

SoDA 496

Syllabus

Mike Burnham

1/9/2023

Goals

1. Modeling
2. Interpretation
3. Communication

Reading

- Reading for this class is light and I don't expect you to read academic articles in their entirety. Be able to answer these questions:
 1. What hypothesis are the authors testing?
 2. How do they measure their variables of interest?
 3. Do you agree with the author's conclusions?

Grades

Assignments

- Four assignments throughout the semester worth 20% of your grade.
- Deadlines are soft, I am primarily concerned that they are done well.
- You can resubmit your assignment once if you are not happy with your grade.

Midterm

- Taken in class March 3rd
- Short answer format covering the conceptual material in the first half of the class.
- Use lecture slides as a study guide.
- Focus on vocabulary and big concepts, not on specific points made in academic literature.

Final Paper and Presentation

- Continuation of previous semester's work.
- No page limit. My primary concern is that it is complete and edited well.
- Possible checkpoints throughout the semester
- 10-15 minute presentations

Attendance

- Attendance and participation is 20% of your grade. One absence will be forgiven with no justification necessary. If you need additional time or an extended absence, please reach out to me.
- I do not expect everyone to participate equally, but everyone should participate to some degree.

Introduction and Questions



Questions for you

- Where are you from?
- What are you interested in?
- What do you want to do with your degree?
- What is your preferred programming language?

Questions for everyone

- How far along are you in your capstone projects?
- Have you had exposure to any of the following:
 - SQL
 - NLP/Text as data
 - Deep learning
 - Network analysis
 - Virtual environments
 - Regression
 - Endogeneity
 - Causal inference
- What do you want from this class?
- What is something that you wish you knew more about?