



# JOSEPH BORJON

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Brother Hathaway:

You have taught me to see the world—and the universe beyond, given my interest in astronomy and astrophysics—in a deeper way. Your course has awakened me to a world whose existence I acknowledged yet whose vastness I didn't comprehend: the world of data, which we now inhabit.

## Skills learned

Throughout the semester, I strived to master the following concepts and techniques, largely succeeding:

- Analyzing data with a critical, scientific eye
- Visualizing data using human visual perception principles in static and interactive ways
- Finding high-quality data sources and reading from them
- Cleaning, tidying, and reformatting data
- Using Git and GitHub (I was rusty and had never quite learned them before this semester)
- Programming in R, which was a new programming paradigm for me
- Thinking systematically about why the data look the way they do
- Using regular expressions, factors, type conversion, and similar techniques to assist with analysis
- Formulating initial and follow-up questions through inquisitiveness and exploratory analysis
- Presenting data analyses to peers and users
- Balancing project requirements against time constraints and the realities of human existence

## Grade proposal

Given that I **completed 100 percent of the 24 class tasks** with only 3 submissions not considered timely; that I **led the team discussion 3 times**; that, out of 13, I **completed or will complete 12 case studies** (that's 92 percent) by the end of this week, 10 of them on time; and that I will **finish the semester project** by the end of this week, and all of this despite exacting life circumstances, I request to receive 96 percent of the credit, which translates to **an A**, subject to my submitting the remaining work by the end of this week.

Thank you for reviewing my end-of-semester materials and for putting this course together. Though incredibly busy, this semester has been exciting; I have learned much more than I could have expected, and that knowledge will be both intellectually stimulating and financially rewarding throughout my life. I look forward to a continued professional relationship with you.

Warm regards,

Joseph Borjon