

Data & Society (SOC 225 A: 3 Credit)

Spring Quarter, 2022

Class Schedule

Lecture: Asynchronous
URL: <https://canvas.uw.edu/>

Professor

Name: Zack W. Almquist
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Office Hours: By Appointment
Email: zalmquist@uw.edu

Teaching Assistants/Lab Instructors

Name: Kovid Puria
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Name: Kwong-Yu Wong
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Course Description

Social implications of the digital revolution, including ethical issues associated with algorithmic design and privacy. Discusses data science as a new occupation that uses data to understand or influence people's behavior. Students will use a sociological lens to explore how our increasingly digital lifestyle changes institutions and social relations.

- [Sociology and Social Inquiry Exemplars](#)

Course Objectives

- Explain how increased data availability changes contemporary institutions Examine how technology and data reveal and shape interpersonal relations;
- Reflect on the ethical and privacy considerations that arise with new, passively captured, data sources;
- Compare the role of contemporary advances in data collection and communication with historical leaps forward in communication technology;
- Describe the steps involved in data science, from data acquisition to insight, and the role of human interpretation and decision-making at each point in the process;
- Students completing the optional lab portion will, additionally, manipulate and summarize digital trace data using R and RStudio.

Prerequisites

None.

Course Requirements

Asynchronous Format

This class is designated Distance Learning (DL) and is asynchronous in Lecture. That means that we will NOT meet at any pre-specified time. I will assign readings and videos that you can do at any time that is convenient for you. I will assign activities and discussions that you can do at any time that is convenient for you. This is because we all have disrupted schedules, due to childcare, illness, internet access, sharing laptops, etc. Some of you might even be with your families in other countries, making our regularly scheduled class-time in the middle of the night for you. An asynchronous class will ensure that everyone can learn and participate fully in this trying time. Participation activities will generally be assigned on Monday and do end of day (EOD) Sunday.

The problem with an asynchronous class is that we will not get to meet, to know each other well, or to share ideas in person. In addition, I will not be there in class to look over your shoulder and make sure you've all done your reading on time. This means you'll have to be independent and take your own learning in your hands. There is a lot to learn about social science research and it's exciting. It really is.

While we won't have class time in person or together online, we can still communicate. I will hold a combination of group office hours and individual office hours via Zoom. I encourage you to sign up for my office hours and we can talk via Zoom video conferencing. You can sign up for 10 minute slots during office hours on our canvas website. A document describing how to sign up is under the files tab on canvas. I encourage you to email me at zalmquist@uw.edu and the TAs as needed. Emails are our preferred method of communication (rather than Canvas

messages). I will respond to your email within 72 hours. I encourage you to participate in the class discussion on our canvas website. I will monitor and participate in the canvas discussions. Both TAs will also hold group and individual office hours.

Asynchronous Rhythm

- Lecture Videos will be released Monday Evening
 - I record them Sunday and Monday.
- Reading assignments will be released at the same time.
 - Read Late Work Policy: [SOC 225 - Late Policy](#)
- All participation activities will be due on Sunday at Midnight.
 - Read Late Work Policy: [SOC 225 - Late Policy](#)

Office Hours

My office hours are by appointment or at the end of the discussion section. For lecture material your first point of contact should be me (zalmquist@uw.edu) and for Lab material your first point of contact should be the Teaching Assistants:.

Google Documents

We will make extensive use of Google Drive and google documents.

To log into your UW gmail account to access it. If you have not set it up I recommend going here ([Getting Started with UW G Suite | IT Connect](#)). If you have it set up, you simply need to use the NETID SSO <http://gmail.uw.edu>.

A note about accessibility for grading: You should create a folder that you share with zalmquist@uw.edu where you complete all assignments for the course (e.g. Memos and Reading Responses).

Readings

Weekly readings assignments can be found on the course syllabus. All readings are assumed to be completed before each lecture/seminar. You are expected to read over the class notes each week and make sure you are familiar with the material as the course progresses. Questions are encouraged.

Reading Responses

At the beginning of each week (Monday) I will post a question about the reading for you to write about in the context of the current week's lectures. You will submit each reading response view canvas with a link to a google document at the end of the week (Sunday). Expectation is that each reading response should be around 200-500 words and be relevant to topics and readings of the week. Readings will be graded as 0, 0.5 or 1 score.

Your lowest Reading Response grade will be dropped.

Participation

Individuals are expected to engage with every weekly module, to have completed every reading, and to participate with questions and discussion on each topic as presented. Participation will be graded as 0, 0.5, 1 points: 0 for no attempt, 0.5 for partial work and 1 for full attempt at the activity. Class participation will be based on:

- Data collection tasks (e.g. [google forms](#))
- Data management and analysis (e.g. [google sheets](#))
- Python tutorials through [JupyterHub](#)
- Discussion boards
- Occasional individual and small group activities

Your 5 lowest Participation grade will be dropped.

Memos

Over the quarter you will be asked to write three 2-page Business Memos centered around the concepts covered in the course. See [Course Calendar](#) for due dates. The memos will be structured as follow:

- 1) Research Design
- 2) Data Collection
- 3) Data Analysis

Your lowest Memo grade will be dropped.

Plagiarism

All memos will be run through [SimCheck](#) the University approved plagiarism detection software. The University has a license agreement with SimCheck, an educational tool that helps prevent or identify plagiarism from Internet resources. The SimCheck Report will indicate the amount of original text in your work and whether all material that you quoted, paraphrased, summarized, or used from another source is appropriately referenced.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit of .5% of your grade for a total of 4% of your grade can be obtained by submitting a weekly Multiple Choice Question for a “Hypothetical” Multiple choice exam for each Weekly Module.

Grading

Section A

Base Credit:	1%
Participation:	49%
Reading Responses:	20%
Memos:	30%

Note about grading

Lectures, readings, labs (when relevant), and review sessions are provided for each student's benefit. It is the responsibility of the student to take advantage of these opportunities to acquire and demonstrate mastery of course material, so as to achieve his or her desired grade.

Letter grade assignment

% Points Earned	Number grade	Letter Grade
100-97	4.0-3.9	A
96-90	3.8-3.5	A-
87-89	3.4-3.2	B+
86-84	3.1-2.9	B
83-80	2.8-2.5	B-
79-77	2.4-2.2	C+
76-74	2.1-1.9	C
73-70	1.8-1.5	C-
69-67	1.4-1.2	D+
66-64	1.1-0.9	D
63-60	0.8-0.7	D-
59-0	0	F

Reading

Text Books

- **BB** - Matthew Salganik (2017). *Bit by Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age*.
 - [Bit By Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age \(Free Digital Version\)](#)

- [Bit by Bit: Social Research in the Digital Age](#) (Amazon)
- **SB** - Sarah Brayne (2021). *Predict and Surveil: Data, Discretion, and the Future of Policing*.
 - Available for **FREE from UW Library** - [LINK](#) (Requires sign in)
 - [Predict and Surveil: Data, Discretion, and the Future of Policing](#) (Amazon)
- **MS** - Mario Small (2017). *Someone to Talk to*.
 - Available for **FREE from UW Library** - [LINK](#) (Requires sign in)
 - [Someone To Talk To: How Networks Matter in Practice](#)(Amazon)
- **MK** - Michael Kearns and Aaron Roth (2020). *The Ethical Algorithm: The Science of Socially Aware Algorithm Design*.
 - Available for **FREE from UW Library** - [Link](#) (Requires sign in)
 - [The Ethical Algorithm: The Science of Socially Aware Algorithm Design](#) (Amazon)
- **MR** - Mathew Rafalow (2020). *Digital Divisions: How Schools Create Inequality in the Tech Era*.
 - Available for **FREE in UW Library** - [LINK](#) (Requires sign in)
 - [Digital Divisions: How Schools Create Inequality in the Tech Era](#) (Amazon)
- **BC** - Brian Christian and Tom Griffiths (2016). *Algorithms to Live By: The Computer Science of Human Decisions*.
 - [Algorithms to Live By: The Computer Science of Human Decisions](#) (Amazon)

Research Articles/Popular Press/Online Resources

- See weekly readings.

Course Calendar

	DOW	Date	Holidays	Reading Response	Participation	Memo	Readings
Week 1	Introductions						
	Mon	3/29/2022					Readings
	Wed	3/30/2022					
Week 2	Data Science						
	Mon	4/4/2022					Readings
	Wed	4/6/2022		Due Sunday Midnight			
Week 3	Privacy - Overview						
	Mon	4/11/2022				Memo 1 Available	Readings
	Wed	4/13/2022		Due Sunday Midnight			

Week 4	Privacy - Location Systems						
	Mon	4/18/2022					Readings
	Wed	4/20/2022		Due Sunday Midnight		Memo 1 Due Sunday Midnight	
Week 5	Social Media - Privacy and Information Passing						
	Mon	4/25/2022					Readings
	Wed	4/27/2022		Due Sunday Midnight			
Week 6	Algorithms - Overview & Decision Making						
	Mon	5/2/2022				Memo 2 Available	Readings
	Wed	5/4/2022		Due Sunday Midnight			
Week 7	Algorithms - Bias						
	Mon	5/9/2022					Readings
	Wed	5/11/2022		Due Sunday Midnight		Memo 2 Due Sunday Midnight	
Week 8	Sociological Inquiry and Big Data - Citizen Science						
	Mon	5/16/2022					Readings
	Wed	5/18/2022		Due Sunday Midnight			
Week 9	Sociological Inquiry and Big Data - Overview & Education						
	Mon	5/23/2022				Memo 3 Available	Readings
	Wed	5/25/2022		Due Sunday Midnight			
Week 10	Sociological Inquiry and Big Data - Police and Prisons						
	Mon	5/30/2022	Memorial Day				Readings
	Wed	6/1/2022		Due Sunday Midnight		Memo 3 Due Sunday Midnight	
Finals Week							

University of Washington Policies

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](#). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](#).

DISABILITY ACCESS & ACCOMMODATIONS :

It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you experience barriers based on disability, please seek a meeting with DRS to discuss and address them. If you have already established accommodations with DRS, please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. Disability Resources for Students (DRS) offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor (me) and DRS. DRS information can be found at: [Disability Resources for Students](#).

SOCIOLOGY DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

The Department of Sociology at the University of Washington values [diversity, equality, and inclusivity](#) in our community. We realize these goals in our classrooms by questioning assumptions in our texts, discussions, and our own thinking, and by holding all members of our community to the highest standards of respectful and open communication, as laid out in the [UW Student Conduct Code](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

See [Student Conduct Code | Community Standards & Student Conduct](#) for crucial information regarding academic integrity. The library also has an extremely useful website with resources at [Library Guides: Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Prevention Resources: Academic Integrity & Plagiarism](#). You are responsible for knowing what constitutes a violation of the University of Washington Student Code, and you will be held responsible for any such violations whether they were intentional or not. A clear list of rules and examples of violations can be found here: [Student Academic Responsibility](#)

MANDATORY REPORTING STATEMENT

* CAUTION! Please note that we are mandatory reporters, which means that we may be required to report it to the University if you share with me experiences of past abuse or plans to harm yourself and others.

UW Student Resources

STUDENT RESEARCH RESOURCES:

- *Libraries:* [University of Washington Libraries](#)
- *Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences (CSSS):* [Home | Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences](#)
- *Center for Social Science Computation and Research (CSSCR):* [The Center for Social Science Computation and Research](#)
- *Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE):* [Computing](#)

UW WRITING CENTERS

- *Sociology Writing Center* (open to all students enrolled in this course): SAV 203; [Sociology Writing Center](#) 206.221.0972
Students who want to make an appointment should email writesoc@uw.edu.
Students may also make appointments by calling or visiting the Advising Office.
- *Odegaard Writing and Research Center* (open to all students) : [Odegaard Undergraduate Library — UW Libraries](#). Phone 206.221.0972 and 206.543.5396.
- *Center for Undergraduate Learning and Education (CLUE):* email clue@uw.edu
[This Week at CLUE: UW Academic Support Programs](#).

OTHER STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

Dispute Resolution and Bias Reporting Supports

- *Office of the Ombud:* [Office of the Ombud](#) 206-543-6028
- *Bias Report* (for incidents of bias in any form): [Report Bias](#)
- *Community Standards & Student Conduct:* [Making a report | Community Standards & Student Conduct](#)
- *Title IX/ADA Coordinator* if complaint is related to disability accommodation, sex/gender discrimination, or sexual harassment (Title IX): (scroll down to bottom of page to “Grievance Procedures & Barrier Reporting”) [Policy, law and reporting | Compliance](#)

Financial Assistance

- *Emergency Aid:* [Seattle | Emergency Aid](#)
- *Office of Student Financial Aid:* [Contact us | Student Financial Aid](#)

- *Short Term Emergency Loans:* [Short-term loans | Student Financial Aid](#)
- *Campus Food Pantry:* [Get-Food](#)
- *Housing Assistance:* [Other assistance | Student Financial Aid](#)

Mental Health Supports

- *Health and Wellness office:* [LiveWell Center for Student Advocacy, Training, and Education](#) 206.543.6085
- *Hall Health:* <http://depts.washington.edu/hhpccweb/>
- *Hall Health Mental Health:* [Hall Health](#)
- *Counseling Center:* [About the Counseling Center | Counseling Center](#)
- *Resources Re: Sexual / Relationship Trauma:** [Sexual Assault Resources](#)

Building Community

- *Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity:* [Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity](#)
- *Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center:* [Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural](#)
- *Q Center (for Queer community, including Questioning):*
[Q Center](#)
- *Intellectual House (for Indigenous community):*
[wəłəbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House | Diversity at the UW](#)
- *International Student Center:* [International Student Services - International Student Services](#)
- *Deaf and Disability Cultural Center (D Center):* HUB 327 [D Center at the University of Washington](#)
- *Undocumented Student Resources:*
[Undocumented student resources | Admissions](#)

Technology Supports (and remote learning related supports)

- *IT Connect (tech support services for students):* [Teaching and Learning Tools](#)
- *Internet connection and free wifi hotspots (enabled during COVID-19 outbreak)*
[Internet connectivity for learning, teaching and working remotely](#)
- *Laptop Loans* Remember that through the technology fees that you pay you can reserve a laptop if you need to! [Laptops for takeout or delivery: Student technology program readies for spring quarter](#)
- *Online Academic Success Coaching:* [Success Coaching: UW Academic Support Programs](#)
- *Online Study Skills Resources:* (e.g. time management) [Study Skills: UW Academic Support Programs](#)
- *Video on preparing for online learning:* <https://vimeo.com/4012001600>

