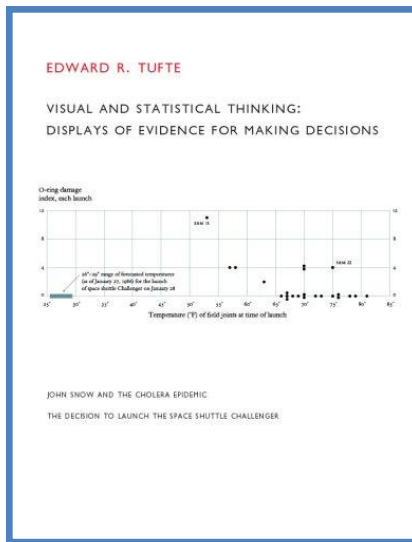
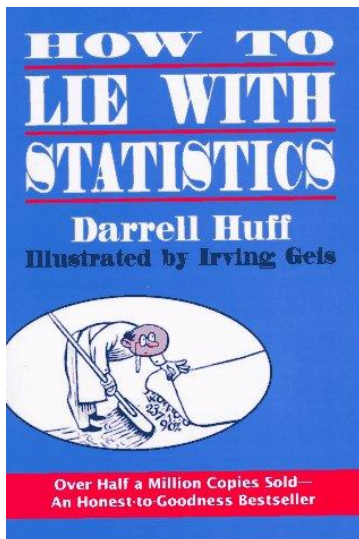


CDS 151: Data Ethics in an Information Society



- **When:** Spring 2012, Wednesdays 12:00-1:00pm
- **Where:** Robinson Hall, room A-101
- **Class URL:** <http://classweb.gmu.edu/kborne/cds151/>
- **Instructor:** Kirk Borne @ <http://classweb.gmu.edu/kborne>
- **Course brief description:** This course engages students in activities and discussion related to the serious ethical issues arising from the widespread distribution of data and information in the Internet age. Students will gain a deeper understanding of ethics as it applies to the use and interpretation of data and information in the sciences, in the media, in social networks, and in information technology. In addition to statistical and scientific case studies, students will be presented with practical ethical challenges that they may face in social networks, at the university, and in their future corporate, government, or academic employment. As an added benefit, students will acquire HSR Board Certification through completion of the free on-line GMU Human Subjects Research (HSR) training course.
- **Course objectives:** to develop an understanding of the following: personally identifiable information; identity theft; computer use policies; private versus public data; data ownership and confidentiality; proper use versus misuse and abuse of statistics; deduction, induction, and inference from data; objectivity versus bias in the interpretation of data and visual graphics; data falsification and cases of scientific fraud; the proper referencing of sources versus plagiarism; responsible conduct in research; and the ethical (and legal) use of human subjects research data.
- **Class format:** lectures and class discussion of ethical issues related to *infoglut* = data, data, data everywhere!
- **Gen Ed:** This course satisfies Mason's Gen Ed IT/Ethics requirement.