



Fall 2019 Individual Report FAS-GOV 1005-Data 001 David Kane

Project Title: **2019 Fall Harvard FAS Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **81**
Responses Received: **67**
Response Ratio: **83%**

Report Comments

Note:

The order that the questions appear on this report is not the same as the way the questions were displayed to students. The order has been changed to make the report more readable.

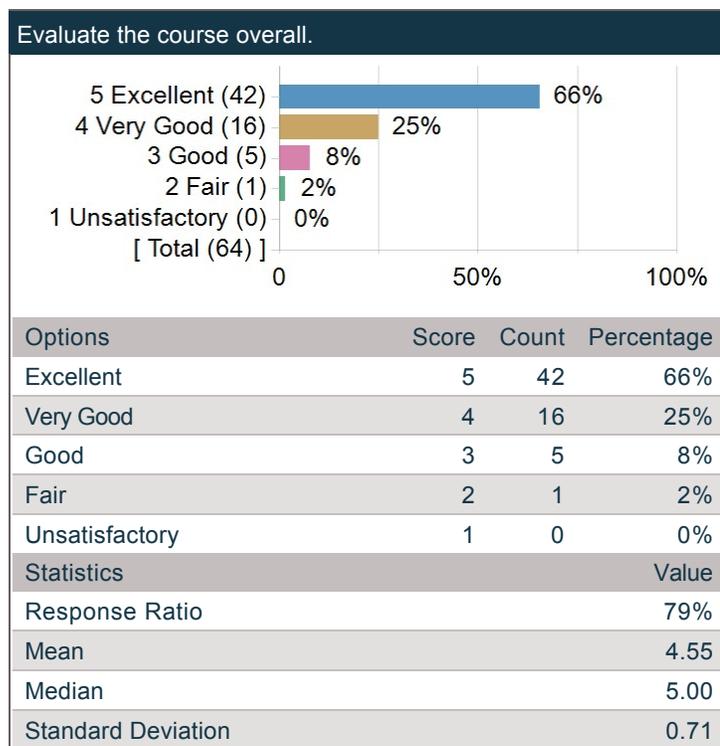
Creation Date: **Saturday, January 11, 2020**

General Course Questions

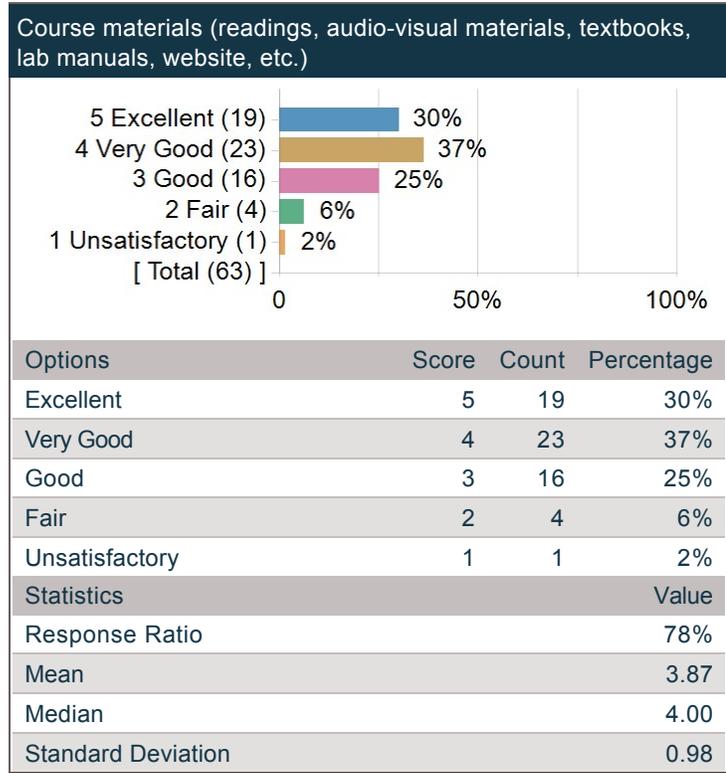
Course General Questions

	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Course Mean	FAS Mean
Evaluate the course overall.	64	66%	25%	8%	2%	0%	4.55	4.17
Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)	63	30%	37%	25%	6%	2%	3.87	4.15
Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)	63	38%	40%	17%	5%	0%	4.11	4.00
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course	62	34%	34%	24%	8%	0%	3.94	3.95
Section component of the course	6	83%	17%	0%	0%	0%	4.83	4.10

Evaluate the course overall.



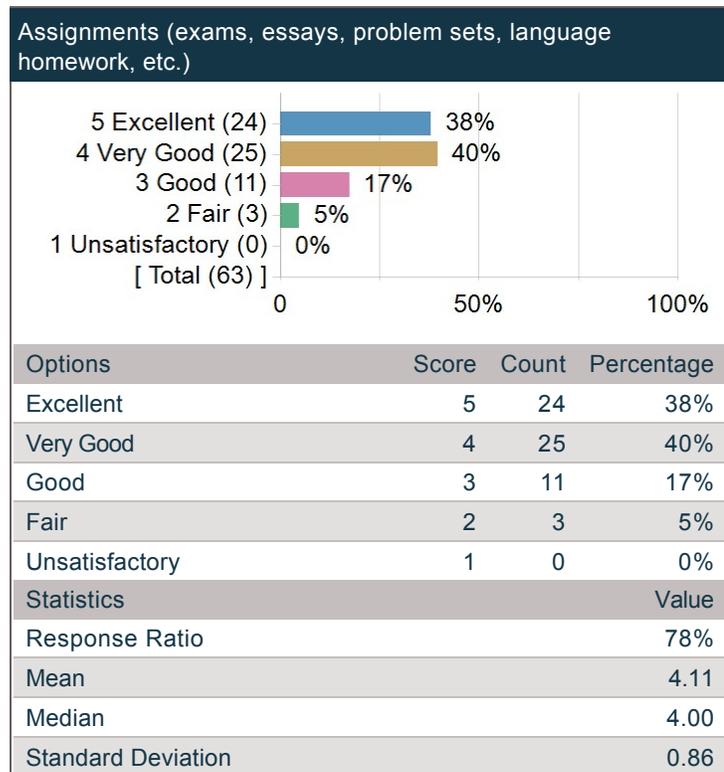
Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)



Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.) (Comments)

Comment
- not all the readings related to the work
- Course materials were great but often they were given as a replacement of in class learning, which was not effective on its own
- fewer DataCamp!
- Textbook readings helped with exams, problem sets, etc.
- I wish we had a textbook
- really liked modern dive
- i barely read stuff
- You could get all the materials for free online!!
- Data camp was useful but could have been assigned in a more useful way. I.e. we covered machine learning in Data camp way too early.
- Data Camps were often unhelpful and there needs to be a more coherent text to support the class.
- It would have been helpful if the links for milestones, etc were all in one place (for example, the course website)
- materials were good, just a lot of them and unorganized
- Readings, specially the ones on statistics were hard to follow for me.

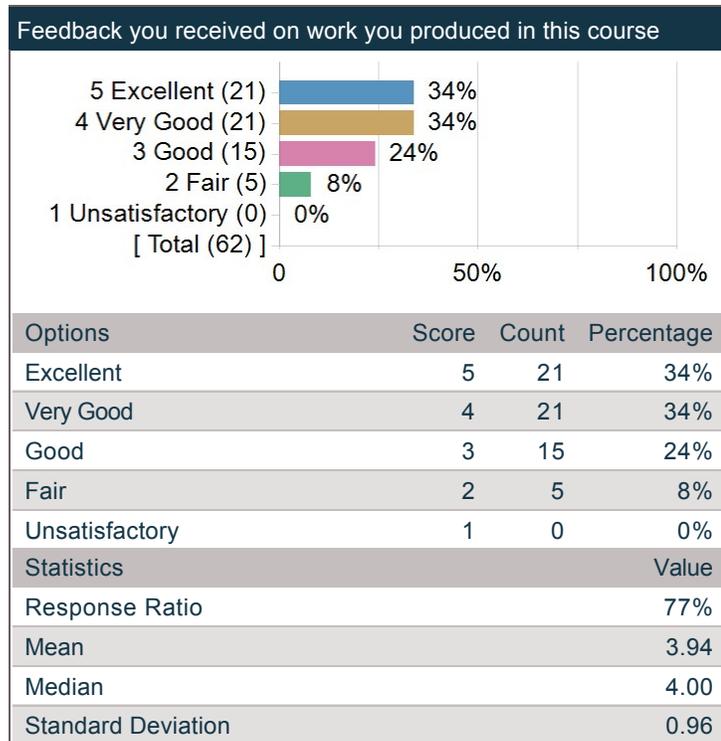
Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)



Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.) (Comments)

Comment
- Very helpful
- I especially thought the exams were very well designed and always helped me solidify my understanding.
- sometimes I felt it was too much, one after the other
- super hard and good or very long and boring. mostly the former!
- Well organized, clear deadlines. (Maybe less DataCamp though).
- Extremely time consuming and did not follow what we learned in class.
- exams were too hard when it got to stats stuff which was never even really taught and was hard
- Problem sets were challenging but effective in building skills.
- Sometimes the PSETs just asked way too much of us and resources were not helpful in figuring it out.
- Make the problem sets longer, but fewer in number and spaced out over time more.
- Exams get really hard and some problem sets will take forever because they are difficult

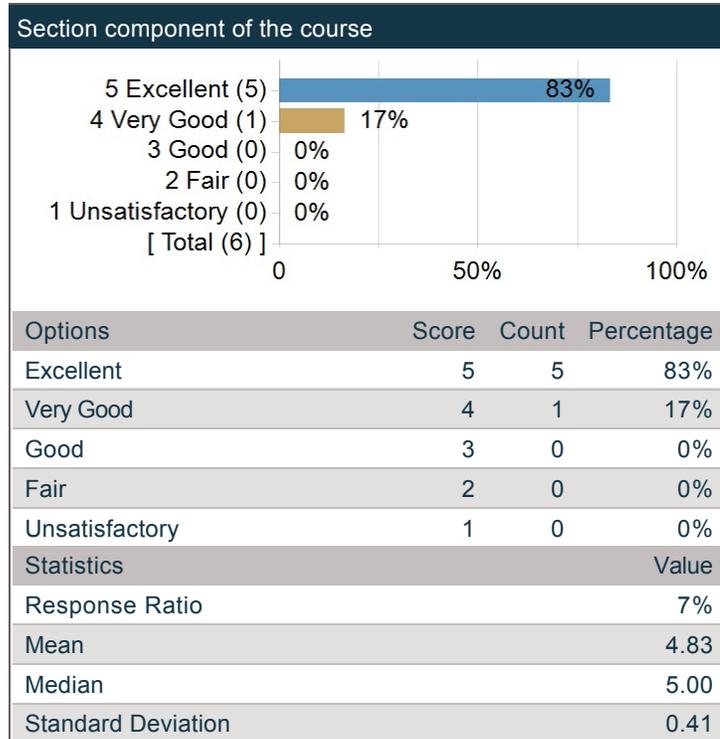
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course



Feedback you received on work you produced in this course (Comments)

Comment
- I was sometimes confused by the grading — it seemed to change sometimes week to week.
- Great feedback.
- didn't receive much feedback
- I wished we received more detailed comments on our code so that we could know how to improve, even if we're getting 100%.
- Grading was really inconsistent for this course. My peers and I were not graded equally; I was once docked points on a problem set for an incorrect answer that my other peers got points for.
- Pset grading was often inconsistent.

Section component of the course



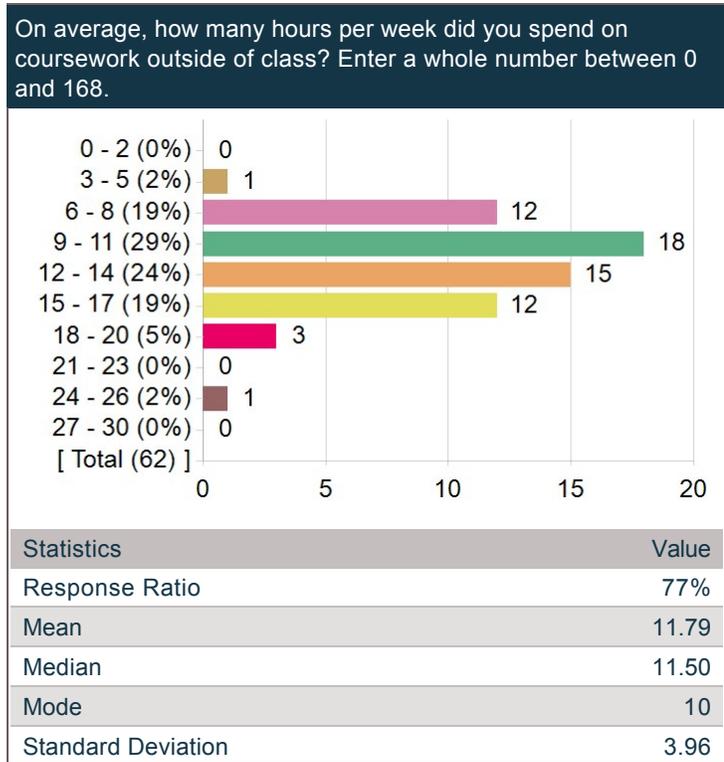
Section component of the course (Comments)

Comment
- TA's are super supportive.

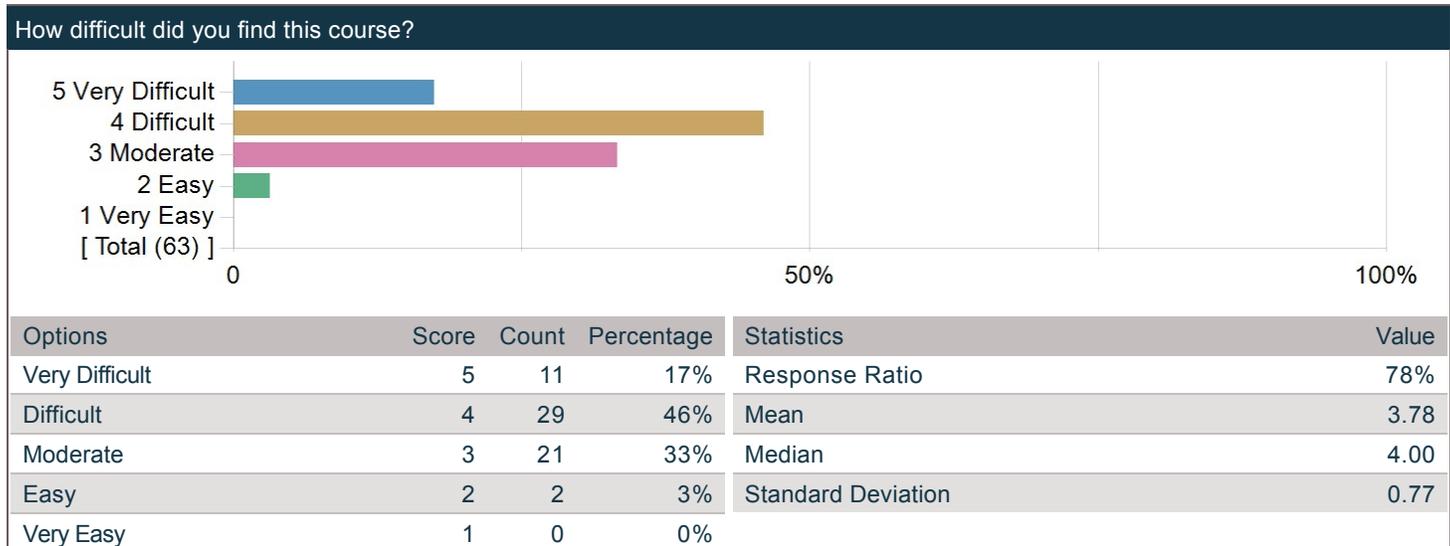
Requirements - What did this course require of you?

On average, how many hours per week did you spend on coursework outside of class? Enter a whole number between 0 and 168.

The top range is 168 but displayed below are frequency bars for those who answered up to 30. The mean reflects the entire range.



How difficult did you find this course?

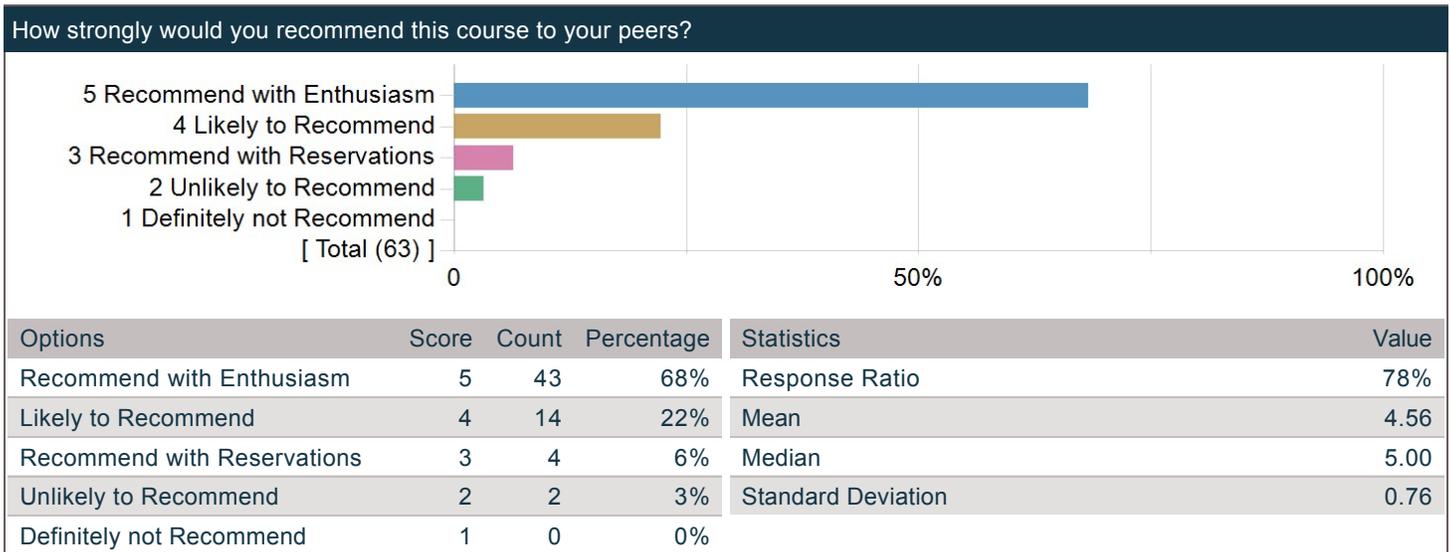


What was/were your reason(s) for enrolling in this course? (Please check all that apply)

Options	Count
Elective	43
Concentration or Department Requirement	17
Secondary Field or Language Citation Requirement	4
Undergraduate General Education Requirement	1
Divisional Distribution Requirement	1
Quantitative Reasoning with Data Requirement	16

Recommendations - Would you recommend this course?

How strongly would you recommend this course to your peers?

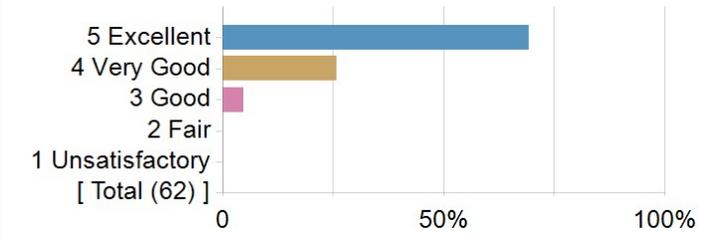
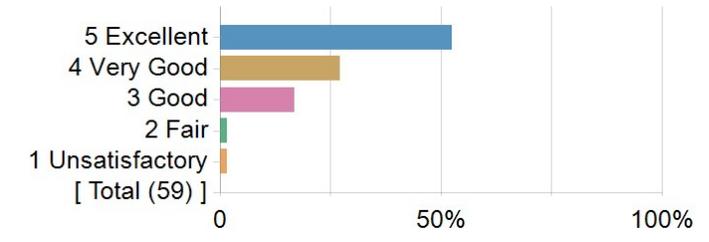
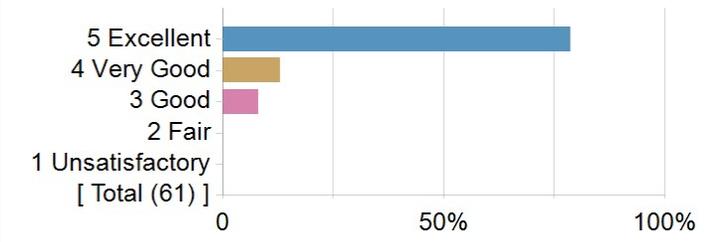
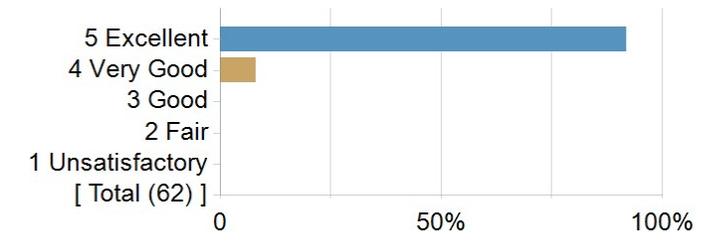


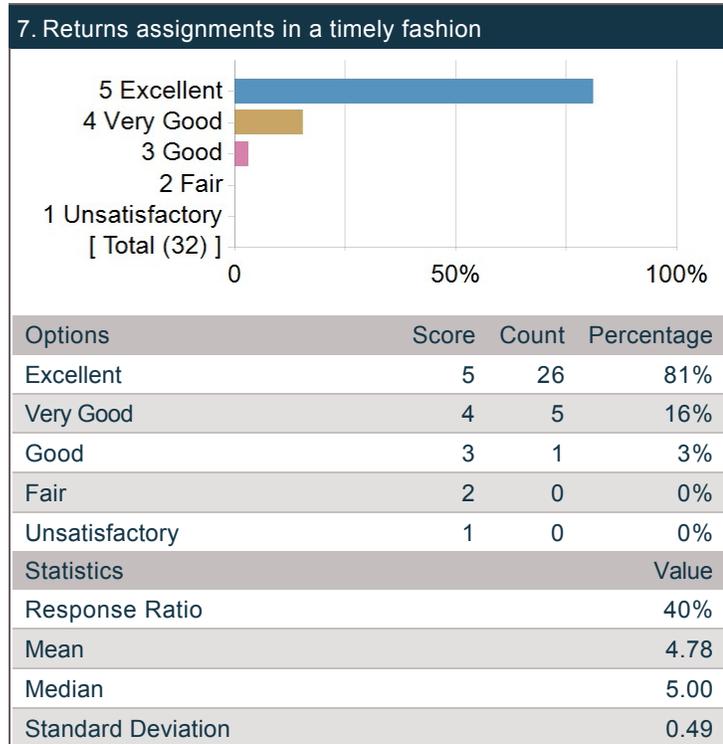
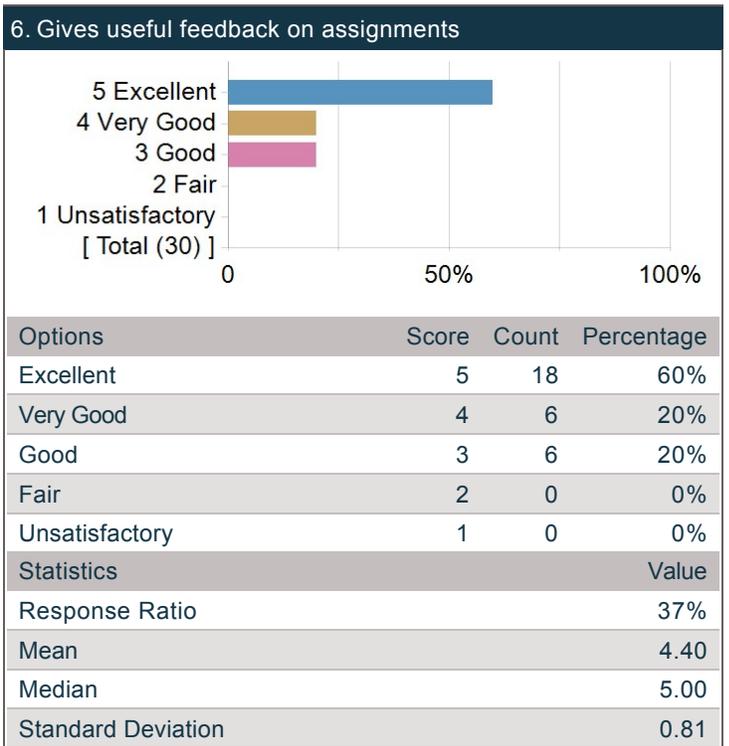
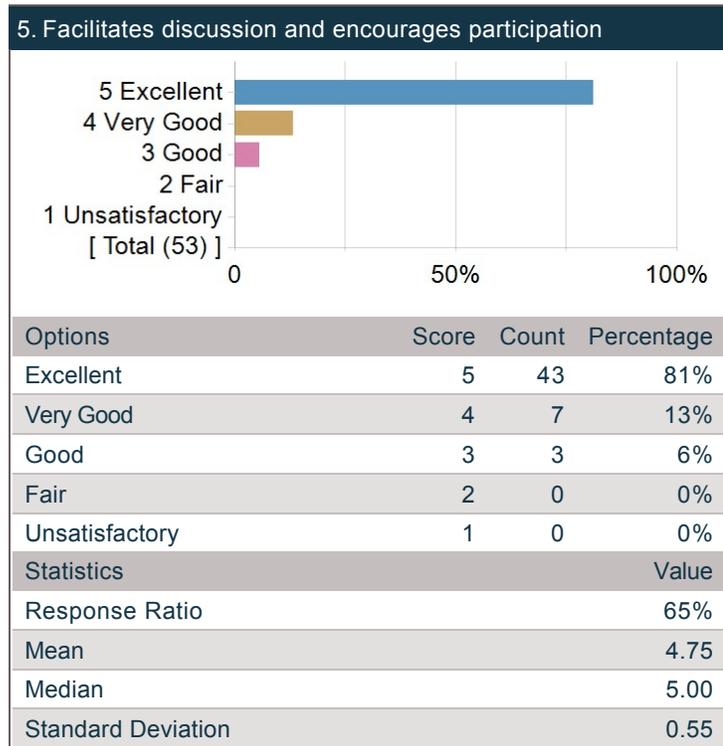
Evaluation of Instructors

General Instructor Questions

	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Instructor Mean	FAS Mean
Evaluate your Instructor overall.	62	69%	26%	5%	0%	0%	4.65	4.48
Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable	59	53%	27%	17%	2%	2%	4.27	4.36
Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.)	61	79%	13%	8%	0%	0%	4.70	4.35
Generates enthusiasm for the subject matter	62	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	4.92	4.52
Facilitates discussion and encourages participation	53	81%	13%	6%	0%	0%	4.75	4.42
Gives useful feedback on assignments	30	60%	20%	20%	0%	0%	4.40	4.35
Returns assignments in a timely fashion	32	81%	16%	3%	0%	0%	4.78	4.39

Instructor

1. Evaluate your Instructor overall.					2. Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable				
									
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	43	69%		Excellent	5	31	53%	
Very Good	4	16	26%		Very Good	4	16	27%	
Good	3	3	5%		Good	3	10	17%	
Fair	2	0	0%		Fair	2	1	2%	
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%		Unsatisfactory	1	1	2%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Response Ratio				77%	Response Ratio				73%
Mean				4.65	Mean				4.27
Median				5.00	Median				5.00
Standard Deviation				0.58	Standard Deviation				0.93
3. Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.)					4. Generates enthusiasm for the subject matter				
									
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	48	79%		Excellent	5	57	92%	
Very Good	4	8	13%		Very Good	4	5	8%	
Good	3	5	8%		Good	3	0	0%	
Fair	2	0	0%		Fair	2	0	0%	
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%		Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Response Ratio				75%	Response Ratio				77%
Mean				4.70	Mean				4.92
Median				5.00	Median				5.00
Standard Deviation				0.61	Standard Deviation				0.27



General Course Questions - Comments

What were the strengths of this course? Please be specific and use concrete examples where possible.

Comments
You learn good coding material fast.
Learned how to use R and do basic statistical methods.
great class! learned soo much from the problem sets and exams and class.
Interesting material. Forces you to develop marketable skills and teaches you how to learn information and skills on your own.

Comments
Engrained in me the necessary skills to do data analysis in R. I now feel comfortable looking through data and analyzing it
Pre-professionally oriented – guest speakers were a really unique course component. By the end of the course you become very proficient in R
The course taught us the material very well. It was work-intensive and hands on, and we went from knowing nothing about the subject to creating a very involved final project.
I walked out of the class feeling very comfortable doing independent data analysis and visualization from scratch. This class taught me how to wrangle, process and analyze data, which is very applicable to many different kinds of school and real-life projects.
You genuinely learn a lot of hands-on, practical skills in this course. Very applicable.
Very hands-on learning
We coded in R everyday, as was promised. We learned a great deal of material in a semester, which is impressive. Also loved being able to get to know people in the class that I would never have met otherwise, through working together in class and study halls.
so many applicable skills – I feel like I can truly use r now
I have learned more in this class than in any other I've taken. I'm comfortable using R, have learned a bit of stat, and have acquired a lot of data analytic skills.
Intense but extremely actionable and useful! Unlike other courses, I was able to use the techniques taught almost immediately in other courses or projects.
Great introduction to data science, a good balance of teaching us the material vs teaching us how to teach ourselves. Good life skills were gained as well.
Very hands on
I feel very accomplished having completed this course.
Taught practical skills, time in class spent coding was always productive and useful, speakers were good on the whole, P-sets and exams were interesting and meaningful.
I was connected to people around me. Camilla, Diego, Jackson, Yao, Johannes, Meredith. So many people, who were interesting and hold possibility for friendship!
I learned specific skills. I can analyze and visualize data in incredible ways. Now I can bring these skills to other work.
I learned some concepts through fun class experiments involving balls and coins. These concepts I can bring to bigger statistical challenges ahead.
The pace and diligence of the class have burnished my academic caliber. Just like, hours and hours of hard work and tough PSets and impossible exams really make you feel like you can do anything.
Guest speakers showed the applications of this work in the real world.
My final project was so fun! Good to be so open ended, because I put good skills to the test.
Taught me a crazy amount of R that I've already put to use in different clubs and courses.
provides good tools
This course truly teaches you what it promises. By the end of the course, you will be proficient at R Studio.
You learn so much in this course!
Accessibility of help is great. Community is awesome. Ability to get to know the preceptor is awesome.
This course was one of if not the best course I've ever taken at Harvard. Preceptor was incredibly knowledgeable and did not accept laziness one bit. This extremely motivated me to want to do well and learn in the class. As a result, I walked away with many useful tools for data cleaning and visualization that I can 100% see myself using in my professional field. Hands-down one of the most qualified courses to fulfill the QRD requirement.
Preceptor was literally always available and really made an effort to foster a community. I made more friends (and useful connections) in this class than I have from any other class. I feel comfortable using R, and we covered a ton in one semester.
Wow where to start. "Lectures" were super useful because they were not your typical lecture. If we ever had a traditional lecture presentation, they were always less than 5 minutes and focused more on introducing a concept so we could discuss as a class then apply it to the coding and other concepts we've learned so far, which is truly how lectures should work. Having the class always rely on partner work was really good because you always had someone to bounce ideas and questions off of when you didn't know what to do, which is not something you always have in big classes like this. I also liked the cold-calling because it really did incentivize you to pay attention, and even when you didn't actually know the answer, it didn't really matter because you were never judged for that, and Preceptor helped you get to where you needed to go. Also the guest speakers were super cool and covered so

Comments
many different areas of data science application, so it was really cool to have a professor who didn't just care about sharing his own experience, but making sure you saw how what you learned could be applied to so many different areas of life. Also SNACKS were so good and great. Also the TFs and CAs were VERY helpful and nice and clearly loved the class and wanted to make sure not just that you understood the material or could finish the psets, but that you got to know everyone and were having fun with the material. I've truly never been in a class where the course staff cared so much, which was nice. Also Preceptor himself honestly was just so great and nice and led the class so wonderfully and was open to suggestion and always wanted to know what we thought and how he could make the class a better experience for us, which is such a rare mindset for a professor to have and is truly admirable. He wanted to teach us code and life skills and wanted us to have fun. We also got to do our final projects on WHATEVER we were interested in, which was so awesome and made the whole experience so much better than if we were constrained to a specific area of focus. I honestly could go on and on about how great this class was.
The biggest strength of the class was the way in which it teaches self-learning in a modern context. The class not only gives students a strong grasp of highly relevant skills, but also helps develop characteristics like commitment and consistency.
the teaching staff, the applications of what we learned in class to real life examples, the food!
Teaching and practicing in a very applied manner.
this is the BEST class I will probably ever take at Harvard. Preceptor is an incredibly smart and engaging teacher and the topic of data science is super relevant and interesting. this class actually creates a community — you will literally get to know all your class mates — and it's a fun way to meet people while learning. the psets are genuinely enjoyable and the grading is fair. ((not lying I would wait up some nights to get the email that a pset was released so I could start working on it for fun)). frequently there are class snacks that Dr. Kane (Preceptor's wife) makes — an added bonus. you will end up being quite fluent with R and data by the time you are done with the class and your final project.
this class individually will probably end up being the highlight of my academic experience at harvard, and data science skills are applicable to almost any concentration or career.
The weekly study halls were very helpful and after taking this course I am now fully proficient in R. Also, the teaching staff were always willing to help with any questions or concerns I had.
you learn data science it's lovely!
It covered a ton of useful material.
Instructor is engaging. Course covers a LOT of material and students gain a true mastery of tidyverse R.
Excellent teaching staff and course assistants
I learned a lot more about programming than I thought I would; I have already had a programming background for 3 years, but R programming is a definitely different experience.
Learned a lot about data and basic/intermediate R skills
gives students a very good introduction to R, preceptor is very accessible
Preceptor Kane is incredibly honest! I found this course to be a real challenge, and often frustrating, but I can without a doubt say I came away from it with a LOT of new skills — you really do learn to code (and code well) in R, and I also feel like I am better prepared both to understand and analyze the statistical designs of studies I might encounter in, say, a quantitative political science journal article. The design of the class does force you to code often, and this is a key reason why I think the course is so effective at delivering on its core promises.
Very good R instruction. Cool dynamic coding sessions.
There are so many strengths to this course. First of all, Preceptor is incredibly committed to his students and their learning. Secondly, you learn R and you learn R well. I could never have imagined how much I would be able to do after taking this course. It's pretty cool. Third, while at first it's really strange, you form a strong community and get to know your peers better than you would in most other courses. Fourth, the final project is super flexible, which means you can really just do whatever is interesting for you. Finally, the CAs and TFs provide lots of support for PSETs (which is very necessary).
You learn R very quickly and effectively. A quick crash course in statistics is also included in there while you increasingly use and improve your problem solving and analytical skills as well. I had never coded or seen any type of code on my computer in my life, but this course really helped me with R. I build my own website and conducted statistical analysis without having taken a stats course ever.
Learning data analysis is definitely one of useful skills for life.
I liked learning R, and I thought the psets were interesting and fun.
We acquired highly practical skills in a relatively short amount of time. This includes coding skills with R and Shiny, as well as novel statistical methodology.
Learning R that can be applied to real life
The class provided helpful instruction in R and targeted coding projects.

Comments
You learn A LOT and make a really cool final project
Study halls are the biggest strength of this course. The TFs and CAs are very helpful in troubleshooting. Having guest speakers in the class almost every week is one of the the many things that I really appreciate this class for.
Very practical Got to meet a lot of other students
You will learn how to do nearly everything in R. This class is so much better than other coding classes, because you go really in depth in one language. The topics that the problem sets are based on are engaging, and are really interesting for anyone interested in Government, statistics, or coding. Plus, Dr. Kane makes amazing treats for all of the students.
Lots of hands-on programming and exercises from the first class. Lots of people to help you get unstuck and understand the topic. Very well-curated content to teach you the most important things about data science without any background required.

How could this course be improved? Please use concrete examples where possible and provide constructive suggestions.

Comments
Needs an option section component for sure to go over specific things. Study halls are not structured enough to teach gaps, and mostly used to answer hw questions
maybe a bit more clarification on the calendar for when assignments are due and what is expected from each one.
A lot of wasted class time doing silly exercises that have no real bearing on the course.
Slightly less data camp
Since it is an intro level class more in-class instruction/guidance is needed to supplement the statistical information covered in the class
There could have been a DataCamp assigned for Shiny. Other than that, no complaints.
In the first half the semester, we did many modules of DataCamp online courses as assignments. They were helpful at the beginning but getting harder to digest later. I will suggest having fewer DataCamp and more reading.
I would suggest decreasing the number of Datacamps, as I did not find these pedagogically useful.
Felt like there was too many topics covered with not enough depth into each one, could consider reducing topics covered but really diving deep into them
Making sure that there is enough time spent on each topic, so that students thoroughly understand each topic before we move on.
Sometimes it's too much. Additionally, I thought the readings were disorganized and could have been consolidated. Finally I feel the data camp could have been more targeted to what we were doing at that time in class.
I wish we could find information in one place rather than having multiple sources to go to.
A bit more presentation could help, even though its not the preceptors style.
Less data camp not connected to pssets, more forced face time with TF's, more explanation of statistics. I understand wanting us to learn the skills required for figuring out the coding side of things, but I wish there had been a little bit more hand holding through the beginning of the statistics conceptual part
More structured learning and checkpoints
Less datacamp, literally so much less work — there were way too many problem sets
DataCamp, though it taught interesting skills, did not always relate to classwork or final project work in a practical way.
Sometimes there's too much work and not enough support. I'd sit in study hall for a long time feeling bogged down. Other times—DataCamp— I'd be doing a project that didn't teach me anything. This was never fun.
Some class periods were too skills-focused, not applied enough. It'd be really cool for us to practice being open ended for a little while...maybe...we did that enough? idk
More statistical lessons.
less Datacamp
The workload could be reduced. Sometimes, because of the sheer amount of work, you're unable to slow down and truly learn and understand what you're doing. I found this to be particularly true with datacamp.
Add more statistical instruction.
I'm if-y on whether ML should be kept or not. Spread out the Datacamp. It was always either nothing or way too much at once.
My one complaint of this course is that many of my friends with no statistics background found the course difficult to follow. That being said, preceptor has already modified the course next semester to include more teaching of statistics. I love how he listens to

Comments
the students and takes our criticisms seriously.
Less Datacamp
I think the current iteration was great, but I would say Halloween snacks if class falls on Halloween again. Also, not everyone one on the Welcome Committees would do their jobs even after prompted by other committee members, so maybe find a way to incentivize participation in that better?
I think this course could be improved by trimming down some of the activities, and limiting them to only those that are truly relevant to what we do in the course itself.
no pair programming– I don't think it's helpful at all! 3 exams was good, no more than that is necessary. more stuff on shiny before the project due.
So many moving pieces. One central timeline with one place that shows what is due when.
none except maybe an even faster pace. also could really benefit from 5 min lectures on key topics when relevant to the class (about Bayes or machine learning or something)
This course could be improved with increased support for students who do not have prior coding or statistics experience. Although this course claimed to be an introductory course in coding and statistics, I often felt very overwhelmed and confused despite proactively going to multiple study halls, office hours, and seeking outside help.
no more stats, or maybe actually sometimes giving lectures because learning everything stats–related online was not great
Less Data Camp would be nice
As the instructor promises, there is a focus on learning how to learn/google. However, there are certain areas where clearer instruction would be helpful, especially with regards to the statistical concepts. Doing the reading is helpful, but having opportunities to ask questions is good! And I think enough students had questions that it would be worth going over some of those concepts in class to reduce the load on the TAs.
More guidance and support in preparing final project
Its pretty good, lots of assignments.
The course is structured weirdly and has way too much work
I think this course could provide more direct or explicit introduction of the material in the current (lecture) or a section type component. At times, I felt like certain parts of the problem set I could not do (particularly those that revolve around a more obscure command), and even after going through readings I could only find a solution after working with a CA or TF at a study hall. While I was still able to get the help I needed, I was often incredibly anxious or scared that I would not be able to submit a problem set, especially if I couldn't go to study hall during a given week. I realize that there is some value in having students figure some things out on their own, but I think that a better balance could be struck where material is at least introduced in. an instructional setting before appearing on problem sets.
Instruction a bit lacking with Shiny, etc.
I believe that thus course could be improved by introducing a single textbook that students can help guide students through the course materials. At times, it was hard to know which readings were most important or relevant to what we were doing. I also wish that there was a bit more learning in class that pertains to what is on the PSETs. Also, our 4th exam for the course was cancelled and I think that should stay the case for future classes. The final project for the course was already more than enough and I can't imagine how overwhelming an additional exam would have been. On the subject of final projects, I also think it was excessive to ask us to create a PDF and video component. Both of these felt like busywork, were not clearly communicated about, and ended up being extremely tedious for many students.
I think this course would definitely benefit from a section component. It would allow for a slower pace which would be useful for younger and more inexperienced students.
More lecture on basic statistical models
Grading expectations were a bit unclear, and I wasn't always sure what I was expected to do.
The workload could be restructured so that the same amount of learning is retained, but is less back breaking. Additionally, had I not already had a background in statistics, I would have been horribly confused by the statistical component of this class.
The class could do with more background and context on the data science we are learning.
The time spent on data camp was not always helpful because many times, I would just be clicking through the solutions because I had spent so much other time on the p sets or midterms that week and didn't have any more time to devote to the class.
If fewer Datacamp assignments are provided and some lecture/discussion are introduced during class time, it will help students learn and retain the concepts better.
The instructor is a bit too stubborn
This class uses a lot of online learning, which I was not a huge fan of. However, Preceptor is very receptive of criticism and this can likely be changed.

Comments

Many of the exercises reviewed on the problem sets and exams required new functions or concepts that we had not reviewed in class, data camp or readings. It was great to add more coverage and to learn how to find new functions through the help of colleagues at office hours or on the internet but it put a lot of stress in me. Also being able to track how well you are doing on canvas would be good, as my grade sometimes showed 1237% instead of 100% And maybe relying on fewer platforms, piazza, GitHub, the syllabus, canvas, etc. It was very hard to find a particular link sometimes. Maybe the best would be to stick to one or to publish everything on all of them.

Requirements Comments - What did this course require of you?

In your opinion, what preparation or background is necessary to take this course?

Comments

None

Computer Science background, basic statistics

none

None but maybe some understanding of statistics.

None

An intro to statistics class / any statistical methods class like econometrics was very helpful

No background is necessary, per se, although statistics do help.

Background in statistics and programming would really help, though not required at all.

None. Coding experience may help.

None, but coding experience is helpful

nothing, but it would be helpful to be familiar with basic stats and some R

Stat 104 or equivalent.

none but some type of CS background would definitely give you the upper hand

You don't need any, but a bit of STAT would be helpful.

a bit of knowledge about programming or experience doing so would be very helpful.

No background necessary

Nothing

Take some form of stat or R class first

Any amount of background in CS helps a lot.

be ready to do lots of work
for final project, keep your mind wheels spinning
no data or stats necessary

Nothing, but having coded at least once before helps.

coding

Some statistics background may be helpful. However, I had never taken a stats course in high school and I was just fine.

A bit of stat background would be nice.

None!

A little bit of statistics and CS background would be nice, but 100% not necessary to succeed in the course.

No prep necessary but familiarity with statistics and R/ programming will help a ton.

Truly none, just a desire to learn.

No background necessary, maybe a basic statistics.

no background necessary, but the course is definitely a lot easier if you have computer science or statistics backgrounds

None

none, but you'll be an expert by the end

In my opinion, a high school level statistics course would be very helpful as well as a coding class.

stats probably helps but it's not necessary!

Get a strong work ethic and the ability to learn things on your own.

Comments
No background necessary, although a stats background was certainly helpful. Some coding background would definitely make the course easier, but there is no expectation and the instructor is good at building student's level from the ground up.
None
Have some coding background if possible; it will help.
None! This class is pretty accessible for students of all backgrounds.
Basic R skills, foundation in statistics
none needed
None. I had no statistics or coding background and I still felt like I was able to succeed. Those who have a statistics background or have taken a class like CS50 would probably have an advantage, though.
none
None! That's the great thing.
Some stats background and a little bit of coding experience would be EXTREMELY helpful.
Dedicated time commitment and interest on Data science
No background necessary
None, though it was very helpful to have a background in both statistics, political science, and advanced algebra to understand some of the material in this class. Had I not taken statistics at my undergraduate institution, I would have not understood the concepts presented in the mathematical component of this course.
Stat 104
Not necessary but would be helpful
No background is necessary to take this course. But having some computer science and statistics background will definitely make learning the material easier.
Technically none, but it would be nice to have some coding or statistics background
No prerequisites
None
I think having taken a statistics class helped me with understanding the content but I honestly think that students with any background can and should take this class.
Statistics really helps. Programming or some code experience to understand basic syntax also helps.

Recommendations Comments - Would you recommend this course?

What would you like to tell future students about this class? (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

Comments
This class demands a lot of your time, and if you are unable to give it that much, you're going to struggle. It was a useful class and unique in structure.
Great class to learn how to code in R and data science! Sometimes a lot of work but preceptor is reasonable and very responsible to feedback!
This is a great class! You learn sooo much and the stuff you learn is super applicable to basically every field. In addition, you get to meet so many people and form a community though this class.
Great course that provides valuable experiences in working with data and problem solving.
This class will prepare you to do data analysis in R, which can be applied to so many things. At times it is a lot of work, but it is definitely worth it and teaches you a lot
This is an awesome course – you will walk out of the class proficient in R, a tool you will be able to utilize throughout the rest of your college career. As a bonus, you are exposed to a variety of career pathways within data science. Preceptor Kane makes himself extremely available to you and you get to know a large majority of the class. And, as a double bonus, there are snacks each week in lecture. The course requires a significant time commitment and at times feels disorganized – but was incredibly rewarding and impactful to my Harvard experience.
This class is a ton of work, but you learn a ton and it's a lot of fun to see the results. I really enjoyed this class and would recommend it to anyone interested in data science.
It is a class that requires A LOT of hardwork (pset, exam, project, reading, etc.), yet will reward you with very solid data analysis and

Comments
visualization skills. Prepare for spending at least 10 hours per week on the class.
Great course to learn some readily applicable, very real-world R coding skills. Workload is reasonable. Preceptor and TFs are great. Very organized, fun class. Highly recommend!
This class is very unique compared to other Harvard classes. From the cold-calling to R everyday, Preceptor (what he prefers students refer to him as) really follows through with everything laid out in the syllabus. You will walk out of this class with tangible R and basic data analysis skills, but that being said this course isn't for everyone, mainly because of the unique structure and Preceptor.
This class is not a typical "class" because everything is formatted weirdly but formatted in a way that also is tailored to maximize your practice with R usage. It may take some time to get used to, but Preceptor is a fantastic guy who WILL show you the ropes (actually, he claims to be the rope himself. Take the class to know what I meant!)
I took this class concurrently with CS50, and I would say I learned more useful skills in this class.
It's definite time-consuming, but not because it's very difficult (like Stat110). It just takes a lot of time to get good at R, and you will learn a lot in one semester because of how much you code in R. If you want to learn a concrete skill in college or meet people from all over the College, take this class. I think it's very accessible to anyone who's taken Stat104 or equivalent. Do not be intimidated by the courseload because there is SO much support in the form of study halls everyday and the numerous CAs/TFs. The preceptor is very caring and genuinely want you to learn the material in whatever way works for you. The snacks and working with a different person everyday in class are also great. I felt like I met a lot of people I wouldn't have otherwise crossed paths in college, and that alone was very rewarding. Great experience overall! As a senior, I wish I took this class earlier because I could have applied these R skills to other classes.
Take this class if you want to gain a hard skill that is super applicable. You don't need to be a CS concentrator to get these skills!
Only take this class if you are willing to put in the work. IT IS A HARD CLASS BUT YOU WILL LEARN SO MUCH.
Preceptor is very particular and it may seem unnecessary at times, but he is incredibly responsive to student feedback.
This course is definitely intense, but totally worth it.
I've taken a lot of statistics classes (both in the Stat department and in various social sciences departments). This is the first class that really broke down R for me and taught me how to code. This is an excellent class for anyone looking for the nitty-gritty details on how to use R. (As a plus, Preceptor really care about his students and takes the time to learn everyone's names and interests.)
I wish I had known about this class and taken it instead of CS50. As someone who has taken both, I actually feel like I am walking away from this class with a substantial set of new data science/computer science skills which I can apply to other aspects of my life. There's no prereqs, and if you want to dip your toes into the data science world this is the class to take. As another plus, it's a really fun class environment, and Dr. Kane (Preceptor's wife) makes amazing snacks! Could not recommend more. Definitely will spend a lot of hours on this course, but its productive work and it's not necessarily that difficult of work, as it is just time intensive to learn and understand. The study halls make it a very collaborative class as well and a chance to meet a lot of other people. Take this class!
This was literally the hardest class I have ever taken. The workload was so incredibly overwhelming and even in a week when legit every other class gave me 0 work this class gave me enough to feel like I was taking 5 classes. Seriously make SURE you want to take this class.
This class makes promises and they hold up. You will do a lot of coding, work with real data, and learn extremely useful skills. I actually enjoyed the P-sets and exams to the extent that anyone can—they were interesting mini-projects in and of themselves. I'm not a CS major, but having CS background definitely helped me in this class. Some of the networking stuff seems a little awkward, but if you're going to do it anyway this class provides a safe environment in which to do so.
Preceptor is wonderful and genuinely cares about students, more so than any teacher I've ever had. Don't miss the chance to get lunch with him and his wife.
This will be so tough!
Trick is to go into it thinking, "what do I really want to learn?" Shortcut the extra stuff. Lots is thrown at you, but be an agent in your academic journey. Do I care about this code? Do I care about this program?
And if you really can get excited about a problem or question, something connected to the real world, then your data skills will whiz by. You'll ask yourself, "how can I make this look good?" and your fingers and mind will find the answer.
These are a lot of skills, and if you can unlock your passion, you'll really dig the power this course grants you.
What you learn is extremely practical and useful.
go to study halls
I would like to tell them to take everything preceptor says during shopping week seriously. When he says it will be a lot of work, he

Comments
means it. You do not want to be halfway through the course and then realize that this class was not meant for you. I also advise taking full advantage of study halls and CA appointments.
You will work your butt off, but it will be worth it.
Accessibility of help is great. Community is awesome. Ability to get to know the preceptor is awesome. Take this course and you won't regret it. I learned a ton.
If you are interested in data science, computer science, statistics, and/or government, then this is 100% the course for you! While this course requires a lot of work, you will also learn a LOT (specifically data cleaning, data visualization, etc.) It is a perfect course for someone interested in the data science track in the government department or someone who was thinking about studying computer science, statistics, and/or government in college.
I've recommended this class to a ton of people already. It's a ton of work, and you have to teach yourself a lot on your own, but you end up learning a lot. Preceptor is also wonderful. He fosters an amazing community, is freakishly available to answer questions, and seeks out and adjusts to student feedback. The study halls make this class really fun (I also would have failed without them). I went into the class with minimal experience, and consequently, I spent at least 15 hours a week on work.
WOW where to start. Easily the BEST CLASS you will take at Harvard. I could go on and on about how great this class is, but I honestly don't think I have enough space, so I'll try to keep it relatively short. Preceptor is truly amazing and really prioritizes making sure you learn, have fun, and meet other people, which is such a rare mindset for a professor to have. Yes, this class is a significant time commitment and there are a fair amount of assignments, but this is a class where you actually taught how to code and all the assignments actually reflect things you do in class or on assignments (and if you don't understand, study halls are your best friend and will truly help you get where you need to be). You truly will not regret taking this class—it'll teach you more than your typical Harvard class. You learn to code, you learn life skills, you make friends, you get SNACKS from the lovely Dr. Kane (Preceptor's super cool wife), and the list goes on. Take this class. I truly cannot emphasize how this is the best class you will take at this school. (We literally made memes on the last day of class, like how cool is that).
PLEASE TAKE THIS CLASS BEFORE YOU GRADUATE. I am an economics concentrator and had no reason to take this class other than the fact that it seemed relevant and interesting. On day 1, Preceptor will make it very clear to all the students what this class entails. If you doesn't sound appealing to you then, it probably won't 2 months later. I will say, this was by far the best class I've taken at Harvard. Not only do you gain legitimate technical skills (we were basically on par with the Celtics' head data scientist when he came in to speak), but you also meet a ton of people and the class was always one that I looked forward to going to.
this class is a lot of work but you'll leave the class having a really useful skillset and a project to add to your resume. the teaching staff is great
Take enough time to tackle the workload of this course.
this is the BEST class I will probably ever take at Harvard. Preceptor is an incredibly smart and engaging teacher and the topic of data science is super relevant and interesting. this class actually creates a community — you will literally get to know all your class mates — and it's a fun way to meet people while learning. the psets are genuinely enjoyable and the grading is fair. ((not lying I would wait up some nights to get the email that a pset was released so I could start working on it for fun)) frequently there are class snacks that Dr. Kane (Preceptor's wife) makes — an added bonus. you will end up being quite fluent with R and data by the time you are done with the class and your final project.
this class individually will probably end up being the highlight of my academic experience at harvard, and data science skills are applicable to almost any concentration or career.
Although this class is extremely difficult, you will learn how to code in R.
This course claims to be an introductory course in statistics and coding. However, I do not have a coding or statistics background and spent around 20 hours a week in this course. In addition, I did not feel that the course slowed down or provided extra support for students with less of a statistics or coding background.
There is also a major discrepancy between what you learn in class and the p–set and exam questions which are much more complex and difficult.
I am now fully proficient in R, but this class was a bit of a struggle. Preceptor and the course staff are all super dedicated and want to see you do well but it is a very difficult class. If you are potentially interested in data science as a career, I would HIGHLY recommend taking this course.
even if it's hard, you do end up with a very cool final project that you made all by yourself and that you can show off! also now I can say I can use R which is nice
Listen its hard right. It'll take a ton of time if this is your introduction to data science and programming. That being said its super useful. I wish a course existed like this at my undergraduate institution. You'll learn a lot and be very well prepared for internships, research, and future jobs. Just come into the class with the right mindset. Preceptor won't really care that you're overworked and won't be that sympathetic to your issues, but he (mostly via assignments) will teach you a ton of fascinating material and prepare you for your future.

Comments
Take this class!! I've learned so much from a class in my time at Harvard— I wish I took it sooner, but at the same time, I'm glad I got to take the fall 2019 version as the class has evolved a lot and we are learning a lot of statistical analysis in addition to basic R.
This is an excellent class that teaches a lot of material in a short period of time. It is also a ton of work, so I would recommend taking it but making sure that you balance your schedule with some less time-intensive classes.
This is a great course, but expect to put in a lot of work! I found that I couldn't really complete the pssets without going to at least one study hall. The take home exams were hard but doable. Don't be scared by cold calling, I promise it's done in the kindest possible way. Don't leave your final project until the last few days so that you can get feedback from course staff before submitting it. You'll walk away from this class with something substantial to add to your portfolio and a solid foundation of work in R. Also Dr. Kane makes treats for the class!
Definitely make sure you have enough time to dedicate to this course if you have not learned coding before; it is a work heavy course if you are not familiar with this material.
It's a lot of work, no curve, very difficult to keep up with once you get back
This is a great class if you want to get an introduction into R and coding in general. You learn a lot and Preceptor Kane is extremely accessible and open to feedback. However, think carefully about whether this class is for you. If you don't coding, it is still a ton of work, the pets and take-home exams were really rough at times and I could rarely do the pssets on why own.
This class is a LOT of work — but it delivers on its core promises. Some of the features it also offers (sending emails to random strangers to practice "networking," bad guest speakers, etc.) are a little gimmicky, but they don't ultimately detract from the quality of the course. You will learn R, and you will learn it well. The problem sets really force you to learn and apply the week's worth of material. They are often times frustrating (and require obscure code you've never heard mentioned in lecture), but the "study halls" offered by the course ensure that there is always a chance to get help from a TF/CA (the teaching staff is also wonderful and incredible helpful, which adds to the class' quality immensely). Exams are fair, but are a huge time sink. The final project is actually a lot of fun, and I thought the process of creating a "finished project" in the form of a shiny app website was really valuable. If you have a stats or CS background, you will probably have an advantage — but if you are like me (humanities-oriented gov concentrator), you will probably spend at least 10 hours a week on this course. I thought it was worth it, but be sure you are willing (and able) to put in the time for this course.
Class is a bit odd, especially with course practices, but definitely very effective. I definitely know how to use R rather well. Office hours are super helpful.
Do you like amusement parks? Because if you take this course you're in for a rollercoaster ride. I chose to take this course for three reasons: 1) As a student of the humanities/social sciences, I wanted to prove to myself that I could think and grapple with data in a way I have never had to do before; 2) I wanted to fulfill my quantitative reasoning requirement; 3) I wanted to become proficient at a tangible skill that may help me someday in trying to obtain internships etc. In terms of reaching these goals, the course exceeded my expectations. I am incredibly proud of the work I produced throughout, especially my final project, as well as that I was able to succeed at something I had no background in. Furthermore, course showed me levels of persistence, perseverance, and a commitment to learning I didn't know I had. For me, it was over 15+ hours a week—all of my other courses were mere accessories in comparison. What makes this course unlike any other at Harvard, is Preceptor's constant willingness to improve, his commitment to his students, and the emphasis the course places on you getting to know and collaborate with your peers. The outside support offered by CAs and TFs is also consistent and extremely helpful. At times, Gov 1005 left me frustrated and feeling helpless, working late into the morning, but, overall, was one of the most fulfilling classes I have ever taken. It was tedious and all-consuming, but if you are prepared for it and know what you are getting into, is a rollercoaster I would encourage you to get in line for.
This is a HARD and TIME CONSUMING but VERY REWARDING course. This class definitely took up the most time from anything I did this semester, and while I hated it in the moment, I am extremely grateful for taking this class. The q guide scores for the time commitment is not a mistake.
It's very intensive but really useful and worth it
I would recommend taking this class if you want to learn how to create visualizations and work with datasets (or just learn how to use R) — this class is very useful in that regard. If you want to learn about statistics and causal effects, perhaps take a statistics class instead.
I don't know why previous evaluations said that Preceptor was an extreme human, he is actually very reasonable and as long as you understand that he has high expectations (which are clearly outlined in the syllabus), you will be fine. If you have concerns about anything, sign up for office hours early on. You will spend more hours on this class than you will like, but it has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had throughout my undergraduate and graduate studies. I feel more prepared to take on an ever-changing world and more equipped to answer big questions as an aspiring political scientist. I advise against taking this class if you have no background in statistics.
Great for learning a new skill
This class is more work than advertised. It can be really demoralising, and without sections, some students really struggle with the concepts and skills demanded by the pssets. It also has a really corporate ethos (take this class to make money), which obscures a lot of valuable discussions about the ethics of data and data science.

Comments
A great course where you will learn useful life and work skills, but time consuming.
This class is pretty challenging and time consuming, but this is a type of class that you will love and hate at the same time. Take this class for the sake of the most delicious snacks that our preceptor brings EVERY week.
Take this course. Much more practical than CS50. You actually get to meet and work with other students. Final project is fun.
GOV 1005 is amazing! It is a lot of work, but it was my favorite class this semester. You will learn a lot of useful skills, and everyone in the course staff is available to help you at any moment.
Amazing class. You learn extremely practical skills in R. I knew literally nothing about R starting the class and now I can confidently put R on my resume. Preceptor Kane teaches you real life skills that will directly prepare you a career in data science or at least a job that uses data in some way. The cold calling is not scary at all, if you don't know the answer Preceptor doesn't care. You really get to know the other people in the class and there is a nice sense of community. That being said this class is a lot of work in and the pssets ramp up over the course of the year, but I genuinely enjoyed the class, learning R, and the final project so I didn't mind the workload.
I care into this class with very few technical skills and now I am very confident in my r ability. This class gave me the tools to engage with political science in a more empirical way and gave me the confidence to pursue a quantitative thesis.
Do not take this course if you have other time demanding courses. To really learn and make the most of the course you need to dedicate its time. A lot of time. Also, do all the readings, trust me, your life will be way easier.

What did you take away from your experience in this course? What did you learn? How did this course change you?

Comments
Learned R, which was super useful
Learned how cool data science and how to use R!
a new love/appreciation for data science!
How to teach myself new skills.
I now consider myself very proficient in R and capable of doing work and tackling questions looking at data
I learned how to use R and think through problems using data science tools – these are foundational skills I will use throughout my college career and beyond
I got an introduction into a whole world that I had no experience with before. I learned a ton and learned that I really like coding.
I got a very solid knowledge of R and data analysis. I managed to make an interactive web-based data visualization project using real source. It completely demystify data analytics.
I learned how to be proficient with R to perform sat data analysis. I was also introduced to some statistics concepts like regressions and modeling.
R skills and data analysis
I feel like I can actually code in R now and parse data for the insights I want. I will be using these skills in my senior thesis.
too many exams/pssets
This class has made me excited to take more data and cs classes in the future. I have learned so much and will definitely apply these skills in later classes and jobs.
If you want to work with data using a programming language at all, take this course. It made me feel MUCH more comfortable with approaching data from multiple perspectives.
I now feel confident in using R with the skills I learn in class, and confident that I will be able to use the skills in this class to further teach myself skills in R that I want to. I now feel like I am confident in data collecting, cleaning, and basic analytics.
I learned a ton about data analysis and how to use R
If there's a big question, I'm gonna say, "but what's the data?"
Now I got some madd abilities.
I have a portfolio of projects to show people, a professional github, networking skills, and a strong knowledge of R.
–
I learned how to teach myself and figure out things on my own. The readings, datacamp, and class taught me the basics of what I needed to know. However, when problems sets were extremely difficult, I had to work through them step by step on my own with the resources I have. Working with classmates at study halls also taught me how to collaborate effectively and learn with my peers.
I am now a "junior data scientist" quoth Preceptor!

Comments
R!
I learned how use R for data cleaning and data visualizations. I also am looking into the data science in government track after taking this course.
This was absolutely my favorite course this semester, even though I hated it probably half of the time. It's the most frustrating class I've ever taken, but I haven't learned a skill so comfortably and quickly before. It's also incredibly useful and I hope my employer will pay me more because this is on my resume!
I learned so much from this class. For one, I actually learned how to code, which is great considering how many other code-based class I've taken that forced you to learn on your own. I also learned a lot more about important life skills like networking, taking all opportunities presented, and meeting someone knew everyday.
Overall, I gained a very solid understanding of R with the supplementary libraries used by data scientists today.
I learned how to analyze data and code in R, which will prove very useful for what I want to do with my career
Very useful skills for data manipulation and exploration.
I learned so much about data — giving me actually real skills that I can use in my personal and professional life eventually.
I learned how to be more persistent and the value of looking at questions from multiple perspectives.
I have a presentable final project that I really cared about and I now know a little bit about data science and can wrangle data sort of
I learned R and also realized how much I enjoy data analytics.
I went from pretty much no coding experience to being able to confidently gather, manipulate, and display data in R. These are highly applicable skills that I have been able to use for my other course work in the social sciences.
Strong foundation in R coding, final project that I can add to my portfolio of data science work
I felt like I got an incredible introduction to R and gained a really solid applied statistics background that has enhanced my ability to read and understand, say, articles from a political science journal. I am definitely interested in taking more data science courses and (hopefully) learning to code in some other programming languages.
Learned a lot of R!
I feel like I said it all in my previous comment; but, to summarize, the biggest thing I learned is that through hard work and dedication, I am capable of thinking in ways I never thought I could. I finished the course feeling confident in my ability to use R and to be able to teach myself how to learn more complex forms of Data analysis in the future.
I now know how to code in R. I understand bayesian statistics and can agree with Preceptor that it is, in fact, the future of statistics. I had never touched code in my life and I ended up doing that for a whole semester. I realized it is probably not for me in the long run, but the problem solving skills I developed from it are amazing and will help me teach myself so many more things in the future.
Comfortable using R and Tidyverse
I learned how to use R and github and I learned how to create interesting visualizations.
The practical skills I learned from this course are its crown jewel. I can confidently say that I understand the world through data so much better now, and, more importantly, that I can teach myself things I don't already know. This is a great class for those without any serious background in coding or computer science.
R
I learned some really valuable coding skills.
I learned that I can use data to do so many things and I want to use what I learned in this class in future jobs.
I found that I really like data analytics. This class also equipped me with data analytic skills that I can use to get summer internships.
This course really changed the way I viewed statistics and social studies. The two are not exclusive, and there is an interesting intersection where the two meet.
I now feel confident in my r abilities and am more comfortable engaging with both coding but also data analysis.
Many new and good skills. I can now perform quantitative analysis to argument my qualitative analysis.

Instructor Comments

Please comment on this person's teaching. (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

Comments
Preceptor is an amazing teacher! He really cares about each of his students and learns everyone's name in like the first week of the

Comments
class. He is very knowledgeable about the material and his interactive teaching method is very effective to get everyone in the class the most R experience they can get!
This class is definitely the David Kane show but that is not entirely a bad thing. If you are willing to put up with some of his in-class "exercises" then you will really enjoy the course.
Preceptor is a good professor who takes personal interest in all of his students and makes his classes engaging.
10/10
The Preceptor is great at explaining why he codes something as he codes it during class. He is also great at involving everyone and making sure that people pay attention at all times by implementing cold calling. I am also grateful that he fosters a supportive, accepting community by emphasizing that you are not expected to know the answer and making everyone work with each other and get to know each other everyday. The class format is different from other Harvard classes, but I think it works well!
Amazing and engaged – could not have asked for better
She is amazing. One of the best TF"s.
Preceptor's teaching philosophy works. The vast majority of class time is spent doing meaningful and useful things, and the class genuinely felt like a community to the extent that any 80-person lecture can.
Alice was a patient teacher who knew when to offer a much-needed answer, and when to ask a guiding question. She helped me choose which direction to take my project, and how to manipulate the data to perfect it.
He does an incredible job of teaching us by doing. Instead of lecturing, we simply work in R Studio every class. It is incredibly effective because, in the future, we will not be tested on pencil and paper, but we still instead be tested on what skills we know how to do.
Preceptor is a quirky guy, but he also comes with no bs kind of attitude and does not waste your time. We will follow through on his promises! You will learn a ton!
Weird but one of the best teacher's I've had here.
Preceptor is someone who does not take laziness as an answer. He will make you work HARD and gives a LOT of critical feedback. However, deep down he is a very kind hearted human being.
Preceptor is quite possibly the king of facilitating discussion and encouraging participation. Having to partner with someone new every day and potentially being cold called is quite daunting at first, but it's actually super fun and cool and makes you actually learn better because you're paying attention more and bouncing off ideas of of someone every time.
Fantastic. Nothing else to say.
preceptor kane is the BEST teacher on campus — he's a super smart guy, super nice, and super engaging. get to know him. go to lunch with him. talk to him in class, on piazza, etc.
he gets a little sassy sometimes but that's just his style. just roll with it.
Gov 1005 was organized extremely well and Preceptor worked extremely hard to make the class a community. We coded every day in class which was helpful when completing exams and p-sets. He also responded to my emails extremely quickly (within minutes) and was always willing to meet outside of class to address any questions or concerns.
preceptor is insane this is true but he's also wonderful
Alice was great.
Preceptor is a gem within Harvard's faculty. The 75 minutes of class always seems to fly by and he is great at engaging students.
Preceptor is clearly invested in teaching the subject and the students' success. He worked hard to create a class community during the semester and was very available to meet with students outside of class. His teaching style is unique (and he'll be the first to tell you that!), so I would recommend shopping the class to make sure it works for you.
One of the best educators at Harvard. His participatory style of teaching/learning was really effective and enjoyable for me.
Preceptor Kane is a big personality — and it is clear that GOV 1005 is very much crafted in his unique teaching style. However, I felt like most of his assignments were very effective at teaching and assessing coding in R. Additionally, I felt that much of the review we did of material in lectures was very helpful in reinforcing material.
A bit odd at first but effective, although I wish there were a bit more monologues on Shiny and the statistics.
Preceptor is extremely committed to this course and to his students success at learning R — as well as entering the workforce. I am very appreciative of his dedication and his emphasis on teaching you how to teach yourself.
I loved Preceptor's style of teaching. He is a very blunt preceptor and runs a very different classroom from the rest of the courses I took this semester. The entirety of the class period is spent mirroring and working through tasks in R as a cohesive Unit, only to be occasionally paused in the interest of speakers related to the Data-Science career track. These speakers were all around interesting and provided a great view into the possibilities of the Data-Science track here at Harvard. Besides that, preceptor will also require you to refer to him as "Preceptor" and only "Preceptor" as well as participate in daily cold-call throughout the class period. Loved it.

Comments
Preceptor knows how to teach.
Preceptor Kane is a very engaging instructor which makes going to class fun, and he has a very distinct way of running a course. He cares very much about each of his students.
BEST preceptor GOV 1005 can ever have!
A bit too stubborn about things. Can be condescending. But cares very much about the course and the material, as well as the students.
One of the best teachers I have had a Harvard. Thank you for everything you taught me this semester and actually listening to your students
Preceptor is amazing! He genuinely cares about you as a person and wants to give you all of the tools you need to be successful.

Custom Questions

Which snack was your favorite?

Comments
Fruit!
healthy snacks!
the poppyseed/lemon cake pops :)
The politically correct brownies were delicious but I really appreciated all of the snacks from Dr. Kane.
I forgot the name of it but it had a white covering around a more pretzel like thing
Brownies
The non-slutty brownies were excellent.
I'm less of a sweet tooth. Savory snack once next semester? ;)
Fresh fruit was really good.
Gov 1005 cookies from the last class.
Fruit! But I liked the others a lot too.
Brownies
everything
Rice Krispy treats with fruit loops or berries.
I loved the fruit! What a refreshing idea
cookies
All of them
The crack! Thanks again to Dr. Kane for the awesome snacks!
Chocolate spheres
The fruit
Meringues & cake pops.
brownies against the patriarchy, and mint brownies, and cake pops. i will come to ur class so i can steal snacks next semester.
Cake balls
Brownies against patriarchy
brownies against the patriarchy
CRACK
Brownies against Patriarchal Standards of Behavior
THEY WERE ALL GOOD!!!!
I missed the brownies but everyone told me about them. They're the only ones I can think of now.
The fruit
The personalized GOV 1005 cookies on the last day! Sooooo cool and soooo delicious! (I mean of course, all of them were great though—thank you Dr. Kane!!)
The berries by far.

Comments
cookie & Oreo brownies, but honestly loved them all
The fruits.
didn't we have like berries one day? I liked those quite a lot
All of them! Thank you again for the snacks!
the mint chocolate things
Cookies
Cake pops!
Pumpkin bars! Also the fruit was a nice change in a sugar-heavy semester :)
The pumpkin one
ALL OF THEM! Ok the mint brownie.
They were all amazing, but the brownies were the best thing I've ever eaten. Please convey a huge thank you to Dr. Kane <3
Meringue
fruits (I don't eat dairy products)
Rice Krispie treats
The chocolate ones.
Pumpkin squares!
Honestly, the fruits came at a time when I really needed something healthy in my body.
Brownies against Patriarchal Standards of Behavior
The lemon-poppy seed balls. Thank you Dr. Kane!
The brownies against patriarchal standards of behavior. The weird lecture about them was off-putting, however. Perhaps call them non-conforming brownies and leave out the explanation? A+ snack, though.
Veggies
I didn't try many I'm afraid! But I'm sure my classmates loved them.
They were all SO good.
AHHH SO HARD TO DECIDE!! Cake pops were my favorite if I had to choose one
All were amazing. Thank you
Brownies against Patriarchal Standards of Behavior
DEFINITELY BaPSoB
The against the patriarchy brownie things
Cakepops

We had 8 speakers. Next semester, should we have more speakers, fewer speakers or about the same number of speakers?

Comments
Same number. 8 offered a good range of perspectives, but any more is unnecessary.
Same speakers, or maybe less and have them do a longer workshop that we can follow along.
about the same or fewer. The speakers were great but sometimes one would come up in the middle of the flow of the class.
Some of the speakers were really interesting and some weren't. Maybe try to find out which speakers, or types of speakers, appeal most to the students and get more of those.
About the same number
Same number
About the same.
about the same
Same!
The same number. Maybe do a poll and let students choose a few of the speakers to invite.
Same number

Comments
fewer; or at least don't teach crucial/high-level topics during speaker days
I think fewer speakers, but a longer time devoted to each. I don't think the half class format is very effective because we never get any substantial done before the speakers arrive and the speakers aren't able to go into very much depth about their career paths or their current work due to time constraints. I always thought that there was not enough time for the speakers because they are sometimes only able to give self-intros before opening for questions, which isn't very effective because we don't know enough about them to ask good questions. I feel like I didn't get very much from the speakers in general.
same
fewer speakers
The same!
Same
Same number of speakers, save Mara for later in the semester. I think the reprep lecture was helpful, but came too early in the semester when people weren't comfortable with R yet and could be overwhelming. I liked the mix of public and private sector and wish we had more public sector people (like the city of boston people)
More!
More speakers
About the same number, perhaps with the order switched (e.g. Mara Averick later in the semester).
same speakers. dope part of the class.
A few less
fewer!
Same number
About the same!
That's a good number.
About the same number of speakers I think. However, another option would be having less speakers but giving them more time to talk.
Maybe less— I really liked the PhD student that spoke to us. Seeing how people use R in academia was directly applicable to what we're doing now (vs. the professionals).
Same number
Same number (as long as they are from multiple different career paths like they were this year that way there's still diversity in topics).
Fewer for longer periods of time.
two or three less speakers, but let them speak for longer
Same!
fewer speakers. they didn't add much value to the class — talking about how some vacuum company uses data or something.
the only one I really liked was the dude that applied Bayes Rule to life and probability and making decisions (he mentioned climate change a bunch).
I would recommend about the same number of speakers. It was helpful to meet professionals who use R in their careers.
more speakers, they were so insightful and amazing to hear from
Same number. They were useful.
Same!
I think we had just the right amount.
About the same
8 seems just about right.
Perhaps a couple fewer speakers? I think 5–6 would be ideal.
About the same
same number
Fewer
About the same number.
Fewer. I would have preferred to have spent that time learning R and more statistics.
I think a couple less would work just as well and allow more time to work in class.

Comments
Fewer speakers, more applied stats lecture
Fewer speakers and give each one more time to talk.
About the same amount! I would love to see more speakers who work on transformative issues (the environment, criminal justice, election security, etc.) The private sector is pervasive enough as it is in the world of data and Harvard (and especially HBS) hosts a number of opportunities through which students can connect to professionals in that field.
Same
About the same.
Same amount
There should be one speaker every week, hence there should be more speakers.
About the same.
About the same
no i liked the number of speakers
Same
Same

We required each student to have three individual meetings with course staff. Should we require more individual meetings, fewer or about the same?

Comments
Same
Same, it was a good amount
Three is good, and I liked the milestones!
about the same, so meetings for me had very little use, but definitely are good to have to not only meet the course staff but start thinking in advance about things like the final project and the flow of work in general
About the same.
About the same
This number felt about right
This was a good number of meetings.
about the same
Same!
Fewer
Require more
More
About the same is fine. It is definitely helpful to talk to someone about final project ideas before we pursue it. Perhaps a meeting when we are working on the apps would be helpful for debugging any Shiny errors.
maybe fewer at the beginning
yes, maybe an additional 1
The same is good!
Same
More. I think it would be helpful to force people to interact more with the TF's
About the same
About the same
About the same number of individual meetings. Allows students to be acquainted with course staff while maintaining flexibility.
more meetings. i think more creative discussion could have helped me hone in sooner! Or go bigger, or deeper!
About the same
more!
Fewer
Maybe more with the TFs. You can bs to the CAs not so much the TFs.

Comments
No, it was perfect.
I think about the same, but give more optional time slots for students who want to meet more!
About the same.
Same
I think 3 worked out pretty good this year especially since they were evenly spaced out throughout the semester. I'm not sure if increasing the time intervals (10 to 15 to 30, I think it was?) was really that effective and kind of scared people of the meetings because it made them seem like super serious, but at the same time, it did incentivize you to actually make sure you were prepared to talk about your project and the class, so maybe keep that structure for that reason.
One more extensive meeting.
no, keep the same
Perfect number.
three is probably good but they should all have to be with the same course staff so there is continuity in projects/connections.
I would recommend requiring about the same number of individual meetings with the course staff and the opportunity to meet more often if students want.
more, or about the same!
Same
Make more due on milestones earlier because I really dug into the work later and changed things, but didn't have that content to discuss with early milestones.
The required number of meetings was good.
More
I think having 5 might be better.
This was a good number!
More
maybe require more
More
About the same number.
About the same!
I think about the same is a good choice.
same
The same.
The same!
Same
More, for sure; some of my classmates were really lost and didn't know where to turn.
More
I think it should be about the same.
Fewer
Require more individual meetings
The same is good. People you have to force to meet more than 3 times aren't getting that much out of their meetings anyway
Same
More, but more towards the end of the project.