



Individual Report for Instructor Lototsky (39411-20133 : MATH-114 Foundations of Statistics)

USC Student Course Evaluations

Project Audience 48
Responses Received 34
Response Ratio 70.83%

Subject Details

Name MATH-114 Foundations of Statistics
Section 39411-20133
Course Type Lecture
Course Department MATH
First Name Sergey Vladimir
Last Name Lototsky
Email lototsky@math.usc.edu

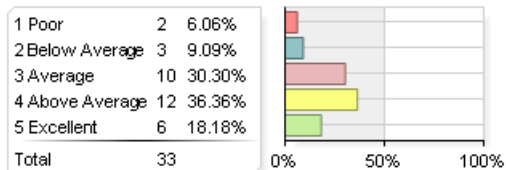
Creation Date Thu, Jan 09, 2014

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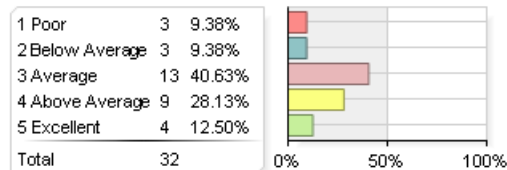
How would you rate instructor Lototsky's effectiveness on the following items?

1. Clearly articulated course goals.



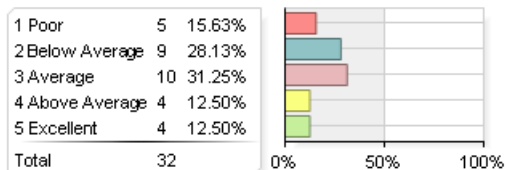
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.52
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.09

2. Organized course to achieve those goals.



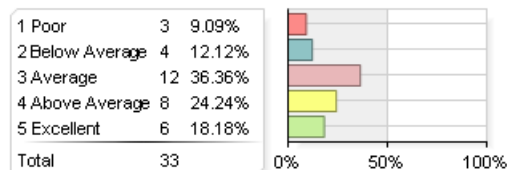
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.25
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.11

3. Carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.



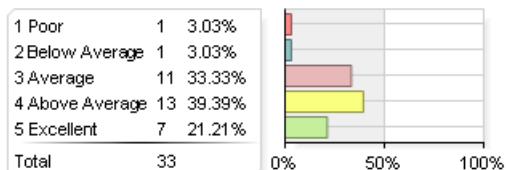
Statistics	Value
Mean	2.78
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.24

4. Encouraged students to participate in their learning (e.g., through discussion, projects, study groups and other appropriate activities).



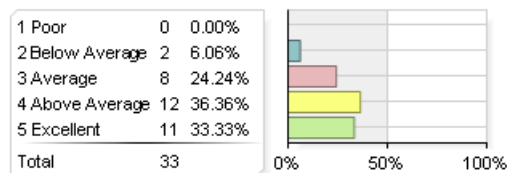
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.30
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.19

5. Was accessible to students (e.g., during office hours, before and after class, etc.).



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.73
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.94

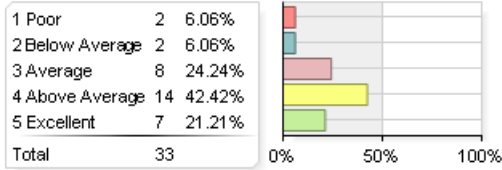
6. Evaluated student work in fair and appropriate ways.



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.97
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.92

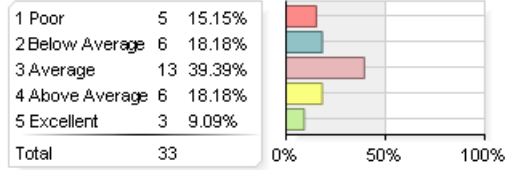
How would you rate instructor Lototsky's effectiveness on the following items? (continued)

7. Was enthusiastic about communicating the subject matter.



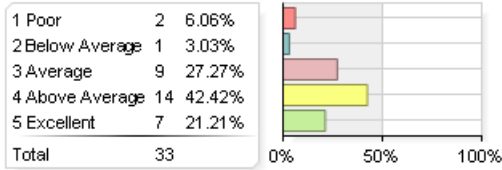
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.67
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.08

8. Stimulated student interest in the subject matter.



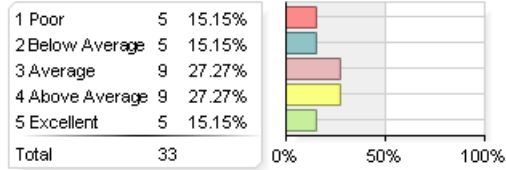
Statistics	Value
Mean	2.88
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.17

9. Presented subject matter in ways that were academically challenging.



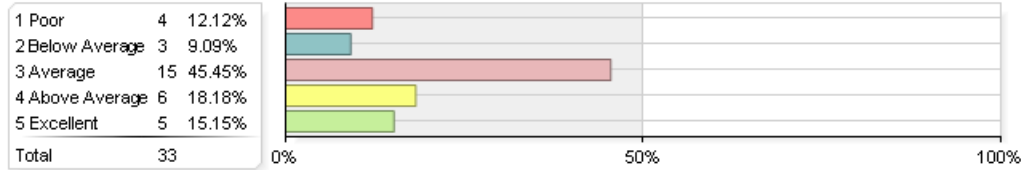
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.70
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.05

10. Provided students a valuable learning experience.



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.12
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.29

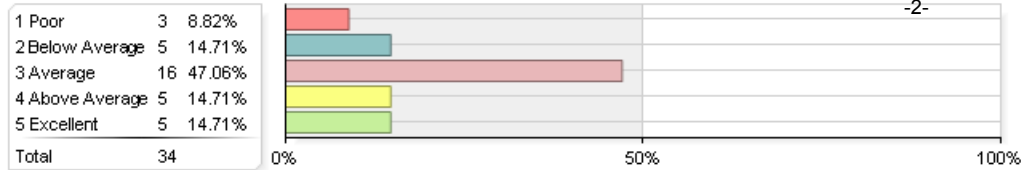
Overall, how would you rate instructor Lototsky?



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.15
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.18

Overall, how would you rate this course?

Individual Report for Instructor Lototsky (39411-20133 : MATH-114 Foundations of Statistics)



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.12
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.12

What were instructor Lototsky's main strengths?

Comment
passionate about material and interested in getting students to succeed

He had a good concept of how it relates to real life.

Very passionate about mathematics! Often discusses how statistics is important in various fields (it is the "science of the future"). He tries his best to answer student questions during class. Helped with teaching us how to do some of the difficult homework problems. Always gave exam reviews.

Enthusiastic about teaching, always available to students

knew a lot about subject, cared about material and learning

He was an enthusiastic teacher who had a great passion for his subject.

He was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable in the subject matter and tried to expand the horizons of the students beyond just the problems and exercises.

he was very excited about the material and his tests were very fair

He was enthusiastic and excited about presenting the lecture material.

We knew what he expected on papers and exams

Really cared about the subject.

very knowledgeable about subject matter, helpful in explaining homework problems and difficult material

He was obviously very knowledgeable of the subject matter. He knew what he was talking about, and he always asked if people had questions.

He is very smart.

None.

His strengths were the explanations of the class material, and presenting them in challenging ways.

His tests

He was passionate about the subjects he was teaching, and he was clearly knowledgeable about every topic he was presenting. He wanted students to "think outside the box" and challenged students. He is a good man with good intentions, never late to class and never ending early.

knows the material

Course was laid out very clearly and told us everything that was essential to statistics.

Knowledgeable

He obviously knows a lot about Statistics and is a very learned professor, so when teaching new topics he tries his best to provide the history of statistics up to that certain topic and then explain it as best and as specifically he can.

Interesting topics in lecture.

Covered all material on planned syllabus

Showed interest in course and the material

Very knowledgably and humble instructor. Great class. Very helpful during office hours.

How might instructor Lototsky improve his or her teaching effectiveness?

Comment

less formulas, more explanation! also, speaking louder/projecting would help a ton

Perhaps in Lecture he can address the students questions in a more clear and direct way. While he means well, sometimes his responses seem stand offish, and the lectures don't seem to have a large amount of relevance to the actual course work sometimes. He will cover something for half of class, and then when asked what we will need for the test, he says that we don't need to know it for the test. Perhaps, just slow down, and break things down and before moving on, make sure that everyone understands.

Sometimes does not break down the material in a way that makes it easier for students to understand. Lecture notes seem harder to follow than discussion notes. Sometimes hard to understand him. Seems to be some miscommunication between the lecturer and TA.

Make the purpose and the material of the course better known, spend more time on the problems than explaining the history of statistics

Better explanation of difficult concepts. Most of the time I left the class extremely confused about what we had learned. Also by doing examples in class. He normally just gives the formula but does not use examples.

too research/math based--he needs to be clearer and have it make sense in a way that's appropriate for the students

He was difficult to understand and did not provide enough information for students to be able to complete class projects.

He should try to articulate the ideas in a more understandable manner.

speak a little louder in class when he is turned facing the white board so that we can hear everything he's saying while he is writing

His lectures should consist more of practice problems and how to do them, rather than the history or background of where certain methods or problems came from.

He could write bigger

Hard to understand in general. Less focus on the theoretical aspects and more lecturing on how to solve problems. Too much reliance on the textbook.

try to make the material more understandable to students, it can be kind of confusing sometimes.

He did not explain things clearly. I don't think he talked to the TA much, as they did not teach things the same way.

He needs to stick to the material. Tends to go off tangent.

Needs to speak louder, teach in a more straightforward manner. Way too convoluted in his teaching style. Was not clear at all.

He could improve by providing more examples of the concepts that are taught.

do more examples with numbers

He challenged students by assuming that all students had a solid foundation in higher education math, such as linear algebra, calculus, and statistics. Most students taking the course, actually, are students who are learning concepts in statistics for the very first time. He overlooks that fact and all students ended up having trouble understanding what he was talking about. He did no practice problems in class (no examples) and just provided us with a bunch of random formulas without thoroughly explaining how to use them. He expected us to know how to use the formulas right away even when he admits that he spent years understanding those very same concepts. He has no structure during the lectures and does not provide us with examples EVEN THOUGH students have out-rightly asked him to please do some examples with actual numbers instead of variables and symbols. That being said, he uses random symbols such as alpha, beta, etc without explaining at all what he is doing or what does symbols mean! It was many of our first times even seeing the many unexplained symbols he uses. Throughout class, students exchange confused looks with one another, and some have completely given up going to lectures so stopped going.

He can improve his teaching effectiveness by having a more solid structure, going more slowly, actually explaining every step he is doing, and last but not least, doing EXAMPLES with actual numbers and problems so students have a chance to actually understand the formulas in the context of math problems.

talk more clear

everything.

Focus on material we need to learn. Spent 45 min out of 50 min class talking about formulas we will never use. Spent class time talking about the family tree of mathematicians that we do not need to know. Admits to making the class more challenging than it needs to be but does not explain any of the material. complicates the material and does not explain it at all. learned everything from the TA. this is a math 114 class, students are in this class because they are struggling with basic math. this is not a class that needs to be overly complicated just because the teacher is amused by it. teach the material in a level that math 114 students need to understand.

Not talking about things that are not going to be on the exam

Clearly explaining concepts that are new

More enthusiasm and directness

talk louder

It's hard to understand what he's saying sometimes and he occasionally talks too quietly for most of the class to hear him, not to mention his writing on the board is too small for anyone to read unless you sit in the very front row or wear glasses..

articulating

Direct lectures more towards actual quantitative work

Additional comments?

Comment

Overall he was enjoyable to learn from, and you could tell that he loves what he does.

nope

The class was very enjoyable, and the professor did an excellent job at keeping my interest on the subject.

na

horrible course.

i learned everything from the TA. there is no point in going to lectures because he did not teach anything. very poor quality teaching. expected more out of this class.

fun class, learned a lot

Didn't like this class and the professor is too difficult to understand

great class.

n/a

Thanks for everything!