

COURSE SYLLABUS  
IST652 – Scripting for Data Analysis

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**Description:**

Scripting for the data science pipeline. Acquiring, accessing, and transforming data in the forms of structured, semistructured, and unstructured data.

**Additional Course Description:**

The goal of this class is to teach students the tools and skills of scripting needed to solve problems of accessing and preparing data in a variety of formats and situations, sometimes known as *data wrangling*. The scripting will provide the skills needed to form data science pipelines, from acquiring and cleaning data to accessing data and transforming data for analysis or visualization.

The main content focus is on information access and processing tasks on the types of structured, semistructured, and unstructured data in current use in information applications. For these three types of data, the course includes the use of structured numeric and text data such as that from a spreadsheet or database, the use of data obtained through standard data exchange formats such as HTML or XML from web pages or JSON from web-based APIs, and the use of data obtained by pattern matching from text or log files. The scripting language Python was chosen because of its ease of use and available packages to work with data in many information applications. The skills learned in this class are intended to complement the analytical and visualization skills learned in other data science courses. The scripting language Python will be taught, but it will be assumed that students already have a programming background, either through course work or through online study.

**Prerequisite / Co-requisite:**

For graduate students, no specific course is required, but some programming knowledge will be assumed. This may be acquired through courses or online resources.

**Credits:**

3.0

**Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to

- write scripts to access and amass data from fields in structured data, access fields in semistructured data, and define and find patterns of data in unstructured data;

- prepare and transform data to produce data summaries, lists, and networks;

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- analyze and solve data access problems for the three types of data and to find and deploy appropriate software packages that can be integrated into the problem solution; and
  - frame real-world data questions and show how they can be answered from data.

**Bibliography/ Texts / Supplies – Required:**

**Python for Everybody:** <https://www.py4e.com/book> (Python version)  
Available free online or for purchase as a (paperback) book.

**A Smarter Way to Learn Python** by Mark Myers (available on Amazon)  
(A great resource to learn the python language with activities to reinforce the concepts.

Other readings will be assigned from online resources.

**Course Requirements and Expectations:**

Class sessions are designed around developing solutions for the main focus application tasks. Each section of the course contains a smaller number of daily problems that lead up to focus on one overall application design challenge in each of the three types of data. The instructor will then demonstrate how to solve an example of the design challenge, and then students will be asked to solve a similar problem. The design challenges will focus on the use of structured numeric and text data such as that from a spreadsheet or database, the use of data obtained through standard data exchange formats such as HTML or XML from web pages or JSON from web-based APIs, and the use of data obtained by pattern matching from text or log files.

The coursework will consist mainly of small weekly lab programming and analysis problems, three larger design and programming problems for homework, and the final project. There will also be two quizzes, where half the quiz will be multiple choice questions and the other half will be programming questions. The class attendance and participation grade include both asynchronous (completing asynchronous exercises) AND live session attendance and participation. The final project will require an additional report on a data science analysis question appropriate for the problem data.

<b>3 lab problems</b> ( <i>grading scale is 100 points</i> )	20%
<b>2 quizzes</b> ( <i>grading scale is 100 points</i> )	20%
<b>Participation</b>	10%
<b>2 homework assignments</b> ( <i>grading scale is 100 points</i> )	30%
<b>Final Project:</b> ( <i>grading breakdown: Proposal 2%, Presentation 5%, Report &amp; Program 13%</i> )	20%
<b>Total</b>	100%

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**Grading:**

Grades	Grade Points/ Credit	Percentage Range
A	4.0	94–100
A-	3.66	90-93.9
B+	3.33	87–89.9
B	3.0	84–86.9
B-	2.66	80–83.9
C+	2.33	76-79.9
C	2.0	73-75.9
C-	1.66	70-72.9
F	0	below 70

**University Attendance Policy**

Attendance in classes is expected in all courses at Syracuse University. Students are expected to arrive on campus in time to attend the first meeting of all classes for which they are registered. Students who do not attend classes starting with the first scheduled meeting may be academically withdrawn as not making progress toward degree by failure to attend. Instructors set course-specific policies for absences from scheduled class meetings in their syllabi. It is a federal requirement that students who do not attend or cease to attend a class to be reported at the time of determination by the faculty. Students should also review the university's religious observance policy and make the required arrangements at the beginning of each semester.

**iSchool Values**

The culture, curriculum, and decision making at the iSchool are guided by our shared values.

**Excellence**

We are a student-centered institution committed to learning and intellectual diversity. As a community of scholars and practitioners, we pursue research and teaching excellence through the development, integration, and application of knowledge.

**Discovery and Innovation**

We value discovery and innovation to advance the information fields. We identify new opportunities, respond creatively to emerging issues, and lead our fields through partnerships and learning communities.

**Integrity**

As information professionals, we uphold intellectual honesty and responsibility. We carefully consider the implications of our actions, taking fairness and equity into consideration. We contribute to, and promote, the highest standards for the ethical use of information and technology.

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### **Diversity and Inclusion**

We strive for diversity in our community and celebrate difference. We embrace a multiplicity of voices to address social and technical challenges through interdisciplinary analysis and solutions.

### **Global Citizenship and Engagement**

We enable our iSchool community to participate actively as global citizens working to advance the common good. We have a responsibility to inform and improve society, and to influence policy through pedagogy, research, and advocacy.

### **Course Specific Policies on attendance, late work, and make up work**

Attendance is required and cannot be made up except for excused absences for illness and for other school-sanctioned activities. For assignments, late work will be accepted but will be penalized with the points equivalent to ½ of a letter grade for one day late and on a sliding scale for additional lateness of up to a full letter grade.

### **Syracuse University Policies:**

Students should review the University's policies regarding: Diversity and Disability <https://www.syracuse.edu/life/accessibilitydiversity/>; the Religious Observances Notification and Policy [http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious\\_observance.htm](http://supolicies.syr.edu/studs/religious_observance.htm); and Orange SUccess - <http://orangesuccess.syr.edu/getting-started-2/>.

### **Disability-Related Accommodations**

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. If you believe that you need academic adjustments (accommodations) for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), visit the ODS website– <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 or TDD: (315) 443-1371 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting academic adjustments. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic adjustments and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since academic adjustments may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. Our goal at the iSchool is to create learning environments that are useable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, please meet with me to discuss additional strategies beyond official accommodations that may be helpful to your success.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit.

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Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. For more information about the policy, see <http://class.syr.edu/academicintegrity/policy/>.

The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

### **Course Specific Policy on the Use of Turnitin**

This class will use the plagiarism detection and prevention system Turnitin. I will submit all papers you write for this class to Turnitin, which compares submitted documents against documents on the Internet and against student papers submitted to Turnitin at SU and at other colleges and universities. I will take your knowledge of the subject matter of this course and your writing level and style into account in interpreting the originality report. Keep in mind that all papers you submit for this class will become part of the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. I will provide you a consent statement to sign, date and return to me that will state the following:

“By signing below, I give permission for the submission of all work I turn in for *Scripting for Data Analysis* to the plagiarism detection and prevention system Turnitin, which compares submitted documents against documents on the Internet and against student papers submitted to Turnitin at SU and at other colleges and universities. I understand that all assignments submitted for this class will become part of the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.”

### **Educational Use of Student Work**

Student work prepared for University courses in any media may be used for educational purposes, if the course syllabus makes clear that such use may occur. You grant permission to

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have your work used in this manner by registering for, and by continuing to be enrolled in, courses where such use of student work is announced in the course syllabus.

### **Discrimination or Harassment**

The University does not discriminate and prohibits harassment or discrimination related to any protected category including creed, ethnicity, citizenship, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, gender, pregnancy, disability, marital status, age, race, color, veteran status, military status, religion, sexual orientation, domestic violence status, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender.

Any complaint of discrimination or harassment related to any of these protected bases should be reported to Sheila Johnson-Willis, the University's Chief Equal Opportunity & Title IX Officer. She is responsible for coordinating compliance efforts under various laws including Titles VI, VII, IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. She can be contacted at Equal Opportunity, Inclusion, and Resolution Services, 005 Steele Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-1120; by email: [titleix@syr.edu](mailto:titleix@syr.edu); or by telephone: 315-443-0211.

Federal and state law, and University policy prohibit discrimination and harassment based on sex or gender (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If a student has been harassed or assaulted, they can obtain confidential counseling support, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, from the Sexual and Relationship Violence Response Team at the Counseling Center (315-443-4715, 200 Walnut Place, Syracuse, New York 13244-5040). Incidents of sexual violence or harassment can be reported non-confidentially to the University's Title IX Officer (Sheila Johnson Willis, 315-443-0211, [titleix@syr.edu](mailto:titleix@syr.edu), 005 Steele Hall). Reports to law enforcement can be made to the University's Department of Public Safety (315-443-2224, 005 Sims Hall), the Syracuse Police Department (511 South State Street, Syracuse, New York, 911 in case of emergency or 315-435-3016 to speak with the Abused Persons Unit), or the State Police (844-845-7269). I will seek to keep information you share with me private to the greatest extent possible, but as a professor I have mandatory reporting responsibilities to share information regarding sexual misconduct, harassment, and crimes I learn about to help make our campus a safer place for all.

### **School Library Media Program Assessment**

The School Library Media Program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) through the Syracuse University School of Education. As a part of that accreditation, the School Library Media Program must assess student performance on the competencies that correlate to program outcomes. The competencies which are assessed are identical to the items on your Competency Checklist. As a part of School Library Media Program planning, course-embedded assessments have been aligned with student competencies. For CAEP reporting, each faculty member with competency-based, course-embedded assessments is asked to rate (1=Ineffective, 2=Developing, 3=Effective or 4=Highly Effective) candidates' performance on the respective competencies. This is the same rating

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scale students use when completing the competency checklist. Scoring is conducted for key assignments and not all assignments for a course.

What this means for you:

Your individual score is NOT a grade and it is part of an aggregate report. If a student is performing at an Ineffective or Developing level, a comment is submitted with the score, which is also aggregated. Individual scores and comments are not associated with specific student names.

**Course evaluations:**

There will be an end of course evaluation for you to complete this term. This evaluation will be conducted online and is entirely anonymous. You will receive a notification from the Syracuse University Office of Institutional Research & Assessment (OIRA) department in your email account with the evaluation website link and your passcode. Please take the time and fill out this evaluation as your feedback and support of this assessment effort is very much appreciated. The school carefully reviews ratings and comments that you submit, and these factor into decisions about course, program and instructor development.

**Course Schedule:** Week/ lecture, topic for the week/lecture, and required readings are in the columns below.

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Week/Lecture	Topic	Required Reading and Assignment
1	Data Pipeline and Python Language Basics	<b>Required Readings</b>  Python for Everybody, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8.  <a href="#">Data Science: A Kaggle Walk-through: Introduction.</a>
2	Booleans and Dictionaries	<b>Required Readings</b>  Python for Everybody, Chapters 6, 7 and 10.  <a href="#">Data Exploration: A Kaggle Walk-through – Understanding the Data.</a>
3	Exploring and Transforming Data for Structured Data	<b>Required Readings</b>  Python for Everybody, Chapters 3, 4, and 9.  <b>Assignment</b> Lab 1* QUIZ ONE will open at end of week
4	Arrays, Functions, and Categorical Summarization	<b>Required Readings</b>  Python for Everybody, Chapter 4.  <a href="#">Cleaning the Data: A Kaggle Walk-through.</a>  <a href="#">Python NumPy Tutorial</a> (Scroll down in the tutorial to see the part for NumPy.)  <b>Assignment</b> Lab 2*



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Week/Lecture	Topic	Required Reading and Assignment
5	Stacking and Unstacking Data	<p><b>Required Readings</b></p> <p><a href="#">Wide and Narrow Data</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Wide and Long Data Format for Repeated Measures Data</a></p> <p><a href="#">Data Science: A Kaggle Walkthrough – Transforming the Data</a></p> <p><b>Assignment</b> Homework 1*</p>
6	Semi-structured Data	<p><b>Required Readings</b></p> <p>Python for Everybody, Chapters 12 and 13</p> <p><a href="#">MDN Web Docs: HTML</a></p> <p><a href="#">W3Schools HTML Element Reference</a></p> <p><a href="#">Dominos: Data-Driven Decision Making at the World’s Largest Pizza Delivery Chain</a></p> <p><b>Assignment</b> Project Proposal*</p>
7	Mongo Database, JSON From RSS	<p><b>Required Readings</b></p> <p><a href="#">NoSQL Databases: An Overview</a></p> <p><a href="#">Pymongo—API Documentation</a></p> <p><a href="#">PyMongo Tutorial</a></p> <p><a href="#">JSON Encoder and Decoder</a></p> <p><a href="#">XML vs. JSON.</a></p> <p><b>Assignment</b> Lab 3* QUIZ TWO will open at end of week</p>

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Week/Lecture	Topic	Required Reading and Assignment
8	Processing Twitter and Facebook	<b>Required Readings</b> <a href="#">Twitter Developer Documentation</a> <a href="#">Tweepy Python Tutorial</a> <a href="#">Tweepy Search API</a> <a href="#">Mining Twitter Data With Python (Part 1: Collecting Data)</a> <a href="#">Data Science: A Kaggle Walkthrough – Adding New Data</a> <b>Assignment</b> Homework 2*
9	Unstructured Data	<b>Required Readings</b> Python for Everybody, Chapter 11 <a href="#">Regular Expression Documentation</a> <a href="#">Data Science: A Kaggle Walkthrough – Creating a Model</a>
10	Network Structures	<b>Required Readings</b> <a href="#">8 Ways to Help Your Tweets Go Viral</a> <a href="#">Python NetworkX Package Tutorial</a> <b>Assignment</b> Final Project Report* Final Project Presentations
11	Presentations	Final Project Presentations

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\* Due 24 hours before the live session

### **LAB PROBLEMS**

#### **ONE:**

For the NBAfile.py program, for each line, create a string using string formatting that puts the team, attendance, and ticket prices into a formatted string. Each line should look something like:

'The attendance at Atlanta was 13993 and the ticket price was \$20.06'

Your program should then print these strings instead of the lines. **Submit your code and the output of your program.** Submit assignment as a .txt, .py, .pdf, or jupyter notebook file.

**DUE 24 hours before the live session in Week 3.**

#### **TWO:**

Dictionaries: You may wish to write the code for parts a–d in one Python file.

Consider the following two dictionaries:

```
stock = {"banana": 6, "apple": 0, "orange": 32, "pear": 15}
```

```
prices = {"banana": 4, "apple": 2, "orange": 1.5, "pear": 3}
```

- a. Show the expression that gets the value of the stock dictionary at the key 'orange'. Show a statement that adds an item to the stock dictionary called 'cherry' with some integer value and that adds 'cherry' to the prices dictionary with a numeric value. (Or pick your own fruit name.)
- b. Write the code for a loop that iterates over the stock dictionary and prints each key and value.
- c. Suppose that we have a list:

```
groceries = ['apple', 'banana', 'pear']
```

Write the code that will sum the total number in stock of the items in the groceries list.

- d. Write the code that can print out the total value in stock of all the items. This program can iterate over the stock dictionary and for each item multiply the number in stock times the price of that item in the prices dictionary. (This can include the items for 'cherry' or not, as you choose.)

**Submit your code and the output of your program.** Submit assignment as a .txt, .py, .pdf, or jupyter notebook file.

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**Due 24 hours before the live session in Week 4.**

**THREE:**

Problem 1:

Write a Python function to multiply all the numbers in a list.

Sample List : (8, 2, 3, -1, 7)

Expected Output : -336

Execute the function with at least 3 different lists of numbers.

Problem 2:

Write a Python function that accepts a string and calculate the number of upper case letters and lower case letters.

Sample String : 'The quick Brown Fox'

Execute the function with at least 2 different phrases.

**Submit your answer to Problem 1, along with your code and the output of your program in Problem 2.** Submit assignment as a .txt, .py, .pdf, or jupyter notebook file.

**Due 24 hours before the live session in Week 7.**

## **Homework 1: Structured Data**

**Due: 24 hours before the live session in Week 5**

You can choose to complete this assignment by yourself or with a group of at most two total participants. Each person must turn the assignment in for grading, and each person must contribute to the development of the program. Use the file Donors\_Data.csv.

### **Structured Data Processing**

For purposes of this writeup, we will use examples from the Donors data file.

The main outline of your assignment is to write a program that will read in the data from a file, such as the .csv file saved from Excel. This will be in a format that is structured with lines of data representing one type of unit (i.e., one donor in the donors file). Your program will represent the data as Python data structures. You may choose for the overall structure to be one or both of the following:

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- A list of dictionaries, or some combination of lists, dictionaries, and NumPy arrays
  - A pandas dataframe

You will do data exploration and cleaning on this data.

The program will do some processing to convert the data to a form that will answer at least two questions as described below, and write files with the data suitable for answering each question. Graphing is optional.

**Data:**

You may choose a data set to work with. As a guideline, data sets should have somewhere between 500 and 4,000 lines of data with some number of columns between 4 and 50. These guidelines are not exact limits, just guidance for selecting data.

If the data comes in an Excel spreadsheet with a lot of columns, it is okay to first edit the file to remove columns that you do not need for your processing. For example, in the Donors data, you might wish to create a separate spreadsheet with only a few columns of data.

**Questions:**

For this assignment, at least one question that you choose to answer should look at the data in a different unit of analysis than is present in the data file. For example, instead of looking at individual donors, you could look at the donors of each of the nine income or wealth types.

Simplest example question (you should do one more complex than this):

For each wealth type, what is the average home value of all the donors of that type?

- Unit of analysis: wealth types
- Comparison: for each wealth type, compute the average home values of the neighborhoods of all the donors of that type
- Output: should be in a file with nine rows of data (you may also produce header and label rows), where each row has an income type (1–9) and the average home values

One way to increase the complexity of this particular question would be to add more items to be compared to the income types, e.g., add columns to the output with average total gifts or values of the last gifts. Another way is to introduce a more detailed unit of analysis; for example, suppose that for each income level you reported by gender, giving the average home value for both men and women in each category.

Other ideas:

Compare donors in the various zip codes with various types or amounts of giving.

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Compare donors by the number of promotions with the total amount of donations and the frequency of donations.

Compare the number of months since the last donation to the donation amounts.

**What to Submit:**

In addition to the program that you write, you should write a small report. In it you should provide:

- Data and its source
- Description of your data exploration and data cleaning steps
- At least two clearly stated comparison questions with the unit of analysis, the comparison values, and how they are computed
- Brief description of the program
- Description of the output files and analysis of that output.
- Final conclusion about the data and what your most important take away was.

For your program, you may use any of the code developed in class as a template, but it is absolutely essential that you use appropriate variable names and that you write original comments for what your program does. Recall that good comments demonstrate your understanding of the code that you write and the problem that you are trying to solve.

**Group Work:**

If you choose to work in a group (of two), you may write and submit a single program, but you must process the data for two additional comparison questions. Each member of your group should write some part of the program, even if edited together later. Your report should describe the roles of the group members and who did what parts of the assignment, possibly including the data exploration, data cleaning, formulating questions to answer, and debugging.

**Submit the following in a single submission (for each person):**

- Report (A Word document or PDF file)
  - I must be able to find the data that you utilized (link to the website, etc.)
- Program(s)
  - Must be submitted as stand-alone Python or Jupyter Notebook files that I can execute on my own machine

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- Output files (may be included in the Report)

## Homework 2: Semistructured Data

**Due: 24 hours before the live session in Week 8**

For this homework assignment, you may work on your own or you may work in a group of two people.

### Semistructured Data Processing

The main outline of your assignment is to write a program that will read in JSON formatted data from a Mongo DB collection or from a file. This will be in a format that is structured with lines of data representing one type of unit, for example, one tweet for Twitter or one post from Facebook. Your program will contain the data as lists of JSON structures, which are just Python dictionaries and lists. Your program may also contain pandas dataframes for processed data.

The program will do some processing to collect data from some of the fields that will answer one or more questions as described below, and write a file with the data suitable for answering each question. Remember that some fields may be optional or have null values, so you may need to test for those conditions. Graphing is definitely optional.

### Questions:

Types of questions:

- Process one collection of data and summarize information from a number of fields. This is similar to the example programs for Twitter hashtags or Facebook counts but must access different and more fields than in those examples.
- Process one collection of data and separate it into different categories and give some summary statistics on those categories. For example, bin the Tweets by day or by hour and report on the number of tweets per day or hour.
- Process two or more collections of data and compare some summary data about the two collections. For example, collect Twitter user timelines from different political candidates and compare the number of retweets of their tweets.

You may use the programs `twitter_lang.py` as an example, but you must use different fields. You may also use `twitter_hashtags.py` or `facebook_counts.py`, but in these programs you must add a part to write a file. In all cases, you must change the comments to reflect your individual understanding of the program. If you only do one question, then it must be more complex than these simple examples; otherwise, you may choose additional questions.

### Data:

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You may collect data from Twitter, Facebook, or some other URL that returns JSON data. (If you want to use another format, such as XML, please ask.) If you collect your own, please collect at least several hundred data items, if possible.

You may request me to collect data for you, and if so, please make that request as soon as possible.

### **What to Submit:**

1. The program that you write,
2. A report in a Word Document or PDF File. In it provide:
  - The data and its source, including any preprocessing
  - A clearly stated question that describes whether it is a summary or comparison question and what fields are being used in the data
  - A brief description of the program
  - Description of the output files and analysis of that output.
  - Final conclusion about the data and what your most important take away was.
3. Output files (may be included in your jupyter notebook or your report)

For your program, you may use any of the code developed in class as a template, but it is absolutely essential that you use appropriate variable names and that you write original comments for what your program does.

Submit your report, your program and your output file(s).

### **Group Work:**

If you choose to work in a group (of two), you may write and submit one program, but you must process the data for (at least) two comparison questions. Each member of the group should write some part of the program, even if edited later together. Your report should describe the roles of the group members and who did what parts of the project, possibly including data, formulating questions, and debugging.

## ***Final Project***

### **Final Project Proposal**



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## Scripting for Data Analysis

**Due: 24 hours before the live session in Week 6**

### Planning for the Project

For this assignment, you are to make an initial plan for a project. In the final project you will demonstrate your ability to write Python scripts to access and amass data from fields in one or more of the three types of data studied in the course and to prepare and use data to produce data summaries, lists, and other structures.

1. Choose whether to work individually or to work in a team of two or three people. If you wish to work in a team, specify the people that you have talked with to form a team.
2. Pick a topic of investigation and the data that you will use, ideally from more than one source. The topic could focus on one main data set but also have supporting data. Your topic may focus on a single target topic or person, combinations of them, a comparison of more than one target topic and person, or comparisons over time.

The data may come from any source: those that you have found online, collected from social media, or obtained through other means.

3. Pick several possible methods of analysis in order to give some initial idea of what analysis you will try. This analysis will be to answer the types of questions that you have worked on for the homework assignments. Since we are not focused on visualization, the results of your analysis can be reported as structured tables with a unit of analysis and collected, summarized, or computed values for those units.

The scale of the final project must be larger in scope than the homework assignments in at least one of the following dimensions:

- Incorporating multiple data sets, possibly combining structured, semistructured, or text data
- Conducting additional related analysis questions (either more complex questions or more questions)
- Including additional types of analysis or collecting data, e.g., using another API or social network analysis

4. If you know of places where you may need help with development, try to list that now.

This can range from big things (I want to get information from FourSquare comments) to small things (I'd like a program that helps me to get dates from the documents in my collection and be able to compare dates).

[Potential remaining topics: Social network analysis, geographic locations and maps, getting all Facebook comments. You may request to add to this list.]

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5. State in what way you intend for your project to be larger in scope than either of the homework assignments.

6. Based on your plans, you may want to start collecting data.

### **Assignment Result**

Hand in a short document with your initial project plan describing your team, your topic, and your potential methods of analysis, including an assessment of the scope of the project.

### **Ideas for Data or Projects**

Many websites where people have done analysis also give the sources of their information. For example:

- Nate Silver's 538 website has many examples of analysis. One is this article by Rob Arthur and Jeff Asher on gun violence in Chicago. They say that they got their crime data from the City of Chicago open data portal <https://data.cityofchicago.org/>.
- Data journalist Yue Qiu has a website with several projects reporting data on workers, trains carrying crude oil, and other statistics from various government websites.

Examples of data sets used by students for the first homework:

- Baseball hall of fame data
- Airbnb data from Kaggle
- Used car test data from the EPA website
- Somerville surveys for sense of safety
- Victim crime data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Data sets from the UPI website: faculty use of Wikipedia data, forest fires, red wine quality, bike rentals

Comparing social media content with real-world events or other items. Examples:

- "Tweet the Debates": Shamma et al. collected tweets associated with political debates and reported on tweet volume over time and social networks of people tweeting.
- "Information Flows in Events of Political Unrest": Nahon and Hemsley compared tweet volume over time with the blogosphere and news stories of events.

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- “Toward Predicting Popularity of Social Marketing Messages”: Yu et al. selected restaurants with the most Facebook fans in different categories and analyzed popularity of the posts based on the number of likes and then analyzed the different types of posts by significant (most frequent) words.
  - Comparison of different rock bands: Authors collected tweets and Facebook posts over time, looking at user timelines, retweets, likes, number of comments, number of entities, and most frequent words from the text.
  - Analysis of tweets around an event: Collect tweets from event hashtags, showing significant words over time, network of people tweeting, and user locations on a map.

Examples of student Final Projects (not all questions are reported, so these do not necessarily reflect the full scope of the student work, and some are multistudent):

Data sources: EPA car review data, Edmund’s Car Reviews and Dealership Reviews.

Questions: What are the car dealerships located in the vicinity of Syracuse, and how far away are they? How would you rate American-made automobiles according to mileage, horsepower, fuel efficiency, and cost?

Data sources: Twitter collection from Dave Matthews Band and Phish, including the user profiles and the last 2,000 tweets from their user timelines.

Question: Compare the popularity of the two bands by comparing follower and favorite counts from each profile, average numbers of retweets, and retweets and favorites per followers.

Data source: Tweets collected April 18, 2016, around #parisattacks OR #bataclan with 32K tweets.

Questions: What are the demographics of the tweets? Who are the most influential users (using SNA and retweets)? What are the demographics of the information (looking at the URLs)? What are the sentiments expressed in the tweets?

Data source: Tweets about Boston Red Sox and NY Yankees, and Facebook posts and comments from the two teams’ Facebook fan pages.

Questions: Updated analysis of many questions based on earlier article by Bialik in Five-thirtyeight for 2014.

Data sources: Airbnb data set, collected tweets about Airbnb.

Questions: What factors influence the customer review scores? How much money can each host make in a particular time period? Can we use tweets about airbnb to discover recent popular travel trends?

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Data sources: MovieLens data set with 100K reviews and selected movie reviews downloaded from IMDb in HTML.

Questions: Do movie ratings differ according to gender and genre? Do movie reviews differ by gender for movies with male or female protagonists?

Data sources: Tweets around the topic #techno, user profiles from SoundCloud in the genre techno, from the API.

Question: Compare the demographics of the Twitter users and the SoundCloud users.

### **Final Project Presentations**

#### **To be presented in Week 10 and 11 live sessions**

- Length of presentation slots - 1 person: 8 minutes
- 2 people: 12 minutes
- 3 people: 18 minutes
- Leave time for questions (2 minutes per presentation)
- Practice!
- What to include:
  - Data sources
  - Single analysis question that was answered - Can build upon this section if you have multiple group members
  - Very brief description of your process
  - The results you got and what they mean.

#### **Final Project Report—DUE: 24 hours before the live session in Week 10**

In addition to carrying out the project, you must write a final project report. In this report, you should

- Describe the data and its source(s), including any preprocessing
- Describe your methods of analysis, including the questions that will be answered, in what fields the data will be used, and what the resulting output will be

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- Include an overall description of the program
  - If your project is a group project, describe the tasks and roles of each member of the group
  - (Grad students) **Draw conclusions from your results about your data**

**What to Submit**

1. The project report (Word document or PDF document)
2. The Python program (or jupyter notebook), documented with comments
3. The output(s) of the program. (may be included in your report)