Berkeley

Fa 2014 DATASCI W207 WBL 002 APPLIED MACH LEARN (Dav Clark)

Fall 2014 Evaluations
Project Audience 9
Responses Received 7
Response Ratio 77.78%

| Subject Details	
Name	DATASCI W207 WBL 002 APPLIED MACH LEARN
DEPT_NAME	DATASCI
EVALUATION_TYPE	F
First Name	Dav
Last Name	Clark

Creation Date   Mon, Jan 05, 2015

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Please note that "Department Average" for each rating question is calculated using all sections in your department. This may include both Faculty and GSIs depending on whether the department has selected a question item to be used for both.

RATING QUESTIONS (QUANTITATIVE)

UNIVERSITY WIDE QUESTIONS: The quantitative items in this section are asked across all courses at Berkeley.

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this instructor ?

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.66
Your Average 5.00
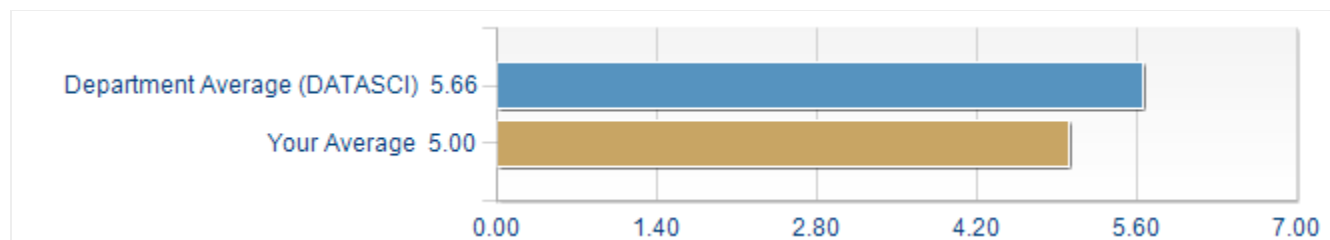
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	1	14.29%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	0	0.00%
5	4	57.14%
6	1	14.29%
7-Extremely Effective	1	14.29%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.00
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.53

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this course?

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.47
Your Average 5.71
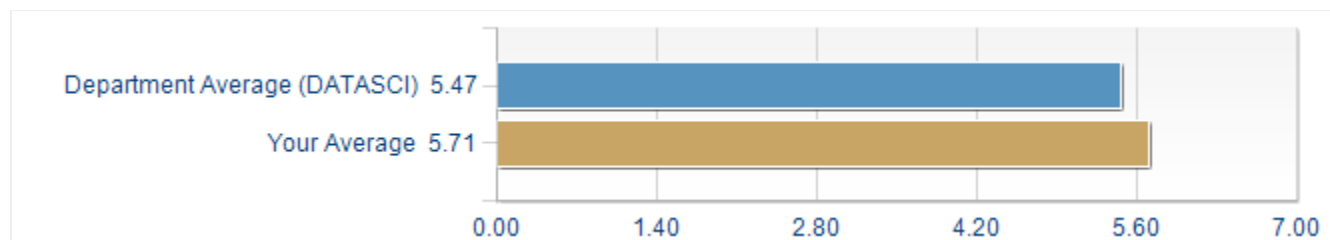
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	1	14.29%
5	0	0.00%
6	6	85.71%

7-Extremely Effective	0	0.00%

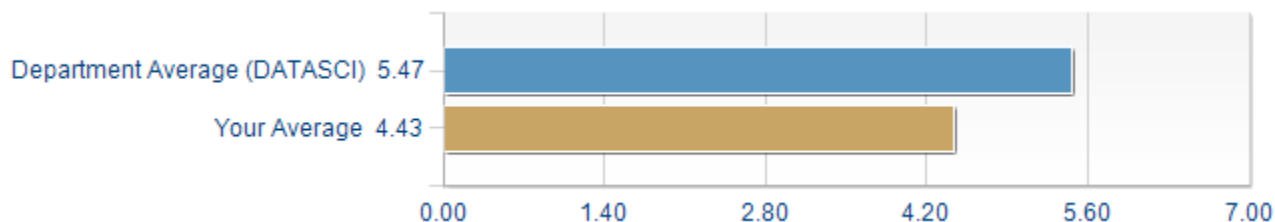| Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.71
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED RATING QUESTIONS: Questions in this section were selected by your department for inclusion on this evaluation.

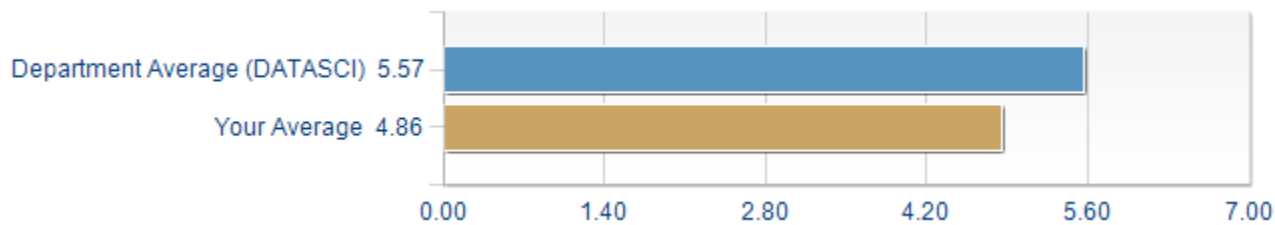## Rate the INSTRUCTOR of the Synchronous Course Sections for each of the following.

1. Knowledge of the course content
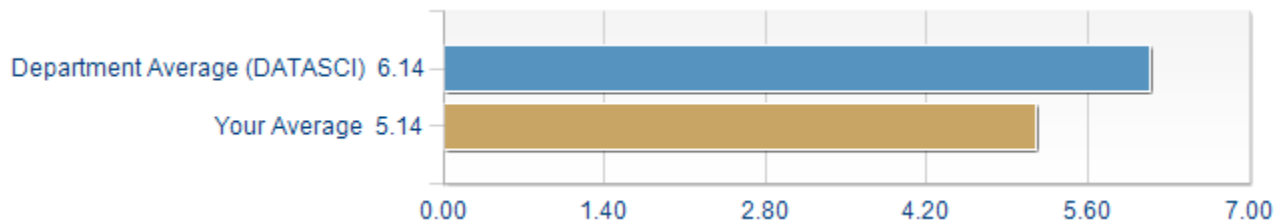
Department Average (DATASCI) 6.14
Your Average 5.14

2. Clarity and Organization

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.47
Your Average 4.43

3. Ability to stimulate the student in the subject matter

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.57
Your Average 4.86

4. Ability to answer questions satisfactorily

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.83
Your Average 5.00
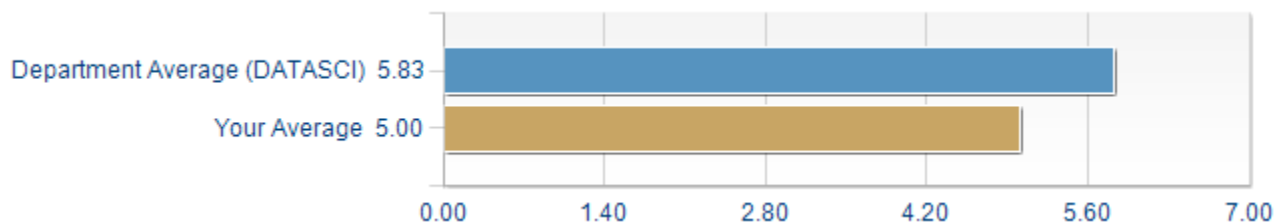
Rate the INSTRUCTOR of the Synchronous Course Sections for each of the following. (continued)

5. Ability to encourage student participation and feedback
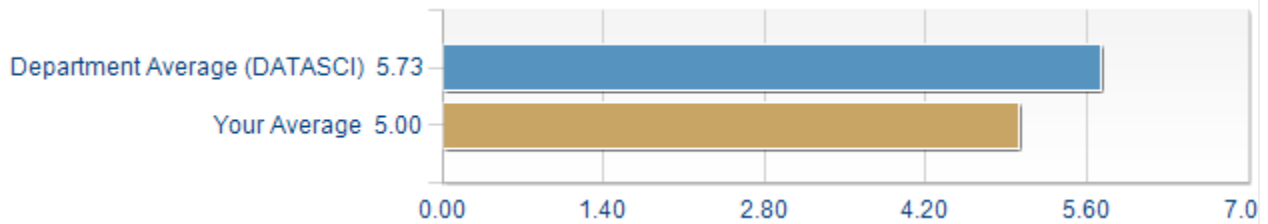
1. Knowledge of the course content

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	1	14.29%
4	0	0.00%
5	3	42.86%
6	3	42.86%
7-Excellent	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.14
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.07

2. Clarity and Organization

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	1	14.29%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	3	42.86%
5	1	14.29%
6	1	14.29%
7-Excellent	1	14.29%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.43
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.90

3. Ability to stimulate the student in the subject matter

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	1	14.29%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	1	14.29%
5	2	28.57%
6	2	28.57%
7-Excellent	1	14.29%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.86
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.95

4. Ability to answer questions satisfactorily

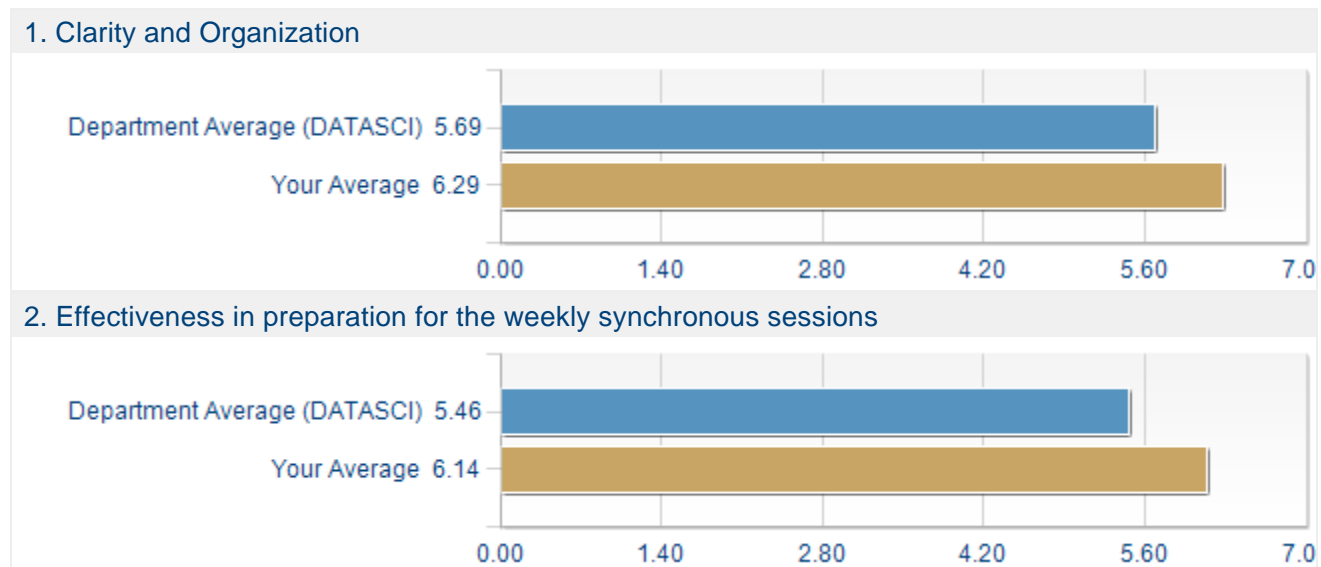| Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	1	14.29%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	0	0.00%
5	4	57.14%
6	0	0.00%
7-Excellent	2	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.00
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-2.00

5. Ability to encourage student participation and feedback

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	1	14.29%
3	0	0.00%
4	2	28.57%
5	0	0.00%
6	3	42.86%
7-Excellent	1	14.29%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.00
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.73

Please rate the Asynchronous Course Content on

1. Clarity and Organization

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.69
Your Average 6.29

2. Effectiveness in preparation for the weekly synchronous sessions

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.46
Your Average 6.14

1. Clarity and Organization

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	0	0.00%
5	1	14.29%
6	3	42.86%
7-Excellent	3	42.86%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	6.29
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

2. Effectiveness in preparation for the weekly synchronous sessions

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	0	0.00%
5	1	14.29%
6	4	57.14%
7-Excellent	2	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	6.14
Median	6.00

Please rate the VALUE of each of the following.

1. The Asynchronous Lectures
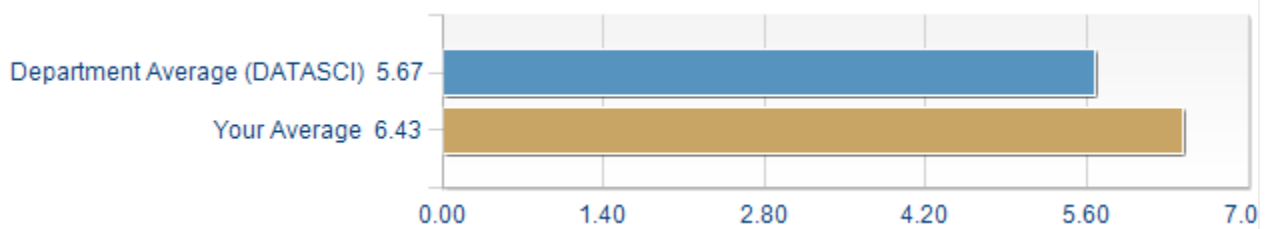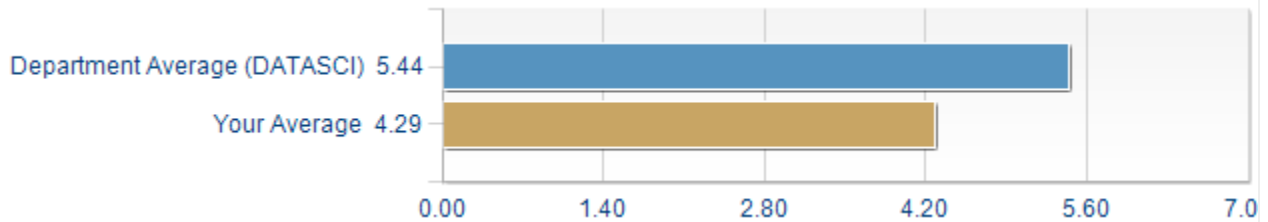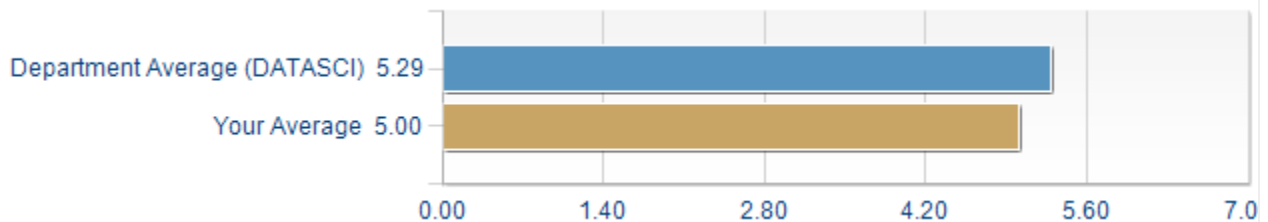
Department Average (DATASCI) 5.67
Your Average 6.43

2. The Live Sections

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.44
Your Average 4.29

3. The Readings

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.29
Your Average 5.00

4. Other Asynchronous Content (e.g., flipbooks, online demos, prerecorded interviews)

Department Average (DATASCI) 5.34
Your Average 5.86
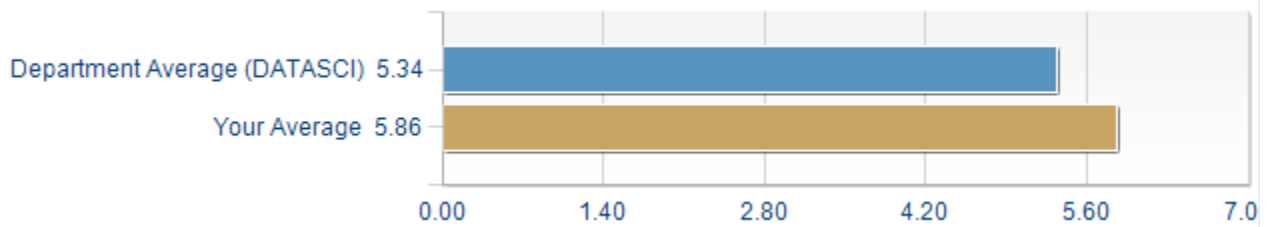
Please rate the VALUE of each of the following. (continued)

5. The Assignments
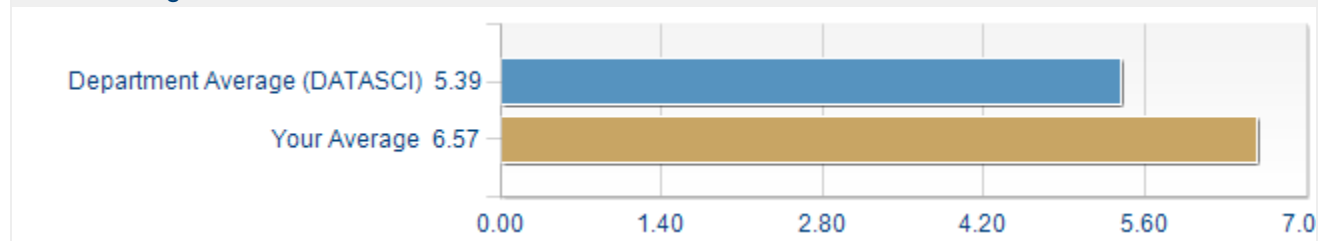
1. The Asynchronous Lectures

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	4	57.14%
7-Excellent	3	42.86%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	6.43
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.53

2. The Live Sections

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	1	14.29%
3	0	0.00%
4	3	42.86%
5	2	28.57%
6	1	14.29%
7-Excellent	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.29
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.25

3. The Readings

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	1	14.29%
4	1	14.29%
5	2	28.57%
6	3	42.86%
7-Excellent	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.00
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.15

4. Other Asynchronous Content (e.g., flipbooks, online demos, prerecorded interviews)

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	1	14.29%
5	0	0.00%
6	5	71.43%
7-Excellent	1	14.29%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.86
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.90

5. The Assignments

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	3	42.86%
7-Excellent	4	57.14%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	6.57
Median	7.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.53

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS (QUALITATIVE)

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED QUESTIONS: Questions in this section were selected by your department for inclusion on this evaluation.

Please identify what you consider to be the strengths of the course.

Comment
This is the most fun and intriguing course I've taken so far, and I feel that way after I get my hands dirty by doing some assignments. There was a bit of a learning curve at first for learning the scientific python libraries but after that, the assignments were really engaging and made the material "stick."
Excellent flow, perfectly ordered in terms of understanding the matter
Async was great. Very clear and succinct. Just the right amount of technical background but mostly focused on application. Dan and Josh were very articulate and clear....(and funny...I laughed out loud at Dan a few times, didn't think that was possible in a recorded lecture). Probably my favorite async of the degree so far. It was great Dan was still involved in the course through the wall despite not being part of the live sessions. It helped continue some continuity between having a different async instructor form the live session (as this is the first time this has happened for our cohort). The assignments overall were good experiences. Ipython notebooks were a great way to build and develop the problems, and also compartmentalize work. The video review of the answers was a good way to talk about the problems rather than just providing answers. It was also great Dav also clearly explained the basics of github and various ways to connect to EC2. This is the first time I haven't yelled at my computer after dealing with EC2 (step in the right direction!). It was also good that Dan pared back the assignments after the first one... Dav did a good job organizing the flow of the live sessions. The best ones were when he would either go through an notebook or we would spend time working on one in class. Overall he had a good grasp of the material and was well prepared for class. I liked the use of different rooms and trying different ways of engaging with us. Doing a Kaggle competition for the project was a good idea/experience. Having the problem be completely open ended, but also contained and structured worked well vs. doing something completely on our own.
Exposed applied machine learning from the scikit learn point of view mostly.
It does a very good job going over all the general machine learning topics

What changes, if any, would you suggest if the course is offered again?

Comment

Much of the material was tested through the assignments but a good deal of it wasn't. I gained a theoretical but not a practical understanding of neural networks, collaborative filtering, and some other unsupervised techniques. I would suggest abbreviated programming assignments each week to complement the course material. The material doesn't really hit home until you start using the techniques.

The live sessions were a little random, in the sense that there wasn't always a clear idea what was being discussed. It sometimes degenerated into someone who has read more or less having a long discussion with the professor, and I felt lost. Maybe a little more order to the live session would have helped.

The live sessions were hit or miss. It was really frustrating that students weren't engaging in discussion and it was always the same people talking, especially since I could tell Dav prepared well for the sessions.

In light of that, maybe the live sessions should be more of a lab format...where ipython notebooks are distributed and we do a few short problems (like the assignments but shorter) in breakout sessions with others. We just need to know in advance so I can pull the notebooks from github and get my machine ready to go.

I wish we got more feedback on our assignments other than just the numeric grade. Especially, even if I got the right result I would like to know if I implemented something well or poorly. I think sharing someone's code in class if someone approached a problem particularly well would be OK. It would help my own learning to see how other's approached a problem.

There were a lot of practice quizzes in lectures in the beginning of the course. I wish these continued throughout the course and that they provided a better mechanism for feedback (rather than you are wrong and you can't try again).

Explore other tools like NLTK provided classifiers, R packages, for example. Slow ramp up towards first project - for people not in programming field it should have been tough to ramp up towards the first project. Smaller projects with 1-3 questions to answer using various tools - scikit learn, R, NLTK for example would have exposed students to a broader overview of the subject.

I would prefer having more but smaller assignment that covers more machine learning techniques. Have a smaller final project so we can spend more time during the rest of the semester practicing all the techniques.

General Comments?

Comment

This is a tough course with tough questions for the instructor. I think it would have been helpful to have a second professor in the live sessions like we do with other classes.

Great professors, amazing course, brilliantly crafted assignments.

In general, I feel I know enough to get by with machine learning. I need a lot more practice (both in just basic coding + identifying the right models to use) to feel really comfortable in it. But I think this course pointed me to a lot of great resources to try to learn more (hopefully I have the time!).

Synchronous classes could have been more effective. Demos of small problems - how an experienced professional would approach a machine learning problems, thinking about feature selection, exploring possible models, pros and cons of models, which would work better in what situations, etc. - would have been more effective and helpful to students.

This is probably one of my favorite classes for the program. Would love to have more practice assignments to get my hands dirty. The live session seems a bit unorganized at time but I assume it's because the instructors for the synchronous sessions and asynchronous sessions are different so it's difficult to be completely on the same page.