

Course Syllabus for SIADS 516: Big Data: Scalable Data Processing

Course Overview and Prerequisites

This course will introduce students to the use of the Spark data analysis framework for the analysis of Big Data. We will cover the theory and application of MapReduce strategies, the use of Resilient Distributed Datasets in cluster computing, and higher-level abstractions such as DataFrames and SparkSQL, which facilitate efficient analysis of large amounts of data.

The prerequisites for SIADS 516 include:

SIADS 505: Data Manipulation

SIADS 511: SQL & Databases

Instructor and Course Assistants

Instructor: Chris Teplov, Ph.D. Lecturer IV in Information and Research Investigator, School of Information

Co-Instructor: Kris Steinhoff, Adjunct Lecturer in Information, School of Information

Communication Expectations

Slack is the preferred communication tool for this course. If you have questions about course content (e.g. lecture videos, quizzes, or assignments), please make sure to use Slack. Instructor and course assistant response time to Slack messages will be within 24 hours.

Personal communication that may involve sensitive information may be emailed directly to the instructor or course assistant. If you email the instructor or course assistant, please include SIADS516 in the email subject. Instructor and course assistant response time to email messages will be within 24 hours.

Instructor grading response time will be 4 days after assignments are submitted.

Help Desk(s): How to get help

Need help? You may reach out to UMSI or Coursera depending on the type of question you have.

- Degree program questions or general help - umsimadshelp@umich.edu
- Coursera's Technical Support (24/7) - <https://learner.coursera.help/>

Weekly Readings

Week 1 Readings

[Data Science from Scratch](#) by Joel Grus (Chapter 24)—Required

[Hadoop with Python](#) by Zachary Radtka (Chapter 2)—Required

[Advanced Analytics with Spark](#) by Josh Wills, Uri Laserson, Sandy Ryza, and Sean Owen (Chapter 1)—Optional

[High-Performance Spark](#) by Rachel Warren and Holden Karau (Chapter 2)—Optional

Week 2 Readings

[Spark, the Definitive Guide](#) by Matei Zaharia and Bill Chambers (Chapter 12)—Required

Week 3 Readings

[High-Performance Spark](#) by Rachel Warren and Holden Karau (Chapter 3)—Required

Week 4 Readings

[High-Performance Spark](#) by Rachel Warren and Holden Karau (Chapter 4)—Required

To access the required textbooks, simply click on the links above, which will direct you to the U-M Library website. Scroll down the page and click on *Available Online* (some texts will have multiple online options, but it is recommended you choose **Safari books online**).

After you are directed to the textbook, you will see an O'Reilly pop-up window asking for you to select your institution. U-M is not an available option, so you will need to select the option "Not Listed? Click Here".

You will be prompted to input your U-M email address (no password required).

Learning Outcomes

Explain the relationships between MapReduce, Spark and Hadoop

Use MapReduce to sort, filter, and summarize a dataset

Use Spark RDDs to manipulate, summarize, and analyze a text-based dataset

Use Spark DataFrames to manipulate, summarize and analyze heterogeneous data

Use Spark SQL to perform complex queries on heterogeneous Big Data

Course Schedule

- **This course begins on Monday, October 26, 2020 and ends on Sunday, November 22, 2020.**
- Weekly assignments will be **due on Sundays at 11:59 pm** (Ann Arbor, Michigan time-Eastern Daylight Time - EDT, UTC -4).

In **Week 1**, after some discussion of how we can define Big Data, you will be introduced to the split-apply-combine workflow common in Big-Data work. After overviewing scaling of distributed systems, week one progresses further into discussing how one can use libraries such as MapReduce, Hadoop, and MrJob for distributed solutions to big-data problems.

In **Week 2**, the course shifts focus towards introducing the Apache Spark functionality, structure, and stack. After further exploring the relationship between Spark and Hadoop, students will learn about the creation and manipulation of resilient distributed datasets (RDDs) using Spark and Python.

In **Week 3**, you will focus on working with Spark dataframes, including initialization from various file-types, column manipulation, and operations such as sorting, grouping, and user-defined functionality.

In **Week 4**, the course shifts focus to Spark's support for Structured Query Language (SQL) and explores methods available for data selection, filtration, and cross-table joining with SQL and Spark.

Weekly Office Hours via Zoom (Ann Arbor, Michigan time):

Your instructor will hold weekly, synchronous office hours using the video-conferencing tool, Zoom. The schedule of office hours can be found by clicking on the **Live Events** link in the left-hand navigation menu. Additionally, all office hours will be recorded and archived so that you can retrieve at a later date. Archived office hours can be found by clicking on the **Resources** link in the left-hand navigation menu then clicking the **Archived Sessions** link.

Grading

Course Item	Percentage of Final Grade	Due
Week 1 Homework	25%	Sunday, November 1, 2020
Week 2 Homework	25%	Sunday, November 8, 2020
Week 3 Homework	25%	Sunday, November 15, 2020
Week 4 Homework	25%	Sunday, November 22, 2020
Total	100%	

Note: All assignments are required to earn credit for this course.

Letter Grades, Course Grades, and Late Submission Policy

We realize that the occasional crisis might mess up your schedule enough to require a bit of extra time in completing a course assignment. Thus, we have instituted the following late policy that gives you a limited number of flexible “late day” credits.

You have three (3) free late days to use during SIADS 516. One late day equals exactly one 24-hour period after the due date of the assignment (including weekends). No fractional late days: they are all or nothing. Once you have used up your late days, 25% penalty for each subsequent 24-hour period after the deadline that an assignment is late. For example, if the due date is 11:59pm Sunday, with no late days left, penalties would be:

Before 11:59pm Monday: 25% deduction

Before 11:59pm Tuesday: 50% deduction

Before 11:59pm Wednesday: 75% deduction

After 11:59pm Wednesday: 100% deduction

You don't need to explain or get permission to use late days, and we will track them for you. Note that resubmissions after the deadline will be counted as late submissions.

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

A	95%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	73%

C-	70%
D+	67%
D	63%
D-	60%
F	0%

Academic Integrity/Code of Conduct

Refer to the [Academic and Professional Integrity](#) section of the UMSI Student Handbook. (access to Student Orientation course required).

Accommodations

Refer to the [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#) section of the UMSI Student Handbook (access to the Student Orientation course required).

Use the [Student Intake Form](#) to begin the process of working with the University's Office of Services for Students with Disabilities.

Accessibility

Refer to the [Screen reader configuration for Jupyter Notebook Content](#) document to learn accessibility tips for Jupyter Notebooks.

Library Access

Refer to the [U-M Library's information sheet](#) on accessing library resources from off-campus. For more information regarding library support services, please refer to the [U-M Library Resources](#) section of the UMSI Student Handbook (access to the Student Orientation course required).

Student Mental Health

Refer to the University's [Resources for Stress and Mental Health website](#) for a listing of resources for students.

Student Services

Refer to the [Introduction to UMSI Student Life](#) section of the UMSI Student Handbook (access to the Student Orientation course required).

Technology Tips

- Recommended Technology
 - This program requires Jupyter Notebook for completion of problem sets and Adobe or other PDF viewer for reading articles.
- Working Offline
 - While the Coursera platform has an integrated Jupyter Notebook system, you can work offline on your own computer by installing Python 3.5+ and the Jupyter software packages. For more details, consult the [Jupyter Notebook FAQ](#).