College of Engineering, Cornell University
Course Evaluation Response Summary
Semester: Fall 2018   Course Owner: ORIE
Course: ENGRI 1101 Lec 1   CID: 10700
Instructor: Gutekunst
86 Responses, 88 Enrolled, 97.73% Response

Question	Mean	Count	1	2	3	4	5
11. [Course Content] Preparation: How well prepared were you to learn the material in this course? 1 = Very under prepared, more pre-requisites needed 2 = Under prepared 3 = Adequately prepared 4 = Over prepared in some areas 5 = Over prepared, material largely duplicates pre-requisites	3.12	84	0	4	66	14	0
12. [Course Content] Content Organization: Did the course structure and organization facilitate your learning? 1 = Very disorganized, significantly hindered my learning 2 = Somewhat disorganized 3 = Adequately organized 4 = Well organized 5 = Very well organized and structured, significantly enhanced my learning	4.64	84	0	1	3	21	59
13. [Course Content] Synthesize & Apply Content: This course challenged me to synthesize ideas, think critically about the content, and apply the material to unfamiliar topics and problems. 1 = Not at all 2 = Occasionally 3 = Every few classes 4 = Many classes and assignments 5 = Nearly every class and assignment	4.58	84	0	2	2	25	55
14. [Course Content] Examples & Applications: Were the number and variety of examples and practical applications presented appropriate to the course content and for your learning style? 1 = No, almost no examples 2 = A few, but insufficient number and/or mostly trivial 3 = Some, but more or higher quality would have been helpful 4 = Yes, including some very good ones 5 = Excellent use of examples and applications that significantly increased my understanding of the material	4.61	84	0	0	5	23	56
21. [Course Delivery] Lectures: As a whole, were lectures clear, well-structured, free of significant or frequent errors, and appropriately covered the course content? 1 = No. Usually poorly done. 2 = Sometimes 3 = Usually adequate 4 = Usually good 5 = Nearly always very good	4.81	84	0	0	1	14	69
22. [Course Delivery] Context: Did the lecturer motivate the course content and place it in the context of your major or your overall engineering education (beyond fulfilling a degree requirement)? 1 = No 2 = Somewhat 3 = Adequately 4 = Mostly 5 = Absolutely	4.70	84	0	0	2	21	61
23. [Course Delivery] Engagement: Did lecturer present material in an engaging way, which improved your understanding of the course content? 1 = No, generally boring 2 = Rarely engaging 3 = Generally held my attention 4 = Engaging 5 = Very engaging and often required actively thinking about material	4.70	84	0	1	2	18	63

Question	Mean	N	1	2	3	4	5
31. [Recitation or Discussion Section] Was the section effective in increasing your understanding of, and ability to use, the course material? 1 = No, usually poorly done 2 = Sometimes 3 = Usually adequate 4 = Usually good 5 = Nearly always very good	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
41. [Laboratory Activities] How valuable were laboratory activities in enhancing your learning in this course (e.g., taught specific skills, provided experience with real equipment and data, provided hands-on experience, increased my understanding of the material)? 1 = Minimal value 2 = Occasional value 3 = Moderate value 4 = Significant value 5 = Very valuable, well worth time spent on them	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
42. [Laboratory Expectations] Lab expectations (goals, tasks, reports, deadlines, etc.) were clear and realistic. 1 = Not at all 2 = Partially 3 = Adequately 4 = Usually clear and realistic 5 = Almost always very clear and realistic	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
43. [Laboratory Resources] Lab resources (equipment, software, information, instructions, etc.) were sufficient to provide a positive experience. 1 = Rarely sufficient, severely detracted from the experience 2 = Sometimes sufficient 3 = Usually sufficient 4 = Almost always sufficient 5 = Excellent resources that enhanced the laboratory experience	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
44. [Laboratory Staffing] Support and help, during lab and for lab reports, were sufficient to successfully complete and analyze experiments. 1 = Rarely sufficient 2 = Partially sufficient 3 = Adequate 4 = Almost always sufficient 5 = Excellent, significantly enhanced the laboratory experience	--	0	0	0	0	0	0
51. [Workload, Resources, Assignments & Assessment] Workload: How many total hours outside of class, per week, on average, did you spend on this course (beyond lecture, recitation or discussion section, and lab sessions)? 1 = <3 hours 2 = 3-6 3 = 7-10 4 = 11-15 5 = >15 hours	2.26	84	8	51	21	3	1
52. [Workload, Resources, Assignments & Assessment] Workload Value: The time spent on various assignments (homework, lab reports, coding, projects) was reasonable for the amount it improved my understanding of the course content. 1 = Little value relative to the time required 2 = Some value 3 = Reasonable value for the time spent 4 = Good value for time spent 5 = Excellent value to time ratio	4.01	83	0	3	15	43	22
53. [Workload, Resources, Assignments & Assessment] Resources: How valuable were outside of class-time resources (e.g., readings, videos, online content, course notes) in building your understanding? 1 = Minimal value 2 = Occasional value 3 = Moderate value 4 = Significant value 5 = Very valuable, well worth the time spent on them	3.61	84	1	10	28	27	18

Question	Avg	N	1	2	3	4	5
54. [Workload, Resources, Assignments & Assessment] Value of Assignments: Independent of the time required, overall, did assignments (e.g., homework, labs, programming assignments, projects, papers, presentations) improve your understanding of, and ability to use, the course concepts and content? 1 = Minimally 2 = Sometimes 3 = Usually 4 = Almost always 5 = Reliably and significantly increased my understanding and ability	4.36	83	0	2	10	27	44
55. [Workload, Resources, Assignments & Assessment] Exams & Grading: Were exams and grading a fair and reasonable measure of your learning? 1 = No 2 = Significant issues exist 3 = Generally fair assessment of my learning 4 = Well developed and fair 5 = Yes, definitely	4.38	84	1	2	13	16	52
61. [Course Environment] Diversity & Inclusion: To what extent have the professors and teaching staff fostered an inclusive environment such that the class is welcoming to all, everyone is encouraged to participate, none are made to feel different, and all are treated fairly? 1 = Extremely non-inclusive with inappropriate comments and/or behaviors 2 = Actively not inclusive with certain students ignored, left out, or treated dismissively 3 = Passively not inclusive; comments or contributions by some students are valued less than those of other students 4 = Passively inclusive where everyone is welcome to participate. Nothing specific to encourage or discourage anyone. 5 = Actively inclusive, all are fully encouraged to participate and are supported.	4.82	84	0	0	0	15	69
62. [Course Environment] Access to Assistance: Was there sufficient access to assistance (through office hours, online forums, in-class or section questions and/or activities, special accommodations met, etc.)? 1 = Almost no access and/or help was ineffective 2 = Limited access or value 3 = Acceptable access and help 4 = Good access with quality help 5 = Abundantly available high quality help	4.69	84	0	0	2	22	60
63. [Course Environment] Academic Integrity: Was the code of academic integrity maintained in the class (e.g. with respect to cheating, copying, plagiarism, use of unauthorized sources, etc.)? 1 = Blatant disregard for Academic Integrity 2 = No. Violations clearly occurred that were not addressed. 3 = Not strongly. Violations could well have occurred (even if I am not aware of any). 4 = Yes. Instructor took reasonable steps to maintain academic integrity. 5 = Yes. Academic integrity was clearly and intentionally maintained.	4.82	83	0	0	1	13	69
91. [Comparison to Other Courses] Instructor: Rate the overall teaching effectiveness of your lecturer compared to others at Cornell. 1 = Worse than average 5 = Much better than average	4.80	84	0	0	1	15	68
92. [Comparison to Other Courses] Course: Overall, how does this course compare with other comparable (technical or non-technical, as appropriate) courses you've taken at Cornell? 1 = Poorly, not educational 5 = Excellently, extremely educational	4.59	83	0	0	4	26	53

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Comments On Course Content

1226: The homeworks were difficult but often very interesting.

1608: The course covered a wide variety of complicated OR topics, but did a great job emphasizing real-world applications for every assignment. I learned a lot and thought it was an excellent starting point for getting into higher level OR coursework.

1652: Using different types of examples and applying concepts from serious real-world scenarios to mean girls enhanced the lessons

1706: Very interesting material covered.

1955: Difficult but multiple office hours per eek and opportunities to ask questions in order to succeed.

1966: Very good. Supplementary handouts are helpful in solidifying basic concepts.

2000: I think the course content was very well prepared and the course was a very good way of introducing us to Operations Research.

2013: I absolutely loved the material of the course and how we learned about them and I hope things stay similar to this as I move up in my education because the format and content of this class left me really excited for more.

2356: I enjoyed learning all of the content that was taught in this class!

2363: Very interesting, persuaded me to look into an OR minor/double major with CS

2756: Excellent and engaging, related to real-world applications and was super interesting

2795: Coming into this course, I had no idea what ORIE was. Really appreciate the insights the course content has given me on real world problems.

3641: Excellent course content and introduction to the OR major

3783: The class was taught in a way so almost every concept connected towards the end, which was cool to see

4173: Great Course!

4416: I enjoyed the content. It was well delivered and it applied well to my CS courses. The lecturer knew that a lot of students were majoring in CS so he frequently commented on how the material would relate to CS.

4420: The homework assignments were generally fairly difficult, but this helped me understand the content better, as I was forced to think about the topic in depth rather than just copying lecture notes and plugging in different numbers. Extra credit questions were very difficult, but encouraged further learning and introduced new applications for those who want to continue learning OR. I think we could have benefited from more practice problems since we don't have a textbook and this would have allowed us to fully cement an understanding of concepts that were more difficult. However, the prelims were fair enough that having additional practice would only have helped a little bit.

4541: Excellent material, especially for an intro class to ORIE, and its many useful real-world applications.

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4688: Amazing course content that is explained very concisely and clearly so it is easy to understand.

4780: Really a great introduction to Operations Research. I learned a lot.

5262: Extremely clear

5413: Very challenging at times but overall improved my knowledge and understanding. Expanded my applicable knowledge through many types of applications

5685: Really made me think and taught me to approach more general problems through the lens of the concepts we learned in class.

5810: good

5893: Content was presented in an easy-to-understand and engaging way, making hard concepts much simpler.

7225:   The professor organizes the notes in an concise and organized matter while sometimes the materials are basic for the understanding while the assignments exceed the understanding of students.

7996: The course content was interesting and I liked how near the end the content tied back together. Liked how content could be applied to real world applications. LIT juice had a bit too much of a kick to it, but it was a fun project to work on. Labs were helpful and fun.

8041: Course content was organized very well. The professor explained different types of models and algorithms as well as provided applications to real life. Content provided a great introduction to the OR major and showed how OR was relevant in many aspects of our lives.

8167: This class was very interesting. I had never even heard of operations research before coming to Cornell, but the course material was very interesting.

8322: I really liked the course content. I thought it would be difficult to understand without a textbook, but I was proven wrong!

8547: Course content was always engaging, even for someone who has already been exposed to a number of ideas in the syllabus.

8569: While the course content could be confusing at times the professor did an excellent job of answering questions and putting the information in terms that were easy to digest. As for the curriculum, I felt that there was just the right balance of new and old information to expand my horizons while also letting me connect it to other areas of STEM so I wasn't completely in the dark.

8624: I didn't really know what I was getting into when I choose to take this course - so happy I took it! The material is fascinating and much more applicable than I originally thought.

10042: The course was well organized. Every topic we learned, there was a variety of practical real examples using the methods we learned.

10095: Really great and engaging content. It makes me strongly consider OR as a potential major.

10760: This was probably my class with the most variety, which makes sense because it was meant to introduce me to

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the entire field/major of Operations Research. I really enjoyed how all examples were tied back to the real world in some way. For example, learning about how concepts we were learning were used in war, the Milgram experiment, and everything we did with gerrymandering. I wasn't just learning to plug and chug, I felt like I was learning to have a mindset I always wanted to have: using logic, reasoning, and math to make smart decisions instead of blindly making guess based on what feels right.

10985: Very well-organized and well-structured. Well-chosen examples. Loved all the topics.

11085: Course contents are very helpful and indicative as an introduction towards ORIE.

11107: It was hard but engaging and interesting.

11267: This class wasn't like anything I've ever taken before, so I thought pretty much everything was interesting. I also think learning about applications to the real world was really cool and made me look at problems in the real world differently.

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Comments on Course Delivery

1226: Sam Gutekunst was a fantastic instructor and did a great job explaining new concepts.

1608: Sam is the most enthusiastic, engaging instructor I've ever had. It's clear that he loves the material and his passion for it is contagious.

1652: The excitement showed in class as well as during office hours motivated me to try even harder on assignments and studying.

1706: Great teacher, favorite of the semester.

1712: I could have done well in the class purely from paying attention to lectures and taking notes. Amazing lectures!

1955: Very engaging lectures and labs.

1966: A lot of shouting and Mean Girls

2000: Sam was a great lecturer! He was very motivating and went over concepts when students were confused during lecture. He tried making harder concepts easier by giving modern and fun examples. Even when I could not attend his office hours I would have the chance to ask my questions by email and he would reply within at most 10 hours. I think the enthusiasm of a lecturer is really important to keep a student motivated in class and Sam was very enthusiastic about everything we talked about in class.

2013: Sam is one of the most passionate, knowledgeable, and engaging people I have ever met and his delivery conveyed this very well. You could sense his passion and knowledge and he always kept the class thoroughly engaged.

2356: The lecturer was extremely enthusiastic and made me excited to go to lecture each time.

2363: Sam was very energetic and engaging with the course material.

2756: Lots of enthusiasm and stimulating challenges and examples

2795: Extremely engaging professor. I particularly enjoy a class where the professor is so enthusiastic about the content and teaching. Learnt alot from Sam!

3320: Enthusiasm of the instructor made the class much more enjoyable. He was engaging and applied the class to easy to comprehend situations.

3641: Extremely engaging, well-paced, thought-provoking, and well structured. I always felt like I was discovering the ideas along with the prof. which made for an extremely valuable lecture

3745: Sam is by far one of the most engaging teachers I've had. He goes out of his way to better understand how people learn, and consistently seeks and applies student feedback to cater more closely to everyone's learning styles. It's clear that he loves both teaching and what he's teaching, and I personally find that enthusiasm very motivating.

3783: Really organized and informative- I never wanted to skip a lecture since they all felt important and I was sure I was going to learn something.

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3845: Sam was always super excited to teach and it make going to class more fun!

4005: Very engaging and clear lectures

4173: Great!!

4386: Very good.

4416: Quite possibly the most engaging lecturer I've had thus far. Definitely the most enthusiastic lecturer thus far. I don't think there could be a more enthusiastic lecturer. I've never seen a class lecture have such high, consistent attendance. The lectures were extremely important in understanding the material. The delivery of the material was very clear and effective. The lecturer wanted to make sure that he was communicating concepts effectively so he even created anonymous surveys that we filled out in lecture a couple times when the concept was more difficult asking how well we thought the concept was delivered and how much we understood. He would always stay after class to answer questions and was frequently at lab sections during the beginning to help and answer questions.

4420: Really couldn't have been much better.

4541: Sam is an excellent instructor, so far being one of the most welcoming and effective lecturers I've had at Cornell.

4688: Super engaging course, Sam made this class the most engaging one I've ever had. His enthusiasm makes it fun for everyone.

4780: One of the best teachers I've had. The delivery is probably what made this my favorite course this semester.

5413: Very good blackboard ability in writing. Sam is a great communicator in lecture and always tries to engage the class.

5685: Sam is extremely enthusiastic.

5810: good

5893: Sam is very enthusiastic and energetic, which makes it easier to be engaged in his lectures

7225: The professor delivers material with enthusiasm and prepares material with coherent ideas. The class motivated the context of my major overall engineering carer of considering majoring in OR.

7996: Really enjoyed the enthusiasm, made learning the content easier. Appreciated that lecturer stopped and asked if anyone had any questions before continuing. Mean girls references were entertaining.

8041: The professor's delivery of lectures was amazing! He was always super enthusiastic and made lectures entertaining. He clearly wrote out notes, examples, and graphs on the chalkboards, and frequently asked if we had any questions.

8167: Lectures were very engaging.

8322: The lectures were excellent and I enjoyed attending them. I like that he used a blackboard instead of a PowerPoint as it was easier to follow.

8547: Course delivery was fabulous; Sam always makes sure that everyone understands the material before moving

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on, and frequently questions the class after going through a harder topic.

8569: The professor did an exceptional job keeping me engaged in the material. There was a clear enthusiasm towards the material that overflowed from him into me. The professor made the material very easy to digest even when the topics became confusing.

8624: The lecturer was very engaging and clearly has a lot of passion for the subject - easily my favorite class this semester.

10042: The lecturer was very enthusiastic about the course and asked many questions to keep the students engaged.

10095: The lectures were always interesting and Sam was very enthusiastic and engaging.

10760: Throughout the semester, I got more and more exhausted. I stopped attending my math lectures, my Python lectures went by and I found I could remember nothing. No matter how tired or busy or stressed I was, there was not an ENGRI 1101 lecture that went by where I wasn't paying full attention the entire time. I truly believe Sam is the best professor at Cornell. It is so clear that he is excited and passionate about this topic, and he could easily get a room full of 100 students as excited as he is about OR. All of my friends in the class agree that it's our favorite, even though we're taking other popular classes like CS 1110. I am genuinely sad that the semester is over, because I'll really miss ENGRI 1101. The lectures nearly always made me laugh and more than often blew my mind with how cool the content was. When I got into Cornell, I was excited, but I questioned if it was really worth it to come here because of the cost. This class makes me feel like I'm at the absolute best place for me, and I feel so incredibly grateful for this opportunity. Back in high school, I thought I really liked some of my classes, but I never really knew what I was missing out on until I came here. I just had no idea professors or classes could be this good. When I go home for breaks, this is the class I tell all my friends and family about. Thank you!

10985: Lecturer was always well-prepared to deliver the materials, and very enthusiastic during lectures.

11085: Course delivery is extremely rich, energetic, and motivating.

11107: Sam was great. The fact that he really enjoys teaching and knows the material is very clear during lecture.

11267: Sam was always prepared with his lectures and the lectures always flowed well so that the end connected to previous lectures or the beginning of the lecture. Every note and example I took has been helpful in some way.

11316: Lectures were fantastic - well paced, engaging.

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Comments on Environment-Academic Integrity

1608: N/A

1955: None

2756: none

4420: None as far as I know.

7225: N/A

8322: N/A

11107: None

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Comments on Environment-Assistance

1226: Lots of office hours and TA's were very helpful.

1608: YES. The office hours were outstanding. Sam encourages us to ask lots of questions and helps us figure out problems by thinking critically.

1652: Additional assistance was wonderful in this class

1955: Very good access I would say

1966: Office Hours!

2000: There were a lot of office hours and most of the times I didn't want to ask a question in lecture so I would go to office hours to talk them over with Sam, who was more than willing to resolve any confusions that I was having.

2013: Sam made the office hours something freshmen felt welcome to with Goldfish and Gummy Bears (literally pounds of them) and his TA's were excellent at explaining and I always felt that if I needed help, I'd be able to get it.

2756: Plenty of office hours- TAs and professor willing to help outside of class

3320: I think that the help was very high quality, however the timing was a little difficult. With so many assignments for so many different classes it was hard to get to office hours on Sundays

3783: Office hours were frequent and available, so you could always go to office hours if you were stuck.

4420: I didn't go to office hours much, but when I did, it helped a lot.

4541: Excellent office hours.

4688: TAs and Sam at office hours.

5413: Many opportunities to ask Sam questions and many office hours available.

5685: Some TAs had better, more helpful office hours than others, but in general, there was good access to quality help.

7225: The office hours are really helpful for me to ask questions and have a direct conversation with the professors and TA to improve my understanding of the materials that were taught.

7996: Sunday office hours were helpful. Appreciated the goldfish.

8041: Lots of office hours and review sessions

8167: There were so many office hours and all the TAs were very helpful, especially ███.

8322: This course had an abundance of office hours and other times outside class to ask questions.

8624: I liked the snacks.

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10042: The office hours were extremely helpful; especially if I needed assistance on assignments.

10760: Office hours were extremely valuable. I know that for a lot of classes there can be a queue, or maybe the office hours aren't the best. I made time to go office hours every Wednesday for this class. The professor encouraged us all to find an office hours session that worked for our schedule, and offered gummy bears and goldfish to anyone who came. When Sam noticed that Wednesday office hours were the most possible, he added an extra TA and asked if we wanted to have that TA help out on Wednesday as well, or have him hold a separate session (and gave us several options for those times). We were able to vote on this. In addition to office hours, I was able to get help in lab, and Sam was willing to answer any emails we had at any time. Really, all the resources were readily available and easy to take advantage of.

10985: My lab TA [REDACTED] and office hours were extremely helpful. Thank you!

11085: The office hours helped so much (in fact my favorite office hours amongst all the courses). Also, there are plenty of them so that I can get help nearly every time I need.

11107: Sam held very frequent office hours which were of great help.

11267: Office hours was the most helpful part. I knew that every week I could go in and get all my questions answered about homework problems or content and I could walk away understanding the material better. I also really appreciated the times the office hours were available, as it fit in my schedule nicely since I don't have evening classes.

11316: Can't comment on the quality so much, did not really go to OH.

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Comments on Environment-Diversity

1608: N/A

1955: No issues

2756: None

3320: All the staff of this class was really open and engaging.

4420: N/A

4541: N/A

7225: N/A

8322: N/A

9364: Sometimes it's not necessary to ask the obvious questions. When the answer is intuitive, first it's a waste of time to ask and wait for students to respond, and second sometimes students might mistake it as a tricky question.

10042: There were times where students called out the answers and other students were annoyed.

11107: None

12605: The learning environment was fantastic-- it was actively inclusive in a way that I have not seen here.

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Comments on Strengths

703: Clearly interested in the subject and material, and in teaching students about it/getting them interested in it.

1226: Sam is very enthusiastic and passionate about this class. It made the lectures more interesting/enjoyable and more fun to learn about OR.

1538: Exuberance for course material often inundated the class.

1608: Sam is the best teacher I've ever had. He loves teaching and is extremely knowledgeable about the course material and its real-world applications. Because of this class, I'm sure that ORIE is the right major for me.

1652: He really went out of his way to make sure all the students in the class understood the material. His excitement not just about the topics we were learning but teaching in general enhanced my first-term-in-college experience.

1699: Replies to emails quickly (I CAN NOT STRESS HOW HELPFUL THIS WAS), Again- replies to emails quickly. Very enthusiastic.

1760: Sam is very passionate about this course and is very humble. He always made time to help me understand topics in his own hours at his desk and frequently reached out to me making sure my mental health was ok as I had issues sleeping happening the beginning of the year.

1955: Great enthusiasm and helped me when trying to decide whether to major in this field

1966: The course does a good job at introducing ORIE while teaching fundamental concepts without needing skills and knowledge (like coding and linear algebra) that not everyone might have yet. Gummy bears! Gold Fish! Apple cider!

2000: I had my doubts at the beginning of the semester about not taking this course by a professor but I do not regret my decision. I am so glad I took this course from Sam because I believe he was an amazing lecturer and teacher! He was very enthusiastic about every subject we did in class and was never bothered by any questions we had. Overall it was an amazing course and Sam contributes to this experience a lot.

2013: I loved this course and wish it could last another semester or meet three times a week because I always wanted to learn more. Sam was by far my best professor I've had here and helped shape this course into my favorite as well.

2351: Sam seriously you're the most dedicated and helpful teacher I've ever met!! The course content is so engaging that I'm considering majoring in OR now lol.

2363: Sam made the subject very interesting, and it was clear that he was passionate about teaching and learning. I think the majority of my past professors were very competent but were not able to engage the students as well as Sam did.

2756: n/a

3320: I think the instructor had a talent to connect with students. He was also truly able to convince them that he cared about the students. He was also a great teacher, he made good analogies and used appropriate examples. I would look to take another course taught by this intructor

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3470: For sure. I didn't know much about OR, but after the course, I realize how interesting it is—I am considering a minor in the subject.

3641: Provides an excellent introduction to OR that persuaded me to pursue that major within the first few lectures. As I was very interested in the course content, I met with the prof. a few times outside of class. He was always more than willing to discuss his research, my research, introduce me to new research tools, and new people. He will frequently send me event he thinks I will be interested in almost all of which I have gone to. It is very clear that he has a strong passion for teaching this content.

3777: The upbeat positive and enthusiastic attitude made the class more enjoyable.

3845: Sam was a great instructor who was super passionate about OR and about teaching. Every class, it was clear that he was excited to be there and excited to teach us more about OR!

3946: Sam went above and beyond every day of class to make this class as helpful and efficient as possible. Thanks Sam!

4005: Great lectures and fun labs

4173: Sam is a really great professor!

4386: Very enthusiastic and engaging. Understands and explains material very well.

4420: It is great to have a professor who really cares about his students and has a passion for teaching. Here are some quotes copied directly from Blackboard:

"Teaching students like you all is what I want to do with my life."
"As always, this is a class where we're all playing on the same team....Our entire goal is for you to understand the material, and we want to do everything we can to help!"

Sam genuinely cares about our well-being and wants nothing else than for us to succeed. He sends Blackboard announcements for anything that may help, he is always willing to help, and teaches in such a way that we learn as much as possible without getting overwhelmed or too confused. In addition, he always teaches the class with passion and energy, making the class fun while staying on topic to make sure that we learn.

He is a better professor than I could have expected to get in college. I think we could all strive to be a little more like Sam in life.

Overall, the course has furthered my interest enough that I am almost completely positive that I am going to major in ORIE.

4541: His attention to detail, breaking things down to the foundation to make sure nothing is unclear.

Being personable and engaging on not just academics, but daily student life. This helps making learning fun in both the classroom and during office hours!

4688: The instructor's dedication and enthusiasm for the course made it ten times more engaging and interesting than it would have been otherwise. The TAs are also very helpful and kind, overall it is a great class.

4780: It was really cool of you to learn all the students names.

5413: Sam is very accessible and receptive to criticism. He is always wanting to help instead of being obligated to. He

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is a very good lecturer and teacher.

5685: This course made me think much more analytically by using math in a way I had never anticipated before. Overall a very strong and interesting introduction to the course.

5810: he is very passionate and responsible

5893: Instructors and TAs are all very friendly and engaged. Lectures are engaging.

7009: Sam makes a good effort to make sure the class is interesting and to keep the class awake. He also asks once in a while in every lecture if there are any questions or confusions before moving on.

7225: I would like to thank Sam for been motivated all the time and been enthusiastic all the times by explaining the concepts of lecture during office hours. Sam is caring of his students by making sure that everyone understands the topic and provide any necessary help for students who are struggling.

7996: very enthusiastic and passionate about course topic.

8041: Sam is an amazing professor! I was shocked to find out that this was his first time teaching this course. He learned everyone's names and always made himself available to help us.

8122: Sam was always thoroughly prepared and genuinely enthusiastic to teach our class. The lectures were clear and easy to follow, the assignments were challenging and thought-provoking, and the exams were very fair. By adopting the attitude of testing our knowledge of the class concepts rather than trying to trick us or make an intentionally and unreasonably difficult test, we were given an environment that encouraged us to truly learn and understand the material. I found this class to be the most thought-provoking class I've taken this semester, and it has challenged me to think and apply OR concepts to many real-life applications that I found really interesting. I've struggled a lot this semester, but I've learned just as much. I really enjoyed this class.

8167: Sam is a great lecturer and always encouraged students to ask questions and come to office hours, where he provided goldfish and gummy bears.

8322: The biggest strength was the lectures. They were extremely useful, intuitive, and engaging. The lecturer was fantastic.

8547: Course instructor was great with engaging students while making difficult topics seem amusing to encourage learning.

8833: Very engaging professor who cares a lot

9364: Sam is a great lecturer. He knows his stuff and delivered it well throughout the semester. I really enjoyed the course and the materials

9867: I think the homework is very helpful and definitely helps my understanding of the information. The office hours are very great and very useful.

10042: The instructor does a really great job in keeping the students entertained and engaged in the lecture.

10095: This course was a lot more thorough than what I expected from an introductory course—I feel like I've learned a lot of things with direct, real world applications. The professor, Sam, completely made the course. His lectures were always engaging, and his passion for the subject matter radiated throughout the entire class. He was very

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approachable and always ready to help with questions.

10760: I really enjoyed how the labs tended to give us a different experience than the homeworks and lectures. I was able to form a group and I learned a lot from those people and also my TA. We often walked out and talked about how that lab was actually pretty fun. These labs provided a visual component to go along with the algorithms we were learning, and taught me to use software that will be helpful to me moving forward. The labs themselves were challenging, but I was never stressed because I knew if I tried my best and asked questions, I'd get full credit. After lecture, I was often confused about the algorithms we had just gone over last, and after lab, I'd feel like anything I was unsure of had really been solidified because I had seen it in practice and gotten the big takeaways from it.

10979: Professor Gutekunst is one of my favorite professors so far. He is always enthusiastic and great at teaching. He wants everyone to succeed and made an effort on getting to know everyone in the class.

10985: Overall the course was very well-organized. Course structure helped me to build in my understanding hugely. Instructor was down to getting feedback from the students, so adaptation (ie. of homework difficulty) were made.

11085: Sam is one of the bests instructors I got during this fall semester. He explains concepts and algorithms clearly and rigorously, at the same time generating my interests in his subject. I could see his enthusiasm in his major, which is also kind of motivating for me.

11107: None

11267: Sam's really passionate about the material and it really showed when he taught it in lecture. Having an instructor that's excited really helps when you're learning something foreign, like I was. His passion allowed him to be a really great lecturer who fully explained everything and gave great examples. He consistently checked in on the class to make sure we were following. He is definitely one of my favorite instructors I've had.

11316: Professor was the best I have had at Cornell.

12734: Entertaining lecturer, made a lot of practical connections.

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Comments on Weaknesses

1608: N/A

1699: The grading criteria and "What steps required" was not made clear in many assignments.

1760: The grading rubric for our homework was very strict. Often times, I would put endless hours into perfecting my homework assignment to still get errors in places I reviewed serverall times.

1955: None that I can think of.

1966: The instructor is sometimes passive aggressive.

2000: None.

2013: I think the only thing that could improve this course slightly is a Piazza page. I frequently wanted help with a little detail of a problem (like what to make my decision variables) and I felt that if I couldn't get that first step right, I shouldn't do the rest of the problem. So maybe a Piazza page that lets students get quick answers from Sam, the TAs or other students would help with those small questions as opposed to walking all the way to Rhodes for one quick point. But with that said there were ample opportunities to ask Sam before or after lecture or I could have emailed him or a TA, I just didn't want to be intrusive.

2351: Would be better if the seat in the lecture hall has larger tables.

2756: n/a

2967: Expectations were too specific at times - nit picky

3320: I think one of the hardest things teaching this class is that the majority of the class is freshman and everyone comes into the class knowing different information. For me, I knew enough to jump right into the class, but I could see how without clarification of certain terms the class would prove to be difficult for some.

3777: More office hours availability would have been better.

4386: Sometimes talks a little fast.

4420: Doesn't know the difference between "than" and "then." :)

4541: Perhaps nitpicking, but just a tad bit strict on HW style points, but understandable to build good habits. Grading has still been very fair!

5413: Nope. Great class.

5685: Grading criteria could be more clear on homework, and more explicit guidelines on what work must be shown to receive full credit should be given.

5810: No

7009: It would be nice if the comments on the homework or exams were written with legible handwriting.

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7225: The weaknesses of the course is the among of resources the professor provides to students that most times the lecture notes are not enough for students to fully understanding the concept.

8041: None

8167: The homework is harder than the exam questions, so getting through the problem sets every week is quite difficult.

8322: The only weakness of this course was the rigorous grading. It was a bit over the top at times, which was a nuisance when the material itself was already adequately challenging.

10042: No weaknesses I can think of.

10760: Literally.....none.

10979: When getting into the last conceptual portion of the course, it would be helpful to let us read some handouts on the topic beforehand.

10985: The first couple of homework were pretty challenging and sometimes confusing at the time. But changes were made after effective communication :)

11085: No. Though I'm not a fan of Mean Girls.

11107: None

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Comments on workload, resources, assignments, and assessments

1226: The homework was often quite difficult but it also helped reinforce the material by giving me practice problems.

1608: The assignments were challenging but definitely helped improve course knowledge. Also, there were plenty of office hours to get help and broaden my understanding of the material.

1652: I think supplemental assignments help understand the topics. The grading is pretty strict but not harsh. Homeworks can at times be a little hard but nothing that little office hours can't fix.

1699: Grading criteria and "what steps are required" was not very clear. This I felt made me lose points even though I had a very good understanding of what was being thought.

1955: Fair workload, but needed to understand the material

2000: The homework was challenging but helpful for understanding the concepts talked in class. We had a lot of resources on blackboard as well so if I didn't have the time to go to office hours I would have the chance of finding the answers to some of my questions on documents in the course packet handouts.

2013: I loved how purposeful the homeworks felt and I never felt like I was drowning in OR homework. I felt like the first two prelims were accurate representations of the course as well.

2363: The workload was a little tedious, but prepared me for the exams really well.

2756: Homework was very difficult at times and marked harshly, especially extra credit, but exams were written and graded fairly and were a good evaluation of progress in the course.

2795: Extremely useful handouts. Explain everything in detail. HW also solidified my learning.

3320: I think that some of the resources provided were a little wordy and difficult to get through. Sometimes I found myself looking for simplified material. I think the homeworks and assignments gave really good practice and really helped me understand the material better. I think grading on exams was harsher than the homeworks in terms of partial credit and I just did not see it coming.

3745: Not easy, but homework assignments and labs are really condusive to working through in groups, and usually are reasonable in length.

3783: The homework would introduce new concepts in a way that expanding understanding of what was taught in class, which was cool since it felt like you were figuring out and learning more independently, without just making you feel lost.

3845: I wish the homework assignments were as straightforward with the goal of each question as the prelims were.

4005: Felt nit-picky at times

4416: This course was very well structured and well taught. The homeworks were not too long and increased my understanding significantly. The assessments were very well written. They made sure you understood the content but were not insanely difficult. The instructor made sure that you knew what was expected of you so that when it came to studying for exams you were able to prepare effectively without wasting time.

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4420: The length and number of homework assignments was manageable and helped further my understanding without overwhelming me with work for this class. The project was pretty long, but this was also reasonable, considering we only had one all semester, and there should only ever be one or two big projects per semester. Overall, the workload was very appropriate and manageable.

The grading was more than fair, and did a lot to prevent stress. Specifically, the grading method for our prelims made me feel a lot better, since we could weight our final more if we did worse on either or both of the prelims. This actually made a huge difference for me, and my general well-being and mental health.

4541: Very useful homework. Intellectually challenging to reinforce material from class, and not too burdensome on time.

4688: Long homeworks but very doable through office hours and collaborations with classmates. Assessments are really fair and everyone should be able to do well if they study. Plenty of extra help resources available, TA office hours, online handouts, etc.

4780: The grading seems pretty strict, I would work hard on homeworks, understand the material, and get the correct answer and still get a B back. It's just a little discouraging, maybe relax it just a little.

5413: Very receptive to requests on assignments and grading. Lab and homeworks were all helpful in expanding my learning.

5685: Sometimes what the graders wanted us to say was a little confusing and hidden, but overall I could pinpoint where I went wrong on a problem more often than not.

5810: Balanced

7225: The course should of provided more resources for students to enhance their understanding of topic because for the most time we can only study the concepts from lecture note while more resources could be provide by the professor to enhance our understanding on specific topics.

7996: Sunday office hours were really helpful, was able to get an early start on homework and ask all the questions I needed. Homework was challenging but doable and I was able to understand the content better. While it was graded sort of harshly, it was still fair. I like how it was weighted, made me put more effort into it. Extra credit was also nice. Enjoyed the quotes on the exams.

8041: Assignments encouraged us to apply in-class learning to different scenarios. Various supplemental handouts were also provided for further clarification of material.
Grading was very prompt, it was especially great to be able to know our prelim grades within hours of taking the test!

8167: The homework assignments were very hard. Although they did prepare me well for the exam, it was also too much work for a homework assignment. The workload was very heavy, especially for an ENGRI. The readings were very helpful and gave me a chance to understand each algorithm on a deeper level. The exams were a fair test of my knowledge.

8322: The workload was sufficient. I did not find the handouts we received to be helpful, but my notes from class were extremely useful. The assignments were difficult, yet manageable, so very fair. The assessments were challenging but, again, fair. However, he was a very strict grader, so this did increase the difficulty of assessments and assignments.

8547: Fair workload and assignments.

8569: The homework could become a little long at times but considering the amount of time given to complete the

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problem sets, time was never an issue. The homework did an excellent job of pushing me past the fundamentals and getting me to think about the concepts in intelligent ways. The homework also was very influential towards me gaining an intuition for the material.

8624: I appreciated the cohesive delivery of material - I never felt like I was learning and cobbling together a million different sources.

8833: Homework graded too harshly.

10042: Yes, I feel that I understood the course content much better after reading handouts and doing the homework.

10095: The labs were very well structured. Even if there were concepts I was slightly unsure of during lecture, the labs reinforced the content and made it very clear.

10760: Okay, I feel like I sound like I am exaggerating, but I think this is the gold standard for how a class should be run. When my family asks me how I like Cornell compared to high school, I say that it is MUCH more difficult, but easier in a sense because everything I do is meaningful and exciting. That's mainly because of this class. I really like how there's no textbook for this class. When I first discovered this, I got nervous because I thought, "How am I going to learn anything outside of class?" But, it's really not a problem at all. Textbooks don't always line up with the material so well or they have too much material and either way, a lot of people never read them. Sam posts these really succinct handouts online that line up perfectly with the coursework. Every time I work on the homework, there is a handout that has some fantastic information that is very helpful. They're condensed into a couple pages and typically go through an example in depth, at the level of work we're expected to show. I personally found this to be the most helpful kind of handout to have.

As far as workload, it was always consistent. With other classes, I sometimes ended up floundering to finish something. With this class, there was simply always a homework due on Friday. These homeworks were very very challenging for me, but challenging in the best possible way. They were challenging enough that I was forced to really think in different ways and learn something new, but I had all the resources to succeed. I never felt stuck. If I focused in lecture and took notes, that paid off, and if I went to office hours every Wednesday, I was basically guaranteed to succeed. While other students came in with a lot more relevant knowledge than me, it was perfectly within the realm of possibility for me to succeed and do just as well as them. By the way, I actually wrote a short story about spending hours writing the most glorious OR homework and feeling like a whole crowd of people were cheering me on and triumphantly stapling the 15 pages together as part of my application to CUAir.

With the assessments, it was basically the same deal. These were hard to study for on their own, because they were no different than the rest of the course material. Basically, if I understood the content and had really tried hard and done well on the homeworks, I would do well on the prelims. The grading for these was very kind and the tests were fair, which I think really boosted morale and kept everyone excited about the real reason we were there - to learn. The grading was insanely quick, too! Even with a huge class, we'd get back our prelim grades the same night we took them!!! And we would get an answer key right after the prelim ended.

Overall, this class was probably the most well organized class I will ever take in my life. I really can't think of any complaints. I'm just sad that most of the other classes I take here probably won't be structured as well.

10985: Assignments were very helpful, as a nice reflection of lecture material and a challenge to foster our understanding.
Outside of class-time resources were not used as much (i.e. handouts were less useful than class notes when doing homework).
A few recitation labs were too time consuming (i.e. the TSP map one and the gerrymandering one).
The mini-project was a bit confusing sometimes. I think it was more stressful for me and my group than it was meant to be.
The prelims were very well written and fair.

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Overall, assignments were well-designed and workload was reasonable.

11085: They are arranged and assigned in a reasonable way, especially homework.

11107: None

11267: The one thing I liked particularly about this course was that the homework was actually helpful in learning the material. In doing the homework and asking questions, I learned the material so well that studying for exams was a little less intimidating and I knew I could rely on homework problems to help study. I think the assignments required a decent amount of time but that's fair for this course. The assessments were also very reasonable and addressed the material we'd covered fairly.

11316: Grading could be frustrating - what is needed to get full credit for some things, besides just the right answer?

You can easily get lost in the course if you miss lectures, or lost notes. If the course handouts provided in lecture were made online, as well as the powerpoints, this would have helped a lot. This is made more difficult by the fact that there is no course textbook and that the provided handouts from the past do not perfectly align with the course.

Course would definitely be improved with full online resources.

12734: `