explored, from web update features and match-merging to using by groups and explicit subscripting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Stata 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dates offered</td>
<td>January 21 – March 4</td>
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<td>Course Leaders</td>
<td>Kevin Crow, Kerry Kammire, and Derek Wagner</td>
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<td>Enrollment Deadline</td>
<td>January 20</td>
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<td>Price</td>
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NC-151. Introduction to Stata programming

NC-151 is intended for all Stata users. Through a combination of lectures, example applications, and carefully chosen exercises, the course addresses the full range of methods and techniques necessary for you to be most productive in the Stata environment. Beginning with effective ways to organize both simple and complicated analyses in Stata, NetCourse 151 then moves into programming elements that can be used to help you work more efficiently. Key programming topics include macro processing, program flow of control, using do-files, programming ado-files, Monte Carlo simulations, and bootstrapped standard errors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
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### FROM THE STATA BOOKSTORE

**Event History Modeling**

*Event History Modeling: A Guide for Social Scientists* by Janet M. Box–Steffensmeier and Bradford S. Jones provides an excellent introduction to the field of survival (duration) analysis for the social scientist. The mathematics are kept to a bare minimum, with more emphasis on the substantive issues behind the methods being demonstrated. Indeed, the authors are very adept at relating even the most mathematical and technical concepts through well-worded, descriptive text. Examples from the social sciences (e.g., a duration analysis of U.N. peacekeeping missions) are distributed throughout the text.

This text also provides an excellent survey of the current state of the art in survival analysis, regardless of field of application. Beginning with the basics—hazards and survival functions, parametric models, etc.—the discussion then extends towards advanced topics, such as models for correlated data (frailty models) and models for multiple events, e.g., competing risks. In fact, we highly recommend this book to researchers who are exploring advanced topics in survival analysis for the first time, as this text does a good job of mapping out the available methods and distinguishing between alternative new methods for analyzing the same types of data. The bibliography is also quite thorough.

A complete table of contents and online ordering information can be found at www.stata.com/bookstore/ehm.html. You can also order the book using the enclosed bookstore order form.

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Statistics for Epidemiology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Nicholas P. Jewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
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study designs, analysis of tables, interaction, regression models for binary outcomes, advanced logistic regression, matching, and Cox regression.

A complete table of contents and online ordering information can be found at www.stata.com/bookstore/sfe.html. You can also order the book using the enclosed bookstore order form.

**Biostatistics, 2nd ed**

*Biostatistics: A Methodology for the Health Sciences* by Gerald van Belle, Lloyd D. Fisher, Patrick J. Heagerty, and Thomas Lumley provides an interesting mixture. Some will find it useful as an introductory statistics text, some as an advanced biostatistics text for a graduate course or for professional self-study, and some as an encyclopedia of biostatistics and a valuable desk reference. At almost 900 pages, it can easily serve in these three roles.

For the novice, some chapters of the text are similar to what you would find in an introductory statistics textbook, including an overview of the role that statistics plays in biomedical science, descriptive statistics, the normal distribution, one- and two-sample inference of means and proportions, issues associated with random sampling, contingency tables, linear models, and ANOVA, among others.

For those needing an advanced statistics text or a first course in biostatistics, there are chapters devoted to discrimination and classification, PCA and factor analysis, epidemiological tables, analysis of panel data, survival analysis, and randomized clinical trials, to name a few. Each chapter also contains a large number of exercises, making it ideal for use in the classroom, as well as for self-study.

Finally, the authors have invested considerable effort in forming a bibliography so complete that it may be used by advanced researchers wishing to track down current literature. Since the bibliography is organized by chapter, the reader has instant access to a reference list for any subfield of biostatistics currently under study.

A complete table of contents and online ordering information can be found at www.stata.com/bookstore/biostat.html. You can also order the book using the enclosed bookstore order form.

**A Visual Guide to Stata Graphics**

*A Visual Guide to Stata Graphics* gives you a detailed guide to Stata’s graphics capabilities in an easy-to-use format. From beginning to end, author Michael Mitchell demonstrates through step-by-step examples the most efficient methods to create even the most complicated graphs. It will be the first book you pick up when you want to create a specific type of graph using Stata.

Virtually every page contains full-color examples of Stata graphs, with most pages showing three graphs. You will probably find the kind of graph you need by simply thumbing through the pages. Along with each graph is the command that produces it, a brief description, and the name of its associated files. These files can be downloaded from the Stata web site.

In the right margin is a “Visual Table of Contents” to help you quickly navigate to a particular section for immediate results and obtain in-depth information to take your graphics skills to the next level.

The first chapter provides an excellent introduction to Stata graphics and provides tips for using the book effectively. Each available type of graph is discussed in its own chapter. The most commonly used options are then discussed, followed by a chapter discussing options that are available to all graphs. The final chapter discusses options that change the style of graph elements, such as color, line pattern, and text size. The appendix gives an overview of several topics, such as statistical graph commands, saving and combining graphs, common mistakes and schemes.

A complete table of contents and online ordering information can be found at www.stata.com/bookstore/vgsg.html. You can also order the book using the enclosed bookstore order form.

**STATA USERS GROUP MEETINGS**

We are pleased to announce the dates for the following 2005 Stata Users Group meetings. The organizers of each meeting would like to invite you to contact them regarding presentation offers or to discuss the suitability of a potential contribution. Presentations are sought on topics that include but are not limited to:

- user-written Stata programs
- case studies of research or teaching using Stata
- discussions of data-management problems
- reviews of analytical issues
- surveys or critiques of Stata facilities in specific fields, etc.
- tutorials showing how Stata is used to solve specific problems

Please email the organizers by the specified deadline if you are interested in giving a presentation, indicating whether you wish to give a 20-minute talk (followed by 10 minutes of discussion), a 10-minute talk (followed by 5 minutes of discussion), or a longer review or tutorial.

The Stata web site will be updated with cost and registration details as the information becomes available.
3rd German Stata Users Group meeting

Date: Friday, April 8, 2005
Venue: Berlin
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB)
Reichpietschufer 50
Organizers: Johannes Giesecke, Humboldt Univ. Berlin
Ulrich Kohler, WZB
Willi F. Sauerbrei, Univ. of Freiburg
Deadline: February 28, 2005
Sponsored by Dittrich and Partner Consulting GmbH
www.dpc.de
sales@dpc.de
info@timberlake.co.uk
www.timberlake.co.uk

Additional details will follow at www.stata.com/berlin05.

11th UK Stata Users Group meeting

Date: May 17–18, 2005
Venue: London
Centre for Econometric Analysis
Cass Business School
106 Bunhill Row
Organizers: Bianca De Stavola, Univ. of London
Stephen Jenkins, Univ. of Essex
Deadline: January 31, 2005
Sponsored by Timberlake Consultants LTD
www.timberlake.co.uk
info@timberlake.co.uk

Additional details will follow at www.stata.com/london05.

4th Boston Stata Users Group meeting

Date: July 11–12, 2005
Venue: Boston, Massachusetts
Longwood Galleria Conference Center
342 Longwood Avenue
Organizers: Rich Goldstein, consultant
Elizabeth Allred, Harvard Univ.
Kit Baum, Boston College
Deadline: March 31, 2005

Additional details will follow at www.stata.com/boston05.

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