North Carolina State University - ClassEval Report	
Emplid: 001123529	Name: Jonathan Williams -- Course: Special Topic Stat
Term: 2024 Sprg	ST 495 001 Courses surveyed - ST 495 001
Question	**Response**
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	The instructor was enthusiastic about the material, provided excellent lectures with relevant examples, and is receptive to students outside of the classroom. The instructor went above and beyond to aid students in learning the material. The course was outlined extremely well and the expectations were clear. There was enough flexibility in the projects to come out of the class with relevant, well- documented, and impressive examples.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	This course provided a perfect capstone experience by connecting theoretical concepts to computational tools for statistical reasoning. One strength is that the material spent a sufficient amount of time covering the foundations to be able to tackle additional material not covered in the course.
Give suggestions on how the course or how the instruction could be improved.	I would suggest an opportunity for group work or collaboration on projects if desired.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Instructor did a good job at explaining concepts with detail but also why we use certain methods.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	Course did a great job at bridging the gap between the theory courses and real world applications. The course could benefit from better recorded lectures because sometimes it's really difficult to fully absorb the material the first time around.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Dr. Williams knows what he's talking about and is a super modest professor. Great explanations for complicated subjects, and is really receptive in office hours. Can seem a little unapproachable, but is extremely caring about your education, so it's a matter of breaking the ice.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	Learned more dynamic R coding than over the entirety of my undergrad. The theory content can be boring sometimes, but it builds into beautiful mathematical explanations of content we glaze over in other classes. Seeing breakdowns of how regression works and the linear algebra extensions was really exciting. Great course to find interests in computational mathematics/statistics.
Give suggestions on how the course or how the instruction could be improved.	Great course. Super applicable material and a great instructor. Dr. Williams is brilliant and the course is one of the few that I learned the most in. Having taken or concurrently taking 422 would probably help, but not entirely out of reach if you haven't yet. Great class to force yourself to get comfortable with R and computational math/stats.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Dr. Williams clearly cares about his students and is passionate about the course topics. However, he doesn't always teach content in a way that is approachable and understandable to the experience level of his students. I think he could really benefit from developing some additional course materials to aid students and guide lectures (like lecture slides or notes), because to be honest right now it's just his code which doesn't contain the math proofs and is hard to read when you are learning something for the first time. I think with some little tweaks teaching this class would be so much better because Dr. Williams clearly cares a lot! That said, I have learned a lot from this class and would definitely take a class with Dr. Williams again.
Give suggestions on how the course or how the instruction could be improved.	Like I said before, some additional learning materials to supplement the code would be really helpful. Also, it would be good to revisit course topics and compare them to the pre-reqs because I feel the pre-reqs were not enough. For example, we derived MLEs in this class and that's a ST 422 topic.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Very effective at conveying difficult topics
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	Lots of homework assignments, if some were taken away, that would be ideal. The project is a really cool one, though - I've never done anything like it, I had so much freedom and I was able to come up with some pretty cool things because of it.
Give suggestions on how the course or how the instruction could be improved.	Maybe slightly less hw assignments, other than that was a pretty good class
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Dr. Williams made himself very available during office hours and was always willing to answer questions about the material. He always attempted to engage students during the lecture, despite our quiet class. It was clear that he was passionate about the material and was truly invested in helping students understand the concepts introduced by the course. I also appreciated that he thoroughly explained the concepts, the mathematical derivations, and the coding implementations for a well-rounded review of the material.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	The course material itself was often difficult to grasp as it reached far beyond the realm of the rest of the statistics major, but the assignments did not require that you understood the mathematical derivations or how to write most of the code from scratch. I appreciated this as it allowed me to focus on understanding the overarching concepts. That being said, the homework assignments were occasionally quite difficult, so I appreciated the lenient grading (by dropping the two lowest) at the end of the semester. I enjoyed the concepts introduced in this course, although it was a lot to fit into one semester. I suggest that these concepts are better integrated throughout other courses in the statistics major so that students can gain more exposure to these important topics before graduation.