

## Analyzing Course Evaluations

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Our project will use UChicago course evaluations to build a better course evaluation search site. We will accomplish this by scraping information from [evaluate.uchicago.edu](http://evaluate.uchicago.edu) and aggregating reviews across courses, professors, and years. Our final project will be a website with a search function that presents aggregated evaluation information for a course or professor on a single page, so users no longer have to open several tabs when researching a course or professor. We also hope to improve upon the current search capabilities of [evaluate.uchicago.edu](http://evaluate.uchicago.edu) by allowing for additional parameters and features. With our project, students will be able to gain a general sense of a course's content and expectations and a professor's overall abilities in a quick and easy manner.

### Task outline and timeline:

1. Scrape course evaluation data for every class. We will use the list of drop-down options for department code and academic year, which can then be fed into the URL to yield a list of links to courses taught in the department that year.  
Tentative due date: end of 5th week (2/3)
2. Separate and aggregate reviews by course code and professor. Tentative due date: middle of 6th week (2/7)
3. Run NLP/sentiment analysis on the written responses. Tentative due date: end of 7th week (2/10)
4. Run statistical analysis on the numeric responses/ratings. Tentative due date: end of 7th week (2/10)
5. Determine what the website will look like and how we'll present our responses.  
Tentative due date: middle of 8th week (2/14)
6. Construct the website. Tentative due date: end of 9th week (2/24)
7. Build the search function for the website. Tentative due date: middle of 9th week (2/28)
8. Wrap up project, present results. Tentative due date: 10th or 11th week

### Expected challenges:

- Different departments have different formats for evaluations
- We may run into issues with accessing the [evaluate.uchicago.edu](http://evaluate.uchicago.edu) site via Python. We may also get kicked off for sending too many requests.

- Some departments ask multiple questions in the same section (ex. "What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?"). It may be hard for us to distinguish which part of a student's response corresponds to what question.
- Difficulties in running NLP analyses
- Evaluations go back to 2003: do we want to go back that far?