

North Carolina State University - ClassEval Report

Emplid: 001123529	Name: Jonathan Williams -- Course: Lin Mod & Var Comp
Term: 2023 Sprg	ST 705 001 Courses surveyed - ST 705 001
Question	Response
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Dr. Williams is a very talented teacher. He has the ability to guide the class through discovery and discussion instead of resorting to pure lecturing, while still keeping everything moving. Additionally, he was able to contextualize the work we were doing not only in statistics as a discipline, but in how this translates to the type of work we are trying to achieve as researchers.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	The peer-grading is a very interesting aspect of this course. In part, I think it encourages a level of re-engagement with the material in both grading and revision that is very valuable. Additionally, it encourages us to think critically about someone else's proof that may or may not be correct, which is a skill that I personally have had very few opportunities before to hone. On the other hand, it is a little tough because we are not really receiving direct instructor feedback outside of exams, unless one goes to office hours I suppose. It could just be a little tough at times to gauge where I stood in terms of understanding/performance.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	Makes topic more hard to understand while explaining.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	Closed book exam with such tricky notation not good!
Give suggestions on how the course or how the instruction could be improved.	Closed book exam makes it more harder
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	He goes through the proofs step by step with the students, which is nice. In addition, he doesn't approach the content/lecture like the tricky proofs should be obvious/trivial.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course	Overall, I was a fan of the HW system. It can be a bit tricky to figure out the tough problems in this set up, as if you and the HW grader both don't know a sound solution for a given problem, it can be difficult to give/get helpful feedback on that problem, or ever truly figure out a solution. I know this is by design, though.
Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the lab (if applicable)	Yunshu was great! The labs felt like a chance to work through some problems as a group, which was helpful. More forced interaction between students in small groups may be helpful as well, because when we did that for the exam problems it went very well.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	The professor is very helpful.
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Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor	I really like it that Dr. Williams gives us space and time to think through problems in class and lets us make mistakes in doing proofs. It is a fun problem-solving experience.

<p>Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course</p>	<p>I don't mind the amount of time working on homework assignments, because I feel that I have learned so much. I also like the peer-review grading system. However, it would be really really helpful if we could get solutions to homework problems.</p>
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<p>Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the instructor</p>	<p>Dr. Williams is fantastic - I appreciate that he tries to get us to think through a proof, rather than just showing it. Our class was really quiet. Some of this is down to the questions Dr. Williams asks us - for example, it's hard to get someone to say the equation for the multivariate normal aloud. Questions that are straight from the lecture notes will also be difficult to elicit answers, since there's clearly one answer that he's looking for. For other questions that are more open-ended, I think Dr. Williams is right to expect participation. He might be able to get better participation by either cold-calling people or doing a quick think-pair-share. I also think Dr. Williams should reconsider when he holds his office hours (or when the homeworks are due). The homeworks were due on Tuesdays before class, so I didn't find the Tuesday office hours useful for homework questions.</p>
<p>Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the course</p>	<p>I think there needs to be a bit more of a safety net for groupthink on the homework assignment reviews, since we seemed prone to all settling on an incorrect answer on occasion. It might help to have the TA randomly check an assignment or two, for inter-rater reliability? It could also be helpful to distribute reviews to people you didn't work with (so, if we put down who we worked with, the TA could randomize us to review someone outside of that group). Also, my impression was that the reviews were intended to be anonymous. They never were, since we were forwarded our reviewer's notes directly - I don't know if that led some reviewers to be less critical than they should have been.</p>
<p>Comment on strengths and weaknesses of the lab (if applicable)</p>	<p>It was not effective to have us go over the midterm exam before we had our results back - we split into groups to discuss this, but I think our "solutions" for some questions were still wrong, since we were wrong on the exam.</p>
<p>Give suggestions on how the course or how the instruction could be improved.</p>	<p>Dr. Williams set up the expectation on the first day of class that it would take 10-15 hours per week. I'm glad that he was straightforward about that - it did take about that long per week.</p>