

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

Course: Introduction to Statistics

23 surveys / 26 enrolled in CORE 143S A (TR 0955)

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Student: 1

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I put in a lot of effortUnderstanding & Appreciation: It helped me gain math skillsIntellectual Growth: I had to problem solveQuality: I thought the teaching was good. One suggestion I have is that instead of just watching professor Christensen solve the problems on the board we should have been given a chance first to figure out the problem ourselves. But overall I thought he was a great teacher and made class fun.

Student: 2

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I went to class frequently and wrote summaries on my notes after each lecture. I also went to office hours if I needed any help with any homework assignments. In addition, I also studied diligently for each midterms we had by doing practice problems in the textbook.Understanding & Appreciation: This course made me more interested in Biostatistics because the professor was able to integrate statistical analysis with Biology. I was able to apply chi square tests in order to conduct a study.Intellectual Growth: This course made think critically about statistics which I was able to know if statistical analysis was correct or incorrect. I also was able to know if a statistic is false or has errors.Quality: This professor was able to explain concepts clearly and in a concise manner. In addition, he was able to be very considerate if we didn't understand the material the first time by teaching it in a different way.

Student: 3

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I did not put a lot of effort into this course because I felt that the material was pretty easy, and it was a CORE class. If you came to class and listen to Professor Christensen's lectures than you did not have to read the textbook.Understanding & Appreciation: This course helped me think about statistics in regards to the 2016 Presidential Election. The TedTalks that Professor Christensen had us watch for homework one night were really interesting and helped me think about how people see statistics as facts, and don't necessarily believe them, and what that means for our world.Quality: Professor Christensen came into class very prepared and excited to teach us each day. I liked that he gave a rundown of what we would be doing in class that day, because in a 75 minute class it is nice to know what that time looks like and helps it go by faster sometimes. I thought some of his homework's were unnecessary and tedious for what this class really was, students fulfilling their scientific perspective. However, I did learn a lot in this class and enjoyed my time in the classroom.

Student: 4

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I go to every class; I finished every homework carefully; I take good notes and listen carefully in class.Understanding & Appreciation: I learn more about statistics and can even apply what I learned in this class to my psychology class.Intellectual Growth: I know the power of Statistics and why is it important in our life.Quality: Professor Jens is very nice to his students. His office hour is helpful.

Student: 5

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementAdditional Reason(s): I took this class because I am an Econ minor and taking stats crossed off a requirement for my minor and a CORE requirement.Effort: I put in a lot of effort when studying for tests/exams in this course, but I found the Professor's grading to be slightly disappointing and ambiguous. In my point of view, since this is a CORE, the grading should have been less harsh considering that we are required to take this class. I could have taken a known "easy" scientific CORE, but I took this one so I could actually benefit something from the class. I instead ended up learning the minimum with average grades.Understanding & Appreciation: I feel as if I learned a sufficient amount about statistics; however, I don't feel prepared enough to take a course in probability, for example.Intellectual Growth: N/A

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Quality: The Professor was a great person in class and in office hours. He was very accessible and respectful to students. His teaching was very slow in comparison to other courses I have taken here/in high school. He was unsure of himself sometimes which made the class hard to follow. The lack of rigor in his teaching style made it very easy for students to doze off, frequently looking at the clock.

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Student: 6

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: Completed all homework assignments on time and to the best of my ability. was active in class and took consistent notes each day during the lecture. Studied on average about 3 hours before exams creating my own study guide from the notes and going back to complete homework problems and examples from the textbook.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course added to my understanding of statistics and made it clear that there are many ways in which statistics can be manipulated. it also gave me a better idea of how experiments and observational studies are carried out from begging to end in the world today.

Intellectual Growth: This course encourages students to think independently and not automatically believe something right away. it also challenged me to problem solve and to grind out problems that i didnt understand at first but through looking back at my notes and trial and error i was eventually able to complete.

Quality: Professor Christensen taught this course exceptionally well. he was always prepared for class and always allowed for us as students to try problems and struggle before helping us and revealing the solutions. he also found a happy medium in terms of independent working and long lectures. he kept the class interesting through his personality and humor which allowed us as students to stay engaged and not zone out like some other 75 minutes lecture courses. Professor Christensen is very passionate about this course and was always willing to make accommodations to benefit his students learning.

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Student: 7

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I put in a decent amount of effort to this course, I worked a lot on my project as well as the individual homework assignments in order to get the best grade I could on them. Additionally I put in a lot of time studying for the midterms and I feel that it showed in my grades.

Understanding & Appreciation: I definitely gained a good deal of knowledge in how to use and apply different statistical tests in our everyday lives. This class has also helped me further understand the importance of statistics to our perception of reality.

Intellectual Growth: I think the most important aspect of this class and where I learned the most was in an understanding of how statistics can be manipulative or not entirely factual. The ability to spot a bad or misleading statistic is very important today and I think this class did a good job of teaching that.

Quality: Professor Christensen is a good teacher and a really nice guy always willing to assist you on any questions you might have about the homework or material covered in class. He keeps the class moving at a good pace and is always pretty prepared for the material we are supposed to cover that day.

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Student: 8

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I put a lot of effort into this course, mainly because I suffered through a bad case of Mono in the middle of it. I was doing extremely well up until this point when I missed a lot of class, and did poorly on the second midterm (went from 95 on first test to 70 on the second). I found Professor Christensen to have been the least understanding/accomodating of all my teachers in helping me through my illness. He definitely was helpful and accommodating, but to some extent I felt as though he didn't believe that I was literally in bed all day and miserable. I went in a couple times during this time to learn what I missed, but on the test there was a lot of a stuff that I could never have learned on my own, because it was taught in class. This was frustrating. Overall the course material was pretty easy and straightforward, which is why it's even more frustrating that mono messed me up pretty badly in what I was prepared to be an easier class.

Understanding & Appreciation: I know a lot more about statistics, I think one thing that stood out was Professor Christensen's use of TED talks. I learned some really cool stuff about stats and how fake studies can be interpreted.

Intellectual Growth: n/a

Quality: I think he was way too harsh on grading homework - he would take off point if you crossed anything out or scribbled. I learned not to do this quickly. He also VERY frequently made mistakes in calculations on the board and laughed it off when students would correct him. This was especially annoying because I learned most of this course from my notes since i was absent so much, so when calculations were wrong i was confused, but it turned out to be him.

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Student: 9

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I put a good amount of effort into this class. I attended all classes, took notes, read the textbook and did all the homework. I prepared for exams, put thought and time into my project and utilized office hours whenever I was confused.Understanding & Appreciation: This course gave me a great understanding of basic statistics. Some statistics came up in my FSEM and high school science classes, but I feel as if this course allowed me to truly understand the importance of statisticsIntellectual Growth: This course made me think about statistics in the world and how they can be helpful, but also misleading.Quality: I thought Professor Christensen was a great teacher. He presented the material in a clear way and provided a wide variety of examples that helped me better understand the topics we covered. Sometimes the lectures were a bit boring, but overall Professor Christensen did his best to present the material in an interesting way. He was also very responsive to questions and always helpful during office hours.

Student: 10

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Interest in the course material

Student: 11

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I spent some amount of time outside of the class taking notes on the class material from the textbook, and completing the homework.Understanding & Appreciation: This course has helped me gain understanding on my other courses that also use statistics, such as Psychology.Intellectual Growth: This course has helped me learn how to self teach class material.Quality: The overall quality of teaching in this course was very good. The professor was very helpful and available for office hours, and also spent a lot of time explaining the material to us if we did not fully understand it.

Student: 12

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I exerted a fair amount of effort into this course. We had weekly homework assignment as well as 3 exams throughout the semester. The homework was extremely challenging and typically required us to work in groups to complete. I found that since the homework was so difficult, the exams seemed far easier.Understanding & Appreciation: I had taken a statistics class in high school and when I saw it being offered as a Core class I knew I would be interested in taking it. I have always found statistics to be interesting. I now feel as if I could intelligently talk about statistics though I might not be able to accurately perform all of the tests.Intellectual Growth: I think statistics is far more than sitting around calculating numbers. This is evident in the TED talks we watched. Some people do not trust these numbers, but it does not take a lot to understand what they mean. I believe that statistics tells us information about a lot of things we do not know about. After taking this course, I have began to question data I see and interpret things at more than just face value.Quality: Prof Christensen did a great job teaching this course. He was always available to students and encouraged us to be engaged in class discussions. I felt like homework was graded far harsher than the exams were. After putting hours of work into each assignment it seemed almost impossible to get a 100%. We also used equations that I had never seen before. They were not the same ones we used in my high school class and it was difficult to find them online. When I cram for an exam I typically go online to find information and I struggled to find the material we were working with. Besides that, he answered questions in a very detailed manner and always tried to make sure that all students understood the material we were learning.

Student: 13

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I had to put time into homeworkers assignments and studying for tests, both of which required a fair amount of concentration and critical thinking.Understanding & Appreciation: This course made me think more critically about statistical studies, forcing me to not take anything as absolute and become a more informed consumer of statistics, especially in The media.Intellectual Growth: This course helped me with problem so solving skills and organization.Quality: I found the lectures to be extremely helpful in learning the course material. Jen was always available for extra help and encouraging of contributions from all class members.

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Student: 14

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put in a good amount of effort each week to complete homework assignments and understand the material being covered in class.

Understanding & Appreciation: I had a statistics unit in a math class in high school but it hadn't really made sense to me then. After taking this class I have a much better understanding of how statistics functions and is used on a day-to-day basis in the world.

Intellectual Growth: Statistics is an extremely important subject when thinking about accurately depicting the world around us and as such has helped shape my worldview and also how I will continue to do so. Paying attention to details such as sources and framing in articles or reports that back up their claims with statistics is a learned habit that helps keep oneself better informed.

Quality: Professor Christensen clearly explained the material and came to class well prepared. He gave exams and assignments that were both straightforward or thought-provoking in order to elicit better understanding of the material or curiosity about the subject respectively. In my opinion this is a clear-cut course and Professor Christensen did a good job of presenting the material and fielding questions.

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Student: 15

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: Honestly stats just is not that hard of a class.

Intellectual Growth: It was nice to finally learn the truth behind certain studies, and why people have become so weary of statistics lately in our political climate.

Quality: Professor Christensen is great. He knew the material wasn't exactly the most interesting and he tried to keep class moving. He also did lots of examples and made sure to try and get the class involved.

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Student: 16

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: This course was extremely fair in that if one was willing to put in enough time to acquire a quality understanding of what we did in class, he or she would do well. I have taken classes where the professor tried to introduce something which we have never seen before and try to make us interpret how to respond. Professor Christensen did not do that. He was challenging but challenged us with things which we had prepared for.

Understanding & Appreciation: I knew very little about stats before taking this course. I like to think I have acquired a quality understanding of the subject matter.

Intellectual Growth: My math skills were sharpened by taking the course.

Quality: The professor explained material very straightforwardly and was open to questions. He did an excellent job teaching the course. The only critique which I would mention is the fact that the homework was graded extremely difficultly; we were not prepared for such tough grading standards. Other than that I was impressed with the course overall and benefitted much from taking it.

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Student: 17

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I do not have a long math background so this course was very challenging.

Understanding & Appreciation: I really enjoyed how we discovered the ways in which stats can be used in the real world but at the same time should not always be trusted

Intellectual Growth: I learned that I should be continuously questioning statistics.

Quality: Professor Christensen's teaching was engaging, clear, and supportive. He gave students plenty of time to ask questions in class, and his office hours were extremely helpful. My only critique would be that he did not upload any of the homework sheets or assignment sheets to moodle, so if I lost the homework or was sick during the class he handed it out I had to scramble to find a classmate with the sheet.

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Student: 18

Reason: Exploration of possible major or minor

Effort: I worked hard and did the problems in the book plus online worksheets.

Understanding & Appreciation: It made me appreciate how good statistics can be used as a tool to make informed decisions.

Intellectual Growth: We learned a lot about scientific studies and experiments and that was interesting and also real world applications of statistics.

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Quality: Strengths: Very clear with what he expects us to know. Good at teaching the subject material. Interesting classes that are never the same every day. Returns homework and tests back quickly.

Weakness: homework is graded harshly especially since we just learned the material.

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Student: 19

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I attended all classes, occasionally attended office hours, studied for tests, and completed the homework to the best of my ability.

Understanding & Appreciation: I learned the basic statistical tests, as well as how to apply them to real-world scenarios

Intellectual Growth: This course helped me further understand how to deal with word problems in mathematics, as well as the basic principles behind the statistical process.

Quality: He was somewhat unclear when explaining core concepts and examples, but he was always open to questions and it was always possible to clarify confusions with him on any questions.

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Student: 20

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s): I took this course as part of Econ major requirements.

Effort: This course took a lot of effort but it was manageable. The homeworks took effort to figure out but after going to office hours I was more easily able to understand the material.

Understanding & Appreciation: This was my first time taking Stats so it was all new for me. I think the material was presented in a good way as I was seeing it for the first time and I think that I was able to understand most of the topics.

Intellectual Growth: This course made me think more critically about the numbers that I see everyday and I think I got a good grounding of statistics.

Quality: I think the teaching was good. Prof Christensen was approachable and took all questions seriously, our class was just a little bit quiet at times but that's not his fault at all. His teaching was effective and he asked if we were all good before moving on. He was also especially helpful in office hours.

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Student: 21

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put a lot of effort into the homework and studying for the tests.

Understanding & Appreciation: I had never taken a stats class so all of this was pretty new to me, except the probability section which contradicts every instinct of common sense in your body.

Intellectual Growth: The probability section made me learn to not always trust my first instinct.

Quality: I think the teaching was very good. He presented material clearly and easily, and I think his only weakness is how hard he graded some of the homework.

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Student: 22

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put a lot of effort into this course when it came to studying, but I didn't work as hard to do the homework as I should have because it was easy to just find the answers.

Understanding & Appreciation: I learned more about statistics and it made me more interested in the course matter.

Intellectual Growth: I had to do more problem solving on my own.

Quality: I thought that Professor Christensen was extremely likable and approachable, however I thought his grading was harsh, especially on homework, and it made class seem strange when we would understand everything on the board but then get little points off of everything on the homework which would add up to a low grade.

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Student: 23

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: Intro to statistics was very straightforward and covered concepts that I had already come across before college. The material was easily digestible and the exams were fair and appropriately challenging - I never found myself struggling during this semester.

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Understanding & Appreciation: Having a formal introduction to statistics was helpful as I hope to work in research and development which deals with a lot of data. This course helped me get a taste of what my future academic path holds.

Intellectual Growth: The biggest thing I learned was that statistics can be misleading, and the way to avoid being misled is by looking into what is presented to me. This concept alone has helped me grow intellectually and understand the world around me in a slightly different light.

Quality: Prof. Christensen sometimes had problems with the technology in the classroom, but I don't blame him for that. Sometimes I felt like he used very roundabout ways to answer a question or explain a concept, but in the end, it was understandable, so I didn't have any major issues there either.

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