

Course and Instructor Feedback Report for:  
College of Science Mathematics for Spring 2010

1070 - 001

RASSOUL-AGHA,FIRAS

University of Utah  
Course and Instructor Feedback Report  
Spring 2010

Intro Stat Inference  
Mathematics  
College of Science

Print Date:22-May-10  
Enrollment:92  
Forms processed:67

UU Standard Course Items	N	SD	D	MD	MA	A	SA	Avg	S.Avg
1. The course objectives were clearly stated.	66	7.6%	1.5%	4.5%	21.2%	40.9%	24.2%	4.59	5.18
2. The course objectives were met.	66	7.6%	4.5%	4.5%	22.7%	34.8%	25.8%	4.50	5.13
3. The course content was well organized.	64	7.8%	10.9%	9.4%	28.1%	25.0%	18.8%	4.08	5.07
4. The course materials were helpful in meeting course objectives.	65	6.2%	6.2%	9.2%	24.6%	32.3%	21.5%	4.35	4.94
5. Assignments and exams reflected what was covered in the course.	66	4.5%	1.5%	3.0%	10.6%	39.4%	40.9%	5.02	5.11
6. I learned a great deal in this course.	66	9.1%	4.5%	4.5%	27.3%	30.3%	24.2%	4.38	4.98
7. Overall, this was an effective course.	67	10.4%	3.0%	3.0%	28.4%	34.3%	20.9%	4.36	4.97
Composite score: 4.47    Subject composite score: 5.05									

UU Standard Instructor Items Rassoul-Agha,Firas	N	SD	D	MD	MA	A	SA	Avg	S.Avg
1. The instructor was organized.	63	12.7%	4.8%	9.5%	33.3%	28.6%	11.1%	3.94	5.14
2. The instructor demonstrated thorough knowledge of the subject.	63	6.3%	1.6%	4.8%	14.3%	39.7%	33.3%	4.79	5.36
3. The instructor presented course content effectively.	63	9.5%	6.3%	20.6%	25.4%	27.0%	11.1%	3.87	4.94
4. The instructor created/supported a classroom environment that was respectful.	63	4.8%	1.6%	4.8%	22.2%	36.5%	30.2%	4.75	5.21
5. As appropriate, the instructor encouraged questions and opinions.	63	6.3%	6.3%	4.8%	14.3%	30.2%	38.1%	4.70	5.18
6. The instructor was available for consultation with students.	63	6.3%	1.6%	9.5%	11.1%	34.9%	36.5%	4.76	5.24
7. Overall, this was an effective instructor.	63	6.3%	4.8%	7.9%	31.7%	23.8%	25.4%	4.38	5.09
Composite score: 4.46    Subject composite score: 5.17									

N = number of responses

SD = Strongly Disagree (response value 1)

D = Disagree (response value 2)

MD = Mildly Disagree (response value 3)

MA = Mildly Agree (response value 4)

A = Agree (response value 5)

SA = Strongly Agree (response value 6)

S.Avg = Subject-wide Average for this item

**DISCLAIMER:** Subject composite scores are current as of the date of this report, but may be revised if additional feedback forms are processed.

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

suggestions for improvement.

The slides weren't bad, but it didn't have anything to do with what was on the homework. I liked how the test questions came from the homework.

Appreciate the passion of instructor and his dedication and appreciation for statistics, especially for probability.

Instructor open to questions and very responsive. Constructively, it is very helpful for instructor and his TA marking papers that keys are correct, as errors on Keys have made it challenging. Notably, the instructor has been available for tutoring and one on one is empowering to the student.

The teacher was great at coming up with his own examples to make his points.

He was well organized with his notes, and they were available for personal use (printing, etc.).

At first, this class was confusing and the material was set up most effectively but once you understood the system it wasn't too difficult. Overall the material was easy to understand but it was difficult at first.

Lecture notes available online. In-class demos of software applications.

the slides that had all the notes was the most effective tool that i had at learning the material.

I thought the instructor could use some organization skills. But i really liked how much the assignments helped with the tests.

Professor Rassoul-Agha was wonderful, patient with student's questions and available for help when needed. The Excel portions were overwhelming at first, but very constructive and useful. I was nervous for this class, but I not only excelled, but enjoyed the content and class time. The Professor made the material applicable and broke down difficult concepts into manageable chunks of information.

He needs to be more clear. The lectures are too all over the place. He jumps from slide to slide and he's really hard to understand. I had to go home and teach myself the math because he doesn't really teach it.

If you attend class and do the homework this class is not difficult but will teach you the basics needed to learn about stats.

This class taught me the basics of statistics and helped in solving problems relating to real life statistical values.

What was helpful is that our tests were taken from the homework so the tests weren't as stressful as I had heard Statistics would be.

The practice questions and the examples on the board were the most helpful.

Having typos in the homework and having to redo assignments was a bit of a nuisance but I soon got used to it. I would suggest that the professor make his own slides or at least edit them to his specifications. The flipping back and forth was distracting and hard to follow.

Powerpoints were good, but needed to be better organized.

good, easy to follow. needs more thorough powerpoints

I like how the homework related to the test and he was very straightforward in his dealings with the students.

sd

There was information provided online to help us with homework. I learned a lot of things in this class.

I think that the powerpoint slides were helpful, although I wish there were more examples of problems. The HW problems were helpful, but they often covered things we didnt talk about in class. I think it was great that I didn't need a textbook for this class. That saved me a lot of money. I like the set up of the lectures, but I wish we had some time to do some group work and ask more questions. I think the exams were very fair. I wish that EXPLANATIONS on HW assignments were posted and not just the key. There were some problems that I could just not figure out how to do.

The book is not necessary in this class, as the professor provided more than enough material to learn the course material. I am glad that I did not buy the book.

The class was laid out very poorly. Slideshows that were supposed to "aid" in lecture really just made the lectures more confusing because the teacher did his own version of them instead.

eh its math. it's not most enjoyable but it was ok. not a terrible course. i liked the format of the exams. however..i would of liked webworks for the homework assignments rather than paper homework because with webworks we have a chance of getting 100 percent on our assignments and it also lets us know immediately if we are doing a problem wrong. that way we know to correct it. with paper assignments we dont know until they are graded and who cares after they get it back and its wrong? honestly. try webworks and excel on paper. that would be more effective.

Slides were posted on the internet along with equation sheets and charts. These were very helpful. A book should have been required because they help to understand more what is discussed in class.

Homework needed to be shorter, took me almost 4-5+ hours per homework. Also, have not only answers in Hw solutions on webpage, but also the work needed to do the problems step by step.
Sometimes course materials felt a little disorganized. A supplemental instruction session for this course would have been really helpful.
I thought it was nice to have the power points available to us for the course lectures.
Book and lectures didn't correlate
The slide shows were helpful but it would be more helpful to have a little more detail about how to do the problems and have slides about using excel
I had hard time understanding his lectures because of the language barrier. He also seemed all over the place when explaining subjects.
The instructor needs to stick to what he says. multiple times He had told us how things would work and what to expect, yet he did not follow through. towards the end of the semester, coursework was more organized but it definitely didn't start out that way.
I liked the idea behind the software homework, but I think there is a better way to learn the material. I think that the textbook is very helpful and should be recommended.
RASSOUL-AGHA, FIRAS: List two things about this instructor that were effective for your learning, or make constructive suggestions for improvement.
He can be jumpy when lecturing but he will normally clarify by the end of the lecture. If you are still confused he will go over anything during his office hours or answer emails very quickly.
He was always available for extra help after class.
He was great at responding to students' emails with questions.
He knew the subject but explained it in a pretty disjointed manner. The slides he used weren't very organized. I guess they were previously prepared by someone else and he changed things during the lecture from what the slides said but it would have been more helpful had he organized the powerpoints according to how he wanted them to be BEFORE coming to class. He rarely came to class on time so that needs to change. I think he seemed pretty concerned about us students- that we learn and do well so that was good. He didn't try to trick us on the tests- he seemed to do all he could to help us pass the class. I had a few people to study with every week so it wasn't so bad for me that his teaching style was difficult to follow. However, if there were any students who didn't have study partners, it would have been hard to pass the class because he had such a disjointed teaching style. It was frequently confusing. He started answering one question or explaining a certain concept and didn't finish it before going to the next. Just hard to follow but still he was concerned that we do well and he seemed to care.
His board examples were great and he was easy to understand. He always clarified what he was saying.
Sometimes it seemed like he couldn't complete one sentence. He would change ideas in the middle of a thought. I'll be honest, I mentioned to a friend that when they take stats they should try to get into a different teacher's class.
Easy to follow, cares about students
He explained things at a very basic level, which is necessary at an introductory course.
1. The instructor always responded questions I emailed to him very promptly.
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He was able to provide the information we needed and answer any questions we had about the material.
Firas was extremely nice. He was very quick to respond via email since we didn't have any extra help from TA's or discussion sections. He was always nice and stayed after class to answer questions. He was fair and understanding when there were disagreements on homework problems. He is a great teacher and I think I learned a good basic knowledge of stats from him
This is one of the best math instructors I have had in a long time. I learned more in this class than I generally do in a math course.
The professor is always helpful, really willing to answer questions, even late at night via e-mail. I highly suggest students take stats from this professor if they want to learn.
Firas laid out the material in the course in a very confusing manner. Instead of calmly going through all the lecture material, he bounced back and forth from beginning to end in almost every lecture which made it extremely hard for me to follow.
Good instructor however! he is the type of guy who is so dang excited about math and has sooo much to say about it he doesn't have time to say it or he gets so carried away with wanting to say 50 things at once we dont understand what the hell is going on. sometimes it was a bit tiring to wait for him to finally get to the point but i respect that because it shows that he really loves what he does. but i would of liked it if he was a bit more organized in his speech. provide more examples. i see this is hard with stats considering every problem you do takes some extensive timing. but slow it down, organize your game plan, and show us how its done....preferably within one class period. haha. but the assignments were sometimes a bit wordy and

hard to understand...just like the prof. hmmm. thats a thought....
Great professor and always willing to help! Very smart too
He is very smart and a very nice professor but he jumped around a lot and would switch what he would say about something so I was confused quite a bit. Other than that test material came from the homework so if I understood the homework I would do good on the tests.
Sometimes he jumped around on the slides which was confusing and it was hard for me to follow. He did try to present the material in a number of different ways so all the students could understand which was good.
I never understood the importance of what we were doing in this class. I think it would be helpful to know how this subject matter is important and what it means
Hard to understand sometimes for me at least
1) He answered all questions 2) It was a little confusing when he taught what to do and what not to do
I liked having all of the information available on the website. it might it very easy to follow.
It was frustrating that before we had turned in the current homework or took the current test, Our professor would continue on with the next chapter. He never gave us days to review with us. I felt like he needed to slow down when teaching us a new concept. let us ask questions, and walk us through more than one example if needed. He taught the course work, but he didn't teach it TO US.
He was kind of confusing to follow. It would be nice if he would go over the same examples that he did but also some that looked more like the ones that would be on the homework. And for the homework solution guide he should have put how to do each problem not just the answer.
He went back and forth too much. He jumped from one idea to another too quickly. He wasn't very organized in his lectures.
He tried to to make sure everyone understood and was always receptive to questions. He did lots of in-class demos.
When he was teaching he overcomplicated a lot of things. It would be better not to get off explaining things that had little to do with what we needed to know, in class, so that people do not get confused. I mostly used the slides to learn the material because it was straightforward and clear.
I thought the math lab helped a lot and went to it often. I also thought the material was presented well in the tests and assignments.
He was a really nice teacher he was just disorganized when he would be going over a problem. It would be more effective if knew what information was on what slide and didn't back track most of the time. Some of what he taught was confusing because it was jumbled up in lecture.