



# PHS SummR Camp: Welcome

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August 24, 2020

PhD in Population Health Sciences  
Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health

# Overview

- Introducing the instructional team
- How to take PHS2000A/B
- PHS SummR Camp schedule
- Values Affirmation Exercise

# Instructional Team

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- **Instructors**

- Jarvis Chen, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
([jarvis@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:jarvis@hsph.harvard.edu))
- Michael Hughes, Department of Biostatistics  
([mhughes@sdac.harvard.edu](mailto:mhughes@sdac.harvard.edu))

- **Teaching Fellows**

- Jack Cordes (Epidemiology) [jcordes@g.harvard.edu](mailto:jcordes@g.harvard.edu)
- Matthew Lee (Nutrition) [mlee8@g.harvard.edu](mailto:mlee8@g.harvard.edu)
- Unnati Mehta (Environmental Health) [umehta@g.harvard.edu](mailto:umehta@g.harvard.edu)
- Kat Sadikova (Epidemiology) [esadikova@g.harvard.edu](mailto:esadikova@g.harvard.edu)

## How to take PHS2000A/B

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# About you

- PHS students bring a wealth of academic, work, and life experiences to their study
- Combined with a passion for learning and a commitment to public health, you are all positioned to make unique contributions to population health sciences
- Everyone who is here deserves to be here!

# PHS2000A/B Requirements

- Completion of the three exams in PHS2000A and the three exams in PHS2000B is a requirement of the PHS program (in addition to the Field of Study qualifying exams).
- PHS2000A/B is a major time commitment: you will have to work hard!
- Graduate school is the time to learn methods:
  - the integrated population health sciences perspective is unique to PHS2000A/B
  - in addition to learning specific methodologies, you will develop and hone your intuition about quantitative data and inference

# Some considerations

- Use this time to also learn how it is you learn best
  - even after your PhD you will continue to learn methods throughout your career
  - many different styles of learning
  - learn how you learn from others, including your colleagues
  - understanding your process of learning can also lead to good teaching



# Some considerations

- Graduate school is a marathon, not a sprint.
  - be open to transforming the ways in which you see and understand the world
  - deep understanding often requires multiple exposures to the same material and **time** for reflection and absorption.

We want to help you make an informed decision about when to take PHS2000A/B:

- Talk to your academic advisor.
- Most of you are well positioned to take PHS2000A/B this year
- Consider:
  - your prior coursework in statistics and quantitative research methods
  - your performance on the biostatistics pre-assessment (June)
  - your experience with the summer online biostatistics course
  - your experience with the PHS Summer Prep materials
  - your experience with PHS SummR Camp this week

# Options

- Take PHS2000A/B in 2020-2021

# Options

- Defer PHS2000A/B to 2021-2022, and instead
  - Take BST201 (Fall) and BST210 (Spring), OR
  - Take BST210 (Spring) and additional statistics course in spring (e.g. at GSE).

# Options

- Take PHS2000A in Fall 2020, but defer PHS2000B to Spring 2022.
  - Take an intermediate biostatistics course in Spring 2021, e.g. BST223 (Applied Survival Analysis), BST226 (Applied Longitudinal Analysis), or SBS263 (Multilevel Statistical Methods: Concept and Application)

# Options

- In rare situations, students who have already taken coursework that covers the material in PHS2000A may opt to request a waiver.
  - Students must take the three exams and achieve a B+ or better on each.
  - Students will have access to course materials and all recorded lectures and labs and are welcome to sit in on relevant parts of the course if they need to brush up.
  - Students who do not achieve B+ on the exams must take the course for credit the following year.
- Please refer to the PHS Handbook for details on the waiver application process.

- **All of these options are valid choices.** The most important thing is that you feel comfortable with your learning process and how you are using your time.

- You are welcome to meet with Jarvis Chen (jarvis@hsph.harvard.edu) on Friday after PHS SummR Camp if you would like to discuss.



We look forward to working with you!

# PHS SummR Camp Schedule

Monday 08/24, 2:00 - 3:30pm EST	Welcome and Intro to R (Jack)
Tuesday 08/25, 2:00 - 3:30pm EST	Mathematical Notation (Jarvis)
Wednesday 08/26, 9:00am - 12:00pm EST	Math Review (Kat)
Wednesday 08/26, 2:00pm - 3:30 pm EST	Probability Review (Unnati)
Thursday 08/27, 9:00 - 10:00am EST	Math and Probability Group Exercises
Thursday 08/27, 10:00am - 12:00pm EST	Regression Review (Matt)
Thursday 08/27, 2:00 - 3:30pm EST	PHS Student Panel and Breakout Session
Friday 08/28, 2:00 - 3:30pm EST	Harvard Graduate Student Union Presentation, SummR Camp Wrap-Up

- We encourage you to attend as many of the SummR Camp sessions this week as you are able.
- All didactic sessions will be recorded and can be accessed on the Zoom tab of the PHS2000A Canvas site.

# Values Affirmation Exercise

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# Values Affirmation Exercise

As you are about to begin a period of intensive academic pursuits, we in PHS would like to invite you to take some time to reflect on some of the **values** that are most important to you.

Please select **two** of the values listed and write just a few sentences about why each of the values you chose are important to you personally. We encourage you to focus on your **thoughts** and **feelings**, rather than on focusing on how well written your response is. Please feel free to be as brief or as lengthy as you wish.

**What you write as you reflect on these values is for you alone.** You are not required to share your reflections with anyone. Feel free to jot your thoughts down on paper or save them on your computer. You may appreciate revisiting them at a latter point in the semester.

# Values Affirmation Exercise

Please select two of the **values** listed below:

- being good at art
- creativity
- relationships with family and friends
- government or politics
- independence
- learning and gaining knowledge
- athletic ability
- belonging to a social group (such as your community, racial/ethnic group, or school club)
- music
- career
- social justice
- spiritual or religious values
- sense of humor
- other: (please specify)