

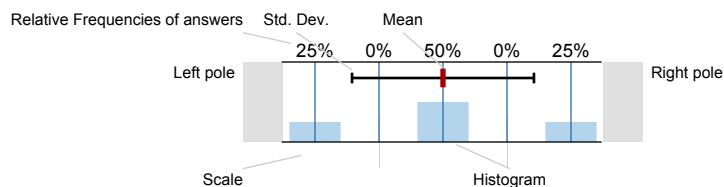
Mark White,

Risk Analysis and Modeling 340.713.01sp12- Total Enrollment 24
Responses = 21



Legend

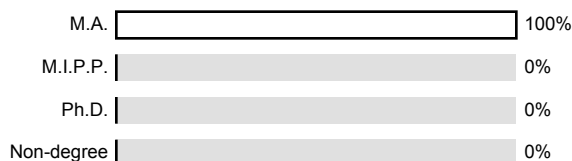
Question text



n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
dev.=Std. Dev.
ab.=Abstention

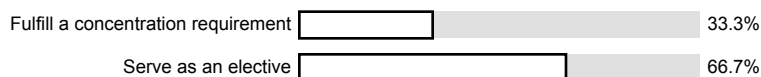
1. Student Section (Questions regarding Course, Instructor and TA to follow)

1.1) What is your degree objective?



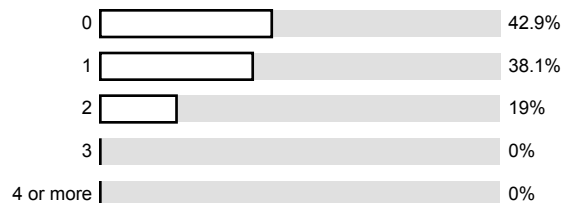
n=21
av.=1
dev.=0

1.2) If you are a SAIS degree student, does this course:



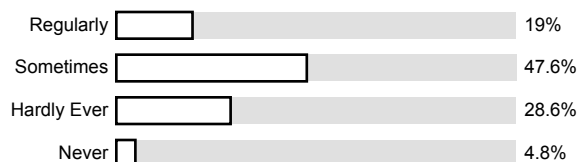
n=21
av.=1.7
dev.=0.5

1.3) How many classes have you missed regardless of the reason?



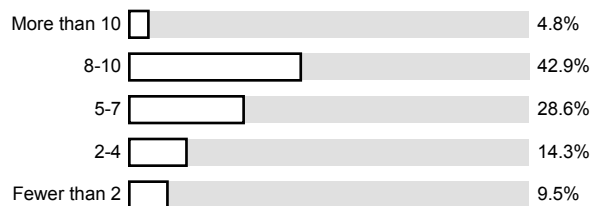
n=21
av.=1.8
dev.=0.8

1.4) Do you participate actively in class?



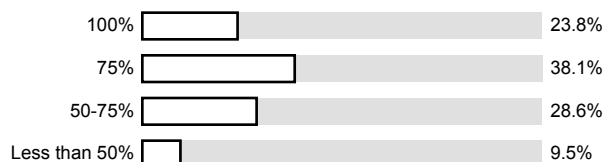
n=21
av.=2.2
dev.=0.8

1.5) Approximately how many hours do you spend studying or preparing for this class in a typical week?



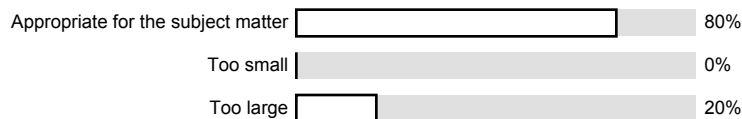
n=21
av.=5.1
dev.=3

1.6) Approximately how much of the homework, readings and assignments have you completed for this class?



n=21
av.=66.7
dev.=28.9

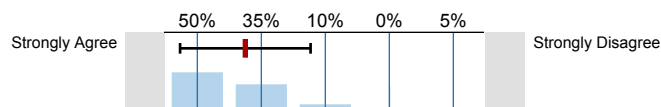
1.7) The size of this class is:



n=20
av.=1.4
dev.=0.8

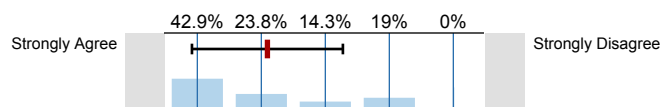
2. Course Section (Questions regarding Instructor and TA to follow)

2.1) The objectives and the requirements of the course were clearly stated.



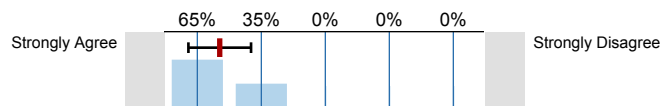
n=20
av.=4.3
dev.=1

2.2) The methods used (lectures, group work, discussions, etc.) were well suited for communicating course content.



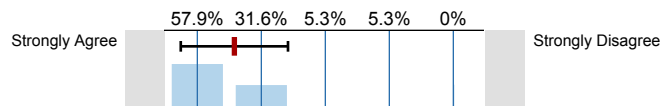
n=21
av.=3.9
dev.=1.2

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



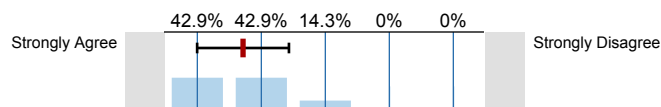
n=20
av.=4.7
dev.=0.5
ab.=1

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



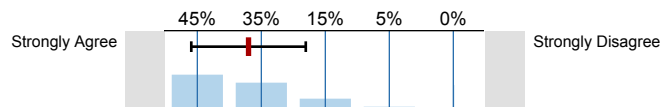
n=19
av.=4.4
dev.=0.8
ab.=2

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



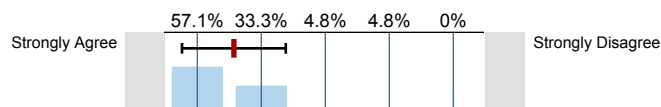
n=21
av.=4.3
dev.=0.7

2.6) The other students in the course contributed positively to my learning experience.



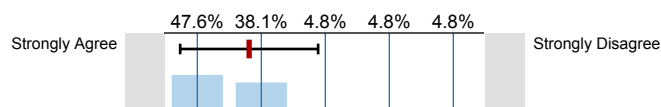
n=20
av.=4.2
dev.=0.9
ab.=1

2.7) This course enhanced my understanding of the subject matter.



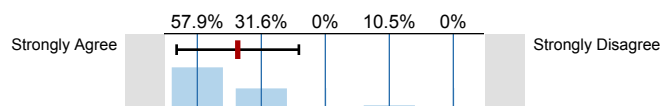
n=21
av.=4.4
dev.=0.8

2.8) I would recommend this course to fellow students.



n=21
av.=4.2
dev.=1.1

2.9) My overall evaluation of the course is positive.



n=19
av.=4.4
dev.=1

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

- - the material covered was hurried, but that's not a big deal given the goals of the course - but it would often leave students very confused
- multimedia was great and really useful towards completing the various modelling projects
- splitting up into discussion groups during class was fun, useful, and a nice change of pace from the lecture
- 2 1/2 hours on a Thursday afternoon always seemed a little long for a class
- the class developed models on Facebook and Terrorism were great - maybe consider just doing one next semester since we didn't have enough time in class to go over both thoroughly
- Although there are a few kinks to be worked out, this is a valuable addition to the SAIS curriculum. I would recommend making two changes: First, make the modeling project a group exercise so we can learn from each other and get used to collaborative modeling. Second, include a few problem sets at the beginning that force us to build very simple models from scratch, much like what the TA did on the screen in tutorial. The demos were good, but hands-on is the only way to truly learn.
- Brilliant combination of philosophy and practice.
- Even though this class was in its infancy, White did a tremendous job teaching a rather abstract course. I'd recommend making statistics a pre-requisite and having some type of excel lab each week.
- Good course. Some of the statistics were too theoretical and went over my head, but I didn't really need them to make my model. To improve this course, I would recommend either focusing on the Excel work and making the stats secondary (maybe make statistics a prerequisite), or make previous knowledge of Excel mandatory to focus on the theoretical side.
- I am very glad SAIS had this course this year. I got a lot out of the course and learned what I think is a very important skill. A couple of drawbacks for me is the time that we have to complete our project - which is just a function of the complexity of our models and how long a semester is. Another problem is that I wish we would have gone more into how to actually do the models in class.
- I loved this course. However, I think there's a lot of room for improvement. While the readings were interesting, I didn't feel like they were necessary or incorporated into the class as much as I thought they would. I would rather see this be a skill based class (than theoretical). I think it's more useful as a skill. I also think there may need to be more pre-reqs. The second phase of the project was a huge struggle.
- I thought the course was good; I think being the first time the course was run, there were some definite kinks that had to get worked out, but on the whole I thoroughly enjoyed it.
- I found that this course has a ton of practical applications both for creating and analyzing models, and would recommend it to anyone who thinks they will use models in the future.
- I really enjoyed the guest speaker; if possible it would be great to bring in more people to discuss real world modeling applications.
- It was hard to follow the complicated model spreadsheets when the professor projected them onto the whiteboard. The class either either should have pre-reqs including statistics and then no class time should be spent on this or there should be no pre-reqs and more time must be devoted to going over these concepts. The time devoted to histograms, distributions etc. was boring for those who had completed the statistics course but WAY too fast for those that hadn't.
- Much less class time should be spent on going over complex models built by the professor and much more time devoted to helping us develop our own model. This class was very time-intensive for the TA because many in the class struggled with the model building. It might be a good idea to keep half the lectures to Risk theory, and introductions to concepts and devote the other half to practical assistance in the computer lab with model building.
- The course covers a very interesting and useful topic, but it would have been better if the readings, assignments, and class lectures had been better-related. Also, the course needs to have prerequisites: statistics is a minimum, and I would have been completely lost had I not previously taken it. Also, the Career Services Courses in Intermediate and Advanced MS Excel should be recommended prerequisites.
- This class has a lot of potential but needs quite a bit of restructuring as it was the first time it has been offered. While building a risk model was interesting, it was very difficult to do not having any prior experience and not knowing anything about risk, which led to the TA having to do way more work than he probably should have to help build the models. I would recommend potentially having 2 risk courses offered (one beginner and one advanced) where in the first one students do problem sets in excel to learn how to use different advanced functions that can help them build a model. In the second semester, students could build their own.
- This class has a lot of potential, but, as is, was not extremely useful. It really was about building a model, but little time was spent on things that would have helped you do that. If you didn't know excel, you would have been extremely reliant on the instructor/ TA.
- In class, a ton of time was spent going over material that was largely not related to the model or felt somewhat irrelevant.
- This class would be great as perhaps a skills course, or at least billed as perhaps 50% learn excel really well and 50% learn how to build a model.
- This class has immense potential, but needs to be more focused. I learned an immense amount doing my risk model, not only about excel, but also just understanding risk and the larger process of decision making.
- Nonetheless the class needs some work. The technical lessons were far too fast, and for those who took statistics they were useless because we already knew the material, and for those who haven't, the material was covered far too quickly and in insufficient depth. This class must either become more technical, or less so. Additionally, the lectures became increasingly unimportant. Just showing us models isn't really that helpful or interesting. When people did need to use the methods taught in class they typically went back and relearned them themselves, or spoke with jim or the professor. Lectures should focus more on the technical aspects of risk and the history of it. I think this class should require stats as a prerequisite, and then get more technical.
- This course, as delivered this semester, is highly technical and requires a higher level of excel expertise and advanced stats than I realized upon enrollment. I appreciated gaining an appreciation for the intricacies of risk modeling (and modeling in general), but was not able to get as much out of the course as I'd hoped due to my own lack of understanding of stats going in - recommend either tailoring the course or creating a list of prerequisites.
- This was a great course and one of the more useful ones at SAIS because I learned so much in creating my own model. Since it's the first time it was offered, I have some suggestions about the assignments and class time.

Some of the material that was taught during the lecture was over many students' heads, and we were told we didn't really need to understand it. I feel like going over different types of ways to model that we could apply would have been more useful, i.e. spending more time on the class models.

The second stage of the model was very time consuming and it would have been easier to go straight to the third stage from the first.

Rather than essays, I think a problem-set format might have worked better so we could practice more with applying the modeling concepts.

I also think there should be some pre-requisites for the class, including statistics and some type of Excel requirement.

- This was a great course, and very successful for having been the first. I would just suggest that we spend less time on the probabilistic and deterministic portions, and spent more time on the monte carlo portion of the model.

also, i think that Prof. White could have spelled out more specifically what he was looking for in each portion fo the project, and in future classes, have examples of what he means.

Lastly, i think the class needs to have a prereq of statistics, and everyone should have taken at least the medium excel course before coming into this class.

- This was an interesting class, and being able to build the risk models was helpful in implementing what we learned in class.
- individual project is a alot of work, maybe a group project (at least 2 people) would make the experience even more rewarding

3. Instructor Section (Questions regarding TA to follow)

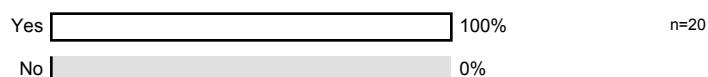


3.10) Please provide any additional comments that would be helpful regarding your instructor.

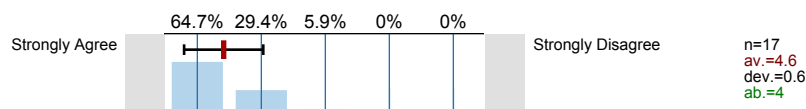
- - very challenging class, but the professor was accessible and worked hard to help students along the modeling process
 - always available for office hours and spent a lot of his free time helping students
 - overall, great class, especially considering it was his first time teaching this course
- Great professor! Always available and helpful.
- I really liked Professor White. He's very knowledgeable about the subject and made himself very available for help. He seemed very enthusiastic about what we were doing.
- Prof White clearly understands this material extremely well and made himself very available for students to come ask for help. Thus, my review of him is very positive, but, the class still needs some reworking to be effective.
- Prof. White is incredibly generous with his time. He is one of the best professors I've had at SAIS.
- Prof. White was extremely available and knowledgeable about the course. Couldn't ask for a better instructor.
- Prof. White was extremely generous with his time throughout the course. I've never gone to so many office hours for any one course before, but he was always welcoming and helpful.
- Prof. White was very approachable and willing to help. He went the extra mile in making time to help students, even outside of his posted (and generous) office hours.
- Professor White clearly knows a lot about risk and is very interested in it but I don't think standing at the front of the class talking through very advanced excel models and distributions is the best way to communicate the material as most students get lost very quickly.
- Professor White is clearly brilliant and is an expert on this topic. He is also extremely patient and goes out of his way to explain concepts to students in office hours and provide them with help outside of class. The only problem is that some of his explanations are so quick or done at such a high level that they outpace the students' ability to understand or follow him.
- Professor White is intelligent, teaches exceptionally well, and cares about his students. He really puts the time in and if you leverage him you can learn an immense amount.
- Professor White was hands down the best and most dedicated professor I had at SAIS. It would be worth any students time to take a class from him.
- The two classes I had with Professor White were among the highlights of my SAIS career.
- With an instructor less prepared and less willing to help his students, this class would have been a struggle. Professor White was always available, always helpful, and always kind when pushing students to work at an appropriate level.
- great prof!

4. TA Section

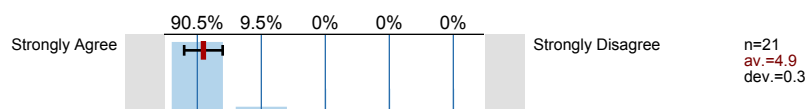
4.1) Was there a TA for this course? If no, skip this section.



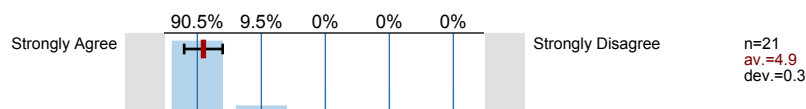
4.2) The TA review sessions were helpful.



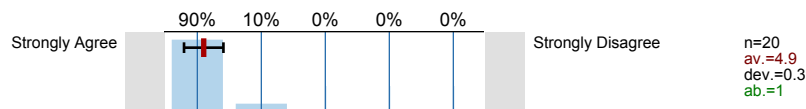
4.3) The TA was available for office hours.



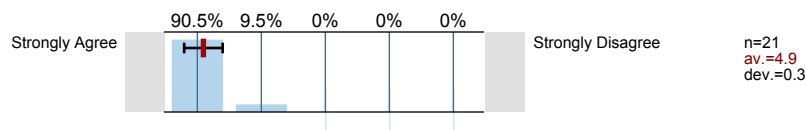
4.4) The TA attended class sessions and/or was aware of what materials had been covered in lectures.



4.5) The TA clearly and constructively explained concepts.



4.6) My overall evaluation of the TA is positive.



4.7) Please provide any additional comments that would be helpful regarding your TA.

- - excellent TA, had a strong understanding the material and was very helpful during TA sessions
- was very accessible/friendly, would often meet with students to help work out bugs in the modeling projects
- effective and insightful TA sessions, great use of blackboard to get students copies of the class examples in time for the TA sessions
- Great TA! One of the best I've had.
- I didn't go to the TA sessions, but Jim was very available for students for help and devoted tons of time to helping people get their models in order.
- I voted for Jim as the best Econ TA - I thought he was excellent and knew his stuff and was very willing to help. I couldn't have gotten through the class without him.
- Jim Bisbee was the best TA I have ever had and literally I could not have succeeded in this class without him. He was always more than generous with his time and would consistently schedule appointments for students outside class and office time. There was never a time that he was not available to help me but as I result I think this class was very demanding on his time. There needs to be a way to restructure the class so that some class time is spent on building the models and going through technical issues so this does not always fall on the TA.
- Jim did a great job in helping us with the model-building process and bridging what we covered in lecture with a more practical application.
- Jim was a great TA and went above and beyond to ensure students could complete their models outside of TA sessions and class time.
- Jim was fantastic. However, I do have a few recommendations. First, it may be more helpful to have some consistency with the examples used in the TA sessions. That is continuously build off a few of them so we can see how they change. Second, there seemed to be some discrepancy between Prof White and Jim in terms of assignments and expectations. I think many people relied on Jim as much as they relied on Professor White so it would be more helpful if there was a bit more certainty between the two.
- Jim was great TA, I just didn't really need to go to TA sessions.
- Jim was instrumental in getting me through this course. Thanks!
- Jim was phenomenal - always willing to make time to meet, he is a subject matter expert whose assistance was critical to my experience in this course. He is a great TA!
- Jim was really great in helping students, in and out of office hours. He was also the perfect complement to White's teaching and office hours discussion style.
- Jim went above and beyond in every way. Bravo.
- Jim went above and beyond the call of duty. He was the best Econ TA I have had at SAIS.
- The most accessible TA, I've ever had. The TA sessions were more important than the lectures.
- Without Jim, I would have failed. Fantastic TA.

Profile

Subunit: Spring 2012 Non Language
 Name of the instructor: Mark White
 Name of the course: Risk Analysis and Modeling
 (Name of the survey)

