Rotman School of Management
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Instructor and Course Evaluations

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Responses to custom questions are only visible to the instructor of the course.

Following are the responses recorded for the custom questions.

Click the "+" symbol to view results for each question.
⊟ Do you have any suggestion that I may do to improve the Business statistics learning experience for my future MBA students?

  - Quizzez + midterms could be tougher in order to separate the class earlier. Sample final exams.

  - Integrate the statistics classes better between sections. Professor communication.

  - it was a quant heavy course which doesn't tie well into how it can be used in business

  - standardize formula sheets, and tables for all classes.

  - More cases

  - More real world cases

  - It was good

  - Maybe an earlier description of the coverage and rules for quizzes would be better.

  - Be a little strict because you are a too good man, Sami!

  - Stand your ground and be confident in your decisions. If a test or an assignment calls for a particular set of requirements or limitations, stick to that and don't let students sway you.

  - please provide more problems from finance aspect. Also, increase the difficulty level of workshops.

  - Real time case examples linked to current events in North american markets.

  - Maybe post the slides a little bit further in advance. It would be good to have maybe 4-5 days advance instead of the normal 2 days.

  - May want to incorporate more business cases. I thought i learned the most while doing the case and assignment.

  - Spent more time on understanding outcomes rather than doing manual problems, make expectations clearer, make the structure a bit more organized

  - Set higher standards for some of the deliverables. More complex and

real life data sets (eg. S&P 500 versus a portfolio) so that we can be challenged even more in application.

- Possibly integrating financial tools to grab data, such as Bloomberg or Capital IQ. Being able to obtain data from these resources and apply our knowledge of stats would have been an improvement.

- I think the course is great. No other suggestions at this moment.

- You do an excellent job. Although, I would have preferred not jumping in out of topics. Once you started regression, you jumped back tp hypothesis testing.

- There is no point in covering a 100 topics in 9 weeks and giving unnecessary assignments just to make the course appear challenging. The focus should be on quality material and in depth explanation of selected topics. I think the way the professor structured this class was perfect.

- Have Sami teach everyone in the foundations term.

- Set due dates for deliverables sooner; I think this will help people to prioritize the course with their other courses and learn more. Also, it doesn't happen often but sometimes it is hard to hear you. Also, I think you have gotten better over this semester in terms of starting the class on time at the beginning, once break is supposed to be done. We all enjoyed having you as our Professor, thank you!

- I think you did a great job, but maybe do not answer questions that aren't directly related to the class material in class. I know you were trying to improve the learning experience, but it's very confusing for people who are less comfortable with the material and are still new to stats/math in general.

- The administration failed on the part of coordinating workload across all sections. Whoever the course coordinator is was not able to adequately manage what the other professors were doing. As such, they acted in such a way as to make the workload inequitable. The workload in this section was quite appropraite for the content and time available. There was a mix of individual learning, tutorials, in-class workshops, evaluations, group learning, and individual assignments. IT was very appropriate. I was able to engage in all of these different learning methods and achieve mastery of the material. The other profs and course coordinator should use this section as a model for teaching stats next year.

- I feel that the time devoted to the earlier portion of the course (descriptive statistics) can be reduced, and more time should be spent on the more difficult concepts covered towards the end of the course (specifically regression).

- No. Doctor Nafaji really did a good job!

- There is a gap between doing stats in Excel and doing stats on paper for exams and quizzes. Basically all year we practice and work in Excel where a lot of computation is done for you... then you must do it with pen and paper and calculator on the exam. In stats practice makes perfect however if you practice in Excel then it is tough to execute on paper in the exam

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- The course is very well organized and lectures are very well give. We enjoyed attend your lectures very much.

- Could have gone over a little more material. More about forecasting would have been great. But it could have been beyond the scope of the course.

- - Stats is important, but we get lost in the detail. Teach this course in a more practical way, with less theory and far more hands on application. Statistics for Managers is about interpretation, not complex formulas - Consider teaching the course in the Foundations Term, where we can take these concepts and build on them in Finance and Marketing

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- Just keep being such a wonderful person! It really helped knowing that you were always so happy to help, and not judgemental - especially when going through the tougher weeks of the MBA.

⊟ What did you like most about our sessions?
- That you were very approachable and patient.

- hands on approach through cases and workshops.

- The approachability of the professor

- The videos of the Swedish lecturer. Those videos were an amazing facilitator for classes

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- The professors ... Amazing fellow.

- good interaction ..

- Sami often brought relevant real world examples into the course to make what we were learning approachable. He is very endearing and genuinely interested in us as students, and also people.

- The atmosphere the lecturer created

- The readings were very good, and I enjoyed the easy discussion between instructor and students.

- The culture and the personality of the instructor.

- I liked your enthusiasm, passion and approachability, came through amazingly well in your lectures.

- the way even complicated concepts were simplified.

- Review of the previous lecture before moving to the new material. Slides were pretty elaborative.

- The ease of talking to you about problems. It was a very open learning environment.

- option problem sets

- They were enjoyable and fun, managed to make statistics more exciting than I would have thought.

- Your approachability, and willingness to help. Some of the applied examples, like the last homework, were good learning experiences.

- Sami's attitude and personality. Not only was Sami knowledgeable on the content, he was also an extremely genuine and nice person.

- Almost everything.

- A lot of practice question and answers help me learn quickly and effectively. We also get a lot of fun in the projects.

- The fact that you make your students feel very comfortable around you.

- The instructor. He was the primary reason why I enjoyed this class.

- I liked regression the most because it was the easiest to understand in terms of how we could apply it outside of school in our jobs.

- I like that you always kept the course tone pleasant- I looked forward to class (which is unlike most of my other MBA classes) and I always felt like I could approach you if I needed help.

- They were engaging, interesting, well executed, and applicable to the content. It would have been interesting to use more real-world examples and less "fabricated" examples so that students could apply this to real-life situations in a more straightforward manner. Avi Goldfarb was particularly good at doing this last term -- it would be interesting to combine both approaches with business stats. That would provide some addititional rich learning content.

- The professor made the subject material interesting and accessible.

- good interactions and interesting cases

- Low pressure compared to strategy and finance... I feel that the course is manageable compared to others. In retrospect we didn't go through an overwhelming amount of material but rater worked on analysis of different scenarios

- Instructor made the subject matter interesting

- 1. Reviewing the past lectures a little bit before each lecture to help reinforce the concept. 2. Excellent practice problems 3. Very speedy one-on-one q&a and a devoted TA

- Sami's enthusiasm for stats.

- The sessions were great. I am so glad you always gave us those problem sets to work out - they really helped me learn a lot.

- Amazing slides & explanations. Setting a friendly tone to the lectures.

☐ What do you think was the most challenging part of the course for you?
 - It was too early in the morning to digest some tough statistics concepts.

- i find it challenging not having a math background

- trying to bridge the gap between excel and hand worked statistics.

- F-tests and Anova

- Regression but it was well taught.

- Dumping it all down in last 3 hours of exam would we difficult because we learnt a more about exams

- Hypothesis testing

- I'm not great with stats - and some of the topics are still not clear to me at the end ... I think the most difficult part of the course has to do with calculating the 2 tailed Type II error... still very confused on that one.

- The core mathematical concepts

- the most challenging part of the course for me was the regression analysis and Anova test

- It was sometimes difficult to determine how data interpretation would be tested.

- Maybe I can't handle the big workshop right now for my own

- Multiple regression, but that's mainly because it's the one part of the subject I hadn't covered in depth before.

- interpreting all the data and various parameters to make determine if the tests/parameters/coeffecients are significant or not.

- n/a

- Test II Error... finding probability of it.

- Not having a background in math and competing against students who do, along with the assumption made by the professor/PSO that everyone has this background and therefore the course should be structured to benefit people with that background.

- Understanding the terminology of the various concepts, and how to determine the right variables to use for a model.

- Waking up for an 8:30am class

- To link all the parts together and select the right tool to use in real cases. Because some of the concepts look similar but actually different.

- This course is difficult. However, the good design of the lecture, practice questions and projects help me through smoothly. I did't feel too much difficulties.

- Probably the initial part of the course. I have no stats background and it took me a while to get off the ground.

- To get a solid grasp of statistical techniques and apply them in a problem set

- For me, the hypothesis testing and the real-life application of it was harder to understand. I think it would have been better if there were more examples used across different industries that would make it more interesting and understand how its applicable.

- The most challenging part of the course was regression. I have never

used excel before this year so it was a very unfamiliar experience.

 - The course itself was challenging, but it was not so challenging that it was overwhelming. It was appropriately challenging. If I was having trouble, then tutorials helped. If I needed clarification on a topic, the slides helped. If I needed an example of how to do something, the workshops helped. All in all, the different pieces fit together well to teach a good stats course.

 - The individual assignment.

 - Nothing is challenging for me based on Doctor Nafaji's good teaching.

 - The assignment at the very end of the course. Spent too much time messing around with Excel when I know perfectly well how to do the problems

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 - We had to cover regression earlier than scheduled because of Finance course's need. That made me a bit difficult to understand regression. But when we came to regression again after mid-term and did a lot of practice, I now find regression easier to interprete.

 - Time series analysis and Two-tail tests of hypothesis.

 - The material is not straightforward and it is difficult to understand big picture concepts with all of the formulas. As well, stats on paper and stats on excel are two different things. Emphasis should be placed on one or the other and the course should be taught this way.

 - The subject matter - it was all very new to me.

 - Waking up early for 8:30 class.