

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2020

Kevin Allen, ECON 400-002 STATISTICS AND ECONOMETRICS

Raters	Students									
Responded	38									
Invited	114									
Response Ratio	33.3%									
	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	3.95	4.00	1.04	38	5.3%	2.6%	15.8%	44.7%	31.6%	
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.87	5.00	0.34	38	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.2%	86.8%	
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	3.82	4.00	1.11	38	5.3%	2.6%	31.6%	26.3%	34.2%	
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.03	4.00	0.85	38	0.0%	0.0%	34.2%	28.9%	36.8%	
5. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	3.82	4.00	1.18	38	7.9%	5.3%	15.8%	39.5%	31.6%	
6. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	3.95	4.00	1.06	38	5.3%	5.3%	10.5%	47.4%	31.6%	
7. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.08	4.00	1.19	38	7.9%	2.6%	10.5%	31.6%	47.4%	
8. Overall, this course was excellent.	3.92	4.00	1.08	38	5.3%	5.3%	13.2%	44.7%	31.6%	

Open-Ended Responses

1. In what ways did your instructor try to make learning possible for you during the Fall 2020 semester?

Comments

He was understanding about problems that were brought up to him and did his best to either accommodate or fix the issue.

He was extremely accommodating and understanding when it came to responding to emails quickly, addressing concerns with course material that was not getting understood by a group of students, and allotting enough time for students to watch lectures and submit assignments/exams. He was extremely respectful, kind, and sympathetic to students who were struggling. He offered personal help to anyone who needed it and bent over backwards to make sure that each student was learning in a way that suited them.

Loved this class. Awesome professor.

Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic is difficult for both students and professors. Dr. Allen has proven time and time again that he truly cares about his students. From his constant availability in Office Hours and emails, he makes it his goal that every student is treated fairly and has every opportunity to succeed. He has an easygoing and fun personality and whenever I had trouble with the homework, he was able to easily explain the concepts clearly, saving me hours of frustration. I found that Dr. Allen's Office Hours is an invaluable resource that not many people utilize.

I am well aware of the criticism he has received from ratemyprofessors.com and the GroupMe group chat, which I believe such criticism is superficial. While some of his lecture videos could be better in the future, his lectures effectively and accurately present the information needed for students to confidently tackle homework problems and exam questions, which he has clearly written. I spent a lot of time trying to digest material, even spending many days to make a huge note sheet (not required!) and I am currently doing fine in his class. Those who complain about his videos and the "mismatch" between lecture videos and assignments have clearly not spent enough time trying to understand the course material to a degree where they internalize the concepts to do well on the assignments. Statistics and Econometrics are hard concepts, and take more than just a quick

Comments

glance over the lecture material to be able to comprehend well. Another common criticism against Dr. Allen is directed at the mistakes in assignments and exams. While it is true that there have been mistakes in assignments and exams, those are a result of Sakai's technical issues, which Dr. Allen has taken the initiative to alert the IT department about while making sure those mistakes don't affect anyone's scores or understanding of the course material. For example, when a question prevented the correct value from being accepted as correct, Dr. Allen made sure to add a point to everyone's score to make sure that the system issue didn't affect our grades.

I understand that my response may come across as positively biased and may be a result of me doing well in the class, but I feel that it is unfair that people make their judgements on this professor without putting the effort to utilize all the resources he provide and understanding his situation as a professor teaching several hundreds of students, especially when the current COVID-19 Pandemic makes everything harder on everyone. I did not do as well on the first midterm, scoring just below the average score, but I still believed that this was no fault of Dr. Allen and I couldn't complain because I did not spend enough time to internalize the concepts to where I can answer everything without fear. I have changed my approach to learning his material and spent more time to understand the concepts and my grade in this class has since improved. What people don't realize is that Dr. Allen has spent many late nights making lesson materials and study guides, sacrificing sleep and mental well-being to make sure we all learn the necessary materials to succeed. He has told me many times during office hours that he is overworked and very tired from the amount of work he's put into making lesson materials as best as possible.

Dr. Allen is a wonderful and compassionate professor and I would be more than eager to take another one of his courses.

Professor Allen was extremely accommodating for students and was always willing to help. The class format was asynchronous-providing maximum flexibility for all students.

Having an asynchronous class definitely helped me in terms of scheduling and planning.

He was very engaged with his students despite teaching an asynchronous class. His office hours and quick email responses were very helpful.

An asynchronous class really helped me and fit into my schedule.

The course content is incredibly boring and I really felt like I didn't learn much, but that's more a testament of the nature of the pandemic and my personal effort. Kevin was very accommodating and helpful, allowing us more attempts on homework when necessary and offering curves when there were technological problems with the assessments.

Professor Allen was very accomodating, which was extremely helpful in these trying times. The class was asynchronous, which I think was good for this format of class, especially for me, because it takes me a little longer to understand and be able to apply mathematical and economic concepts. This format really helped me to take it at my own pace and I could pause lecture videos wherever I needed to help me take a moment to make sure I understood the concepts, which is something I don't think students always get in a synchronous experience. We did experience some technical difficulties during the semester, as can be expected, and Kevin seemed to deal with these quite well. Overall, I really enjoyed this class, even without the in-person component I got from my other classes this semester.

I really liked the asynchronous lectures in this class; they fit very well with my learning style. Professor Allen was also very nice when I reached out with questions over email, and I can tell he's been putting a lot of time and effort into this course to adapt it for online learning. I appreciate that he provided a free textbook.

One suggestion I had would be potentially having all engagement assignments/homework/exams be made up of only multiple-choice questions. It seemed like most questions that had errors occur were fill-in-the-blank questions, and while Professor Allen always made sure to fix them it was a bit stressful at times.

Professor Allen did a great job of running an asynchronous course during these challenging times. He made very considerate adjustments for his students, which alleviated a lot of pressure from an already stressful semester. His video quality could have been better since it was sometimes difficult to interpret what he was trying to show us, but they were instructive overall. He was very good at responding to students' concerns on assignments and his office hours were a good resource to clarify any concerns about course content.

Dr. Allen has been very understanding and accommodating throughout this semester given all of the circumstances surrounding COVID. Offering asynchronous class was very helpful when having all online classes. He also was gave a multitude of opportunities to practice before exams. Additionally, Dr. Allen made it very clear what we were expected to know for every exam which is very helpful. I do feel a slight disconnect because of the asynchronous class because I miss some of the teacher/student interaction I am used to having with classes, but I understand why this class was made asynchronous and appreciated it.

I personally liked the STATA assignment since it introduced real-world applications of economics with data.

Our class was essentially fully asynchronous, which was not very helpful In our learning. However, Prof. Allen made sure to accommodate his students to ensure that stress surrounding this class was kept at a minimum.

Dr. Allen has made tremendous effort into making the class accessible to everyone. If any questions arose from students, he dealt with them quickly.

Comments

No one admits that they are tired and when they do, they mean it. Even though he was tired, he talked to me during his office hours the next day about what I could do to prepare for the final exam.

Provided consistent office hours and clearly and frequently communicated with students.

He was much more forgiving and willing to adapt than most other teachers.

Kevin Allen was very flexible and sympathetic to students. He is also a great communicator and that made the async aspect much less of a hassle.

Practice problems and homeworks helped me learn material

Made things accessible for an online class by making it asynchronous.

He was very gracious with students (a lot of these questions do not really apply to the course because it was asynchronous)
