Announcements

Final Sign-Off

Final greetings,

We wanted to send you a final sign-off email regarding our course that ended last week.

First, we are **humbled and honored** by all your positive comments on the course in the Final Reflections forum. All of **you deserve credit** as much as any of us for making this course a great experience. Your **continuing dedication and excitement**—clearly shown in the discussion forums and assignments every week—were key to making this a positive experience. So, let me return that feedback and **thank YOU** for all the hard and excellent work you have done during the course.

Secondly, **we will offer the course again** in the near future. If you are a latecomer to the course or if you have friends and family that are interested in the course, keep an eye on the course page for information about future offerings.

For those of you who have done well in the class' assignments, it will take about **1-2 weeks** for us to process and **release the Verified Certificates and issue Badges**. When your Certificate is released, it can be viewed in your **Course Records** page. **Do not unenroll from this course** before Certificates are issued or you will not receive yours.

Finally, we hope this community can remain an **active, vibrant place for continued discussion** on the topics of our course. This course website, together with its videos and forums, **will remain accessible** for at least the next several weeks. You can also stay connected via the **Social Media** channels.

Truly our best, and thank you all,
Prof. John C. Hart and the Data Visualization Support Staff

Tue 18 Aug 2015 8:00 AM PDT

Upcoming Deadlines

Recent Discussions

Are there Statements of Accomplishment for free learners?
Last post by Puneet M Sangal (an hour ago)

Cannot enroll the capstone course of the Data Mining specialization
Last post by Chaitanya Kelkar COMMUNITY TA (2 hours ago)

Certificates are issued
Last post by Franklin Zhunio (4 hours ago)

Where can I find how the course scores are split up ?
Last post by Lily Qian Zhao (5 hours ago)

Score reassignment
Last post by David Hood COMMUNITY TA (7 hours ago)

Browse all discussions »

End of the Course Approaching

Greetings,

Thank you all for your dedication throughout this course as we explored data visualization together. I would especially like to thank the Illinois TAs, the Community TAs and the University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning for helping to make this course so successful. It could not have been done without their help. We hope that you will continue to stay involved in this community even after the course ends. You can stay connected via the **Social Media** channels, including the **LinkedIn group** created by your peers for the whole Data Mining Specialization.

Please know that we have carefully recorded your input and suggestions for improvement, and these will be acted upon and incorporated in future offerings of the course. Also, be on the lookout for a survey about this course. This survey provides us with very useful information about how to improve the course, so **completing the survey is greatly appreciated!** You can also share your comments about the course more publicly in the **Final Reflections forum**.

A reminder that this course is the **fifth course of the Data Mining Specialization** offered by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. If you liked this course, you might also consider the registering for the other courses in the Specialization.

Finally, all of the **deadlines for Week 4 of the class are this Sunday, Aug. 16, at 11:55 PM CT** (time zone conversion). See the **Week 4 Overview** page for more details.

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Sat 15 Aug 2015 10:00 AM PDT

Week 4 is Now Available!

Greetings,

Please note that the **materials for Week 4 of our course are now available** (closed captions will be

available soon). So, for those of you who would like to, please move ahead!

After you actively engage in the learning experiences in this module, you should be able to:

- Design a visualization system for large datasets and dashboards to support informed decision making.
- Create an initial overview of a large dataset, and then find interesting elements through zooming, filtering, and requesting details when needed.
- Use visualization as a method for forming effective queries that reveal structure in a database.
- Apply techniques from user-interface design to create effective visualization systems.

Thanks for your active participation throughout the course, and we look forward to hearing from you in this final week!

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Mon 10 Aug 2015 8:00 AM PDT

End of Week 3 Approaching

Greetings,

I hope that you have continued to enjoy the topics we have covered.

A few items to note:

- The forums continue to be a **great place to interact** with the other participants in the course. This week we have seen Week 3 in R and Avoiding Cluttered Graphs. I look forward to further informative discussions for Module 4 as the end of the course approaches.

- We appreciate all the feedback that you have offered us in the forums. We will use your feedback to continue to **improve the quality of this and future offerings** of the course. Remember to use the Learner Help Center to find information regarding specific technical problems, and to use the Content Issues forum to report errors in lecture video content, assignment questions and answers, assignment grading, text

and links on course pages, or the content of other course materials.

- If you would like to collaborate with both current and future participants in this course, you can contribute to the Course Wiki. Participants can improve on their peers' contributions and create content that is useful for everyone in the course.

Finally, as a reminder, all of the **deadlines for Week 3 of the class are this Sunday, Aug. 9, at 11:55 PM CT** (time zone conversion). See the Week 3 Overview page for more details.

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Sat 8 Aug 2015 9:00 AM PDT

About the Deadline Issues with Programming Assignment 1 Submission

Greetings,

We realize that there have been deadline issues with Programming Assignment 1 submission. This issue is caused by a mistake regarding the number of quizzes in the syllabus and orientation quiz. We would like to clarify that there are only quizzes for week 1 and week 4. The two quizzes and the two peer-graded programming assignments are required in this course.

You do not have to score a 7/10 on each quiz to pass the course. You only need to **earn an overall average score of 70% for the two quizzes and the two peer-graded programming assignments combined**. Each quiz is worth 10 points and each programming assignment is worth 15 points. Due to the confusion about submitting Programming Assignment 1, we will give less weight to this assignment when calculating course grades.

We hope this will eliminate much of the frustration that has been caused by our negligence. Again, thank you all for your dedication! Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any other questions.

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Thu 6 Aug 2015 1:30 PM PDT

Week 3 is Now Available!

Greetings,

Please note that the **materials for Week 3 of our course are now available** (closed captions will be available soon). So, for those of you who would like to, please move ahead!

After you actively engage in the learning experiences in this module, you should be able to:

- Visualize graphs that depict relationships between data items
- Layout data using coordinates that are not explicitly provided by the data

This module also includes some mathematical details on using linear algebra to compute the coordinates of datapoints from the data values. These mathematical details will be useful for some students with experience in linear algebra, but will not be required for everybody, especially the students that might not have that mathematical background.

We are also excited to announce the **Programming Assignment 2** as a part of Week 3. This assignment is meant to give you the opportunity to do non-coordinate data visualization, specifically using a network of your choosing.

Thanks for your active participation, and we look forward to hearing from you in the course over the next week!

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Mon 3 Aug 2015 9:00 AM PDT

End of Week 2 Approaching

Greetings,

I hope that you have enjoyed the topics covered and learned a lot during the first half on this course.

A few items to note:

- We appreciate all the feedback that you have offered us in the forums. We will use your feedback to continue to **improve the quality of this and future offerings** of the course. Remember to use the Learner Help Center to find information regarding specific technical problems, and to use the Content Issues forum to report errors in lecture video content, assignment questions and answers, assignment grading, text and links on course pages, or the content of other course materials.

- If you would like to collaborate with both current and future participants in this course, you can contribute to the Course Wiki. Participants can improve on their peers' contributions and create content that is useful for everyone in the course.

- The forums continue to be an exciting place to interact with the other participants in the course. This week we have seen threads on Week 2 in R and Co-linearity and parallel coordinates. I hope you will continue to **join in on the great topics** being discussed.

Finally, as a reminder, all of the **deadlines for Week 2 of the class are this Sunday, Aug. 2, at 11:55 PM CT** (time zone conversion). See the Week 2 Overview page for more details.

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Sat 1 Aug 2015 10:00 AM PDT

Updates on Quiz and Programming Assignment 1

Greetings,

I hope that you have enjoyed the topics covered so far in this course.

Please note the following items:

- Remember that you do not have to score a 7/10

on every quiz to pass the course. You only need to **earn an overall average score of 70% for all quizzes and assignments combined**. Note that you are allowed 2 attempts at each quiz, and if you submit a quiz **within the first 5 days after the deadline**, you can still earn all of the possible points for the quiz. Also remember **not to include correct answers to the quiz questions when posting in the forums**; this is a violation of Coursera's Honor Code.

- With regard to **Programming Assignment 1**, as there was a change in the data on the GISTEMP site, we have updated the .zip file for you to download on the Instructions page. Please use this in place of the same file, if you had downloaded it earlier. If you feel that you cannot easily change the data that you are using, feel free to use the older data. Simply make a note of this during your submission. The assignment is more focused on the visualization aspect in particular, rather than the numbers of the data itself.

  We realize that we have updated the data provided from our side multiple times, so this is a quick log of the changes:

  1). We updated the .zip by adding the CSV and TXT files, in response to a request.

  2). There was a formatting issue (there were commas in incorrect places) in the files which caused confusion. The formatting was changed to become clearer.

  3). It was pointed out that the data from the GISTEMP site did not match the data we had provided on our side. This was because there had been an update to the GISTEMP data, due to a bug which they had found, since the time we created the .zip on our side. We overlooked this update, which is why the data had differed. A small formatting change was also made for clarity. In the second DATA2 files, there are no longer spaces in the longitudinal demarcations. From "24N -90N", it is now "24N-90N", and likewise.

  Again, it is perfectly okay if you had used any of the earlier data sets. Just make a note about this when you submit the data. We apologize for the problems.

Best,

Prof. John C. Hart

Tue 28 Jul 2015 1:00 PM PDT

Week 2 is Now Available!

Greetings,

Please note that the **materials for Week 2 of our course are now available** (closed captions will be available soon). So, for those of you who would like to, please move ahead!

After you actively engage in the learning experiences in this week, you should be able to:

- Select an appropriate chart time, and assign data to appropriate chart elements, to visualize data effectively.
- Understand basic charts and how their elements imply certain characteristics of the data they display.
- Plot more data variables using higher dimensional visualization methods including glyphs, parallel coordinates and streamgraphs.
- Apply principles of design and color to make a data visualization more compelling, engaging and effective.

All of your **Week 2 activities are due this Sunday**, Aug. 2 at 11:55 PM CT (time zone conversion). Importantly, this includes the Programming Assignment 1 Submission, which will give you a chance to explore the topics covered in week 2 of the course by visualizing some data as a chart.

Thanks for your active participation, and we look forward to hearing from you in the course over the next week!

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Mon 27 Jul 2015 8:00 AM PDT

End of Week 1 Approaching

Greetings,

Congratulations on reaching the end of Week 1 of our course! There are almost **74,000 of you enrolled in the course**—think of the potential you all have to not only work through this exciting topic but also make connections with other like-minded individuals from around the world.

Two items to note:

1. An important part of this course experience for some of you will be **connecting with others**. Be sure to build those connections in the forums. There are some exciting threads including: Tableau Data Science Software, Climate Change Visualization, Visualizing the Spread of Religions, and World War II Visualization. I hope you will **join in on some of the great topics** being discussed.

2. Already, this community has shown its diversity and the value such diversity brings. We have study groups that have been formed by your fellow participants for Russian learners. There is also a LinkedIn networking group for the Data Mining Specialization.

Finally, as a reminder, all of the **deadlines for Week 1 of the class are this Sunday, July 26, at 11:55 PM CT** (time zone conversion). See the Week 1 Overview page for more details.

Best,
Prof. John C. Hart

Sat 25 Jul 2015 10:00 AM PDT

Introducing Your Community TAs

Greetings!

I would like to take a moment to introduce some of the people who will there to help you in the following weeks of this course—**University of Illinois CS Dept. TAs and Coursera Community TAs**. They will respond to your questions and comments in the forums and help you with any issues that arise. Be sure to **look for their posts**, identified in the forums

by the "Community TA" label next to their names because they will have very useful information to help you progress through the course. The TAs will also inform course staff about any problems that may arise.

These TAs **volunteer many hours** to help make this course possible. Be sure to thank them if you get the chance! They certainly have my gratitude. Feel free to get to know them via their introductions in the **Getting to Know Your Classmates** forum.

The University of Illinois TA for this course are:

Ashwin Kumar, Hussein Hazimeh and Alex Morales

The Community TAs for this course are:

Adrian Cuyugan ~ Ananya Harsh Jha ~ Ashic Mahtab ~ Chia-Sheng Lin ~ Chaitanya Kelkar ~ David Hood ~ Eric Janotta ~ Alejandro Gomez Garay ~ John Liu ~ Leanne McAllister ~ Ada Lee ~ Michael Boerrigter ~ Sharon Pedersen ~ Rajaraman ~ ANDRIANAVALONA Tantely Hoby Hasina ~ Alexander Rakhlin ~ Virgil Palanciuc ~ Daniel Kovacs ~ Jorge Vallego ~ Mantvydas Juozapavicius

Thanks to all the TA's for the extra effort, and thanks everyone for your attention,
Prof. John C. Hart

Tue 21 Jul 2015 8:00 AM PDT

Welcome to the course!

Dear Course Participants,

As your instructor, I welcome all of you to ***Data Visualization***, which can be taken alone or as part of the ***Data Mining*** certificate from the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**. I am looking forward to **engaging with you** about data viusalization over the coming weeks. If you have any questions about the content of this course or other problems, please see the **Getting and Giving Help** section of the Syllabus. Because of the size of this course, I will not be able to personally respond to direct emails. Someone on the team here at Illinois, or more often your classmates, will respond to you in the forums.

To help you prepare for this course, you will need to

complete the following orientation work **as soon as possible**, but no later than the end of Week 1:

- Read carefully through the entire **Syllabus**.
- Review the **Course Orientation** section of the course.
- Update your **Coursera Profile** and check out the **Social Media** page.
- Complete the optional **Getting to Know Your Classmates** discussion assignment, found within the Orientation.
- Take the **Orientation Quiz**, found within the Orientation.

The **Orientation** is designed to **improve your overall success** in this course by helping you gain a solid understanding of the course goals and expectations. It will also give you a basic familiarity with the Coursera interface. For those of you who have not taken an online class before, it is worth taking the time to go over the various parts of the course.

In each module I will present you with **video lectures**, which you can review as often as desired, and some **reinforcing activities** to help you solidify your learning. Everything you need for a given week is easily accessed from the **Weekly Overview pages available in the navigation menu** at the left. Do not let the flurry of activity in the weekly discussion forums overwhelm you. **I recommend you jump into the forums**, start new threads, reply to others, or simply read topics that interest you. **You do not have to read every post** or thread, but **you will find a lot of interesting information**.

I not only **wish you personal success** in this course but also welcome you into **68,000-strong worldwide community** as we explore data visualization together. I'm quite anxious to see the visualizations that you and the many other students in this course can come up with.

Sincerely,
Prof. John C. Hart

Mon 20 Jul 2015 9:00 AM PDT