

Introductory Applied Machine Learning - Distance Learning (IAML-DL)

Response to student feedback in 2017/18 course survey

I have taken note of the feedback from students in this course survey, and have the following comments in response:

- I agree with many of the comments that say it is critical to be sure you have the right maths and programming background to take this course. We will try to be clearer about this in future. The suggestion that if in doubt take Andrew Ng's Coursera introductory ML course first is an excellent one - it will give you very good prep for this course.
- We are extremely grateful for the detailed comments on how we might improve this for distance students. We are still learning how to do this best! Three things are clear:
 - o Online materials need to be available early, preferably at the start of the course or even earlier. We are doing better this year on this I think, and will continue to try to improve.
 - o Greater clarity of what is expected, how things are organised, specifically for distance students. We have a dedicated distance team this year so I hope this improving.
 - o Greater flexibility - many distance students have jobs or family or other commitments, some of which are bunched in time, so the course activities need to be, as much as possible, ones where students can do them when it suits. This is the asynchronous model, which the literature shows works best for distance learning, and we are continually trying to find ways to reduce synchronous activities in favour of asynchronous.

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