

Instructor: Christensen, Jens

Course: Introduction to Statistics

21 surveys / 24 enrolled in CORE 143S B (TR 1320)

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Student: 1

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: a couple of hours studying before tests and about an hour on average per homework set

Understanding & Appreciation: I had never taken a statistics course before so now I know what it's about and it's a useful skill to be able to have in life

Intellectual Growth: I learned better critical thinking

Quality: It's honestly not the most exciting subject matter but the professor did a great job of keeping us engaged in class and he was obviously very passionate about the subject

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Student: 2

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I found some of the concepts hard to grasp, so it required a lot of out-of-class work. I also went to Professor Christensen for extra help rather often.

Understanding & Appreciation: It definitely increased my understanding and knowledge of statistics, but I wouldn't really I say it made me like the subject anymore than I did before.

Intellectual Growth: This course definitely taught me to analyze data in ways that I have never done so before. It also taught both the importance and controversial aspects of statistics.

Quality: Professor Christensen was very good and was very accessible for extra help.

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Student: 3

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Reason: Interest in the course material

Effort: I did not put as much effort into this class as I have in other in large part because I did not need to do so in order to do very in the class. The work load in the class was very low.

Understanding & Appreciation: This was my first course in statistics and I found the material both engaging and revealing.

Intellectual Growth: Thinking critically about problem structures as well as experimental design was a necessary part of this class, this was definitely a beneficial aspect of the course.

Quality: Professor Christensen was engaging and encourage. His dry sense of humor kept lectures interesting while he depth of knowledge allowed him to field questions well. All in all, he made the class as engaging as it was and fostered a sense of curiosity among the students.

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Student: 4

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Effort: I worked hard to do well in this class. Worked on the hw in advance and went to office hours.

Understanding & Appreciation: I have a very good understanding of statistics now that I have taken this course.

Intellectual Growth: The final project in particular helped me to think about issues we see in our world and how we can use stats to prove them.

Quality: I have nothing but good things to say about professor christensen. He was always open to questions and worked hard to get our work back in a timely manner. Class was interesting and he would always crack a joke or two to get us through the more technical and boring aspects. Overall, an excellent professor and I would recommend him to any of my friends.

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Student: 5

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: The most time I spent doing work outside of class was for the homeworks. In class I would take decent notes but I wouldn't say this class was ever strenuous

Understanding & Appreciation: Briefly went beyond the level of statistics I had learned in high school

Intellectual Growth: Help teach me how to test a hypothesis

Quality: I thought Christensen was a great professor, consistently clear in class and had a lot of office hours.

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Student: 6

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: For this course, it was necessary I participate in class discussions, complete weekly homework assignments (mixture of writing and math problems). In addition, we had a final project that incorporated all of the material taught throughout the semester. It involved both math/excel and writing components.

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Understanding & Appreciation: This course gave me an overview of several different statistical tests and methods that allow you to interpret data and claims. Not only did we learn the specific content, but we were able to synthesize it with real world applications.

Intellectual Growth: This course helped me in that it exposed me to excel and its functions, which is something I hope to use in my future career. The practice we did with excel was extremely beneficial to me and was one of the best takeaways I personally got from the class.

Quality: Professor Christenson is one of the best professors I have had since being at Colgate. He is so intelligent and clearly very knowledgeable about his field of work, but at the same time never fails to keep class fun and filled with humor. He is always very accessible and willing to work one on one with students to help them with anything they need. His homework and exams are challenging enough to push students, but also extremely fair and well thought out. I have learned a great deal about statistics in this class, a lot of which will benefit me in my pursuit of my major and minor. Thank you!

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Student: 7

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: It was not a course that required too much effort besides paying attention in class.

Understanding & Appreciation: I now have a better understanding of statistics and it's practical applications.

Intellectual Growth: I now am better able to question stats thrown at me in everyday life.

Quality: The professor knew his material and explained it effectively.

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Student: 8

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I kept up with all of the homework assignment and put in enough time studying to do well on the tests.

Understanding & Appreciation: I had never taken stats before, so it was interesting to see how important statistics really are. By watching TED Talks I was able to understand how integral statistics is to society.

Intellectual Growth: This course taught me the foundations of statistics. I know feel comfortable analyzing data and drawing conclusions. It has also taught me to think in an orderly and organized manner.

Quality: Professor Christensen was an excellent professor who made class interesting and taught the material well. He made the classroom environment comfortable and was able to answer any questions the students might have. Overall, I am very pleased with Professor Christensen and I would definitely learn from him again in a different course.

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Student: 9

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I review class materials and spend 2-3 hours finishing homework.

Understanding & Appreciation: I learnt about the basic principles of stats.

Intellectual Growth: I learnt to apply stats methods to real life.

Quality: The professor is always willing to helpful. He has a clear grading rubric. But sometimes, he's not very organized in class.

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Student: 10

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Additional Reason(s): I think it gives students useful skills for all fields to do research.

Effort: Attending each class was generally enough for me to gain a good understanding of the material as the professor covered everything very thoroughly with lots of examples and practice. The homework was just the right amount and timed very well so that we could learn from our mistakes before the test. On average, I would say the each homework assignment took around an hour to 1.5 hours.

Understanding & Appreciation: I understood how the methods of statistical tests and interpretation we learned in class can apply to any field and is useful for people to do research and learn how to improve certain infrastructures or projects.

Intellectual Growth: It allowed me to think about the subject not just in terms of the math but in terms of how it can be applied, especially through our independent project.

Quality: I think the quality of teaching was quite high; the professor was very consistent with in-class lectures and good at giving examples that challenged students to gain a deeper understanding of the course material. A weakness would be facilitating class discussions or group work.

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Student: 11

Reason: Major or minor requirement

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Effort: I put in a lot of effort since it was needed in order to do well in this class. The amount of effort you put in, you get back in grades.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course, being an intro, was in general the first I saw many of the concepts used. Ergo, I liked this course a lot thus I grew a large appreciation for the material that was presented.

Intellectual Growth: This course allowed me to learn conceptually since you need to pick which form of way you'd like to solve a problem. I've always had difficulty with this form of learning so this class definitely fostered a learning in my case of the better.

Quality: I thought the professor in this course did a great job. Further, each class was never dull especially with his witty jokes that he presented every now and then. Nevertheless, his teaching style kept me interested and attentive which can't be said for many professors in this institution. I highly recommend any student to go through professor Christensen if they have any interest in stats.

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Student: 12

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put a lot of effort into each of the weekly homework assignments and studying for the tests. I also put a lot of time into reading the textbook to better understand the course material.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course gave me a better understanding of topics such as probability and correlation and how these things can be used to solve real problems.

Intellectual Growth: The course gave me the knowledge necessary to analyze and solve complex problems related to statistics.

Quality: The professor was very organized for each class and clear in his explanations. He was also very open to contributions from the class and good about answering any questions that we might have.

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Student: 13

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put in a decent amount of effort when it came to homework and studying for this class.

Understanding & Appreciation: I hated statistics going into this class but I am leaving loving it more than I thought!

Quality: I thought Professor Christensen is an outstanding professor. He really knew what he was talking about and was very accessible and approachable. Unlike some other professor I felt as though he really wants everyone to succeed in his class.

Overall, 10/10 and I recommended him to all my friends, he is very smart and a really good guy.

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Student: 14

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: Good effort. paid attention in class and did homework diligently

Quality: Prof Christensen is a really good professor. He is nice and funny and explains material well, if not initially, then he will explain well afterwards. Sometimes I feel that there is a slight language barrier that makes him somewhat unclear but this is a minor issue

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Student: 15

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I put a fair amount of effort into the course, completing each homework assignment on time and showing up for every class on time and ready to work. I went to a lot of Professor Christensen's office hours to ask questions about the homework when I did not understand something that we had gone over in class as well as to get help with our semester long project.

Understanding & Appreciation: Prior to taking this course, the statistics that I had learned in high school made me somewhat excited about the prospects of taking a more in-depth statistics class; however, this class has decreased my appreciation and like of the subject matter. I feel as though the way the material was presented to the class was not beneficial. The way I have been taught math in the past has included a lot of class participation in terms of students going up to the board to answer problems or students being asked for help when doing a problem as a class. In this class, Professor Christensen would walk us through problems without asking for input from students. He taught by showing examples but never asked people in the class to become engaged in helping to answer these questions. Often times he would say you just have to take my word that it makes sense to use this formula instead of giving an explanation as to why. I have found in the past that when a student understands why they have to use a certain formula they are more likely to know when doing problems on their own which formula to use and why.

Furthermore, when I went for help in office hours for specific questions he would just inform me how to do them correctly as opposed to helping me to understand the greater concept at hand.

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Intellectual Growth: This course forced me to learn a lot of things online and from the textbook. Because things were explained in such a matter-of-fact way in class, I had to spend a lot of time outside of class figuring out concepts by finding more in-depth explanations online before I was able to do my homework. It was hard to know which concepts I was unsure of because I was not forced to question myself and my knowledge during class so it felt as though I understood a lot more than I actually did.

Quality: I think that the quality of teaching in this course was lacking. I do not believe that the style of teaching as explained in answer to the previous questions was beneficial for the vast majority of students in our class. Had Professor Christensen made this class more interactive as I believe a math class should be, the overall understanding of course material would have been higher. Additionally, the lack of clarity in due dates between the syllabus and what they actually ended up being was to be desired. Many of the writing homework assignments had unclear expectations in terms of what the assignment was actually asking for.

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Student: 16

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementEffort: I would go to office hours if I needed help on assignments and would read the textbook for more examples.Understanding & Appreciation: This course helped show me how statistics works and enjoyed how it incorporated some basic math techniques in as well.Intellectual Growth: I was enlightened in how statistics can be flawed. Professor was good at stressing to us the importance on how the data was gathered and taught us to recognize biases that may influence the supposed findings of a given study.Quality: Professor was open to questions at all times. He always made sure to give a ample amount of time to complete each assignment. He also made sure that many of the examples that we did in class would make it easier to understand problems on the homework and exams.

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Student: 17

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirementReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: I put a lot of effort into doing the homework assignments, taking good notes in class and preparing for the exams.Understanding & Appreciation: This course helped me to understand statistics in a broader way. I liked watching the TEDD Talks about statistics and reading the articles. These helped me to understand how statistics is being discussed and debated about today and why it is an important subject.Intellectual Growth: The course helped me to think about politics and the way voting results are predicted, which came up in my political science course.Quality: I thought Professor Christensen was a very organized and clear teacher. He was very approachable about answering questions during class and always recommended coming to his office hours. The only weakness I would say is I would have liked for him to use moodle a bit more to post the homework assignments, syllabus and other important resources. He posted some things on moodle but not everything and if you left your syllabus or homework assignment in your room and you're working in the library, for example, there wasn't a copy online to refer to as there sometimes is in other classes. Overall, I had a good experience with this teacher and felt that he was interested in the subject and engaging.

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Student: 18

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Reputation of the instructorReason: Interest in the course materialEffort: This course required me to be attentive and focus in every class. Not only did I have to take good notes and participate, I found that Professor Christensen was very accessible right after for any questions I had.Understanding & Appreciation: This course taught me a lot about the foundations of statistics. I feel very comfortable moving onto the next level of statistics if I end up deciding it's a path I wish to take.Intellectual Growth: This course helped me to problem solve and break down complex problems in ways I hadn't known how to before taking this class.Quality: Professor Christensen was an excellent professor who was very good at conveying all of the course material. He was very helpful in reviewing for tests and letting the students know where to look for topics that may be on the test. His homework was always challenging, but he was always there to help with any questions students had.

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Student: 19

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

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Effort: I put a good amount of effort into this course. I did all of the homework and readings and spent significant amount of time studying for both midterms as I will for the final.

Understanding & Appreciation: I would not say this course contributed that much to my appreciation of the course subject. I do understand it more, but I am not passionate about it.

Intellectual Growth: This course was really helpful in learning excel skills. These excel skills are definitely going to be helpful in my future not only at Colgate but after Colgate when I get a job.

Quality: He was effective in writing everything down on the board however sometimes I was confused and his explanations were not that helpful.

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Student: 20

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Effort: I completed the assignments and showed up to class everyday ready to take notes and listen.

Understanding & Appreciation: I am not a big math/science person but taking this class did help me understand some fundamental skill necessities.

Intellectual Growth: Because I don't particularly enjoy the material it was a good challenge to see if I can succeed in something I don't want to be doing.

Quality: I believe the Professor is very skilled in the subject and has a very deep understanding of it. However, it was sometimes easy for him to rush through the materials and dive straight into examples instead of walking us through each and every step.

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Student: 21

Reason: Core or Areas of Inquiry (distribution) requirement

Additional Reason(s): --

Effort: I put a lot of effort into understanding the material in this class, although in general, I would say I had a hard time understanding the material.

Understanding & Appreciation: I feel as though I understood the ways in which statistics can be altered. I also have learned to appreciate the ability of not only my professors, but the people who make the odds + spreads for gambling on sports, or (illegible) the gov't compiling data into meaningful ways

Intellectual Growth: It taught me that even if you try your hardest, you may not succeed. That's okay. All one can do is put the proper amount of effort & follow through.

Quality: I would say that the lectures are good. Some times I can't write the important stuff down b/c he is talking too fast, and while I'm getting, say, a definition for the term, I miss when -why it is used. I think I am not a math person though.

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