J220
Coding for Journalists

LECTURER
Soo Oh

PROMPTS

Grab pizza 🍕🍕🍕

Zoom screenshare + start Zoom recording

Agenda

Pizza 🍕

How much time + Review rubrics for presentation and final project
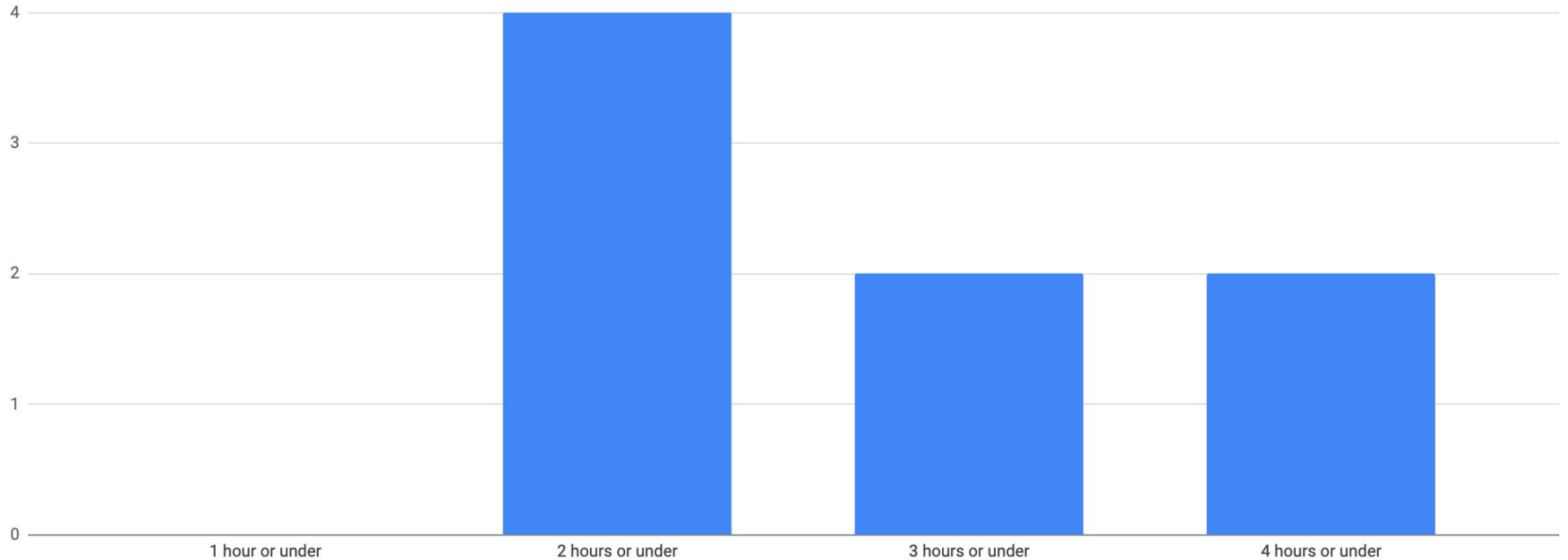
Data/code roles in newsrooms

Career chat with Soo and John Harden (Washington Post)

Study Hall

How much time spent on J220

Week of 04-15: Number of students grouped by hours spent outside of lecture and office hours

Rubric reviews

- [Presentation rubric](#)

  - A slide deck is not necessary. However, **your wireframes, work-in-progress site build, and/or other visuals** are required.

  - **Presentation order** can be randomized, or you can volunteer for a slot. **Any preference?**

  - You will **take notes** for one presenter. That will be randomized.

- [Final Project rubric](#)

What's the role of data/code in newsrooms?

Data reporting
Finds the story in the data

Statistical analysis of data in Excel, Google Sheets, SQL, Python, or R

Makes visuals for research (not for production)

A great place to start
Google Sheets, beat reporting

Data visualization
Visualizes data appropriately

Creates flat or interactive data visuals across platforms

Works with various kinds of mapping software

Uses Adobe Illustrator for flat graphics and/or HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for interactive graphics

A great place to start
Google Charts, Datawrapper

Apps development
Builds, deploys web apps

Sets up infrastructure to analyze data, might be used by entire newsroom or chain

Has knowledge of AWS or similar

A great place to start
Try a tutorial to make a very simple app, e.g. Flask

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There's a lot of overlap

Cool things you can do with data and code

Florida cops who speed (2012)

COVID and excess deaths (2020)

Migrant children in shelters (2020)

DC police data leaks (2021)

Job titles to look for

if you know how to code

- data reporter

- graphics reporter

- news app developer

- data journalist

If you don't know how to code, look for...

web producer places or organizes content in a CMS (e.g. Wordpress)
- usually there are work shifts, allowing you to learn to code
- Lots of stuff to automate. Automation can teach you about logic
- connected to lots of teams in the newsroom — get to know people

graphics artist/reporter using Adobe Illustrator (but you need to know Illustrator)
- print graphics are still important
- possible to convert AI files into web graphics
- connected to other visuals and probably data people

designer
- learning to code can be part of internal development goals

copy editor edits copy and occasionally fact-checks
- ability to spot typos is good for coding
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researcher
- learning to code can be part of internal development goals
- could get plugged into data team if it exists

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Resources

Organizations & Conferences

IRE/NICAR https://ire.org

OpenNews https://www.opennews.org

Slack communities

News Nerdery https://newsnerdery.org

Lonely Coders Club
https://lcc-slack.herokuapp.com

Journalists of Color (#data and
#hack-house) https://journalistsofcolor.us

Resources

Self-learning (by and for journalists)

Basic Data Academy
https://sites.google.com/view/mj-basic-data-academy/home

First Python Notebook
https://www.firstpythonnotebook.org

R for Journalists
https://learn.r-journalism.com

Mapping
https://journalismcourses.org/course/intro-to-mapping-and-gis-for-journalists

Self-learning (elsewhere)

Codecademy
https://www.codecademy.com

Your local community college

What questions do you have?

AMA with Soo and John