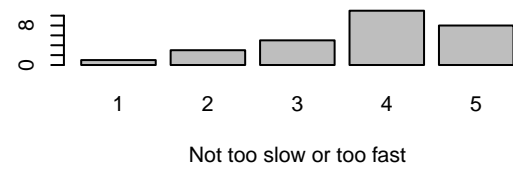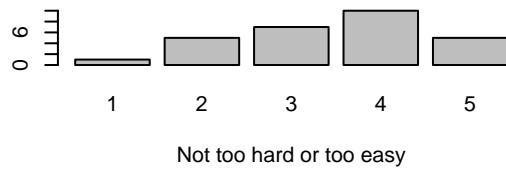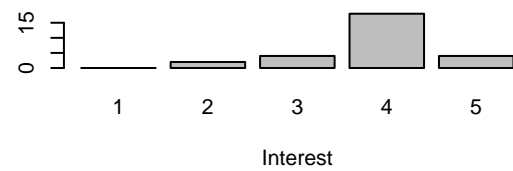# Midsemester Course Evaluation report for 36-617, Fall 2021

Brian Junker

10/20/2021

Here is a summary of your ratings for 36-617. This part looks good!
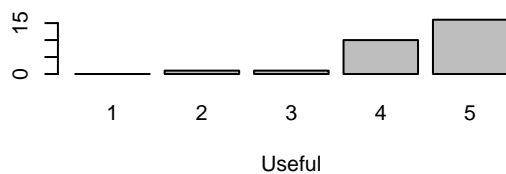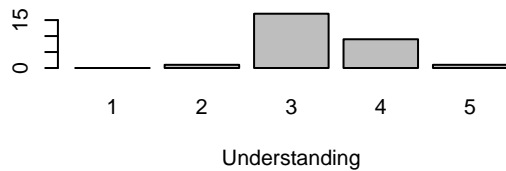
On the next two pages are your comments about the class. I'm happy that you like the teaching and how accessible Lorenzo and I are for answering your questions, etc.

On the other hand, everyone seem horribly overworked! Let's talk about what can get you through the next couple of weeks, and then I will also try to adjust my hw's for the remainder of the semester.

Comments
I enjoy this class but it's really challenging.
I think quizzes are stressful. Sometimes I don't know how to answer the questions even though I read the chapter in detail. Also, lectures sometimes are hard to follow. But recordings are very helpful. HW's are helpful. I can get a lot of practice and check my understanding by doing the HWs.
Lectures and office hours are so helpful. The homeworks are difficult but useful. I generally think the Sheather textbook does a good job.
I think this class is great. I feel like I'm learning very useful and practical things. My only complaint is that some of the assignments take me a long time and it's always over the weekend. I think a Wednesday HW due date could be beneficial.
Instructor is nice and class is well prepared. But the workload is kinda big for me.
For sure will be helpful!
Pros:
I really appreciate your extensive homework solutions!
You're super helpful during office hours, and I think you genuinely want what's best for your students. Obviously linear models isn't my favorite class (not because of you or your teaching), but it definitely helps thsat you are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the subject.
Cons:
HW assignments are quite long and I lose every weekend when I should be resting working on HW. Would be nice to maybe get some hints on quizzes, just because the chapters we read are long and can be hard to understand the first time reading it.
Level of difficulty is just about right. Homework is sometimes quite intensive but still manageable. Love this class and the instructor.
Some stuff has come in really handy in interviews.
The material is straightforward and taught well, but the HW is a lot of work just to write everything down. I hope to cover more topics outside of basic regression, (e.g. causal inference, multilevel models). The theory is very interesting to me so I'd like to see more of it., especially in HW problems. Office hours are also super helpful but I wish there were some more toward the end of the week.
I love the instructor and the TA. They's easy to access and they teach the course materials well. However, I still feel like the homeworks (workload) are a bit heavy since I also need ot spend time on job searching stuff and other classes.
I might be more curious about how these models learnt in class can be applied to real life problems in industry. HWs are kind of a lot to write down and turn in. We need to explain a lot of concepts in homework.
I think HW is too much and we still have to read book for quizzes. Really hope we can reduce HW questions to maybe 1, since you have little questions under each. I spend more than 15h per week to do HW and review. Thank you!

Everything is good.
I would say that I prefer more HW questions rather than working huge data with a lot of variables.
I think the homeworks are a good level of difficulty and help me learn the material, but could be shortened a bit. They often take up my entire weekend to complete. I also think that the quizzes are not super helpful to me because I don't absorb the information from the textbook fast enough to apply it on the quiz.
Lectures are comprehensive and useful to reference after class. HW is reasonable and reflects the material covered in class; however, it can be very time consuming to complete, specifically for mini-papers. Office hours have been very helpful and saved me multiple times, specifically for providing guidance on how to understand methods and applied HW.
I specifically enjoy the interpretation / applicability part of this class, as I feel any of the skills are easily transferrable between an academic and career / professional setting.
Overall, great job. A very enjoyable course!!

Comments
The homework and the workload is slightly too large.
The instructor and TA are really nice.
Overall: Great.
The quizzes are not my favorite thing in the world. I still don't have a good sense of what topics should be covered closely and I often have a lot of questions about the material before it is discussed in class. It's very stressful but I understand their purpose. I also don't know what would make it better.
The homeworks take up a lot of time (10-20 hours) but they are useful. Maybe a little shorter or increase their value. It's sill y to spend a lot of time on something that's worth ~ 20% of grade.
The assignments could include some more things covered in class. One example I can think of is the interactions in the HW06 solutions. I didn't remember about using all of that because it was not part of any previous assignment.
Overall, I'm liking the class/course!
I want the HW's to be more practical.
A lighter workload (less homework) would be great.
The workload is pretty challenging in terms of how many deliverables there are and hoe time consuming the deliverables are.
Less Homework Pls!
The HW costs too much time. Maybe we should do one week less HW and then one week more HW to be given some more time for OA's of companies.
Although the HW assignments are the most challenging out of other courses, I feel like I'm learning a lot (when I look back).
Maybe also learning to use python for practical components could be useful in the future.
I hope we could reduce workload. I understand this is an interesting and useful course, but it just takes too much of my time (over 15 hrs/wk?). Thank you!
This course is really useful for tech interviews, introducing and improving out techniques on tests, models and statistical methods. The homework, however, takse up too much time and sometimes I feel like I'm doing recurring and identical stuff again and again which is not that effective. I hope the homework load is not that heavy in spring semester.
Homeworks are so long. I spend as much time on this class as my other classes combined, in an average week.
The 2 score on the front is mainly lack of understanding of some of the theory (max likelihood for different things, etc.). I think I understand the applications mostly.
The 3 in enjoyment is lowered by the amount of work. I like the subject.
Office hours for this class are the best. Brian is incredibly helpful.
Could we include more simulations here and there? The topics covered are highly conceptual and it would be nice to see how these plots respond to changes in the data. Just trying to build stronger intuition.
Instructor is helpful and supportive. Class is enjoyable.