



American University
2025S Instructor - Course SET Report for with students comments David Miller GOVT-310-001

Response Summary

| Raters | Responded | Invited | Response Ratio |
|----------|-----------|---------|----------------|
| Students | 14 | 24 | 58.3% |



Questions for David Miller:

Instructor Questions

| | 1 - Strongly Disagree | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 - Strongly Agree | Percent 4 and 5 | 25th Percentile | Median | 75th Percentile | Department Median | School Median | AU Median |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| The professor required high levels of performance. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 100.0% | 4.0 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The professor facilitated a respectful learning environment. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 92.9% | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The professor was responsive to students' questions and comments. | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 57.1% | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The professor was available for conversations or questions outside of the designated class time. | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 71.4% | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The professor provided constructive feedback on papers, tests, or other assignments as appropriate. | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 50.0% | 3.0 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| I would recommend this professor to other students. | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 64.3% | 2.8 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |



Questions for GOVT-310-001

Course Questions

| | 1- Strongly Disagree | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 - Strongly Agree | Percent 4 and 5 | 25th Percentile | Median | 75th Percentile | Department Median | School Median | AU Median |
|---|----------------------|---|---|---|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| This course challenged me to do my best work. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 92.9% | 4.0 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The learning objectives for this course were clear. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 78.6% | 3.8 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The activities, readings, and assignments reflected the learning objectives for the course. | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 85.7% | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| I now have a greater understanding of the subject matter of this course. | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 71.4% | 3.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

Indicate the average number of hours per week you worked on assignments and studied for this course

| 0-3 Hours | 4-6 Hours | 7-9 Hours | 10-12 Hours | 12 or more Hours |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| 3 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 |



Student Comments

What did you find MOST helpful about David Miller's teaching approach and course content?

| Comments |
|---|
| Professor Miller was very good about being available to answer questions outside of class such as during office hours or through email. i thought that he did a very good job explaining coding concepts and general course material. |
| Professor Miller is clear, concise, and respectful towards all students, even when they do not reciprocate. The presentation of information is very helpful for understanding the material. All of the assignments' directions we clear and straight forward. |
| What I found most helpful was access to the notes and being available for questions on all sorts of assignments. |
| Ummmm he's nice. |
| The aspect of Prof. Miller's teaching approach and course content that I found to be most helpful was how he allowed ample time in the curriculum to introduce the complex concepts that we would be applying to our coursework, rather than just sending us in headfirst without guidance. He even gave us background info that we didn't necessarily need to complete the assignments, but helped me ground my understanding of what we were actually doing. |
| Professor Miller had readings that were relevant to our class, and also taught us how to outline and understand an academic article, and how to understand research. |
| The structure of the week. Doing lecture, then lab, and having one assignment due each week |
| Professor Miller's availability outside of class and willingness to adapt to student's learning timelines was very helpful. If something did not make sense immediately in class he was able to further explain it to students one-on-one and was open to answering questions in class and outside of class. The format and structure of the class made sense, we had a lecture at the beginning of the week then it was followed by labs about what was covered in that lecture. |
| Professor Miller did a great job making a difficult subject more digestible. In particular, I liked that we did in-class labs before moving on to the graded problem sets so we could be more confident in our R skills when it was graded. I also liked that if we made a mistake, he would explain what the code was doing in our answer and then told us how to revise it and why that new code performed the task correctly. |
| He is really good at being responsive to student when they ask questions during class |

What did you find LEAST helpful about David Miller's teaching approach and course content?

| Comments |
|---|
| Sometimes class felt very lecture heavy, and not geared towards the final research project. |
| I would have liked to have a bit more information supplementing the slides which would provide context for the information presented, especially lines of code. I know that the textbooks are present, but I sometimes struggled to make sense of the material through them. I think a bit of additional written down context to point students in the right direction would be great. |
| What I found least helpful was how strict the grading was, it would be really helpful to have some form of partial credit. |
| This class is one of the many challenges required courses and the professors made it difficult for a few students in the class. Coding with R studio was very hard and him and his TA wasn't always the best help and even said "go on Reddit it's always something on the internet to help you" i believe he means well but the course is TOO hard to have a nonchalant professor attitude. I had a canvas problem that I didn't notice until April that some of my assignments didn't submit even though I pushed submit and this happened in one other class and he didn't care to grade them and didn't. He's an okay professor but his teaching isn't TOO clear to me. |
| The aspect of Prof. Miller's teaching approach and course content that I found to be least helpful was the minimal amount of feedback that he/his teaching assistant gave on assignments. It was often unclear as to why points were taken off. |
| Professor Miller's attempt to teach us coding was absolutely terrible. He barely taught us how to format code and barely did any intro to R. If that wasn't enough, he was insanely harsh at grading. I have never in my 19 years of being a student had a teacher who was as harsh a grader as Professor Miller. We would follow exactly what the rubric would say to do, and then get below a 79%. He would require us to do coding that we didn't have any introduction to it beyond a slide with some code on it, and we were expected to interpret that for the specific use of variables in in-class labs and problem sets. Professor Miller's choice of a TA was absolutely horrible. I don't think I could ever choose a worse TA. I honestly feel like his TA graded an introductory-level research course on a PhD level. I would never tell anyone to take his class if his TA was doing the grading, not ever. While I feel like his aim in teaching was with good intentions, the grading outcome was horrendous. While I feel like I learned some stuff, I would never take this class again, not ever. |
| His slides don't label what each variable is in the code. When going back to the slides they can be unhelpful as I don't know what the variables represent |
| At times it felt like the professor and teaching assistant who often graded work and left feedback had different expectations, something mentioned in class was not applied in the feedback and the teaching assistant's grades often felt harsh for the assignment provided with minimal ways we were actually able to improve our scores and grades. Though that is not a criticism of Professor Miller – his feedback always felt easily applicable and relevant to the assignment. |
| I think the group work was valuable, but I wonder if having each member turn it in (more of a work together but separate grades) would make the assignment divided more equitably and would ensure everyone tries their best. |
| This is a note about our TA: I feel like he could have been a little more specific in our feedback on assignments. He would often say why our answer was wrong but not tell us how to fix it for future assignments. |
| He only has one official office hours time per week when he should ideally have at least two separate times (especially given the demand). His style of teaching also involves a lot of "sink or swim" style where it is a little bit too heavily reliant on the student figuring out how to do something on their own, which can be helpful, but oftentimes makes it harder to understand concepts. |
| Unclear explanations of all subject matter. Lectures somehow both did not focus on the theoretical OR practical application of information...the statistical basis for what we were doing was unclear, as was how we should be applying that to R. While there was some example code in the slides, they were not well explained (the code) in terms of what parts should be changed to apply to different problems. HARSH grading. |

GOVT questions

| | Invited Count | Resp Count | Resp Ratio | 1 - Strongly Disagree | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 - Strongly Agree | Percent 4 and 5 | 25th Percentile | Median | 75th Percentile | Dept Median |
|---|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------|
| I gained a good understanding of concepts and principles in this field. | 24 | 14 | 58.3% | 0 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 57.1% | 3.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| I deepened my interest in the subject matter of this course. | 24 | 14 | 58.3% | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 42.9% | 1.0 | 3.0 | 4.3 | 5.0 |
| The professor encourages students to think independently. | 24 | 13 | 54.2% | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 53.8% | 2.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| The instructor seems well-prepared for each class. | 24 | 14 | 58.3% | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 92.9% | 4.0 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 |