DSC 180B

Intro to the Capstone Sequence II

Outline

- DSC 180B Course Structure
- Summary of Assignments
- Grading Policy
- Working in Teams

Weekly Course Structure

- Lecture
  - Pre-recorded video posted on Canvas; covers communication and presentation.
  - Monday 9-11 is used as Methodology Office Hours via appointment (see Canvas)..
- Discussion
  - Domain discussion is mandatory; contact instructor about difficulties with attendance.
  - Used as a weekly check-in on your progress; helpful to hear other groups obstacles.
  - Turn in your weekly check-in on Canvas before discussion (more on this later).

Course Deliverables

- “The Project” primarily consists of:
  - Project code and documentation (in a *public* GitHub repository).
  - An analysis of results/output ("scientific report").
  - A visual presentation of the project output (e.g. blog post, website, application)
  - Slide-based talk
- Miscellaneous
  - Assignment Checkpoints (1x assignment)
  - Weekly check-ins

Note: Depending on the project, you may choose either the report or viz to be your “primary presentation” of your project.

Rough Course Schedule

- Course deliverables largely due in weeks 9 & 10.
  - This is a lot due at the end of the quarter!
  - Checkpoints are meant for early feedback.
  - Weekly Check-ins keep your project on schedule.
- First half of quarter: free for project development
- Second half of quarter: begin putting together project output.
- Friday of week 10: **Capstone Presentation Event**

How is the Project Developed?

- Your project proposal is the contract against which you are evaluated
  - It can (likely will) change; changes must be discussed with your mentor
  - Progress on your schedule helps pace your work and avoids end-of-quarter surprises.
- Weekly check-ins
  - Meet with project group to discuss tasks completed, obstacles faced, plan for next week.
  - The check-in should enumerate what *each group member* attempted that week.
  - Turn in summary on Canvas before section; serves as audit trail for work attempted.
  - One member picked by mentor to summarize *entire* group's progress in class.
  - Work should be **evenly distributed among team members**

Expectations of your Project Code

- Host your project code in a *public* GitHub repository.
- Your code should meet the methodological standards of 180A
  - Documented, buildable, containerized
- Your project should be developed using best practices:
  - Work should be developed incrementally on GitHub, according to lecture (later)
  - Each week should have a working version of the 'newest' work in the *main* branch.

Progress on all of these will be checked ~ week 5 in the code checkpoint. Your work on GitHub should reflect steady, incremental work.

Grading Policy

- Every assignment is graded on a scale of A/B/C/F without plus/minus
  - See syllabus for the criteria and reasoning.
- Final Grade is computed using standard grade-point calculations.
- Grading and groupwork: projects *can* have different grades assigned to different individuals (audit of work in the weekly check-ins).
- Final Project deliverables make up 80% of final course grade
  - Due the final 2 weeks of class.
  - Use the checkpoints, section, and office hours to get regular feedback
  - Your grade will not be a surprise if you speak regularly with your mentor.

Working on Project in Remote Teams

- Groups will make predictable, incremental progress
  - Proposal, Schedule, and Check-ins are tools for this.
- Choose a regular tools for remote communication among your team
  - Check-ins force check-ins among *your group* as well as among your domain.
  - Leverage your project GitHub repository to share code (the *issues feature* works well for discussing problems/improvements).
- What if group members are not contributing equally?
  - Weekly Check-ins are opportunities to discuss these issues with your group.
  - Be honest and matter-of-fact about the contributions each member can make. Life may affect how much one can contribute. Update your schedule with these constraints and your weekly check-ins will reflect the division of labor (grade may reflect this).