Comments Report for Spring 2012, MATH 5090 Statl Inference II Section 1

Instructor: RASSOUL-AGHA, FIRAS (Primary)

Instructor	Student Disposition	Text Responses
		Question: List two things about the course content, materials or design that were effective for your learning, or make constructive suggestions for improvement.
		Good homework problems assigned from the book. Because of the extra time Firas spent on Nonparametric methods, I feel I really mastered that aspect of the course. Enjoyed the course notes Firas transcribed (that section he did put online).
		1 pro is friendly 2 pro is patient
		I could have perhaps benefited more from graded homework.
		The book was actually nice in this class. The set-up from the class was, overall, helpful in learning the material. The online notes were awesome. I understand it's hard to keep up tex-ing the notes, but they were really really helpful while they lasted. The fact that there is no homework is on one hand nice because you are forced to keep track of yourself, meaning you become 100% responsible for what you do outside of class. On the other hand it is discouraging that the exams are worth so much.
		I liked that we followed the book pretty closely -- it allowed for us to get two points of view on each topic. It would be helpful if you made your notes available to the class, even if you don't have time to type them up (although typing is much more effective)
		Question: List two things about this instructor that were effective for your learning, or make constructive suggestions for improvement.
RASSOUL-AGHA		Would appreciate having more than one office hour per week. Good instructor.
RASSOUL-AGHA		1 lecture note is good 2 book is good
RASSOUL-AGHA		I sometimes had trouble following the instructor on the blackboard-- his style at times could be all over the board. He was always happy to clarify things, however, and it was clear that he took a genuine interest in his students' comprehension.
RASSOUL-AGHA		Firas is a very nice person and overall a very up-beat and straightforward instructor. He is always very eager and happy to explain things or go over things as many times as needed. I like that he places a lot of importance in letting the student know it's OK to be confused by the material because you don't become an expert on it on the first try. He is also very honest about the fact he also does not know every single formula and proof by heart, so he doesn't expect you to do that. He wants you to learn and honestly tries to teach it to you well. When teaching, it was easy for him to become disorganized, meaning it wasn't hard to get confused. At times this made him appear unprepared, which was even more confusing. I think he made up for it, though. He always explained things thoroughly, and when he felt something was confusing students he would make an effort to go over it again, explaining it in as many ways as he could so we could understand it.