

# DSC 302 Syllabus

## DSC302 - Data Visualization - Syllabus Fall 2022

### Table of Contents

- [1. General Course Information](#)
- [2. Objectives](#)
- [3. Target audience](#)
- [4. Student Learning Outcomes](#)
- [5. Course requirements](#)
- [6. Grading system](#)
- [7. Grading table](#)
- [8. \(Revision\) Tests \(ungraded\)](#)
- [9. \(Programming\) Assignments](#)
- [10. Classwork / attendance](#)
- [11. \(Project\) sprint review](#)
- [12. Standard Policies](#)
- [13. Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#)
- [14. Assignments and Honor Code](#)
- [15. Attendance policy](#)
- [16. Dates and class schedule](#)

## 1 General Course Information

- Meeting Times: Mon-Wed-Fri from 15:00-15:50 am
- Meeting place: Derby Science Building Computer Lab 209
- Professor: Marcus Birkenkrahe
- Professor's Office: Derby Science Building 210
- Phone: (870) 307-7254 (office) / (501) 422-4725 (private)
- Office hours: Monday through Friday after class (see Canvas)
- Textbook: Exploratory Data Analysis Using R by Ronald K. Pearson, chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-180) ([CRC Press, 2018](#))

## 2 Objectives

Data science is concerned with getting data to work for us, to give us its (presumed) hidden treasures. Data science has been called "the sexiest job of the 21st century". Even if you don't want to become a professional data scientist, it's helpful to master the basic concepts if you want to succeed in today's data-driven business.

This course focuses on visualizing data. There are many tools and platforms out there to visualize patterns found in data and tell engaging, convincing stories. As a data scientist, you have to know what's out there, understand the principles of good visual presentation, and be able to customize plots quickly.

In this course, we look at popular platforms like Tableau and R Shiny, and at different packages within R.

## 3 Target audience

The course is for anyone who is interested in becoming more data literate in their own field of interest - be it languages, theatre, biology, psychology or exercise science - and growing their personal skill stack.

Visualization of data-driven insights and improved productivity when working with data and media is a concern for any professional.

## 4 Student Learning Outcomes

Students who complete "Data visualization" (DSC 302) will be able to:

- Learn about, and use popular data science visualization platforms
- Understand how to visualise exploratory data analysis results
- Apply literate programming principles to their work with Org-mode
- Use infrastructure including command line, Emacs, and GitHub
- Develop their critical thinking skills
- Know how to effectively present assignment and project results

This introduction to Exploratory Data Analysis prepares course participants for taking DSC 305, "Machine learning".

## 5 Course requirements

Introduction to programming (CSC 100 or CSC 115). Some knowledge of, and experience with programming and using the R language is useful but not critical. Curiosity is essential. You will gain data literacy skills by taking this course. The course will prepare you for further studies in computer and data science, or in other disciplines that use modern computing, i.e. every discipline, from accounting to zoology).

## 6 Grading system

The table lists course requirements, number of units (classroom sessions), points-per-unit (PPU), total points per requirement, and the impact of a requirement on your total grade.

REQUIREMENT	UNITS	PPU	TOTAL	% of TOTAL
Final exam	1	100	100	20.
Assignments	15	10	150	30.
Classwork	15	10	150	30.
Sprint review	5	20	100	20.
TOTAL			500	100.

You should be able to see your current grade at any time using the gradebook for the course.

## 7 Grading table

This table is used to convert completion rates into letter grades. For the midterm results, letter grades still carry signs, while for the term results, only straight letters are given (by rounding up).

%	MIDTERM GRADE	FINAL GRADE	POINTS
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%	MIDTERM GRADE	FINAL GRADE	POINTS
100-98	A+		
97-96	A	A (passed -	
95-90	A-	very good)	450.
89-86	B+		
85-80	B	B (passed -	
79-76	B-	good)	380.
75-70	C+		
69-66	C	C (passed -	
65-60	C-	satisfactory)	300.
59-56	D+		
55-50	D	D (passed)	250.
49-0	F	F (failed)	

## 8 (Revision) Tests (ungraded)

- Complete before coming to class
- Recall last chapter or section of class
- Test question subset becomes final exam

## 9 (Programming) Assignments

- Complete DataCamp lessons
- Complete assignments outside of class
- Be ready to present your solutions

## 10 Classwork / attendance

- Complete assignments in class (participation)
- Upload completed assignments (homework)
- Be ready to present your results in class

## 11 (Project) sprint review

- Research exploratory data analysis project
- Apply agile project management methods
- Present your results during 3 sprint reviews

## 12 Standard Policies

### Honor Code

All graded work in this class is to be pledged in accordance with the Lyon College Honor Code. The use of a phone for any reason during the course of an exam is considered an honor code violation.

## **Class Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all class periods for the courses in which they are enrolled. They are responsible for conferring with individual professors regarding any missed assignments. Faculty members are to notify the Registrar when a student misses the equivalent of one, two, three, and four weeks of class periods in a single course. Under this policy, there is no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences, except that a student may make up work missed during an excused absence. A reminder of the college’s attendance policy will be issued to the student at one week, a second reminder at two weeks, a warning at three weeks, and notification of administrative withdrawal and the assigning of an “F” grade at four weeks. Students who are administratively withdrawn from more than one course will be placed on probation or suspended.

## **Disabilities**

The Morrow Academic Center (MAC) helps students who want to improve grades by providing peer-led services including Supplemental Instruction (SI), tutoring, the Writing Center, and academic coaching as well providing 24-hour, online tutoring for all subjects through Tutor.com. A schedule of peer-led services is available at [lyon.edu/mac](http://lyon.edu/mac) and Tutor.com is accessed through courses in Schoology. Contact Donald Taylor, Director of Academic Support, at 870-307-7319 or [donald.taylor@lyon.edu](mailto:donald.taylor@lyon.edu) for more information about MAC services.

## **Technology Support**

For general technology support, you can contact the IT department by emailing [support@lyon.edu](mailto:support@lyon.edu) or by calling 870-307-7555. For assistance with classroom-related technologies, such as the learning management system (LMS), you can request support using the methods above, or you can contact [sarah.williams@lyon.edu](mailto:sarah.williams@lyon.edu) directly for assistance. Your course content will be accessible digitally using either the Schoology or Canvas LMS. Both LMS platforms will use your myLyon credentials for your student login.

- For Canvas, login at [lyon.instructure.com](http://lyon.instructure.com)
- For Schoology, login at [lyon.schoology.com](http://lyon.schoology.com)

## **Disabilities**

Students seeking reasonable accommodations based on documented learning disabilities must contact Interim Director of Academic Support Donald Taylor in the Morrow Academic Center at (870) 307-7019 or at [donald.taylor@lyon.edu](mailto:donald.taylor@lyon.edu).

## **Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct**

Lyon College seeks to provide all members of the community with a safe and secure learning and work environment that is free of crime and/or policy violations motivated by discrimination, sexual and bias-related harassment, and other violations of rights. The College has a zero-tolerance policy against gender-based misconduct, sexual assault, and interpersonal violence toward any member or guest of the Lyon College community. Any individual who has been the victim of an act of violence or intimidation is urged to make an official report by contacting a campus Title IX coordinator or by visiting [www.lyon.edu/file-a-title-ix-report](http://www.lyon.edu/file-a-title-ix-report). A report of an act of violence or intimidation will be dealt with promptly. Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of the law. For more information regarding the College’s Title IX policies and procedures, visit [www.lyon.edu/title-ix](http://www.lyon.edu/title-ix).

## Mental & Behavioral Health

Lyon College is dedicated to ensuring each student has access to mental and behavioral health resources. The College's Mental and Behavioral Health Office is located in Edwards Commons and is partnered with White River Health System's Behavioral Health Clinic. The office is committed to helping the Lyon community achieve maximum mental and behavioral wellness through both preventative and reactive care. A full-time, licensed, professional counselor provides counseling, consultations, outreach, workshops, and many more mental and behavioral services to Lyon students, faculty, and staff at no cost. The Mental and Behavioral Health Office also provides access to White River Health System's services and facilities, including medication management and in-patient and out-patient care. To make an appointment, contact [counseling@lyon.edu](mailto:counseling@lyon.edu).

## College-Wide COVID-19 Policies for Fall, 2022

The College does not require masks in instructional and meeting spaces inside academic buildings. However, if instructors require masks in their classroom, lab, or studio, then students and guests must comply with that requirement. Vaccines are strongly encouraged for all faculty, staff, and students. Vaccines are not mandated for Lyon College community members, although there may be specific courses involving interactions with vulnerable, external populations where a vaccine may be required. The College will continue to offer symptomatic testing for students, faculty and staff.

## Details

Details specific to this course may be found in the subsequent pages of this syllabus. Those details will include at least the following:

- A description of the course consistent with the Lyon College catalog.
- A list of student learning outcomes for the course.
- A summary of all course requirements.
- An explanation of the grading system to be used in the course.
- Any course-specific attendance policies that go beyond the College policy.
- Details about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable student collaboration on graded work.
- A clear statement about which LMS is being used for the course.

## 13 Learning Management System (LMS)

We will use Canvas in this course ([lyon.instructure.com/courses/568](https://lyon.instructure.com/courses/568)).

## 14 Assignments and Honor Code

There will be several assignments during the summer school, including programming assignments and multiple-choice tests. They are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. Once class begins, the assignment will be considered one day late if it has not been turned in. Late programs will not be accepted without an extension. Extensions will **not** be granted for reasons such as:

- You could not get to a computer
- You could not get a computer to do what you wanted it to do
- The network was down
- The printer was out of paper or toner
- You erased your files, lost your homework, or misplaced your flash drive
- You had other coursework or family commitments that interfered with your work in this course

Put “Pledged” and a note of any collaboration in the comments of any program you turn in. Programming assignments are individual efforts, but you may seek assistance from another student or the course instructor. You may not copy someone else’s solution. If you are having trouble finishing an assignment, it is far better to do your own work and receive a low score than to go through an honor trial and suffer the penalties that may be involved.

What is cheating on an assignment? Here are a few examples:

- Having someone else write your assignment, in whole or in part
- Copying an assignment someone else wrote, in whole or in part
- Collaborating with someone else to the extent that your submissions are identifiably very similar, in whole or in part
- Turning in a submission with the wrong name on it

What is not cheating? Here are some examples:

- Talking to someone in general terms about concepts involved in an assignment
- Asking someone for help with a specific error message or bug in your program
- Getting help with the specifics of language syntax or citation style
- Utilizing information given to you by the instructor

Any assistance must be clearly explained in the comments at the beginning of your submission. If you have any questions about this, please ask or review the policies relating to the Honor Code.

Absences on Days of Exams:

Test “make-ups” will only be allowed if arrangements have been made prior to the scheduled time. If you are sick the day of the test, please e-mail me or leave a message on my phone before the scheduled time, and we can make arrangements when you return.

## 15 Attendance policy

In accordance with college policy, you must attend a minimum of 80% of non-cancelled meetings without risking a fail. This means that you must attend a minimum of 32/40 meetings. If you miss more than 8 meetings, you fail the class automatically. Any missed meetings result in an "Early Alert" report.

You should take care not to miss consecutive sessions if at all possible - otherwise you risk losing touch with the class and falling behind.

## 16 Dates and class schedule

- Important extra-curricular dates

WHEN	WHAT
August 16	Classes begin
August 29	Last day to drop course
September 5	Labor day (no classes)
October 1-4	Fall break (no classes)
October 6	Mid-term grades due

WHEN	WHAT
October 14-26	Sesquicentennial week
October 20	Service day (no classes)
November 23-27	Thanksgiving break (no classes)
December 2	Last day of classes
December 14	Final grades due

- Class session schedule

NO	DATE	TESTS	TEXTBOOK	ASSIGNMENT <sup>1</sup>
1	Wed-17-Aug	Entry Test		1. Visualizing distributions [DC]
2	Fri-19-Aug			2. Emacs tutorial
3	Mon-22-Aug	Test 1	1. Data, EDA, R	3. Visualizing two variables [DC]
4	Wed-24-Aug			
5	Fri-26-Aug			
6	Mon-29-Aug	Test 2	2. Graphics in R	4. The color and the shape [DC]
7	Wed-31-Aug			
8	Fri-02-Sep			1st Sprint review
9	Wed-07-Sep	Test 3	2.3 plot()	5. 99 problems... [DC]
10	Fri-09-Sep			
11	Mon-12-Sep	Test 4	2.4 Adding details	6. Intro to base R graphics [DC]
12	Wed-14-Sep			
13	Fri-16-Sep			
14	Mon-19-Sep	Test 5	2.5 Plot types	7. Different plot types [DC]
15	Wed-21-Sep			
16	Fri-23-Sep			
17	Mon-26-Sep	Test 6	2.6 Plot arrays	8. Adding details to plots [DC]
18	Wed-28-Sep			
19	Fri-30-Sep			2nd Sprint Review
20	Wed-05-Oct	Test 7	2.7 Color graphics	9. How much is too much? [DC]
21	Fri-07-Oct			
22	Mon-10-Oct	Test 8	3.1 Exploring data	10. Adv plot customization [DC]
23	Wed-12-Oct			

NO	DATE	TESTS	TEXTBOOK	ASSIGNMENT <sup>1</sup>
24	Fri-14-Oct			
25	Mon-24-Oct	Test 9	3.2 Numerical data	11. Intro to ggplot [DC]
26	Wed-26-Oct			
27	Fri-28-Oct			
28	Mon-31-Oct	Test 10	3.3 Anomalies	12. Building web apps w/shiny [DC]
29	Wed-02-Nov			3rd Sprint Review
30	Fri-04-Nov			
31	Mon-07-Nov	Test 11	3.4 Relationships	13. Introduction to Tableau [DC]
32	Wed-09-Nov			
33	Fri-11-Nov			
34	Mon-14-Nov	Test 12	4 External data	14. External data
35	Wed-16-Nov			
36	Fri-18-Nov			
37	Mon-21-Nov	Test 13	4.74. RSQLite	15. RSQLite
38	Mon-28-Nov	Test 14		Final Sprint review
39	Wed-30-Nov			Final Sprint review
40	Fri-02-Dec			Final Sprint review

## Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Assignments include selected chapters from five different DataCamp courses: "Data Visualization for Everyone", "Data Visualization in R", "Introduction to Tableau", "Introduction to Data Visualization with ggplot2", and "Building web applications with shiny in R".

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