

# The Byrne Seminars – Fall 2014

## Data: What Is It Good For? (Absolutely Something)

*Tu 10:20–11:40 AM, SEC–211*

9/2/2014 – 11/4/2014

### Instructors

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### Means of Communication

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*Twitter:* @SigProcessing and @ergodicwalk

*Office Hours:* By appointment

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### Grading Policy

The Byrne seminars are graded on a pass/no credit basis. In order to ensure you receive the pass grade, you are expected to attend at least 9 out of the total 10 seminars, keep up with the reading assignments, engage in class discussions, and complete a team term project.

### Initial Course Outline

- *Week 1*—Introduction to the course and the concept of “data”
  - Instructors and class introduction
  - Brief overview of the course
  - Class discussion about key data-related concepts
  - Introduction to the flowchart of “data science”
  - Next week’s reading assignments
    1. General Overview on Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data\\_science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_science)
    2. Kenneth Neil Cuckier and Viktor Mayer-Schoenberger, “The Rise of Big Data,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2013 (*PDF available on Sakai*).
    3. Thomas H. Davenport and D.J. Patil, “Data Scientist: The Sexiest Job of the 21st Century,” *Harvard Business Review*, October 2012.

4. Chris Anderson, “The End of Theory: The Data Deluge Makes the Scientific Method Obsolete,” *Wired*, June 23, 2008 (Available at: [http://archive.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/16-07/pb\\_theory](http://archive.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/16-07/pb_theory)).

- *Week 2*—Potentials and perils of data science
  - Data science and the various stakeholders
  - Discussion about the reading assignment
- *Week 3–10*—To be finalized based upon the first two weeks of class discussions.