**MID-COURSE EVALUATION**

1. Our initial questionnaire asked about your knowledge of the subjects listed below. Based on what you have learned so far, can you please let us know your own assessment of:
   1. your understanding of each of these topics;
   2. your ability to self-teach;
   3. your comfort with teaching the material given adequate preparation;
   4. the greatest challenges to your learning.

Please confine your answers for each item to the space provided.

**Rules of probability**:

1. I feel very comfortable with this topic. I understand the rules of probability very well.
2. I feel that I am able to self teach
3. I would feel very comfortable teaching this material
4. Enough time to review the material before teaching it.

**Moment matching**:

1. I feel somewhat comfortable with this topic. I understand why it is used but not necessarily under what contexts.
2. I feel like I’ve had a good introduction and that given enough time I could become better versed in the topic.
3. Based on what I know now, I would not feel comfortable teaching this material
4. I’m still confused as to when this method is best used and I think I require more practice and time to learn some of the important details of this subject.

**Likelihood and maximum likelihood estimation**:

1. I feel comfortable with this topic because I have taught it in the past. I understand likelihood and maximum likelihood estimation in the context of classical statistical analysis.
2. I believe that I am very capable of self-teaching this subject.
3. I would feel comfortable teaching basic introductions to this material. However, I would not feel comfortable teaching it in the context of Bayesian analysis.
4. Practice and time.

**Bayes theorem**:

1. I feel comfortable with this topic. After the first week of the course I feel like I really understand the background of Bayes theorem and its potential in ecological analysis.
2. I believe that I would be capable of self-teaching.
3. I feel like I could give a basic introduction to Bayes theorem but probably not anything further than that.
4. Time

**Prior distributions and conjugacy**:

1. I am not yet comfortable with this material. I understand prior distributions and their importance as well as conjugacy, but I don’t feel that I have a great depth of knowledge about either topic. For conjugacy I am still uncertain of under what circumstances it is used.
2. I believe that I could self-teach given enough time and the proper references, but I think that I also need more supervised practice with this.
3. I would not feel comfortable teaching much of this material.
4. More examples and practice with the analysis.

**Gibbs and MCMC**:

1. I feel like I have a basic understanding Gibbs and MCMC but I am not entirely sure of my execution of it in R.
2. I could self-teach given enough time and proper references.
3. I would not feel comfortable teaching this material at this point.
4. Time to review the code and examples. I also need more examples – but that is coming I know.

**Hierarchical models**:

1. I feel comfortable with this topic and I understand the basics of this topic.
2. I believe that with the proper references I could self-teach, although I would like more information on this topic and more examples.
3. I would not feel comfortable teaching this material yet.
4. I think I was a little overwhelmed at the point that we started to cover this topic, but more examples will help.

1. So far, what are the best and most useful things about this course?
2. What could we improve?

Everything has been useful so far – it’s been a great course and all of the instructors are excellent teachers! You all clearly enjoy teaching and are very well versed in the topic. I very much appreciate your enthusiasm and support.

I only have a couple of suggestions for improvement. The JAGS introduction was really important but I was pretty burnt out by the time we got to it. I think evening sessions are too much and that the JAGS requires its own day. The labs have been some of the best parts, but we could use more time to work on them and it would be helpful if the instructors could review the results of the labs with us in a group setting so that we could discuss them and see what the important points of the labs are.