Data Science (DATASCI)

Please note: DATASCI courses are only available for Information and Data Science (MIDS) students.

DATASCI W200 Python Fundamentals for Data Science 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
This fast-paced course gives students fundamental Python knowledge necessary for advanced work in data science. Students gain frequent practice writing code, building to advanced skills focused on data science applications. We introduce a range of Python objects and control structures, then build on these with classes on object-oriented programming. A major programming project reinforces these concepts, giving students insight into how a large piece of software is built and experience managing a full-cycle development project. The last section covers two popular Python packages for data analysis, Numpy and Pandas, and includes an exploratory data analysis.

Objectives Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes: Be able to design, reason about, and implement algorithms for solving computational problems.

Be able to generate an exploratory analysis of a data set using Python.

Be able to navigate a file system, manipulate files, and execute programs using a command line interface.

Be able to test and effectively debug programs.

Be fluent in Python syntax and familiar with foundational Python object types.

Be prepared for further programming challenges in more advanced data science courses.

Know how to read, manipulate, describe, and visualize data using the Numpy and Pandas packages.

Know how to use Python to extract data from different type of files and other sources.

Understand how to manage different versions of a project using Git and how to collaborate with others using Github.

Understand the principles of functional programming.

Understand the principles of object-oriented design and the process by which large pieces of software are developed.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: MIDS students only

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week

Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Laskowski

DATASCI W201 Research Design and Applications for Data and Analysis 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Introduces the data sciences landscape, with a particular focus on learning data science techniques to uncover and answer the questions students will encounter in industry. Lectures, readings, discussions, and assignments will teach how to apply disciplined, creative methods to ask better questions, gather data, interpret results, and convey findings to various audiences. The emphasis throughout is on making practical contributions to real decisions that organizations will and should make. Course must be taken for a letter grade to fulfill degree requirements.

Research Design and Applications for Data and Analysis: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week

Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Weber

Research Design and Applications for Data and Analysis: Read Less [-]
DATASCI W203 Statistics for Data Science 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
This course provides students with a foundational understanding of classical statistics within the broader context of data science. Topics include exploratory analysis and descriptive statistics, probability theory and the foundations of statistical modeling, estimators, hypothesis testing, and classical linear regression. Causal inference and reproducibility issues are treated briefly. Students will learn to apply the most common statistical procedures correctly, checking assumptions and responding appropriately when they appear violated; to evaluate the design of a study and how the variables being measured relate to research questions; and to analyze real-world data using the open-source language R.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only. Intermediate competency in calculus is required. A college-level linear algebra course is recommended.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Cheshire

Statistics for Data Science: Read Less [-]

DATASCI W205 Fundamentals of Data Engineering 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Storing, managing, and processing datasets are foundational processes in data science. This course introduces the fundamental knowledge and skills of data engineering that are required to be effective as a data scientist. This course focuses on the basics of data pipelines, data pipeline flows and associated business use cases, and how organizations derive value from data and data engineering. As these fundamentals of data engineering are introduced, learners will interact with data and data processes at various stages in the pipeline, understand key data engineering tools and platforms, and use and connect critical technologies through which one can construct storage and processing architectures that underpin data science applications.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only. Intermediate competency in Python, C, or Java, and competency in Linux, GitHub, and relevant Python libraries; or permission of instructor. Knowledge of database management including SQL is recommended but not required.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructors: Mims, Martin

Fundamentals of Data Engineering: Read Less [-]
DATASCI W207 Applied Machine Learning 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Machine learning is a rapidly growing field at the intersection of computer science and statistics concerned with finding patterns in data. It is responsible for tremendous advances in technology, from personalized product recommendations to speech recognition in cell phones. This course provides a broad introduction to the key ideas in machine learning. The emphasis will be on intuition and practical examples rather than theoretical results, though some experience with probability, statistics, and linear algebra will be important. Course must be taken for a letter grade to fulfill degree requirements.
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only. Data Science W201, W203. Intermediate competency in Python, C, or Java, and competency in Linux, GitHub, and relevant Python libraries; or permission of instructor. Linear algebra is recommended
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Hearst
Applied Machine Learning: Read More [+]

DATASCI W209 Data Visualization and Communication 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Communicating clearly and effectively about the patterns we find in data is a key skill for a successful data scientist. This course focuses on the design and implementation of complementary visual and verbal representations of patterns and analyses in order to convey findings, answer questions, drive decisions, and provide persuasive evidence supported by data. Assignments will give hands-on experience designing data graphics and visualizations, and reporting findings in prose. Course must be taken for a letter grade to fulfill degree requirements.
Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only. DATASCI W203. Students must take DATASCI W205 concurrently or prior to DATASCI W209. If taken concurrently, students may not drop W205 and remain in W209
Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.
Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Ryokai
Data Visualization and Communication: Read Less [-]
DATASCI W210 Capstone 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
The capstone course will cement skills learned throughout the MIDS program – both core data science skills and “soft skills” like problem-solving, communication, influencing, and management – preparing students for success in the field. The centerpiece is a semester-long group project in which teams of students propose and select project ideas, conduct and communicate their work, receive and provide feedback (in informal group discussions as well as formal class presentations), and deliver compelling presentations along with a Web-based final deliverable. Includes relevant readings, case discussions, and real-world examples and perspectives from panel discussions with leading data science experts and industry practitioners.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Students must be in their final semester of the MIDS program

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Capstone: Read Less [+]

DATASCI W231 Behind the Data: Humans and Values 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Intro to the legal, policy, and ethical implications of data, including privacy, surveillance, security, classification, discrimination, decisional-autonomy, and duties to warn or act. Examines legal, policy, and ethical issues throughout the full data-science life cycle — collection, storage, processing, analysis, and use — with case studies from criminal justice, national security, health, marketing, politics, education, employment, athletics, and development. Includes legal and policy constraints and considerations for specific domains and data-types, collection methods, and institutions; technical, legal, and market approaches to mitigating and managing concerns; and the strengths and benefits of competing and complementary approaches.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: MIDS and MPA students only

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Mulligan
Behind the Data: Humans and Values: Read Less [-]
DATASCI W241 Experiments and Causal Inference 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
This course introduces students to experimentation in the social sciences. This topic has increased considerably in importance since 1995, as researchers have learned to think creatively about how to generate data in more scientific ways, and developments in information technology have facilitated the development of better data gathering. Key to this area of inquiry is the insight that correlation does not necessarily imply causality. In this course, we learn how to use experiments to establish causal effects and how to be appropriately skeptical of findings from observational data.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Data Science W201 and W203

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Experiments and Causal Inference: Read Less [-]

DATASCI W251 Scaling Up! Really Big Data 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
An overview of the contemporary toolkits for problems related to cloud computing and big data. Because the class is an advanced course, we generally assume familiarity with the concepts and spend more time on the implementation. Every lecture is followed by a hands-on assignment, where students get to experience some of the technologies covered in the lecture. By the time students complete the course, they should be able to name the big data problem they are facing, select proper tooling, and know enough to start applying it.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only. Students must have completed Data Science W201, W203, and W205 before enrolling in this course. They should be able to program in C, Python, or Java and/or be able to pick up a new programming language quickly. A degree of fluency is expected with the basics of operating systems (e.g., Linux and the Internet Technologies

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Scaling Up! Really Big Data: Read Less [-]
DATASCI W261 Machine Learning at Scale 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
This course teaches the underlying principles required to develop scalable machine learning pipelines for structured and unstructured data at the petabyte scale. Students will gain hands-on experience in Apache Hadoop and Apache Spark.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only. DATASCI W205, DATASCI W207. Intermediate programming skills in an object-oriented language (e.g., Python)

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Machine Learning at Scale: Read Less [-]

DATASCI W266 Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
Understanding language is fundamental to human interaction. Our brains have evolved language-specific circuitry that helps us learn it very quickly; however, this also means that we have great difficulty explaining how exactly meaning arises from sounds and symbols. This course is a broad introduction to linguistic phenomena and our attempts to analyze them with machine learning. We will cover a wide range of concepts with a focus on practical applications such as information extraction, machine translation, sentiment analysis, and summarization.

Rules & Requirements
Prerequisites: Master of Information and Data Science students only. Data Science W207

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week
Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Daniel Gillick

Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning: Read Less [-]
DATASCI W271 Statistical Methods for Discrete Response, Time Series, and Panel Data 3 Units
Offered through: Information
Terms offered: Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017
A continuation of Data Science W203 (Exploring and Analyzing Data), this course trains data science students to apply more advanced methods from regression analysis and time series models. Central topics include linear regression, causal inference, identification strategies, and a wide-range of time series models that are frequently used by industry professionals. Throughout the course, we emphasize choosing, applying, and implementing statistical techniques to capture key patterns and generate insight from data. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate techniques given the problem under consideration, the data available, and the given timeframe.
Statistical Methods for Discrete Response, Time Series, and Panel Data: Read More [+]  
Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: DATASCI W203 taken in Fall 2016 or later and completed with a grade of B+ or above; strong hands-on experience in R; working knowledge of calculus and linear algebra; familiarity with differential calculus, integral calculus and matrix notations; or instructor approval

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week

Summer: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Data Science/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Statistical Methods for Discrete Response, Time Series, and Panel Data: Read Less [-]