Course description:
This course aims to provide students opportunities to explore important urban issues with data. It is intended to be a fun class for students to build knowledge and skills in data literacy while identifying both challenges and solutions to important urban issues.

Course learning outcomes:
On completion of this course, students will be able to:
(1) Demonstrate data literacy in knowledge and skills.
(2) Identify measures of community resilience.
(3) Identify alternative sources of data about a community and use data to perform calculations.
(4) Organize data for analyses.
(5) Obtain descriptive statistics.
(6) Identify a statistical test and interpret result.
(7) Apply data visualization techniques to summarize data.
(8) Describe complex concepts related to the course clearly and concisely.
(9) Describe ways to work collaboratively on a team.
(10) Share complex information about data with others.

Instructor goals for this and other courses:
(a) Share the importance of life-long learning with students.
(b) Discover what motivates students to learn more about urban issues.
(c) Articulate what responsibilities students have in their learning now and in the future.
(d) Provide multiple opportunities for students to give and receive feedback on meeting module and course learning outcomes (aka knowledge and skills).
Learning Modules

Part I. Introduction to the course
   Module 1: Welcome to adventures in data
   Module 2: Cities and data
   Module 3: Wrap up and first exam

Part II. Statistical concepts and skills
   Module 4: Introduction to statistical concepts
   Module 5: Hypothesis testing
   Module 6: Storytelling
   Module 7: Wrap up and second exam

Part III. Data visualization and collaboration
   Module 8: Introduction to data visualization
   Module 9: Showcasing data with charts and graphs
   Module 10: Deconstructing data visualizations
   Module 11: Collaboration
   Module 12: Wrap up and third exam

Part IV. Team project and course wrap up
   Module 13: Working together on group presentations
   Module 14: Group presentations
   Module 15: Review
   Module 16: Final comprehensive exam due Wed. Dec. 11, 2019

Grades will be based upon the following:

- Informal learning activities (ILA): (3% of course grade total): Grade will be based upon engagement in class activities which includes logging into the course multiple times a week before Thursday. It also includes other informal activities such as responding to and communicating with instructors and peers. The instructor plans to use informal activities to get a sense of progress before exams. These activities provide students as well as the instructor areas to work on to enhance student success.
• **Discussion:** (7% of course grade total): Grade will be based upon participation in course discussions and engagement in course class activities: including logging into the course multiple times each week and other informal activities related to student learning.

• **Homework** to provide opportunities to receive feedback on skills and competencies. (12% of course grade)

• **Semester exams**: each exam is worth 16% (48% of course grade)

• **Group project assignment** examining resilience of an urban community (10% of course grade)

• **Final exam** (20% of course grade)

Students enrolled at the end of the semester will earn one of the following final grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>percentage</th>
<th>final grade</th>
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<th>final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59 or less</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>81 - 88</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>71 - 78</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 - 68</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>91 or more</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Late work policy: Items turned in between due date time and close out day and time will not be penalized. Similarly, students who reach out to us ahead of time and meet the UNLV excused absence criteria will be given a new due date and time the day they return to classes at UNLV. Assignments turned in after an assignment closes will receive a 10% deduction for each day the assignment is turned in late.
Course Materials:

Required access to:
Microsoft Excel (see link below for how to get Excel and related programs through UNLV)
https://www.it.unlv.edu/software/directory/microsoft-office (Links to an external site.)

Required reading:
See weekly modules for additional reading assignments.

Data sources:
Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) available at https://fred.stlouisfed.org/ (Links to an external site.)
MyResearcher available at https://myresearcher.com/login (Links to an external site.)
United States Census Bureau, Geography Urban and Rural available at https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/urban-rural.html (Links to an external site.)
URST 305 Library Guide contains many useful databases available at http://guides.library.unlv.edu/URST305 (Links to an external site.)

Suggested references:

Additional Information about the course:

The course learning outcomes for URST 305 are based upon the following competencies and learning outcomes for the degree in urban studies where graduates are expected to be able to*

(a) Demonstrate information literacy.
Able to search for information on an urban topic through university library resources.
Able to evaluate information sources.
Able to identify academic references in work.
Able to demonstrate information literacy.

(b) Apply urban theories to identify urban solutions.
Able to identify measures of urban resilience.
Able to examine whether a community demonstrates qualities of urban resilience.

(c) Assess quality of governance in a community.
Able to identify quality indicators of governance in a community.
Able to assess quality of governance in a community.
Able to characterize the level of community engagement for an urban issue.

(d) Demonstrate professional judgment and behaviors.
Able to present clear evidence of personal growth.
Able to demonstrate qualities of collaboration.
Able to identify qualities of leadership.
Able to communicate information with multiple audiences (e.g. as colleagues, leaders, general public).
Able to communicate information to support decision-making processes.

(e) Demonstrate data literacy.
Able to produce analyses that demonstrate data literacy.
Able to communicate information to support decision-making processes.

**Notes: This list contains both competencies and learning outcomes for graduates of the urban studies undergraduate degree program. Competencies appear first in bold with associated learning outcomes appearing below each competency. Please also note, several learning outcomes are associated with more than one competency. Finally, this list was updated fall 2018 based on feedback from both faculty and students.**
**University Policies**

**Academic Misconduct**
Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the Campus community; we all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the sources. See the **Student Conduct Code**, [https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct).

**Auditing Classes**
Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

**Classroom Conduct**
Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn or of instructors to teach. Use of electronic devices such as pagers, cellular phones, or recording devices, or potentially disruptive devices or activities, are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative drop of the student from the course.

**Copyright**
The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at [http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright](http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright).

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**
The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (SSC-A, Room 143, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your [Academic Accommodation Plan](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) from the DRC to the instructor during office hours, so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.
Final Examinations
The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The general schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the Final Exam Schedule, https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars.

Identity Verification in Online Courses
All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy, which defines, “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” as a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy, https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades
The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources
Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the Libraries’ Research Consultation website: http://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian. You can also ask the library staff questions via chat and text message at: http://ask.library.unlv.edu/.
**Missed Classwork**

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Policy for Missed Work, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies webpage](https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531).

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could reasonably have been avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/Unit Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: fine arts activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, science and engineering competitions, liberal arts competitions, academic recruitment activities, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

**Rebelmail**

Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students, and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students’ Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Emailing within WebCampus is also acceptable.

**Tutoring and Coaching**

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).
UNLV Writing Center
One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3–301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.