

## Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2020

### Kevin Allen, ECON 400-001 STATISTICS AND ECONOMETRICS

Due to the global pandemic, all spring 2020 courses shifted to remote instruction midway through the semester. As a result, these student evaluations of teaching are for the instructor only. It is entirely up to the course instructor if these results and comments are shared during future evaluation or promotion settings.

Raters	Students									
Responded	63									
Invited	246									
Response Ratio	25.6%									
	Mean	Median	SD	N	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	3.56	4.00	1.09	63	4.8%	14.3%	19.0%	44.4%	17.5%	
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.57	5.00	0.64	63	0.0%	1.6%	3.2%	31.7%	63.5%	
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	3.94	4.00	0.97	62	0.0%	12.9%	11.3%	45.2%	30.6%	
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	3.87	4.00	0.91	63	0.0%	3.2%	38.1%	27.0%	31.7%	
5. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	3.52	4.00	1.06	63	4.8%	9.5%	33.3%	33.3%	19.0%	
6. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	3.46	4.00	1.16	63	7.9%	12.7%	22.2%	39.7%	17.5%	
7. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	3.79	4.00	1.18	63	4.8%	12.7%	14.3%	34.9%	33.3%	
8. Overall, this course was excellent.	3.56	4.00	1.14	62	6.5%	9.7%	27.4%	33.9%	22.6%	
9. If my instructor had more time to prepare, I think this course would have the potential to be an excellent online course.	3.77	4.00	1.12	62	4.8%	8.1%	22.6%	33.9%	30.6%	

## Open-Ended Responses

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

Comments
I appreciated the poll everywhere's in class to drive home the topics as well as the homeworks and practice finals those were all super beneficial for my learning.
I appreciated Dr. Allen's videos as they were short and labeled by topic. This made it easy to go back and review the material. I also found that he was very helpful and attentive with his office hours despite having multiple options.
He had a lot of availability and was very responsive to any questions over email. He also had very clear instructions and expectations.
Provided a ton of resources, help, and office hours.
He did a good job of explaining concepts and provided us with homework that tested our knowledge on those concepts.
Dr. Allen did a good job of being available and open for questions in the in class context. The homework and lectures were beneficial.
posting online exercises to help us review the content

Comments

Made a new syllabus, made concise teaching videos, made assignments very doable, was willing to work with students to meet their needs

Uploaded online lectures.

Prior to switching online, Dr. Allen made learning possible through office hours, encouraging questions, providing relevant practice material, etc. He did an excellent job of making learning possible and accessible.

After switching to online, he made himself available through a lot of office hours.

We had lectures to keep up with the course material, but they seemed to be posted irregularly once online. In in-person lectures, he was very wordy and long-winded in his explanations, making simple topics seem way more complicated. As a stats major, I am comfortable with most topics he spoke about, but through his lectures, I found myself more confused than I was going into the lecture.

he attempts to overexplain everything, which a great problem to have for an instructor. He made sure that everyone understood the material, despite how long it may take to do so.

Professor Allen seemed to teach on autopilot. He rarely handled questions well, often giving incredibly confusing and lengthy answers only to say "it doesn't really matter" at the end. His lectures were unbearably dry, and he often added lengthy personal anecdotes with no relevance to the material. The only effective teaching tool used was the homework on Sakai, which he then STOPPED ASSIGNING after we went virtual. It is difficult to imagine a more painful learning experience than ECON 400.

Dr. Allen made sure that we had every opportunity to figure out the problems in class, and he gave us a nice heads up about what was going to be on the exams.

office hours

I don't understand this question? Isn't teaching making learning possible in itself?

The lectures and assignments were always very straightforward and easy to follow. The only suggestion I have is spending less time on the STOR 155 and calculus review at the beginning of the semester, or potentially just turning those topics into online resources for those who are struggling with them. I feel like this would make more room for less familiar topics like STATA later on in the semester.

Mr. Allen has the quickest email response from any instructor. It was easy to communicate even with such a large class

The videos were a really good idea, and I felt like I understood the beginnings of Stata really well because of it.

He did not.

He was accessible for questions and concerns and provided thorough lectures.

He gave us the flexibility to work at a reasonable pace online.

Dr. Allen tried to provide ample examples of what he was discussing in class and made sure he was always available for questions. Dr. Allen is a very nice guy, however, in class, he is prone to tangents and will often focus on one aspect of a subject for a very long time. This would be fine if this was an entry-level course, but there are multiple prerequisites for Econ 400 so hopefully, at this point, no one needs a 30-minute explanation on how to take an average. I want to emphasize that I DO NOT think Dr. Allen is a bad teacher. Teaching is definitely a bit of a learning curve, and from what I remember, Dr. Allen is new. I just think this course could benefit from being a bit more concise. We did not get through all the material this semester because of how long it took us to get through a stats review at the beginning of the semester alongside the covid-19 complications. Stata was barely introduced before the end of the semester. I think having a well-planned-out schedule and sticking to it would be beneficial. Overall, I think Dr. Allen is a nice person and would probably take another course with him if I needed to.

Professor Allen was very understanding and accommodating. His videos were very clear and informative.

He was very accommodating to people with different needs.

awesome explanations that were relatable and relevant to current issues

He used video sections to divide up the work. while this worked, I did not like it as much as my other zoom lectures.

Professor Allen made sure that online resources were easily accessible and made himself available to students for help.

Consistent communication, lots of homework practice, easy to understand pre-recorded videos, lots of reviews, study guides

He provided many resources! actually feel like I learned more

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Comments

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Making topic-specific videos that made confusing topics easy to understand.

Prior to courses being moved online, Professor Allen taught lessons that were very simple, such as how the summation sign works. As a result, when we started learning the more difficult stuff, I realized that he spent a lot less time making sure we understood it. Everything started feeling rushed and his explanations were extremely vague. The online transition was more difficult in this class than in any of my other courses. His lectures became unreliable as he sent us videos. But, the videos were infrequent and he would tell us that he would send videos to us, but they would never arrive. I became quickly frustrated by taking this course during the online portion.

The biweekly video sets were helpful. Overall, I would have appreciated knowing the sections in the e-text to which each lecture's material corresponded.

He tried his best

His lectures felt very dry during the first half of the semester and sometimes things in his class were disorganized. However, he was very approachable and always wanted to help if he knew there was a problem.

Dr.Allen answers questions we have regarding class material

His assignments were relevant to the material and provided a benchmark on what we should know.

He posted very detailed videos in place of class for us to reference back to when we had questions. They were not too long but covered the right material.

I liked his take on teaching. Making attendance semi-optional was a blessing. His videos were also well-spoken if they were minorly edited for some moments. For a tough subject to make fun, Professor Allen did well.

Lectures and lots of videos to explain topic. I think the instructor did a good job, but the class was very slow and not very engaging for me.

He uploaded powerpoints which were helpful.

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Uploading video lectures and powerpoints with class materials.

He ensured that we always had multiple resources to learn from-lectures, recorded videos, the textbook, powerpoints-without mandating and redundancy. His teaching was very efficient and required self-driven learning.

It was helpful that there were multiple online lectures offered to help us understand the material. There were also homework assignments that could be completed multiple times to further help understand the material.

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**2. How would you describe your learning experience after the transition from face-to-face instruction to remote instruction? What did you find most helpful to your remote learning experience? In what ways, if at all, did aspects of your learning change?**

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Comments

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I found it helpful that the format of the videos allowed students to go at their own pace. It actually helped me learn better speeding things up a bit so I could better focus on what was actually being said. It was unfortunate that we did not have the powerpoint slides but all the information we needed was in the videos, it's just harder to access that later.

I think this class did a great job shifting online. I liked the professor's use of small videos to learn concepts. My learning changed by not meeting with a class but watching videos. I found this was more helpful and easy way to learn than doing zoom for example.

The remote learning was pretty similar to In class, as he shared all of the materials.

This class actually had the smoothest transition to remote instruction. Video lectures were posted and HWs remained on Sakai.

The videos are fairly helpful but just not quite the same as being in class and getting to work with peers but that's not Dr. Allens fault obviously. I think an additional STATA assignment would've been helpful but overall not a bad online experience.

course recording was most helpful. Yes, I follow the class schedule less diligently

Kevin Allen made the transition to remote instruction doable. I found that the instructional videos were most helpful as well as the abundance of resources Professor Allen created for us - he provided multiple testing times and was flexible with students. Learning definitely became a lot more concise.

Same as usual. Being able to view the videos at my own pace. I was able to view and do work at my own pace.

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Comments

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The format of online instruction that Dr. Allen implemented was appropriate for this class. I appreciated having lecture videos and accompanying assignments. Additionally, I also liked how available Dr. Allen was in terms of office hours. However, what I had a lot of trouble dealing with were the videos not being uploaded in a timely manner. It disrupted the routine I had set for my other classes, and it added a challenge to me being able to learn.

The most helpful part was the lectures to keep up with what we needed to learn, although they were irregularly posted and I often felt out-of-the-loop on what I was supposed to be doing for his class.

I actually found Dr. Allen's videos very helpful to complete the homework and study. He made sure to be very thorough and explain every step he did.

As mentioned, the lack of homework once we went remote essentially killed all learning. Professor Allen essentially expects students to teach themselves, but homework is the only effective tool. I watched every video and attended every lecture, and left most of them more confused on topics that I felt I understood well in STOR 155. The videos were almost never uploaded in a timely manner, which killed any semblance of routine we could develop during this trying time. I understand that Dr. Allen faced challenges as well, but he did not even perform the bare minimum of assigning work and posting lectures on time. The test we too virtually took him nearly a month to grade, and we received no feedback until the week of the final.

After the transition to remote learning we no longer had face-to-face lecture, which is something that helped me out a lot. I enjoyed watching the videos whenever I had time and being able to get other work done during our normal class time. I think that the video format worked well for the stata assignments since we could go back and rewatch the video if we had issues.

i was able to do work whenever i could/wanted to

The instructor used pre-recorded videos to teach the lessons for our class during the remote instruction period. While this nicely divided each topic into its own video that we could return to watch later while studying for exams, the videos were not well planned out by the professor. They were rather spontaneous, unscripted, and seemed like statistical streams of consciousness at times. Nonetheless, I do feel like I grasped the important concepts in the videos.

Online instruction didn't change this course very much at all for me. The videos uploaded were helpful in place of a video lecture because they were more succinct and pre-recorded.

The video lectures were very helpful, and there was no dip in quality after the transition to online classes. Thank you!

I enjoyed his skeleton videos which helped me during remote learning

My learning experience, however, was overall poor. The videos would be a really good idea if the way were presented was better. Higher quality videos would work, but writing on a laggy, hard-to-read Microsoft paint background didn't really help me understand anything about statistics and were easily the hardest thing I've had to learn from this semester.

Prof. Allen uploaded short, uninformative, and often inaccurate videos to Sakai instead of conducting lecture online. I ended up learning the rest of the material through online sources such as Khan Academy as Prof Allen's videos were incredibly unhelpful and often contained errors.

Professor Allen provided online lectures that were easy to access and review.

He was as good as it could have been minus one or two hiccups at the start

I feel like this class improved after transitioning online. The new format included shorter videos on specific topics rather than a longer lecture. This kept Dr. Allen on topic and did not allow for tangents like face-to-face instruction does.

Professor Allen's videos were very clear. I wish that they were available during our normal class time.

I did not like that I had to download the videos, youtube or warpwire would have been better.

Amazing!

i was able to watch his videos from home and get work done from home

I liked it better before, although with the transition, I did like that they were sectioned into smaller parts to help with finding content.

I enjoyed the online portion of this class. The way that Professor Allen segmented videos into smaller clips made it easier for me to study the material, especially since the last unit of our course had material that was very detail oriented.

Learning didn't change, I just prefer going to class

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Comments

I really liked the videos and video questions

Smooth

My learning in this course completely changed during the transition. There were less homework assignments, less instructional videos or lectures, less practice problems. Everything we had been doing and been given to succeed in this course disappeared. It felt like we were abandoned during the switch to online instruction without any explanation. This was the time that I needed the most help, but my professor largely disappeared. When I was doing the free-response on the final exam, I realized that I had not truly learned anything concrete in the past two months of online learning. Professor Allen would flip-flop his answers and it made it unclear for me whether graphs were skewed or normal, or if a p-value was significant. Nothing was explained and he would constantly change his responses in his videos.

I thought that this course was rather well suited for the online format. I would have preferred live Zoom lectures rather than the prerecorded videos, but I understand that the videos were made to accommodate those in different time zones where attending class live would have been impractical. The lost week of instruction surely hindered our progress through course material, but nevertheless, it felt like the new material compared to STOR 155 (multiple regression) was rushed at the end of the semester.

It was better than most of my other classes

He was always available in Zoom office hours and that was extremely helpful to me! The videos he sent out were explanatory, but there were sometimes gaps in what he said and I had to rewatch them to fully understand some parts.

I liked the short videos I could watch in a series, rather than long lecture videos. It helped me organize my time better.

It helps to have videos for us to learn materials

His videos were helpful and didn't worsen his teachings.

The transition Went very well. I was able to go at my own pace in the course which allowed me to grasp a better understanding of certain topics.

Classes just became videos. I wish information regarding the whole semester was given in an updated syllabus rather than emails that come in waves. The videos were informative, but I wish parts were edited out because you clearly meant for them to be, but it made me sigh every time and lose focus.

Struggled with remote due to weird layout of questions on tests.

Remote instruction was a bit difficult to follow along with. Uploading videos to Warpwire may have been more effective than mp3 videos. I felt like the videos covered too much too quickly and went much faster through the material than the in-person lectures went during face-to-face instruction. It was much more difficult to retain the information from the videos. Even the lack of powerpoints made it difficult to understand some material. I feel that powerpoints could have listed the most important topics and some details about them, but only relying on videos made it difficult to sort out what information was most important.

When classes moved online he prepared videos explaining the subject matter and that helped me get through the rest of the semester. These videos were better for me to learn.

I think the short videos on specific topics were very helpful

I found the assignments meant to test learning very inadequate and insufficient to prepare for the final exam. The pace of learning was too slow, less time needed to be spent on rudimentary statistics that were covered in prerequisite classes.

Professor Allen did an excellent job of teaching remotely and I really liked his style of teaching; he understood that remote attention span was more of an issue than in person, so he posted a handful of 5-10 minute videos for each lecture. I found this to be very accommodating and made the transition to online very seamless.

The learning in an online setting was somewhat difficult because it was really hard to just watch posted videos and not be able to ask questions while watching those. I feel as though the professor could have been more accessible.

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