Writing Assignment 1: What is a data scientist?   FYOS 1001: Data Science

Rationale. One of our goals is to learn how the skills of *data science* can be deployed in the *professions*. In fact, data scientists may now be found in every part of academia, government, and industry. Contemporary data scientists may be recognized by their common approach to *data-driven solutions* to domain-specific problems.

Background. In this class, we have discussed one professor's path to data science. But, there are many such paths. In this exercise, you will research the biography of one of today's data science leaders. Each of the individuals listed below is a thought leader in their respective area of study or application. Here we will see where these leaders came from and how they came to invent themselves and their approach to data science.

Learning objectives. Student will identify, select, and summarize key information about an individual scientist relevant to understanding the discipline of data science as a whole. Student will be able to describe the career path of the data scientist. Student will be able to distinguish the special or unique contributions of one data scientist in the context of the field. Student will summarize findings and communicate these in a written report.

Assignment. Write a two page essay on one of the following data scientists. You will have to do some independent research to complete this essay. (Any sources used should be cited.) Some questions you may wish to answer include:

- What is this person's approach to data science?
- Why are this person's contributions to data science special?
- What academic training has this person had?
- How did this person become associated with data science?
- What jobs has this person held?
- What does this person think about the future of data science?

Leading data scientists. Drew Conway, Brad Efron, Andrew Gelman, Trevor Hastie, Geoffrey Hinton, Yann LeCun, Hilary Mason, Andrew Ng, Peter Norvig, D.J. Patil, Judea Pearl, Sandy Pentland, Nate Silver, Sebastian Thrun, Nathan Yau

Assessment. Essays will be evaluated according to the following writing rubric.

Due: September 12, 2016

	Excellent	Good	Competent	Ineffective
Selection of relevant information from independent sources				
Clear description of the individuals specific contributions to data science				
Mechanics of writing (use of paragraphs, clear thesis, logical argument, spelling/grammar); following directions of the assignment				