USC University of Southern California

Individual Report for Instructor Lototsky (39710-20183 : MATH-505A Applied Probability (39710))

Project Title: **Learning Experience Evaluations - Fall 2018**
Project Audience: **43**
Responses Received: **26**
Response Ratio: **60.47%**

Report Comments

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

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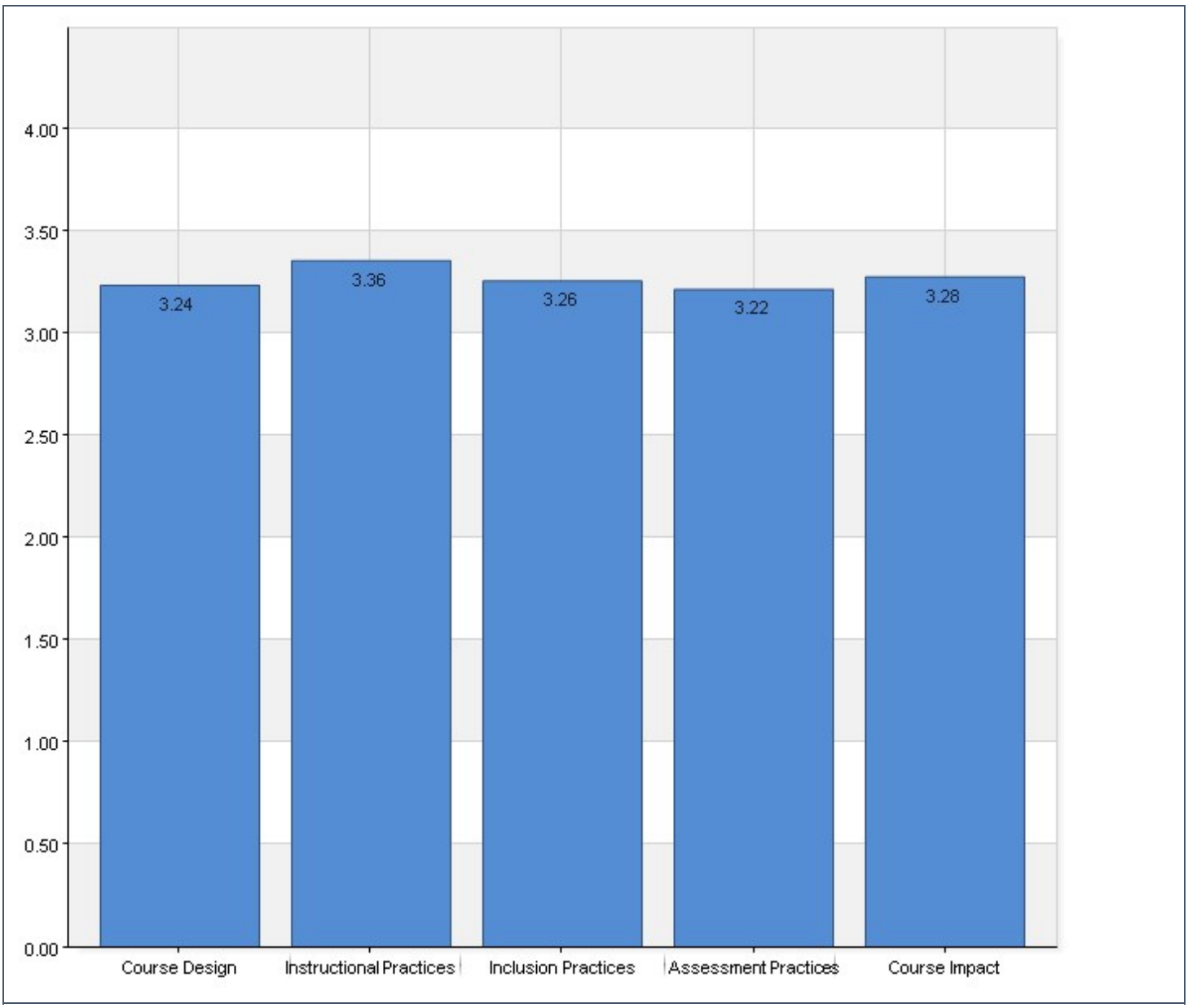
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS

Learning Experience Subscale Average Score



Competency	Course-instructor	Standard Deviation
Course Design	3.24	+/-1.01
Instructional Practices	3.36	+/-0.87
Inclusion Practices	3.26	+/-0.90
Assessment Practices	3.22	+/-0.99
Course Impact	3.28	+/-0.96

COURSE DESIGN

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course objectives were well explained.	26	3.27	0.96
The course assignments were related to the course objectives.	26	3.08	1.16
I understood what was expected of me in this course.	25	3.36	0.91

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.	26	3.08	1.06
The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students.	25	3.52	0.71
The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.	25	3.48	0.77

INCLUSION PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.	26	3.23	0.91
The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.	26	2.96	1.00
The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints.	25	3.40	0.82
The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences.	24	3.46	0.83

ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.	25	3.00	1.15
The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.	25	3.40	0.76
The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.	25	3.28	0.98
The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.	25	3.20	1.04

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.	25	3.24	0.97
This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.	25	3.40	0.91
This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.	24	3.21	1.02

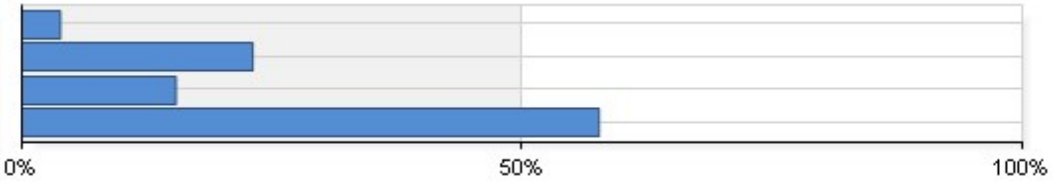
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE DESIGN

COURSE DESIGN

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course objectives were well explained.	26	3.27	0.96
The course assignments were related to the course objectives.	26	3.08	1.16
I understood what was expected of me in this course.	25	3.36	0.91

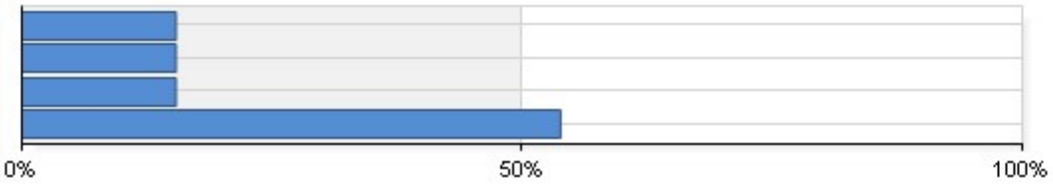
1. The course objectives were well explained.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	3.85%
2 Disagree	6	23.08%
3 Agree	4	15.38%
4 Strongly Agree	15	57.69%
Total	26	



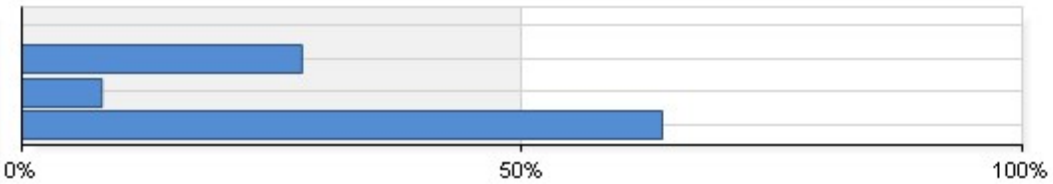
2. The course assignments were related to the course objectives.

1 Strongly Disagree	4	15.38%
2 Disagree	4	15.38%
3 Agree	4	15.38%
4 Strongly Agree	14	53.85%
Total	26	



3. I understood what was expected of me in this course.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
2 Disagree	7	28.00%
3 Agree	2	8.00%
4 Strongly Agree	16	64.00%
Total	25	



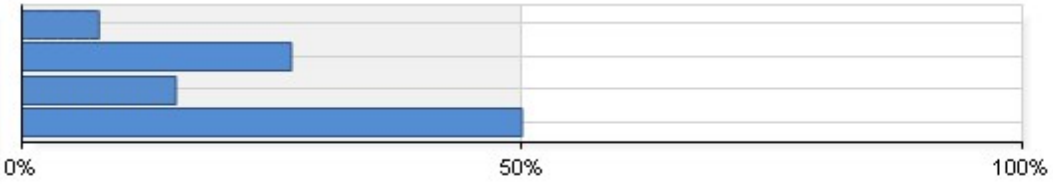
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.	26	3.08	1.06
The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students.	25	3.52	0.71
The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.	25	3.48	0.77

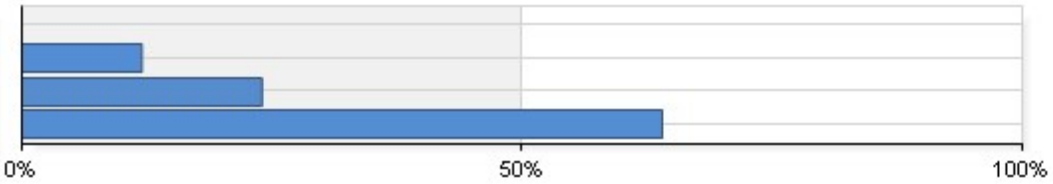
1. The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	7.69%
2 Disagree	7	26.92%
3 Agree	4	15.38%
4 Strongly Agree	13	50.00%
Total	26	



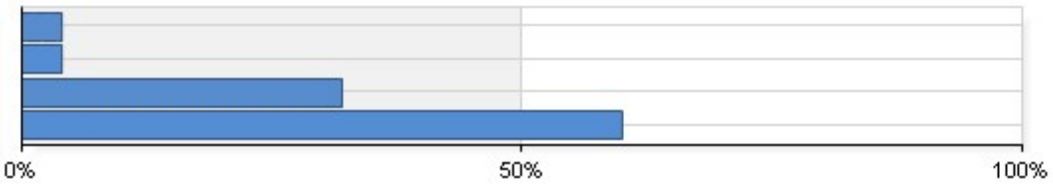
2. The instructor encouraged questioning and discussion of course topics from the students.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
2 Disagree	3	12.00%
3 Agree	6	24.00%
4 Strongly Agree	16	64.00%
Total	25	



3. The instructor encouraged me to do my best work.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	4.00%
2 Disagree	1	4.00%
3 Agree	8	32.00%
4 Strongly Agree	15	60.00%
Total	25	



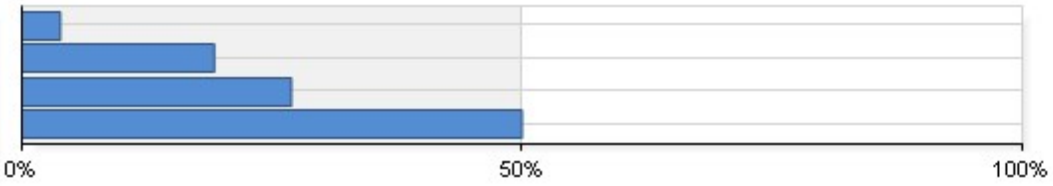
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: INCLUSION PRACTICES

INCLUSION PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.	26	3.23	0.91
The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.	26	2.96	1.00
The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints.	25	3.40	0.82
The instructor demonstrated sensitivity to students' needs and diverse life experiences.	24	3.46	0.83

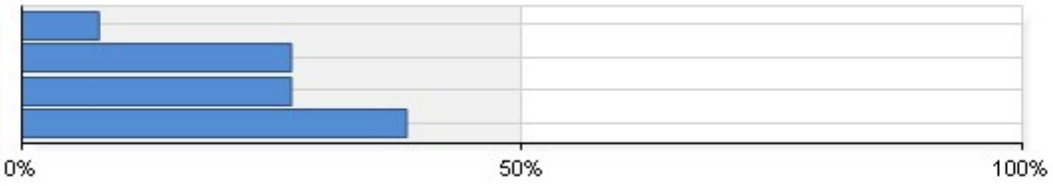
1. The course materials included diverse perspectives OR applications to diverse populations.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	3.85%
2 Disagree	5	19.23%
3 Agree	7	26.92%
4 Strongly Agree	13	50.00%
Total	26	



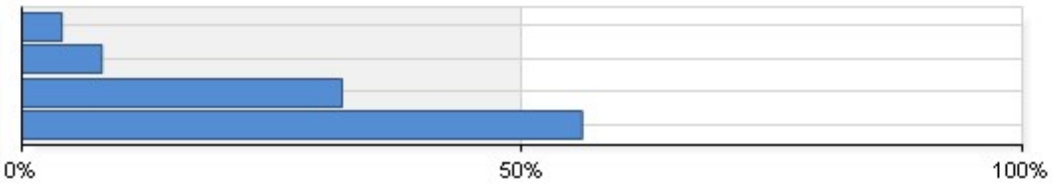
2. The instructor used a variety of teaching approaches to meet the needs of all students.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	7.69%
2 Disagree	7	26.92%
3 Agree	7	26.92%
4 Strongly Agree	10	38.46%
Total	26	



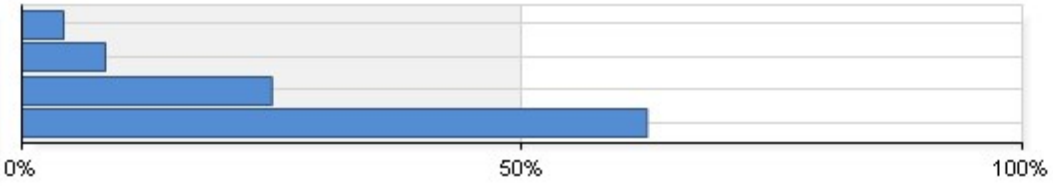
3. The instructor was receptive to the expression of diverse student viewpoints.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	4.00%
2 Disagree	2	8.00%
3 Agree	8	32.00%
4 Strongly Agree	14	56.00%
Total	25	



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

1 Strongly Disagree	1	4.17%
2 Disagree	2	8.33%
3 Agree	6	25.00%
4 Strongly Agree	15	62.50%
Total	24	



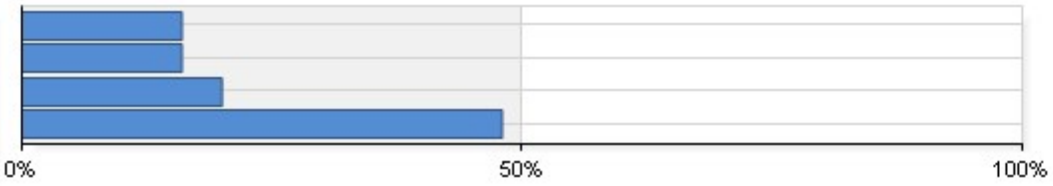
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.	25	3.00	1.15
The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.	25	3.40	0.76
The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.	25	3.28	0.98
The instructor's evaluation of my performances was constructive.	25	3.20	1.04

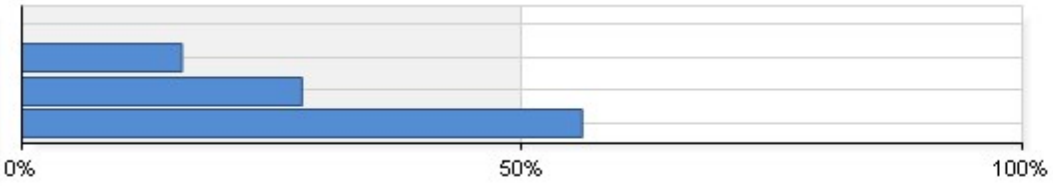
1. The assessments/assignments reflected what was covered in the course.

1 Strongly Disagree	4	16.00%
2 Disagree	4	16.00%
3 Agree	5	20.00%
4 Strongly Agree	12	48.00%
Total	25	



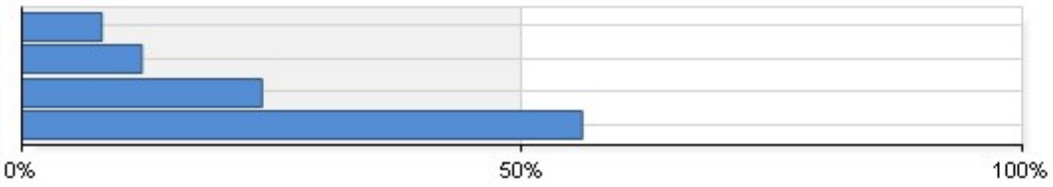
2. The grades I have received thus far reflect the QUALITY of my performance in the course.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
2 Disagree	4	16.00%
3 Agree	7	28.00%
4 Strongly Agree	14	56.00%
Total	25	



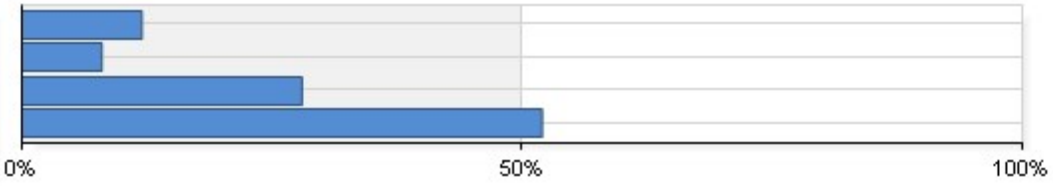
3. The criteria for good performance on the assignments or assessments were clearly communicated.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	8.00%
2 Disagree	3	12.00%
3 Agree	6	24.00%
4 Strongly Agree	14	56.00%
Total	25	



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

1 Strongly Disagree	3	12.00%
2 Disagree	2	8.00%
3 Agree	7	28.00%
4 Strongly Agree	13	52.00%
Total	25	



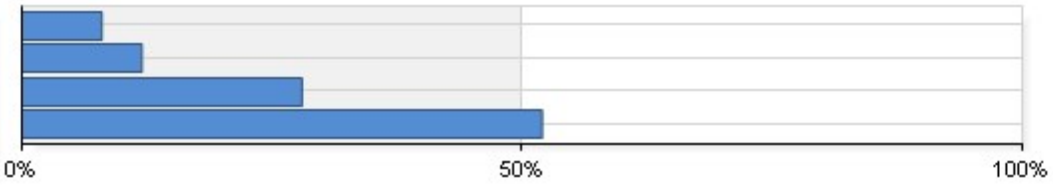
LEARNING EXPERIENCE SUBSCALE ANALYSIS: COURSE IMPACT

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.	25	3.24	0.97
This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.	25	3.40	0.91
This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.	24	3.21	1.02

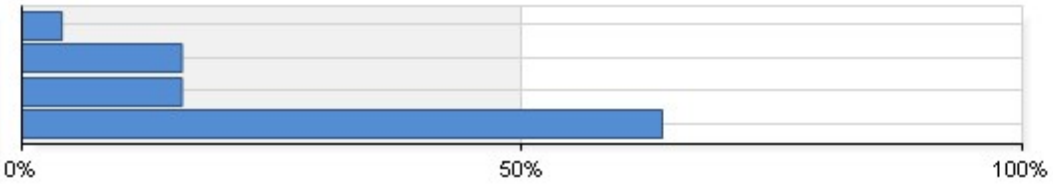
1. I learned a lot from this course.I learned perspectives, principles, or practices from this course that I expect to apply to new situations.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	8.00%
2 Disagree	3	12.00%
3 Agree	7	28.00%
4 Strongly Agree	13	52.00%
Total	25	



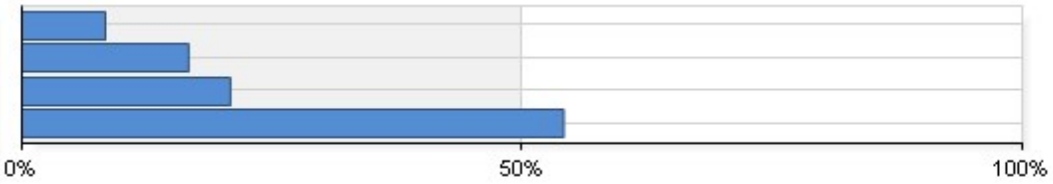
2. This course challenged me to think critically and communicate clearly about the subject.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	4.00%
2 Disagree	4	16.00%
3 Agree	4	16.00%
4 Strongly Agree	16	64.00%
Total	25	



3. This course provided me with information that may be directly applicable to my career or academic goals.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	8.33%
2 Disagree	4	16.67%
3 Agree	5	20.83%
4 Strongly Agree	13	54.17%
Total	24	



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
taught things that are not connected to the assignment
This is a math course, so the ways in which the professor can or should exhibit diverse perspectives/ sensitivity to diverse populations are limited., hence I disagree that he he that very much. The instructor only lectured on a chalk–board in mostly the same way, so I could not say he used a diversity of teaching approaches.
Some of the problems in the homework were never really covered in class so were difficult to complete
The homework assignments were extremely long and unrelated to content covered in class. Often times, information necessary for homework would be covered days after the homework was due. There was a gap between what was covered in lecture and what was on the assignments. It would be helpful if more of the information necessary to do the homework was covered before the homework was due.
It would be good if material were covered before assignments on said material were due. Additionally, the length of each assignment was far too long, especially since much of the material did not appear on exams.
The homework assignment is too hard.
Pick a less difficult textbook than Grimmett and Stirzaker. It is a great source of advanced exercises, but it is completely useless to someone who didn't major in math / pursuing a math grad degree. Too dense, and a bit too far removed from applications. I would recommend looking into Probability: A Lively Introduction by H. Tijms.
The homework felt like it was far too long, it could have been half the length and still taken many hours. It also seemed to include problems on things we hadn't alway covered or didn't cover till a couple of days before the homework was due. Also the majority of the homework wasn't graded and solutions weren't given, which means if you got something wrong you wouldn't know unless they marked that specific question. And the teachers ability to convey the information clearly seems questionable. He may have been nice enough in some ways, but the course overall felt far too stressful and I mainly ended up just teaching myself the material as I didn't find the lectures very understandable.

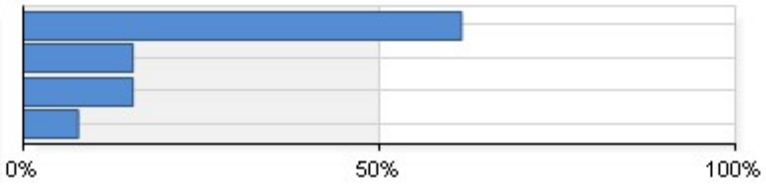
Is there additional information or feedback that you would like to share with instructor Sergey Lototsky?

Students
Fantastic professor who knows how to teach MATH
no
It would be better if the homework problems are more accessible, or, more guidance could be given to those problems that most students find difficult. Overall, I really like Professor Lototsky and his educational approach.
The homework assignment is really too hard.

STUDENT ENGAGMENT ANALYSIS

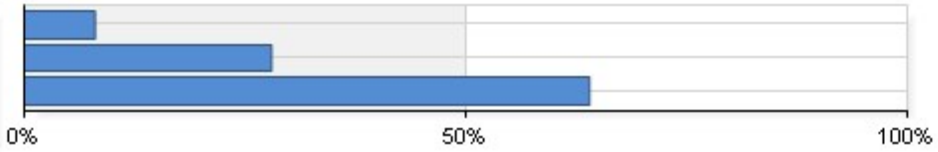
Number of Instructor Interactions Outside of Class

1-3 times during the semester	16	61.54%
4-7 times during the semester	4	15.38%
Greater than 7 times during the semester	4	15.38%
I did not interact with the instructor outside of class	2	7.69%
Total	26	



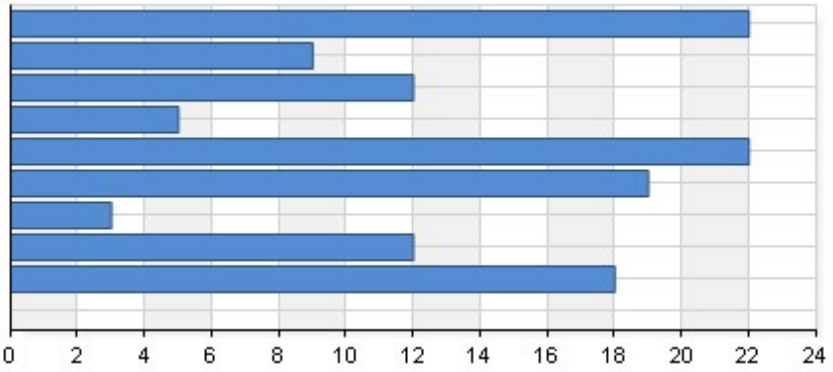
Approximately how many hours did you spend on coursework outside of the classroom?

1 1-3 hours per week	2	8.00%
2 4-7 hours per week	7	28.00%
3 Greater than 8 hours per week	16	64.00%
Total	25	



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

I studied with other students in the class.	22
I sought the assistance of the instructor during class.	9
I sought the assistance outside of class.	12
I engaged in discussions in class.	5
I used electronic resources.	22
I studied alone.	19
I used tutors.	3
I kept current with course readings.	12
I kept current with course assignments.	18
Other, please describe:	0
Respondent(s)	25



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

Comments
Homework problems were useful
none
The content. Discrete and continuous probability theory, methods, particular applications/contexts. Preparing for the qualifying exam I have to take.
I feel very well prepared for the 505a qualifying exam
A very rigorous course on probability. We were exposed to classical topics in this field and beyond. Professor is very helpful and cares about the progress of his students. All the lecture notes were kindly shared with us. One can tell the course was very carefully designed.
apply the probability theory to practical problems
The topics covered in the sections are useful.
I learned a lot of statistics terms.
The course gave me an excuse to study probability theory —– mostly on my own, at a pace that suits me.

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

Comments
Too many homework problems, and sometimes covered material that wasn’t explained in class before due date
feel tired about the class
The lectures and homework problems could be too difficult sometimes for people who are not phd in math, and the textbook was not always a reliable resource for help.
homework may be a little difficult
The homework is not really relate to the topics in the sections.
The homework takes more than 15 hours to write. An impossible task for those who have to teach and do research during other times. Not to mention that it is dense to begin with. All in all, the course was very good at sucking up my motivation for studying.
The amount of work this course required and it's stress was out of proportion to the amount I felt I learned. Had it been more clearly organized/structure with better materials I wouldn't be surprised if I could have learned even more than was covered with less work. Wasting huge amounts of time looking online to figure out how to answer the many difficult problems (a handful of which I'm not sure actually had known solutions or which even the TA didn't seem clear on how to solve (in a reasonable time frame at least)) is not a great use of learning time. (although admittedly the grading was fairly lenient it seemed as long as you put in work... but I would have liked to feel like I was learning more)