Harvard University

Government 2001
FAS Course Evaluations, Comments
Spring 2008
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Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology

Comments

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WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL FUTURE STUDENTS ABOUT THIS CLASS?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **1 (unsatisfactory)**

- This class takes 20-30 hours per week on average. Do not take unless you have a light course load and are prepared to be very frustrated. I had a strong quantitative background going in but no R background which was a big handicap. - You will learn some useful tools (and if you already know R you will learn even more). But given the work you put in the gains will not be commensurate. - If you are interested in the material, audit the class/ watch the videos online and then learn Zelig.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

The replication project is very difficult; however, I learned to teach myself how to do things followed by how to correct all the mistakes I made along the way.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

This class requires a tremendous time commitment--20-30 hours per week or more--but the techniques you learn (including the R programming skills) are very worthwhile if you plan to do quantitative social science research in your dissertation or career.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This is one of the most useful classes I've taken at Harvard so far -- but be warned, it will become a major part of your life!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Gary's approach to statistics is not perfect, but makes much more sense than the standard, so you should learn the big-picture of statistical inference by taking this course.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Fantastic class, even for those with a lot of previous stats training.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

I would tell them to prepare ahead of time by refreshing their math skills and learning some R on their own. Also, I would tell them to have several possible replication articles and data ready prior to starting the course.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

A difficult but rewarding course

Evaluate the course overall.: **2 (fair)**

You will be exposed to several different kinds of statistical models for use in political science, but the exposure is quick and if your other major with statistics has been Gov 2000, mastering these models will require more work after the end of Gov 2001. You will, however, learn one type of model very well (the one you use in your replication paper).

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

1- Learn R before you come to class and prepare yourself for a heavy workload. 2- Choose a paper for replication that you have an a priori idea of what was wrong with it. NO descriptive papers, just a paper with an apparent flaw. 3- Don't take the class if you do not have a good partner. The load is so heavy and if you end up working on your own, your misery is tripled.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

One of the best courses that I have taken in Harvard

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

The replication project is by far the most important and most useful part of the class and will take up the most time, but is a chance to get a lot of helpful feedback regardless of the level of experience one has with statistical research. Not the best course to learn statistical models, absolutely the best course to practice using them.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

If you are a Gov graduate student, not taking this class probably means a loss of at least a few hundred thousand dollars of expected lifetime earnings. If you are not a Gov grad student make sure you know what you're getting yourself into -- this is meant as a direct continuation of Gov 2000, R and all.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Even if one knows a lot of the material in the class, it's worth it for the paper exercise and the implementation of statistical techniques.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Opportunity to do novel work

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

It's a good class, but not really as challenging as a 'capstone' course should be. It likely prepared most Gov students to do moderately competent empirical work, but I don't think it prepared students who want to do serious empirical work very well for future courses.

PLEASE COMMENT ON YOUR SECTION LEADER'S TEACHING.

Larson, Jennifer Mary

Evaluate the course overall.: **1 (unsatisfactory)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jenn was a good section leader. She is both knowledgeable and communicates her knowledge well.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Absolutely brilliant and kind to those of us not occupuying her exalted mental plane. She took time to help this idiot figure out things. She was always positive, even when dealing with an obvious fraud like me.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jen is extremely sharp and helpful. During office hours, she really took time and went through concepts and R code step-by-step. She is a true professional, and her instruction and support were much appreciated!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn was a great TF. She explained topics in section clearly and intuitively, and she never assumed that we knew more than we did. Her problem sets were also very good at balancing the amount of work they required with the amount we learned from them.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn is knowns the material well. She is helpful when it comes to questions about either problem sets or the final paper.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Great job!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Very effective lecturer. Explains the material thoroughly and is in touch with the needs of the students in her class. Encourages useful questions, but also knows how to keep the lecture on track and not steer away from the main topic. Patient and helpful.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Very nice and helpful

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **3 (good)**

Same as before

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

excellent

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: no answer

Great lecturer and great resource during the replication. Willing to help extensively with problems that were hanging us up during our project.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Your sections were extremely helpful in advancing my understanding of lecture topics.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

clear presentation, adept at answering questions and giving examples.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

She is the perfect TA

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn was extremely patient with the constant nagging of students.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn was also very good. Sometimes she didn't return assignments as promptly as Jens, but this wasn't a big deal.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**
Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jenn is a very competent and effective teacher. She gave me great comments on my paper and was helpful and responsive throughout the semester.