Bio 381 Course Evaluation

This is the first time I have taught this class at the graduate level. Please provide detailed, critical feedback so I can improve it in future years. 27 April, 2017. NJG

---

1. As the course unfolded, we spent time on 3 kinds of activities
    - basic tools (GitHub, Markdown, Beamer, regular expressions)
    - programming techniques (variables, subsetting, control structures, functions)
    - advanced techniques (randomization tests, markov models, student presentations)

    The division of time on these parts was approximately 30/45/25.

    What would be the optimal blend of time for you on these 3 activities?
2. In the first part of the class, we mostly typed in new R code, but for the advanced topics and student presentations, we mostly cut-and-pasted. A third option is a more interactive style in which I would ask you to program or solve small puzzles during class time, and then move on with the answers.

    Which kind of programming style would have been most effective for your learning?
3. *Was the workload appropriate for 4 units of graduate credit? If the workload was too heavy, what could be done to lighten it?*
4. *Were you able to use specific material from this course to advance your own data analysis for your thesis/dissertation? Please give some detail on how you used course material for your own research this semester.*
5. *The most valuable thing I learned from the course was...*
6. *The part of the course that was not so useful for me was...*
7. *The one thing that was not covered that I most wanted to learn about was...*
8. *Were the student R presentations and research presentations a valuable part of the course? If not, how should we have spent that time?*
9. Were the lab exercises and homeworks worthwhile and effective for learning R? If not, how could the lab experience be improved?
10. *What did you think of the structure of no due dates and no grading, but regular posting of results on GitHub? If you didn't like this option, how would you have preferred that we handle homework and assignments?*
11. *The Biology Department is considering whether this course should be required for all first-year graduate students in the department. Do you think this is a good idea? Will first year students in their second semester have enough data to work with in R?*
12. *How does this course compare with other computational biology courses you may have already taken on campus? Should this course have any pre-requisites or additional requirements?*
13. We only spent 2 lectures on a quick run through r graphics. Would you have preferred more coverage of graphics with specific instruction on the `ggplot` package?
14. *Other comments? Use the next page if you need more room.*