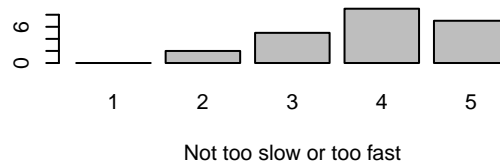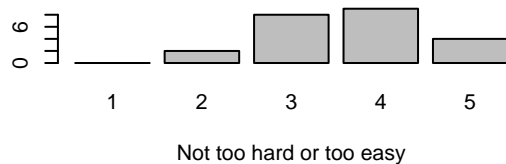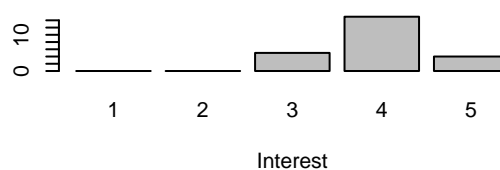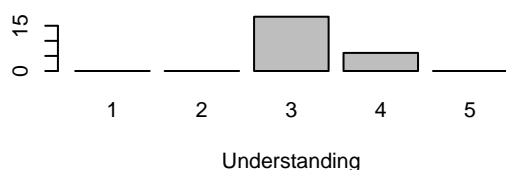# Final Course Evaluation report for 36-617, Fall 2021

Brian Junker

12/03/2021

Here is a summary of students' ratings for 36-617.
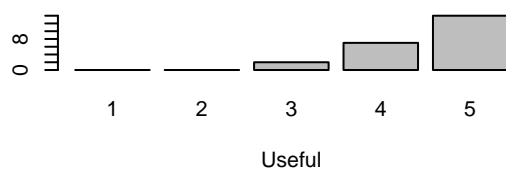
On the next two pages are student comments about the class. Here are my initial reactions:

- I think the projects are, and should be, challenging, but I can make the homeworks a little less onerous.

- Feeling a little lost aobut Project 02 was due in part to the fact that it was a 14 week semester and not a 15 week semester, so the project got assigned a little earlier, relative to where we were in the course content, than it usually would be.

- I will move nonparametric regression earlier in the course to address some of the requests for "more modern material".

Comments
Thank you BJ for helping us throughout the whole semester! I really appreciate all things I did related to linear models, definitey learned a lot beyond the scope of undergrad level applied linear model course!
I was most worried about this course coming in since I never took a proper linear models class before. It was challenging, but I feel that I learned the most in this class than any, and was really helpful during my interviews.The HWs were very difficult at first, because I had to get used to LATEX, but as time went by I became accustomed! Thank you for being so helpful during office hourse!
Some of the course was "Challenging, but I think I'm understanding the material" (questions on front of questionnaire). The workload was too much at first but became reasonable. The office hours and piazza answers are useful. I am still confused about multi level models and when to use them. Great class and experience overall!.
Grading is easy but material can be confusing. Focus on more modern methods (GAMS, Kernel machines, etc.) would be good to see.
Thank you for your hard work, BJ! I still find it challenging to understand the core definition behind the model. I am not sure how to improve my understanding of each model from 0 to 1. Overall, it is a really good class.
The course is nice. Thank you Brian!
I think I got lost easily during lectures. Sometimes, the models (fixed effects | mixed effect models) are hard to follow. It's hard to interpret the coefficients for these models. I think the material in this class is really helpful.
The course is overall well-designed. Prof. Junker responded quickly to every questions I asked. He also is willing to adjust the assignments if we request. The homework is a little too much and I think 2/3 of the original homework amount will be just fine.
I found this course to be the most useful this semester. I also think I learned the most in this course. The lectures are good and easy to follow. I do have a few suggestions to improve. 1) Maybe add some interactive parts to the lectures. Sometimes it can get a bit hard to stay engaged. 2) The homeworks were a little excessive at times so maybe shortening them would help.
I still think the homework is a bit too much. Maybe reduce a little bit. Thank you.
Our instructor is very helpful while explaining things clearly. Thank you :)
One of the most informative courses I have ever taken, and is structured in a logical and reusuable way so that past concepts lay sufficient groundwork for future materials. The only suggestion I would make is moving more quickly through linear regression and the related concepts and focusing more on GLM, multilevel models and non-parametric regression materials since they are not as frequently covered in prior coursework. Workload is a bit much at times, but feedback from peers & instructors is very useful to steer me in the right direction when I'm lost. Thanks for a great semester!! Love the banjo.

Comments
Lectures were always very informative, and I found the reading quizzes and Sheather text book useful. The projects were a lot of work, but ultimately effective in solidifying my knowledge of the material. I appreciated the flexibility with deadlines. Overall, I really enjoyed the semester and feel that I have learned a lot. Thank you so much for everything Brian!!
I think there was too much writing for assignment, although it may be the real purpose of the class since most of us had basic understanding of linear regression. The second project was actually a bit too rush, especially when we were just having one to two classes about multilevel models, it would be better if we already had the coverage of MMs for at least a month.
The class is hard. The class is too fast. Negative: project 2 has been very difficult. Positive: there is a lot of support offered for course material through OH and piazza.
Thanks! Everything goes well!
Workload could be heavy sometimes. Other than that I love this course and Prof Brian.
Loved the banjo! I'd have loved to see more of the non-parametric methods earlier. They weren't difficult conceptually, but we never had an opportunity to try them out.
The course was challenging but it was satisfying at the same time, because I learnt so much. The instructor was very approachable and is a great teacher. The slides and lecture recordings were very helpful. Over, it was a great experience. Thanks Brian, for being as understanding and caring!
Brian! Thank you for being so understanding & accommodating to us the entire semester! Coming a huge undergrad public university, I never felt like my professors cared about me & or my peers, so thank you for again for genuinely caring about us & for wanting to create personal connections with your students. As for the course itself, I do believe the material we learn is actually beneficial to use outside of our program. During mid semester, we talked a lot about the heavy workload, & you listened & made adaptatons. We really appreciate you!! The projects aren't crazy hard, & are nice extensions/applications of what we learn. Reading quizzes aren't mine or everyone's favorite, but I understand the purpose behind them. Anyways, thank you for reading this novel I wrote. – Have a great winter break!! – I forgot, I would have liked a bit more interactive lectures!
Beginning was really easy, end was really hard. I think the beginning of the course was a really effective over of basic linear regression but the materials for the mixed model was really hard, especially since it was my first exposure to the topic. I still think the homework could be balenced better they are worth very little but require a ton of work. The projects were really interesting & I learned a lot about how to write these analyses. However the second one way way harder than the first so a better balance could be beneficial. Lastly - THANK YOU for being flexible with the deadlines. Your understanding with our workload is greatly appreciated. Overall I learned a ton from this class and thank you for being an amazing teacher!
The difficulty in general. Some of the theoretical stuff was hard to follow/confused me. I like the banjo :)
This course is excellent! Thank you so much for the classes and supportive office hours!
Maybe [the course] was harder at the end. I think the MLM part of the course was a little rushed, especially when we got the project part. Maybe an additional slower week of that topic would had helped to understand better what was happening.