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**University of Utah**  
**Course and Instructor Evaluation Written Comments Report**  
**Fall 2006**

**College/School:** College of Science **Print Date:** 04-Jan-07  
**Instructor:** RASSOUL-AGHA,FIRAS;  
**Subject:** Mathematics **Course #:** 5090 - 001 **Enrollment:** 11  
**Course:** Stat'l Inference II **Evaluations processed:** 11

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

- I don't think we covered all of the material. On the course website, homework problems were listed for Chapter 16 and we did not start that chapter. Homework assignments and quizzes were very helpful in re-enforcing the material from lecture.
- During lectures the professor used real number examples and went over homework questions anytime it was needed. This was very helpful for the learning process. Also the professor was very knowledgeable about the subject taught.
- Professor Rassoul-Agha was excellent, but I think one can (if they want to be picky) make two gripes: 1 : I think the textbook is pretty good content-wise, but a math book should be beautiful. This one, however, is not very precisely typeset. In my view, the old book by Craig and Hogg is (although at a slightly lower level) somewhat better in presentation of ideas and no worsely typeset. The text by Casella and Berger is pleasing to the eye and more rigorous, which leads to my second gripe. 2 : Although Chapter 12 (hypothesis testing) was terrific, the rest of the material was somewhat disappointing. I'm sure the post-chapter-12 stuff is useful, but it, to me, just wasn't very interesting. I'd rather have spent time learning something more difficult and which I'd have a harder time teaching myself. Also, I don't see that working problems is clearly superior to writing proofs for a class such as this. Note that neither of these two gripes is directed at Professor Rassoul-Agha, because the book and the content are mostly departmental routine. They are directed to the department (not rudely, I hope).
- All examples given in class were practical, not just theoretical. This made it much easier to do homework problems on my own.

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

- Attention to student questions outside the classroom was excellent. I received detailed responses to my questions via e-mail and, when necessary, Firas was available and willing to meet with me in-person. Lectures were at times unorganized and incomplete. I think that if a significant portion of the lecture consists of examples, then those examples should be thought through completely before the actual lecture. There were several examples that were confusing because they were not correct the first time through.
- This professor was great at taking time to counsel the students, listen to suggestions and presented the material very effectively. It would be helpful if the professor took time to make solutions available for homework problems.
- Firas was very willing to help us understand when we came to him during office hours. He was also not at all condescending, like some professors I have had. I felt like he cared if we did a good job.