What's this course all about?

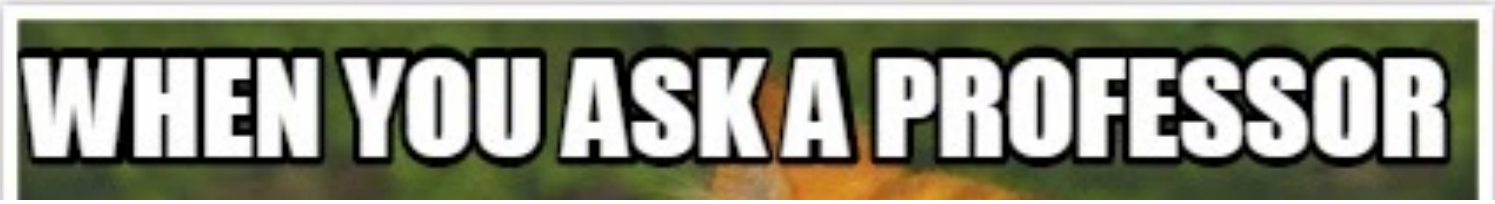
Welcome to Numbers & Social Justice! This course has been specifically designed for students who have historically struggled in math and statistics courses - our goal is to de-mystify the language of statistics and develop an appreciation for what it can (and cannot) tell us. At the end of this course, you will be able to read the world with statistics. As a critical, statistically literate individual, you will understand how social institutions and policies are shaped by statistics and challenge these to advance justice and equity. You will:

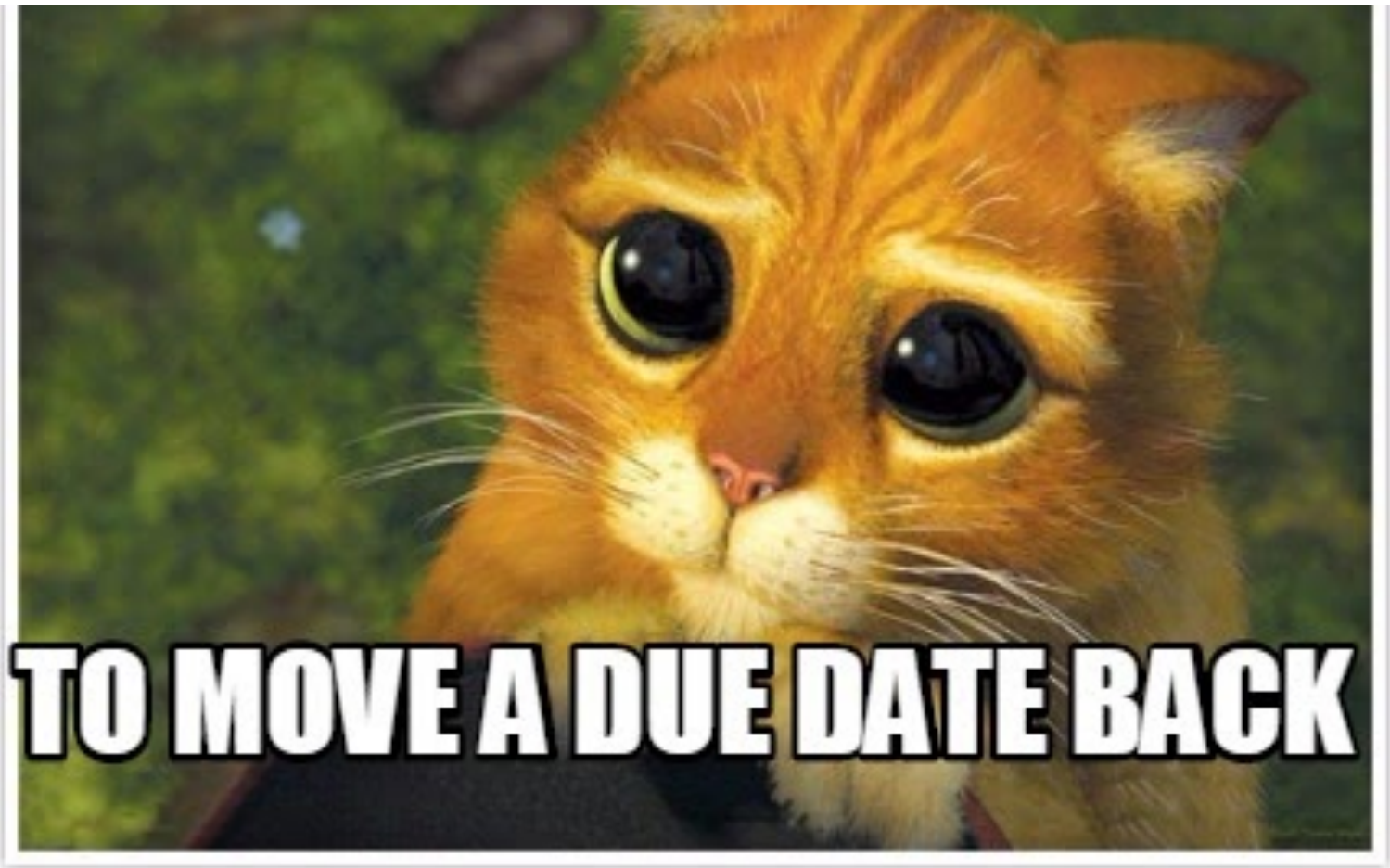
- Develop a critical disposition towards data presented in news media, social media, and research papers.
- Make sense of models including typical data representations (e.g., charts, graphs, text). Consider the affordances and constraints of these models as they relate to social justice .
- Make sense of and critically analyze representations of data and statistical claims.
- Develop an understanding of how studies are designed and data is collected.
- Develop an understanding of statistical concepts and apply this knowledge.
- Apply quantitative reasoning.
- Apply contextual knowledge of th rld.

How to navigate the course

I will use our canvas site for pretty much everything we do. Please turn on announcement notifications - that's how I'll communicate with you. On Canvas, you'll find all your materials for the week in Modules. I'll organize the modules so that you can clearly see what is due when.

This syllabus will give you an overview of the course, a weekly schedule, a breakdown of how you'll be graded, and some important policies and reference information. All assignments, readings, lectures, and other course materials will all be on canvas.





Weekly Schedule

All the materials you will need for the week will be published to canvas on the Friday before the week begins.

Mondays:

Watch the recorded lecture and complete the lecture participation activities by midnight.

Tuesdays:

Attend class via zoom (link on Canvas) from 1pm-3pm.

Complete the assigned readings and make annotations using hypothesis by midnight.

Wednesdays:

Attend section via zoom.

Watch the recorded lecture and complete the lecture participation activities by midnight.

Watch the recorded lecture and complete the lecture participation activities by midnight.

Thursdays:

Complete the assigned readings and make annotations using hypothesis.

Attend class via zoom (link on Canvas) from 1pm-3pm.

Fridays:

Turn in your homework assignment, your self-evaluation, and any other assignments by midnight.

If you're running behind, it's okay! - just communicate with me. I've tried to organize the course so that your assignments are predictable and consistent. But a 5-week, 5-unit course moves fast! So try your best not to fall behind.

A Word About Math

A Word About Math

In this course, you will have the opportunity to redefine and reclaim mathematics for yourself and your own purposes. This course aims to repair potential harms done in prior STEM courses in which students may have been minoritized, neglected, or abused. I hope you will experience mathematics as creative rather than prescriptive in an environment that acknowledges and honors your emotions, experiences, identities, and knowledge and sees these as strengths.

We will be practicing "rough math" - a method of estimating values and relationships without needing to be exact. You should never need to use a calculator in this course, and, in some instances, calculators are forbidden. Don't worry! - this is all about getting reacquainted with the brilliant calculator you have inside your head.

I ask that you always show all your "work" - your mathematical thinking. This helps me understand what you're thinking and decide how best to teach. In our zoom sessions, I will model how you can show this type of mathematical thinking.

The most important thing about "rough math" is that we find a way to communicate a numerical value in a way that is as *meaningful* as possible.

Meet the Teaching Team

We are here to help you be successful in this course. Please reach out via email or text with any questions, concerns, or to set up a time to chat (over phone or zoom).

Instructor

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TA

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Though we are still learning remotely, we are members of a community residing on unceded ancestral lands. The following statement was formulated by the tribal chairperson of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in collaboration with Rick Flores, Horticulturist and Steward of the Amah Mutsun Relearning Program at the UCSC Arboretum:

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Uypi Tribe of the Awaswas Nation. Today these lands are represented by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band who are the descendants of the Awaswas and Mutsun Nations whose ancestors were taken to Mission Santa Cruz and Mission San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast. Today the Amah Mutsun are working hard to fulfill their obligation to the Creator to care for and steward Mother Earth and all living things through relearning efforts and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust.