Prologue

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Course Objectives

- Learn the theory and application of modern categorical data analysis methodology
- Enhance presentation skills by presenting results to selected homework sets
- Enhance written communication skills
- Ask, seek and answer questions

My Expectations of You

- Be on time to class
- Participate in class discussions
- Complete homework assignments using an electronic editor (Word,LaTeX) unless otherwise directed
- The results of the homework should be communicated so that a person knowledgable in the methodology could reproduce your results.
- Do NOT turn in raw `SAS` (or `R`) output.

Class Schedule

- Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.00 AM - 11.50 AM
- Place: One Capitol Square, 5th Floor, Room 5009

Course Materials

- Text 1: Alan Agresti. *Categorical Data Analysis*, Third Edition (2013), Publisher: John Wiley & Sons
- Text 2: Annette J. Dobson and Adrian G. Barnett. *An Introduction to Generalized Linear Models*, Third Edition (2008), Publisher: CRC Press/Chapman & Hall
- Course website - `http://people.vcu.edu/~dbandyop/BIOS625.18.html`
- Lecture notes, and other important materials will be posted there. Homework assignments will be posted in the course Blackboard.

Grading Policy

- Homework and Class Participation: 40%
- Two midterm exams: 20% each
- Final exam: 20%

Using LaTeX

- LaTeXis the document preparation software of mathematics
- Typesetting equations, tables and incorporating **selected** computer output is easily accomplished using latex
- Learning LaTeXis as easy as a quick Google Search
- You need to install the necessary softwares:
  1. `MikTex` (contains the latex engine)
  2. `Ghostview` and `GhostScript` (only needed for legacy support and viewing DVI files)
  3. `WinEdt` (Text Editor to help writing Latex)
  4. `Excel2Latex` macro (link on the class website, helpful for converting Excel Tables to the latex format)
- and some patience ...

Notes pertaining to Lecture Slides

- The lecture notes are produced using the LaTeXpackage `beamer`.
- On the screen, it looks like Powerpoint, but doesn't print like power point (the output is a .pdf document)
- To reduce the printing load of the class, select the printer options and print more than one page per .pdf. The photocopiers in our department can accomplish this pretty well.