

Course Syllabus for DS 735: Communicating About Data

NOTE: This syllabus document contains the basic information of this course. The most current syllabus is available in the full course.

Course Description

This course will prepare you to master technical, informational, and persuasive communication to meet organizational goals. Technical communication topics include a study of the nature, structure, and interpretation of data. Informational communication topics include data visualization and design of data for understanding and action. Persuasive communication topics include the study of written, verbal, and nonverbal approaches to influencing decision makers.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Create, write, and orally communicate technical materials for diverse audiences.
- Write, format, and present technical prose.
- Help non-technical professionals visualize, explore, and act on data science findings.
- Facilitate data-informed discussions through listening, questioning, and presenting.

Course Components

This course includes **8** discussions (10 points each for peer responses) and 10 activities, plus **3** projects that allow you to demonstrate you are mastering course concepts and are ready to begin applying those concepts. You will be conducting an interview with a data scientist/data professional of your choice (see Project 3). In addition, you will be paired with a classmate to complete a consultation assignment.

Project Assignments: This course includes three project assignments that allow you to begin communicating with data. These projects will help you move from theory to practice while building a portfolio of work.

Grading Policy

Your mastery of course content is assessed using a variety of methods:

Activities	360 points
Projects	295 points
Discussions peer responses	80 points (includes introduction post)
TOTAL	735 points

Final grades are assigned using the following scale:

90–100%	A
80–89%	B
70–79%	C
0–69%	F