

**Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2021**  
**Alexander Marsh, ECON 390-001 SPECIAL TOPICS**  
**Mode: IP (In Person)**

Raters					Students								
Responded					11								
Invited					33								
Response Ratio					33.3%								
					Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.					4.27	4.00	0.65	11	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	54.5%	36.4%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.					4.82	5.00	0.60	11	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	90.9%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.					4.00	4.00	1.00	11	0.0%	9.1%	18.2%	36.4%	36.4%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.					4.18	4.00	0.75	11	0.0%	0.0%	18.2%	45.5%	36.4%
5. I could really be myself in this course.					4.18	4.00	0.87	11	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	27.3%	45.5%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.					4.18	4.00	0.87	11	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	27.3%	45.5%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.					4.45	5.00	0.69	11	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	36.4%	54.5%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.					3.82	4.00	1.17	11	0.0%	18.2%	18.2%	27.3%	36.4%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.					4.00	4.00	1.10	11	0.0%	9.1%	27.3%	18.2%	45.5%
11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.													
Mean			SD			N			Yes			No	
1.00			0.00			10			100.0%			0.0%	

## Open-Ended Responses

### 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Fall 2021 semester?

#### Comments

The information he taught was very accessible. He made everything transparent.

Incredibly nice human being who obviously wanted to help us in any way possible. A very good lecturer and was entertaining from the student side. My critiques would be around the choice of certain elements in the course for new programmers. More time needed to be spent on reinforcing basics. More Clarifying goals of assignments (the harder questions) with exactly what is being desired by the question would have been helpful as well. Making the course more interactive and debugging in class would have been extremely helpful. Mirroring the design of comp 116 with Jupiter notebooks would be extremely valuable to both the instructor and students. However that is not on Alex. That last advice was more meant for those looking to make alterations for future 390 classes.

He was always helpful and responded quickly to questions via email.

Very structured (excellent PPTs), approachable, flexible, caring, and understanding teacher. The best instructor for 390!!

Thank you, Alex for all your help. R was hard for me but you made it possible to stay on track and succeed.

Ample office hours/quick replies to any emails were great.

He allows us to join class over zoom if we feel unwell. He always posts recordings and assignment solutions online.

I appreciated that he was lenient with us in terms of making attendance available through different methods. I also appreciate that it was really easy to reach out and talk to him if I was stuck on a problem or needed his help with something.

Alex did a great job of teaching coding and the assignments were manageable and informative. It was much faster paced than other coding classes other students and I have taken, but Alex was super understanding and that was helpful.

## 2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

### Comments

The exercises and grading-policy

Simulations are very applicable to real world modeling. However they are extremely challenging to new programmers

Make it a bit more structured but i dont blame Alex as this is the first time the class was taught.

Grading components for course: Participation, problem sets and final group project.

Programming sessions and guest speakers! Loved these special lectures. Keep bringing speakers, so fun.

I think application in real-world economics was very interesting, but, not very intro-to-datasciency'. This course was pretty hard for a course that doesn't actually count towards the major. I think the biggest thing to help with this would be to give examples of expected output or test code for each of the questions on the assignments. This would be a lot of work for you, but it would present fewer 'shot-in-the-dark answers' for hw questions.

Maybe a few more weeks focusing on an introduction to R and programming, in general, would have been good, and just going over either data.table or tidyverse (both are redundant and ended up confusing me, though I appreciate that both are useful).

Finally, I do think some introduction to SQL would be extremely useful. Every professional talk mentioned this as the most important tool, but I have yet to find a course outside of Information Science that helps to teach how to use this tool.

Overall a great course that could just take some minor improvements in the future, I appreciate how much I learned this semester and how kind of an instructor Alex was! Thank you!

I think the assignments were really good representations of the subjects we were learning about and showed us how to apply things to real world data. However, one thing I think could be done more net time is more application-based stuff in class because sometimes there was a lot of information and it was hard to process it all at once.

I liked when we went over the problem sets in class so we can understand how Alex thought through a problem as he coded in R. I wish we had spent more time discussing applications of R in the real world and society/in the workplace

The whole thing. It was pretty much perfect.