



University of Connecticut

Student Evaluation of Teaching Spring 2014

Individual Report for MATH-3170-001-STORR-Elem Stochastic Proc

Instructor: **Joe Chen** (SET Primary Instructor)

Response Table

Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET)	
Raters	students
Responded	31
Invited	39
Response Ratio	79%

Section 1. Summary

Please respond to the following question about instructor Joe Chen.

Question	Course	Department	University	School
	Median	Median	Median	Median
The instructor presented the course material clearly.	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.5
The instructor was well prepared for class.	5.0	4.4	4.6	4.6
The instructor responded to questions adequately.	5.0	4.3	4.6	4.6
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	5.0	4.1	4.4	4.5
The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.7
The instructor gave clear assignments.	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.5
The instructor was accessible to students.	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.6
The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.	5.0	4.1	4.4	4.4
The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.	5.0	4.6	4.5	4.5
The instructor used class time effectively.	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.5
The instructor treated all students with respect.	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.8
The instructor graded fairly.	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.6
The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.	5.0	4.2	4.5	4.5

What is your overall rating of Joe Chen's teaching?

Question	Course	Department	University	School
	Median	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	5.0	3.9	4.1	4.2

Please respond to the following question about the course.

Question	Course	Department	University	School
	Median	Median	Median	Median
The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4
The course content was well organized.	5.0	4.3	4.4	4.5
The course objectives were clear.	5.0	4.2	4.5	4.5
The course objectives were met.	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.5
The textbook made a valuable contribution.	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2
The other course materials made a valuable contribution.	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.4
The pace of the course seemed appropriate.	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.4

What is your overall rating of the course?

Question	Course	Department	University	School
	Median	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the course?	4.0	3.5	3.9	3.9

Section 2. Student Information

What is your Academic Level?

Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	1	3%
Sophomore	2	6%
Junior	6	19%
Senior	12	39%
Graduate	8	26%
Other	2	6%

What is your expected grade in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
A	20	65%
B	9	29%
C	1	3%
D	0	0%
F	0	0%
Pass	1	3%
Fail	0	0%
Other	0	0%

What is your cumulative average (GPA)?

Options	Count	Percentage
3.5 and above	15	56%
3.0-3.4	10	37%
2.5-2.9	2	7%
2.0-2.4	0	0%
< 2.0	0	0%

How many times did you miss this class?

Options	Count	Percentage
0-2	17	55%
3-4	9	29%
5-6	3	10%
> 6	2	6%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

On average, how many hours a week did you spend outside of class preparing for this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
0	0	0%
1-3	3	10%
4-6	19	63%
7-9	4	13%
10-14	3	10%
15+	1	3%

Which best describes this course for you?

Options	Count	Percentage
Requirement for my major	6	20%
General Education Requirement	1	3%
Other Requirement	7	23%
Elective	6	20%
Elective for major	10	33%

My desire to take this course was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	4	13%
More than most courses	14	47%
About the same as most courses	8	27%
Less than most courses	4	13%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

For me, the level of difficulty of the course content was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	7	23%
More than most courses	14	47%
About the same as most courses	6	20%
Less than most courses	3	10%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

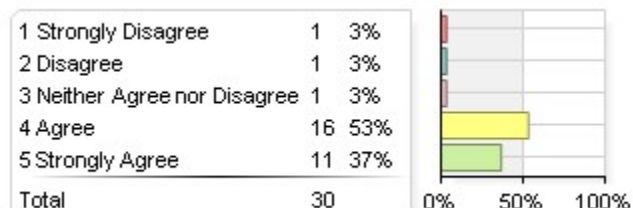
Overall, how much do you feel you've learned in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	5	17%
More than most courses	11	37%
About the same as most courses	13	43%
Less than most courses	1	3%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

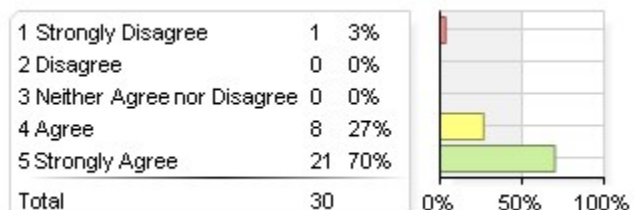
Section 3. Questions About the Instructor

Please respond to the following question about instructor Joe Chen.

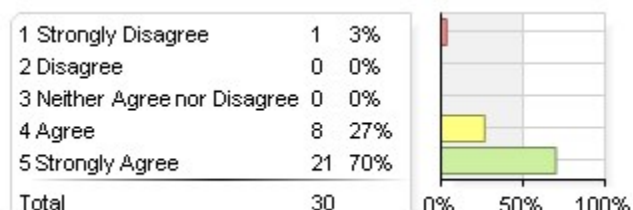
1. The instructor presented the course material clearly.



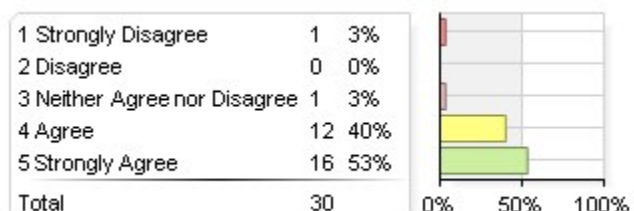
2. The instructor was well prepared for class.



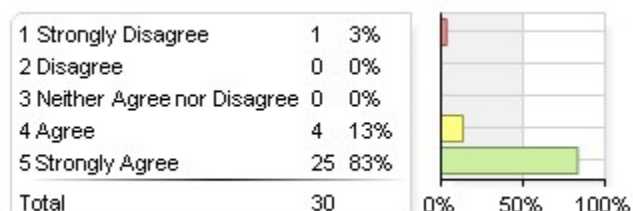
3. The instructor responded to questions adequately.



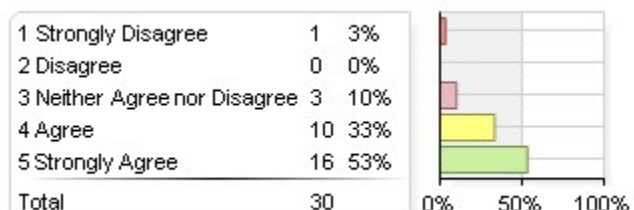
4. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.



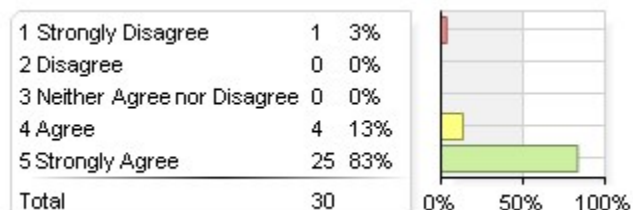
5. The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.



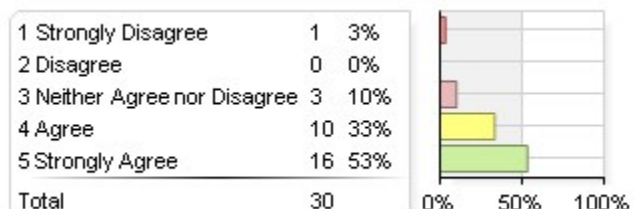
6. The instructor gave clear assignments.



7. The instructor was accessible to students.

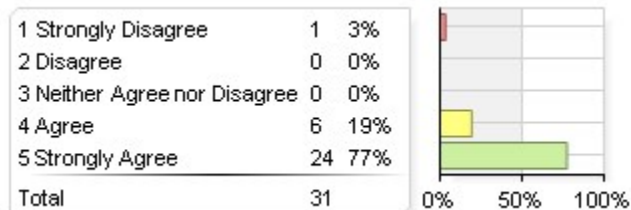


8. The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.

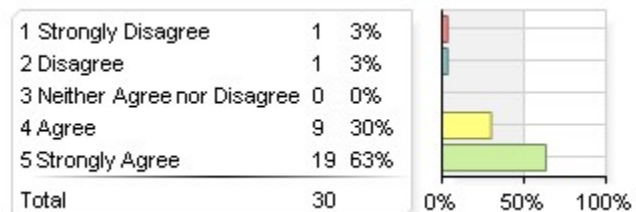


Please respond to the following question about instructor Joe Chen. (continued)

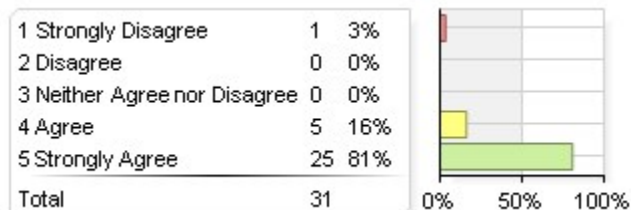
9. The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.



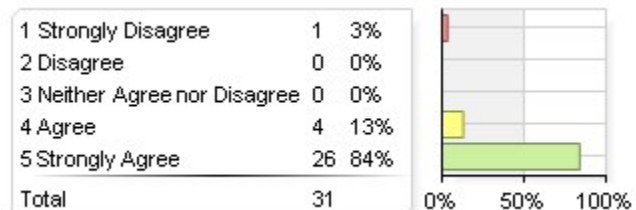
10. The instructor used class time effectively.



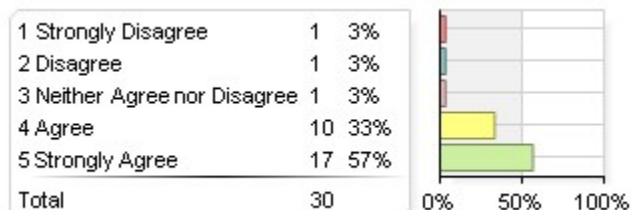
11. The instructor treated all students with respect.



12. The instructor graded fairly.



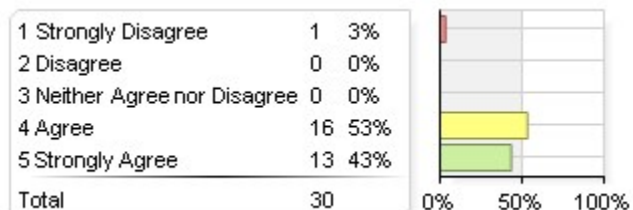
13. The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.



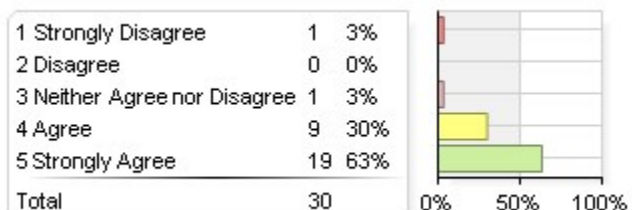
Section 4. Questions About the Course

Please respond to the following question about the course.

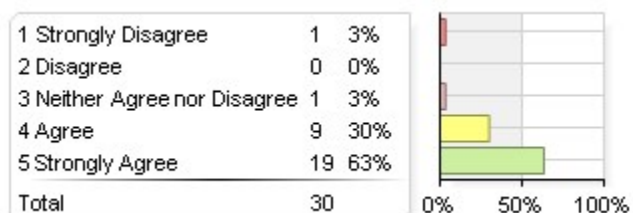
1. The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.



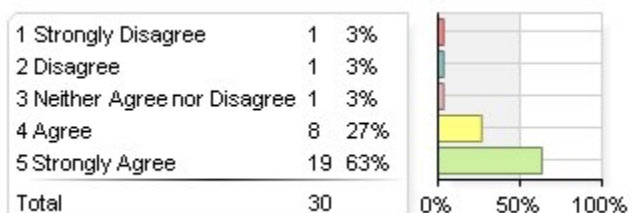
2. The course content was well organized.



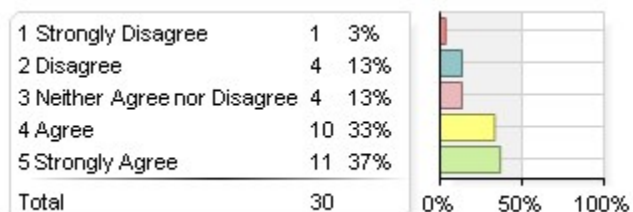
3. The course objectives were clear.



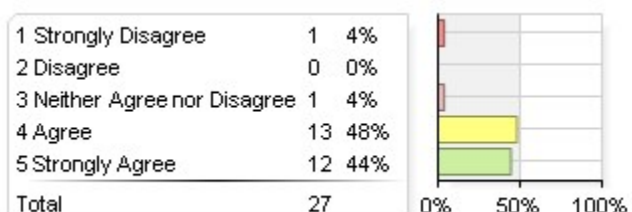
4. The course objectives were met.



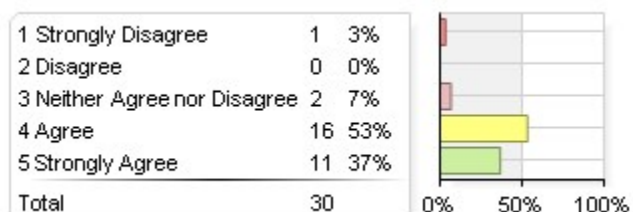
5. The textbook made a valuable contribution.



6. The other course materials made a valuable contribution.



7. The pace of the course seemed appropriate.

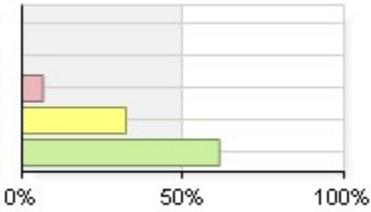


Section 5. Aggregate Report on "Overall Questions"

Overall Rating

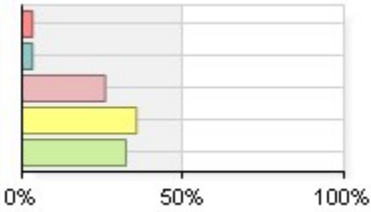
1. What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?

1 Poor	0	0%
2 Fair	0	0%
3 Good	2	6%
4 Very Good	10	32%
5 Excellent	19	61%
Total	31	



2. What is your overall rating of the course?

1 Poor	1	3%
2 Fair	1	3%
3 Good	8	26%
4 Very Good	11	35%
5 Excellent	10	32%
Total	31	



Overall Rating

Question	Good, Very Good & Excellent	Very Good & Excellent	Excellent
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	100%	94%	61%
What is your overall rating of the course?	94%	68%	32%

Section 6. Comments

What was the most positive aspect of the way in which this instructor taught this course?

Comment
He was very clear in expected outcomes and objectives
I appreciated how open and sociable Prof. Chen was this semester, especially with the use of Piazza to clear up confusions with the homework.
Lots of enthusiasm. Professor Chen is very knowledgeable about Probability and Stochastic Processes.
Made the class interesting and tried to entertain the student so it kept the class unexpected in a good way
The take home exams were helpful in that we were able to be tested on our knowledge of the material without intimidation of a ticking clock. I thought overall the professors actions promoted learning and interest in the class topics. He realized that his audience is mainly math majors and those interested in more advanced probability models and played upon the interest in the class and rewarded those who remained engaged.
Fun exam questions
Instructor showed great enthusiasm for the topic of the course and seemed to really care about making the course interesting and relevant.
Piazza was very helpful. He responded to questions very quickly and was available during office hours.
He worked hard to apply our learning to the real world.
Prof. Chen talked some small jokes or stories regarding to the topics of the course, which made such a theoretic course very interesting. Also, he proposed to have lunch at a restaurant to do a very interesting research. By "interesting", I mean it is full of fun. The research is not about money, not about efficiency, and nothing meaningful, but that is the key for fun. (We actually went there to count the frequency of saying "hello" by waiter).
Piazza was an effective way to collaborate and learn the material in more in depth way. The take-home exams I felt helped me learn more because the questions were able to be more challenging or allow the use of notes and computational tools to answers the questions with more detail and more insight.
Very clear lecturing.
The instructor can make complicate contents easy to understand.
Using interesting real-world applications stimulated my learning and also aided in understanding what I was doing with all of these numbers and symbols
Professor Chen is very smart and engaging. His lectures keep students interested.
He was very accessible and willing to meet with students to help.
connecting course material with real life applications
Very willing to help students learn the material.
Engaging

What can this instructor do to improve teaching effectiveness in the classroom?

Comment
He is doing the best he can
The pacing of the course felt odd with how chapter 1 took up so much time in the course where as later chapters only took about a week or so. Maybe it's just that there was so much material to go over in chapter 1, but it feels like some of the later material was just glossed over, especially Brownian motion.
Sometimes I felt that we spent a little too much time on proofs. Oftentimes although the proof would be nice to know, the idea is very straightforward and I'm sure that almost everyone in the class would agree with the theorem being stated. It may be more helpful in these situations to spend more time going through real-world problems that make use of these theorems so that when we get to homework problems we don't start out very confused.

The only criticism would be the handwriting and speed. I usually take 2/3 pages of notes per class period so sometimes it's hard to keep up with the notes but overall the professor excelled in the classroom

Less wiener talk; make homework worth 3%

I wish the instructor had placed greater emphasis on concrete application examples instead of going through lengthy proofs. At least, I wish the instructor had more consistently related proofs to the underlying intuitive aspect behind the proof. Quite a few of the homework problems ended up being too difficult to solve without a substantial amount of direct guidance from the instructor. I think it would help if more problems were slightly more computational in nature. It also would have helped if the book had more examples of that kind.

I actually liked the one class that was recorded and posted to piazza because I could listen to it on my own time.

More examples done fully out would be very helpful rather than going over proofs

He did an excellent job. I really have no idea how better he can be.

More examples in certain sections of the course such as poisson processes.

ummm do more examples probably would be better.

Move faster

Nothing. I think it was done perfectly. Textbook could be better but it's free so no real complaints

I think more concrete examples would have been helpful. Some examples were rather abstract and did not help as much as they could have in terms of understanding homework assignments.

n/a

n/a

n/a

Better book

Please write any comments you have about the course or course materials.

Comment

Amazing use of Piazza. I wish every class was like this. The textbook was sometimes hard to follow, but since this is a higher level math class, it is understandable.

I thought the textbook was quite useful and I really like how the professor didn't deviate too much from the text. There were some concepts with which I struggled so being able to have the text as a secondary learning resource was very beneficial.

The book did not have as many examples as I would like but it was also free which was acceptable.

It was nice that the book was free.

The course requires a solid background in Probability. Although I learned Probability, still feel it is not a easy course. However, since it develops many realistic models, almost every question in this class towards solving a real-world problem, I think this course is very useful, interesting and full of fun.

don't like the proofs very much.

The textbook wasn't great. Too many errors and confusing questions. Also discrete time Markov chains were covered in too much detail, not allowing enough time for more complicated topics.

It is much more abstract than I originally thought and very different from probability.

n/a

For courses with laboratory and/or discussion sections: were the laboratory/discussion sections helpful to your learning?

Comment

N/a

yes.

Name up to 3 of your favorite topics in this course.

Comment
discrete markov chain
I don't like any of the topics, I took it as a requirement for my minor
Transition matrices and stationary distributions. Very useful stuff to know.
Markov chains Jump Diagrams with hitting and exit times Financial math and stocks
Susan Bike rides Field trip
markov chains,poisson processes
Financial Math
Compound Markov Chain Stationary distribution Martingale (because it seems close to Martini)
Martingales, Poisson process, and binomial model for finance
Markov chain and stock pricing.
Discrete-time Markov Chain.
@ThanksSusan (poisson processes in general) Markov Chains, though Discrete more so Financial Applications
Queuing, renewal processes, martingales
Topics using real numbers rather than abstract concepts
everything
Brownian motion

Name up to 3 of your least favorite topics in this course.

Comment
Refer to above question
Martingales felt rushed for a topic that is harder to understand.
Brownian motion Queueing model Poisson model
Wiener jokes
martingales, reflection principle
Brownian motion
Compound Markov Chain Stationary distribution Anything related to Matrix
Martingale.
Brownian process.
Brownian Motion Martingales ?
Continuous time Markov chains, Too much about DTMCs,

Abstract Topics

n/a

If you are to give (constructive) advice to future students of MATH 3170, what would be your advice?

Comment

know probability well and like it

Make sure that you do every homework assignment well in advance and don't be afraid to ask for advice on these problems from peers or your instructor.

ATTEND CLASS! The material builds upon itself so you need to go to class in order to understand the later topics

Make sure to review Math 3160 before taking the course.

Do the homework on time every week. If you don't understand a problem have someone else show you how to do it. Try them yourself first.

Dedicate a ton of time to the class and ask plenty of questions

Personally, I feel this is a very challenge course, but the professor is the best I have every met. If you have interest in Probability, you should take this course.

write less and listen more in the class.

Read the textbook carefully, then you should know how to do the homework assignments.

Pay very close attention in class and do the homework diligently. Utilize office hours.

Get help with homework problems early in the week if you are confused.

If you put the effort and time in you can do well.

have a very good background in MATH 3160 before taking this course

If you don't understand the material then go to office hours.

Write all thoughts down for homework it makes homework easier.