

GE1356: INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Introduction to Data Science

Subject Code

GE - Gateway Education

Course Number

1356

Academic Unit

Data Science (DS)

College/School

College of Computing (CC)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

GE Area (Primary)

Area 3 - Science and Technology

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

SDSC1001 Introduction to Data Science or DSC1001 Introduction to Data Science

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Data is everywhere. This is the first introductory course for the first-year students without backgrounds in college mathematics or statistics or computer programming. The course aims to provide the training of the important mind-set and unique perspective of data-driven modelling: how to identify, formulate, process and interpret the role of data and data techniques when modelling the real problems. In this course, we will describe the roles of data analytics in solving various scientific, engineering, business, societal problems, by presenting a large set of empirical case studies and successful applications across various industries. This course will be co-taught by multiple lecturers on selected topics related to the data science from the traditional applications to the most state-of-the-art industrial applications. Rather than developing abstract and specific theoretical knowledge, the focus of the course will be the overview of the data science and the participation of versatile projects and applications from real world. Through interaction with guest lecturers, pilot group projects and individual written reports and oral presentations, students will gradually build up the unique viewpoints of data resource behind many successful businesses and the understanding of the vital functions of big data in modern societies.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the presence of big data in examples from daily life and business practice; elaborate the logics of why and how the use of data could change the way of solving these problems.	20	x		
2	Build and refine analytical concepts to understand the synthesis of domain knowledge and data science; Understand the pro and con of data-driven modelling approach.	20	x	x	
3	Build an elementary knowledge of mathematical, probabilistic and statistical foundations for data science and develop elementary programming techniques of handling simple data processing and mining.	20	x		
4	Develop the concept on the connection of data science with other technical fields such as mathematics, statistical learning, computer science, artificial intelligence.	20	x	x	
5	Develop critical thinking skills regarding to the application of data sciences and societal benefit.	20	x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Learn the development of data science , learn basic programming skills and review the methods taught	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3 hours per week
2	Hand-in Assignment	Summary and reflection on the learning materials.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	In or after class

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Test/Quiz/Assignment	1, 2, 3	50	-	No
2	Group project report	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

80

Examination (%)

20

Examination Duration (Hours)

1

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

30

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs

Note: To pass the course, apart from obtaining a minimum of 40% in the overall mark, a student must also obtain a minimum mark of 30% in both continuous assessment and examination components.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Test/Quiz/Assignment

Criterion

Ability to explain and analyse in detail on the issues of data sciences.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Group project report

Criterion

Ability to explain and analyse in depth on the various aspects of data sciences.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

The examination will consist of one 1-hour paper. The questions have multiple and flexible formats to assess the general understanding of the course materials.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- data science in a nutshell: what and why data science; fundamental principles guiding data science; impact of data science across fields;
- introduction of dataset, data collection, causality ad experiments, data types, sequences of data, structure of data, sampling and randomness;
- core concepts of inference and computing: computational tools and introductory statistical techniques; brief introduction of testing hypothesis, estimation, prediction, regression, classification;.
- tutorials on applying and illustrations of techniques and algorithms on various public datasets;
- hands-on experience of handling real data and real-world issues, such as data visualization;
- introduction and review of recent developments and application of data sciences.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lecture notes will be provided

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Introducing Data ScienceBy Davy Cielen, Arno D. B. Meysman, and Mohamed Ali2016, ISBN 9781633430037
2	Data Science For DummiesBy Lillian Pierson , Foreword by Jake PorwayPublisherJohn Wiley & Sons, 2017
3	Data Science for Business : What You Need to Know About Data Mining and Data-Analytic ThinkingBy Foster Provost, By Tom FawcettPublisher O'Reilly Media, Inc, USA, 2015
4	Computational and Inferential Thinking: The Foundations of Data ScienceBy Ani Adhikari and John DeNeroThis is a free online textbook that includes interactive Jupyter notebooks and public data sets for all examples. The textbook source is maintained as an open source project.
5	Data Science from Scratch: The #1 Data Science Guide for Everything A Data Scientist Needs to Know: Python, Linear Algebra, Statistics, Coding, Applications, Neural Networks, and Decision Trees.By Steven Cooper. 2018
6	Foundations of Data Scienceby Avrim Blum John Hopcroft Ravindran Kannan https://www.cs.cornell.edu/jeh/book.pdf

Annex (for GE courses only)

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)

PILO 1: Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning

1, 4, 5

PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology

1, 3, 5

PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

2, 4

PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data

1, 2, 3

PILO 5: Produce structured, well-organised and fluent text

1, 2

PILO 6: Demonstrate effective oral communication skills

5

PILO 7: Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in a team

4, 5

PILO 8: Recognise important characteristics of their own culture(s) and at least one other culture, and their impact on global issues

2

PILO 9: Value ethical and socially responsible actions

1, 2, 5

PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation

1, 4, 5

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task

To ensure the quality assurance, the following evidence of student achievements will be connected: The written reports as the outcome of the students' group or individual projects. The presentation slides or the posters of the students with achievements. The collection of online quiz and exam papers for all students