University of Michigan
Office of the Registrar - Evaluations
ro.umich.edu/evals/

Fall 2014 Final
23 students responded out of the total enrolled 29

Instructor with Comments Report

2014-11-26 - 2014-12-11   Report ID: MSR04734

Instructor: Yan,Xiang

UP 503 001

		5 SA	4 A	3 N	2 D	1 SD	NA	Your Median	75% Above	50% Above	25% Above	75% Above	50% Above	25% Above
									University Wide			**School/College**		
1	Overall, this was an excellent course.	5	7	3	3	5	0	3.57	3.95	4.33	4.72	4.00	4.38	4.75
2	Overall, the instructor was an excellent teacher.	15	7	1	0	0	0	4.73	4.15	4.61	4.85	4.11	4.57	4.83
3	I learned a great deal from this course.	8	7	1	3	4	0	4.00	4.00	4.40	4.75	4.09	4.50	4.79
4	I had a strong desire to take this course.	5	8	3	3	4	0	3.69	3.64	4.17	4.63	4.00	4.50	4.82
201	The instructor gave clear explanations.	13	9	1	0	0	0	4.62	4.00	4.50	4.79			
204	The instructor was enthusiastic.	15	5	2	1	0	0	4.73	4.50	4.81	4.93			
205	The instructor put material across in an interesting way.	6	10	5	1	0	0	4.00	4.08	4.50	4.79			
207	The instructor appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject.	15	7	0	0	0	0	4.77	4.50	4.80	4.92			
211	The instructor was sensitive to student difficulty with course work.	16	6	0	1	0	0	4.78	4.14	4.50	4.79			
212	The instructor taught near the class level.	13	7	2	0	0	0	4.65	4.17	4.50	4.80			
219	The instructor was willing to meet and help students outside class.	17	5	0	0	0	0	4.85	4.50	4.73	4.88			
226	The instructor kept students informed of their progress.	13	4	3	1	0	1	4.69	4.00	4.50	4.75			
227	The instructor had everything going according to schedule.	12	6	1	1	0	1	4.67	4.15	4.50	4.78			
229	The instructor used class time well.	13	6	2	0	0	2	4.69	4.13	4.50	4.79			
231	The objectives of the course were clearly explained.	7	6	5	3	2	0	3.75	4.05	4.38	4.67			
239	The amount of work required was appropriate for the credit received.	5	11	1	2	4	0	3.91	4.00	4.25	4.63			
326	Reading assignments seemed carefully chosen.	9	7	3	1	3	0	4.14	4.00	4.30	4.70			
365	Grades were assigned fairly and impartially.	9	6	4	2	1	1	4.17	4.03	4.35	4.67			
524	Minority group issues were addressed in this course.	5	9	6	0	1	1	3.89	3.89	4.50	4.75			
525	Poverty and the poor were addressed in this course.	5	10	4	0	1	1	4.00	4.13	4.50	4.78			
526	Gender issues were addressed in this course.	4	5	6	2	3	3	3.33	3.25	3.50	4.25			
527	International issues were addressed in this course.	4	3	6	3	3	4	3.08	3.67	4.07	4.67			
528	The instructor was sensitive in handling minority issues and content.	8	5	3	0	0	7	4.50	4.10	4.50	4.81			
529	The instructor was sensitive in handling gender issues and content.	5	4	6	0	0	8	3.88	4.00	4.33	4.67			

Written Comments

901 How can the instructor improve the teaching of this course?

Student 1
I think Jacob was an excellent GSI for this course. He was very approachable and never seemed overwhelmed when teams were asking him for help on questions he hadn't completed. He was good at explaining things in a clear way.

Student 2
Jacob was very helpful and patient. He held 4 hour office hours to give us a chance to ask questions.

Student 3
Jacob was a stellar GSI. He went above and beyond what I would expect to be asked of a GSI. Due to poor quality of the structure of the course, there was likely much more asked of Jacob than probably should have been

University of Michigan
Office of the Registrar - Evaluations
ro.umich.edu/evals/

Fall 2014 Final
23 students responded out of the total enrolled 29

Instructor with Comments Report
2014-11-26 - 2014-12-11   Report ID: MSR04734

Instructor: Yan,Xiang

UP 503 001

from students, but he always made time to help them out. He was mostly always available to meet, and was very patient and understanding with students frustration with the material and the courses instructor. Even with English not being his first language, Jacob did a great job of explaining material. Without Jacob, this class would have been much more difficult.

Student 4
NA

Student 5
Jacob did a good job in teaching. He had a good, thorough understanding of stats and always could solve my questions.

Student 6
NA

Student 7
NA

Student 8
NA

Student 9
Jacob was good but him in the professor were on two different pages. He was more understanding and reliable then the professor.

Student 10
I cannot thank Jacob enough for all the hard work he put into this course. He offered extensive office hour availability far beyond what is expected of other GSIs. He also clearly explained concepts during office hours. Jacob was also enthusiastic and realistic in his approach to the material. He cut the clutter when we over-thought formulas, and helped us focus on the key pieces of them.

Student 11
NA

Student 12
NA

Student 13
NA

Student 14
NA

Student 15
NA

Student 16
NA

Student 17
NA

Student 18
NA

University of Michigan
Office of the Registrar - Evaluations
ro.umich.edu/evals/

Fall 2014 Final
23 students responded out of the total enrolled 29

Instructor with Comments Report
2014-11-26 - 2014-12-11   Report ID: MSR04734

Instructor: Yan,Xiang

UP 503 001

Student 19
NA

Student 20
I cannot give enough praise to Jacob. He went above and beyond what was required of him to help any student who needed it. He seemed to be sacrificing extensive personal time to provide extra help for students. His explanations were methodical and thorough, and he was always engaged in making sure his answers were understood. He was proactive in preparing for student needs, and was engaged in trying to improve the course, and learning environment. He was an outstanding GSI!

Student 21
Form a study group to discuss questions

Student 22
Have a different teacher to work under. He wasn't given proper information from the teacher more than half the time, and was overworked. I feel so bad for him. He didn't know what was going on half of the time.

Student 23
The explanations of concepts that were unclear in class were great. Thanks!

Written Comments

908 Which aspects of this course were most valuable?

Student 1
Although some students weren't comfortable working mainly in groups, I found this style of learning helpful. I appreciated how the examples that we used in class directly related to modern planning. It was clear that Professor Dewar spent a great deal of time putting the team exercises together.

Student 2
NA

Student 3
This course either needs to be totally revamped, or not taught in the program at all. The option of taking stats outside of the program should be offered. It felt at times as an undergrad course that only "taught" what standard deviation and chi square, etc. are. Problem was, these subjects weren't even taught, we were expected to learn them completely on our own outside of class from the book (which was confusing) and from Kahn Academy. While Kahn Academy was a decent source, students should not have to pay high UM tuition to be taught statistics from an online resource that they can get for free. The absolute lack of "teaching" that occurred in the course was endlessly frustrating. While it is understood that much of grad school is learning concepts on your own and applying them in class, a introductory stats course should not be conducted in a such a way. A balance of application and teacher would be better, with at least some instruction occurring. It being graduate school, more time being taken to teach HOW to apply the material discussed in class to our future careers would have been helpful, such as how to use/apply the formulas in excel, like we will professionally. While I understand that learning what the formulas means is important, being able to actually apply them would help. When the instructors for 504 came and talked to class about UP505, they said we would probably use no more than ~10% or 15% of what were doing in 503 in 504, that seems like a waste of our time. Group work and application problems are better than having a lecture on stats for an entire class, but there has to be middle ground. There is a difference between LECTURING and TEACHING. The teacher almost never, if at all, actually walked through a problem or subject on a white board or chalk board, and this would have been extremely helpful. As practically nothing was actually "taught" in class, students were left to be taught material they didn't understand from fellow students in their groups. That is, IF the other students even understood the material. It is not other students jobs to teach course material. Group learning is one thing, but the fact the course was handled by Kahn Academy and the book and student groups, with only the material being chosen by the instructor for the day, seemed very lazy on the instructors part. Frankly, I expected much more from a graduate level class at the University of Michigan. There were times when the class made me feel choosing this program was not a good for me and I didn't belong in this program (though I realize now it was the course, not me).

Student 4
NA

Student 5
I appreciate Margi's practical way to combine stats and planning, although sometimes it is a little bit farfetched. I learnt how to conduct a sampling and how to evaluate a survey if it is valid or reliable.

University of Michigan
Office of the Registrar - Evaluations
ro.umich.edu/evals/

Fall 2014 Final
23 students responded out of the total enrolled 29

Instructor with Comments Report

2014-11-26 - 2014-12-11   Report ID: MSR04734

Instructor: Yan,Xiang

UP 503 001

Student 6
NA

Student 7
NA

Student 8
NA

Student 9
I don't know I didn't learn anything in this class

Student 10
The use of computer software in applications of the statistical methods we learned from the textbook, would have been the most valuable takeaway from this course. However this aspect of the course was an after thought and largely not present. Multiple times in my current internship I have had to teach myself how to use new functions of MS Excel that I have later learned were taught in UP 503 last year. Additionally, in UP 506 and 510, there were multiple occasions when the instructors for those courses were surprised to learn we had not covered certain statistical functions in MS Excel, that had been expected.

Student 11
NA

Student 12
NA

Student 13
NA

Student 14
NA

Student 15
NA

Student 16
NA

Student 17
NA

Student 18
NA

Student 19
NA

Student 20
I think this course needs a complete restructuring. I understand the intention behind the group work method, but it was not a productive use of class time. The only reinforcement of the material I received was my review of the problem sets outside of class, and the Khan academy videos. The in class problem sets were seldom a useful review, because I couldn't reinforce the material as much as I needed in a group setting. It would have been great if work in Excel was more strongly incorporated. It was only an aside. I didn?t have time for it with the amount of preparation required to teach myself the material. I appreciate the intention of analysing applied

University of Michigan
Office of the Registrar - Evaluations
ro.umich.edu/evals/

Fall 2014 Final
23 students responded out of the total enrolled 29

Instructor with Comments Report
2014-11-26 - 2014-12-11   Report ID: MSR04734

Instructor: Yan,Xiang

UP 503 001

statistics as it relates to planning, but I feel like applications should be taught in more systematic way. I feel like a lot of our discussions were incomplete or ill formed. It seemed like a round-about way to learn, and wasn't very methodical. It was a challenge to reconcile my perceived course expectations with the graded material. I think a better format for this course would be a lecture/lab combination.

Student 21
We can learn how to use statistics to do the research.

Student 22
NOTHING. THIS WAS AWFUL. Future students should never be forced to take intro to stats in the planning department and should be able to take it in any other program. This was the worst experience of my life. I may not even pass this class.

Student 23
The textbook was very good at explaining concepts in an easy-to-understand fashion.

* The quartiles are calculated from Fall 2014 data. The university-wide quartiles are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college quartiles in this report are based on students in Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning.

** SA - Strongly Agree, A - Agree, N - Neutral, D - Disagree, SD - Strongly Disagree, NA - Not Applicable.