

MITx 15.071x – The Analytics Edge

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE CLASS?

A. The class will consist of lecture videos, which are broken into small pieces, usually between 4 and 8 minutes each. After many lecture pieces, we will ask you a “quick question” to assess your understanding of the material. There will also be a recitation, in which one of the teaching assistants will go over the methods introduced with a new example and data set. Each unit will have a homework assignment that involves working in R or LibreOffice with various data sets. In the middle of the class, we will run an analytics competition, and at the end of the class there will be a final exam, which will be similar to the homework assignments.

Q. HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COURSE CONTENT?

A. Please read the syllabus by clicking the syllabus link to learn more about the motivation and content of this course.

Q. WILL THE TEXT OF THE LECTURES BE AVAILABLE?

A. Yes, transcripts of the course will be made available.

Q. DO I NEED TO WATCH THE LECTURES LIVE?

A. No. You can watch the lectures at your leisure.

Q. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO TAKE THE COURSE?

A. Nothing; the course is free. However, if you would like an ID verified certificate, there is a fee. For more information see <https://www.edx.org/verified-certificate>. The last day to sign up for an ID verified certificate is April 13, 2015.

Q. IS THERE A REQUIRED TEXTBOOK?

A. No. All of the material needed is included in the course and is viewable online.

Q. WILL I EARN A CERTIFICATE?

A. Yes – this course awards certificates to all who satisfactorily complete the course. You can choose a free certificate or a verified certificate. For more information, see <https://www.edx.org/verified-certificate>. The last day to sign up for a certificate is April 13, 2015.

Q. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TOPIC PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN THE COURSE?

A. You only need to know basic mathematics. For most people, this is equivalent to basic high school mathematics. You should know concepts like mean, standard deviation, and histograms. Mathematical maturity and prior experience with programming will decrease the estimated effort required for the class, but are not necessary to succeed.

Q. IF I HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SUBJECT, WILL THE COURSE BE USEFUL?

A. Yes! In each lecture, recitation, and homework assignment, we use a different dataset and case to illustrate the method. Even if you are familiar with all of the methods taught, you can still learn a lot from the different examples.

Q. WHAT SOFTWARE DO WE USE IN THIS CLASS?

A. We'll be using two software programs in this class: R and LibreOffice. Both are free online, and you don't need to be familiar with either of them to take the course. R is a free statistical and computing software environment and LibreOffice is similar to MS Office but a free open source program. Specifically we'll use the LibreOffice module, Calc in this course. Don't worry though - we'll teach everything from scratch!

Q. OTHER QUESTIONS

A. If you have any questions about edX generally, please see the edX FAQ page: <https://www.edx.org/about/student-faq>.