USC University of
Southern California

Individual Report for Instructor Lototsky (39635-20161 : MATH-408 Mathematical Statistics (39635))

USC Student Course Evaluations - Spring 2016

Project Audience 41
Responses Received 29
Response Ratio 70.73%

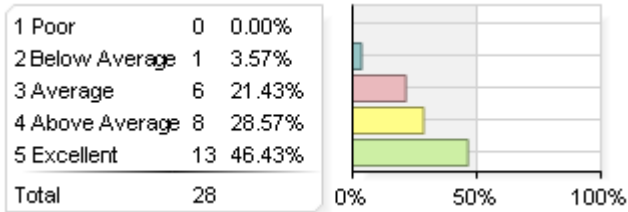**Creation Date**   Wed, May 18, 2016

Technology powered by blue
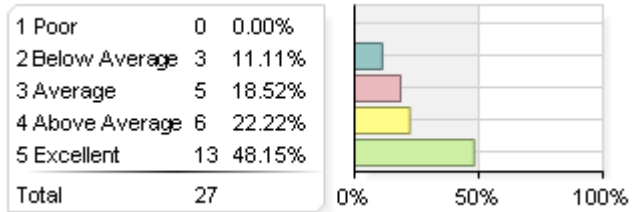
How would you rate the instructor's effectiveness on the following items?

1. Clearly articulated course goals.

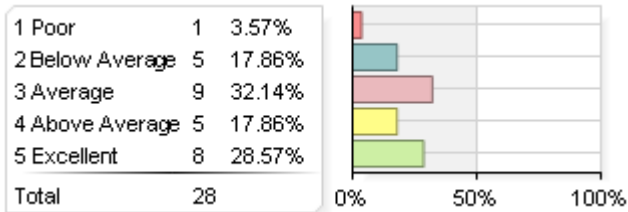|		
1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	1	3.57%
3 Average	6	21.43%
4 Above Average	8	28.57%
5 Excellent	13	46.43%
Total	28	

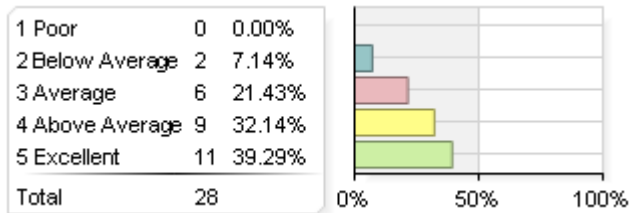| Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.18
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.90
Population Standard Deviation	+/-0.89
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.17
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.17

2. Organized course to achieve those goals.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	3	11.11%
3 Average	5	18.52%
4 Above Average	6	22.22%
5 Excellent	13	48.15%
Total	27	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	27
Mean	4.07
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-1.07
Population Standard Deviation	+/-1.05
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.21
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.20

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

1 Poor	1	3.57%
2 Below Average	5	17.86%
3 Average	9	32.14%
4 Above Average	5	17.86%
5 Excellent	8	28.57%
Total	28	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	3.50
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	+/-1.20
Population Standard Deviation	+/-1.18
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.23
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.22

4. Encouraged students to participate in their learning (e.g., through discussion, projects, study groups and other appropriate activities).
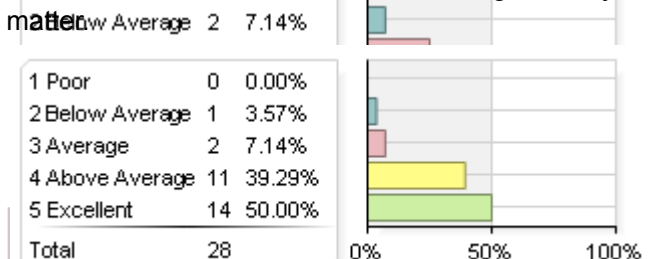
1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	2	7.14%
3 Average	6	21.43%
4 Above Average	9	32.14%
5 Excellent	11	39.29%
Total	28	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.04
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.96
Population Standard Deviation	+/-0.94
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.18
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.18

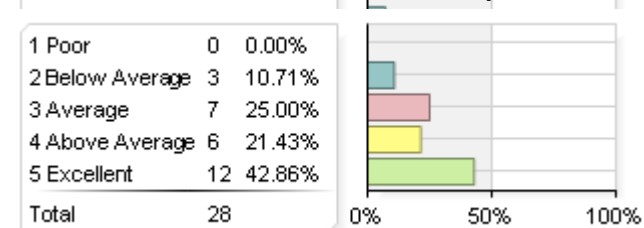**5. Was accessible to students (e.g., during office hours, before and after class, etc.).**

6. Evaluated student work in fair and appropriate ways.

7.1Was enthusiastic about communicating the subject matter.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	1	3.57%
3 Average	2	7.14%
4 Above Average	11	39.29%
5 Excellent	14	50.00%
Total	28	

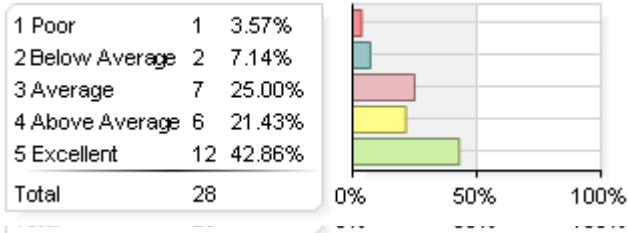| Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.36
Median	4.50
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.78
Population Standard Deviation	+/-0.77
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.15
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.14

8.1Stimulated student interest in the subject matter.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	3	10.71%
3 Average	7	25.00%
4 Above Average	6	21.43%
5 Excellent	12	42.86%
Total	28	

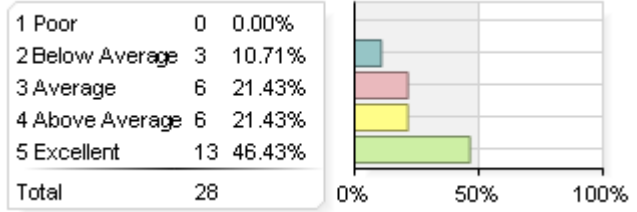| Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	3.96
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-1.07
Population Standard Deviation	+/-1.05
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.20
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.20

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

Overall, how would you rate this instructor?

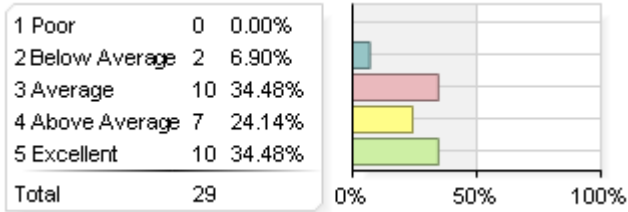9. Presented subject matter in ways that were academically challenging.

1 Poor	1	3.57%
2 Below Average	2	7.14%
3 Average	7	25.00%
4 Above Average	6	21.43%
5 Excellent	12	42.86%
Total	28	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	3.93
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-1.15
Population Standard Deviation	+/-1.13
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.22
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.21

10. Provided students a valuable learning experience.

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	3	10.71%
3 Average	6	21.43%
4 Above Average	6	21.43%
5 Excellent	13	46.43%
Total	28	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.04
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-1.07
Population Standard Deviation	+/-1.05
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.20
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.20

Overall, how would you rate this course?

1 Poor	0	0.00%
2 Below Average	2	6.90%
3 Average	10	34.48%
4 Above Average	7	24.14%
5 Excellent	10	34.48%
Total	29	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	29
Mean	3.86
Median	4.00
Mode	3, 5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.99
Population Standard Deviation	+/-0.97
Standard Error (base on SD)	+/-0.18
Standard Error (base on PSD)	+/-0.18

What were this instructor's main strengths?

Comment

He went above and beyond what was required of the course, but exams reflected only what should have been in the course, very helpful for advanced mathematics as well as making sure the base course information was well understood. Enthusiastic about the field, and open to any questions, encouraged us to try things more advanced out of class, very helpful.

Some may think his lecture is tough, but I would say that he was really trying to explain every concept thoroughly, which helped me understand the meaning behind every theorem better. He made this class more interesting by relating the class to real-life problems and having final projects for us.

Clearly explained what would be on the midterms and finals

Creating a very fair class on a challenging subject matter.

He was able to make his expectation and criteria very clear

Talked about really cool concepts in class. Would not have learned about it other ways.

His style of teaching is very appreciated. He knows that the subject material can be quite difficult and yet designs the class in a way that we are encouraged to think about the harder concepts but ultimately not going to be tested on. This relieves a lot of the stress related to upper level math courses and makes it a much more enjoyable learning atmosphere.

Professor Lotosky is very wise about the subject and he would always provide us with useful information. Not only strictly about Math 408 topics but information that is useful to know for someone taking math that maybe was not emphasized in previous classes. (Ex: Interview questions, topics to think about, talk about). He always encouraged students to work out problems outside of the class and welcomed students to visit him and talk to him about unexplored topics during his office hours. His tests were straightforward and did not attempt to try his students with questions, he clearly stated what was going to be on the test and how he was going to test for it. Overall it was the best Math class I've taken at USC for its content and the professor.

Being passionate on the course materials.

Great course plan

He was very knowledgeable and able to explain concepts in multiple different ways.

Professor Lototsky wanted the students be given multiple perspectives of mathematics. He challenged us with the homework assignments and quizzes.

Challenging students to go more in depth in topics and pushing students.

We were exposed to a very wide diversity of statistics that have appeared in other courses I am taking.

Professor Lototsky is very enthusiastic about math and his class is often phenomenally interesting. Also, his jokes are pretty funny. I wish I had gone to class more often, even though I'm doing well in the class without going much at all.

I really enjoy when Professor Lototsky gives advice and talks about our math careers beyond this class.

Knowledge of subject material

He was able to cover a lot of material in a semester, which seems painful at first but at the end of the year I am glad that he did it. Also, he manages to have rigor in the homework without the stress of feeling like you are about to fail his course, which I believe is important for people who actually want to master the material. He gives you plenty of opportunities to fail and get back up.

Knowledge

Is very knowledgeable in the course material and helped expand the understanding of the topics.

Passionate

Teaching the material from a variety of perspectives. Very good at giving intuition behind difficult problems.

How might this instructor improve his or her teaching effectiveness?

Comment

Hes good already.

Explain concepts better in class

If he would be able to broke down the hard materials

Lototsky should definitely slow down the first few weeks and at least go over the basic concepts, for those of us who have never taken a stats class before. Catching up is very hard after this deficit.

Sometimes the overall organization of the class is a little hard to follow.

Personally, it took me a quarter of the semester to figure out that in order to clearly understand the material and stay in pace with the class. I should be reading the chapter before the lecture on the chapter that week, the reason being is that its easy to get by the class without actually understanding some of the material but in order to get the most out of it and make class more interesting: students should be reading before hand.

The discrepancy between the materials covered in lectures and homework and what were on exams was really big. The course went too fast that it seemed many students failed to follow at many points.

better lecture

Make sure students are understanding explanations. There was not much student involvement in class.

From the beginning tell the students that lecture is a mixture of learning the material but also a supplement beyond learning concepts. At first, I thought everything we learned in class would be mirrored directly into the homework, but it was not like that. I did spend some time confused but once I realized that it was not directly correlated to everything 100%, I got more out of the lectures and struggled less with the homework.

Being clearer about material taught in lecture

A lot of the time I did not understand what was going on especially with respect to the homework. It may have been because I did not have the background he expected us to have from 407 also. Maybe talk to the TA more on the current material

Some more guidance or perhaps giving pages in the book for the tougher homework problems would be helpful. This already happens, to a degree.

We sped through chapters 13-16 really quickly, which made the material somewhat difficult to learn

Many students are lost during the lectures, however he has stated that he does not lecture for those students (i.e. he does not teach for the exam) so perhaps this is actually a good way to give those students more exposure.

Teach things that matter to course

Clearly articulate what to teach and what is applicable to undergraduate material, while it is interesting to hear about more complex material, if it is always discussed the current material sometimes gets lost

It would be nice to provide an answer to to the homeworks after they are due, so that it would be easier to check mistakes.

Additional comments?

Comment

Nope

Instead of taking it easy in the last month, maybe spread out some of the difficult material from the beginning.

I wish more professors taught in Lototsky's style.

I really enjoyed the pace of the class. I think having the set pace from the beginning of the semester allowed follow with the class. The content was interesting and so were the lectures (once I began reading the book).

n/a

I wish I came to your class more often. I personally find that I get very low on energy when I attend more classes, and tend to perform better when I'm more rested, but the few times I attended your class I really enjoyed your tangents on different and interesting bits of mathematics. Also your career advice is fun and very helpful when you give it.

The course was challenging but I really do appreciate the exposure to the world of statistics. I appreciate that you didn't spend the first half of the year covering probability theory like the other section because I was much more interested in learning statistics.

no