

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2022
Alexander Marsh, ECON 370-001 ECON APPLICATION DATA SCIENCE
Mode: IP (In Person)

Raters	Students
Responded	13
Invited	30
Response Ratio	43.3%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.15	4.00	0.90	13	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	46.2%	38.5%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.85	5.00	0.38	13	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	84.6%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.54	5.00	0.52	13	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	46.2%	53.8%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.23	4.00	0.83	13	0.0%	0.0%	23.1%	30.8%	46.2%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.31	5.00	0.95	13	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	30.8%	53.8%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.46	5.00	0.66	13	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	38.5%	53.8%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.38	4.00	0.65	13	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	46.2%	46.2%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.31	5.00	1.11	13	0.0%	15.4%	0.0%	23.1%	61.5%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.08	4.00	0.95	13	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	38.5%	38.5%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.

N	Yes	No
13	100.0%	0.0%

Open-Ended Responses

1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Fall 2022 semester?

Comments

Alex was accessible throughout the semester and was happy to help me understand concepts I was struggling to wrap my mind around.

Office Hours were very helpful for me as it was my first coding class. Having the time set aside to ask questions one on one was helpful to my understanding of R. thanks for a great semester

Alex cared an incredible amount about his students and it showed. Alex was always willing to help students after class, in office hours, and even meet at other times. The lectures and slide shows were very well prepared and helped a great deal when completing the problem sets. I could see Alex teaching any ECON class. I would recommend Alex and ECON 370 to anyone who is interested in the intersection of Data Science and Economics.

Alex created very clear powerpoint slides and walked us through the code each class, which was a very hands-on way to learn. He also answered any question, no matter how simple or complex.

The office hours were a main helper for me.

Super accessible and very kind! It was apparent that he cared a lot about the class material and went out of his way to be helpful to students.

Alex was very accommodating on homework deadlines, and made sure the assignment expectations were always tracking to what we had actually covered in class. As a result we may have covered slightly less than we otherwise would have, but everything was far less stressful as a result. Alex was also fairly available to meet outside of office hours.

I also enjoyed the homework assignments. They were reasonably challenging without being needlessly difficult.

He gave very detailed instructions in all assignments which was very helpful for beginner students like myself. Moreover he would run the code with you during lecture so you could follow along and understand better how to do it. He was also readily available during office hours and emails.

2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

Comments

I think that the homework problems were good and engaging, and actually useful. Homework for most classes end up being a kind of practice over concepts gone over in lecture. While the homework for this class certainly acted as practice, it felt much more like genuinely applying my learning to real world uses.

Since some students have never had experience with R, and coding a skill that is strengthened with practice, I would suggest that Alex would include very simple questions about R in the homework problems at the beginning (probably worth a lot less) , and then later in the document ask the questions of application (worth a lot more).

I think that this would help new programmers learn the syntax and quirks of R before diving head first into an application problem which may be too big for them.

Overall, however, I greatly enjoyed this course and everything I learned with it.

The slide decks, the lecture coding examples, in class discussions and questions

I liked the problem set set-up, with a mix of basic R and economic applications. I think talking a little bit more about economic applications could be helpful. It was interesting to see when Alex showed us modified versions of his own research.

I think that the problem sets were good and should be kept, but not well introduced. If we were to do anything interactive in class so that people could see if they really were understanding concepts before they got to the problem sets that would be so helpful.

I thought the structure of the course was great. In the future, it may be helpful to mention that students with prior programming experience may have an easier time with the course material.

I think the homework assignments can stay the same — lecture notes were good too. However I often found the lecture style to be... difficult to follow. Sometimes it seemed like Alex didn't have a plan for how to explain something or work through it, and often went so fast that it was difficult to code along at the same time. I think having some more structured (and slightly slower) "let's all code this together" exercises would have been helpful in class.

I think that the lectures should be changed in their approach. Given that programming is learned by actually doing, I think the lectures should involve crafted examples or even "worksheets" where we could walk through coding problems as a class, perhaps with RMD files that are premade where we can fill things in along the way. A lecture component is more important, but this class felt all over the place lots of the time. Alex is an awesome guy who is open to students and willing to help. However, the classes often felt unorganized. They felt more "informal" which was actually a good thing because I felt more comfortable in the class, which is especially important for a challenging subject like programming. However, I wish our lecture time was spent more wisely and the class felt more organized. The assignments and projects were good.

I like the structure of the class as it is, the only thing I think the class needs is a recitation to help with the technical aspect of it for beginners that way Alex can teach more Economic related things.