Wrapping things up

Easton White

Alan Hastings

Winter 2018

Learning objectives
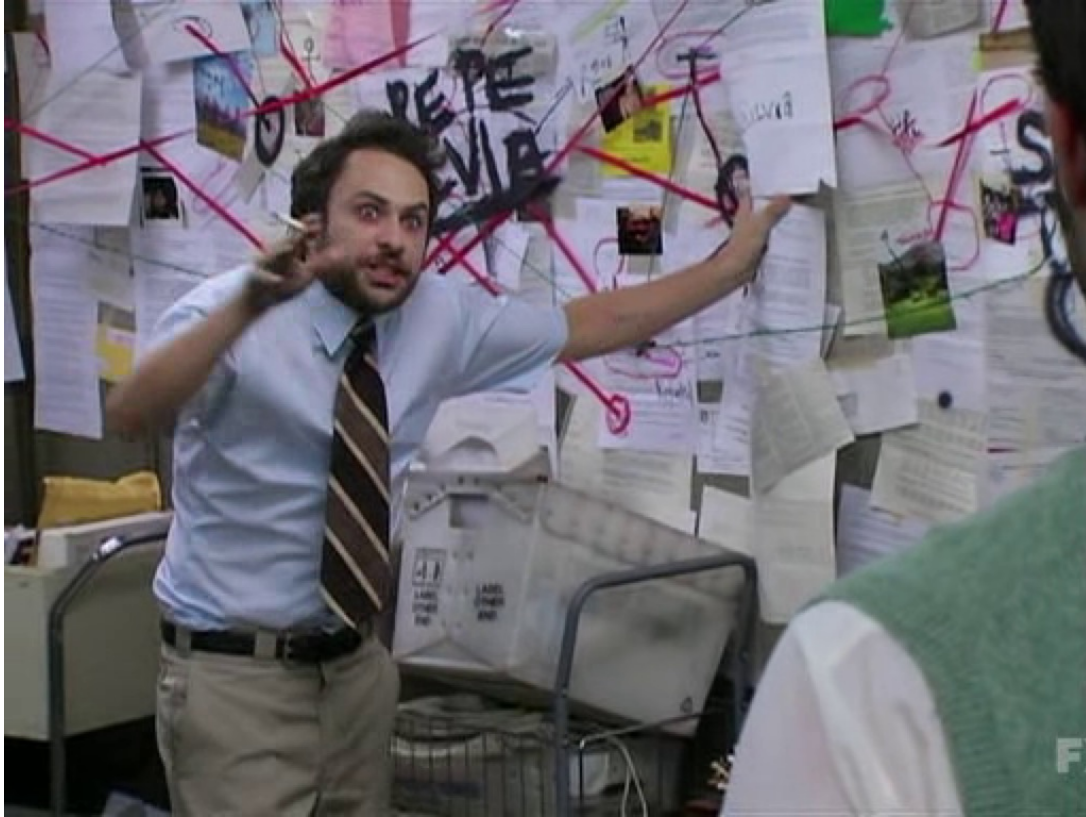
By the end of today:

- Review the material from this entire quarter
- Understand how to talk to other about important issues

Week	Date	Topic	In-class activity	Homework
1	9-Jan	Introduction, code of conduct, class goals		Read Baloney Detection Kit and answer questions on Canvas
2	16-Jan	Discuss Sagan's kit. Logical fallacies	In-class: Logical fallacy detection	Assignment: Online video and questions
3	23-Jan	Scientific method	Group project: Black box activity	Finish group project
4	30-Jan	Quantitative thinking	Group project: Fermi problems	Finish group project
5	6-Feb	Common marketing strategies		Paper: Write about short video/news article
6	13-Feb	Prosecutors fallacy and the courtroom		Assignment: Breast cancer problem
7	20-Feb	Guest Lecture: Navigating the Web		
8	27-Feb	Guest Lecture: Media and Politics		
9	6-Mar	Pseudoscience		Paper: Choose tool to add or expand on
10	13-Mar	How to call out bullshit and teach others about detecting bullshit		

Potential topics

- Course evaluation

- Where we started

- What we have seen

- How to you convince others of things?
    - Not more data
    - Not arguing based on your values

Suppose your friend is going on and on about a flat Earth

Or suppose your friend is against you on a political issue

Recent paper analyzed data from ChangeMyView.com to see if and how people could persuade:

- should use definitive articles like "the" instead of "a"

- Should use language like, "it could be the case"

- Use "I" instead of "we" language

- Stubborn views are more closely associated with words like
  - "anyone," "certain," and "nothing," and "worst" and "best."

More data is not usually the answer

- Often termed the "backfire effect"
- We become more entrenched in our beliefs when presented with data that contradicts those beliefs

Convincing someone of an argument

- E.g. If you were a republican, how would you convince a liberal to support higher military spending?

- Alternatively, if you are a democrat, how would you convince a republican to support gay marriage?

Use what is called "Moral reframing"

Conservatives

- Patriotism
- Loyalty
- Limited government

Liberals

- Equality
- Fairness
- Government intervention

Homework for this week

- Go back to Sagan's baloney detection kit. Choose one of the tools he discussed **OR** create your own. Explain how the tool works.

- Then, show an example of the tool applied to a news article, politician speaking, Youtube video, or something else

- It is due by the 16th March (Friday) at midnight