

DS 202 (Spring 2021): Data Acquisition and Exploratory Data Analysis

Delivery method: Flipped. Modules available on Canvas, and real-time class meetings on Zoom: <https://iastate.zoom.us/j/93009772568?pwd=aWlWWHN0SmN2U011K3BiejhFK3E4Zz09>

Online meeting times: Monday and Wednesday 12:05 pm – 1:25 pm

Instructor: Xiongtao Dai

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Student hours: Wednesday 12:45pm – 1:25 pm, and by appointment

Teaching assistant: Lynn Huang

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Student hours: Wednesday 12:05 pm – 12:45 pm, Thursday 1:00 – 2:00 pm, and by appointment

Prerequisites: DS 201

Course description: Data acquisition: file structures, web-scraping, database access; ethical aspects of data acquisition; types of data displays; numerical and visual summaries of data; pipelines for data analysis: filtering, transformation, aggregation, visualization and (simple) modeling; good practices of displaying data; data exploration cycle; graphics as tools of data exploration; strategies and techniques for data visualizations; basics of reproducibility and repeatability; web-based interactive applets for visual presentation of data and results. Programming exercises.

What you will learn: Be able to

- acquire and read data in different formats and from different sources;
- implement a basic data processing pipeline;
- explore data;
- visualize complex data in appropriate forms; and
- communicate your findings in a reproducible form.

How you will learn: The course will be taught in a flipped format, with everything delivered remotely (so there is no in-person meetings). In a typical week, you will

- study recorded lecture videos which “cover the contents” by the time of Monday’s class;
- finish an individual quiz by Monday’s class, and then an identical group quiz in class on Monday;
- during Monday’s meeting, participate in demonstrations, group discussions, case studies, and lab activities which aims at applying the newly-learned knowledge to analyze a real-world dataset;
- work on weekly homework or lab assignments in Wednesday’s meeting, when the instructor and TA will be available to answer your questions;
- hand in your assignment by the end of the Friday.

Computer software: This class will be teaching the R language (<https://www.r-project.org/>). Making proper use of version control systems `git` and GitHub will be required for the homework, lab, and final project.

Optional reading materials:

- *R for Data Science*, Garrett Golemund and Hadley Wickham, <https://r4ds.had.co.nz/>

- Chapter 1–2, *Pro Git*, Scott Chacon and Ben Straub, <https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2>

Course webpage: We will post course materials and announcement on Canvas. Much of the materials are developed by Dr Heike Hofmann.

Whiteboard notes: Occasional notes made in class will be posted here: https://1drv.ms/u/s!Ak8s_thaiwu-iIomyReM5JYz95yWJg. (Bookmark this page!)

Piazza: We will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TA, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the TA and the instructor, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. Piazza is integrated into Canvas so you can access it there; alternatively, visit (piazza.com/iastate/spring2021/ds202) in your browser. The response time is 24 hours. Emails to the TA and the instructor are reserved for personal matters.

When posting on Piazza, please follow adequate netiquettes:

- Be polite and respectful to others.
- Search before you post. Your question may have already been asked and answered.
- When you post a question, please explain the context and give an example of what you have issue with. Posting screenshots and asking “What is going wrong?” is unacceptable.
- Posting short snippet of code is fine, but please refrain from posting a complete solution to a question.

Learning groups: You will be assigned to a learning group that lasts throughout the semester. The learning group is where you can turn to for discussion and group work.

Quizzes: There will be weekly individual quizzes posted on Canvas. The quiz questions are supposed to be relatively simple and can be immediately answered after studying the lecture videos. The individual quizzes are due by Monday at 11:59 am, and will be immediately graded with the total score released but not the per-question scores.

Students will be able to correct mistakes and attempt a higher score in the group quiz in Monday’s class. The group quiz will be the same as the individual quiz. Students will discuss within the learning group and arrive at a single answer. One of the group members will submit the quiz answers on Canvas, representing the group. If a question is answered incorrectly in the individual quiz but correctly in the group quiz, the student will gain back the deducted scores. You will only gain scores by taking the group quiz – it will never decrease your quiz score. Only students who participated in the group quiz will receive credits from the group quiz.

Homework and Labs: There will be 5 homework and 5 lab assignments throughout the semester, except for the midterm and preparation weeks. Homework are to be finished individually, and lab assignments can be finished either individually or in small groups. You can optionally work in teams of 2 or 3 students in your study group for each lab (except for Lab 1 on GitHub where you are required to team up). Feel free to discuss the assignments with your groupmates or anyone else in the class. However, you (and your lab mates) must write the assignments individually. **Plagiarism detection will be strictly enforced** using the Measure Of Software Similarity (MOSS, <https://theory.stanford.edu/~aiken/moss/>).

Midterm exam: There will be one midterm exam on March 24. The midterm will be an open-book open-Internet take-home exam. You cannot obtain help from anyone else, however. The midterm exam will test on your understanding of R and git commands, data wrangling, graphics production, and real data analysis. There will be no final exam.

Final project: The final project is a team-based data analysis project. Your project team will be your study group. The project consists of an investigation proposal, a written report, and an oral presentation.

More information is available on Canvas.

Participation: Full participation in Monday's class is expected. Please turn on your camera and unmute when it is time for the group discussions. Active participation in the student hours and on Piazza are highly encouraged. You should actively contribute to the group work, including group discussions, group quizzes, labs (in pairs), and the final project. Students will be assessed by their group members at the end of the semester.

Grading: Letter grades will be assigned by the instructor. The grade may be curved, but only in a direction beneficial to the students as compared to the standard grading scheme (90% A-range, 80% B-range, etc). The graded components are

- 10% weekly quizzes
- 40% homework and labs
- 20% midterm exam
- 25% final project (5% proposal, 10% presentation, 10% report)
- 5% participation (primarily team feedback and Piazza)

Academic dishonesty: The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office:

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

COVID-19 health and safety requirements: Please find up-to-date information regarding the university's safety policy for COVID-19 on <https://web.iastate.edu/safety/updates/covid19>, in case you will participate in in-person activities with your teammates.

Students are responsible for abiding by the university's COVID-19 health and safety expectations. All students attending this class in-person are required to follow university policy regarding health, safety, and face coverings:

- wear a cloth face covering in all university classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other in-person instructional settings and learning spaces. Cloth face coverings are additionally required to be worn indoors in all university buildings, and outdoors when other people are or may be present where physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others is not possible. Students with a documented health or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a cloth face covering should consult with Student Accessibility Services in the Dean of Students Office.
- ensure that the cloth face covering completely covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the side of the face.
- practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
- assist in maintaining a clean and sanitary environment.
- not attend class if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- not attend class if you have been told to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official.
- follow the instructor's guidance with respect to these requirements. Failure to comply constitutes disruptive classroom conduct. Faculty and teaching assistants have the authority to deny a non-compliant student entry into a classroom, laboratory, studio, conference room, office, or other learning space.

These requirements extend outside of scheduled class time, including coursework in laboratories, studios, and other learning spaces, and to field trips. These requirements may be revised by the university at any time during the semester.

In accordance with university policy, instructors may use a face shield while they are teaching as long as they are able to maintain 8 feet of physical distance between themselves and students during the entire instructional period. Some form of face covering must be worn at all times in learning spaces regardless of the amount of physical distancing.

Faculty may refer matters of non-compliance to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action, which can include restrictions on access to, or use of, university facilities; removal from university housing; required transition to remote-only instruction; involuntary disenrollment from one or more in-person courses; and other such measures as necessary to promote the health and safety of campus.

It is important for students to recognize their responsibility in promoting the health and safety of the Iowa State University community, through actions both on- and off-campus. The university's faculty asks that you personally demonstrate a commitment to our Cyclones Care campaign. Iowa State University's faculty support the Cyclones Care campaign and ask you personally to demonstrate a commitment to our campaign. Your dedication and contribution to the campaign will also protect your family, classmates, and friends, as well as their friends and families. Our best opportunity for a successful fall semester with in-person learning and extramural activities requires all of us to collaborate and fully participate in the Cyclones Care campaign.

Free Expression: Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Classroom disruption policy: The class will follow university's Classroom Disruption Policy outlined here www.studentassistance.dso.iastate.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/disruption.

Accessibility Statement: Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Other course policies and accommodation: www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/preparing-to-teach/recommended-iowa-state-university-syllabus-statements/