

EE 508 (A1): Data Science for Conservation Decisions

Fall 2021 | Christoph Nolte

14 | Students Enrolled

11 | Students Responded

78.57% | Response Rate

Quantitative

	(1) Low	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) High	N	DNA	SD	M	
Relevance of assigned readings	0% (0)	0% (0)	9.09% (1)	0% (0)	90.91% (10)	11	0	0.57	4.82	
	Easy	Moderately Easy	Neither Easy nor Difficult	Moderately Difficult	Difficult	N	DNA	SD	M	
Difficulty of course	0% (0)	9.09% (1)	18.18% (2)	72.73% (8)	0% (0)	11	0	0.64	3.64	
	Light	Moderately Light	Neither Light nor Heavy	Moderately Heavy	Heavy	N	DNA	SD	M	
Workload in course	9.09% (1)	0% (0)	27.27% (3)	54.55% (6)	9.09% (1)	11	0	0.99	3.55	
<i>Course Evaluation</i>	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	N	DNA	SD	M
Overall rating of discussion instructor (if applicable)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10% (1)	10% (1)	50% (5)	30% (3)	10	0	0.73	4.57
Overall rating of lab instructor (if applicable)	0% (0)	0% (0)	10% (1)	0% (0)	30% (3)	60% (6)	10	0	0.87	4.5
Usefulness of assignments and papers	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	27.27% (3)	72.73% (8)	0% (0)	11	0	0.45	4.73
Overall course rating	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	30% (3)	70% (7)	0% (0)	10	0	0.46	4.7
<i>Faculty Evaluation</i>	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	N	DNA	SD	M
Effectiveness in explaining concepts	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	40% (4)	60% (6)		10	0	0.49	4.6
Ability to stimulate interest in subject	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	45.45% (5)	54.55% (6)		11	0	0.5	4.55
Encouragement of class participation	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	36.36% (4)	63.64% (7)		11	0	0.48	4.64
Fairness in grading	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	18.18% (2)	81.82% (9)		11	0	0.39	4.82
Promptness in returning assignments	0% (0)	0% (0)	9.09% (1)	9.09% (1)	81.82% (9)		11	0	0.62	4.73
Quality of feedback to students	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9.09% (1)	90.91% (10)		11	0	0.29	4.91
Availability outside of class	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	27.27% (3)	72.73% (8)		11	0	0.45	4.73
Overall rating of instructor	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	18.18% (2)	81.82% (9)		11	0	0.39	4.82

Qualitative

Strengths of the course and of the instructor: -

- Really helpful course
- The labs were excellent. I learned so much from them, both on the technical (coding) and theoretical (ecological, sociopolitical, conservation theory) side. I also found the readings very interesting, and not having had previous experience in these subjects, I learned a great deal from them too. I have always been and remain very excited about the final project portion of the course, so I hope that that stays a part of it in future years.
- Lab instructions are very detailed and easy to follow. Flexibility of the course was appreciated. Material is very interesting.
- This course is rooted in real-world applications and skills that are relevant beyond the classroom. There are many examples of current world in the field incorporated in lectures and translated into the homework lab exercises. Dr. Nolte is especially effective at communicating these concepts from direct experience with a variety of stakeholders and I think this is a major strength of the course.

Weaknesses of the course and of the instructor: -

- The course's only real weakness is that it attempts to fit a lot in a limited timeframe. Some of the concepts don't have time to land before the next assignment is being handed out. The pace at times feels frantic, I certainly had a hard time with completing assignments on time with the level of quality I wanted to deliver. While the assignments are useful for demonstrating what we learn in class, they are so long that it took time away from my own research and other classes.
- Because of how detailed the lab instructions are, going over the labs during lecture felt a bit unnecessary.
- Needs more explaining in lab instructions and also not suitable for no programming experience students

General Comments -

- Great course really helpful
- very practical course, we can learn a lot coding technique regard conservation plan making
- This is by far my favorite class ever at BU, thank you so much!
- Overall, I found the course interesting and I learned many new things that I can envision using in my future school work and in future employment.
- There should be more time for students to work on assignments together in class. My guess is that this will make completing assignments on time much easier and will allow students of different skills to collaborate.