Introduction to Data Science - Summer 2019 (June 3 - July 26)
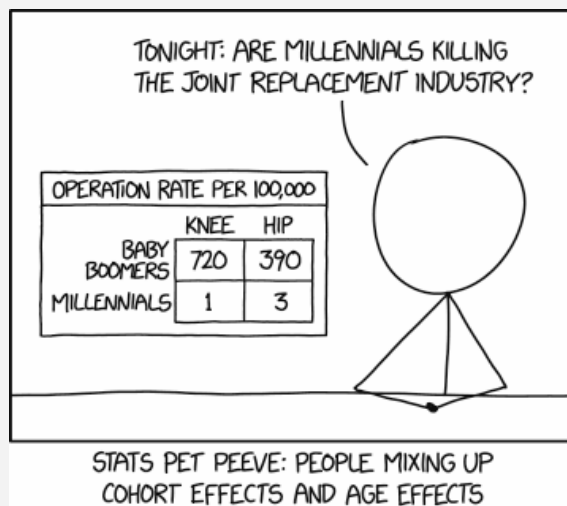
Welcome to the summer 2019 Data Science class!

We are delighted to welcome you as a student and member of the Summer 2019 data science class and liberal arts community. There's so much to learn together, and we can't wait to get started in June! Please take a few moments now to read through this info packet for important course information and actions.

There are a couple of things you'll need to do before you leave campus, and a few other things to take care of before the start of class on June 3rd. If you have any questions or encounter problems before class begins, reach out to the support team via this address: help@lacol.net.

Yours truly,

The Summer 2019 Data Science Team

"It is easy to lie with statistics. It is hard to tell the truth without it." – *Dunkels*

TONIGHT: ARE MILLENNIALS KILLING THE JOINT REPLACEMENT INDUSTRY?

OPERATION RATE PER 100,000

	KNEE	HIP
BABY BOOMERS	720	390
MILLENNIALS	1	3

STATS PET PEEVE: PEOPLE MIXING UP COHORT EFFECTS AND AGE EFFECTS

In this packet:

Important Course Contacts

The course team is here to help! For questions on course content, the Piazza discussion forum will be the best place to post questions and get answers. Sharing on the forum will help other students who probably have the same question. The forum will open in June once class starts.

Use the contacts below for questions directed to individual team members. ([Course Personnel](#) bios.)

Course Instructors
- Monika Hu, Vassar College jihu@vassar.edu
- Ella Foster-Molina, Swarthmore College mfoster1@swarthmore.edu
- Steven J. Miller, Williams College sjm1@williams.edu
- Moataz Khalifa, Washington and Lee University khalifam@wlu.edu
- Natalia Toporikova, Washington and Lee University toporikovan@wlu.edu

Course Coordinator
- Arianna Montero-Colbert, Davidson College '19 <<tba>>

Teaching Assistants
- Kevin Baliat, Vassar College '20 <<tba>>
- Emma LaPlace, Vassar College '20 <<tba>>
- Sudais Moorad, Vassar College '21 <<tba>>
- Kevin Ros, Vassar College '20 <<tba>>
- Gabriel Duska, Vassar College '20 <<tba>>

General Technical Support: help@lacol.net
Your Campus IT/Technical Support Liaison: _____

(Davidson College: Sundi Richard; Swarthmore College: Andrew Ruether; Vassar College: Steven Taylor; Washington and Lee University: Tom Marcais; Williams College: Jonathan Leamon)

Your Campus Administration Liaisons: _____

(Davidson College: see W&L; Swarthmore College: David Harrison and Martin Warner; Vassar College: TBA and Colleen Mallett; Washington and Lee University: Paul Youngman and Scott Dittman; Williams College: Marlene Sandstrom & Kath Kilventon)

Essential Checklist for Students

BEFORE YOU LEAVE CAMPUS

✅ Set appointment to visit your **IT liaison** to make sure software applications ([R/R Studio packages and Zoom client](#)) are installed and working properly on your computer or laptop.

✅ If you require an **Accommodation Letter** or other support, contact your office of Student Services, Access or Disability Services (or similar) to confirm arrangements for the summer course.

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS ON JUNE 3rd

✅ Acquire textbooks (see syllabus for required texts); complete the first reading (Chapter 1 in "Think Like a Data Scientist: Tackle the data science process step-by-step", by Brian Godsey.)

✅ Complete scheduling poll: https://doodle.com/poll/ynnbbcc7vubprhky (share your expected schedule for the first week of June - as best you know it - before class starts.)

✅ Login to Moodle to read and submit your course conduct and FERPA acknowledgement form (login information will be emailed to your college email address in mid-May)

✅ Test all your login credentials; report any problems to help@lacol.net

✅ Review the introductory videos and course resources on Moodle

My Login Information / Usernames and Password

Moodle Learning Management System

URL: https://lacol.moodlecloud.com
Username: Your official campus email address
Password: An initial password will be emailed to your official campus email address in May. You will be required to change the password the first time you log into the course Moodle site. Once you log in, you will see a couple of screens asking you to agree to LACOL MoodleCloud's

standard terms of use. Click agree to proceed. A guided tour of Moodle may open. View or click dismiss.

When you land on the Home page, you will see the **Introduction to Data Science** course listed.

Piazza Discussion Forum - LACOLDS-SU 2019

Also in May, you will receive a separate email directly from Piazza with the subject line: **Activate your Piazza Account for your enrollment in LACOLDS-SU 2019.** (Check your spam folder if you do not see this in your inbox.) Follow the directions in the email to activate your account, set your password, and access the class Piazza site.

SAMPLE: Piazza welcome email

Thank you for joining Piazza!

Your email, you@yourschool.edu, was just enrolled as a student in **LACOLDS-SU 2019** on Piazza, the social site for class Q&A! You can access Piazza from your computer or our free iPhone or Android app.

Click this link to activate your account and set your password: https://www.piazza.com/first_login?[YOUR PERSONAL LINK]
Or, if prompted, enter this activation code: **[YOUR PERSONAL ACTIVATION CODE]**

If you already have a Piazza account under a different email address, link you@yourschool.edu to your account here.

Thanks,
The Piazza Team
team@piazza.com

Zoom Web Conferences / Class Meetings

Installing the Zoom client for web meetings is a simple download for PC or Mac.

Visit the Zoom.us Download Center:
https://zoom.us/support/download

DataCamp

Six months of free DataCamp access will become available to you during the last week of May, 2019. Access instructions will be provided to all students the first week of class.

RStudio and Package Installation Guide

As noted above, you will need R/RStudio and Zoom installed on the computer you will be using this summer. The installation is straightforward, but you are not expected to do it yourself! Please be sure to schedule an appointment with your campus IT liaison to get the software installed and tested. R/R Studio packages and Zoom client.

Student Code of Conduct and FERPA Acknowledgement - Electronic Signature Required

Upon logging into the course Moodle site (login info will be sent to you in May), all students are required to read and submit an acknowledgement that they will abide by their school's academic code of conduct, student handbook, or honor code, and computer use policy throughout the summer Data Science class. Students will likewise record their acknowledgement of understanding that institutional staff and faculty and course personnel may have the ability to access FERPA-protected information as duly authorized agents of your home institution.

Institutional policies are posted at the following sites:
- Davidson College: davidson.edu/offices/registrar/ferpa
- Swarthmore College: family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-ferpa
- Vassar College: registrar.vassar.edu/ferpa/ferpa-policy.html
- Washington and Lee University: go.wlu.edu/FERPA-policy
- Williams College: registrar.williams.edu/ferpa-guidelines/

Syllabus, Student FAQ, Course Policies, and Other Important Information
- Course Syllabus - Summer 2019
- FAQ for Students
- Course Policies
- Course Schedule by Topic
- Course Personnel