Updated Information for `Data Science for Biologists` (Spring 2020)

READ THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY. Please post questions or clarifications in the #logistical-questions Slack channel.

If you have not yet joined the class Slack workspace, please do so ASAP:

- [Link to join class workspace](#)
- Please download the Slack app for your computer and phone - will be very helpful and is WAY better than the browser version.

Weekly class

- Every week, you can expect 1-2 lecture videos to debut **each Monday** with that week's materials. Each week's (except the last week, keep reading!) assignment will be due the following **Sundays at 11:59 pm** (more info in next section).
- As before, materials will be hosted on the class website here, and submissions will be on Blackboard.
- **Please keep all active Projects in the CLASS RSTUDIO CLOUD WORKSPACE to ensure I can help you!!** Similarly, any other code you want me to see should go there. As usual, move the completed projects

Updated Grading Scheme

Your final grade will now be determined from:

- Midterm Project (25%)
- Assignments (75%)

Details on assignments

- You will stop drop the lowest grade!!

- The Final Project will be converted to a *double assignment* (i.e. will count as TWO assignment grades - total ~14% contribution to final grade rather than 25%).

- In the end, there will be **11** assignments total that count towards your grade (remember one is dropped!). This means each assignment now counts as ~6.8% of your final grade:

  - **6** assigned before break:
    * Evaluating dataviz assignment (where we found bad figures, remember that?)
    * Intro `ggplot2`
    * More `ggplot2`
    * Wrangling with `dplyr`
    * More wrangling with `dplyr`
    * The never-ending `tidyr` assignemnt
  - **6** coming up after break:
    * Permutation testing assignment
    * Linear modeling assignment
    * Logistic regression assignment
    * Clustering/PCA assignment
    * Final assignment which counts DOUBLE

- *Please rest assured: All forthcoming assignments really will be MUCH SHORTER and based around accomplishing only 1-2 overarching tasks.*

- You may participate in `#TidyTuesday` through the bitter end aka up until grades are due to the university on Friday 5/15/20. (Note, originally this would have ended during the last week of class, 4/28/20, so you get two more chances).

  - Including *this week* (the dataset for 3/17/20), there are **NINE more** #TidyTuesday's you can do.

  - The last week considered will be for the dataset released on 5/12/20 *but ONLY IF you get it to me by 11:59 pm on Thursday 5/14* - this is necessary for the university grade entry deadline.

Communication

Virtual Meetings

Please see that other document for Google Calendar Instructions

- There will be two kinds of office hours, for which all scheduling will be done via **Google Calendar**. Join the calendar here (you must be logged into your Rowan account). Please use the GOOGLE CHROME BROWSER!! Not Internet Explorer, not Safari, not Firefox - they are not guaranteed to work cleanly with the Google services that we will use. Each meeting will either take place via Google Hangouts (likely for small one-on-one meetings), and larger class meetings will take place via Zoom. + Every **Wednesday from 3-4:30 pm** there will be an open session for anyone to join. Links to join these meetings will be embedded in the calendar event.
  - Every **Tuesday 3-4:30 pm** and **Friday 3-4:30 pm** there will be opportunities to book individual (or team!!!) remote meetings with me, again via the class google calendar. These bi-weekly events are scheduled in the calendar. To make an appointment, click the event, and then click "Go to appointment page for this calendar." You can then book 1 or more (but please don't overbook!!) 15-minute time slots. Once you have made an appointment and I am notified, I will be able to turn on a link for the meeting. Make sure to book meetings in a timely fashion!!
  - If you are unable to make any of those times, please DM me on Slack and we will find another suitable time to meet.
  - To facilitate scheduling, I highly recommend you install the "Google Calendar" app to your Slack. See here for information.
  - **When coming to your personal meetings, please start initiating the process to join the meeting a few minutes early. It may take some time to set up. Don't take away from the next person's meeting time.**

For other types of communication (questions, emails), please default to the Slack Workspace for all communications:

- DM me on the app for indiviualized conversation. If any conversation appears important enough to merit being on email, I will transition the conversation accordingly.
- Use the `#channels` to direct flow of information and general discussions
- Protip! For each message you send to a `#channel`, there is an option to reply directly and start a thread - this keeps conversations grouped! If/when you start a thread, please be sure to click the button that shares responses with everyone in the class.

What should you NOT worry about?

- Attendance. There are no required in-person meeting times. As long as you get the work in on time, you'll be set.
- Time to complete assignments. While there are deadlines, nothing will be within the context of a *timed* Blackboard test. In other words, nothing will be a "do this in Blackboard and you get cut off in 45 minutes."
- If you get severely ill and are unable to complete assignments, please reach out to me ASAP. I may ask for a *brief* video chat to confirm your circumstances. **Extensions will be liberally granted when they are appropriate.** Please do not assume an extension is granted unless I explicitly tell you so - asking for one is not the same as receiving one.
  - If an extension is not feasible given the circumstances, there will be a possibility to exempt you from the given assignment entirely.