I. Course Data Science I (COSC 3337)
Credit Hours: 3.0
Lecture Contact Hours: 3  Lab Contact Hours: 0

Formerly COSC 4335.
Prerequisite: A grade of C- or better in COSC 2306 or COSC 2436, and MATH 3339 and declared COSC major, COSC minor, or Data Science minor.

Description
Data science concepts including exploratory data analysis, data visualization, statistical inference and modeling, machine learning, clustering, post-processing and interpreting results.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students

a. will know what the goals and objectives of data science are and how to conduct a data science project
b. will have a sound knowledge of basic statistics and basic machine learning concepts
c. will have some sound knowledge about exploratory data analysis and data visualization techniques used in exploratory data analysis
d. will have knowledge of popular classification techniques, such as decision trees, support vector machines, ensembles, and neural networks
e. will have some sound knowledge about how to construct distance functions
f. will have detailed knowledge of popular clustering algorithms, such as K-means, DBSCAN, and hierarchical clustering and cluster evaluation.
g. will get hands-on exposure in the course problem sets and group project how to apply data analysis techniques to real world data sets. They will obtain valuable experience in learning how to interpret data analysis results, how to select parameters of data analysis tools, and data storytelling
h. will learn on how to use the data analysis and visualization environments, such as R and its popular libraries and how to develop software on the top of R.
i. will have some basic knowledge concerning outlier
III. Course Content

1. Introduction to Data Analysis
2. Exploratory Data Analysis—how to Visualize and Compute Basic Statistics for Datasets and How to Interpret the Findings
3. Brief Introduction to R (optional topic)
4. Introduction to Supervised Learning: Basic Concepts and Decision Trees
5. More on Supervised Learning: Instance-based Learning, Support Vector Machines, Neural Networks, Regression
6. Similarity Assessment—how to Obtain Distance Functions
7. Introduction to Clustering
8. Anomaly and Outlier Detection
9. More on Data Science with Emphasis on Data Storytelling
10. Data Preprocessing
11. Association Analysis

There will be 3 Problem Sets each consisting of individual tasks, centering on:
Problem Set1: Exploratory Data Analysis
Problem Set2: Classification and Similarity Assessment
Problem Set3: Clustering and Anomaly Detection

There will be a 6-week long group project (about students per group, September 23 to November 8. Details about the group project will be announced and discussed approx. September 20.)

IV. Course Structure and Evaluation

22 lectures
2-3 labs
3 exams
3 problem sets
1 group project
1 group homework credit task¹

1-2 presentation (maybe group project and as part of group homework credit)

The tentative weights of the different course elements are as follows:

¹ Groups of Student present solutions to homework style tasks during the lecture.
Problem Sets (3), Group Project and Group Homework Credit and Attendance: 51%; Exams (3): 49% (14%, 15%, 20%)
Tentative weights of non-exam tasks: Problem Sets: 30%, Group Project: 15%, Group Homework Credit: 3% ; Attendance: 3%

MS Team 3337-Class will be used to support teaching the course. Course material can be downloaded from the course webpage.

V. Textbooks

Recommended Text:

Maybe:

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Problem Sets and Group Project and Online Credit: 52%
Exams: 48% (Midterm Exam: 20%, Final Exam: 28%)

Translation number to letter grades:
A:100-92 A-:92-88 B+:88-84 B:84-80 B-:80-76 C+:76-71

Students may discuss course material and assignments but must take special care to discern the difference between collaborating in order to increase understanding of course materials and collaborating on the homework / course project itself. We encourage students to help each other understand course material to clarify the meaning of homework problems or to discuss problem-solving strategies, but it is not permissible for one student to help or be helped by another student in working through homework problems and in the course project. If, in discussing course materials and problems, students believe that their like-mindedness from such discussions could be construed as collaboration on their assignments, students must cite each other, briefly explaining the extent of their collaboration. Any assistance that is not given proper citation may be considered a violation of the Honor Code, and might result in obtaining a grade of F in the course, and in further prosecution.

2 Online Credit: Different Homework-style problems will be assigned to groups of about 4 students (each group gets a different task) and each group presents their solutions in a presentation online (about 10 minutes) and shares them by providing a Word/pptx file. This assumes that the course will be partially taught online; if less than 20% of the course will be taught online, online credit tasks will be dropped from the course content.
Policy on grades of I (Incomplete): A grade of ‘I’ will only be given in extreme emergency situations and only if the student completed more than 3/5 of the course work.

VIII. Consultation

Instructor: Dr. Christoph F. Eick
office hours (MS Teams for the time being): TU 4:30-5:30p TH 9-10a
e-mail: ceick@uh.edu
class meets: TU/TH 11:30a-1p

IX. Bibliography

The following conferences and journals center on data science and related areas:

1. Data mining and KDD
   • Conference proceedings: ICDM, KDD, PKDD, PAKDD, etc.
   • Journal: Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery
2. Database field (SIGMOD member CD ROM):
   • Conference proceedings: VLDB, ICDE, ACM-SIGMOD, CIKM
   • Journals: ACM-TODS, J. ACM, IEEE-TKDE, JIIS, etc.
3. AI and Machine Learning:
   • Conference proceedings: ICML, AAAI, IJCAI, etc.
   • Journals: Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, etc.
4. Statistics:
   • Conference proceedings: Joint Stat. Meeting, etc.
   • Journals: Annals of statistics, etc.
5. Visualization:
   • Conference proceedings: CHI, etc.
   • Journals: IEEE Trans. visualization and computer graphics, etc.

X. Course Exams

Course exams will be paper exams which you take in a UH classroom. If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to the exam. Please see Student Protocols for what to do if you experience symptoms and Potential Exposure to Coronavirus for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Consult the (Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

Moreover, if you miss a course exam for reasons that are not covered by the Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy you will get a grade of ‘F’ for the missed exam.

XI. COVID-19 Information

Students are encouraged to visit the University’s COVID-19 website for important information including
diagnosis and symptom protocols, on-campus testing, and vaccine information. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

XII. Vaccinations
Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent vaccine information and to consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated.

XIII. Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids
The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with Disabilities).

XIV. Excused Absence Policy
Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy and Graduate Excused Absence Policy for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions, and disability.

XV. Recording of Class
Students may not record all or parts of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor’s recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor’s recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

XVI. Syllabus Changes
Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through (specify how students will be notified of changes).
XVII. Resources for Online Learning
The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our Power-On website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Blackboard; requesting a laptop through the Laptop Loaner Program; using your smartphone as a webcam; and if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see Student Protocols for what to do if you experience symptoms and Potential Exposure to Coronavirus for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Consult the (select: Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy or Graduate Excused Absence Policy) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

XVIII. UH Email
Please check and use your Cougarnet email for communications related to this course. You will also need your Cougarnet account to access the Course MS Teams page and for listening to course lecture. To access this email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your Cougarnet credentials. Your Cougarnet Account also allows you to download Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

XIX. Academic Honesty Policy
High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution, and bear directly on the ultimate value of conferred degrees. All UH community members are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed. The UH Academic Honesty Policy is designed to handle those instances with fairness to all parties involved: the students, the instructors, and the University itself. All students and faculty of the University of Houston are responsible for being familiar with this policy.

XX. Title IX/Sexual Misconduct
Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/.

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride
UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. Our Security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called Cougar Ride that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library,
Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/.

XXI. Other Helpful Links

Coogs Care: https://uh.edu/dsa/coogscare/

Student Health Center: https://www.uh.edu/healthcenter/