

Assignment 1: Background and Setup

Due Date: 01/29/2026 at 11:00PM

Points: 10

Assignment Portal: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/B7auh5tvhdsqK5heqTvc>

Part 1: Reflection (5 pts; Short answer; 200-300 words)

Before we dig in this semester, I want to know where you are and where you would like to go. Please write a written reflection summarizing i) what relevant experience you have in data science, ii) why you are taking the course this semester / what you are hoping to learn, and iii) your career aspirations and how data science skills might be useful. In short, beyond “course credit hours,” why are you here?

1. Write your reflection answer in a Word doc or other text editor and submit with a meaningful filename (including student name, assignment name, date, etc.) to the assignment 1 portal.

Part 2: The “Hello World” Check (5 pts; Screenshot submission)

Once you have followed the environment setup steps we covered in our remote lectures for week 2, you should have an anaconda environment set up that you can use to run all the code and assignments we will be working on using Python in our first several weeks of the course. To demonstrate this, please run the following “hello world!” check”

1. Open your newly installed **dspn_env** in Terminal, git bash, or conda prompt depending on your operating system / personal preferences.
2. Inside terminal, move to the course code directory you have set up in line with the class on file management from week 1.
3. Launch jupyter-lab, and create a new notebook using a Python kernel and name it “assignment_01_setup.ipynb”
4. **OPT 1: If you are already familiar with Python coding...**
 - Make an “assignment_01_setup.ipynb” file, and have it print out the following information:
 - i. A “hello world!” message.
 - ii. Your environment’s Python version.
 - iii. Your environment’s NumPy version.
 - iv. Your environment’s Pandas version.
 - v. Your current working directory.
 - vi. A message confirming that a “data” folder exists in your DSPN base directory, using relative filepaths.

OPT 2: If you are NOT familiar with Python coding...

- Download the “assignment_01_setup_starter.ipynb” code from the class Github page.
 - Move the code to your “code” directory.
 - Open and run the code in Jupyter.
5. Take a screenshot of the output chunk showing what assignment_01_setup*.ipynb produces in your environment. Either embed the screenshot after your reflection from part 1, or submit as two separate files, up to you.
 - Regardless, be sure to label your file(s) so I know who submitted them!!

Note: If you have trouble getting Part 2 running please write about it in your reflection answer for Part 1!