

JHU - SAIS DC

Fa.17 Final Evals - NL

Course: SA.340.713.01.FA17: Risk Analysis and Modeling

Instructor: Mark White *

1 - What is your degree objective?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
M.A.	(1)	21	87.5%		
M.I.P.P.	(2)	3	12.5%		
M.I.E.F.	(3)	0	0%		
Ph.D.	(4)	0	0%		
Non-degree	(5)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	
Return Rate					
24/31 (77.42%)					

2 - If you are a SAIS degree student, does this course:

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Fulfill a concentration requirements	(1)	9	39.13%		
Serve as an elective	(2)	14	60.87%		
				0 25 50 75 100	
Return Rate					
23/31 (74.19%)					

3 - How many classes have you missed, regardless of the reason?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
0	(1)	12	50%		
1	(2)	10	41.67%		
2	(3)	2	8.33%		
3	(4)	0	0%		
4 or more	(5)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	
Return Rate					
24/31 (77.42%)					

4 - Have you participated actively in class?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Regularly	(1)	8	33.33%		
Sometimes	(2)	9	37.5%		
Rarely	(3)	7	29.17%		
Never	(4)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	
Return Rate					
24/31 (77.42%)					

5 - The size of this class is:

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Appropriate for the subject matter	(1)	21	87.5%		
Too small	(2)	0	0%		
Too large	(3)	3	12.5%		
				0 25 50 75 100	
Return Rate					
24/31 (77.42%)					

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6 - Approximately how many hours have you spent studying or preparing for this class in a typical week?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
More than 10	(1)	9	37.5%		
8-10	(2)	11	45.83%		
5-7	(3)	4	16.67%		
2-4	(4)	0	0%		
Fewer than 2	(5)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	
Return Rate					
24/31 (77.42%)					

7 - Approximately how much of the homework, readings, and assignments have you completed for this course?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
All	(1)	16	66.67%		
Most	(2)	8	33.33%		
Some	(3)	0	0%		
Not Very Much	(4)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	
Return Rate					
24/31 (77.42%)					

8 - The learning objectives and the requirements of the course were clearly stated.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	17	70.83%		4.67
Agree	(4)	6	25%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.67	0.56	5.00		

9 - The methods used (lectures, group work, discussions, etc.) were effective at delivering course content.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	14	58.33%		4.54
Agree	(4)	9	37.5%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.54	0.59	5.00		

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10 - The Blackboard resources (including Course Readings) were accessible and easy to use.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	17	70.83%		4.67
Agree	(4)	6	25%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.67	0.56	5.00		

11 - The multimedia and classroom technology resources (other than Blackboard) that were used were appropriate for this class.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	17	70.83%		4.71
Agree	(4)	7	29.17%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.71	0.46	5.00		

12 - The amount of assigned work (readings, problem sets, projects, papers, quizzes, tests and exams) was reasonable.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	14	58.33%		4.42
Agree	(4)	6	25%		
Neutral	(3)	4	16.67%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.42	0.78	5.00		

13 - The other students in the course contributed positively to my learning experience.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	10	41.67%		4.17
Agree	(4)	10	41.67%		
Neutral	(3)	3	12.5%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	1	4.17%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.17	0.96	4.00		

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14 - This course enhanced my understanding of the subject matter.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	18	75%		4.71
Agree	(4)	5	20.83%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.71	0.55	5.00		

15 - My overall evaluation of the course is positive.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	20	83.33%		4.79
Agree	(4)	3	12.5%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.79	0.51	5.00		

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

- Great class, but sometimes too many handouts?
- This course is great for anybody who likes a good challenge and wants to get a better grasp of risk modelling and excel through learning by doing. Since the coursework is mostly based on the students' own model, how much you benefit from the class really depends on how much you put into it.
- This is a very useful course, especially if you are in an interview and you are asked about the proudest work. At first, I had no idea what to do, but gradually with the help of professor White and the two TAs, I could develop my own model. It is rewarding at the end to see your final product.
- The sample problems were great, and, given the number of weeks without assignments, I think additional, shorter, examples testing different concepts could have included (probably not more than 2 more, however). They might test different model structures, distributions, etc.
- This is without a doubt the hardest class I've taken at SAIS, but also the most rewarding. The learning curve was very steep but I made it to the end of the semester with a model I was very proud of. I liked the way the class is set up - with sample models to help students figure out what each step of the modeling process is supposed to look like before they apply it to their own models, but it does make for a very heavy workload. As everyone will tell you, the quality of your model at the end of the semester will be directly related to how much time you have to spend on it and I know I wish I had taken on Risk when I had a less busy schedule. That said, I cannot recommend this course enough - just make sure you know how to use Excel before you come into the class, and that you otherwise have a manageable work load because this class is a ton of work.
- Excellent course, my only suggestion would be that the Monte Carlo test model could have focused more on random walks instead of sampling.
- If you want to score well, you have to go to talk with the professor and TA a lot, asking for guidance. You have to wait in line for a long time and get a 10mins guidance. It is not fair for students who cannot make it.
- This is a very challenging class, but rewarding class. At the end, it depends on the amount of effort you put into it. You will work on the same model throughout the semester - I thought the most challenging part was starting it. The lectures were good, but you won't really understand the material until you have to apply it to your own model. You won't realize how much you understand until the course is done. I highly recommend going to the TA's office hours and Professor White's office hours for help. They were the reason I made it through the course and understood what I needed to do on my model.
- This course is very interesting and really helped me get a better handle on building a model, becoming very comfortable with excel formulas I used to think were difficult, and thinking about risk in a holistic manner. The course is a lot of work, but worth the effort. You can get a lot out of it if you devote the time to it. The skills I learned I hope to apply to a job in the future.
- One of the most challenging and rewarding classes at SAIS. It really helped me better understand how professionals would approach model development and the steps needed to create a functional, versatile model. Wouldn't recommend taking while working. A possible way to make the course even stronger would be to make the monte carlo portion be submitted in stages. I don't think I fully understood the utility of the different distributions and how to correctly incorporate them into the model, having students submit their distributions and reasoning for why they chose particular ones would be beneficial in strengthening our knowledge of the scenarios in which one distribution is used versus another.

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17 - The instructor was consistently well prepared for class.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	19	79.17%		
Agree	(4)	5	20.83%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.79	0.41	5.00		

18 - The instructor established high standards, challenged me, and encouraged me to do my best work.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	21	87.5%		
Agree	(4)	2	8.33%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0%		
Disagree	(2)	1	4.17%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.79	0.66	5.00		

19 - When appropriate, the instructor encouraged active participation in class.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	18	75%		
Agree	(4)	5	20.83%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.71	0.55	5.00		

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20 - The instructor's manner of delivery clearly was effective at delivering course content.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	17	70.83%		
Agree	(4)	7	29.17%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.71	0.46	5.00		

21 - The grading system was clearly stated and fairly applied (consider assignments, papers, quizzes, tests, and exams).

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	15	62.5%		
Agree	(4)	6	25%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	1	4.17%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	1	4.17%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.38	1.06	5.00		

22 - The instructor provided timely and constructive feedback on assignments.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	19	79.17%		
Agree	(4)	4	16.67%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0%		
Disagree	(2)	1	4.17%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.71	0.69	5.00		

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23 - The instructor observed the scheduled class times.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	19	82.61%		
Agree	(4)	3	13.04%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.35%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
23/31 (74.19%)	4.78	0.52	5.00		

24 - The instructor was available and provided the assistance I needed to succeed in the course.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	20	83.33%		
Agree	(4)	2	8.33%		
Neutral	(3)	2	8.33%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.75	0.61	5.00		

25 - My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.

Mark White

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	21	87.5%		
Agree	(4)	2	8.33%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.17%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
N/A	(0)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
24/31 (77.42%)	4.83	0.48	5.00		

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26 - Please provide any additional comments that would be helpful regarding your instructor.

Mark White

- Professor White is extremely helpful and spent a lot of time advising us on our modelling strategies. His feedback encouraged me to try new approaches to my model and really push myself. While this led to some stressful days (and nights) prior to deadlines, I am very proud of the final result.
- Prof. White's Risk Analysis class is the best class and the most rewarding experience I have had at SAIS up until now. By far the most supportive professor I have ever experienced. The only criticism I have is that instead of hearing the students out sometimes he just cuts them off before the whole issue has been stated and starts answering questions that were not necessarily asked or going to be asked. Anyhow, he is second to none!
- Professor White is very well organized, and his feedback is very constructive and clear
- Dr. White is great. Clear he loves the subject matter.
- Professor White is the best quantitative professor at SAIS, in my experience. He explains concepts very well in class, and especially in Risk, is always excited about things and concepts that can otherwise seem dry. Prof. White is always available and very approachable for office hours, and his grading is tough, but fair.
- In the early stage of the class the blog assignments felt a bit forced. This felt like busy work and could be dropped or made more substantial.
- Professor White is amazing. I highly recommend taking a class with him. He really cares about all of his students and wants us to succeed. He has so many office hours (although they are constantly packed). He is so knowledgeable about the subject and it is amazing how he can advise people working on models across a broad range of subjects. I really enjoyed having him as a professor and would recommend taking this class with him.
- Professor White is a fantastic professor. He puts a lot of time into the class and holds a lot of office hours. I would not have been able to get through the course without the feedback he provides in office hours. He puts a lot of thought and and provides a lot of direction for everyone's models, which are all very different. He challenges students to make their models more sophisticated, and gives students the tools to get it done.
- Professor White was endlessly helpful and I cannot thank him enough for his patience and assistance in the project. He makes time for everyone in the run-up to model submissions and is willing to not only help you debug the model but also help explain the underlying motivation for using one formula or technique over others. I do wish there was more clarity in terms of the final grade distribution, I never felt like I really knew where I stood in the class on a letter-grade scale

27 - TA SectionWas there one or more TA for this course?

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means												
Yes				(1)	23	95.83%					1.04												
No				(2)	1	4.17%																	
												0		25	50	75	100	Instructor					
Return Rate		Mean		STD		Median																	
24/31 (77.42%)		1.04		0.20		1.00																	

28 - The TA review sessions were helpful.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means				
Strongly Agree		(5)	15	65.22%					4.61				
Agree		(4)	7	30.43%									
Neutral		(3)	1	4.35%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0%									
Strongly Disagree		(1)	0	0%									
					0	25	50	75	100	Instructor			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median										
23/31 (74.19%)	4.61	0.58	5.00										

29 - The TA was available for office hours.

Response Option			Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means					
Strongly Agree			(5)	17	77.27%					4.73					
Agree			(4)	4	18.18%										
Neutral			(3)	1	4.55%										
Disagree			(2)	0	0%										
Strongly Disagree			(1)	0	0%										
						0	25	50	75	100	Instructor				
Return Rate		Mean	STD	Median											
22/31 (70.97%)		4.73	0.55	5.00											

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30 - The TA attended class sessions and/or was aware of what materials had been covered in lectures.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	19	82.61%		
Agree	(4)	3	13.04%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.35%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
23/31 (74.19%)	4.78	0.52	5.00		

31 - The TA clearly and constructively explained concepts.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	15	68.18%		
Agree	(4)	6	27.27%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.55%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
22/31 (70.97%)	4.64	0.58	5.00		

32 - My overall evaluation of the TA is positive.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	17	77.27%		
Agree	(4)	4	18.18%		
Neutral	(3)	1	4.55%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
				0 25 50 75 100	Instructor
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median		
22/31 (70.97%)	4.73	0.55	5.00		

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.

- The TA sessions were a very helpful introduction to the basics of excel and risk models. More importantly, the TAs took a lot of time to help us build our individual models, especially in the last week before the final models were due. They helped me debug my functions and I could not have built a successful model without them.
- Both the TAs for this class were crucial to succeeding at the class. I cannot thank them enough for all of the help that they provided, during office hours, TA sessions and even outside of these hours. Any student having TAs like this can consider him- or herself lucky!
- TA's were consistently available. I just did not avail myself of their assistance.
- I would not have made it through this course to the end of my model without the TAs. Jim in particular was able to help me through every math/formula problem I ran into in excel, and the TA sessions taught me every excel skill I now have, as I basically only knew how to add a column before taking this class (not recommended). The TAs held tons of extra office hours for each model phase deadline, especially the final monte carlo model, which we all desperately needed (as evidenced by the 5-10 people at every office hour session). Huge thank you to these fantastic TAs.
- There tends to be a clump of people during TA office hours, which makes it difficult for everyone to get exposure. Perhaps consider giving students an allotted amount of time before they have to step aside at let others have a chance to interact with the TA. This might make your time less monopolized by an aggressive few.
- I have not been in a class where the TAs took so much extra time to help students with their projects. These TAs truly went above and beyond their duties this semester. Getting through the course would have been much different without them.
- Jim and Courtney were amazing! I would not have gotten through this class without their help. They were very available and remained positive throughout this entire experience. They were very effective in helping a class-full of stressed students on their models. Overall, I am very thankful for their help and for making the experience more enjoyable.
- The TAs for this course were both fantastic. They were available for so many extra hours to help the students finish their project deliverables, I can't believe how much time and effort they put into this course. I truly would not have been able to do the projects without them.