

Columbia University: Mailman School of Public Health
Fall 2018 Evaluation¹

Course: HPMN P8505: ANALYSIS OF LARGE-SCALE DATA
Instructor: Adam Sacarny
Graduate Student Coordinators: Tatyana Avilova, Sanjay De
Response Rate: 11/34 (32.35%)

Course learning objectives²

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Identify major large-scale datasets that can be used to inform health policy
- Apply techniques for obtaining appropriate data for addressing research questions
- Process data sets for analysis
- Apply techniques for addressing common data issues
- Develop research questions and hypotheses that can be tested using available datasets
- Present quantitative evidence in a suitable manner
- Formulate analytical results in a well-written research report format

Tatyana's Graduate Student Coordinator tasks and responsibilities³

- Attended weekly lectures (3 hours) and assisted students during in-class exercises, explaining concepts and helping to troubleshoot issues with data access, dataset content, and Stata code.
- Held weekly office hours.
- Graded and provided feedback to students on six weekly homework assignments. Homework assignments were in the form of data tasks completed in Stata.
- Wrote and posted solutions to homework assignments.
- Advised students on aspects of their final assignment, a replication project, such as choosing an appropriate paper to replicate, troubleshooting issues with data or Stata code, and effective ways to present the results.
- Assessed student presentations of the replication projects and discussed appropriate evaluations with the professor.

¹ The official course evaluation did not include questions to evaluate Graduate Student Coordinators (GSCs). Responses in this evaluation report were collected by using an anonymous Google Form sent out to the students at the start of the Spring 2019 semester.

² As outlined on the course syllabus by Prof. Adam Sacarny.

³ This information was not provided either on the syllabus or to the students completing the evaluation.

1 - Please indicate to which degree you agree with the following statements about Tatyana's teaching in Fall 2018 RM3⁴.							
Statement	Frequency⁵						Mean⁶
	SA	A	NAND	D	SD	NA	
The TA was well prepared for class.	10	1	0	0	0	0	4.91
The TA communicated course content clearly.	11	0	0	0	0	0	5
The TA was helpful when I had difficulties or questions.	10	1	0	0	0	0	4.91
The TA created an inclusive learning environment.	10	0	1	0	0	0	4.81
Response Rate							
11/34 (32.35%)							

2 - Please indicate to which degree you agree with the following statements about Tatyana's teaching in Fall 2018 RM3.							
Statement	Frequency						Mean
	SA	A	NAND	D	SD	NA	
The TA provided clear and constructive feedback on homework.	10	1	0	0	0	0	4.91
The TA provided timely feedback on homework.	11	0	0	0	0	0	5
The TA's feedback increased my understanding of course material.	11	0	0	0	0	0	5
The TA was accessible outside of scheduled class time for additional help.	10	0	0	0	0	1	5
Response Rate							
11/34 (32.35%)							

⁴ "RM3", or "Research Methods III", is the shorthand title for the course.

⁵ Answer options include "Strongly Agree" (SA), "Agree" (A), "Neither Agree Nor Disagree" (NAND), "Disagree" (D), "Strongly Disagree" (SD), and "Not Applicable" (NA).

⁶ Response options were given the following weights: "Strongly Agree" – 5; "Agree" – 4; "Neither Agree Nor Disagree" – 3; "Disagree" – 2; "Strongly Disagree" – 1; "Not Applicable" – not included in calculating the mean.

3 - What were Tatyana's strengths as a grader and/or an instructor?

Response Rate

9/34 (26.46%)

- Tatyana took the time to look through all the code and was able to be specific in her feedback. This was particularly important as I have had TAs for CS classes that have simply given generic feedback and made the students figure it out themselves without a point in the right direction.
- Tatyana was wonderful in her ability to connect with the students. She was always willing to help us whenever we needed. Her help and feedback was of high quality and correctness.
- Tatyana is very patient and always provided detailed explanations.
- Very helpful in class and in office hours. I appreciated that she would often stay longer to explain the content to us.
- She was always accessible and willing to help students, whether it was meeting in person or via email. She provided clear instructions and feedback.
- Tatyana very clearly wrote out answers to homework in such a way that the student could understand and improve upon their work. She also clearly answered questions during class time.
- Tatyana was extremely helpful with questions about the class work and assignments, and posted very helpful and thorough answer keys to the homework that were an incredibly useful resource.
- Tatyana did an excellent job explaining difficult concepts and assisting in some of the technical issues working with Stata
- Tatyana went FAR above and beyond in her role as a TA. She went out of her way on multiple occasions to reach out to me and work with me when I was struggling. I feel she did much, much more than was required of her and that I absolutely benefitted from it.

4 - What were Tatyana's weaknesses as a grader and/or instructor? How might Tatyana improve her teaching for future courses?

Response Rate

2/34 (5.88%)

- personally, I had a great experience both from grading/hw feedback and help in-class/office hours. It would have been helpful to have some additional office hours before the project/exam but I know that counts on both prof and TA's availabilities.
- No weaknesses, she was great

5 - What is your overall assessment of Tatyana's effectiveness as a teaching assistant?				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Means
Excellent	(5)	11	100%	
Very good	(4)	0	0%	
Good	(3)	0	0%	
Fair	(2)	0	0%	
Poor	(1)	0	0%	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median
11/34 (32.35%)		5.00	0.00	5.00