POL 346: Applied Quantitative Analysis - L01 - O. Wasow

Response Table

Raters	Students
Responded	64
Invited	73
Response Ratio	88%

Please note that the Responded, Invited (Enrollment) and Response Ratio metrics exclude declines.

Department, division and career level statistics are survey-specific (i.e. the main survey, FRS, Writing Program, and graduate program surveys). Statistics below are based on responses of the course population that completed the same survey questionnaire as this course.
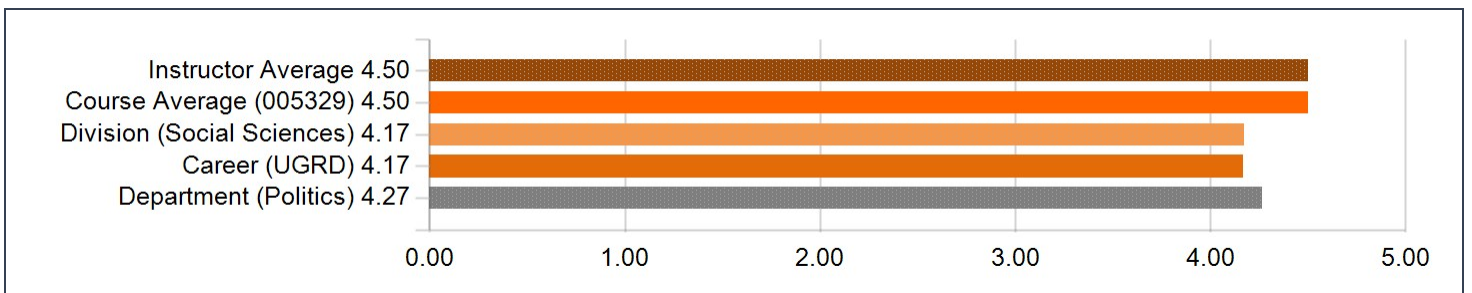
Course Questions - Score Analysis
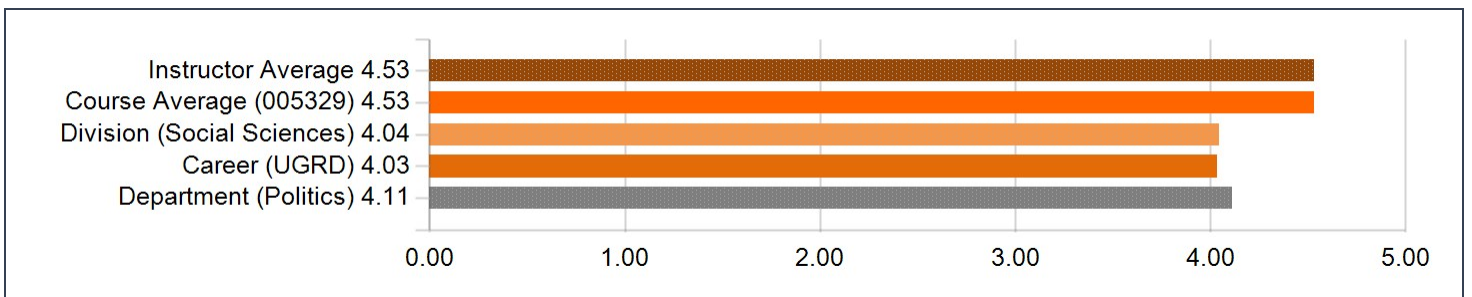
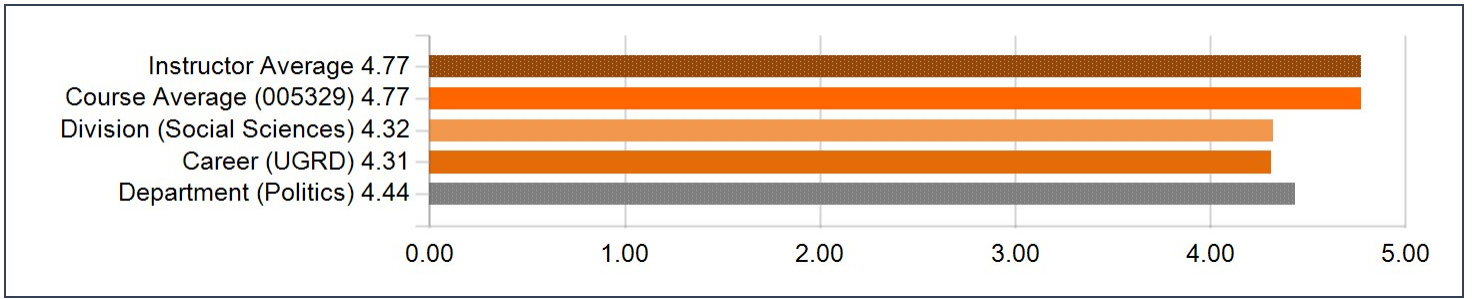**I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:**

I think that the overall quality of the readings was:
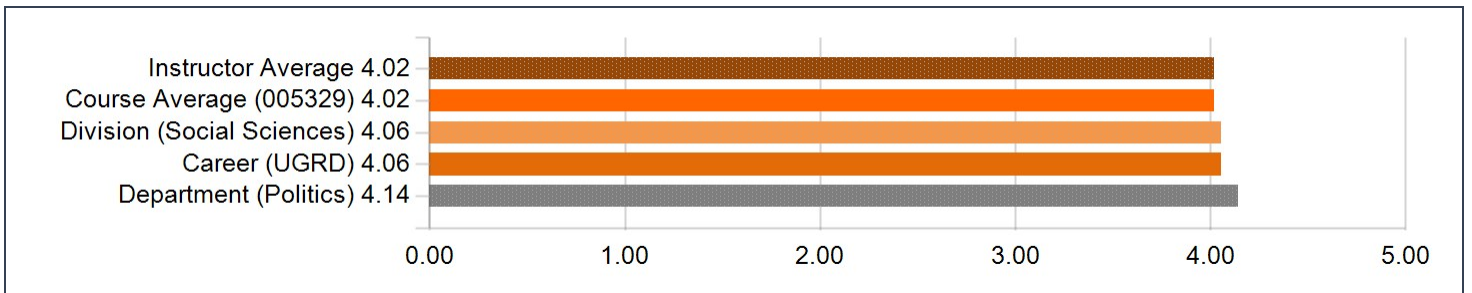
I think that the overall quality of the course was:

Would you recommend this course to other students?

Category	Score
Instructor Average	4.77
Course Average (005329)	4.77
Division (Social Sciences)	4.32
Career (UGRD)	4.31
Department (Politics)	4.44

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the lectures was:

Category	Score
Instructor Average	4.49
Course Average (005329)	4.49
Division (Social Sciences)	4.13
Career (UGRD)	4.10
Department (Politics)	4.33
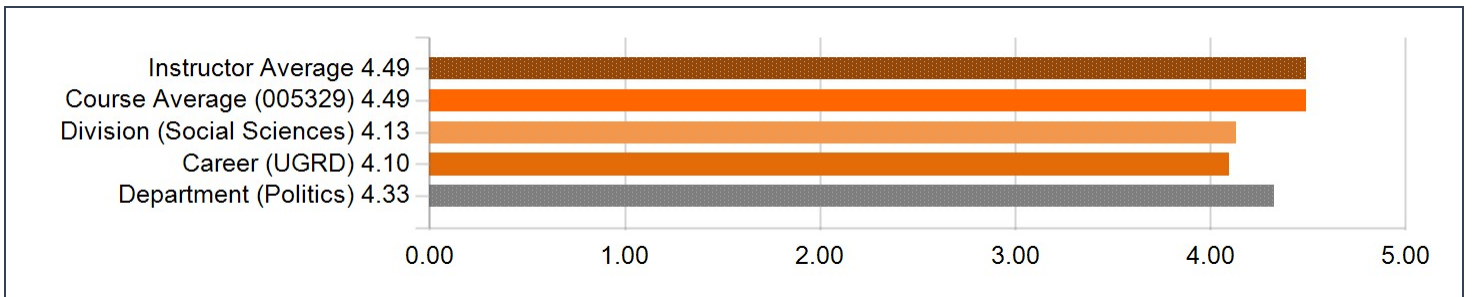
Course Questions - Frequency Analysis

Class year
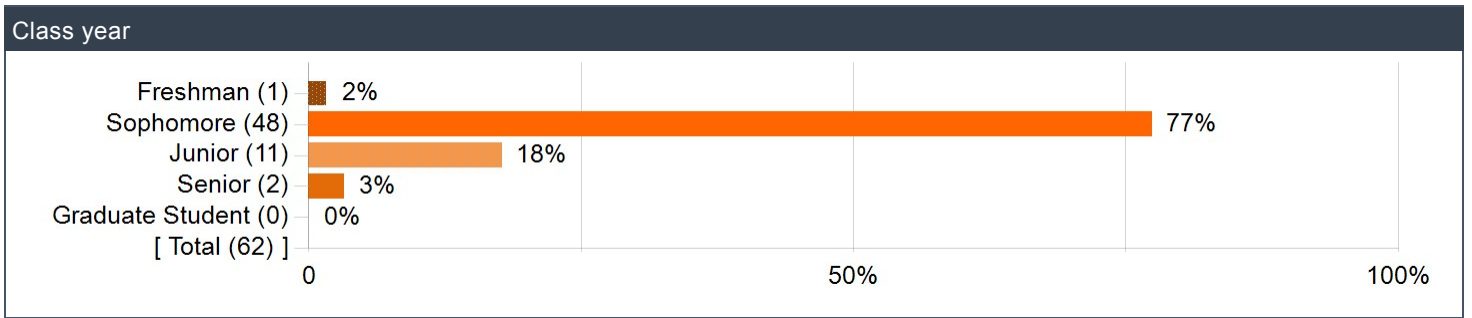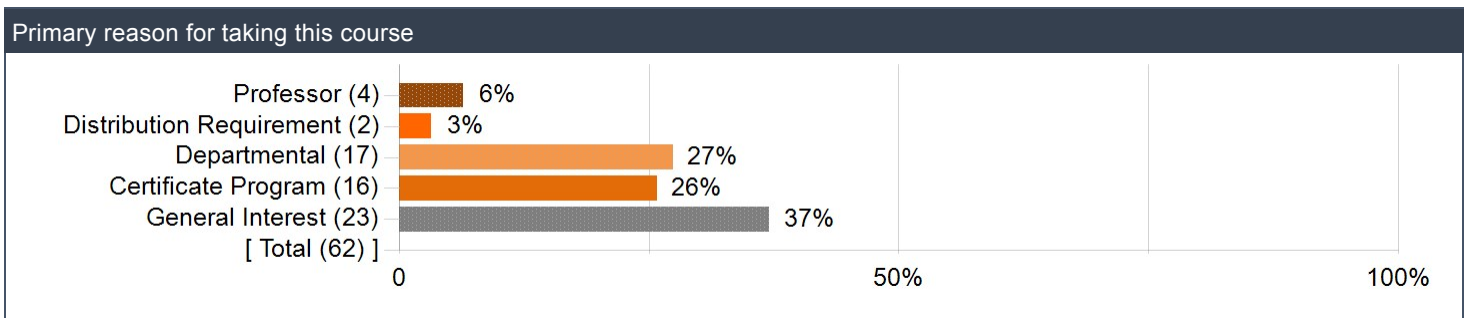
Class year	
Freshman (1)	2%
Sophomore (48)	77%
Junior (11)	18%
Senior (2)	3%
Graduate Student (0)	0%
[Total (62)]	

Primary reason for taking this course

Primary reason for taking this course	
Professor (4)	6%
Distribution Requirement (2)	3%
Departmental (17)	27%
Certificate Program (16)	26%
General Interest (23)	37%
[Total (62)]	

Percentage of classes you have attended

Percentage of classes you have attended	
< 20% (1)	2%
20-40% (0)	0%
40-60% (5)	8%
60-80% (9)	15%
80-100% (47)	76%
[Total (62)]	

Expected grade

Expected grade	
A (46)	79%
B (5)	9%
C (0)	0%
D (0)	0%
F (0)	0%
P (7)	12%
[Total (58)]	
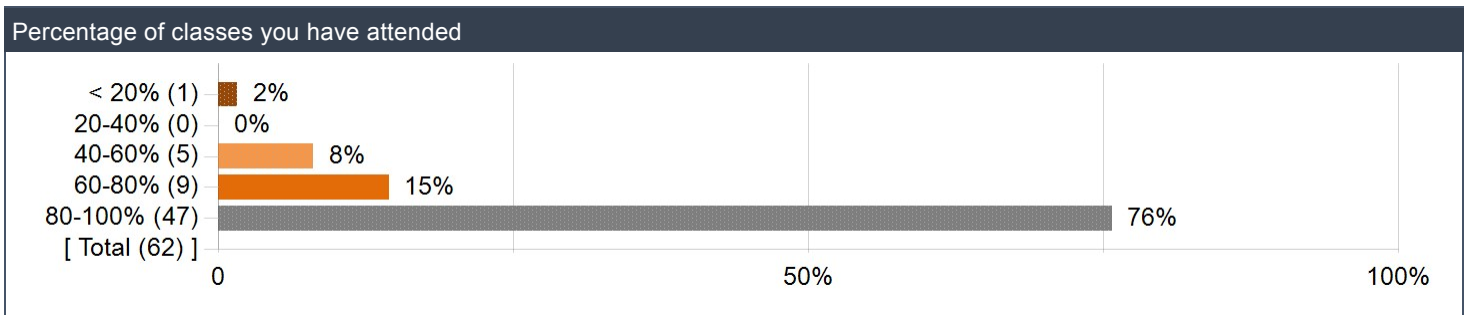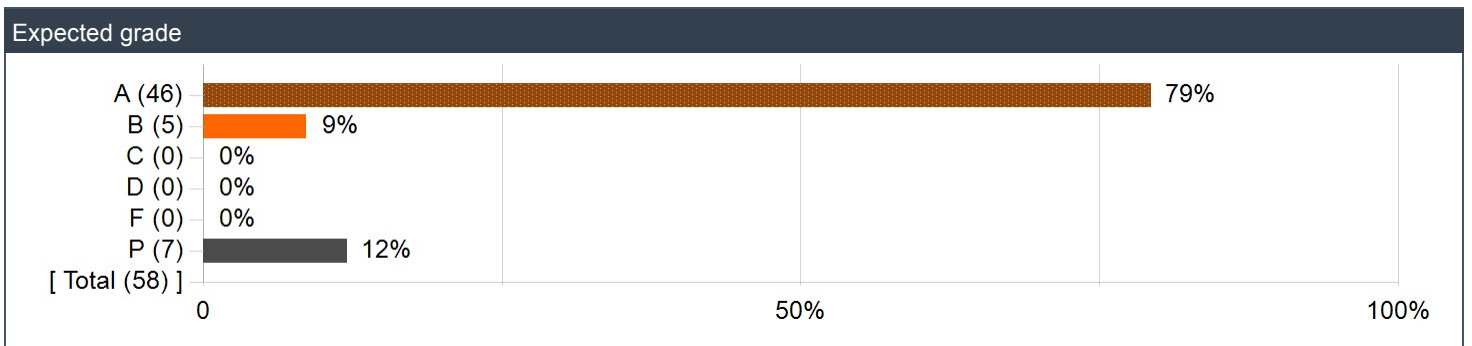
I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:

I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	39	63%
Very Good	4	18	29%
Good	3	4	6%
Fair	2	1	2%
Poor	1	0	0%

I think that the overall quality of the readings was:

I think that the overall quality of the readings was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	22	39%
Very Good	4	14	25%
Good	3	19	34%
Fair	2	1	2%
Poor	1	0	0%

I think that the overall quality of the course was:

I think that the overall quality of the course was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	36	58%
Very Good	4	21	34%
Good	3	5	8%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Would you recommend this course to other students?

Would you recommend this course to other students?			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Recommend	5	48	77%
Recommend	4	14	23%
Neutral	3	0	0%
Recommend Against	2	0	0%
Strongly Recommend Against	1	0	0%

Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the lectures was:

I think that the overall quality of the lectures was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	37	61%
Very Good	4	17	28%
Good	3	7	11%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Qualitative Feedback

Self-Evaluation - Why did you take this course? How would you describe your level of engagement in the course?

Comments
Thought it would be useful. Give practical skills that would be helpful for independent work + future work (data analytics, statistics, etc.) moderate level of engagement
Interest in furthering my knowledge of statistics. I would say I was fairly engaged, but did not do nearly enough of the readings — that being said, I spent many, many hours on this course per week
Prog Wasow made the material super engaging. I really enjoyed this class, and felt that I took a lot from it
I am very interested in statistics. I attended every lecture and put in a lot of effort in this class.
Very good class.
To fulfill Econ stats requirement and SML certificate. highly engaged
I was very engaged – went to class and office hours often.
I took this course to learn more practical programming skills in R
Wanted to get more experience coding/working with data for jobs and independent research
I really liked POL345 and everyone spoke so highly of Professor Wasow and this course
Was interested in learning more about quantitative analysis and statistics.
I took this course along with POL345 to satisfy Econ prerequisite. I was moderately engaged in the course. I didn't do any of the data camps which made my grade suffer, but I followed along with class well enough.
I was very engaged in the course and put a lot of effort into all coursework.
Took for SML certificate and wanted to improve my statistics understanding.
I took this course to better my coding skills and prepare me for independent work
I was engaged through all the course.
I took this course because of the wonderful things I heard from Professor Wasow's former students and because in POL345 I felt like there were a lot of gaps in terms of application. I wanted something to bring it all together and generally just to take a moment to learn about something that I knew little about.
I took this course because I was interested in gaining a deeper knowledge of statistics. I was engaged the whole time. Omar is an excellent lecturer.
I really enjoyed POL345, so I decided to continue taking stats!
I wanted to take this course because I was super interested in stats after POL345, and it was the logical progression.
I was really involved in the beginning but after we went home for Covid it was harder to stay engaged
out of interest and for the quant pol track, I was quite engaged with the course
I was initially interested in pursuing the SML certificate, though I have decided against that due to the focus on machine learning. I really enjoyed this course, however.
Really enjoyed POL 345 and stats in general so this was the natural next step. I didn't attend all the lectures but felt I engaged well with the material in precepts and through the course website.
I enjoyed POL345 and wanted to learn more about statistics and get experience with R. I engaged with this course probably the most of my classes this semester.
I wanted to solidify what I had learned in POL 345, I think expanding my data science abilities is imperative, and I heard the professor was stellar.
Took POL345 and loved it, wanted to continue. Did not always go to lecture, but always read the textbook and did all the assignments.
I took this course out of interest as well as to fulfill a class requirement for the SML certificate.
I took this course because I enjoyed POL 345 and wanted to learn more. I am also planning on obtaining a certificate in Statistics and Machine Learning.
I took this course out of an interest in further exploring statistics and because I wanted to take another course with Prof. Wasow after having an amazing experience with his freshman seminar. I tried to stay engaged with the course throughout but wish I had been more active on Piazza.

Comments
I took this course out of an interest in stats. I would say that I was highly engaged.
I took this course to continue after POL 345 and because I thought it would be relevant as a Woody Woo major (even though it isn't required)
I am interested in the SML certificate.
I took it because I enjoyed POL 345 and even though I'm a history major I thought having good R/stats skills would be really marketable/just a good skill to have in general.

Lectures - How would you describe the overall quality of the lectures? Please comment, as appropriate, on how well the instructor presented the subject matter, stimulated your intellectual curiosity and independent thinking, and contributed to your knowledge of the subject matter.

Comments
was sometimes difficult to follow in lecture
Fantastic! Professor Omar is an incredibly engaging lecturer and managed to make an often tedious subject understandable, especially during one–on–one conversations. His enthusiasm for the subject made me more interested in the class and more ready to learn!
The lectures were fantastic (although definitely better in person)– I didn't think I'd ever find stats this engaging
Professor Wasow is incredibly passionate about the material he is teaching. I liked that lectures were somewhat interactive (he asked questions for us to answer throughout the lecture). Sometimes, he didn't answer the students' questions super clearly, but I think that is a function of him being so much more knowledgeable than we are, so it was hard for him to think at such a simplistic level.
Lectures were good
Prof. Wasow was so awesome and was able to always get me engaged intellectually in lecture. I'm gonna miss his class. I learned so much.
I learned a lot from this class! Thank you for your support. I know that not only the skills but also the mindset I developed are going to help me a lot in the future.
Professor Wasow is an excellent, engaging lecturer
Great lectures! Surprisingly interested. Wasow did a great job of being engaging while presenting stuff super clearly.
Professor Wasow is a really engaging and passionate lecturer. He did a great job of truly explaining the concepts and mechanisms at play. Some lectures felt repetitive but some felt confusing, so I guess there was a good balance. If the material was ever repetitive, it definitely helped to clarify / drive home the concepts. I also appreciated that he tied in a bit of coding into lecture.
The lecture slides were incredibly helpful, as was the pol 346 website. Prof. Wasow is an engaging lecturer.
Lectures were informative but honestly not always that engaging and didn't always get me super interested in the content.
Lecture were good but they didn't translate directly to the workload in my opinion. But, lectures were that extra 10–15%. Especially in the distanced learning environment, I didn't feel that I had to go to lectures, I could just look at the slides after to see what I needed.
I always felt like I came out of lecture with a good grasp of the material. I also appreciated the incorporation of R code into the lecture slides to help us learn R in addition to the statistical concepts. Professor Wasow's passion for the subject was clear, which made lecture exciting and engaging. I also liked that it was highly participatory despite the size of the class. I sometimes thought that the pace could have been faster.
Really good lectures, moved relatively fast though so going online was actually helpful because you could pause.
The lectures were amazing. Prof. Wasow lived up to all the expectations!
Loved the lecturer, he can be a little hard to follow at time because he talks fast! But, other than that he is great and knowledgeable. He brings a lot of relevant material to class.
I personally loved how the professor ran the class. The amount of energy and passion he brings to every single lecture transfers to his students. I love learning from people who show their passion like this because it makes me equally excited for the learning experience.
Lectures were excellent. Omar did an amazing job. The material was all very interesting and presented in a novel way
The lectures are literally incredible, and Prof. Wasow is one of the clearest lecturers I've ever had at Princeton. Sometimes, he does go off on a tangent in class, but he really does a great job explaining the concepts. I finally understand what a p–value actually is!
I did not really attend lecture.
Was was a really great professor

Comments
I thought the lectures were really good, at times because of the subject matter they got a little dry but I kinda think that's unavoidable
The professor did a great job at combining both practical applications of the problems that we faced, while also deeply covering theoretical and practical components of statistics.
Omar is a great lecturer! He's very engaging plus the visuals in class are very helpful to understanding statistical concepts
Professor Wasow is a brilliant lecturer – he does an excellent job in engaging the class, making the topics easy to follow while providing ample opportunity for enrichment, and encourages statistical thinking and a broader appreciation for the field.
Lectures were always compelling and interesting, which is saying a lot because I've taken many statistics classes and I know that statistics can feel really boring. But Professor Wasow always grounded his lectures in real life, you always understood what the purpose of the information you were learning was, and how certain statistical techniques could be used, what were their flaws, etc. Professor Wasow is one of the best professors I have ever had, and he is also a wonderful human being. He is always very kind in his interactions with students, and very transparent and prompt in all his communications with the class. His enthusiasm for statistics as a way of thinking is inspirational.
The lectures were well organized, building off of each other. Prof. Wasow anchored the concepts and coding in comprehensible studies from the textbook with real–world relevance. Sometimes, understandably, he was a bit too indulgent in questions.
Omar is great.
Although Professor Wasow is a very energetic and engaging lecturer, I did find the lectures to be somewhat chaotic and hard to follow because we would go off on tnagents for a while or bounce between slides without discussing how they were related. At times, this made it difficult to fully grasp the material.
Th lectures were great. I felt as if the information was presented clearly, and if it wasn't then usually the precepts and problem sets made the information clear.
I appreciated Prof. Wasow's style of breaking down concepts into manageable pieces, as well as his responsiveness to student questions and feedback. I also thought that the shorter video lectures were a great compromise / addition in light of remote instruction and I would ask that they be kept in the case of future distance learning scenarios.
Lectures could by dry at times, but Professor Wasow is an amazing professor. He will always answer any of your questions.
The lectures were solid, although I personally just had a hard time staying focused and paying attention. I think Prof. Wasow made them as interesting as possible, but stats is kind of a dry subject to lecture on
Decent. Professor Wasow's lectures were sometimes difficult to follow and not always necessary or helpful for the problem sets.
I LOVE Prof. Wasow. He is incredible. Makes lectures so so captivating and really makes you feel like he cares about you as a human being. That last lecture of the semester, man. Had be near tears. Hint hint, please give him tenure. He's amazing.

Papers, Reports, Problem Sets, Examinations, Critiques - Please comment on the guidance of the instructor(s) in preparing you to do written work, comments in response to written work, and the overall value of the papers, reports, exams, problem sets, and critiques to the course.

Comments
sometimes problem sets felt very long and tedious and it was never clear how much i learned from then since it relied on so much searching and googling. felt like i didn't always know what to search or where to get relevant code and once i found the relevant code it would be more of a passive usage of it
Couldn't be better — we were so thoroughly supported by the professor + preceptors and while the work was really challenging, I never felt like I couldn't ask for help when needed.
Good, group projects weren't as bad as I though they'd be
Definitely very fair. I haven't taken the exam yet so can't comment on that. It's nice to be able to do the reports in groups, but also nice to have the option to do it alone.
instructors did a great job preparing us for reports. I always felt like the necessary resources were available
PSETS were sometimes ridiculously long (with DataCamp added, which a lot of us hated to do). It would be more bearable if there was no DataCamp, it just didn't help many of us.
Reports were generally fine but expectations with grading weren't always clear or consistent.
There was always a lot of help offered for assignments, both through office hours, piazza, or individual sessions with preceptors. The staff were extremely willing to help. Professor Wasow would answer Piazza questions almost immediately at any time of day.
Problem sets were incredibly hard and time consuming and should be counted more in the grade. I found datacamp not always helpful.
Reports and psets were really well structured and really central to learning/applying all the concepts from the class, enjoyed doing them. Feedback on them was useful as well.

Comments

PSETS and reports especially were the most important part of this class. They made me feel as if I had accomplished something.

The assignments were very well designed for building our independent abilities of statistical analysis. Reports were obviously the best example of this. Problem sets were also useful in that they both emphasized concepts and coding skills, even if they were sometimes too repetitive. I thought the Datacamp assignments were a little too time consuming, and I found that the later chapters we did on Datacamp were way more useful for assignments than the earlier ones, so maybe emphasize the later ones more and spread them out? Also, piazza was a really good way to deal with coding difficulties that came up.

Very good, all preceptors and professors are super responsive on Piazza which was really helpful.

The problem sets were difficult, but office hours and piazza were fantastic sources of help

The problem sets were important for the class but I felt a little redundant or perhaps just too many. It got to be a lot! towards the end of the semester.

Instructors were always very willing to assist on exams and problems sets in any way the ycould

Professor Wasow is so so so responsive to emails and Piazza posts (sometimes, almost surprisingly quickly). His guidance and support really made completing the reports much easier.

Definitely a fair amount of work that allowed us to learn a lot– psets and reports definitely were fair and useful ways to explore the material.

Psets were very hard most of the time. The DataCamp assignments were unbearable. They took a really long time. They were very boring. I felt like Datacamp also assumes a lot of prior knowledge for harder material, so a lot of the time I felt lost while doing it, ending up barely learning anything. Plus, if there was something useful from data camp that I might have wanted to use later, it was really hard to go back and find it

I think the psets were actually really helpful in getting a hand of all the techniques. However, data camp sometimes felt purposeless as it mostly didn't really help, except for the things that weren't really covered otherwise like more in–depth ggplot etc. I think the reports were a really cool and good way to learn the material and put it to actual use that made it feel like we were really doing something purposeful. However, having to do the final right after report 4, which was basically the same thing, was kinda really annoying, I would've rather just had three reports

The problem sets were valuable. All homework gave us an opportunity to practice and apply the skills we learned in class

Problem sets were kind of helpful, but the reports were probably most helpful! I'm a QAPS student and I did them alongside my JP. They definitely helped me write my Data/Methods section.

All the assessed work was accessible enough and did well to incrementally introduce and assess material. They became longer and more complex as the semester went on but the pace was managed well and it's rewarding to have made that progression.

The problem sets were at times unclear or failed to specify or provide the data needed to complete the assignment.

Psets and reports each helped develop understanding of statistics and R in similar but different ways. Both were so so useful to understand both how to use R and what the things we were doing meant– the statistical interpretations. Psets were great for frequent practice and learning new skills. Datacamp was very useful. Reports were great for learning collaboration with randomly assigned classmates and doing real–life (ish) research. Great practice for JPs and Theses.

We were exceptionally prepared to tackle the frequent, demanding, yet rewarding problem sets by lecture, sample code, and office hours. A lot of the learning in this course took place in the problem sets and reports (which makes sense to operationalize coding techniques), and in the reports we were allowed to craft our own experiments.

Appropriate amount of feedback, problem sets are helpful.

The problem sets and reports were very fair and the support we received to complete them was of the highest quality. I definitely prepared to do the assignments and they were very helpful in terms of learning how to apply class concepts.

The professors and preceptors were fabulous in this course and were always willing to help either in person or over piazza.

I very much appreciated that we had problem sets to do every week (not something I thought I would ever think!) because the consistent feedback on my work and practice with repeated tasks were both so helpful. I do wonder if precept handouts could be made to feel more relevant; I could definitely tell they were imparting useful information, but I sometimes found myself less engaged with them than I wanted to be because they seemed detached from other material.

The reports throughout the class were perfect. I feel like I truly know how to conduct my own analysis of a dataset now, which is what I wanted out of this class. It truly prepares you for future independent work.

The weekly problem sets were great and definitely necessary in processing and understanding the information we were learning. I never got much feedback on them though so that could be an area for improvement. We also had 4 reports that we did as a group. These were also helpful for learning the data cleaning aspect, but were very stressful and it's hard to work as a group on coding assignments in my opinion. Luckily, what helped for both problem sets and reports was having the professors and TAs on piazza – absolutely invaluable.

The P Sets and Reports were very worth my time and where I really learned the material.

There were a LOT of assignments for this class. Like a LOT. A LOT. Like I'd never had a course with that many distinct assignments.

Comments
But at the end of the day I did learn a LOT, so maybe it was worth it.

Readings and Visuals - Please comment on the quality of the readings and visuals in the course. Did the readings and visuals present the subject matter clearly? To what extent did the readings and visuals stimulate your intellectual curiosity and independent thinking?

Comments
They were really good!
The textbook was helpful
Yes, I thought all of the graphs were very helpful. My only complaint is that sometimes we went through them too quickly.
Not a fan of STEM textbooks but the readings were alright. Not sure how much I really absorbed the information, though
Did not open a textbook once, but there were plenty of great resources available to us.
Readings were not always very helpful, but the visuals / graphs were great!
The extra handouts and information posted on the class website was the most helpful to understanding the content. The textbook was also useful.
textbook was confusing, I didn't read it. Datacamp was a great resource but I didn't use that either.
I did not really use the textbook beyond the problem set questions, but I can see how it would be useful to have the problem set questions relate directly to a textbook chapter (and for the datasets).
The visuals in the power points presented key statistical concepts very clearly
Great.
Visuals were very informative.
The website was extremely helpful and fantastic for learning.
yes, they helped
I thought the textbook would have been necessary for this course since the lectures followed the book but honestly I didn't touch it after the first week
Slides are posted online, as are handouts and other supplementary materials, and are very informative. Everything you need to do well in the course is provided. Piazza is also a great resource and the professor is much more responsive on it than I have seen in other courses.
The Statistical Sleuth was a bit dry but useful. The resources on POL346.com were SO SO SO useful. The handouts, the chapter guides were so clear and made it so that psets were challenging but never frustrating.
n/a
Lectures and the pol346 website are super helpful. Textbook is also clear.
Although the textbook was a good supplement to the course, I did not depend on it or use it as much as I had anticipated I would; going to lecture and precept was more than enough. On the other hand, visuals during lecture and precept were always great and provided a way to see what we were discussing in action.
I thought that the handouts – while time consuming – were great in reinforcing the material. I also thought that the DataCamp courses were helpful, though sometimes tedious and/or repetitive at times.
I just want to use this section as a resounding thank you for the slides and resources on POL346.com. As a highly visual learner who sometimes doesn't understand things as they are happening in lecture, having such a rich repository of reference material helped me gain a much better understanding of and confidence with the material.
I think technically we were supposed to read the textbook, but I definitely didn't. Think I managed fine without
The visuals, especially the code and explanations on the website, were extremely helpful.
The textbook is fine, honestly didn't use it much. Didn't seem all that necessary if you pay attention in lecture

Overall Quality of the Course - Please comment on the overall quality of the course. What worked particularly well and in what ways might the course be improved?

Comments
This course is great!!!! It's very challenging and time–consuming, but it led me to taking another stats class at a grad–level next semester — which is a huge jump from where I was just one semester ago, having basically given up on the idea of pursuing stats beyond POL345 my sophomore fall.

Comments
Really, really good. I've learned so much that I'm confident I'll take with me in future projects etc..
I really enjoyed this course.
Loved this class so much! Maybe getting rid of DataCamp would make it perfect. I loved this course though.
Great course. I really lost focus when we went online and that was hard with all the collaboration we had to do, but still learned a lot
I think the course was great at providing more in depth knowledge and tangible application of the things we learned in POL 345. I wish we had learned more on the statistical theory side, but that is just my person preference.
I wish I had put more time and effort into this course. I got a lot out, but I could've gotten more out of it.
This was a really strong and useful course that I'm sure will help me in my JP and thesis. The reports and psets taught me a lot and I think the assignment structure should remain the same. Would've have been nice to have a final report on a dataset of our choosing to that it could be fully independent.
Overall quality was great even after moving online
This course was great! I feel like I've become a better POL major
Lectures were good, so were the precepts. Like I said the assignments got to be a little much at the end.
I honestly don't think this class can be improved. Maybe make the p sets a little less long
Again, Professor Wasow is amazing! He does an amazing job explaining statistical concepts, and he is readily available to discuss problems with the assignments. He's also extremely open to recommendations from students, and it really feels like he listens to you. This is one of the first class when the professor was more helpful and available than the preceptors. Overall, amazing, and I learned a lot about crafting academic reports! This class has also inspired me to continue taking stats!
Good course for teaching the more intricate details of R
Really good course, I think while it may be necessary to cover things multiple times, at times I got angry at the lectures cause I feel like we already covered the material
Great course. I really liked the application and guidance offered in this class, emphasizing student growth over results. Precepts could be slow, but otherwise it was an amazing course.
It's a very well delivered course with lots of support and materials provided. The course website and Piazza provide all the materials needed to do well and Professor Wasow delivers the lectures and the course as a whole so well. One thing that I felt was out of place was the timing of the problem sets – the problem sets due on Monday usually correspond to the material taught that same Monday and Wednesday, sometimes making lectures redundant.
Incredible course. There was always enough office hours, Piazza worked like a well–oiled machine and questions were always answered promptly and thoroughly. pol346.com was so useful. The preceptors were all great, lectures were great. I will probably look back at this class as incredibly useful for JPs and theses. Even considering the challenges of the semester and moving online, Wasow and the whole team handled everything well. I can imagine the course will continue to evolve even as R evolves (it was interesting to see how we were on the cutting edge of using R because Wasow was so in tune with all the latest packages).
The course was a great overview of essential data analysis techniques taught with passion and patience.
One way that I think the course can be improved is to make lectures a little easier to follow.
No immediate thoughts come to mind in how to improve the course. I greatly enjoyed it and felt that I learned a ton and especially enjoyed how the problem sets were so applicable to real–life problems.
As a student who would never have taken statistics past POL345 if Prof. Wasow were not teaching this course, I feel like I had an incredibly rewarding experience becoming more comfortable with statistics. Piazza and POL346.com were incredible resources—I really appreciated feeling like the course was an immersive experience rather than something that ends in lecture and precept. In terms of improvement I do wonder if assignment scheduling could be slightly adjusted; I found the assignments to be valuable but multiple deadlines in the same week / deadlines during reading week seemed like they could be avoidable if some of the problem sets were perhaps condensed.
Professor Wasow is the best part of this course. He is truly one of the best professors I've ever had.
Overall, the course was pretty great. I learned a lot more about stats and it definitely got me to a place where I could find my own data, clean it, and produce a report. I would say goal accomplished. Although it was often confusing and stressful in the process, I think I learned what I wanted to learn.
The group projects and reports were worth while
The course was frustrating at times just because of the sheer amount of work that often felt needlessly repetitive but honestly at the end of the day I don't think the concepts/skills would have hammered so deep into my brain if I hadn't been forced to practice them so many times sooo.

Feedback for other students: What advice would you give to another student considering taking this

course? (Please note that your response to this particular question will be accessible to all members of the University community on the Course Offerings website.)

Comments
Relatively time consuming but not crazy. Lot of resources in place to help (office hours) if you take the time to use them. I personally felt like I was struggling/didn't understand what was going on for most of the class so that was frustrating, but I think I learned more than I thought I did. Was helpful for independent work. So overall I'm glad I took it because it was useful, but not the most pleasant or easy experience. So kind of depends on what you want to take out of it!
Take this class!!!!! It is a LOT of work but you are so supported at every step, and you really learn an incredible amount of skills and information that becomes super helpful for your independent work. I regret not being able to take this as a sophomore, but taking it in my junior spring ended up being fine. Professor Wasow is one of the greatest professors at Princeton, and it would be a real shame to pass up on this opportunity to learn from him. I don't think there are many classes at Princeton that taught me more than this one. It is difficult and time–consuming, but so worth it — take this from someone who hasn't done a math class since high school and fully didn't expect to do more stats past POL345; as a result of this class, I'm now doing a grad stats class next semester! Take this course!!!!
Take this course if you liked pol 345!! It's a lot of work but you'll take so much from it. Professor Wasow is the best stats professor I've ever had
Super easy course for the COS and SML certificates, if you are pursuing either of those. No proofs or math required.
I loved this class. It continued to nurture my interest in statistics that I developed in POL345. It's manageable, interesting, and super applicable. The professor and preceptors are extremely approachable and willing to help. Professor Wasow answers questions super quickly on Piazza! If you pay attention and do the work, it is a fun, rewarding experience.
Absolutely phenomenal class. The last lecture was straight fire and motivated me to just be generally better in life. If Omar was a math professor and I took his class, I'd probably be a math major after the class — his passion for his subject is just that contagious, and although I was feeling a little iffy about stats after POL345, this class pushed me over and made me want to major in statistics even though that's not even a thing at Princeton. I grew so much through 346, and if you're reading this, you won't regret the time you spend in the course at all, even if it may seem like a lot of work at times.
Definitely take it. Much better than 345. You'll learn a lot of R and will become way more comfortable using the statistical techniques taught in 345. Super helpful for independent work preparation
Great class!! Professor Wasow is super kind and helpful, and he obviously cares a lot about the course and his students. It can be a lot of work in certain weeks, but never overwhelming. If you enjoyed POL345 I would definitely recommend.
I did really badly in POL 345 but am so glad I decided to take on this course as a personal challenge to try and re–learn and then better apply these basic stats concepts. Take this class, you won't regret it!
Professor Wasow is amazing. He is willing to be super helpful. He is very responsive, cares a lot about teaching and his students.
I learned a lot from this class, but it's definitely a lot of work (sometimes more than necessary but good practice I guess). Also, sometimes the concepts get a bit repetitive, while the important coding lessons still never seemed very clear to me. But Professor Wasow really cares about the students success and it always available to answer questions! Also, Federico was THE BEST preceptor — super helpful! All the preceptors were really great and went above and beyond to help students.
Although at times you will question why you are taking this course, you should. Professor Wasow is incredibly helpful, and answers piazza questions within minutes. It is hard and incredibly time–consuming. But also the most rewarding class I've ever taken, especially with the final. This class really shows you the broader value of knowing statistics.
Take it. Its very project based, which is nice, and I think it has prepared me adequately for independent work in the future.
Can be time consuming but also really useful. You'll get a much better understanding of how to use R independently than you get from POL345. Professor Wasow is really excellent.
Take this class if you are at all interested in quantitiative engagement in your research. This is the best structured course I have had and I feel a lot more suited to deal with JP and senior thesis work now. Plus, Professor Wasow truly cares about his students and the questions they are tackling so reach out to him for questions. So much better than POL345 in my view.
Take this class! You will learn a ton about stats and coding, and it's very helpful for independent work!!
Take it.
If you are considering take this course even just as a general interest and the only experience you have in statistics is POL34, do it. Seriously, I think this might be one of the best classes available at Princeton. Professor Wasow has completely changed my path here and even has me considering a SML certificate (and I was planning on avoiding QRs and stats classes at all costs).
If you have any interest in stats take this. Omar is wonderful and you will learn alot
This was one of my favorite classes at Princeton!! If you're interested at all in data science, writing statistical reports, or want to become proficient in R–programming, this is a MUST TAKE! Professor Wasow is amazing and there is just so much to learn here – it really takes concepts from POL345 to the next level and there is 500% more content and skill to learn.
Take it, take it, take it! Take it if it's with Wasow because he's one of the best lecturers I've ever had at Princeton. He is soooo helpful

Comments

with the assignments. As long as you put effort into the assignments (the reports), you will probably be fine and you'll learn a lot. Make sure to start on the reports early with your group! If you hate group work, you will just have to deal with it or work on the assignments alone (which can be a lot).

If you are at all interested in statistics, especially after POL345, take this class. The grading was VERY fair and you learn so many new skills, while also reinforcing old ones. There is definitely a good amount of work involved, but the collaborative aspects plus the mixture of assignments allows you to do so much in very little time. Definitely take it if you have any remote interest.

You definitely don't need to take 345 before this. If you take 345 before this, this just reteaches everything with a few new things, which is helpful in a way because repetition is necessary for stats, but it made the class honestly pretty painful for 3/4 of the course. However, I think if you didn't already learn most of it, this course is great and really teaches you techniques that will help you make great reports of your own. I would really recommend taking this class instead of and without 345, the environment, grading, and content of this course is way better than 345

It is a time commitment, but you come out of it a lot more capable to understand statistics, possibly even changing how you interpret the world.

Definitely take this course, especially if you're at all interested in quantitative applications!! Super accessible but also moves quickly enough for you to learn so much.

A definite step up from POL 345 but a very well taught course. Professor Wasow is amazing – a very engaging lecturer and cares a lot about his students. The course website and Piazza make it easy to get all the resources you need to do well.

Take it. One of the best classes I've taken, with one of the best professors. Changes how you think about social science and randomness, and also gives you great R skills.

Incredible class. Would highly recommend. Lectures were always compelling and interesting, which is saying a lot because I've taken many statistics classes and I know that statistics can feel really boring. But Professor Wasow always grounded his lectures in real life, you always understood what the purpose of the information you were learning was, and how certain statistical techniques could be used, what were their flaws, etc. Professor Wasow is one of the best professors I have ever had, and he is also a wonderful human being. He is always very kind in his interactions with students, and very transparent and prompt in all his communications with the class. His enthusiasm for statistics as a way of thinking is inspirational.
There was always enough office hours, Piazza worked like a well–oiled machine and questions were always answered promptly and thoroughly. pol346.com was so useful. The preceptors were all great, lectures were great. I will probably look back at this class as incredibly useful for JPs and theses.

Take this course if you want to move past the 345 learning curve and solidify what you learned there in a more organized and fluid way. Have a group with whom you go over psets.

Take this class if you enjoyed POL345. More coding heavy, but Omar is fantastic and you will learn a ton. Can't really say you know how to use R/perform data analysis without taking this class.

Really great class if you want to learn more about stats and its various applications. It introduces you to a variety of new models and you. definitely leave the class with a better understanding of statistical modeling and analysis. The workload is also very manageable and the professor/preceptors are very supportive and accessible so doing well is very attainable.

Definitely take this class if you're looking for a way to extend your understanding of stats post–345! Prof. Wasow is an outstanding professor both inside and outside of lecture (get his precept if you can!) and the teaching staff are incredibly helpful and responsive. It's certainly a big jump up from 345 in terms of week–to–week work, but the intensive amount of practice really prepares you for statistical work in the social sciences. As someone who's really intimidated by the quantitative side of social science I felt like this class prepared me to take on my fears!

There are 2 reasons to take this course. First, you will come away feeling truly confident in your statistical skills and in your ability to take a random dataset, clean the data, and run an analysis. This will prepare you particularly well for WWS or POL independent work. Second, Wasow is one of the best professors around! I've never had a more responsive professor who cared so much about their students. This is a great class!

If you took POL 345 and didn't hate it, take this! That's what I did and it was the right call. You might think you've learned enough stats/R, but you really haven't. This class will prepare you to do your own research projects, clean large datasets, etc. which is great for JP and thesis. Prof. Wasow is also fantastic and will make it as interesting as possible. He was also very nice in adapting to online learning with shifting the deadlines back a little and being very available on piazza and office hours. I was definitely bored in the lectures and I'm glad I'm done, but it was also definitely the right call to take it.

Pay attention on the problem sets, that's where you'll really learn.

This class is a LOT of work so be prepared for that. That said, I definitely think it's worth it. POL 345 is just not enough to actually prepare you for using R in the industry or for real research for a JP or something, so I'd recommend taking POL 346 if that's important to you. But like be prepared that it's a LOT.

Professor Wasow is an absolute gem. One of the most responsive and patient professors that I have had and that made all the difference for the course. I was excited to take the class after reading past reviews, and I was not disappointed at all. If you want to do well in the course, it is very much possible to do so and you will be supported by very friendly preceptors.