General info

- **TA:**
  I am here to help you with the class. If you have any questions or issues, please contact me.
  - Lisa Hofmann
  - Email: lihofman@ucsc.edu
  - Website: https://people.ucsc.edu/~lihofman/
  - Office hours: Tue 3-4, Stevenson 238 (Winter 2020)

- **Sections:**
  Sections accompanying the lectures. They are a space to discuss and recap things that you need clarification on. Sections are discussion-based and the most learning will happen if there is an active and lively participation in the discussion.
  - Section attendance is mandatory. If you are sick, you don’t need to provide a doctor’s note, but you need to let me know in advance, but if you can’t make it to section. (You can do this up to two times per quarter, after which you need to make special arrangements with the instructor.)
  - Active participation in section can influence your participation grade. Make sure to say something at least once during each section.
  - If there is anything (really anything) that doesn’t make sense to you (even if it’s just the meaning of a word, or something that was mentioned before), ask clarification questions.

- **Office hours:**
  You can go to the office hours of any of the TAs or the professor’s. Take advantage of this!

- **Contact:**
  If possible, ask questions during section or office hours. If you need to contact me outside of that, you can email me.

- **Classroom atmosphere:**
  You are encouraged to ask any questions you would like in sections and office hours. Please do not think that your questions are not sophisticated enough or something like that. There are no dumb questions here. If you feel uncomfortable or concerned with something and would like to bring it up with the class or with me personally, please feel free to do that at any time. You can also email me anonymously, e.g. if you set up an email account with the username ling50_randomnumbers@gmail.com and email me from there.

- **Grading strike:**
  While the rent in Santa Cruz was already high, but still has been drastically increasing, salaries at the UC have not been increasing. Graduate student TAs at every UC make $2,434 a month before taxes, for only 9 months of the year. However, we still Housing scholars define “rent burden” as paying 30% of your income on housing – most graduate students in Santa Cruz pay 50% of their income on housing, defined as “extreme rent burden”. The strike action is asking for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to help make up for the extremely high cost of living in Santa Cruz.

  The administration, representing their own interests, is trying to scare undergraduates and intimidate the strikers. The truth is that the TAs are not willing to harm undergraduates and are carefully trying to avoid harm to the undergraduates.

  The TAs in this class are participating in the grading strike. That means the grades for this class won’t be submitted until the administration agrees to pay us a COLA. However, your assignment grades will be communicated to you on your handed back homework, and you can ask your TA to submit or tell you your grade if needed. (A flowchart “Do I need my TA to submit my grade?” is found in the undergrad FAQ section on the COLA website https://payusmoreucsc.com/)