



UNC
GREENSBORO

CS 405/605 Data Science

Dr. Qianqian Tong

About me

Contact information:

Email: q_tong@uncg.edu

Office: Petty 152

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:30am – 11:30 am @ Petty 152 or appointment by email



B.S. and M.S.
in Mathematics

Ph.D. degree in Department of CS
from [University at Connecticut, UCONN](#)
in December 2022

Tenure-track Assistant Professor in
Department of CS, UNCG

Research: Machine Learning;
Stochastic Optimization; Deep Learning;
Differential Privacy; Sparse Learning;
Graph Convolutional Network (GCN)
and Federated Learning.

What is the course about?

- **Programming your way into Data Science**
- **Theory –Programming**
- **It is not a Statistics or an AI or a Visualization course**
- **The course contains parts of everything**
- **Learn about lot of tools and how to use them in innovative ways**
- **We will work with real-world data**
- **Hopefully develop some cool projects**

COURSE INFO

Prerequisites

A grade of C+ or better in [CSC 330](#) and ([STA 271](#) or [STA 290](#)), or permission of instructor (prior programming and statistics experience is required).

Experience in:

- **Programming skills Python**

We will go through Introduction to Python

You would have to work hard in the early weeks to get comfortable with Python

- Linux, Terminal, Command-Line

Textbooks

There is no required text for the course. Class slides will be available for download. Suggested textbooks are: 1) Building Machine Learning Systems with Python (Richert and Coelho), 2) Data Science from Scratch (Joel Grus)

COURSE INFO

Grading Policy

Grade Max% to Min%

A	100%	to	94%
A-	< 94%	to	90%
B+	< 90%	to	87%
B	< 87%	to	84%
B-	< 84%	to	80%
C+	< 80%	to	77%
C	< 77%	to	74%
C-	< 74%	to	70%
D+	< 70%	to	67%
D	< 67%	to	64%
D-	< 64%	to	60%
F	< 60%	to	55%

1. Class Participation: 10%

2. In class quizzes (3): 15%

3. Assignments (3): 15%

4. Final Project: 60%

No final exam! No curve!

COURSE INFO

1. Class Participation: 10%

Attendance is mandatory for all class meetings. If a student is unable to attend an in-person class, they must inform the instructor in advance by providing a valid reason for their absence. This communication should be done through email and must be sent before the class session begins. Failure to notify the instructor prior to the start of class will result in the student losing credit for that absence. It should be noted that attendance records may be taken either at the beginning or the end of the class. Students are advised to ensure their presence throughout the session to avoid any discrepancies in the attendance record.

2. In class quizzes (3): 15%

Throughout the course, students will be evaluated via three in-class quizzes, each worth 5 points, cumulating to a total of 15 points towards their overall grade. These quizzes are designed to assess the knowledge and understanding students have gained from the lectures and classes. It's imperative that students complete these quizzes in class, ensuring they thoroughly answer all questions. To be considered for full credit, students must submit their responses within the given timeframe. Failure to submit before the deadline may result in a loss of points.

COURSE INFO

3. Assignments (3): 15%

Three programming-based assignments will be given covering the utilization of the tools learned in class. Each assignment accounts for 5 points. Absolutely no collaboration on assignments. Students must upload (Notebooks) individual assignments to canvas before deadline. Later submission (within 2 days) will have a 50% deduction.

4. Final Project: 60%

The final project of the class will focus on the end-to-end development of an analytical model. The project will be split into the following stages:

- o Stage I. Data/Project Understanding,
- o Stage II. Data Modeling,
- o Stage III. Distributions and Hypothesis Testing,
- o Stage IV. Basic Machine Learning,
- o Stage V. Visualization and Dashboard.
- o Final presentation and report submitted

COURSE INFO

This will be a team-based effort, where in the first week of the course the students split into teams of 3-4 students. After completing each stage, the teams will have to give a short presentation (5-10 mins) and a report of their progress with the project. The projects will be open-source and the teams will have to use GitHub as their code repository. Upon completion of the project the teams will present their software along with the results in form of a presentation (15-20 minutes). Final presentation guidelines will be given in class.

Each Stage of the Final Project has 100 points. They will be equally weighted for the project final score. Each stage consists of: 1). Report; 2). Code Jupyter/IPython Notebooks; 3). Presentation. To get the full points in each stage you need to finish all of the deliverables.

Graduate Students Only: In addition to the final presentation, graduate students are required to submit a project report in IEEE format. The report should be at least 5 pages for a single author, 8 pages for two authors, and 12 pages for three authors, inclusive of figures and references. Please ensure that the report is submitted before the final week of the course.

COURSE INFO

Course Topics and Schedule (Tentative)

1. Introduction to Data Science: (Week 1-3)

- o Data Science Introduction
- o Class Project discussion
- o Programming prepare
 - 1). Re/Introduction to Python
 - 2). IPython, IPython-Notebook
- o Data Science Reproducibility
 - 1). Setting up your Repository – Data, Code, and Documentation
 - 2). Using Version Control with Git
- o Final Project Discussions - Goals and Requirements

2. Data Munging, Wrangling, Cleaning (Week 4-5)

- o Data Structures
- o Data Manipulation
 - 1). Selection - Indexing
 - 2). Handling Missing Data
 - 3). Aggregation
 - 4). Descriptive Statistics
 - 5). Merging / Join
 - 6). Working with Date-Time
- o Assignment 1
- o Project Review - Stage I
- o In class quiz 1

COURSE INFO

3. Data and Statistics (Week 6-8)

- o Distributions
- o Estimates
- o Statistical Hypothesis Testing
- o Correlation
- o Distribution Estimators: MoM, MLE, KDE
- o Project Review - Stage II
- o In class quiz 2

4. Introduction to Applied Data Modeling: (Weeks 9-12)

- o Applied Machine Learning
- o Regression and Feature Selection
- o Bias versus Variance
- o Clustering and Dimensionality Reduction
- o Validation and Model Performance
- o Mathematical optimization (if time allowed)
- o Stochastic thinking (if time allowed)
- o Invited talk (if time allowed)
- o Assignment 2
- o Project Review - Stage III
- o In class quiz 3

COURSE INFO

5. Data Visualization (Week 13-14)

- o Graph Generation
 - 1). Types of Graphs
 - 2). Customizing Plots
 - 3). Visualizing Errors
 - 4). Interactive / Dynamic Graphs
- o Visualization Best Practices
- o Project Review - Stage IV

6. Project Presentations: (Week 15–16)

- o Assignment 3
- o Project Review - Stage I-V – Final presentation
- o Graduate Students report submission

MIDTERM GRADES:

The midterm grade due for Fall 2024 occurs on September 27, 2024. During this time, I will assign all **undergraduates** a midterm grade for this course, which you can access in UNCGenie. Your midterm grade in this course is a snapshot of how you are currently performing academically based on the assignments we have had to date. It will let you know if you are on the right track or if you need to take action to do something differently to improve your grade. If you have a D or an F at the midterm, we should definitely talk further about strategies and options for continuing in the class.

You can find more information about midterm grades here: <https://spartancentral.uncg.edu/student-records/grades/> Once midterm grades are assigned, reach out to me if you have questions. You should also talk with your academic advisor if you are considering withdrawal from this class.

COURSE INFO

- Read the syllabus.
- Take regular notes.
- Class is encouraged to participate and discuss/ask questions

On team projects

- Start early
Emailing me questions about assignments and projects 2 days before submission will not get you a response.

The team creation can be random or self-assigned

- **Task for today**—Get in touch with class participants and setup groups of 3-4 students. Mix of graduate and undergraduate
- Email me the group list (student names, emails, Github ids) before next week.
- Project presentation recording, all members should present. If someone does not, they will not be graded for the stage.

COURSE INFO

The course is going to be tough, especially for people with limited programming experience

- Work hard, be rewarded with a good data science experience
- Will talk about the benefits later in course intro

Do not cheat in the course –Result will be an ‘F’ grade.

- Assignment solutions are unique, differs from student to student. **No collaboration on Assignments and Project Member Tasks whatsoever.**
- I will run the code through plagiarism detection software *-single incident reporting to honor committee*
- In team project
 - Do not think that you can get away without contributing *-I will be monitoring repositories for work done*
 - Any work done should be reported on the repository *–worked locally on my computer will not count.*

Utilization of resources found on the Internet is allowed for project accomplishment, with caveats

- Any code/library used should be referenced/cited and thoroughly understood
- If you use code without understanding, that counts as plagiarism

Why Data Science?

1. Demand: Data Scientists are in High Demand

Earlier this year, Coding Dojo named data science as the [third most in-demand tech job in the U.S.](#) coming in at No. 4 on the list is machine learning engineer, a mid- to senior-level data science job. With great earning potential, thousands of jobs available, and the utter importance of this career, data scientists are highly sought after, making for a great career choice.

2. High Salary: Data Science Careers Have High Earning Potential

There is a lot of money to be made in data science. With base salaries [starting at about \\$100,000](#) and averaging out around \$150K, a career in data science is not only lucrative but fulfilling, rewarding, and challenging.

3. Job Security: Data Science is a Fast-Growing Field

This year, LinkedIn released its annual [U.S. emerging jobs report](#)—and data scientists came out on top at 2nd place with 6.5x growth. While it didn't rank as the #1 fastest-growing field, it certainly cropped up pretty quickly.

Why Data Science?

4. Opportunity: Data Science Has a Range of Job Opportunities

According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), studying data science gives you access to a diverse range of job opportunities. Some of these employment options include:

- Data Scientist
- Data Analyst
- Data Engineer
- Data Architect
- Business Analyst
- Software Engineer
- Machine Learning Engineer

5. Flexibility: Data Scientists are Needed in Various Sectors

Data scientists are in high demand across a range of industries and sectors. The need will only grow as businesses integrate more data environments into their operations.

Why Data Science?

Requirements

What you'll do in the role:

- The MLE role overlaps with many disciplines, such as Ops, Modeling, and Data Engineering. In this role, you'll be expected to perform many ML engineering activities, including one or more of the following:
- Design, build, and/or deliver ML models and components that solve real-world business problems, while working in collaboration with the Product and Data Science teams.
- Inform your ML infrastructure decisions using your understanding of ML modeling techniques and issues, including choice of model, data, and feature selection, model training, hyperparameter tuning, dimensionality, bias/variance, and validation).
- Solve complex problems by writing and testing application code, developing and validating ML models, and automating tests and deployment.
- Collaborate as part of a cross-functional Agile team to create and enhance software that enables state-of-the-art big data and ML applications.
- Retrain, maintain, and monitor models in production.
- Leverage or build cloud-based architectures, technologies, and/or platforms to deliver optimized ML models at scale.
- Construct optimized data pipelines to feed ML models.
- Leverage continuous integration and continuous deployment best practices, including test automation and monitoring, to ensure successful deployment of ML models and application code.
- Ensure all code is well-managed to reduce vulnerabilities, models are well-governed from a risk perspective, and the ML follows best practices in Responsible and Explainable AI.
- Use programming languages like Python, Scala, or Java.

Why Data Science?

Requirements

- 2+ years' industry experience in Data Science
- M.S or PhD in Data Science/Machine Learning or closely related areas such as Computer Science, Operations Research, Applied Statistics, and Biomedical Informatics.
- Rigorous academic or experiential knowledge of the mathematical essentials for Data Science, including key concepts in probability and statistics, optimization, time series analysis, linear algebra and discrete math. Sampling and estimation, Bayesian analysis, hypothesis testing, uncertainty estimation, stochastic methods, and graphical methods are particularly important to know.
- Deep grounding in machine learning techniques including regression methods (linear, logistic, lasso, support vector, etc.), classification (tree-based models such as XGBoost and Random Forest, Neural Networks, Deep Learning – CNN, RNN, LSTM, etc.), as well as knowledge of clustering and unsupervised learning, time series forecasting and optimization methods.
- Solid foundation with development of data analytics systems, including data exploration/crawling, feature engineering, model building, performance evaluation, and online deployment of models.
- Proficient with server-side programming in Python/Java.
- Hands-on experience in handling large and distributed datasets on Hadoop, Spark, Hive, etc.
- Strong database skills and experience, including experience with SQL programming.
- Experience with AWS or other cloud-based tools and technologies for data pipelining, model development and deployment

Why Data Science?

Requirements

Let's talk about the role:

- You will research, customize when necessary, and develop of statistical and machine learning algorithms to meet complex product requirements. Your tasks will include defining hypotheses, executing necessary tests and experiments, evaluate, tune and optimize algorithms and methods always with an eye towards implementation ease, scalability, and robustness in a live environment.
- You will work closely with other stakeholders from Product Management, Engineering, and other business stakeholders to create impactful, intelligent features and products.
- You will collaborate closely with other team members including other Data Scientists, Machine Learning Engineers, and Data Engineers and “own” the end to end process.
- You will be given wide authority to develop creative model-based solutions but will also be held to high quality and accountability standards.
- You will mentor and train more junior team members and serve as go-to expert in your area of statistics and machine learning.
- You will thoroughly and diligently document the model design, experiments, tests, validations, and live metrics and outcomes, typically on Confluence. You may be asked to write documents for use in the preparation of intellectual property and technical publications.