

JHU - School of Advanced International Studies

Fa.12 Final Evals - NL

Course: SA.340.713.01.FA12 : Risk Analysis and Modeling

Instructor: Mark White \*

1 - What is your degree objective?				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
M.A.	(1)	13	92.86%	<div><div></div></div>
M.I.P.P.	(2)	1	7.14%	<div><div></div></div>
Ph.D.	(3)	0	0.00%	<div><div></div></div>
Non-degree	(4)	0	0.00%	<div><div></div></div>
Return Rate				0 25 50 75 100
14/23 (60.87%)				

2 - If you are a SAIS degree student, does this course:				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
Fulfill a concentration requirements	(1)	4	28.57%	<div><div></div></div>
Serve as an elective	(2)	10	71.43%	<div><div></div></div>
Return Rate				0 25 50 75 100
14/23 (60.87%)				

3 - How many classes have you missed, regardless of the reason?				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
0	(1)	5	35.71%	<div><div></div></div>
1	(2)	7	50.00%	<div><div></div></div>
2	(3)	1	7.14%	<div><div></div></div>
3	(4)	1	7.14%	<div><div></div></div>
4 or more	(5)	0	0.00%	<div><div></div></div>
Return Rate				0 25 50 75 100
14/23 (60.87%)				

4 - Have you participated actively in class?				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
Regularly	(1)	4	28.57%	<div><div></div></div>
Sometimes	(2)	9	64.29%	<div><div></div></div>
Hardly ever	(3)	1	7.14%	<div><div></div></div>
Never	(4)	0	0.00%	<div><div></div></div>
Return Rate				0 25 50 75 100
14/23 (60.87%)				

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5 - Approximately how many hours have you spent studying or preparing for this class in a typical week?				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
More than 10	(1)	3	21.43%	
8-10	(2)	5	35.71%	
5-7	(3)	4	28.57%	
2-4	(4)	2	14.29%	
Fewer than 2	(5)	0	0.00%	
Return Rate				
14/23 (60.87%)				

6 - Approximately how much of the homework, readings, and assignments have you completed for this course?				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
100%	(1)	5	35.71%	
75%	(2)	5	35.71%	
50-75%	(3)	2	14.29%	
Less than 50%	(4)	2	14.29%	
Return Rate				
14/23 (60.87%)				

7 - The size of this class is:				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses
Appropriate for the subject matter	(1)	11	78.57%	
Too small	(2)	0	0.00%	
Too large	(3)	3	21.43%	
Return Rate				
14/23 (60.87%)				

8 - The objectives and the requirements of the course were clearly stated.					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	9	64.29%		
Agree	(4)	5	35.71%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%		
Return Rate					
14/23 (60.87%)					
Mean					
STD					
14/23 (60.87%)					

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9 - The methods used (lectures, group work, discussions, etc.) were well suited for communicating course content.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	6	42.86%				 4.00				
Agree	(4)	4	28.57%								
Neutral	(3)	3	21.43%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	1	7.14%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.00	1.18								

10 - The Blackboard resources (including Course Readings) were accessible and easy to use.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	11	78.57%				 4.79				
Agree	(4)	3	21.43%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.79	0.43								

11 - The multimedia and technology resources (other than Blackboard) that were used were appropriate for this class.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	10	71.43%				 4.71				
Agree	(4)	4	28.57%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.71	0.47								

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12 - The amount of assigned work (readings, problem sets, projects, papers, quizzes, tests and exams) was reasonable.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	5	35.71%								
Agree	(4)	7	50.00%								
Neutral	(3)	2	14.29%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.21	0.70								

13 - The other students in the course contributed positively to my learning experience.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	6	42.86%								
Agree	(4)	4	28.57%								
Neutral	(3)	3	21.43%								
Disagree	(2)	1	7.14%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.07	1.00								

14 - This course enhanced my understanding of the subject matter.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	8	57.14%								
Agree	(4)	6	42.86%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.57	0.51								

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15 - I would recommend this course to fellow students.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means			
Strongly Agree	(5)	9	64.29%								
Agree	(4)	3	21.43%								
Neutral	(3)	2	14.29%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.50	0.76								

16 - My overall evaluation of the course is positive.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means			
Strongly Agree	(5)	8	57.14%								
Agree	(4)	5	35.71%								
Neutral	(3)	1	7.14%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.50	0.65								

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17 - Please add any other comments to explain your ratings or to elaborate further on any aspect of the course.

Return Rate	10/23 (43.48%)
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- Dr. White seems like a great guy, and theoretical discussions of risk topics (i.e. "black swans," etc.) are quite interesting. However, much of the class is spent going over obscure things you could put in your model, but they are really hard to follow and also tend to be highly specific. It would be better to cut class time in half to go over the theoretical stuff, and then have half the time to work on the model with the TA and teacher present for support. In the end, I did learn a lot about using Excel effectively, which was my goal, but that was mostly self-taught or through one-on-one work with the TA rather than because of what I learned in class.

- This course is based around developing a risk model of your own. It's a great course and I found it to be quite interesting. Familiarity with excel is very important.

- I would suggest that the course be offered as an independent study with the class time reserved for additional office hours regarding individual questions on student models. I found that the lectures were largely unhelpful and abstract in consideration of the course objective to develop one's own model. Perhaps a three or four session overview of key concepts would suffice. To facilitate this format, the course might be capped at a smaller number of students.

- It took forever to do Modeling. While it is a great way of learning Excel and Cost-Benefit Analysis, it ate a lot of my time to influence my internship and other courses. He should get rid of written assignment so that people will not be overwhelmed.

- Very good class. I learned useful skills and new approaches to evaluate decisions. The class is completely predicated on practical application, so there is a tangible sense of learning that is very rewarding.

- This is an amazing course if you want to learn modeling skills by building a model yourself. Be aware though that it is very time-consuming and might be hard to combine when you are in other courses like corporate finance and econometrics at the same time. It was not always clear how the lectures connected to the modeling part of the course, but they did provide an overview of risk analysis strategies, flaws and strengths in the real world. An intermediate understanding of excel and statistics is a pre, if not a must to be able to get the most out of this course.

- Great course. The risk modeling part is fun, and you can learn a lot - but it is time consuming. Especially if you are interested in the subject matter, I (and many others from my class) spent hours and hours on the modeling project, which is only part of the assignments (papers, participation, presentation). However, it was a truly unique experience and a type of work that you won't find at SAIS anywhere else.


- Fun class, but students should be ready to sacrifice lots of time on excel model building. I recommend you to select the subject of the model carefully (select subject which you have strong interest or deep knowledge), since you need to struggle with it for so long time!

- Taking this course in parallel with stat class works well.

- The modelling part was much more useful than the classes, which unfortunately were somewhat disorganised and repetitive (how many times can one talk about black swans?)

- The course would benefit from more concrete examples, for example from analyzing high-profile failures of risk management (Long Term Capital Management, Lehmann Brothers, AIG, ...)

- There are sometimes too many assigned readings (though this may be intentional). Work is very concentrated in particular weeks. Some of the lectures are not properly synchronized with the modeling project assignments. Lectures could be more engaging



18 - The instructor was consistently well prepared for class.											
Mark White											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	13	92.86%				4.93				
Agree	(4)	1	7.14%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate	Mean	STD									
14/23 (60.87%)	4.93	0.27									



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19 - The instructor established high standards, challenged me, and encouraged me to do my best work. Mark White											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	11	78.57%								
Agree	(4)	3	21.43%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.79	0.43								

20 - The instructor encouraged active participation in class. Mark White										
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means		
Strongly Agree	(5)	7	50.00%							
Agree	(4)	5	35.71%							
Neutral	(3)	2	14.29%							
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%							
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%							
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%							
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	
Return Rate	Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)	4.36	0.74								

21 - The instructor's manner of delivery clearly demonstrated strong understanding of the subject matter (consider effectiveness of discussions, presentations, and lectures). Mark White											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	12	85.71%								
Agree	(4)	2	14.29%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.86	0.36								

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22 - The grading techniques were fair and relevant (consider projects, papers, quizzes, tests, and exams). Mark White											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	12	85.71%								
Agree	(4)	1	7.14%								
Neutral	(3)	1	7.14%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate	Mean	STD									
14/23 (60.87%)	4.79	0.58									

23 - The instructor provided timely and constructive feedback on assignments. Mark White											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses					Means		
Strongly Agree	(5)	13	92.86%								
Agree	(4)	1	7.14%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.93	0.27								



24 - The instructor observed the scheduled class times. Mark White												
Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree		(5)	12	92.31%								
Agree		(4)	1	7.69%								
Neutral		(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree		(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A		(0)	0	0.00%								
					0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD									
13/23 (56.52%)		4.92	0.28									

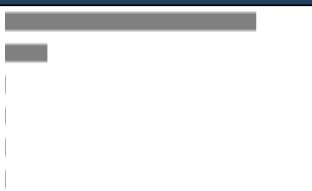

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25 - The instructor was available and provided the assistance I needed to succeed in the course. Mark White											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	12	85.71%								
Agree	(4)	2	14.29%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)		4.86	0.36								

26 - My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive. Mark White										
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means			
Strongly Agree	(5)	12	85.71%							
Agree	(4)	2	14.29%							
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%							
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%							
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%							
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%							
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	
Return Rate	Mean	STD								
14/23 (60.87%)	4.86	0.36								

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27 - Please provide any additional comments that would be helpful regarding your instructor.  
Mark White

Return Rate	10/23 (43.48%)
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- As mentioned, the theoretical discussions were great and Dr. White clearly knows how to make a sick model. Unfortunately, I think he struggles to convey the technical info to the class in a relevant and comprehensible way.

- Dr. White is a great professor, and he really invests his time to help students. Because every student is developing a different model, Dr. White holds a lot of office hours and provided a lot of assistance.

- Professor White is one of the most helpful and accessible professors that I have ever encountered at SAIS. He consistently goes above and beyond to attend to students' needs, including answering emails throughout Thanksgiving break. He was patient with my many questions in office hours, and, by the end of the course, I truly felt that I had effectively grasped the concepts and material thanks to his attentiveness.

- The most organized professor I've had at SAIS. Also the most available professor. Professor White seems sincerely interested in his students' success. He put the course together in a thoughtful way. The readings and lecture both contributed to my understanding of the material. He presents more information that is necessary to do well in the class and succeed on the project, but he makes it clear that not everything he presents will be useful to each student.

- Professor White clearly knows what he is talking about. He has the highest amount of office hours of any of the SAIS professors I know, which really help you get going once you are working on your own modeling project.

- Prof. White is a great guy. He is enthusiastic about his teachings, and is more than willing to help students out with all kinds of problems. He is very knowledgeable about modeling and risk analysis, and encourages students to learn and do good work. I really enjoyed his course, which was one of the top courses I have taken at SAIS so far (3rd semester).



- Prof White is so well prepared to the course and quite generous about his time.

- - Prof. White knows what he is talking about--he worked as an actuary after all

- Delivery can be a bit dry and would benefit from more examples and anecdotes, maybe from his own work experience

- Overall the course was very useful and I personally learned a lot from it. Professor White is extremely helpful and very good at framing problems, which helps a great deal in helping us to improve the functioning of our Excel models. I would recommend a few changes though, mostly from my perspective as someone that isn't a strong Excel user, so this may not be useful to everyone. The first would be a recommended series of optional Excel tasks evaluated by a TA or professor (that may or may not be graded). At the beginning of class he offered a link to a site with several tasks, but I think it would be good if they were a structured part of the course as this would help people with less familiarity with Excel to gain a better sense of how to use it more elegantly. Secondly, I think it would be useful if we actually had access to the spreadsheets that he reviewed in class during class time so we could look at the code. Lastly, the lesson calendar in the class didn't always match up with our stage in model development. Overall, despite these recommendations I highly recommend the class. Professor White is always very willing to sit individually with each student and finds a way to push everyone, no matter what their skill level is.

- Sometimes rambles too much and makes it difficult to pay attention to lecture, but is a wealth of knowledge one-on-one.

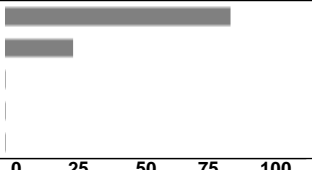

28 - The TA review sessions were helpful.										
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means		
Strongly Agree	(5)	5	45.45%							
Agree	(4)	3	27.27%							
Neutral	(3)	3	27.27%							
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%							
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%							
				0	25	50	75	100	Question	
Return Rate	Mean	STD								
11/23 (47.83%)	4.18	0.87								

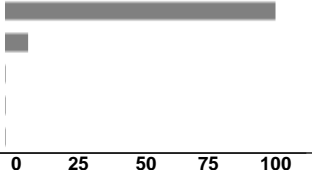

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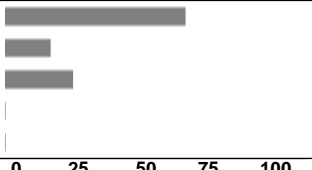

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29 - The TA was available for office hours.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means			
Strongly Agree	(5)	10	76.92%								
Agree	(4)	3	23.08%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
13/23 (56.52%)		4.77	0.44								

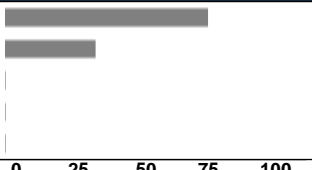

30 - The TA attended class sessions and/or was aware of what materials had been covered in lectures.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means			
Strongly Agree	(5)	12	92.31%								
Agree	(4)	1	7.69%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
13/23 (56.52%)		4.92	0.28								

31 - The TA clearly and constructively explained concepts.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses				Means			
Strongly Agree	(5)	8	61.54%								
Agree	(4)	2	15.38%								
Neutral	(3)	3	23.08%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
13/23 (56.52%)		4.38	0.87								

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32 - My overall evaluation of the TA is positive.											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	9	69.23%								
Agree	(4)	4	30.77%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Question		
Return Rate		Mean	STD								
13/23 (56.52%)		4.69	0.48								

33 - Please add any other comments regarding your TA(s). If this course has more than one TA, please list the name of the TA for whom you wish to provide specific feedback.	
Return Rate	9/23 (39.13%)
<div>- Jim was the GREATEST, and basically the only reason I got through this class (*knock on wood*). He was able to teach you the technical skills you needed to actually bring your thought process to life in a model, and he was so flexible and generous with his time, meeting people individually to coach them through their model as often as needed.</div> <div>- The TA was consistently helpful and accessible.</div> <div>- TA evaluation above should be taken with a grain of salt. I did not consistently attend TA sessions.</div> <div>- Didn't attend the TA sessions</div> <div>- Jim was a great TA. He is an excel wizkid, who greatly complemented Professor White in working on the model. Where White would be more conceptual and sometimes mathematical, Jim could oftentimes clearly explain how to translate that into excel.</div> <div>- Supercool kid. Jim knows his stuff and is extremely available at the weirdest times. Super helpful and a true asset of the course.</div> <div>- Jim's demonstration always be the good guide for student's model development. Cool!</div> <div>- - Jim was outstanding, there is no other word for it.</div> <div>- Jim was great!</div>	