

Data Science for Economic Development

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Course objectives

- Understand how to think about using data in applied economic research
- Develop competency in working with different types of data using Python
- Build a foundation for using important tools in data science for economics: web scraping, generative AI, remote sensing and geospatial analysis, machine learning, and more

Course logistics

- Language of instruction: English
- Course website: <https://github.com/pbiscaye/IntroDataScienceEcon>
- Class time: 20 hours of *cours magistraux* in 1 two-hour and 6 three-hour sessions
 - o Salle 212 RO
 - o **Bring your laptops** to class!
- Office hours: Office 425, Tuesdays from 15h30-16h30 et Thursdays from 11-12h
 - o Sign-up: <https://calendar.app.google/Tzo7ZMJo6U69kNE87>
- Assignments: weekly coding practice, not graded
- Evaluation:
 - o 1-hour final written **exam**
 - o **Mémoire:** In groups of 3-4, apply tools from class and different data sources to analyze incidence of recent flooding in Nigeria.
 - Final ~15 page report due March 2
 - Preliminary outputs due January 26 and February 13
 - Additional information on course website

Course outline and schedule (subject to change)

1. Introduction and Python basics (January 8, 14h-17h)
 - a. Lecture: Course overview and introduction to data science
 - b. Python
 - i. Using Jupyter Notebook
 - ii. Python basics: variables, types, indexing
 - iii. Python errors/debugging
 - iv. Functions and methods
 - v. Loops, conditionals, list comprehension
2. Reproducibility, data wrangling (January 15, 15h30-17h30)
 - a. Lecture: Reproducibility, organizing files and code
 - b. Python
 - i. Writing code well

- ii. Importing modules/packages
 - iii. Working with files
 - iv. Pandas and data frames
 - v. Importing, subsetting, joining data
- 3. Generative AI, data visualization (January 19, 14h-17h)
 - a. Lecture: Generative AI: What is generative AI; Large Language Models/Chatbots; Applications of generative AI in economics
 - b. Python
 - i. Summary statistics
 - ii. Scatter plot, bar plot, histogram
 - iii. Using matplotlib
 - iv. Exploring tabular data
- 4. Accessing and working with different data sources (January 26, 14h-17h)
 - a. Lectures
 - i. Big Data in economics
 - ii. Web scraping
 - iii. Web APIs
 - b. Python
 - i. Web scraping
 - ii. Web APIs
- 5. Spatial data and remote sensing (February 2, 14h-17h)
 - a. Lecture: Introduction to spatial data and remote sensing
 - b. Python
 - i. Tabular spatial data
 - ii. Shapely and geopandas
 - iii. Rasters
 - iv. Visualizing spatial data
 - v. Map algebra
 - vi. Satellite imagery and remote sensing
 - vii. Accessing spatial data
 - viii. Preparing spatial data for analysis
 - ix. Point-level data analysis
- 6. Machine learning (February 12, 14h-17h)
 - a. Lecture: Introduction to machine learning
 - b. Python
 - i. Regression as machine learning foundation
 - ii. Fitting and regularization
 - iii. Validation
 - iv. Pre-processing
 - v. Classification
 - vi. Machine learning pipeline
 - vii. Unsupervised ML: clustering and dimensionality reduction
- 7. Text analysis (February 23, 14h-17h)
 - a. Lecture: Introduction to text analysis
 - b. Python

- i. Text preprocessing
- ii. Bag-of-words
- iii. Word embeddings

Python Resources

1. Guide to setting up Anaconda, Python, and Jupyter Notebooks for the course:
https://github.com/pbiscaye/IntroDataScienceEcon/blob/main/Data_Science_Class_Setup_Guide.pdf
2. All links below as well as many others are included in my list of useful data science resources:
<https://github.com/pbiscaye/Teaching/blob/main/Data%20science%20resources%20index.pdf>
3. Getting started with jupyter notebooks: <https://www.dataquest.io/blog/jupyter-notebook-tutorial/>
4. UC Berkeley D-Lab Python resources: <https://github.com/dlab-berkeley/python-berkeley>
5. UC Berkeley D-Lab Python fundamentals: <https://github.com/dlab-berkeley/Python-Fundamentals>
6. Arthur Turrell Python for data science:
<https://aeturrell.github.io/python4DS/welcome.html>
7. Gabor Bekes coding for data analysis with Python: <https://github.com/gabors-data-analysis/da-coding-python>
8. Data camp data scientist with Python: <https://app.datacamp.com/learn/career-tracks/data-scientist-with-python?version=5>
9. NYU Python data bootcamp: <https://nyudatabootcamp.gitbook.io/thebook/>
10. NYU intro to Python for science:
<https://physics.nyu.edu/pine/pymanual/html/pymanMaster.html>