COMP6212 Computational Finance

Lecturer Evaluation Questions

No. of responses = 17 (26.6 %)

Survey Results

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1. Mahesan Niranjan COMP6212 - Lecturer(s) Questions:

1.1) I feel that this module lecturer explained the material clearly.

1.2) I feel that this module lecturer made the subject interesting.

1.3) In my experience this module lecturer responded promptly to my queries about the module.

1.4) I feel that this module lecturer did a very good job overall.

2. COMP6212 Computational Finance - Module Questions:

2.1) I feel that the module was intellectually stimulating.

2.2) I feel that the module was well-organized and ran smoothly.

2.3) I was comfortable with the amount of material covered.

2.4) I was comfortable with the level of prior knowledge assumed of me.

2.5) I understood at the beginning of the module what the assessment criteria would be.
2.6) I found that the resources I needed for the module were easily accessible.

2.7) I received sufficient feedback during the module to have a sense of what I understood and what I still needed to work on.

2.8) The information I received about the module provided an accurate description of what was expected of me.

2.9) I feel that this was very good module overall.

3. COMP6212 Computational Finance - Laboratory Questions:

3.1) I feel that the description of the work to be done in the laboratory sessions was well-structured and clear.

3.2) I found that the equipment used in the laboratory sessions worked reliably.

3.3) I was comfortable with the level of technical difficulty of the laboratory sessions.

3.4) I feel that the demonstrators in the laboratory sessions provided appropriate and useful assistance.

3.5) I felt safe during the laboratory sessions and I feel I knew what to do in case of emergency.
1. Mahesan Niranjan COMP6212 - Lecturer(s) Questions:

1.5) Comments relating to this module lecturer.

- Everything generally very well explained (particularly Kalman Filters). One notable failure was with stochastic differential calculus and the derivation of Black Scholes - both of which are tricky concepts to explain.

- His explanations were really good, it was obvious that he wanted to teach us well. However, when it comes to contacting him via email - impossible, never got any response!

- I liked Mahesan's approach in the main, and I enjoyed his lectures. They were certainly interesting, and he certainly understood everything he was teaching very well. I also very much enjoyed the 100% coursework structure which worked well alongside my other modules this semester. However, Mahesan seemed to almost enjoy putting us under time pressure which was unhelpful. I've commented further on this under section 3.

- Niranjan always relates the course information to real-world applications, which makes it very interesting to learn. Whilst he is very professional, his sense of humour also brightens up the lectures.

- One of our favourite lecturers ever

- Very energetic but sometimes seems to over-complicate relatively simple examples, and rarely provides typed-up slides or even just photos of the whiteboard after a lecture

- Very good lecturer and the way he teach us.

2. COMP6212 Computational Finance - Module Questions:

2.10) Comments relating to the module.

- An interesting module that is really helpful for daily life (finance)

- Excellent and prompt feedback. One of the best modules I've taken throughout the entire 4 year course. Inspired me to further the work done in labs in my own time.

- Great model!

- Lecture notes could have been more consistently provided, for the first 3rd they were, but for the final part where they were perhaps the most important they were not.

- Overall a very interesting module. Even though I have a few gripes with Mahesan's attitude in some circumstances such as time pressure, and the wording of "laboratory" (detailed in section 3), I would rate him highly as a lecturer and especially with regards to this module. He is very knowledgeable and helpful in person, and has a great sense of humour and character. Other than the small changes I've mentioned, given the choice, I would definitely take this module again.

- Some formal requirements for the course might be useful, I had not done the machine learning or signal processing modules but it was generally assumed everybody doing the course had done them

- The four courseworks force us to engage with the work. Probably the best module so far.

3. COMP6212 Computational Finance - Laboratory Questions:

3.6) Comments relating to the laboratory sessions.

- Badly defined but at least we got help

- Great labs during this model!

- I enjoyed the way the module was assessed; it is much more appropriate than an exam.

However, there were times in the assignments where certain leaps were expected of us between the lecture content and assignment specifics. I feel that a large amount of prior knowledge (specifically - continuous maths) was expected, making the assignments far more challenging for a lot of us than was not.

- Mahesan put us under time pressure by setting deadlines which were soon after coursework had been released, and perhaps when not all the topics had quite been covered. This felt unnecessary, and somewhat down to Mahesan's disorganisation with the coursework? Feedback was another issue, where we had submitted the first two (of four) assignments before getting the feedback for either, just a couple of days before the deadline for the third assignment. This was rather unhelpful. Overall though, the courseworks were interesting and very enjoyable to complete. I was certainly happy with the course, the material, assignments and structure in general.

One final and very important comment - Please change "laboratory" to "coursework" or some more accurate description of the course
where applicable. This includes the module page or any options documentation for third years, as I (along with others) found it very misleading to find the module was actually 100% coursework, not laboratories (which implies marked lab time). However, on this point, I actually preferred the coursework more than I would have done the labs - so my point is keep the coursework, but change the wording to make sure students know what they are signing up for.

- Sometimes more lectures were required to clarify tasks - particularly Stochastic Volatility models were never explained (despite promises to do so).

I suspect most the above refer to "real" labs.