

Project Title: **2018-2019 (Fall 2018) Bowdoin Course Questionnaires**

Project Audience: **8**

Responses Received: **8**

Response Ratio: **100%**

Subject Details

DEPARTMENT

Mathematics

SECTION

C

Report Comments

This report contains both numeric analysis and content of comments of the course questionnaires from Fall 2018 for the course identified above. As you review these results, I encourage you to keep in mind the following:

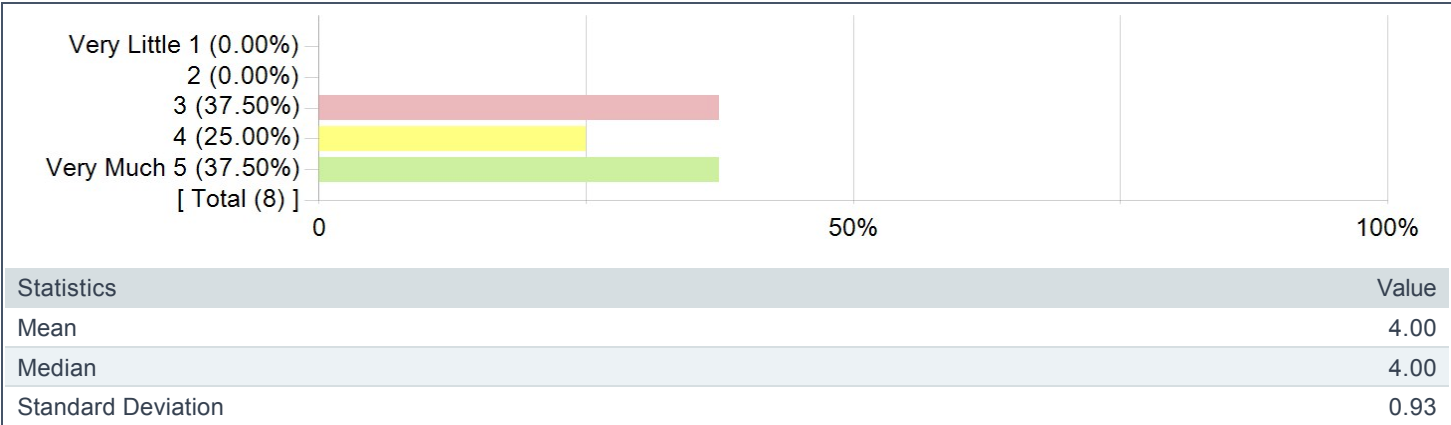
- Bowdoin Course Questionnaires are intended to provide you with useful feedback on your courses and to help you approach improvements or refinements in future courses. While student responses on these questionnaires can sometimes seem contradictory or different from your own experience of the course, I urge you to remain open to the issues and insights they might offer as you reflect on your own teaching.
- Your department chair/program director will also receive access to your reports and is encouraged to follow up with you to offer support and guidance in interpreting these results.
- You should keep your reports in your files. For tenure-line faculty and continuing lecturers, course questionnaires are an important part of the evaluative process and will be included as part of the reappointment and promotion reviews, as well as any subsequent reviews. For visiting and adjunct faculty, these may be important to your candidacy for future positions.
- With regard to course questionnaires, you may want to review Section V.L. (Procedures for Administration and Use of the Course Questionnaires) and Section IV (Policies and Procedures Governing Appointment, Reappointment, Promotion, Tenure, and Faculty Evaluation) of The Faculty Handbook.
- I am available to any faculty member for consultation and advice, as is associate dean Rachel Beane (rbeane@bowdoin.edu). Please feel free to reach out to either of us if you would like to discuss your reports.

Elizabeth McCormack
Dean for Academic Affairs

Creation Date: **Thu, Jan 03, 2019**

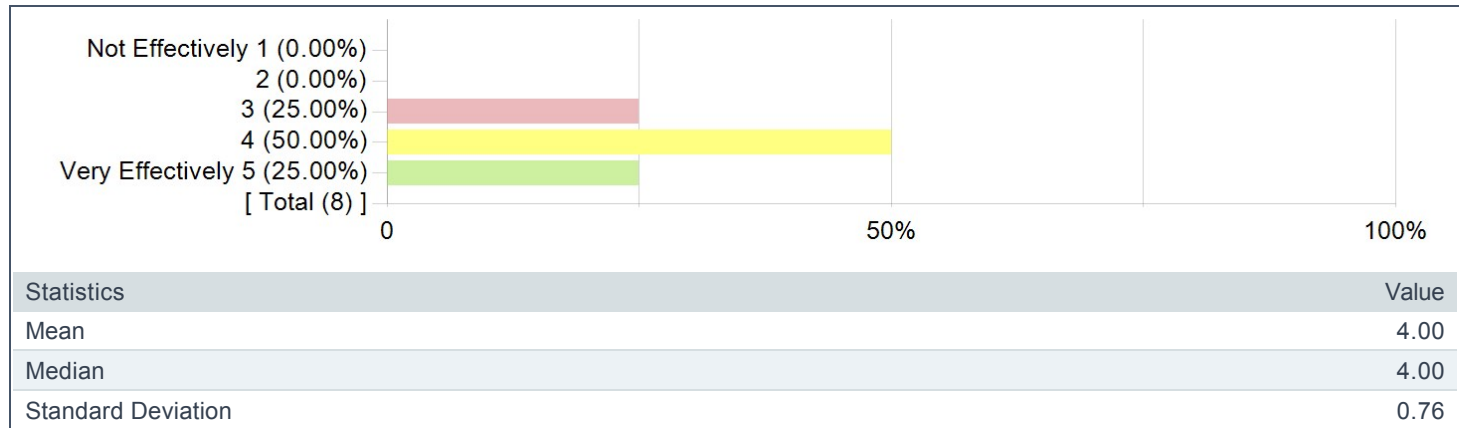
Frequency Analysis

How much did this course contribute to your education?



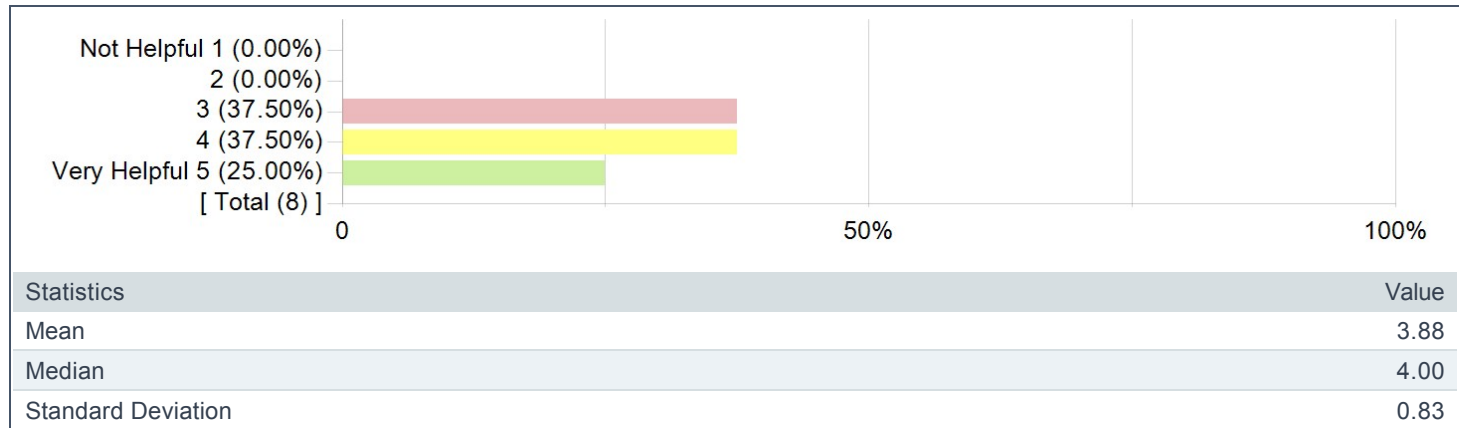
Comment
- Yeah I learned a lot from this class, growing intellectually. I was very challenged, since this course was really new to me
- This was a challenging course and helpful to my academic career. It made me think in a different way than I have before and helped me develop my quantitative skills.
- Math is my favorite subject and I loved learning about the more practical uses of it.
- I really learned a lot in this course. The course was definitely very challenging. I felt that the professor taught the course so well and supported our learning so well that I was able to learn a lot.
- I feel like I learned a lot and definitely was challenged. However, I am not sure how much the content in the course contributed to my overall education as often it is difficult to learn how the concepts are applied outside of the classroom.

How effectively did the instructor make use of class sessions to advance your learning?



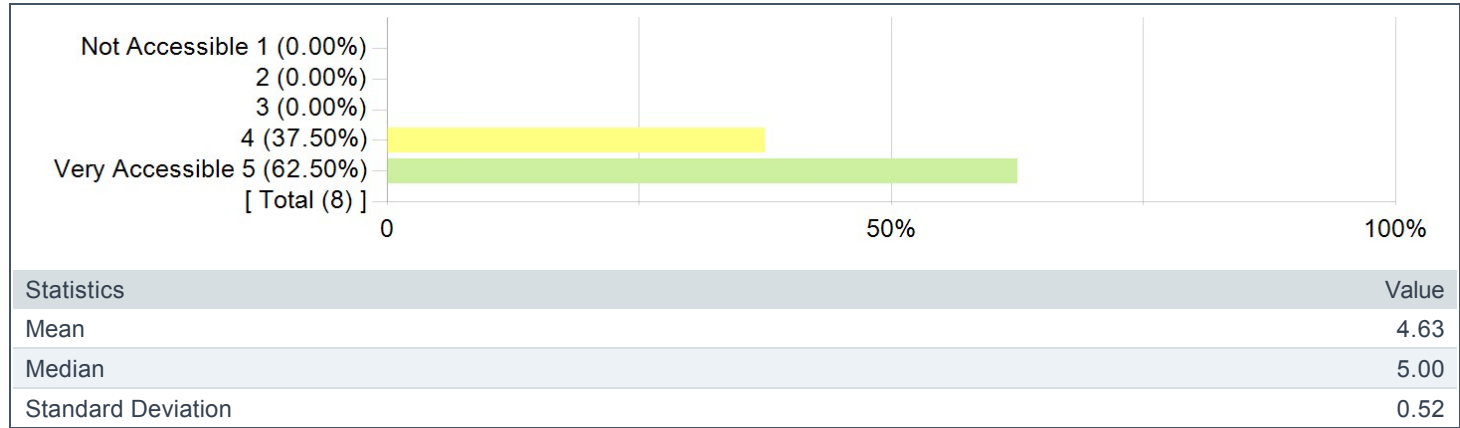
Comment
- review sessions were not as useful: would recommend having guided work time instead.
- Sometimes the lectures were difficult to follow. He improved towards the end of the semester. It was more helpful when he would explain the topic, give a specific example, and then go through it again.
- I think he may have been too effective, going a bit too fast so I had trouble keeping up a lot of times. I had to attend many office hours
- Although sometimes he would go off on tangents or get confused about something, generally Professor Chowdhury made good use of class time, although he was a little less organized than math professors I have had in the past.
- Sometimes the classes were a little open ended, but overall, I learned a lot.
- The professor is a very good lecturer. I think that his teaching style is very effective. He goes at an appropriate pace and he explains concepts very clearly. I particularly like that he goes through examples in class and asks questions from the class as he does so. Every class was very engaging and he was attentive to whether we were on the same page as a class or confused.
- Professor Chowdhury did a good job budgeting class time and moving through the material.

How helpful to your learning was the feedback you received in the course?



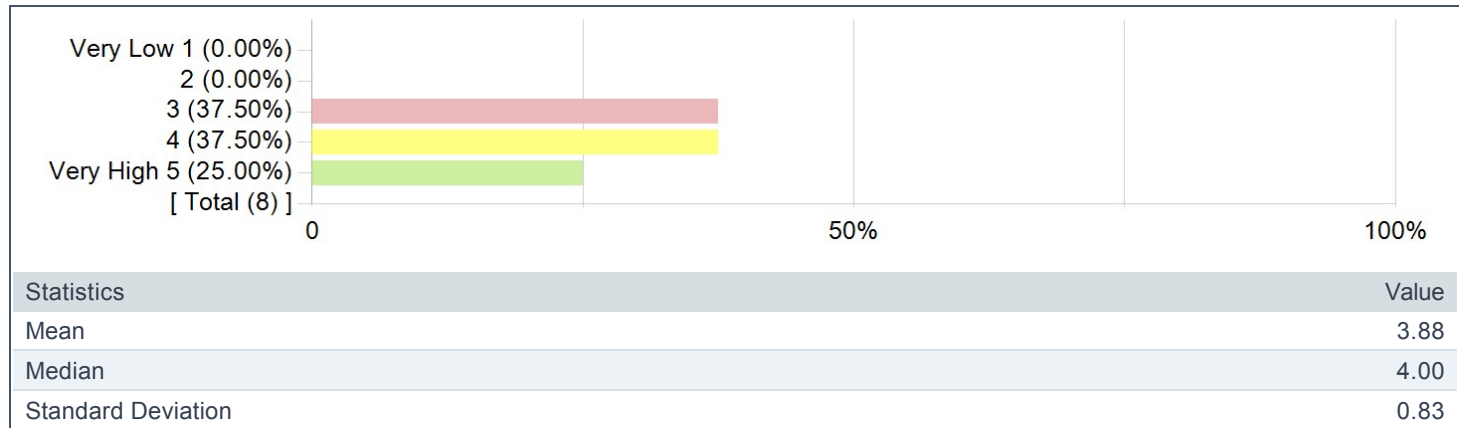
Comment
- I found the exams to be somewhat difficult and often didn't know what to expect, or didn't feel like the course prepared me for the exams. I also did not like the group projects
- I reacted to his feedback on the tests, but it still wasn't very helpful in my advancement in the course
- We went over a lot of questions. That was very helpful.
- The feedback on the homework assignments were helpful, but sometimes I found errors in the grading. The homework assignments were graded by a teaching assistant/student, not the professor. I also wish the homework assignments were given back in a more timely fashion. By the time I receive the homework assignments back, I find that I have forgotten a lot of what I have done. The feedback on the exams and quizzes have been very helpful and I appreciate how the professor takes time to go over the exam in class.
- The comments on problem sets were definitely helpful. I also think that going over the exams as a class was helpful as well.

How accessible was the instructor outside of class?



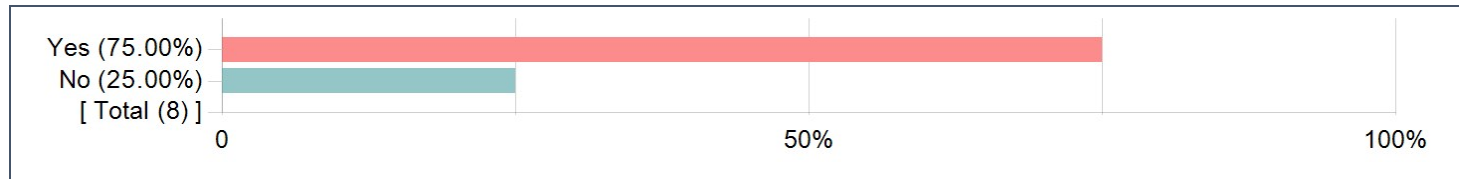
Comment
- Always available for office hours and quick to respond on email
- Very accessible, pretty helpful during office hours
- Always ready to help!!
- One of the things I appreciated most about this course was office hours. I went to office hours very often and I found it to be so so helpful. He was always willing to meet outside of class. The professor was accessible both by email and office hours. Sometimes I found it difficult to get all of my questions because it was so crowded during office hours. I really appreciated how quickly the professor responded to my emails even when it was pretty late in the evening.
- He was very accessible in office hours, though at times there would be a lot of students there so it could be tough to get individual help.

What is your overall rating of the instructor as a teacher?

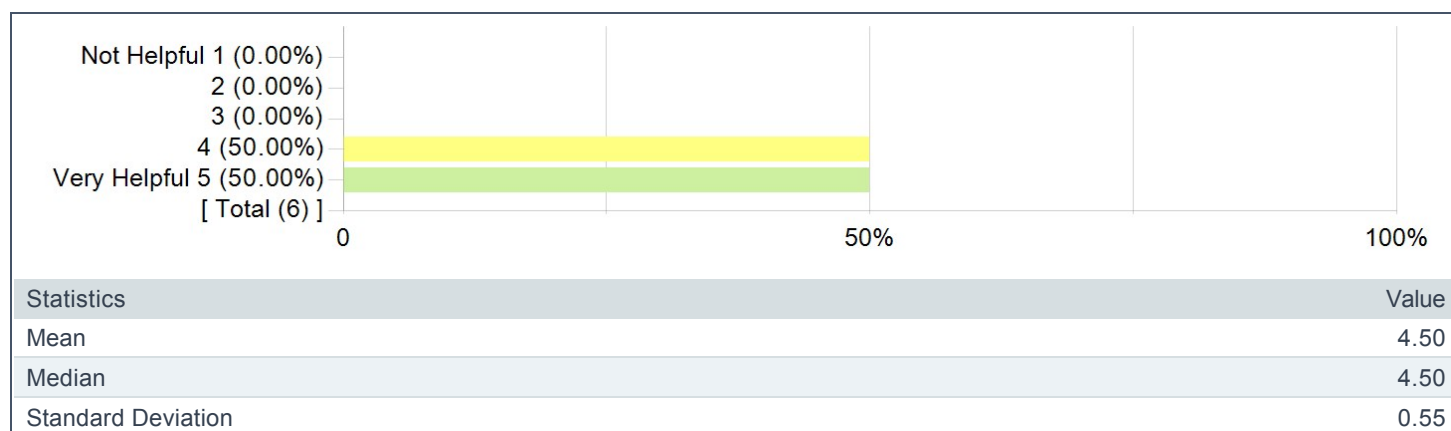


Comment
- When he slows down and takes the time to make sure everyone understands, he explains things very well. However, sometimes I felt like I needed to go to office hours to have it explained again, because it wasn't clear in class the first time.
- Very difficult to follow in class oftentimes, and goes extremely fast paced
- Overall he was a pretty good professor. There were certain things that frustrated me about the way he assigned certain things (e.g. the lack of answer keys to practice problem sets, and the number of assignments he would have due in one day) but generally he was an effective professor who had our best interest in mind.
- I think Professor Chowdhury is one of the best professors I've had at Bowdoin so far.
- The qualities at the basis of my rating are accessibility, class lecture structure, and how well content was covered.

Did you communicate with the instructor outside of class?



How helpful to your learning were these communications with the instructor outside of class?



Comment	
- Office hours were surprisingly helpful, he helped me understand and complete a lot of homework questions I raised	
- He is nice and helpful outside of class.	
- Office hours are very helpful. He explains things very well in office hours if you don't fully understand them in class.	
- Professor Chowdhury was very helpful and willing to answer my questions. I really appreciated all of his help this semester. I don't think I could have done as well this semester without all of his help.	

What did you like best about the course? What suggestions would you offer?

Comments
I feel like the projects are not helpful in preparation for the exams. They are helpful in terms of the application of the materials that we have learned, but I think we can have less projects and especially we shouldn't have projects due on the same week of the exam. Otherwise, this course is great and I have learned a lot. The professor is really helpful and does his best to assist students throughout the course.
rigorous work schedule, also enjoyed that it was three days per week
I think I have expressed this in my previous comments
This course's workload was a lot. Talking to people in the other classes, we had many more assignments and projects. In class the professor is frequently hard to follow since the pace of the course is very fast paced. There was also way more work in this class than there needed to be, usually about 60% of my overall homework time each week is devoted to this course
For the most part the assignments were good (although I hated group projects and I feel like there should be a better way of doing them because I spent hours trying to understand them and sometimes they felt a bit irrelevant) and advanced my learning in the course. One thing that really bothered me though was the lack of answer keys for practice assignments. We would not have time to go over all of them in class and I have a lot of other work and thus sometimes was unable to do the practice handouts in time to see him for office hours. So when I was studying for tests sometimes I simply did not know how to do certain problems and without something to reference it was incredibly frustrating.
There were some classes where we had 4–5 problems sets due along with a group project and a quiz. That was a lot of pressure for one day, maybe spacing it out would be really helpful to the students.
I think that the pace of course was appropriate, not too fast and not too slow. I also thought that the way the course was organized worked really well. The amount of homework was usually the appropriate amount although there were a couple times when I thought it was too much.
I think that overall Professor Chowdhury was very accessible and did a good job making sure that we got through the content by the times we needed to. But we could have spent a bit more time on the basic concepts at the start of each unit, and lectures could have been a bit more clear/easy to follow. Also, we had a lot of homework/group projects some weeks – wish we had more spread out work so I could have spent more time on each.

Please describe your own level of effort in this course.

Comments
I would go to office hours every time I have a question and prepare for all the exams carefully.
differed from unit to unit; some i had completed in high school before, others very challenging
I put a lot of effort into this course. I felt like I had to go to office hours fairly often in order to do well in the class.
I put in a lot of effort this course, striving to do the best I could on every homework assignment, quiz, and test
I put a good deal of effort into this course. Although I didn't go to office hours as much as I should have, I spent a considerable amount of time on homeworks, group projects, and studying, and would consistently go to TA hours to try to figure out more difficult problems. I definitely struggled throughout the course but I put in effort.
I did all the homework, projects and practice problems and the class was the right amount of challenging.
I tried my very best in every aspect of the course: preparation assignments, homework assignments, group projects, participation/engagement in class, and studying for the test.
I think that I put a lot of effort into understanding the material of this course. I went to office hours and used the TA hours which were very helpful. I should have budgeted my time better on some of the problem sets though so I could have had time to ask more questions.