Documentation of Teaching Excellence

Eric Scott

Course Materials

In 2017 I led the transition of Biostatistics from using SPSS to R and created curriculum for a recitation section for the course, which is essentially 2/3 of the way to a standalone "Intro to R for Biologists" course.

- Biostatistics recitation materials

Currently, I am mentoring two undergraduate resarchers at University of Florida. I developed a syllabus for summer lab meetings as well as a mentorship agreement and other materials to scaffold the research experience.

- REU Syllabus and Resources

A lab meeting / training on reproducible research from these REU materials:

- Reproducible Research

Teaching Evaluations

Tufts University:

2020 - Ecological Statistics and Data (instructor of record) An upper-level course I took over for Dr. Elizabeth Crone as a PhD student as instructor of record. Student evaluations were overall very positive (all but 2 students rated the course as "Excellent" or "Very Good").

> "This course has led me to think in new ways about how I want to record and analyze my own data. Additionally, learning all of the statistics terminology associated with R has allowed me to actually understand what is happening in the "Statistical Analysis" section of research papers so that I can think more critically and deeply about the authors' work."

Evaluations: https://tinyurl.com/y46tr2k4

2019 - Organisms and Populations (lecture TA) The instructor rated me as "Exceeds Expectations" in all categories.

> "Eric is knowledgeable and efficient. He returns assignments quickly and answers student questions in a timely manner. Eric has good rapport with students and they feel comfortable coming to his office hours and emailing him with questions."

Evaluations: https://tinyurl.com/y5rpy6ry

2016–2018 - Biostatistics (lead recitation TA) Students gave overwhelmingly positive comments regarding learning R in the recitation section I created for this course.

> "I thoroughly enjoyed using R. I am now able to utilize it in my work going forward. It also made visualizing and interpreting the class material easier."

> "Learning R was a whole new way of thinking, a whole new language. Learning to think in that way was cool."

> “ Sometimes the R explanations were less clear, but that improved after the internal feedback session in class ”

Evaluations: https://tinyurl.com/7nyjds54

2015 - Organisms and Populations (lab TA). As a TA I developed pre-lab mini-lectures and weekly assessments.

> “ Eric was always interested in providing a way to visualize the concepts we were learning, through the use of whiteboard and other materials in addition to the standard lab exercises. He was a clear speaker and always made us aware of his expectations. ”

Evaluations: https://tinyurl.com/y3lu2ut9

2014 - Cells and Organisms (lab TA). The lab coordinator for the course summarized my student evaluations:

> “ Eric’s student evaluations were very positive. Students mentioned his enthusiasm and clarity as well as his willingness to help. Although some students felt that the feedback given could have been more helpful, others really appreciated the time and effort put in and felt the feedback was **very** helpful. ”

Evaluations: https://tinyurl.com/87ew59wr

Front Range Community College:

2011–2013 - General College Biology (instructor of record). This course was meant to be equivalent to the introductory biology course offered at Colorado State University. Many of my students were adult learners taking their first class in decades. Many of the students found the course challenging, and I found it challenging to accommodate student needs while keeping up the standards of the course. The class average grade was typically a C or C+, but my supervisors ensured me repeatedly that I was grading fairly and doing a great job. Over my 3 years at FRCC, I continuously revised lectures and exams to bring them more in-line with each other. If I were to teach this course again, I’d include much more active learning or even teach as a flipped course.

> “ I think this course in general is tough and I have a feeling a lot of people are going to write mean things about Eric and I think he is a great teacher, he made it clear we need to read and take notes…Eric is great, it’s just the content that can be difficult ”

> “ I like the class and how its challenging. ”

Despite the challenging class, there were still many great reviews that I think reflect my teaching expertise:

> “ Information was presented clearly and explained very well, and understanding was emphasized over rote memorization ”

> “ He is helpful without just telling us how things work. He lets us figure things out. ”

> “ He is very approachable and explains concepts well. I especially like his use of drawings and videos to help students understand. ”

Evaluations: https://tinyurl.com/2wsnm8x9

Video

Generalized linear mixed effects models

- A lecture from the Ecological Models and Statistics course I taught as instructor of record in Spring 2020.

Using the right tool for the job: Unsupervised and supervised analyses of ecological data

- A talk delivered at the Ecological Society of America meeting in 2020.

#TeaScienceTuesday

- A series of videos on tea science geared toward general tea enthusiasts.