Module 1: Sara Clifton

**Lecture title:** "An Introduction to Sociophysics: Modeling Religious Affiliation, Left-handedness, Smoking Prevalence, and More"

In this module, we will discuss the field of sociophysics. We will explore several influential mathematical models of social systems, focusing on social group competition models. Then we will build a sociophysical model from scratch and explore its behavior. We will be using laptops to explore the models, so bring yours if you have one.

**5-minute video to watch before coming to class**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGLYcYCm2FM

In this video, you'll get a sense for how mathematical models of social group competition can explain complex human behavior and evolution.

**Journal entry - due by 11:59 pm on Thursday January 17**

After each week's class, we will ask you to write a short journal entry reflecting on the material discussed in lecture or investigated in the follow-up session. We are not looking for long and detailed answers. A few sentences in response to each prompt will be enough. Please visit the following link to complete the journal for Week 1.

https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/2157361