

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

Course: Introduction to Statistics

20 surveys / 21 enrolled in CORE 143S B (MWF 1220)

Student: 1

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Reputation of the instructorEffort: I went to most classes, completed all the homework and studied for exams outside of class. I also went to office hours several times.Understanding & Appreciation: I now understand statistics.Intellectual Growth: This course definitely challenged me and I was able to learn how to test and revise data/hypotheses to better suit my needs as a student.Quality: Jens is great. He is constantly asking students to come see them for office hours, is helpful and encouraging, and gets to know his students outside of class. He teaches effectively and does not move on until he is confident that everyone understands, while still challenging those who understand the material well. Overall, a great prof.

Student: 2

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Elective within major or minorReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I put in a good amount of effort and completed all assignments on time. I showed up to class almost everyday and actively tried to learn new material.Understanding & Appreciation: This course helped me to learn a lot about statistics and bolstered my interest in the subject. I am now able to make observations about studies by looking at the methods of how they were conducted.Intellectual Growth: It helped me to appreciate the importance of statistics.Quality: I believe Professor Christensen was a good teacher and overall cares a lot about his students. He is good at conducting classes but sometimes isn't good about time management and lets us out a little too late. He also assigns what I presume to be a little too much work and without enough notice or help.

Student: 3

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I put an very large amount of effort into this course, I met with Professor Christensen multiple times per week to understand the course subjects and assignments. I did my work ahead of time and followed along with the readings in the book to better understand the topics.Understanding & Appreciation: It did not. I had a general idea of statistics from other science courses I had previously taken. This class discouraged me tremendously from using statistical methods. I tried to tie my other course statistical calculations to help me better understand this course but often times when I tried to make these connections I was shot down. I have become more confused about statistics actually.Intellectual Growth: I now understand how to do some of the calculations that are easily completed on Excel. But I have not been told the purpose of these calculations. The teaching was not clear.Quality: Professor Christensen was easily accessible. He was very flexible and would always find time to meet with students. In office hours he is very helpful. However, his overall teaching of statistics was not that effective. He told us on the first day that participation would not be a part of our grade, discouraging those to answer questions in class because what would be the point. The entire semester the class was silent. It was hard to pay attention in class because as students, we were not as engaged. Additionally, the exam questions and homeworks were graded unnecessarily harshly. Overall it was clear that Professor Christensen tried to keep the class interesting by including articles on studies that we could relate to the class. At the end of the semester Professor Christensen was more open to the suggestions.

Student: 4

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: This course involved weekly homework assignments as well as note taking from the book and two midterm exams. We also have a final project which will be difficult and involve a lot of time, but should be manageable.Understanding & Appreciation: I had taken a statistics course in high school, and while I hoped that this course would expand on what I had already learned and was interested in, I feel as if we covered even fewer topics. However what we did learn we learned well.Intellectual Growth: I am now better able to think about bias in studies and also about significance of data in a statistical manner.

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Quality: Professor Christensen came to class prepared and attempted to engage students even when the material was uninteresting. His knowledge of statistics seemed limited and a few times he had to go to outside sources to answer questions, however he did always get the answer for students.

Student: 5

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: this class had homework every week, which took a while to completeUnderstanding & Appreciation: /Intellectual Growth: not much, i had completed most of this class in high school and I thought it was very basic.Quality: Professor Christensen was very good at responding to emails and answering questions in office hours, but it came across that he didn't know the material that well or that he wasn't prepared for the examples in class.

Student: 6

Reason: Other requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I put a decent amount of effort into this course.Understanding & Appreciation: I unfortunately did not gain an appreciation of the course subject. I found the course subject boring and unexciting.Intellectual Growth: I fulfilled my Scientific Perspectives requirement.Quality: I thought the quality of the teaching in this course was fairly weak. There were times were Professor Christensen didn't seem to understand the material himself. He seemed to follow the course by the book, without bringing in much outside knowledge.

Student: 7

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Reputation of the instructorReason: Interest in the course materialAdditional Reason(s): N/aEffort: I studied for the tests and completed the homework assignments on time. I probably did not spend more than an hour study for each exam thus farUnderstanding & Appreciation: I took AP stats in high school but didn't remember much of what I had learned. This course was relatively easy for me to pick up on, and once I was reminded of information and procedures I could perform all of the calculations.Intellectual Growth: I think this course was important for my refining of my skills on excel and scientific writing. I'm happy that I took this course because of what it has reminded me of and the skills I was able to improve throughout the semester.Quality: Professor Christensen was helpful and I think he did a pretty good job teaching the course. Some ideas and explanations were hard for me to grasp, but overall I understood every major topic presented in class. I think that his writing everything on the board is a little much, but it allows for everything to be presented in one place. I would prefer there to be less writing on the board and maybe more summarizing aspects. I really like that he posts excel examples and outside sources on the moodle page and that they're there for us to go back to look at. His office hours are at a good time and he is good at answering questions one on one. Sometimes I think that there are too many examples for each topic, but other times more examples are definitely beneficial.

Student: 8

Reason: Other requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: A lot of time studying and doing homework. Probably more than any of my other classes.Understanding & Appreciation: It taught me a lot and got me to use critical thinking skills.Quality: Professor Christensen is a great teacher. He knows a lot about math and is always accessible/ helpful when one has a question. His biggest weakness is that he sometimes asks questions that are almost rhetorical in their nature yet when no one answers he gets upset. I think he expects that if no one answers a question that they don't know the answer when in reality half the time everyone knows the answer but doesn't want to answer a simple question that shouldn't be asked in the first place. Beyond this he is a great professor who has taught me a tremendous amount of stats. He makes learning fun and does a great job of returning work on time/ telling you what he expects. Overall I would rate the class and his teaching 9/10

Student: 9

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

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Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put as much effort into this course as I could given my other course work.

Understanding & Appreciation: This class helped me learn to question surveys and look for biases in surveys.

Intellectual Growth: This course taught me to search for better ways to understand and represent data.

Quality: Professor Christensen is very accessible and helpful in office hours. He had some issues with getting stuck with a problem in class and sometimes could not explain equations. State can be difficult to teach given differing views on equations and he was good about telling us that and having us question findings and find the least boss answer.

Student: 10

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: The effort I put into this course was with hopes of obtaining an A. This made it so that my effort was fairly strenuous. If I were not aiming for an A, however it would be a decent course.

Understanding & Appreciation: I have seen many of the things discussed in class in other courses. This course helped as a review to keep the things I have learned in the passed fresh in my mind to avoid forgetting them.

Intellectual Growth: It is important to know how to work with statistics in the area of study I wish to pursue in the future, this course has helped me prepare for that.

Quality: The professor had some trouble getting the class to participate at times. I am not sure who was at fault, it was unclear if my peers simply did not want to participate or if they were confused. Good examples were used during class time to teach the material for the course.

Student: 11

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I read all of the suggested readings and I attempted all of the home works. For upcoming tests I would study the appropriate material in order to ensure I new what I was doing on the test.

Understanding & Appreciation: I understood the ubiquity of statistics within the sciences and this made me appreciate the course as an appetizer for the more complex studies in science that rely on statistical techniques.

Intellectual Growth: This course sharpened my arithmetic skills which I felt were dulling after not having taken any math classes for so long.

Quality: The examples were the strength of the class as they were helpful to look back on for a better understanding of the material. In my opinion class participation was not necessary but I understand that it was important for the professor to know the class was following along. Some explanations and answers to questions weren't explained clearly which would be the greatest weakness of the class.

Student: 12

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I have to go to office hours twice a week for this class and I still am not understanding the material. I put a tremendous amount of effort into this class and i go to a tutor outside of class but it still does not translate.

Understanding & Appreciation: It has not helped my appreciation for this class at all. I do not like coming to this class.

Intellectual Growth: I do not think it contributed to my intellectual growth at all.

Quality: I do not think professor Christensen is good at explaining statistics. I see him twice a week to go over the material and it still does not help. He gives examples as ways to explain the material but if you ask any other questions he does not know how to answer them correctly. A strength he does possess however is availability to meet, it's just a shame that he's not very helpful when you meet with him.

Student: 13

Reason: Other requirement

Effort: Effort for this course was very strong, with considerable time being put in for every homework, exam and assignment.

Understanding & Appreciation: I now understand statistics to a higher degree because of this course. However, my appreciation for the subject did not really increase solely because I do not enjoy the mathematics that comes with statistics. But because of Professor Christensen's teaching I do understand certain aspects of statistics better than I did before.

Intellectual Growth: It helped me look into mathematics in a different light. For most of my academic youth I only took calculus, algebra, and geometry classes, and this class helped me broaden my understanding of mathematics courses.

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Quality: Professor Christensen is a good professor with a lot of great qualities. He is very considerate and very caring about his students. Sometimes, however, he confuses himself during the class and that in turn confuses the students. Also, there were moments where he struggled too much with the technology that he wanted to use in class, and I think that somehow discredited him at times.

Student: 14

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I put a lot of effort into this class, always keeping up with material in the textbook. I completed all the problem sets on time and came in for extra help when needed.Understanding & Appreciation: I took this course previously in high school however this course has gone into much more detail and has shown me alternative ways to completing certain problems.Intellectual Growth: This course helped enhance my excel skills which I think should be very beneficial later in college/life.Quality: Professor Christensen was not always very clear in class when trying to explain material. Sometime we would spend a long time on a question or topic because it was difficult to explain clearly what he wanted to say. He did always make himself accessible for extra help and showed genuine concern for his students. Sometimes I felt his grading was a little unclear or inconsistent as well on both tests and papers.

Student: 15

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: Required a lot of time for rather menial workQuality: Christensen is great, although sometimes explanations to questions were unclear

Student: 16

Reason: Other requirementEffort: This course was especially challenging for me so it took a significant amount of effort in order to complete assignments and understand the material. I often felt as though I had to put in a lot of effort in order to continue to teach myself outside of the classroom because I was often confused by the way material was presented in class.Understanding & Appreciation: I don't feel as though I have a very strong understanding of the material.Intellectual Growth: I learned what steps I can take outside of the classroom to extend my learning when the classroom dynamic is confusing to me.Quality: I didn't think the way professor Christensen presented the material mostly in terms of examples was very effective and I wished that he more often presented his lessons in a more structured, precise but generalized way. Once the basics of a subject have been covered, giving examples is more effective, but I often felt that the basics weren't covered in a complete way.

Student: 17

Reason: Elective within major or minorReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: There was weekly homework assignments that I would do and two tests in which I studied for 2+ hours for each of them. Homework would take around an hour to do each time. There were some readings that I would do if I struggled understanding certain material or I would also go into office hours to have Professor clear things up.Understanding & Appreciation: I learned a lot about statistics in general as I did not take a Stats class in high school. I am happy I took this course here as it really interested me and I found it very fun and challenging but really liked it. I did struggle throughout high school with probability and I feel as if some of that was cleared up with Professor Christensen.Intellectual Growth: I had my first semester long project due in this course and it taught me how to manage my time. You cannot just cram everything in to one night and must pace yourself and do a little bit each day in order to achieve the results that you want. I learned a lot of real world applications of statistics as well that I never would have thought of before taking this course and this course showed me ways that stats gets brought up in your life on a potential daily basis. It is cool to see what I learn in class show up in the real world.Quality: I thought that Professor really taught this class well. I feel like there is very weird class chemistry in which Professor is almost a victim of as there are too many 'cool kids' in class that refuse to answer even the simplest questions. With that being said, I would try and participate as much as possible to alleviate some stress on Professor and make the class go more fluidly. I enjoy participating and I like to know I have the write answer and Professor did look for class participation a decent amount, although it did not factor into my grade. I would be interested in taking another class with Professor Christensen in the future.

Student: 18

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Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I attended all classes, did all homeworks, went to office hours, studied a lot, payed attention in class, answered questions, worked with my peers to learn the material, etc.

Understanding & Appreciation: Statistics was a very new topic for me, so I learned a lot. The material was very interesting, although it could have been presented in a more interesting way.

Intellectual Growth: I was able to apply what I had learned in this course to other courses (for example, my biology lab).

Quality: strengths: professor seemed to really care about us students. he was helpful in office hours. he was funny, approachable, and tried to listen to our needs (would extend deadlines and host extra office hours according to our needs)
weaknesses: sometimes i felt like the professor did not quite understand the material himself. when people had questions he often times had trouble answering them, if they were different from what he had already prepared for class.

Student: 19

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put about 3hrs a week worth of effort into the course.

Understanding & Appreciation: The course and but disorganized, but jens did a good job of covering test material.

Intellectual Growth: The course should be easy but jens makes it more challenging, which is annoying

Quality: Good!

Student: 20

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: Problem sets requiring about 2 hours of effort due biweekly, a project, 2 midterms and a final

Understanding & Appreciation: As someone who had no prior experience with statistics, I've learned a lot about the subject matter

Intellectual Growth: I think this course helped me refine some of my basic math skills. I don't usually work with numbers anymore so this was a refreshing change

Quality: I think professor Christensen taught the material very well. He taught and in method that required the class' full participation which I think helped make this class more engaging and made the material easier to understand

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

Course: Introduction to Statistics

2 surveys / 5 enrolled in MATH 102 B (MWF 1220)

Student: 21

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I put a good amount of effort into the course.Understanding & Appreciation: I learned the basic concepts of the course.Intellectual Growth: N/AQuality: The teaching was pretty poor. The material was conveyed in a disorganized manner. Also, the professor mainly taught by putting examples on the board not actually relaying the concepts thoroughly.

Student: 22

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Exploration of possible major or minorReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I feel I put in enough effort to succeed. I definitely did not absolutely try my hardest, but the material came more easily to me than some other classes.Understanding & Appreciation: I think the end of term project in which we had to design an experiment and actually carry out certain methods of analysis which we had learned throughout the semester definitely helped me understand and appreciate the course subject. Most courses simply require regurgitation of material. Designing and conducting your own experiment was very unique.Intellectual Growth: I think it has made me a more critical thinker. I don't think I will simply accept new statistical studies that come out without first examining and analyzing them to see if their results were justified or if they are simply trying to cause controversy while being based on insufficient or incorrect evidence.Quality: I think Professor Christensen did a good job. He was very accessible in office hours. He was also very approachable. He really made it clear that he was always willing to help students and really wanted to help. I think he did a good job of teaching a subject that he was not a master in. He's obviously more qualified in other areas of Mathematics. I think if he continues to teach the course he will continue to improve as he learns the "ins and outs" so to speak. Overall, he did a good job. He was fair. He really put in a lot of effort to make sure was prepared. The only comments I would say he should try to improve on would be the grading of tests. I thought certain questions should have been worth less points while others could have been worth more (6 points for simple multiple choice questions was a little steep). I also thought he could have been a little more clear about expectations and guidelines for the project (exactly what he wanted on progress reports for example).