

ST345: Life Contingencies. Term 2 2018/19

Lectured by Murray Pollock (Weeks 1 – 5).

Feedback

Feedback was taken for ST345 by an anonymised *Moodle* poll during the period Monday, 28th January to Sunday, 3rd February. In total there were 9 responses (90%) (out of 10 registered students). Feedback was as follows:

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Point Avg.	% Agree
Q1 – Lectures were interesting.				4	5	4.6	100
Q2 – Lecturer good at explaining things.				2	7	4.8	100
Q3 – Lectures delivered clearly.				2	7	4.8	100
Q4 – Resources outside lectures supported learning.				2	7	4.8	100
Q5 – Assessment arrangements satisfactory.				4	5	4.6	100
Q6 – Received helpful feedback.			4	3	2	3.8	56
Q7 – Feedback has been prompt.			4	3	2	3.8	56
Q8 – Overall this was a good module.				3	6	4.7	100

The further free-text ‘any other comments’ responses given were:

- O1 “Murray is an excellent lecturer who encourages discussion and open thinking. We’re being taught more than just how to do well in an exam.”
- O2 “Really enjoyed the first half”
- O3 “Putting up lecture notes online beforehand or giving out handouts would be helpful, as it is difficult to copy down everything as the lecture goes and having the lecture notes to reference can help while solving exercises in class.”

The further free-text ‘constructive ways I think this course can be improved’ responses given were:

- C4 “Hard to think of something useful that hasn’t already been done!”
- C5 “Maybe have some concepts introduced in pther modules, its a bit overwhelming learning it all at once!”
- C6 “Nothing so far”

Response

All (ST345 Students),

It is great to see such a large proportion of you consistently attended, and then also took the time to provide feedback. Here are some remarks on the feedback given:

- Q1–Q5, Q8, O1–O2, C4, C6 – Many thanks for your kind responses and encouraging comments.

- Q6–Q7 – No formal assessment / feedback has yet been taken / given, so it is difficult to interpret this question or respond. Given the supplementary comments don't offer any clues on this, I'm assuming 'Neutral' is effectively 'N/A' (which was unavailable as an option). As feedback solicitation is out-with my control I'll relay this (lack of 'N/A' option) back to the relevant departmental persons, through the usual channels, as something to consider for future feedback solicitation.
- O3 – Sorry, but no. This was addressed explicitly at the beginning of ST345, and prior to the beginning of term on the module webpages. My notes won't be given in *advance* as: a) they are only a *supplementary guide*; b) I'm dynamically adapting what I present to suit class needs, and so I don't have them sequenced in advance (recall this is a 'reading' style course); c) all required formulae (and other detail) for in-class exercises can be found either in the 'yellow book' (in which case you should practice using it) or in the core notes by using the cross-referencing I've been providing during lectures (and in advance by email). I *have* been sending regular weekly emails giving notice of the sections of the core notes that will be covered *in advance* (recall these are a complete treatment of the syllabus), and in addition I have made available my full in-class scanned notes promptly *in arrears(!)* (along with other resources provided or discussed in class, full core note cross-referencing, and exam-style questions) on the module webpages (notification of which was also sent by email weekly).
- C5 – Agreed! Hopefully this is addressed in a holistic review of our modules following the full transition to the new IFOA syllabus. I am personally a strong proponent of this, but unfortunately I only have direct oversight over ST345, and not the full actuarial syllabus / provision. I will relay this comment back to the relevant departmental persons, through the usual channels, as something to consider for future review.

Given my lecturing for ST345 is now complete, I would happily receive any further feedback for my own personal development by other means (email etc.). If any of you want to discuss further aspects of what I have covered during weeks 1–5 then please attend one of my office hours, which can be found here – www.warwick.ac.uk/mpollock/teaching. The module webpages give complete detail of the arrangements for revision classes for the material I covered, but I would gladly receive indications in advance of material you would especially like covered during this. Details for the final exam (and class tests) can also be found on the module webpages, along with links to a large number of typical exam-style questions.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of ST345!

Sincerely,



Dr. M. Pollock
Assistant Professor of Statistics & Turing Fellow
4th February, 2019