

College of Engineering, Cornell University
Course Evaluation Response Summary
Semester: Spring 2017 Course Owner: ORIE
Course: ORIE 4742 Lec 1 CID: 17942
Instructor: Wilson
10 Responses, 13 Enrolled, 76.92% Response

Question	Mean	Count	1	2	3	4	5
1. How valuable were the assigned readings? 1=taught me little; 5=extremely educational	4.80	10	0	0	0	2	8
2. How valuable were the homework and/or computer assignments? 1=taught me little; 5=extremely educational	4.60	10	0	1	0	1	8
3. How valuable were the laboratories? 1=taught me little; 5=extremely educational	4.00	6	0	1	1	1	3
4. Rate the examinations in this course as a test of your knowledge. 1=too easy, not adequate; 3=adequate; 5=too difficult, not a fair test	4.33	9	0	0	0	6	3
5. Did the lecturer stimulate your interest in the subject? 1=not at all; 5=stimulated great interest, inspired independent effort	4.70	10	0	0	1	1	8
6. Was the lecture presentation organized and clear? 1=disorganized and unclear; 5=very organized and lucid	3.80	10	1	1	0	5	3
7. Was the lecturer willing and able to help you overcome difficulties? 1=was of no help; 5=was very helpful	4.22	9	0	1	1	2	5
8. Rate the overall teaching effectiveness of your lecturer compared to others at Cornell. 1=worse than average; 5=much better than average	3.70	10	1	0	3	3	3
9. Was the recitation organized and clear? 1=not at all; 5=very organized, lucid	4.14	7	0	1	0	3	3
10. Was the recitation instructor willing and available to help you overcome difficulties? 1=was of no help; 5=was very helpful	4.38	8	0	0	1	3	4
11. How would you rate the recitation instructor's command of the course material? 1=poor command of material; 5=excellent command of material	4.50	8	0	0	1	2	5
12. What was the overall quality of the recitations and your recitation instructor? 1=worse than average; 5=much better than average	4.00	7	0	0	3	1	3
13. Overall, how does course compare with other technical courses you've taken at Cornell? 1=poorly, not educational; 5=excellently, extremely educational	4.40	10	0	1	0	3	6
14. How many hours each week did you spend on this course outside of class/lab/recitation? 1=less than 2; 2=(2-4); 3=(5-8); 4=(9-15); 5=16 or more	4.40	10	0	0	1	4	5
15. How prepared were you for this course? 1=overprepared, it repeated material; 5=underprepared, course assumed unfamiliar knowledge	3.60	10	0	0	5	4	1
16. Was the code of academic integrity maintained in this course? 1=no, often violated; 5=yes, well maintained	4.80	10	0	0	0	2	8
17. Most important reason for taking this course? 1=field or major requires it; 2=prerequisite for further courses of interest; 3=interest in subject matter; 4=reputation of the course; 5=reputation of the instructor	--	10	0	0	9	0	1

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1. Please comment on the strengths of any aspect of this course (e.g., the lecture, recitation, laboratory, computing, text, homeworks, examinations or course content).

6326: Course with the widest breadth that I have taken at Cornell. I feel that I am now in command, or at least able to reason about, a wide array of topics. Many topics I learned for the first time in this class and the others were presented with an intuition that put the topics in a completely new light. The class isn't just important for the topics in the course title, but rather for any kind of topic that relies on inference. Massively useful for usage in practice as I feel I have gained intuition about the application of different models and why some work while others don't. Also playing games and doing experiment design using information theory was extremely fun, interesting, and I feel it gives an upper hand to understand how to use information theory in everyday decision making.

6989: Good course content

10289: The assignments were extremely helpful for understanding the material.

10291: The topic of the course is very interesting and offers a comprehensive view of the area. Reading material is very helpful if I read through everything. A lot of inspiration in the homework, lecture and midterm to let me rethink all the concepts I learned in other machine-learning classes.

10864: Rather than comment on any specific strengths of this course, I'd like to use this section to say why this course should definitely continue to be offered in future years. I know that new courses like this that have low enrollment are often abandoned; however, this course was more interesting, educational and challenging than anything else I've done at Cornell, and I think that makes it very valuable.

While other machine learning courses for undergrads seem to mostly involve learning some algorithms/models and implementing them, this course actually forces students to understand the theory and motivations behind the models. Additionally, this course involved a solid amount of mathematics/statistics, which I've found some other ML courses here tend to avoid. Personally, I was able to get through courses like CS 4786 and STSCI 4740 without understanding much of probability theory at all; that was definitely not the case for ORIE 4742. This was also the rare course that actually hit the ground running from the start; we dove right into new material, rather than wasting too much time reviewing material from the prerequisites (although there was a little review to prep for the first quiz).

I found the homework for this course to be very useful for understanding the material better, and certainly worth the many hours I spent working on them. The lectures were always well organized and engaging, and the paper presentations at the end was a great way to wrap up the course. Sure, there were certainly some weaknesses and bumps in the road, as any new course will have, but as a whole I think this is an essential course for any undergraduate with a strong interest in Machine Learning and Information Theory.

11690: The material is very interesting and organized in a very unique perspective
