

About the Instructor Report: The purpose of the Instructor Report is to provide a detailed look at your students' learning experience as measured by the Course Experience (CE) survey. This feedback can be used to inform teaching practice and course design. It displays student responses to all questions (common core, discipline) including the ones that you may have added to the survey via means, standard deviations, frequency distributions, and comments. The Instructor Report is viewable only to you as the instructor of the course so that you can use personalized questions and feedback to inform **your unique inquiry**.

The **Centre for Educational Excellence (CEE)** provides consultations on course, curriculum design, and teaching practice and are available to help you interpret and apply student feedback from the CE Survey.

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Section 1 – Response Rate

Raters	Students
Responded	27
Invited	32
Response Ratio	84%

Section 2 – Common Core Questions

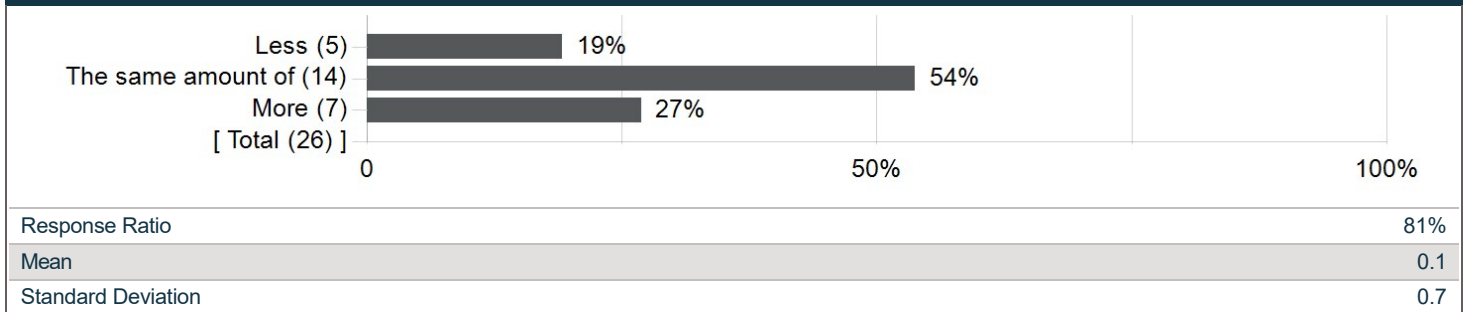
These questions appear on all course experience surveys at SFU and are selected by the Provost.

2.1 Course Workload

This question is about course workload.

SFU expects a student to spend 2-3 hours each week (both in class time and out of class work) per course credit.* For example, if Physiology 101 is a 3-credit course, it would take 6-9 hours (on average) of a student's time each week. Courses that are shorter than 13-weeks or a typical semester are expected to require the same number of hours in fewer weeks.

I spent _____ time on ECON 484 than expected based on its number of credits.



The mean score summarizes the overall reported workload for this course and can range from -1 to 1. It is scored as: Less time than the expected = -1, The same amount of time as expected = 0, More time than expected = 1, given the **SFU definition of a credit**. The closer the mean score is to 0, the more it means that students reported the workload to be the same as expected.

2.1a You responded as having spent less time on ECON 484 than expected. Please explain.

Comments
I spent less time than needed that's why I'm below average in this course
The course was designed well to help understand concepts
Didn't pay attention, was just given code without learning
I thought it's going to be really bad because I am really bad at coding. But I actually understood the concepts being taught and did fine.
Personally I had another course that took the lions share of my time so I spent less time than I would have liked on this course. This is not due to the course design itself.

2.1b You responded as having spent the same amount of time on ECON 484 as expected. Please explain.

Comments
The workload of the course was reasonable for a 400 level elective course
Given that it is a coding course i expected it to take up more time than average compared to other courses
I spent the amount of time I expected for this course
This course is so fun, teaching me learn lots of codes in the class.
At econ484, we do the fair stuff that learn enough more things. It's good. If there are less, I feel like I learn couldn't enough. If there are more, I feel too much. Now is just about to good. By the way, Kevin is being so friendly and helpful.
Although it was the same amount as other courses usually, I believe it may be due to my previous experience with R. For someone that has had no experience with courses like stat 260/452 and econ 334, it may be difficult to follow along with everything that is happening.
What? My answer is self-explanatory. Do better survey maker
No prior r coding experience meant I had to sink some extra time bringing my code skills up to speed as the exercise rigour rose but overall expected work load.
The course is going smoothly under my expectation
Just enough work for the course, well balanced in assignments and exercises.
Including the assignments and term paper it averages at about 6hr per week
5 hour per week to study this course

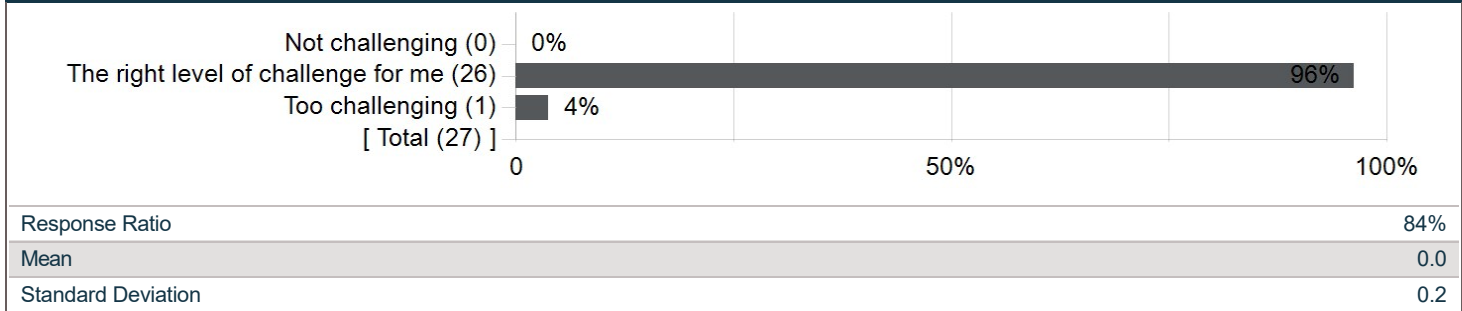
2.1c You responded as having spent more time on ECON 484 than expected. Please explain.

Comments
It takes a long time to learn the coding aspect especially when you are stuck because not many sources out there especially in R
4hrs per week was what I expected but it took me more when completing weekly quizzes
I thought I was fairly competent in R but, this course has challenged that introducing some new topics that I spent more time trying to understand than what I had initially expected.
I enjoy learning and researching on the course materials, which motivated me to spend huge amount of time for this class willingly.
There was a lot of material to get through and understand theory and coding
It was mainly due to the time taken for the models to run and I tried a couple different models

2.2 Course Challenge

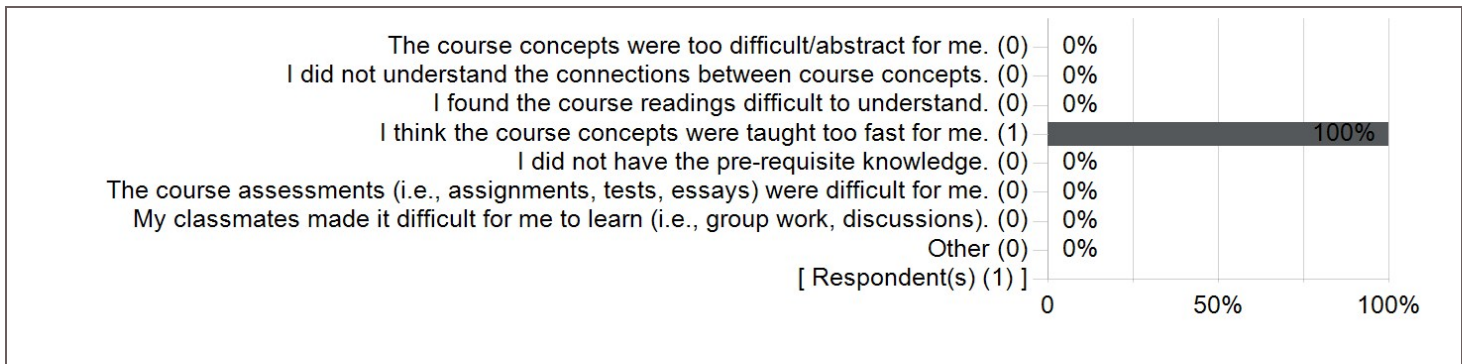
How challenging you find a course is related to how much effort you have to put in to be successful. This can depend on many factors, such as how fast or slow topics are covered or how much you know about the topic already.

I found ECON 484 to be...



The mean score summarizes the overall perceived level of challenge for this course and can range from -1 to 1. It is scored as: Not challenging = -1, The right level of challenge for me = 0, Too challenging = 1. The closer the mean score is to 0, the more it means that students reported that the course was the right level of challenge for them.

2.2b Why did you rate ECON 484 as too challenging?

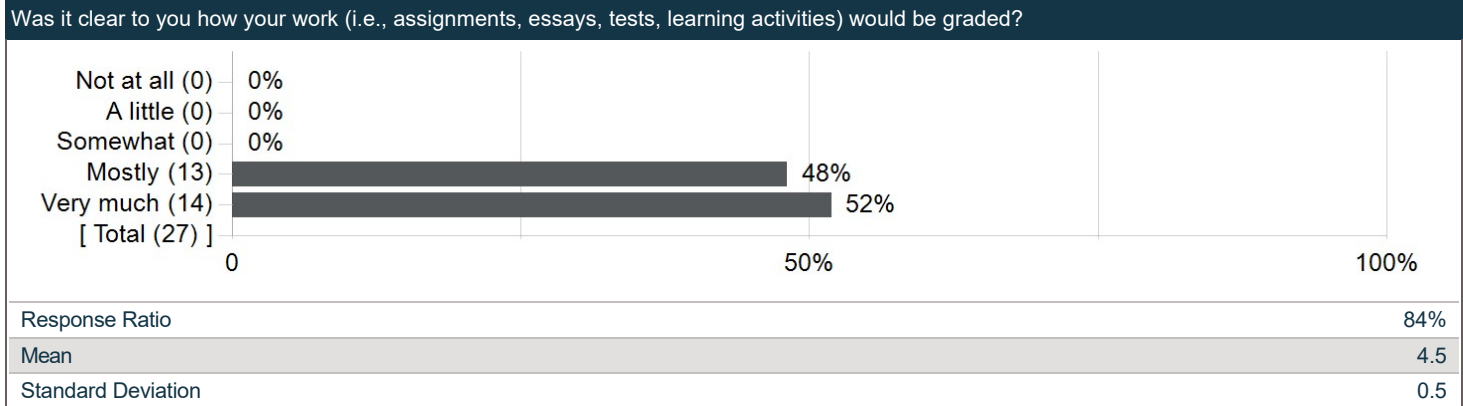


Note: Students were provided with a list of reasons to select with the option of adding an open-comment reason. Students could select multiple reasons.

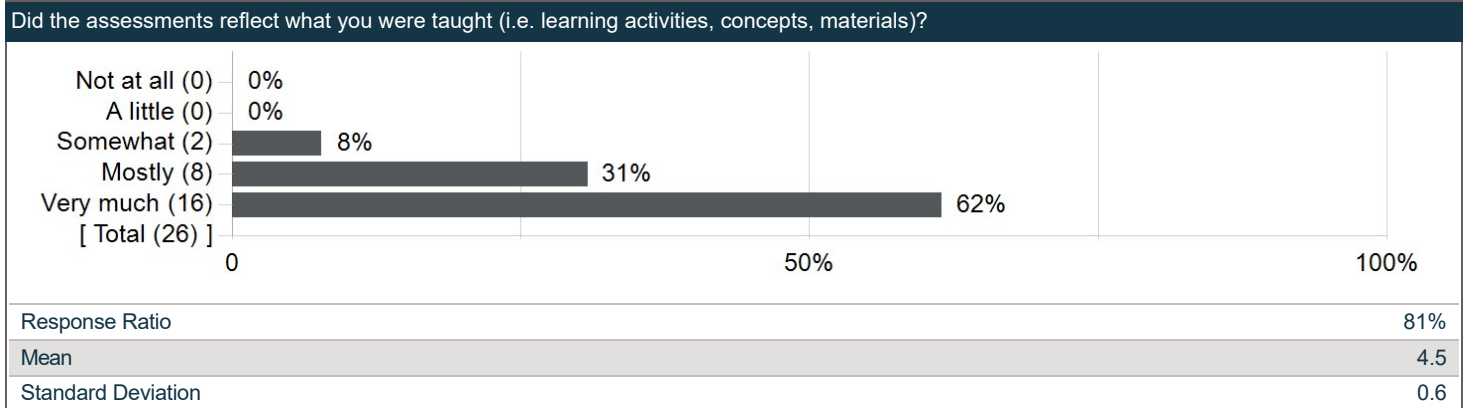
2.3 Assessments

For Q2.3a and Q2.3b, the mean score can range from 1 to 5. It is scored as: Not at all = 1, A little = 2, Somewhat = 3, Mostly = 4, Very much = 5

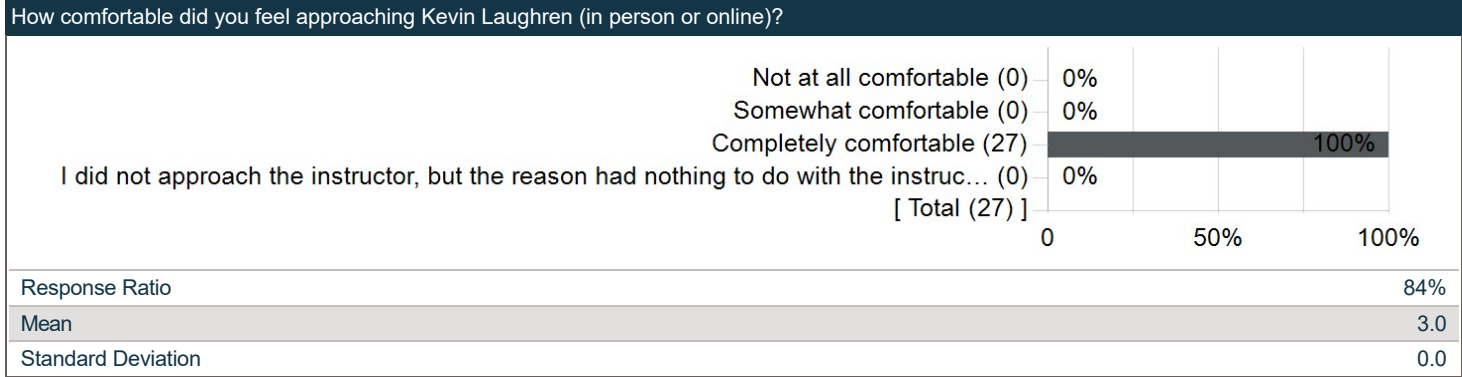
2.3a



2.3b



2.4 Comfort Approaching Instructor



The mean score summarizes the overall reported level of comfort approaching the instructor and can range from 1 to 3. In contrast with questions Q2.1 and Q2.2, 1 represents one end of the scale (Not at all comfortable), while 3 represents the other end of the scale (Completely comfortable). The middle of the scale is 2 (Somewhat comfortable). Responses for “Did not approach...” were excluded from the mean score.

2.4c You responded as having felt completely comfortable approaching Kevin Laughren. Please explain your response.

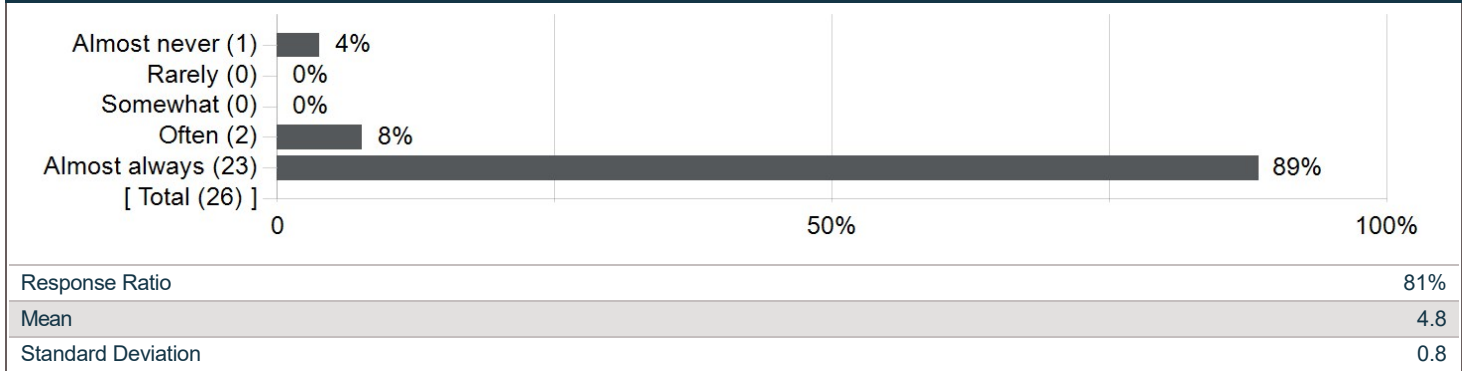
Comments
Kevin was friendly and approachable, always welcomed questions
Very down to earth prof, no problem with answering questions
He's a very kind and caring professor who is passionate about what he teaches. He makes it clear during lectures through his words and body language that any student can approach him comfortably even if the student is socially anxious. I really enjoyed his class.
lots of officehour, friendly atmosphere
Kevin made him self very accessible for help, and was kind and approachable.
Not judgemental
He always encouraged asking questions and was always willing to help you out with your code, even if he had to stay beyond the lecture time
I had to reschedule my 1 on 1 meeting for the term paper and I reached out to him and he accommodated me immediately.
Kevin was also available for extra help
He has clear office hour that I can walk in to get assistance
Amazing professor who encouraged approaching him
He has a great sense of humor in his classes, makes the content easy to understand, and really enjoys his teaching style.
Professor Laughren is always being kind. He had many office hour to help students as he dont have to, all he do is to help students to understand the course better. I'm so appreciated.
He is a very approachable professor who is always open to chat about topics in and outside of class to help students succeed.
The best teacher in SFU ever, he was so caring <3
Very welcoming and encourages questions. The environment doesn't feel tense and is more casual.
Very kind and helpful , Kevin is a chill dude
Kevin is a very outgoing and approachable professor. Generally, students tend to approach professors when they need assistance, but Kevin is different, he takes the initiative to walk around the classroom and check in with students to see if they need any help. I find this gesture extremely kind and thoughtful, as it shows he genuinely cares about our learning and wants to ensure no one is left behind.
What stands out even more is his willingness to help outside of scheduled office hours. On several occasions, he has taken the time to explain coding concepts and difficult material to me when he had no obligation to do so. Sometimes, I've spent up to an hour with him during his personal time, and he never made me feel like I was a burden. His dedication and support have made a big difference in my learning experience.
Kevin was a great prof. Way better than most tenured profs in the econ department.
Kevin may be the most responsive and dedicated professor I have ever had in my degree with respect to approachability both outside and inside class.
This professor is always welcome to take questions anytime no matter in lecture or office hours.
Wonderful professor, very kind, very knowledgeable. Easily approachable
Kevin is very approachable and helpful, I attended multiple office hours and he was always willing to help and provide feedback.

2.5 Instructor

For Q2.5a - 2.5c, the mean score can range from 1 to 5. It is scored as: Almost never = 1, Rarely = 2, Sometimes/Somewhat = 3, Often = 4, Almost always = 5.

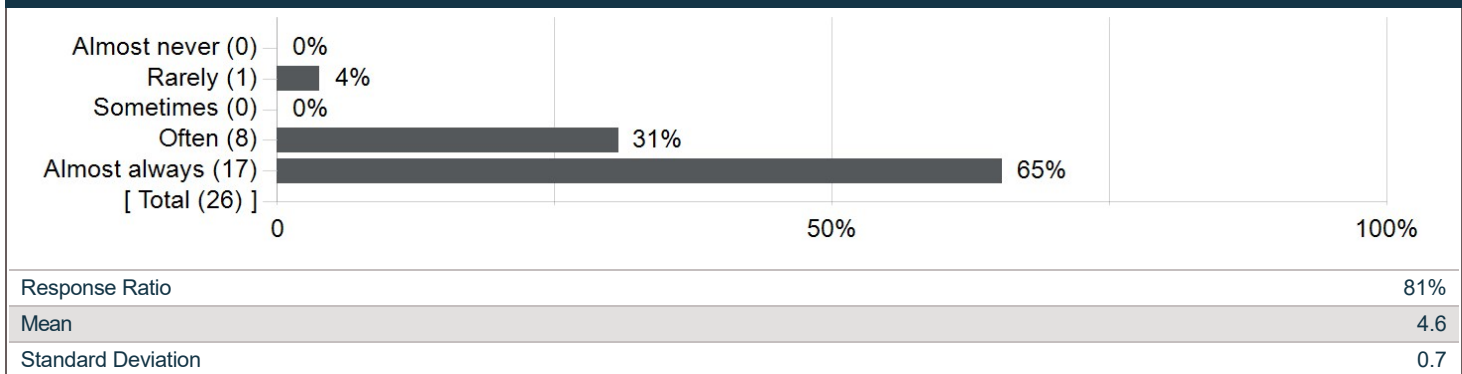
2.5a

I think Kevin Laughren _____ tried to support student learning (i.e., used a variety of learning activities, invested in my success, invited and responded to student feedback).



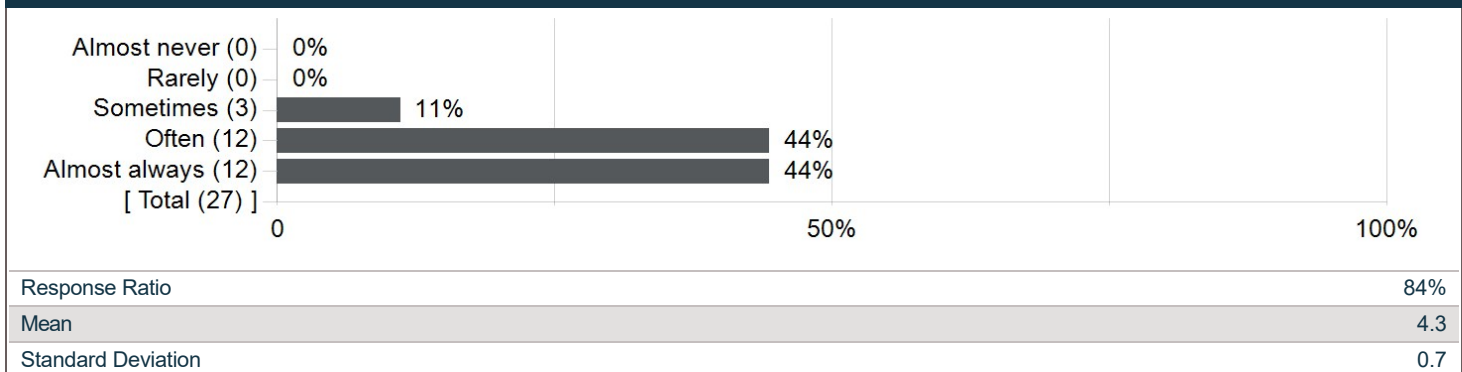
2.5b

I _____ felt engaged by Kevin Laughren's teaching approach (i.e., activities, lectures, discussions).



2.5c

How often did you understand Kevin Laughren's explanations of course concepts?



2.6 Which aspects of ECON 484 helped you learn and why?

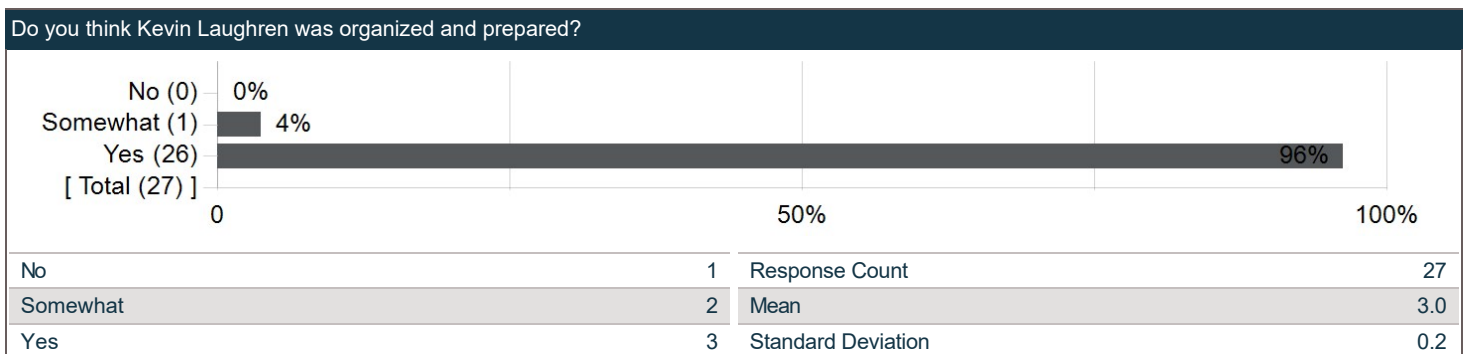
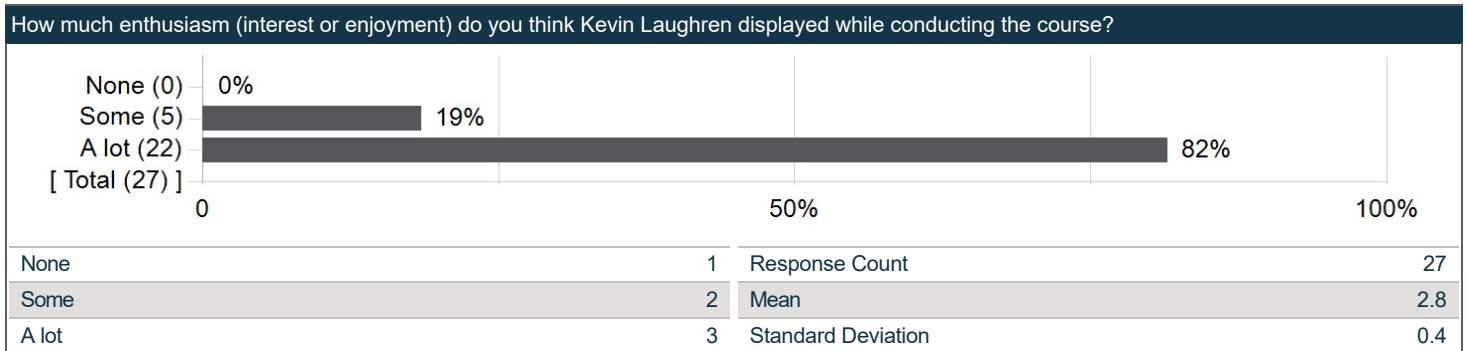
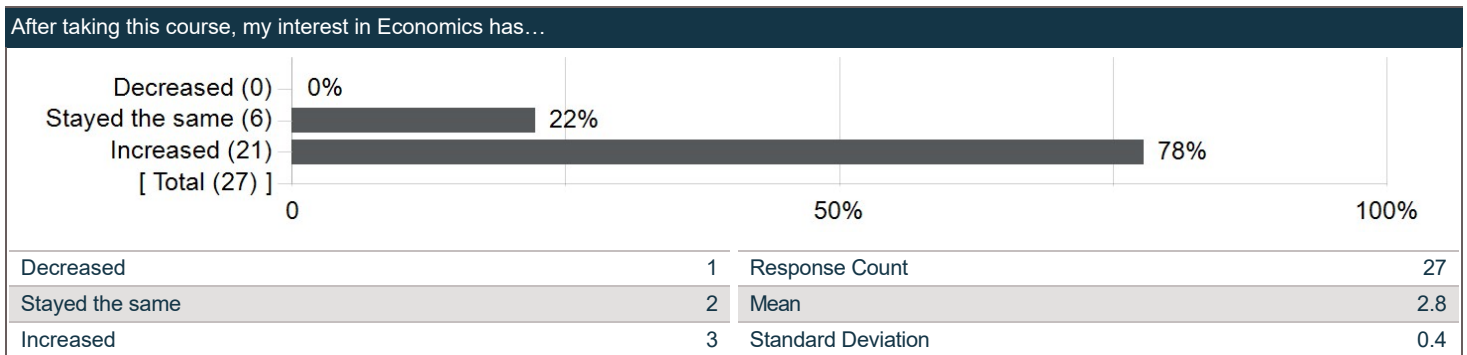
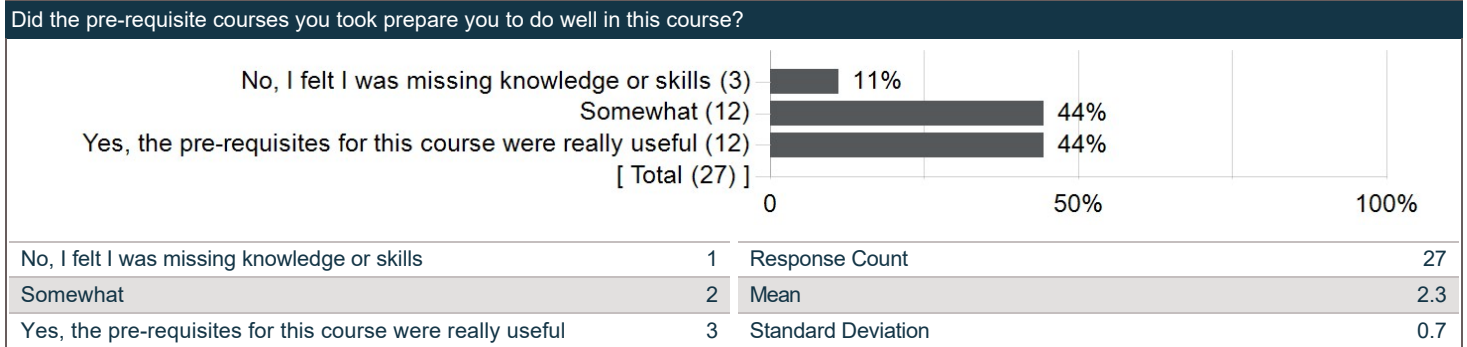
Comments
The coding exercises and assignments helped me implement what I learned and understand it at a deeper level than if I had simply read the content.
The in class exercises
Understand different models
Our instructor, Kevin, really cared that we learned the topics.
Rstudio! I can run some codes! That's awesome
Rlanguage
Codes and analysis of everyday economic phenomena.
Actually I was a shy girl that rarely talk to professor. But this time, because I was really a beginner of R code and because of Kevin is so nice. I ask him a lot during office hour and he help me a lot. I learned that it is nothing afraid about asking professor my problem.
I think the assignments were very valuable in this course. It forced everyone to try each model to make the best prediction model they were capable of. The second assignment in particular allowed me to try many different approaches that I had not considered before taking this course.
Learning all the prediction models and the live coding
Kevin helped me learned the most, the lecture and his non-official scheduled office hour helped me understood the codes.
Continue the course as is
Having conceptual questions included with the coding exercises, it pressed my understanding a little more. Having hold out data we could compete on for MSE was super motivating to do well!
Code section, practicing and solving real problems make me understand how methods and algorithms works.
Coding and Data analysis
Kevin's high office hour ability let me reflect on assignments and get clarification about concepts
In-class exercises, posted lecture notes. More information available to students the better.
The project based style helped to learn as the projects/reports that we generated has great application for real world work
The exercises helped ground concepts taught in class
Lectures, exercises, and assignments.
Code. I learned how to apply different models to analyze various types of data.

2.7 How would you improve ECON 484 for future students?

Comments
maybe spread out the % of the assignments out more
No comment
No idea
More exercises like term paper. Self selection
More interaction
Good luck!
As this is the first time the class is offered some areas of improvement are expected. One would be the turn around time for the after class assignments. Considering this however, I do think this should be a course offered to students often. It challenged students to start actually doing data science work which my other courses in the concentration oversimplify. It also set expectations of what you should prepare in a workplace scenario.
maybe for the exercises instead of hard practical exercises, do a combination of practical and conceptual exercises, as someone without machine learning knowledge may struggle (which Kevin started adapting to latter half of the course)
More clarity on lecture notes
Maybe have a little bit of quiz? Because I feel like students can learn more and be more focused under a bit of pressures.
continue the course as is
Maybe throw some more conceptual questions in the exercises
Future students should realize understanding the basic properties of R language in their first couples of lectures.
Incorporate independent coding exercises, and some group projects
More explanation about what the lines of code are doing and why they were included. I found little value in coding along with Kevin and would like if he focused more on explaining the code given to us.
Add an Intro to R course such as STAT260 as a prerequisite.
Earlier posting of lecture slides
I don't see anything to improve.
Prepare a template for model and data cleaning. What is the prediction target? Which model can be applied corresponding to it?

Section 3 – Discipline Questions

These questions were selected by your department/school and reflect inquiry about student learning experiences that are discipline-specific.



Section 4 – Instructor Selected Questions

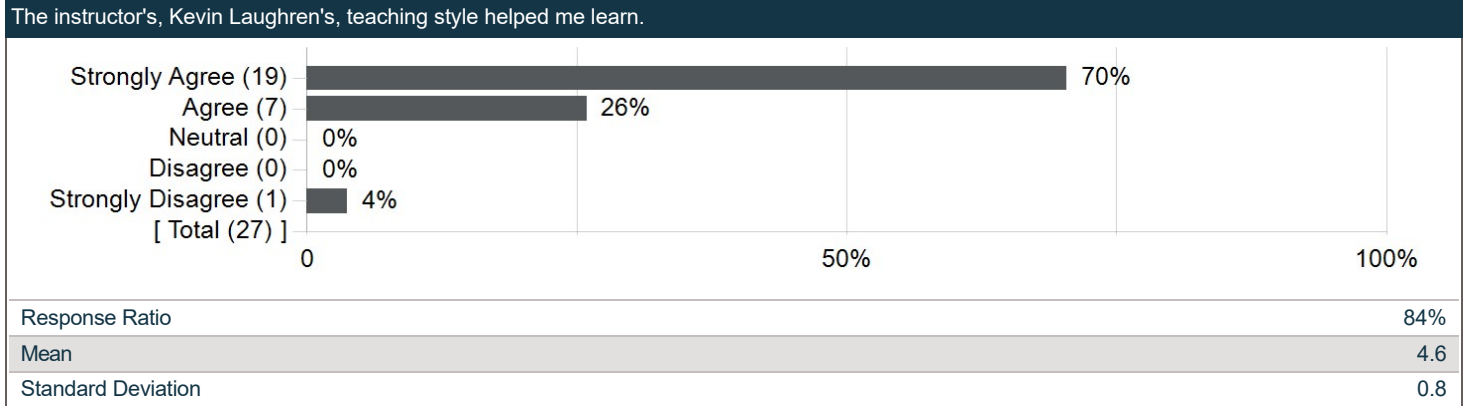
This section displays the responses to the questions you selected/created. If you did not submit any questions, this section will be blank.

The mean score for instructor selected questions can range from 1 to 5. There are three scoring scales:

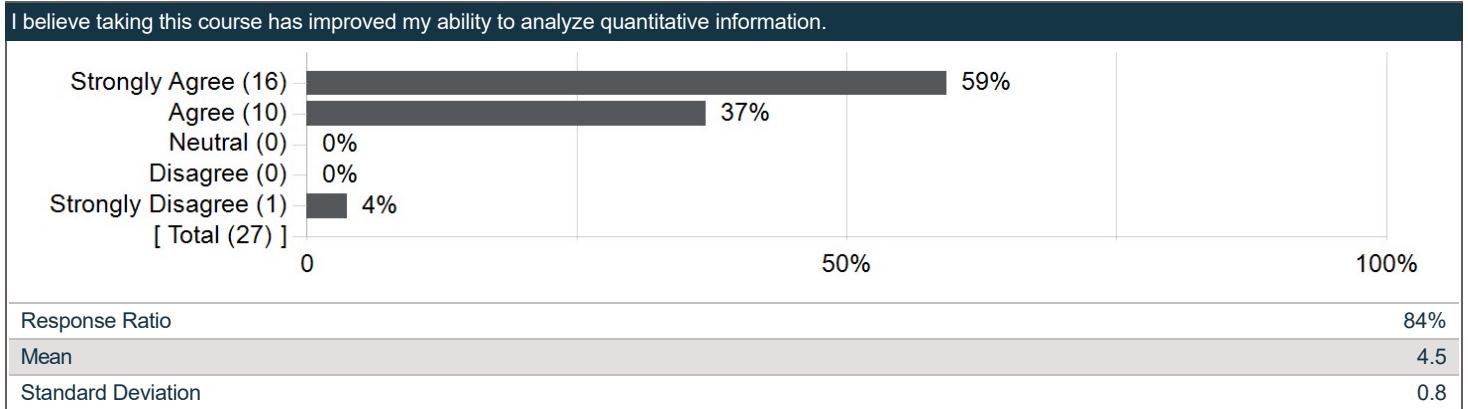
Strongly agree = 5, Agree = 4, Neutral = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1

Very Good = 5, Good = 4, Fair = 3, Poor = 2, Very Poor = 1

Very Easy = 5, Easy = 4, Average = 3, Difficult = 2, Very Difficult = 1



I believe taking this course has improved my ability to analyze quantitative information.



What was the best part of this learning experience?

Comments
I liked the in-class demos/coding exercises. I think it was really helpful to follow along. The assignments are relevant to the course and are interesting real-life examples.
The class is very applicable to real world work and has thought me great R coding in a projects scenario which is easily translated to my job and I was able to apply the final project to my current work. This prompted me to learn and I was more than happy to put additional work so that I could use the thesis/project on my resume
Being able to apply the concepts learned in class through assignments and the term paper. Also the fact that student feedback was implemented throughout the duration of the course.
The best part was Kevin himself. I really appreciate how he is both as a professor and a person. I cannot say the same about the other professors in SFU after years of doing classes here.
I understand and know how to apply machine learning.
The hands-on assignments where we got to work with building our own models.
learning how to make predictions
He's a very nice and kind professor who is willing to help us, he's passionate and enthusiastic.
The term paper I am doing is related to what I wanna persue in life that is Trading.
I see it as two assignments. It is geared towards the CEO and completing the assignment will help me in the future.
I was not very good at using R code, but now I can do it by myself and even use the code to do our tesk of the term paper. I'm proud of myself.
Working with big datasets and getting to clean data would have to be the highlight of the course. Despite the amount of R courses I have taken we often only get experience on small cleaned datasets. I think this experience has been valuable for me as I would like to pursue a career in data analytics or science.
The topic machine learning itself was the best part
Practical and engaging, most of the content is able to be applied in real life scenarios.
Exercises after every lecture helped me learn
Kevin is such a chill and kind person. It's truly an honor to have had him as my instructor. The way he delivers his lectures with so much passion and energy makes learning feel engaging and inspiring. This is actually the second time I've chosen to take one of his courses, even though I don't particularly enjoy coding. In fact, I had a terrible experience with CMPT 120(Python coding) during my first year of university, which left me with a lasting hate to programming.
Despite that, I still chose to take Kevin's class again because of how incredible he is as a teacher. His ability to make difficult material approachable and his supportive teaching style really set him apart. I even enrolled in his Econ 455W course next semester, despite already completing an upper-level writing requirement this term. That's how much I value learning from him. He is the first professor I've encountered who makes me feel that the struggle is worth it. So like I am intentionally willing to challenge myself because of his encouragement. His teaching doesn't just educate, it motivates. And for that, I'm grateful.
Overall, what I want to say is that this learning experience wasn't just about gaining academic knowledge, it was about overcoming personal barriers and realizing that the right instructor can completely reshape how I view an activity that I once hated the most. I will forever remember what he said when comes to programming : "You gotta be resilient!"
Machine learning is a challenging course which Kevin broke down and made very easy to understand leading into difficult material
The freedom and creativity to explore different approaches in our assignments and term paper. The applied hands on nature of the workshop style of lecturing. I'm impressed with how much ground we covered, I feel like I may actually put this knowledge to use in my future.
Each week we learn a new machine learning method from a well structured lecture. First we go with concepts, comes with coding section and exercise. This course structure works as a cycle for learning and practicing, which works well for internalizing new knowledge.
Working on the code, and learning what each functions do and how its applicable to the real world.
Kevin really made this course good. His enthusiasm for the material and aproachability outside of class made this a positive learning experience.