Berkeley

Fa 2014 DATASCI W207 WBL 001 APPLIED MACH LEARN (Dav Clark)

Fall 2014 Evaluations

Project Audience 14
Responses Received 9
Response Ratio 64.29%

Subject Details	
Name	DATASCI W207 WBL 001 APPLIED MACH LEARN
DEPT_NAME	DATASCI
EVALUATION_TYPE	F
First Name	Dav
Last Name	Clark

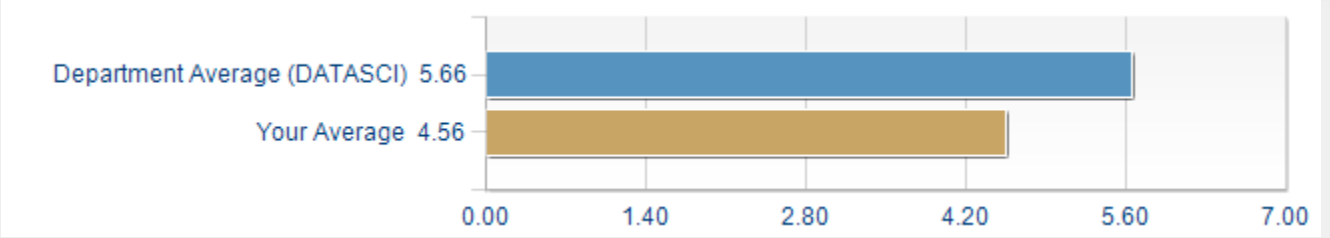
Creation Date Mon, Jan 05, 2015

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.

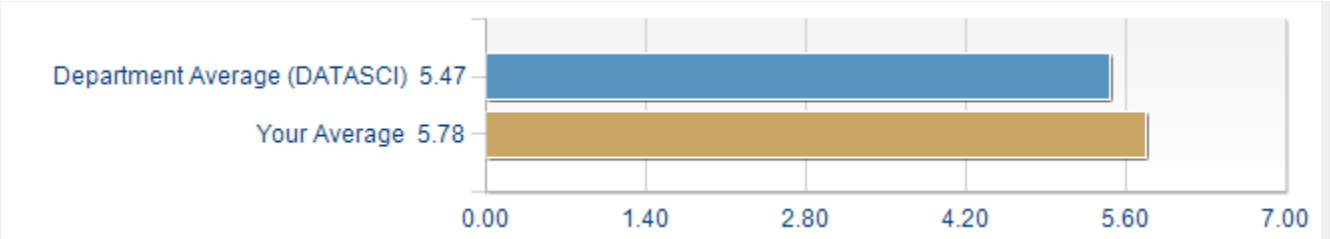
Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this instructor ?



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	1	11.11%
2	1	11.11%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	2	22.22%
5	2	22.22%
6	1	11.11%
7-Extremely Effective	2	22.22%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-2.07

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



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	1	11.11%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	0	0.00%
5	1	11.11%
6	4	44.44%

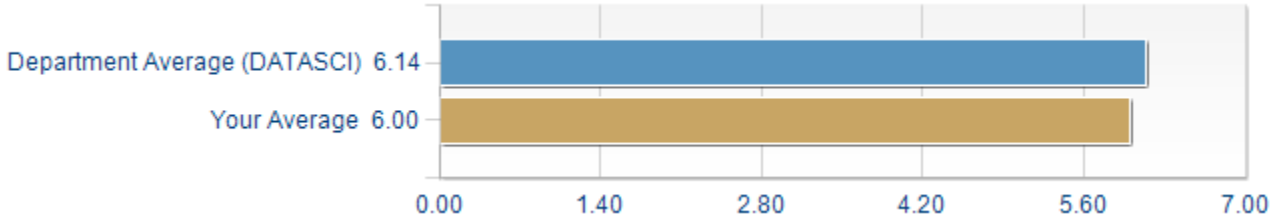
7-Extremely Effective	3	33.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.78
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.56

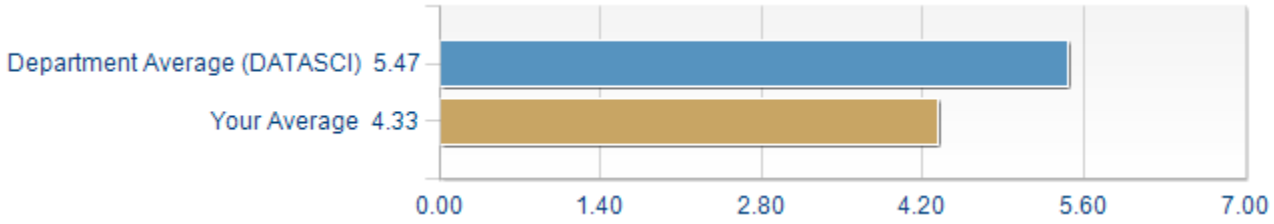
DEPARTMENT PROVIDED RATING QUESTIONS: Questions in this section were selected by your department for inclusion on this evaluation.

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

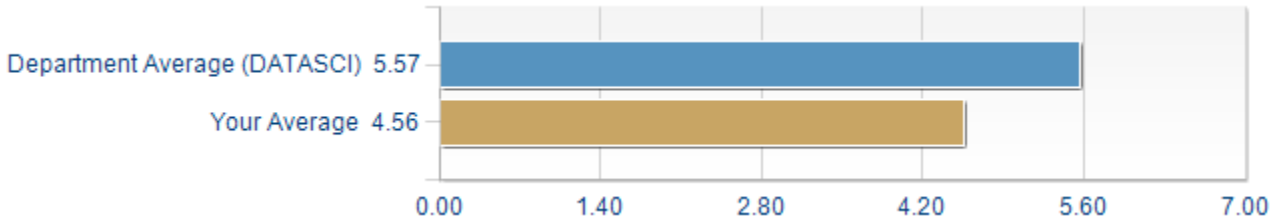
1. Knowledge of the course content



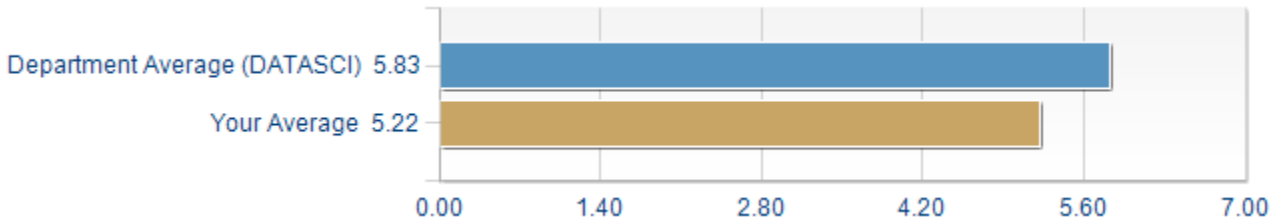
2. Clarity and Organization



3. Ability to stimulate the student in the subject matter

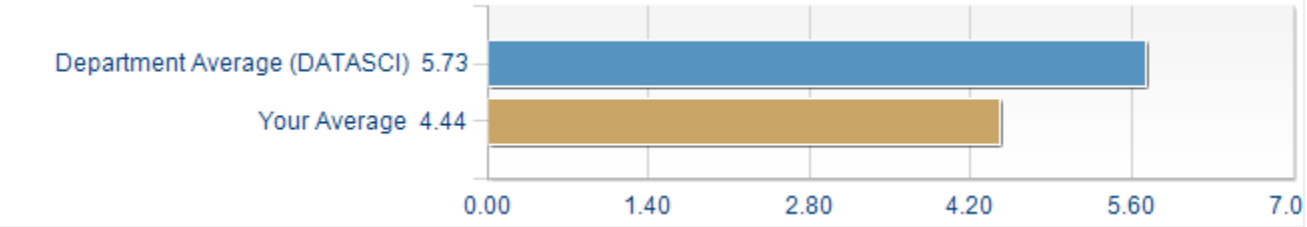


4. Ability to answer questions satisfactorily



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	0	0.00%
4	0	0.00%
5	4	44.44%
6	1	11.11%
7-Excellent	4	44.44%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	6.00
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.00

2. Clarity and Organization

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	2	22.22%
3	2	22.22%
4	1	11.11%
5	1	11.11%
6	1	11.11%
7-Excellent	2	22.22%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.33
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-2.00

3. Ability to stimulate the student in the subject matter

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	1	11.11%
2	1	11.11%
3	0	0.00%
4	1	11.11%
5	4	44.44%
6	0	0.00%
7-Excellent	2	22.22%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-2.01

4. Ability to answer questions satisfactorily

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	1	11.11%
3	1	11.11%
4	1	11.11%
5	0	0.00%
6	4	44.44%
7-Excellent	2	22.22%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.22
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.79

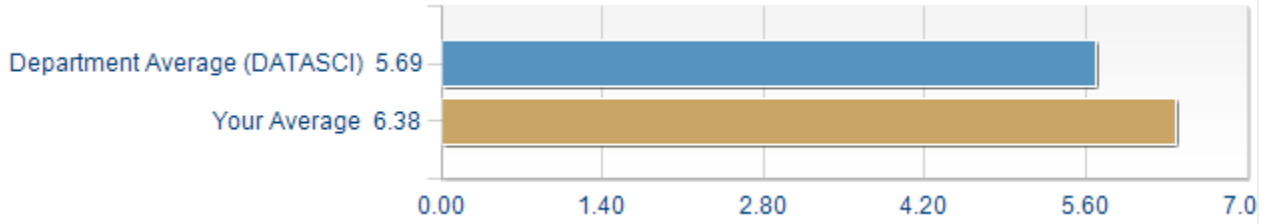
5. Ability to encourage student participation and feedback

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	1	11.11%
2	1	11.11%
3	1	11.11%
4	0	0.00%
5	3	33.33%
6	2	22.22%
7-Excellent	1	11.11%

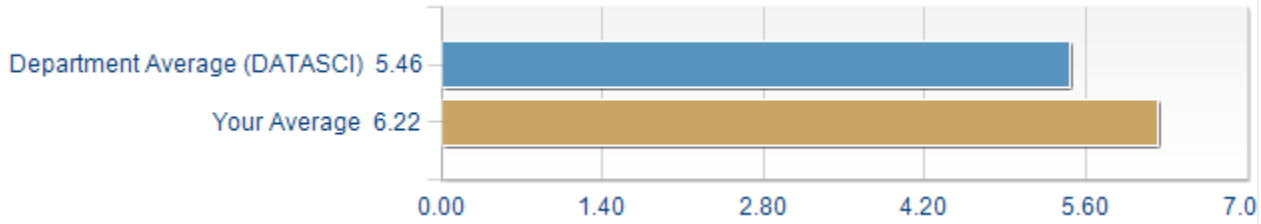
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.44
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-2.01

Please rate the Asynchronous Course Content on

1. Clarity and Organization



2. Effectiveness in preparation for the weekly synchronous sessions



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	2	25.00%
6	1	12.50%
7-Excellent	5	62.50%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	6.38
Median	7.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.92

2. Effectiveness in preparation for the weekly synchronous sessions

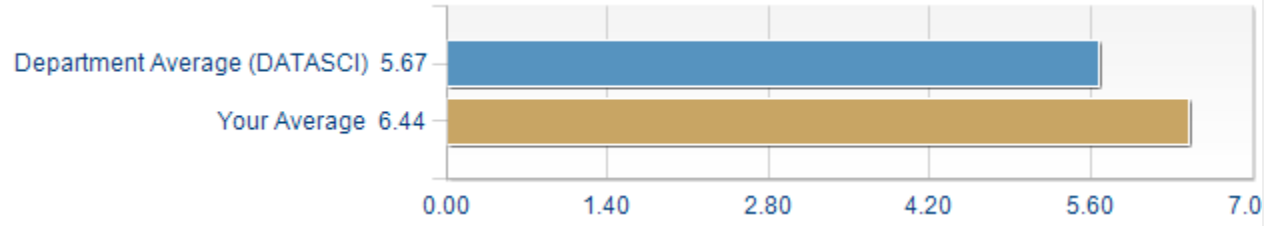
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	2	22.22%
5	0	0.00%
6	1	11.11%
7-Excellent	6	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	6.22
Median	7.00

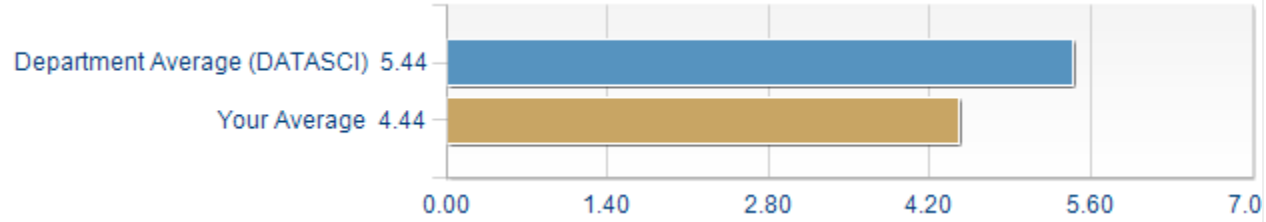
Standard Deviation	+/-1.30

Please rate the VALUE of each of the following.

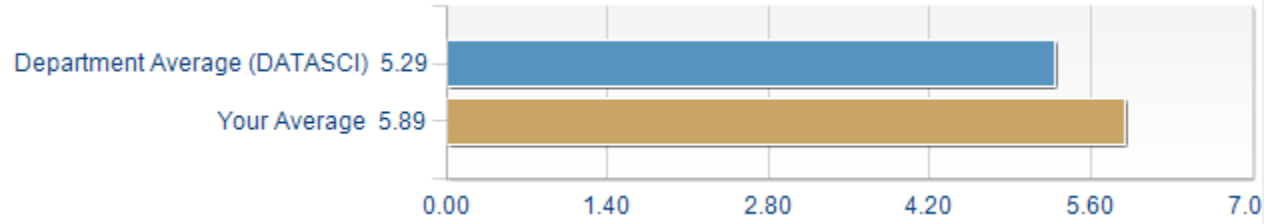
1. The Asynchronous Lectures



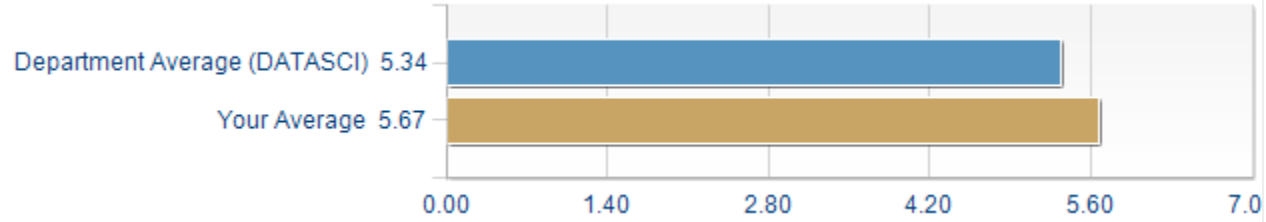
2. The Live Sections



3. The Readings

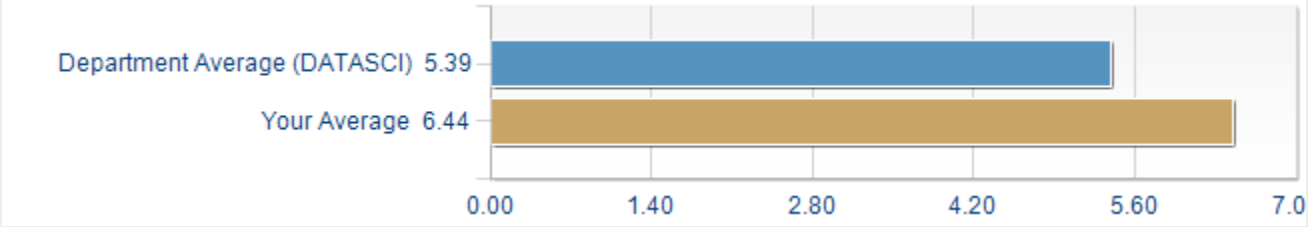


4. Other Asynchronous Content (e.g., flipbooks, online demos, prerecorded interviews)



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	2	22.22%
6	1	11.11%
7-Excellent	6	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	6.44
Median	7.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.88

2. The Live Sections

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	1	11.11%
2	1	11.11%
3	0	0.00%
4	3	33.33%
5	1	11.11%
6	1	11.11%
7-Excellent	2	22.22%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.44
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-2.07

3. The Readings

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	1	11.11%
4	1	11.11%
5	0	0.00%
6	3	33.33%
7-Excellent	4	44.44%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.89
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.45

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

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	1	11.11%
3	1	11.11%
4	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	3	33.33%
7-Excellent	4	44.44%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.67
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.87

5. The Assignments

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Poor	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4	1	11.11%
5	0	0.00%
6	2	22.22%
7-Excellent	6	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	6.44
Median	7.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.01

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
The readings, and asynch material were great, and helped me learn a lot about machine learning concepts. The assignments were good, and thought-provoking, and encouraged me to look beyond just applying algorithms, and understanding the reasoning behind why an algorithm might be better-suited for a particular type of problem. The final project was a great learning experience as well. Both Profs. Clark and Gillick were extremely helpful (and prompt!) whenever I needed some clarification/feedback.
- Breadth of topics covered. - Quality of the assignments - Expertise of the Async lecturers
I loved completing the assignments and the AWS/github BCE environments on the best! I felt I learned a LOT through these projects. I would keep that element of the class strong. I also enjoyed Dan's lecture style in particular. He kept real examples integrated in the content and kept the async lectures more straightforward, while the readings were more in depth. I felt Jonathan's lectures were good, but often dipped so far into the math without bringing out the big, underlying points that make the material more understandable.
Given that there is such a wide range of topics to cover, I think the professors working in the field have the latest knowledge. I love the applied aspects of this course.
The projects, the async material, and the office hours were all strengths.
Adding sklearn to my toolbox.
Design of the assignments, final project, async lectures, async lecturers, semi-collaboration on assignments. Class discussions got better at the end of the semester, especially one in particular that looked at the Yelp dataset and asked us to speculate about what innovations could be made using it with machine learning techniques.

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

Comment
It would be good if the live sessions included more hands-on exercises. We had a few which were good, and let us explore different areas of the scikit-learn library for a particular problem, but in my opinion, having more such exercises would definitely improve the live session experience.

- Take some effort to plan the synchronous sessions - Provide some guidance and reading for the intuition and math behind the different algorithm for those who are interested in it.
I would switch up how we do the sync sessions. I would have written up ipynb's prior to the sync session as mini-assignments that were clear to follow through. The ad-hoc assignments were a bit hard to follow, especially when working through screen sharing and with people of various ability levels. I also would do some existing ipynb code reviews as groups. There are so many good examples out there and some not as good ones. That might be a good learning experience as a group.
I would like more examples. scikit learn has somewhat vague and limited examples.
More organization in the synchronous sessions.
Talk more about time series during the lectures/class if we're going to be doing a final project about it.
Have a better plan for synchronous discussion. Discussion of assignments or additional sample problems would be good.

General Comments?

Comment
I was happy with the course curriculum, especially the assignments and asynch material. The live sessions could be made a little more engaging.
I had taken the MOOCs from Stanford on Machine Learning and that was a better planned and executed course than the way this was conducted,
Overall, it was my favorite class in MIDS yet! A good combination of tough concepts, good assignments, and a great atmosphere created by the professors. Thanks guys!
I enjoyed this course very much!
Dav is a knowledgeable guy, but just doesn't seem comfortable teaching (at least in this environment). He would often mention we could end the class early, but some of the students wanted to get more out of the course they're paying a lot for. He had a really hard time engaging student feedback and participation.