

Week 2: Your Computer

Assignment: Data Notebooks in Quarto (Due Week 3)

Prof. Jack Reilly

F2025

Readings

Lecture: A Practical Guide to Your Computer

- In the course drive, find the file `Week 3 Files.zip`. Unzip the file in the directory on your computer that you use for coursework.¹ Inside the unzipped file, you will find a `.qmd` file, which has also been compiled into a pdf, html, docx, and rtf files. Read it, and pay special attention to how the `.qmd` file structure and commands relate to the output in the compiled documents.
- Recommended reference reading:
 - DV, ch 2
 - **The Markdown Guide**, <<https://www.markdownguide.org>>
 - **The Plain Person's Guide to Plain Text Social Science**, ch 3-4 (<https://plain-text.co/index.html>)

** Note: The Plain Person's Guide is a little out of date technically - some of the tools discussed have newer, and better, versions - but the overlying principles and philosophy are what you should pay attention to*

Data & Computational Work

There is no major new software to install. However, we will be rendering text to output document types, like pdf, docx, and html. Docx and html files will render without additional software, but `.pdfs` need extra bits added. If you would like to compile to PDF, run the following lines of code:

¹Windows tries to help you by letting you click directly into `.zip` files without unzipping them. This lets you see into the file, which is helpful, but prevents you from editing things inside the file, which is not (and will make R throw you errors). So make sure to unzip the file before loading it and rendering.

```
install.packages("tinytex")  
tinytex::install_tinytex()
```

This places a small tex installation inside R for you.

Submit: .qmd file; HTML file; docx file (Due Week 3)

1. Create an Quarto file (File>>New File>>Quarto Document). Title it “Week 3 Homework.qmd”,² select “HTML” output, and **uncheck** “use visual markdown editor”. (You can always switch later.)
2. Use the 2005 British Election study file (`bes2005subset.csv`) to create a jittered scatterplot of Feelings toward Blair and Feelings on Social Spending.
3. In a brief text segment, interpret what the figure shows you.
4. Load the 2000 National Election study file (`nes2000subset.csv`).
5. Find the correlation between income and partisanship, and draw a jittered scatter plot of partisanship (Y axis) and income (X-axis)
6. In a brief text segment, interpret what the correlation and figure tells you.
7. Render the document to HTML and docx and zip all three (.qmd, .html, and .docx files) together. Upload the .zip to Blackboard.³

²Make sure to not put a special character in the title (like #) - Quarto doesn't like those and sometimes won't render your file properly.

³Blackboard doesn't like .html files, so you won't be able to upload unless you .zip it.