INTD 0318A: Quantitative Finance
Kane, David

Number of response forms completed: 7, of 7 total students enrolled

I learned a great deal in this course

The instructor's teaching in this course was effective

Aggregate of all courses in Spring 2016
(All Staff)

I learned a great deal in this course

The instructor's teaching in this course was effective
TO THE STUDENT: Please give your considered, candid responses to the questions below. Your comments will be important to the evaluation and improvement of both learning and teaching at Middlebury College. Please fill out the form legibly in blue or black ink.

1. LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

   I have learnt to think and learn on my toes because a lot of materials we have confronted was unfamiliar to me. The final project was the biggest lesson, because professor was not too helpful in answering the questions, so we had to do everything on our own.

2. COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

   Lectures were interesting but they were not connected to our hw in Coursera. Thus, I thought we did not have an opportunity to solidify our knowledge. Readings were not discussed on most occasions.

3. COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

   Wanted to learn & improve

4. YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

   I have put in A LOT of hours into the class especially in the 2 weeks before the preterm. I have spent about 40 hr per week trying to write the code.

(over)
5. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: "I learned a great deal in this course."

6. INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

I loved our classes but they were tough for
someone who just started.
It was difficult to deal with the professor who
is far away in Boston and comes up 1 time a
week.

7. ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

I think the grading scale should be different.
Our grade depends on the present 1 paper but
we have also done 6 course exams. Completing
more in time with many course exam grades would be
unfair.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor’s methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

I think this is a great course and it should
be offered again with some changes. 1 grading as
I mentioned above 2 how to solidify class
knowledge 3 readings should be discussed
in more detail, no finance knowledge is
incorporated.

9. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: "The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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   This course gave me a lot of confidence in my ability to learn on my own.

2. COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

   Coursera gave us an opportunity to learn R and classrooms was a chance for us to ask questions about concepts that were unclear. Coursera was effective, but not time-efficient.

3. COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

   I wanted to explore finance and the world of R.

4. YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

   I spent 15-18 hours/week outside of class.

(over)
5. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: "I learned a great deal in this course."

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6. INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

Professor Kae doesn't believe in lecturing, but he's very helpful and responsible. He asks questions, I found this effective but it vary not better everyone.

7. ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

I would have liked to know how we are assessed earlier in the semester.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

Starting a programming language and only meeting once a week was difficult. I would recommend a tutor or TA as a chance for future students to learn R face to face.

9. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: "The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE—COURSE RESPONSE FORM

TO THE STUDENT: Please give your considered, candid responses to the questions below. Your comments will be important to the evaluation and improvement of both learning and teaching at Middlebury College. Please fill out the form legibly in blue or black ink.

1. LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

   I learned that if I want to learn, I have to learn on my own.

2. COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

   One lecture (3 hrs) a week. No lecture, more of just comp sci lab.
   No debates, no problem sets, etc.
   No attempt to spark curiosity in students by relating to all my weekends.

3. COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

   I want to learn some useful materials in finance.

4. YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

   A lot of hours. All weekends usually.

(over)
5. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: “I learned a great deal in this course.”

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Lots of frustration. In I was trying to swallow a pig whole.

6. INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

- No class discussions in finance.
- Read entire book on Quant Fin that was never brought up.
- No background lectures in finance. If they interviewed us for an internship & asks us what we think of what is happening in the markets none of us would have a clue.
- Reading Matt Levine is confusing, we should at least talk about some articles in class & explain some concepts.

7. ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

No. The coursework assignments were pretty scattered, not super focused to overall goal of class, and it took way too long.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor’s methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

- Need TA to troubleshoot. Coding can be a pain in the ass if we don't know what's happening & don't have somebody around.
- Class time needs to be at least X2 a week. One super long session of straight up coding a week doesn't stick very well.

- Make the field interesting!! There are so many cool things happening.

9. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: “The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective.”

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Make CS Requisite or Make some analysis
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1. LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

   I have learned how to use R programming to compute quantitative analysis.

2. COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

   Majority of learning was done outside through the course. Most class-time was devoted to further develop our R programming skills in order to be able to replicate a financial paper.

3. COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

   Just interested in it.

4. YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

   10-20 hours a week. Attended every class.

(over)
5. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: "I learned a great deal in this course."

6. INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

   It was good instruction. Professor Kane relied on us to learn a lot of the material by ourselves but was always quick and effective in answering any questions we had.

7. ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

   Only one final paper, but I think it is a good way to show what we learned.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor’s methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

   I have an R pre-requisite course. It was a lot of work to get caught up to speed with R programming and then apply it so quickly. If the course was broken up into 2 segments it would have been a little easier and given you more time to internalize the dense material. It has been a very rewarding experience though.

9. Indicate the extent of your agreement with the statement: "The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective."
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   The best skill that I learned in this course was being able to teach myself, which in my mind is an important skill as there is when going to the workforce. I had no experience coming into the course so I had to learn an allocated area to keep up. While the coursework was helpful, I had to teach myself a lot of the skills needed, which was one of the best learning experiences I have had at this school.

2. COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

   The readings were great to learn about finance and investment strategies, which is something I wish this school taught more of. The classes were helpful to apply the knowledge and to learn from others with more knowledge.

3. COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

   I was interested in the topic especially because it is one of the only finance-related classes the school offers.

4. YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

   Attended every class. Probably 8-10 hours of work outside of class.

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6. INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

Very effective. He had a plan for what he wanted to get across every week in terms of R skills needed for development and what would help on the final. I felt that I learned a great deal from class exercises for my personal R abilities.

7. ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

Yes, the final was really a culmination of all the topics R related and finance/investment related. From the beginning it was clear what was expected from us.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor’s methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

I would recommend assigning problems each week where we would have to answer some question on our own about the stock data.

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   I've learned a lot about finance, but I've learned much more about data manipulation in R. I'm very confident in my R skills after taking this class.

2. COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

   The lectures were useful for reviewing homework and making sure everybody was on the same page. I feel like the course's exercises were not useful enough for the amount of time spent on them. Perhaps just one or two of the more general ones rather than the whole shabang.

3. COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

   I'm interested in finance and I enjoy to code. No, No.

4. YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

   I did well. Varied greatly depending on the week. Anywhere from 2-15 hours. Attended all classes.

(over)
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He did a good job reviewing R. The in-class R instruction really helped me better understand the intricacies of R.

7. ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

Yes.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor’s methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

I would remove most of the concern courses, perhaps replacing them with problem sets that are finance-specific yet still reinforce R skills.

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The course certainly helped me develop quantitative skills in this course, but also introduced me to a different learning style. I had to make a cooperative and more focused skill acquisition other than knowledge acquisition.

2. COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

All components of the course contributed significantly to my learning.

3. COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

I wanted to develop quantitative skills that could apply in finance and economics.

4. YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

Attended 100% classes, participated actively.

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