

Steps for Doing Online Homework in R

1. Download the example files (data, syntax, and output in a .zip folder) that correspond to that homework (as given on the online syllabus). Extract the example files from the .zip folder so that you can use them (and note where they have been stored).
2. Open RStudio (not R directly). Inside RStudio, open the example syntax file that corresponds to your homework. Do not edit this example file—it will serve as a template for you to follow!
3. Log into the online homework portal. Using the links at the top of the page for that homework, download your individual dataset in .xlsx format and save it someplace you can access readily (such as the same place you saved the example syntax file). Also click on the link to the R “starter syntax” file—it should open as text in a new browser window.
4. Open a new empty .R syntax file, paste in your starter syntax (the text from the browser window in step 3), and save it as a new name for use with your current homework. You should now have two syntax files open—one “starter syntax” that starts your homework, and one syntax file from the example that demonstrates how to estimate the needed type of models.
5. In the new starter syntax file from step 4, change the directory where your files are stored in the quotes inside `setwd(" ")`. Also change your ID number in the name of the .xlsx file to be imported (i.e., change the part after `_` of `HW01_11111111.xlsx` to your ID number).
6. Run your new syntax for defining the directory and importing your data. Verify that it worked by looking at the imported data set before moving on. Ask for help troubleshooting if needed!
7. Now you are ready to answer homework questions! Read the homework problems and locate corresponding syntax in the example that does the same sort of procedure. Copy the example’s relevant part of the syntax into your homework syntax file and modify it as needed to work for your homework. Needed modifications will include changing the names of the variables (and potentially creating new predictor variables) and changing the name of the dataset. The homework instructions will tell you which variables to use as outcomes and predictors.
8. Do not overwrite your commands—for each model, make a new entry and add comments as to what it is for. It can helpful if you note in comments the sections or questions to which your commands correspond. Save your homework syntax frequently!