:: course evaluations ▪ ▪ ▫

University of Utah
Course and Instructor Evaluation Written Comments Report
Spring 2006

College/School: College of Science   **Print Date:** 23-May-06
Instructor: RASSOUL-AGHA,FIRAS;
Subject: Mathematics   **Course #:** 1040 - 001   **Enrollment:** 74
Course: Intro Stat Thinking   **Evaluations processed:** 55

List two things about the course content, materials or design that were effective for your learning, or make constructive suggestions for improvement.

- 1. use different materials to explain

- nothing

- lab

- They have a very organized system for running the course. The professor gave several examples to illustrate concepts effectively.

- I think a sylabus would be helpful

- Notes and course book were effective

- The assigments were often confusing and weren't like what we went over in class. The subjects were rushed through without full explanations.

- The assignments clearly reflected what was on the tests and the instructor provided us with practice exams before each test that helped aid in the studying process.

- The three day a week schedule with a lab as one class was a very nice part of the course. How the grading was set up though was horrible, having 4 exams, one of which is a comprehensive final being worth the same as the homework was bad. The fact the homework, despite the number of problems or difficulty was all graded out of 10 was also unfair. Every problem on the homework should have also been graded not just a few, with it being worth 20% of the grade I believe the professor should have put more effort into how it was taken care of.

- The only complaint I had about this course is the instructor went at a very fast pace. It felt more like a summer session class than a regular semester class. It would be nice if he slowed down a little to grasp the concepts.

- Statistics is a nonsensical subject and it would be best to not make it required for BA students.

- Good

- 1. Instrucor was knowledgable 2. no problems whatsoever

- The practice exams were very helpful

- I hated the text book. I felt like the information was extremely hard to locate. I.e. finding examples in the book corresponding to homework problems. It was like reading a novel. I had a hard time doing the homework out of the book- it took me hours to finish 10 problems.

- 1. I really enjoyed and felt the internet supplements really helped such as: the door games and mock tests. 2. I also found doing examples then showing us how it works was helpful. We were able to understand the concept before the math was involved. Thank you

- I felt that the notes were scattered and the exams were hard to prepare for because of the material given. It was hard to know what was expected.

- Discussions in class were prepared and made sense while professor was talking. However, the book was very hard to follow along and understand. Another issue was that I couldn't really understand what my teacher was saying. Which in turn made me concentrate harder to understand what he was saying rather than learning the material.

- Firas' website has been awesome! Thank you for it!

- assignments were not explained well

- 1.) The assigned book was easy to understand and read. 2.) I don't like the way the class was set up. There was no room for any dumb mistakes that almost everyone makes on occcasion. I feel it would have been better if there was a five percent grade cusion that allowed for attendance or maybe a paper on a mathamatician just in case you mess up on one of the problems on the test, you can know your grade isn't completly shot.

- Statistics is by far the hardest math I've ever had to take, but the only one I could see myself using knowledge gleaned from at a party.

RASSOUL-AGHA,FIRAS: List two things about this instructor that were effective for your learning, or make constructive suggestions for improvement.

- more clear lecturing skills, don't jump around from one concept to the other

- 1. explain things in order 2. slow down

- nothing

- lab

- I really liked this teacher. He made a subject that I don't particularly like more fun. He was very knowledgeable of this subject!!!! He was good about posting things on the internet and was very student friendly! His class was challenging, but he taught it well!

- The professor was in general very professional and focused. He came a bit late on occassion--but otherwise, everything was fine.

- Made sure everuone knew whats going on. explained everything pretty detailed and often.

- He taught straight from the book, which I like, but he didn't really expound on the book material. I think I learned more from the book then from the instructor.

- He was not able to present the material in a way that the students could understand it well. He did know his material very well, but could not convey it.

- The instructor was good but it would also be good to stop more often and make sure everyone is understanding and on the same page. Encourage questions more!

- The instructor was very knowledgeable about the material but could have been more efficient in teaching it to the class.

- The professor did not do a good job of making sure the information was presented clearly. He knew what he was talking about, but it did not get explained well. Then the grading on the exams was highly arbitrary, the low number of point availible made it very difficult to do well, and over all I think the TA was more helpful than the profesor.

- Professor Rassoul-Agha is clearly a genius, but he went way too fast! This makes it especially difficult to understand at 8:30 in the morning

- good

- 1. no problems 2. great job

- great teaching techniques explains things very clear,

- I feel like Firas moved way too fast, probably because there was a lot of material. But i had to just memorize what we were doing and not actually learn it because i didn't have time to sit down and go over it.- even with the T.A. sessions.

- You could truly tell that firas was truly concerned that all of us understand the concepts at hand. He tried to set up the examples in many different ways as to make it so everyone could understand or apply the concept into real life situations that we can use in the future.

- Good instructor who connected well with the students. He presented the material in an easy-to-understand fashion.

- The instructor showed that he knew how to do the problem but had a hard time explaining it. His notes were scattered and not very organized. Some days he wasn't as prepared as he could have been so he took most of the class time doing calculations instead of having the solution and continuing on. When questions were asked he would answer but if it was something that needed to be done out of class, it was given to the TA.

- Sometimes in discussions, he would tell us how to do something, but not really explain why we would do this. There was no background to what would make us do this. Also, it was hard to understand him, which made learning difficult.

- It's obvious that Firas is brilliant. And even though he's only teaching this low level class he is capable not only of the knowledge but also the ability to teach. First Rate

- a little bit hyper needs to calm down and explain things more clearly so its not just himself that understands what he is saying but so the students do too

- A little boring at times not alot of class interaction

- 1.) I think he needs to be a bit more prepared for class and maybe try to arrive early to answer questions instead of right as the class starts. 2.) All answers to any problem presented on the board should be solved PRIOR to the class. We should not have to compute and re-compute the problems he should know the answer and not waste class figuring it out.

- Firas is a genius, but often goes way too fast.