

DATA SCIENCE FOR ECONOMISTS

ECON 220 LAB

Jafet Baca-Obando

Week 1, Introduction – 08/29/2025

Basics

- Office: Randall R. Rollins Building, R435
- Email: jbacaob@emory.edu
- Office hours: Friday, 11:00 – 11:50 AM
- Course materials:
 - Bring laptop to class
 - DataCamp: use your Emory email
 - Check your junk mailbox; invitation link might be there

Assignments

- DataCamp Courses (2 in total): 4%
 - Introduction to Python
 - Intermediate Python
- Random attendance checks (6 in total): 3%
- Data exercises (9 in total): 18%
- Lab: 25% of the total ECON 220 grade

Generative AI

- Encouraged to use it
- Use AI as your assistant, not a replacement: know what is going on
 - You are the **architect** and the **supervisor** for the code!
- GitHub Copilot, ChatGPT, Gemini

Academic honesty

- Abide by Emory Honor Code
- Do not engage in academic misconduct
 - Plagiarism
 - Seeking, using, giving, obtaining unauthorized assistance or information in any academic assignment or examination

Students with disabilities

- Contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) to get accommodation notification letter
- Communicate your specific needs with me in the first week of the semester

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Course objectives

- Manipulate datasets in Python
- Create graphs and summary statistics with data
 - Perform inference and hypothesis testing

What to expect?

- The lab and theory classes may seem separate at first
- We are building a toolkit to help you handle datasets and perform statistical analysis
- Everything will come together, so stay positive and patient!

Why Python?

- It's free, general purpose, and open source!
- High level language: easy to read, write, and debug
- Well-established community of users
- Good data visualization capabilities
- Extremely useful when working with big data, machine learning, cloud computing, web development, etc.
- Used by Google, OpenAI, Netflix, Amazon, Meta, Reddit, etc.

To-do list

- Set up Python, VS Code, and GitHub Copilot before class next week
 - Guide and video instruction on Canvas
- DataCamp
 - Complete “Introduction to Python” course
 - Upload certificate on Canvas: 09/04/2025

Welcome to ECON
220 Lab!