# EDS 296: Data science tools for building professional online portfolios
## (2 units, Fall 2024)

***Course Catalog:*** *https://bren.ucsb.edu/courses/eds-296-1f*

**Prerequisites:** All participants are expected to (a) be familiar with the R programming language and comfortable working in RStudio, (b) have a GitHub profile, and (c) have git configured on their local machine.
- ESM 244 (Advanced Data Analysis) will fulfill these requirements for MESM students
- PhD students should email the instructor explaining their experience with required skills

# Meeting Time & Location

This course will meet a total of **six times** (weeks 0 & 2-6) at the following times / locations:

| Class (mandatory) | Lunch with a Data Scientist (optional) | Free work / student hours (optional) |
|---|---|---|
| **Fridays** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm PT | **Fridays** 12:00 - 1:00 pm PT | **Fridays** 1:00 - 2:00 pm PT |
| *Class & student hours meet in the NCEAS 1st floor classroom all days **except on 10/25, which will be held in Bren 1414**.*  *Lunch is held on the NCEAS 3rd floor terrace **(no lunch on 10/25)**.* | | |

# Instructor Information

| | Sam Csik (Instructor) |
|---|---|
| **Email** | [scsik@ucsb.edu](mailto:scsik@ucsb.edu) |
| **Office** | NCEAS 103 & Bren 3512 |
| **Student Hours** | Fri. 1:00 - 2:00 pm PT |
| **The best way to contact me is** | MEDS Slack **#eds-296-DS-portfolios** channel |
| **Learn more about me** | [https://samanthacsik.github.io/](https://samanthacsik.github.io/) |

# Course Details

## Course Website:

[https://ucsb-meds.github.io/EDS-296-DS-portfolios/](https://ucsb-meds.github.io/EDS-296-DS-portfolios/)

*All course materials, resources, and important information will be posted to this course website. Be sure to bookmark it somewhere you can easily find it!*

## Course Description:

Having a polished online presence is essential for showcasing your skills, projects, expertise, and (importantly) your personality. Learners, collaborators, and future employers alike will look to your public online profiles to glean information about you and your work. As data scientists, this often means that they'll head to one of two places: GitHub and / or your personal website. This course is designed to help you both lay the foundation for creating and

maintaining these profiles in an organized, informative, and visually-appealing way. Over the next several weeks, you will:

- begin developing your personal brand
- build and deploy your personal website using popular data science tools and frameworks
- create your first (of many!) data science blog posts
- learn about how best to communicate your work to different audiences
- understand where and how to document your projects and code on GitHub
- and more!

Throughout the MEDS program, you'll be asked to turn assignments and projects into science communication pieces on your personal website's blog. These are *excellent* opportunities to build out your portfolio ahead of your job search.

## Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, learners should:

- have a (first version) of a personal branding guide
- have built, customized, and deployed their personal website using Quarto and GitHub Pages
- know how to create new blog posts on their personal website
- understand strategies for communicating about their environmental data science work to targeted audiences through their writing
- have added a customized README to their GitHub profile
- understand how to organize and document code in GitHub repositories using READMEs and wikis
- be familiar with how and when to leverage GitHub's project management features, such as issues, organizations, projects, pages, etc.

## Computing requirements:

***Reminder:*** *You can reference the [MEDS installation guide](#) if you need to (re)install / (re)configure any software.*

- [Minimum MEDS device requirements](#)
- R version 4.4.0 (or higher)
- RStudio version 2024.04.2 (or higher)
- git (configured on your local computer) & GitHub account (connected to your local git)

# Tentative Schedule

The deliverables listed in the table below are the intended physical outcomes of each weekly class. These deliverables are meant to be starting points -- you will continue to iterate upon them throughout the course / year (and likely your career)!

| Week # | Date | Topics | Deliverables |
|--------|------|--------|--------------|
| 0 | Fri 9/27 | Creating your personal website using Quarto | (1) a skeleton of your Quarto website, deployed using GitHub Pages, (2) a neatly arranged landing page with your professional headshot + bio |
| 2 | Fri 10/11 | Customizing Quarto websites using Sass & CSS | (1) your personal branding guide *(completed ahead of time)*, (2) a stylesheet, for customizing your website's appearance |
| 3 | Fri 10/18 | Adding a blog to your Quarto website | (1) a blog listing page as a new navbar tab on your Quarto website, (2) the skeleton of your first blog |

| | | | post |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Fri 10/25 | Writing skills for data science blogging | (1) a draft of your first data science blog post |
| 5 | Fri 11/1 | GitHub as a professional portfolio | (1), a polished repo README for a past HW assignment, (2) a thoughtfully curated GitHub profile (incl. a profile README, bio, photo, pinned repos) |
| 6 | Fri 11/8 | GitHub grab bag + personal brand share out | tbd |

## How will I be evaluated?

EDS 296 is a Pass / Not Passed course. To earn a "Pass," you are expected to:

- attend all six sessions
- participate in facilitated small group discussions
- complete the anticipated deliverables (listed on the course website) and submit links to your portfolios (personal website, GitHub) at the end of the course (week 6)
- participate in the personal brand share-outs (week 6)

*If you are feeling ill or experiencing a personal or family emergency, please contact the instructor to arrange accommodations.*

## Course Conduct

We are committed to actively creating, modeling, and maintaining an inclusive climate and supportive learning environment for all course participants (including instructors, guests, and students). We expect everyone to treat every

member of our learning community with respect. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Everyone is expected to read and adhere to the [Bren School Code of Conduct](#), and the [UCSB Code of Conduct](#).