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University of Utah
Course and Instructor Evaluation Written Comments Report
Fall 2005

College/School: College of Science **Print Date:** 18-Jan-06
Instructor: RASSOUL-AGHA,FIRAS;
Subject: Mathematics **Course #:** 5090 - 001 **Enrollment:** 9
Course: Stat'l Inference II **Evaluations processed:** 9

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

- He did not word the test problems in an understandable way. It's difficult to answer the question, if you don't know exactly what it is asking. The format of his questions were a lot different from the homework problems so it was difficult to study for the exams. The lecture notes were hard to follow and 3 hour lectures are too long. It's nice that the quizzes count as a bonus.
- It was always good to be able to come to office hours and have our questions answered promptly
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- The test standards were not indicative of the amount of material that students in general learned. Although the tests seemed similar to the material studied in the textbook and hence in lecture, the exam materials seemed difficult to understand and students, I think, had difficulty relating the exams to what they had studied and learned.
- The course content didn't follow what the previous course ended at the beginning, but it was covered later after some suggestions. The lecture materials didn't exactly match the book materials, yet they were still useful materials.

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

- He was in his office during his office hours, but it is hard to try to learn the material 1 hour before the quiz/exam. He should have moved his office hours to a different time/day. He was available for help only on occasion outside his office hour. I realize he is new, it's hard to become accustomed to this schools style of teaching, but I do not feel that he presented this material as effectively as possible and I would've learned more if I had a different instructor.
- Sometimes the instructor confused us by figuring things out the long way using material from 5010 and 5080, but he lost focus of the material we were supposed to be focusing on. Also, 3 hours is WAY too long to sit through lecture, either let us out early or give us several breaks.

- Professor Rassoul-Agha was very interested and knowledgeable in course material.
- The exams, although related to the course material, were not effective in allowing students to demonstrate a knowledge of what they actually knew. This problem was amplified by the problem that Professor Aghaf did not give out partial credit easily. In fact, small details or errors on exams resulted in much lower grades than what I believe would have been fair. BAsically, I would reevaluate the grading structure of exams, and/or tailor study materials to reflect what would actually be on a test.
- Perhaps this is the first time for the instructor to teach this course, so there were a lot of confusion in the beginning of the course from the lectures. The instructor was willing to make changes instead of doing what he intended, which made the second half of the course a lot better than the first half of the course.
- We had a tough start but he kept at it until we learned the material