DATA SCIENCE + PUBLIC POLICY

This course is an introduction to the politics and policies of data science and “big data.” Students will gain an understanding of how public policy is made, including the role of data in policymaking. In addition, we will discuss whether and what policies govern the use of data in various applications (such as cameras on campus, autonomous vehicles, scooters, ownership of health care data, etc.). Students will learn about the ethical, legal, and social implications of data science and big data, including issues such as privacy, informed consent, security, safety, liability, bias, and workforce impacts. Students will learn how to write policy briefs to present alternatives and consequences and/or make recommendations regarding the use of social or political data.