What is Data Camp?

– DataCamp.com is an interactive platform for learning data science tools. Usually you have to pay for their tutorials, but by enrolling in EMSE 6035 you will have free access to everything (including premium content) from now through May 2019!

How will we use Data Camp in class?

– Data Camp tutorials will be assigned as required assignments to help everyone get up to speed with using R so that we can conduct analyses in R throughout the rest of the semester. The due dates for each Data Camp assignment are listed in the syllabus and on Blackboard.

– In addition to the required tutorials, Data Camp has amazing resources for learning R, Python, machine learning, data visualization, etc. Throughout the semester, you can take any tutorial you want for free!

What is R and RStudio?

– R is an open source programming language for analyzing data, and RStudio is a nice environment within which to organize and conduct analyses. We will conduct all analyses in class using RStudio. Use these links to install both R and RStudio:

– R: https://cran.r-project.org/

– RStudio Desktop (free version): https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/

What is Piazza?

– Piazza is a platform for interacting with the instructor and fellow students. Think of it like a Reddit for just our class. Students can post questions (anonymously or not) and see responses from the instructor and other students. The course page also has links to other resources. This is the link to the course page: https://piazza.com/gwu/spring2019/emse6035/home

Do I need to know how to code for this class?

– If you have no experience in coding, don't worry! That's what Data Camp is for. The assigned tutorials will get you up to speed with everything we will do in R for this class. We will also spend time in class practicing how to code. Coding can be intimidating, but one of the best ways to learn is through trial and error, and often searching Google is the fastest way to get an answer to a coding question.

Do I have to use R?

– If you already know how to code in another language (e.g. python), you do not have to use R to conduct your analyses for the class. However, you are still required to complete the assigned tutorials on Data Camp (which use R). In addition, you may find it difficult to use another language as many do not have as useful libraries like those we will be using in R, and the instructor will not provide support for questions regarding other programming languages.

I'm not sure if I should take EMSE 6035

– Take this 3-question self-assessment quiz. It shouldn't take more than 10-20 minutes to complete, and you can check the solutions to see how you did. If you have trouble answering these questions (even after Googling), you may find the course challenging, and you may want to take other courses first or search for refresher courses / materials prior to taking EMSE 6035.