Spring 2020 Course Evaluations:
IDS 690-04 | *Practicing Data Science II*
Instructor: Nick Eubank

11_Q2 - Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding this course

Statements	Mean	Std Deviatio	Minimum	Maximum	Count
The course objectives were clear.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The readings were clear and appropriate.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The assignments were appropriate.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The assignments were appropriate for group worl	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
Grading was fair, appropriate, and consistent.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
This course increased my interest in the subject.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
This course increased my knowledge in the subjec	4.5	1.32	1	5	16

11_Q6 - Please provide any explanations for the responses about the class, especially if you indicated disagree or strongly disagree.

It was one of the best courses I have taken at Duke!
NA

I really like the course structure and the way the course was taught.
Unfortunately, the course could not cover all topics as planned due to circumstances, however, I believe
that the structure and content of the classes are relevant for the Data Scientist's pack of knowledge.

11_Q3 - Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the professor of this course

Statements	Mean	Std Deviatio	Minimum	Maximum	Count
The professor demonstrated knowledge of the sul	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The professor was effective in communicating co	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The professor was organized and well prepared.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The professor encouraged feedback from the clas:	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The professor showed genuine concern for me.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16
The professor was enthusiastic about the course.	4.5	1.32	1	5	16

11_Q4 - Please provide any explanations for the responses about [Field-1] and professor for that course, especially if you indicated disagree or strongly disagree.

Nick did amazing work! Thank you!
Nick is great! One of the best professors I have had.

Nick is a great professor and communicator. He clearly states the objectives and guidelines to succeed on
the topics developed in class and puts effort into clarifying concepts and providing applied examples.

11_Q5 - Please indicate your overall rating of the course components.

Course Components	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviatio	Variance	Count
Assignments	5	5	5	0	0	16
Texts / Readings	4	5	4.81	0.39	0.15	16
Group Work	3	5	4.75	0.56	0.31	16
Exams	3	5	4.63	0.7	0.48	16
Professor	5	5	5	0	0	16
TAs and other teaching supports	3	5	4.31	0.72	0.52	16
My effort as a student	4	5	4.63	0.48	0.23	16
Overall course	4	5	4.94	0.24	0.06	16

11_Q7 - Please provide any explanations for the responses above, especially if you indicated poor or fair.

Since most of the assignments were in teams, sometimes we just split the work between the team members and I might have missed some learning for not doing everything by myself.
NA

11_Q8 - On average, how many hours per week did you spend on [Field-1] out of class?

15
8
2 hours on the readings. 2 hours on homework.
4
15
4-Mar
15-May
8
6
3 to 4
10 hours
5
10
15 hours
6

11_Q16 - How did the change to online-only teaching affect your experience in this class?

Same experience, I did not feel that online-only teaching had a better or worse experience.
not much
I think We probably missed out on few in-class exercises which I believed was a great part of the course.
Not much

I really enjoyed the class interaction in Nicks class, and while he did a great job at trying to maintain that online, there is nothing further you can do to actually replicate what it would be like to all be in one room.
Not much. Nick managed it to make it pretty smooth.
did not really affect me at all

The professor did to simulate in-person teaching style during the online only time like by engaging us interactively including asking questions, discussing in breakout sessions and doing assignment. As such, I believe that this was a unique experience to all of us and by no means less than the in-person class.

Teaching was still very effective. But it greatly harmed my ability to form informal networks - that is one of my major missions as a student. For example, one-on-one chats before and after class were not possible any more.

It changed it in a limited fashion. Luckily most of the assignment heavy portions were already complete so it was the final project that was the main focus. Most issues came from trying to get all 3 parties in the group together at the same time.

The group assignment and final project became harder to work on because of the coordination problems.

The dynamic of on-site classes could not be replicated on the virtual sessions, even though Nick did a great effort to balance it. Breaking up into groups to practice coding sessions with Nick's support was lost.
Especially nothing.

Nick was by far the most effective teacher via Zoom, I'd say it was 70-80% as good as class which is a pretty heavy lift.

11_Q9 - Would you recommend this course to other students?

	%	Count
Definitely Not	0.00%	0
Probably Not	0.00%	0
Not sure	6.25%	1
Probably	6.25%	1
Definitely	87.50%	14
Total	100%	16

11_Q10 - Based on your experience in the class, how much do you feel that you have improved in the following areas?

Areas	Mean	Std Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Count
Technical skills (e.g., coding in Python)	3.13	0.99	1	4	16
Mathematical / statistical skills and knowledge	3.25	0.75	2	4	16
Domain knowledge (e.g., economics, medical studies, engineering)	3.4	0.71	2	4	16
Working in teams of people with a variety of skills and backgrounds	3.63	0.6	2	4	16
Giving and receiving feedback	3.44	0.7	2	4	16
Collaborative problem solving	3.5	0.71	2	4	16
Ability to serve as a leader	3.5	0.63	2	4	16
Applying technical, mathematical, statistical, and domain knowledge to real analysis problems	3.69	0.58	2	4	16

11_Q11 - Is there anything else you would like the professor of this class to know?

Thank you so much, Nick! I hope I could have taken the course you teach last semester. You are a great teacher! Thanks for being patient, supportive, passionate about the course all the time.

Thank you - it was a great class!
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I learned a lot and really appreciated how you were able to take complex topics and explain them easily piece by piece. I really also enjoyed the smaller class size and getting to work with the 2nd years/people studying different topics. I always looked forward to class.
I would have liked to have a deeper understanding of the math behind the methods we learned. Apart from that, I love the course, the content, the homework, the emphasis on giving constructive feedback, and especially the way Nick explains the intuition behind each method.

Nick, this class was one of the best classes I took at MIDS. I think that your method of group work and cold call discussion really forced me to learn the material that I honestly don't have the discipline to learn on my own just by reading. You were also very organized which is something I always appreciate. Your communication of the material was superb. Every word you said held value and you always spoke very coherently and cogently. Frankly, there are only a handful of classes that I took at MIDS that I would strongly recommend to future students and that I learned a great deal from. You did not overburden us with homework and readings--perfect amount. Your notes were clear, informative and not overly verbose. I also appreciated your flexibility in terms of surveying the class regularly to ensure that things were, in fact, running smoothly. It just shows that you actually care about how we learn, what we learn and our general interest. I hope that you have some role in future MIDS classes because your teaching style and material was invaluable.

Overall another great class from Professor Eubank. I was happy with his Practicing Data Science 1 course last semester and the second course did not disappoint. He is very clear and concise with what he teachers, and the assignments are straight forward enough that they aren't frustrating, and thought provoking enough not to feel like busywork.

11_Q12 - Is there anything else you would like the MIDS program to know about this course?

Nick has put up a great class together. It's more of a foundation course and hence probably in future mids students should be encouraged to take this class in the first year itself.
I come from a non-technical background. I found the class explained topics extremely well and made me apply them in different formats so I would not forget them. Sometimes I thought the course was on the easier side, but then I think about how much I learned in the class and have come to the conclusion the way in which ideas are taught is just extremely effective.

I would call it Causal Inference to have a more precise and attractive name. Practical Data Science II is kind of ambiguous and it doesn't differentiate from Data to Decision (that in my opinion should be called probability and math foundations or something like that) and from Practical Data Science I (that could be called something like Python programming fundamentals maybe?).
I think a mixed of Nick's two electives should be a core component of the MIDS program overall.

Nicks course for the first and second terms are important for students with no previous experience in coding. Even though I think some of the material could be during the summer and Bootcamp, so incoming students could get a deeper understanding of concepts. Nick has a great structure and material that MIDS should exploit more.