



USC University of
Southern California

Individual Report for Instructor Lototsky
(39632-20183 : MATH-407 Probability
Theory (39632))

Project Title: **Learning Experience Evaluations - Fall 2018**

Project Audience: **43**

Responses Received: **21**

Response Ratio: **48.84%**

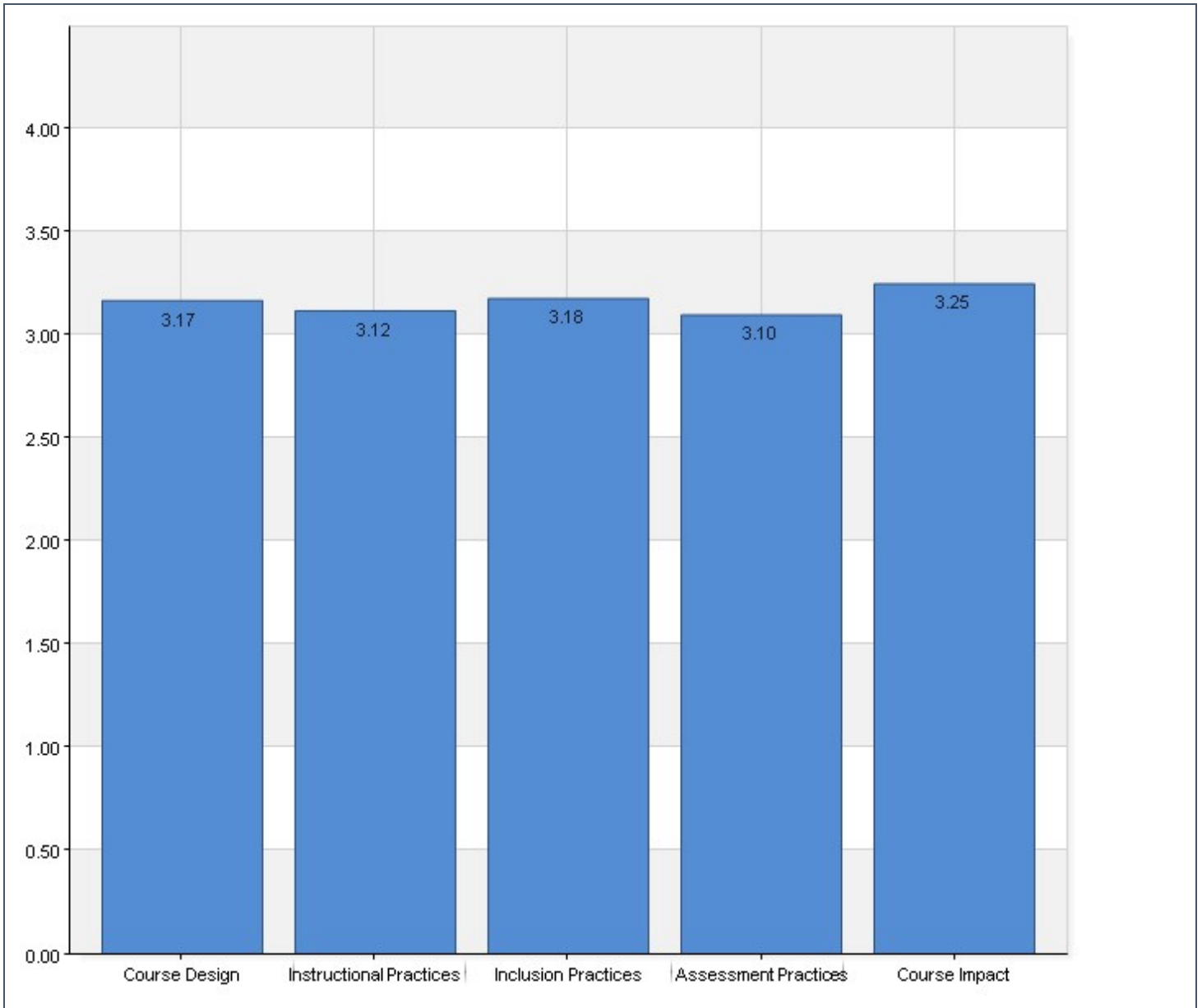
Report Comments

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Creation Date: **Tue, Dec 18, 2018**

LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS

Learning Experience Subscale Average Score



Competency	Course-instructor	Standard Deviation
Course Design	3.17	+/-0.83
Instructional Practices	3.12	+/-0.92
Inclusion Practices	3.18	+/-0.92
Assessment Practices	3.10	+/-0.89
Course Impact	3.25	+/-0.93

COURSE DESIGN

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course objectives were well explained.	20	3.10	0.85
The course assignments were related to the course objectives.	20	3.30	0.80
I understood what was expected of me in this course.	20	3.10	0.85

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.	20	2.85	0.93
The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students.	20	3.30	0.92
The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.	20	3.20	0.89

INCLUSION PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.	20	3.25	0.85
The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.	20	2.95	0.94
The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints.	20	3.25	0.97
The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences.	20	3.25	0.97

ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.	20	3.10	0.85
The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.	20	3.05	0.89
The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.	20	3.10	0.97
The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.	20	3.15	0.93

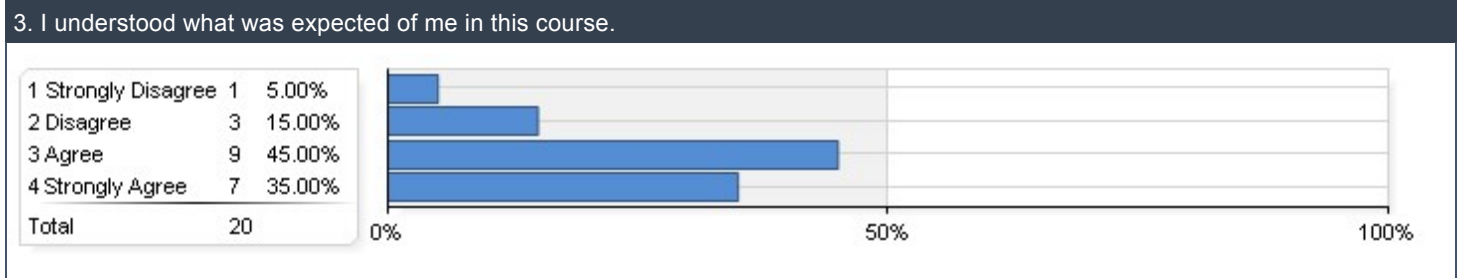
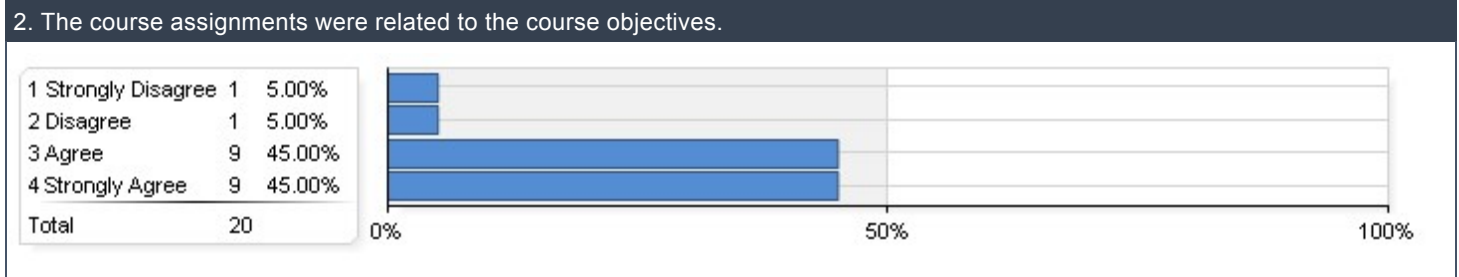
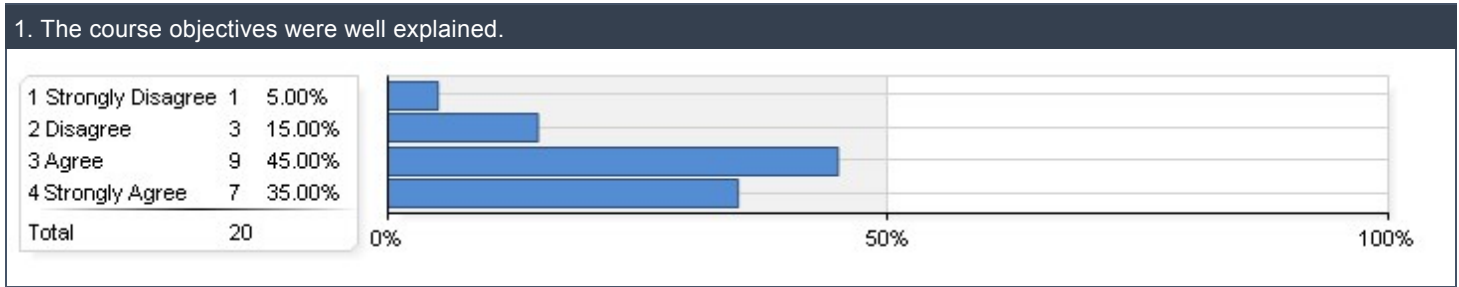
COURSE IMPACT

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I learned a lot from this course. I learned perspectives, principles, or practices from this course that I expect to apply to new situations.	19	3.16	0.96
This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.	19	3.37	0.96
This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.	19	3.21	0.92

LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE DESIGN

COURSE DESIGN

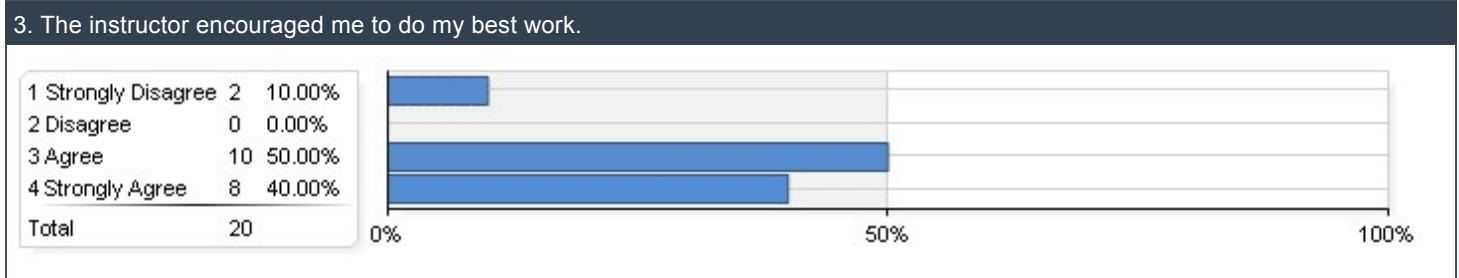
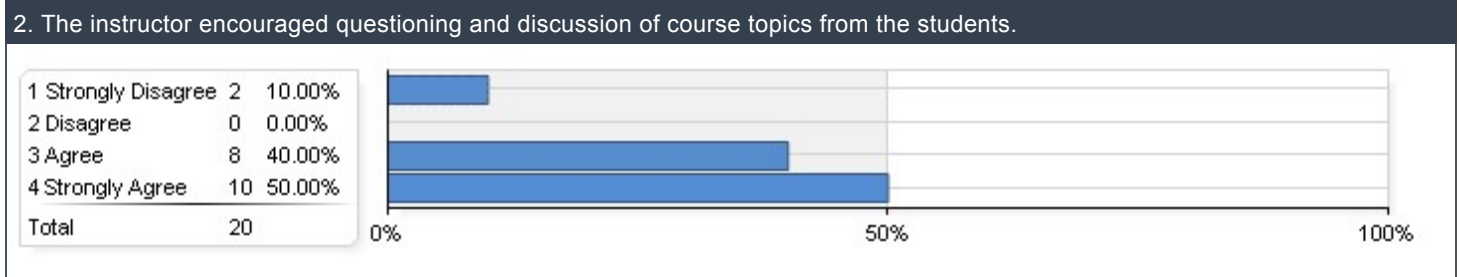
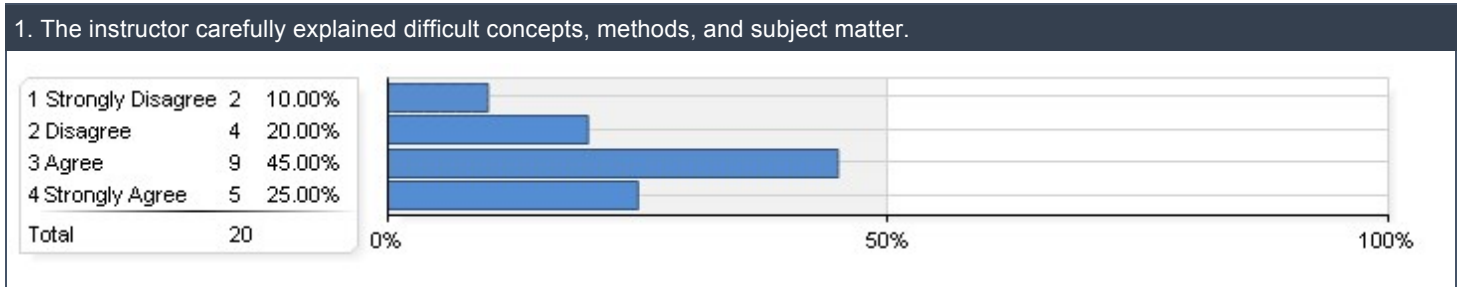
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course objectives were well explained.	20	3.10	0.85
The course assignments were related to the course objectives.	20	3.30	0.80
I understood what was expected of me in this course.	20	3.10	0.85



LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.	20	2.85	0.93
The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students.	20	3.30	0.92
The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.	20	3.20	0.89



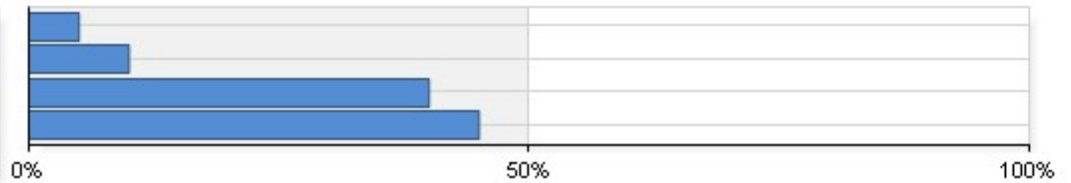
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INCLUSION PRACTICES

INCLUSION PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.	20	3.25	0.85
The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.	20	2.95	0.94
The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints.	20	3.25	0.97
The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences.	20	3.25	0.97

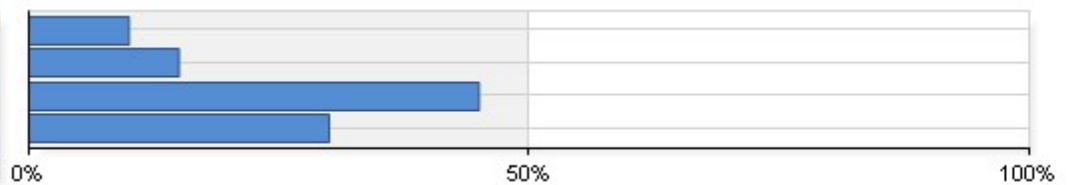
1. The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	5.00%
2 Disagree	2	10.00%
3 Agree	8	40.00%
4 Strongly Agree	9	45.00%
Total	20	



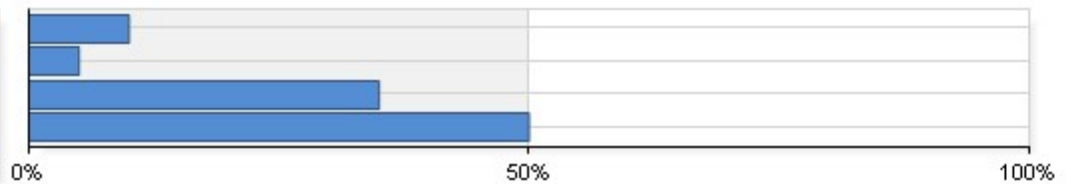
2. The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	10.00%
2 Disagree	3	15.00%
3 Agree	9	45.00%
4 Strongly Agree	6	30.00%
Total	20	



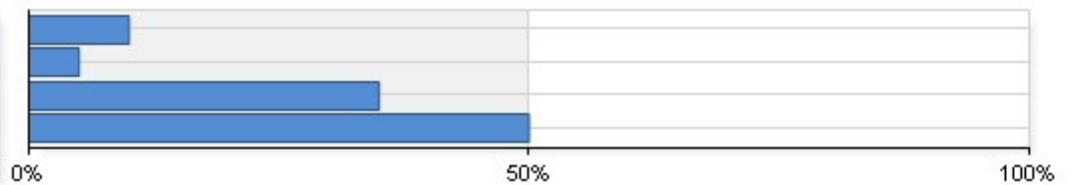
3. The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	10.00%
2 Disagree	1	5.00%
3 Agree	7	35.00%
4 Strongly Agree	10	50.00%
Total	20	



4. The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	10.00%
2 Disagree	1	5.00%
3 Agree	7	35.00%
4 Strongly Agree	10	50.00%
Total	20	



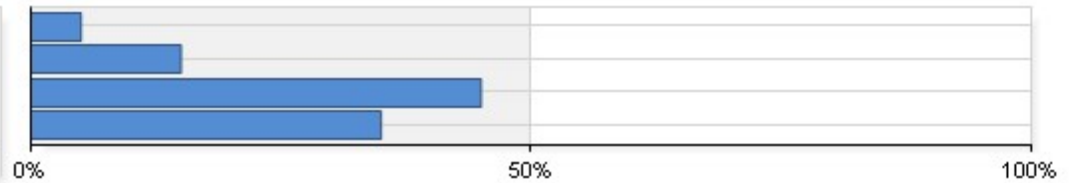
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.	20	3.10	0.85
The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.	20	3.05	0.89
The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.	20	3.10	0.97
The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.	20	3.15	0.93

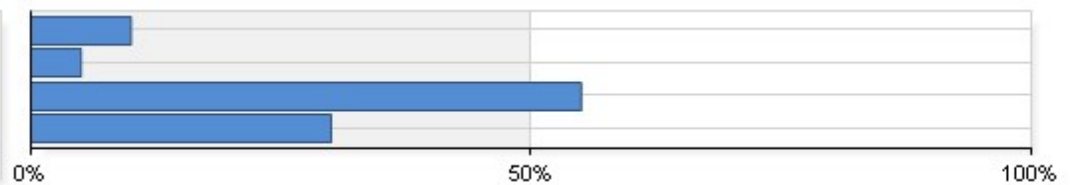
1. The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	5.00%
2 Disagree	3	15.00%
3 Agree	9	45.00%
4 Strongly Agree	7	35.00%
Total	20	



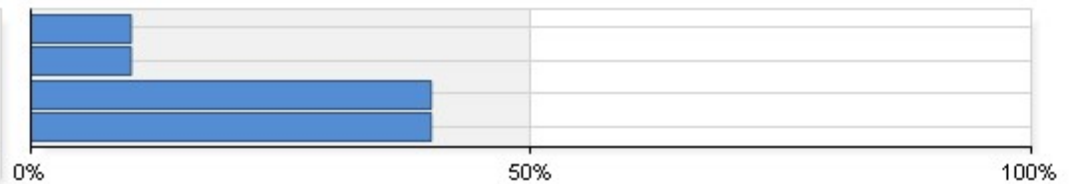
2. The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	10.00%
2 Disagree	1	5.00%
3 Agree	11	55.00%
4 Strongly Agree	6	30.00%
Total	20	



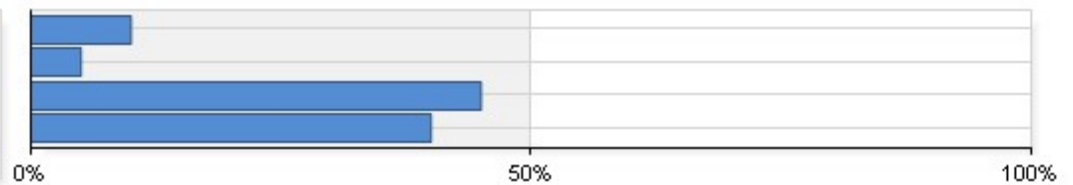
3. The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	10.00%
2 Disagree	2	10.00%
3 Agree	8	40.00%
4 Strongly Agree	8	40.00%
Total	20	



4. The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.

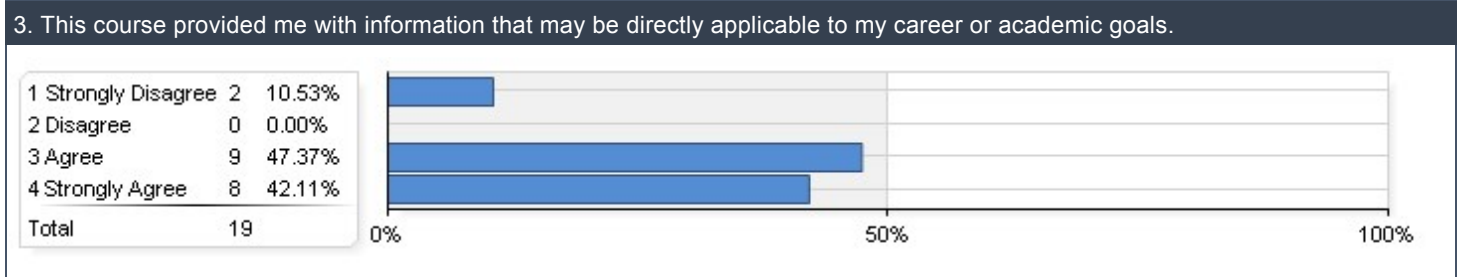
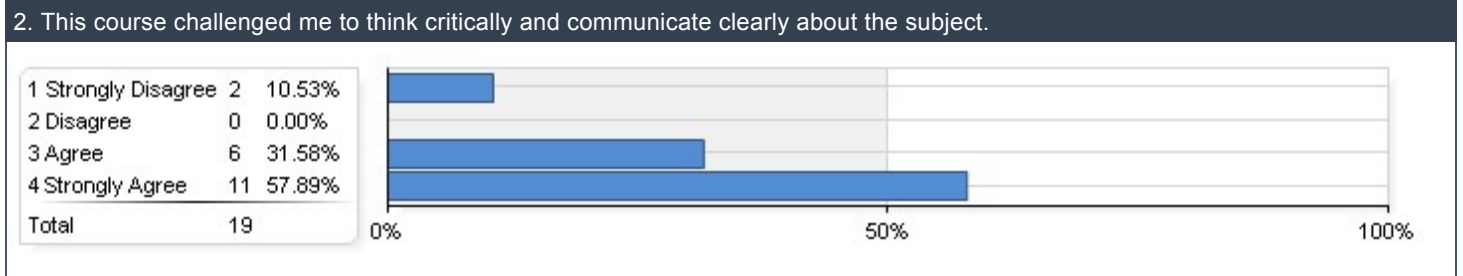
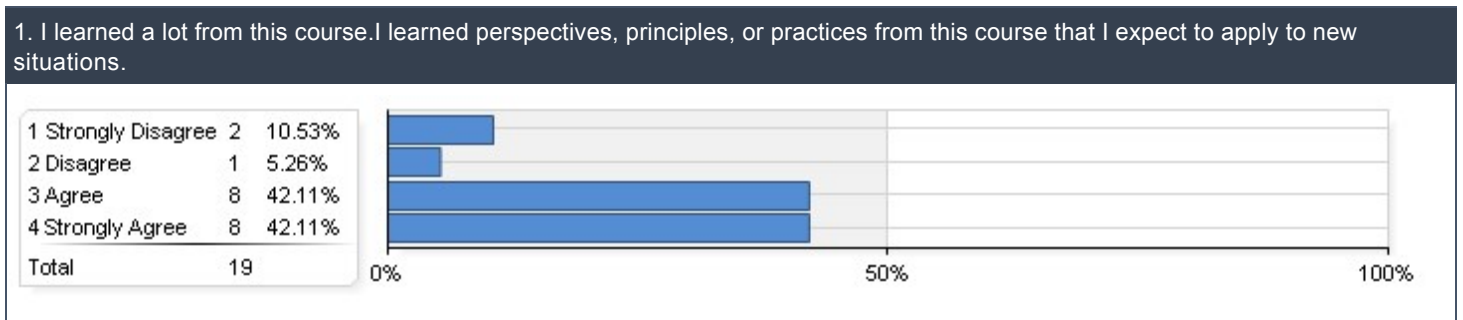
1 Strongly Disagree	2	10.00%
2 Disagree	1	5.00%
3 Agree	9	45.00%
4 Strongly Agree	8	40.00%
Total	20	



LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE IMPACT

COURSE IMPACT

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
I learned a lot from this course.I learned perspectives, principles, or practices from this course that I expect to apply to new situations.	19	3.16	0.96
This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.	19	3.37	0.96
This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.	19	3.21	0.92



If you have selected at least a "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" option with one of the previous statements on COURSE DESIGN, INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES, ASSESSMENT PRACTICES or COURSE IMPACT, please describe a change that would improve that aspect of the course.

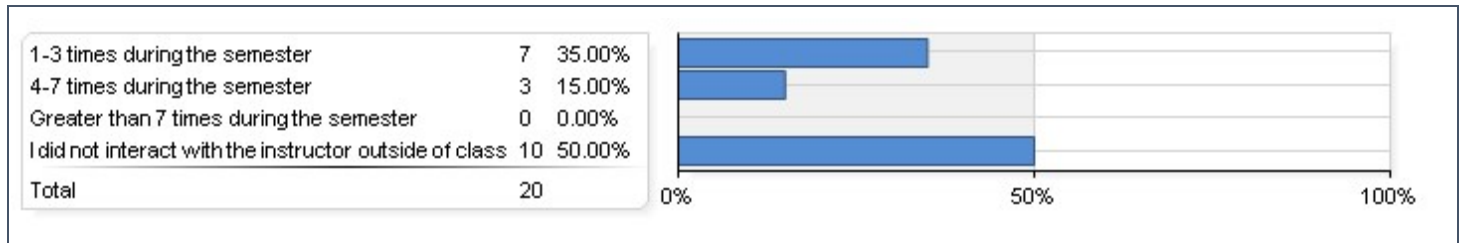
Students
<p>The professor did not clearly explain a single concept in this course and taught material that was unrelated to the course. Many students felt the same way and the only concrete instruction came from the TA. The professor was extremely unhelpful when meeting to discuss difficult topics in class and provided short answers. He also assigned a final project which required us to code, WHEN THIS IS NOT A CODING CLASS. This is extremely unacceptable because coding was not a prerequisite for the course. The TA also did not even know how to do this assignment so I was left to my own defenses. I contacted 3 math TAs from previous classes and all did not know how to do the project. I also contacted actual CS students for help, and also sought the help of previous students and no one was helpful. I worked extremely hard in this course and I do not believe that this professor is fit to teach this course because he cannot explain difficult math concepts to his students, leaving the TA to pick up his slack. On numerous occasions he would forget his notes for the class and then ramble about completely unrelated topics. I do not think that it is acceptable for the professor to leave all the actual teaching to the TA and not provide anything valuable in the actual class period. Lastly, the professor announced a pre-final quiz over all of the material of the course 2 days before it took place which is absurd because this was not stated anywhere in the syllabus and we were not supposed to have anymore quizzes. I felt the professor did not care about his students at all and was only concerned with flaunting topics that were unrelated to the course.</p>
<p>The project tested programming knowledge way more than anything related to this course.</p>
<p>Very long, meandering lectures full of problems and concepts not on the exams. Very confusing explanations.</p>

Is there additional information or feedback that you would like to share with instructor Sergey Lototsky?

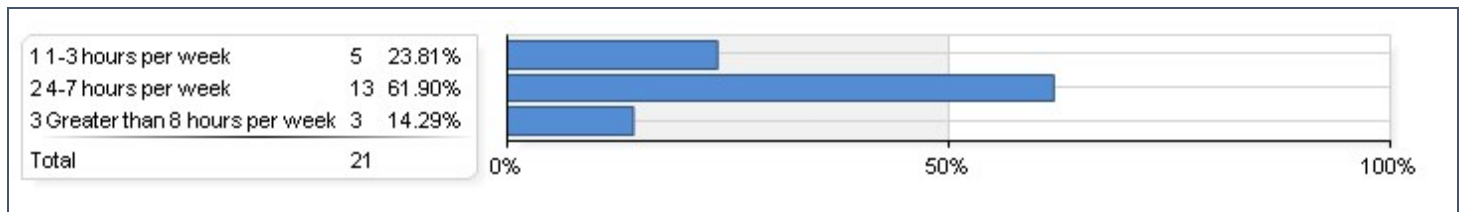
Students
I think it would be helpful if you made it clear what was going to be on the tests and what was extra information. Much of the information covered in class was above the level of stuff we needed to know, which I really like. I think it's helpful to stretch students and challenge them. However, I think it caused more stress thinking that the certain material was going to be on quizzes and exams when it was not.
talk more about the course materials, instead of graduate classes materials
I thought that some of the lessons were really difficult to follow along with, and I think that the project at the end of the semester was super difficult especially when one does not have a coding background/ knowledge.
if improve the hand writing will be the best
Great teacher
I appreciate the great insights into the field of Mathematics as a whole as well as the encouragement to do our best.
Homeworks were rather difficult
Hi Professor Lototsky, Thanks for a great semester of probability theory. I can see your effort in willingness to teach us lots of interesting and diverse probability topics. But just sometimes some of them might be a little bit difficult for us to understand or might be explained in a clearer way. Overall I had a great semester in your class, really learned a lot in the related probability topics!
Excellent professor, clearly experienced and good at explaining complex concepts

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS

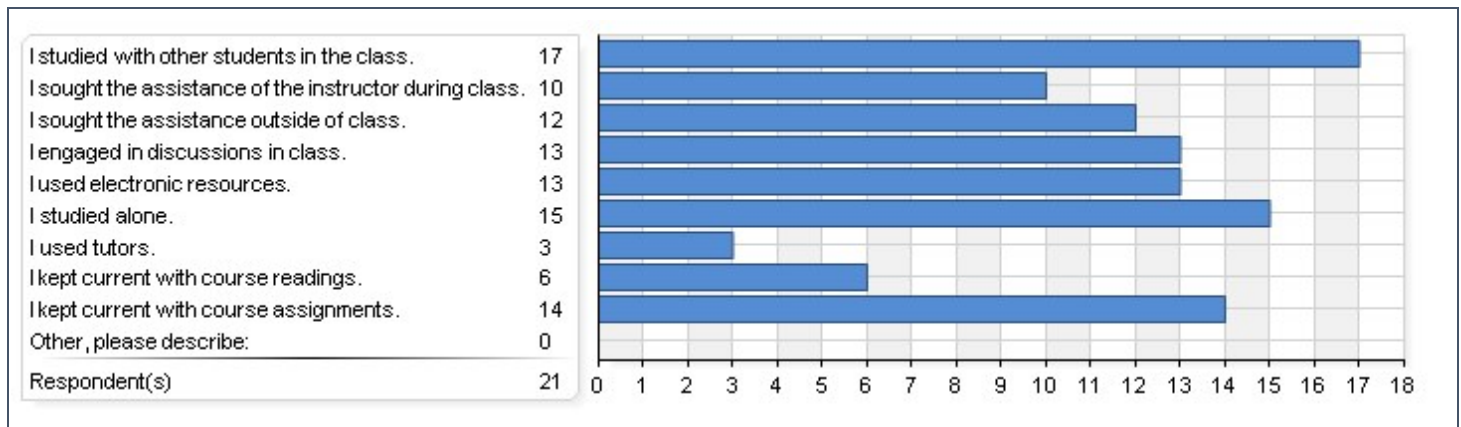
Number of Instructor Interactions Outside of Class



Approximately how many hours did you spend on coursework outside of the classroom?



In what ways have you participated in your learning for this course? (Please select all that apply.)



Please describe the MOST valuable aspect(s) of this course.

Comments
I think the homeworks were really helpful and challenging but still doable.
A greater look at probability in the bigger picture of maths, and encouragement to learn basics in probability.
it is very closely related to the textbook.
learn probability
Good coverage of topics
The relevance and applications of the probability concepts we learned, as well as valuable exposure and great insights into advanced topics in the field.
Topics covered in class on probability are really diverse. The professor is teaching us far more than the book.
mathematical knowledge
Helpful in practicing translating word problems (or real-world scenarios) into mathematics. Gave me a basic grasp on probability theory.

Please describe the LEAST valuable aspect(s) of this course.

Comments
I think often the quizzes were on different topics as the homework, so I think it would help if it was clear what was on each quiz.
the instructor often diverges in class.
not understand the topic deeply
Lectures were often difficult to follow, didnt relate well to homework questions.
While the discussions of more advanced topics in the field were great to be exposed to, they sometimes confused the expectations about what we were supposed to study and learn. More clarity on what is useful and required in the course and HOW to take advantage of and apply the advanced topics as related to our course material, and potentially in the future, would make these topics easier to digest and appreciate.
Sometimes the classes are too theoretical and difficult to understand.
Sometimes lectures would go off topic or discuss very difficult concepts that were interesting but not pertinent to the coursework