DAVID LAING

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Education

Master of Data Science, 2016 – 2017
University of British Columbia
GPA: 4.0

Honours Bachelor of Arts & Science, 2010 – 2014
McMaster University
GPA: 3.7

Data Science Capstone Project – UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology

My three teammates and I are building an instructor-facing dashboard for UBC's massive open online courses. The dashboard will help instructors to discover patterns across the structures of their courses, with a special focus on course elements where student engagement is especially high or low. Personally, I am developing a novel framework for wrangling, mining, and visualizing the data from course discussion forums.

Professional History

Business Ethics Intern, Fall 2016
Ethical Systems

- I conducted a literature review on risk assessment and decision-making in the context of business ethics. I also researched and wrote a report on file storage options for Ethical Systems' internal documents.

Technical Writing Lecturer, 2015 – 2016
Niagara College Canada

- I planned and delivered ~350 hours worth of lessons on technical writing and argumentation. I taught 150 students per semester. Portfolio: https://laingdk.github.io/teaching-portfolio/

Writer/Editor, 2015 – 2016
The Gist

- I wrote 90 news stories for an email newsletter for Canadians. I also edited 3-5 stories per week, and managed a team of seven writers. Portfolio: https://laingdk.github.io/gist-archives/

Outdoor Educator, Spring 2013 & Fall 2014
Kandalore Outdoor Education Centre

- I taught orienteering, fire-building, canoeing, and other outdoor skills to school-age children. I also helped design new educational programming and outdoor activities.

Academic Skills Program Assistant, Summer 2014
Student Success Centre, McMaster University

- I helped design and deliver an eight-week online orientation program for incoming first-year university students. I also edited a collection of academic skills workshops, and created a new workshop on problem-solving.

Philosophy Teaching Assistant, 2013 – 2014
Arts & Science Program, McMaster University

- I ran a weekly tutorial on the history of Western philosophy. I helped my students hone their arguments, and I graded all their papers, tests, presentations, and exams.

Statistics Tutor, Fall 2013
McMaster University & University of Guelph

- I met bi-weekly with two students to help them understand concepts and prepare for tests in ARTSSCI 2R03 Applied Statistical Inference and STAT*2080 Introductory Applied Statistics.

Physics Research Assistant, Summer 2012
McMaster Physics Department

- I coded 2,000 physics homework problems for LON-CAPA, an online learning platform, in Perl. I also created a tutorial to help instructors develop animations in Adobe Flash

Data Science Coursework

- DSCI 511   Programming for Data Science   94
- DSCI 512   Algorithms and Data Structures   91
- DSCI 513   Databases and Data Retrieval   93
- DSCI 521   Computing Platforms for Data Science   95
- DSCI 522   Data Science Workflows   97
- DSCI 523   Data Wrangling   92
- DSCI 524   Collaborative Software Development   87
- DSCI 525   Web & Cloud Computing   89
- DSCI 531   Data Visualization 1   93
- DSCI 532   Data Visualization 2   97
- DSCI 541   Privacy, Ethics & Security   96
- DSCI 542   Communication & Argumentation   94
- DSCI 551   Exploratory Data Analysis for Data Science   93
- DSCI 552   Statistical Inference and Computation 1   91
- DSCI 553   Statistical Inference and Computation 2   90
- DSCI 554   Experimentation and Causal Inference   99
- DSCI 561   Regression 1   91
- DSCI 562   Regression 2   87
- DSCI 563   Unsupervised Learning   88
- DSCI 571   Supervised Learning 1   89
- DSCI 572   Supervised Learning 2   95
- DSCI 573   Feature & Model Selection   95
- DSCI 574   Spatial & Temporal Models   94
- DSCI 575   Advanced Machine Learning   90

Professional Development

Reinforcement Learning Summer School (Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms)	July 3rd-5th, 2017
Big Data and Education (EdX)	beginning June 2017
Reinforcement Learning (Udacity)	Current
Getting and Cleaning Data (Coursera)	July 2016
R Programming (Coursera)	May 2016
The Data Scientist's Toolbox (Coursera)	May 2016

Recent Side Projects

Analysis of Kendrick Lamar's music and lyrics: https://laingdk.github.io/kendrick-lamar-data-science/
Breaking news Twitter bot (natural language processing): https://github.com/laingdk/nlp_news_tweets
Interactive visualization of US college demographics: https://laingdk.shinyapps.io/scorecard_demograph_viz/

Tools

- Python	- numpy, pandas, sklearn, ntlk, matplotlib, many more
- R	- tidyverse, ggplot2, shiny, tidytext, ts, many more
- SQL, LaTeX, RStudio, Jupyter, Amazon Web Services, Travis CI, Docker, bash, Makefile	

Interests

- Reading	- Cognitive science, philosophy, economics, literature
- Music	- Hip hop, funk, jazz, alternative
- Exercise	- Squash, windsurfing, swimming, longboarding