Individual Report for Instructor Lototsky 39628-20171 : MATH-407 Probability Theory (39628)

USC Student Course Evaluations - Spring 2017

Project Audience 46
Responses Received 18
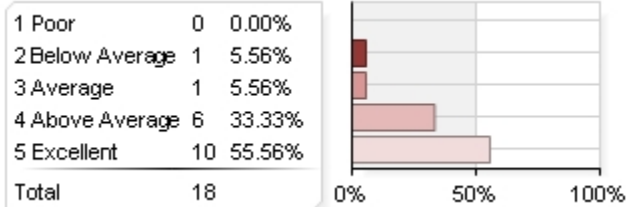Response Ratio 39.13%

Subject Details	
Name	MATH-407 Probability Theory (39628)
Section	39628-20171
Course_ID	MATH-407
Course Type	Lecture
Course Department	MATH
School	LAS
Session	001
First Name	Sergey
Last Name	Lototsky
Email	lototsky@math.usc.edu

Creation Date   Fri, May 12, 2017

Powered by blue

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

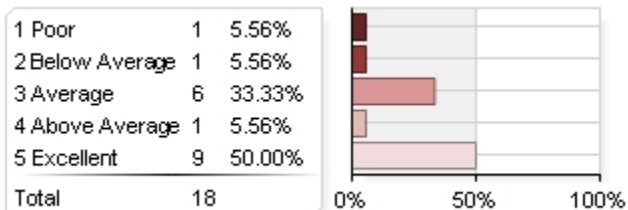## 1. Clearly articulated course goals.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	1	5.56%
3 Average	1	5.56%
4 Above Average	6	33.33%
5 Excellent	10	55.56%
Total	18	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.39
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.85

2. Organized course to achieve those goals.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	1	5.56%
3 Average	2	11.11%
4 Above Average	7	38.89%
5 Excellent	8	44.44%
Total	18	
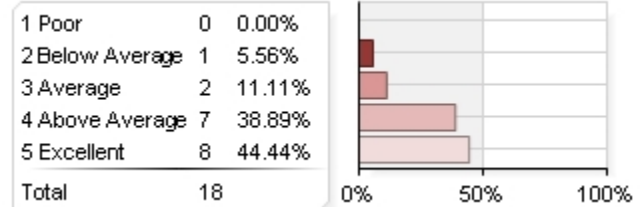
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.88

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

1 Poor	1	5.56%
2 Below Average	1	5.56%
3 Average	6	33.33%
4 Above Average	1	5.56%
5 Excellent	9	50.00%
Total	18	

Statistics	Value
Mean	3.89
Median	4.50
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.28

4. Encouraged students to participate in their learning (e.g., through discussion, projects, study groups and other appropriate activities).
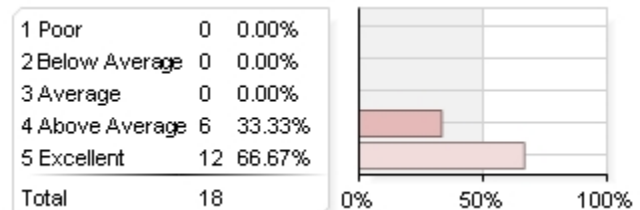
1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	1	5.56%
3 Average	5	27.78%
4 Above Average	2	11.11%
5 Excellent	10	55.56%
Total	18	
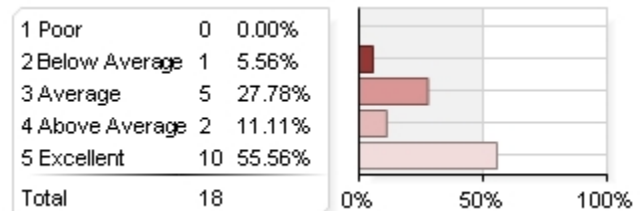
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.17
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.04

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

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	1	5.56%
3 Average	2	11.11%
4 Above Average	2	11.11%
5 Excellent	13	72.22%
Total	18	
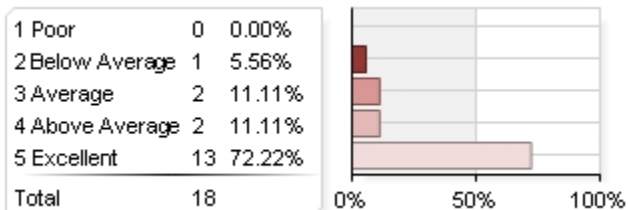
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.92

6. Evaluated student work in fair and appropriate ways.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	0	0.00%
3 Average	0	0.00%
4 Above Average	6	33.33%
5 Excellent	12	66.67%
Total	18	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.49

7. Was enthusiastic about communicating the subject matter.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	1	5.56%
3 Average	0	0.00%
4 Above Average	5	27.78%
5 Excellent	12	66.67%
Total	18	
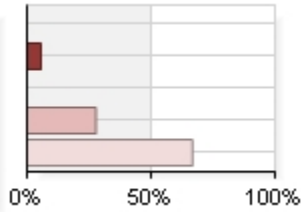
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.78

8. Stimulated student interest in the subject matter.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	2	11.11%
3 Average	3	16.67%
4 Above Average	4	22.22%
5 Excellent	9	50.00%
Total	18	
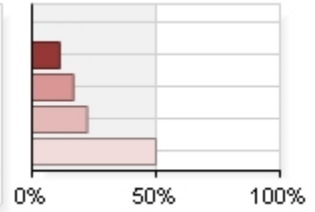
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.11
Median	4.50
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.08

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

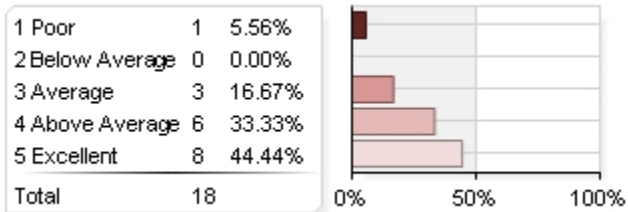9. Presented subject matter in ways that were academically challenging.

1 Poor	1	5.56%
2 Below Average	0	0.00%
3 Average	0	0.00%
4 Above Average	5	27.78%
5 Excellent	12	66.67%
Total	18	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.99
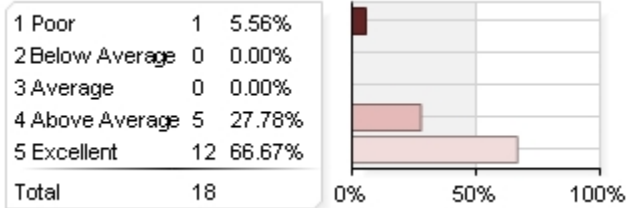
10. Provided students a valuable learning experience.
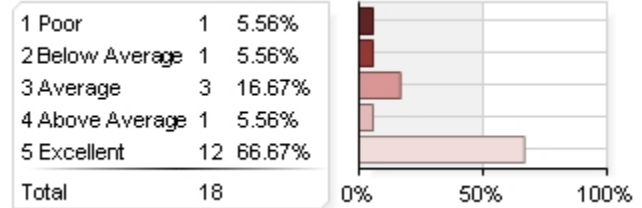
1 Poor	1	5.56%
2 Below Average	1	5.56%
3 Average	3	16.67%
4 Above Average	1	5.56%
5 Excellent	12	66.67%
Total	18	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.22
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.26

Overall, how would you rate this instructor?

1 Poor	1	5.56%
2 Below Average	0	0.00%
3 Average	3	16.67%
4 Above Average	6	33.33%
5 Excellent	8	44.44%
Total	18	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.11
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.08

Overall, how would you rate this course?

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	2	11.11%
3 Average	4	22.22%
4 Above Average	5	27.78%
5 Excellent	7	38.89%
Total	18	
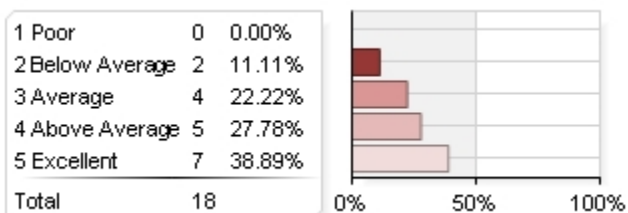
Statistics	Value
Mean	3.94
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.06

What were this instructor's main strengths?

Comments
Lototsky was very knowledgeable on the subject matter and enthusiastic about teaching it.
He was very straightforward and concise about his teaching plans.
He is very smart and knows his material
enthusiasm about his subject
knowledgable
Understanding that we are only students, mainly sophomores and juniors, that are not too advanced in math. Though we all have a grasp of topics in probability, he understands that learning the concepts is more important than solving hard problems.
Dedication to mathematics. Teaching stuff outside the course
Professor Lotosky did not merely teach directly from the book, rather he chose to expose us to graduate material. Although some of this material was challenging, he was clear about his expectations for exams and I feel that I have learned more in his class than I would have with another instructor. I understand that some students might prefer to have a 1:1 correspondence between what is in the book and what is taught in lecture but as someone interested in going to graduate school, I greatly appreciated Professor Lotosky's willingness to challenge us and expose us to topics we otherwise would not see until graduate school. I also feel that Professor Lotosky did an excellent job of explaining tying together the different theoretical concepts of the course, sometimes by literally drawing diagrams relating the concepts. I also really enjoyed how Professor Lotosky provided the historical background of many of the theoretical concepts we studied in the class and it makes the material less abstract.
Cared about subject, would challenge students with complex material, posted lectures online for review
He was very enthusiastic and showed many outside applications to the material we learned

How might this instructor improve their teaching effectiveness?

Comments
The largest area of improvement would be giving fuller explanations of certain topics. A lot of times he would skip a few steps or only explain something verbally when a full explanation on the board would have been most helpful. A lot of times I believe students were too confused to know what to ask when the professor opened up the lecture to student questions.
Follow the textbook more
Perhaps don't stray too much
He over complicates topics that are relatively simple and fails to go over easy examples to facilitate learning. No one asks questions because barely anyone pays attention. Doing more example problems than proofs would help explain the concepts at play. Then, proving why it works would be a more effective strategy.
improve his accent and writing try to explain more about the important concepts use less complicated denotations try to express the contents more straightforward
teaching easier material
None
My one suggestion would be outlining the motivation for the final project sooner. The impression I got from other classmates was that they didn't understand why finding the surface area of Antarctica was relevant to a probability class. While the professor eventually did explain how it relates to the class, I think outlining that motivation in the project description might be helpful for students who do not immediately see the connection.
explanations of concepts harder / more complex than needed
I think his teaching effectiveness was fine and doesn't need improvement

Additional comments?

Students
None
N/A
NO
None
Would definitely recommend to anyone looking to take it