Socio-Informatics 348 Study Guide 2025

This guide provides a detailed overview of the lecture content, textbook chapters, and practicals for each week of the module. The course consists of 35 lectures and 10 practicals.

The module will use (parts of) four textbooks (see the table below). All four books are available for free online on the authors' websites (links available in the module framework).

It is expected that you will need to put in considerable self-study time practicing the techniques, seeking additional exercises, and working through the material outside of class. This is a very practical module.

There are three formal assessments (A1, A2, and A3) as well as further formative and summative assessments. Students must complete any **two** of the A1, A2 and A3; and **all** of the AF components to complete the module. Students must have completed the AF assessment to gain entry into the A2 and A3. Students may also not complete the A3 assessment if they have already completed both the A1 and A2. There are no additional assessment opportunities available other than those listed. **Students are strongly encouraged to complete the A1 and A2, leaving the A3 as an option in case of illness or other cases.**

	Date/Time	**%**
A1	4 Sep 17:40–19:40	35
A2	4 Nov 09:00–11:00	35
A3	28 Nov 09:00–11:00	35
Formal Assessments		70
Practicals		10
Assignment	Due 10 Oct, 23:59	20
TOTAL		100

10x Practicals: 10% (1% per practical)

- Submission of a completed (i.e., at least 80% of exercises attempted) practical file as student_number.qmd (e.g., 123456789.qmd) to the relevant link on SUNLearn by the deadline will earn you 1% as part of the AF assessment.
- These submissions will not be marked for correctness, only for completeness.
- The solutions to these exercises are available online, so this is primarily an exercise in self- study and practice. You will only be cheating yourself if you use any online solutions or anyone else's answers. This will come back to impact you in the tests which will be conducted under exam conditions. I encourage you to take the time to carefully work through each exercise, in conjunction with the relevant chapters in the textbook, to understand the content, and help yourself to understand the material and techniques.
- Each student is able to attend three hours of practical time each week (out of the nine hours scheduled) in which dedicated tutors will be available to provide support and guidance with the questions. I strongly encourage you to attend these sessions to get the help that you might need with the exercises.
    - Gr 1: Mon (10h10 – 12h00); Fri (08h10 – 09h00)
    - Gr 2: Tues (10h10 – 12h00); Fri (09h10 – 10h00)
    - Gr 3: Wed (08h10 – 10h00); Thurs (15h10 – 16h00)

- **An attendance register will be recorded during these sessions and attendance during at least 1 session is required to earn the 1% for the practical submission.**

Week	Lecture	Day	Date	Content	Chapters	Practical
1	1 2 3	M W F	21-Jul 23-Jul 25-Jul	Module introduction Computational social science and the data analysis process Intro to R, Workflows, and Quarto	 Salganik: 1, 2; R4DS: intro R4DS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 28	
2	1 2 3	M W F	28-Jul 30-Jul 01-Aug	**NO CLASS**		Prac 0
3	1 2 3	M W F	04-Aug 06-Aug 8-Aug	Data visualisation Data visualisation Data transformation	R4DS: 1 R4DS: 1 R4DS: 3	
4	1 2 3	M W F	11-Aug 13-Aug 15-Aug	Data transformation Data tidying Data importing	R4DS: 3 R4DS: 5 R4DS: 7	Prac 1
5	1 2 3	M W F	18-Aug 20-Aug 22-Aug	Visualise - Layers Visualise - Exploratory data analysis Visualise - Exploratory data analysis	R4DS: 9 R4DS: 10 R4DS: 10	Prac 2
6	1 2 3	M W F	25-Aug 27-Aug 29-Aug	Visualise – Communication Transform - Logical vectors Transform – Numbers	R4DS: 11 R4DS: 12 R4DS: 13	Prac 3
7	1 2 3	M W F	01-Sep 03-Sep **04-Sep** 05-Sep	Transform – Strings Revision A1 **A1 Assessment** Assignment Instructions	R4DS: 14 **(A1 scope = R4DS: ch 1 - 14; Salganik: 1, 2)**	Prac 4
8	1 2 3	M W F	08-Sep 10-Sep 12-Sep	**RECESS**		

Week	Lecture	Day	Date	Content	Chapters	Practical
9	1 2 3	M W F	15-Sep 17-Sep 19-Sep	Transform – Regex Transform - Factors Transform – Dates and Times	R4DS: 15 R4DS: 16 R4DS: 17	Prac 5
10	1 2 3	M W F	22-Sep 24-Sep 26-Sep	Transform - Missing values **Public Holiday** Transform - Joins	R4DS: 18 R4DS: 19	Prac 6
11	1 2 3	M W F	29-Sep 01-Oct 03-Oct	Import – Databases Import - Web scraping Import	R4DS: 21 R4DS: 24	Prac 7
12	1 2 3	M W F	06-Oct 08-Oct 10-Oct	Program - Functions Program – Iterations Modelling overview **Assignment Due**	R4DS: 25 R4DS: 26 van Atteveldt 8.1, 8.2	Prac 8
13	1 2 3	M W F	13-Oct 15-Oct 17-Oct	Text analysis - Intro Text analysis - Sentiment analysis Text analysis - Word/doc frequency	Silge: 1 Silge: 2 Silge: 3	Prac 9
14	1 2 3	M W F	20-Oct 22-Oct 24-Oct	Text analysis - Relations between words Text analysis - Topic modelling Ethics in Computational Social Science	Silge: 4,5 Silge: 6 Salganik: 6	Prac 10
END OF SEMESTER						
Tuesday 4 Nov				A2 Assessment	Scope = Everything	
Friday 28 Nov				A3 Assessment	Scope = Everything	