Instructor: **Weigend, Andreas**
Subject: **STATS**
Catalog & Section: **252, 1**

Course Title: **DATA MINING & E-BUSINESS**
Enrollment: **41** Responses: **33**

1. Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

Strengths

- Lively, energetic,interesting, wonderful instructor
- Very engaging style of teaching.
- Each class was jam-packed with interesting information and real-world examples. Very personable teaching style.
- The coursework was very interesting. The professor brought in great speakers.
- Very effective in getting students to do more and deeper thinking about the topics.
- Brought in good guests
- Excellent. 3 hours in one lecture and it was never boring !
- Very good at selecting topics; most topics are the hottest areas in the industry. Invited a good number of industrial leaders to give talks; I enjoyed most of the talks and was able to ask questions to experts. Cared about students' learning. Always gives summaries of class materials, and tries to related topics to each other. Encourages open discussion. Arranged the class so that we only need to meet once a week.
- Prof Weigend is a natural instructor with a deep knowledge of the subject area. His insights into the role of data in electronic business have given me a lot to think about.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Perhaps a little more focus on interaction with the students working on the Wiki and SCPD students in general. Perhaps some discussions could be sparked up and everybody could collaborate on a problem?
- give more structured homework sets.
- Would have liked more chances outside of class to speak with you.
- I wish we could have spent one class in the beginning in which the professor gave an overview of data-mining theories/methods/rules that are widely used in the field. Since many of us are not from a stats background, a "crash course" could be really beneficial. In some of the assignments (homeworks, wikis), I feel I'm not so sure about the details of how we are evaluated.
- Sometimes it is easy to get lost during class. So it may be better to have a more logical structure than a simple outline of topics.

2. Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses, if any, of the textbook(s) and reading(s). What materials were most and least valuable? Why?

Strengths

- readings that were posted for understanding of assignments were useful
- The wiki was extremely helpful and helped the course a lot.
- Good selection of topics
- Nice to have a collection of data-minging books.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Could have been useful to get specific references for the relational probabilistic algorithms
- Some of the readings were not readily available for SCPD student, since we can not access the ACM library.
- Some of the homework sets were not well explained.
- I bought the text books and did not have time to read any. I hope they can be partially linked to the assignment so we know where to refer to with the texts we have.

3. Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

Strengths

- encouraged creativity and exploration

- The assignments were very topical and hands-on.
- The assignments helped the learning a lot.
- Good homework assignments, closely related to what's going on in the real world. This is quite important since the world of E-Business is evolving fast.
- Good assignments. very practial and helps reinforce understanding.
- The assignments were generally hands-on and had an open-ended component, which I feel is exactly the right way to approach this subject at this level. It did take a lot of hours to complete the HW, but it was time well spent.

Suggestions for Improvement

- description of assignments was sometimes a bit too scarce, and response time of TAs was slow.
- Some assignments were not clearly defined. I had a very bad experience on one of the two group projects. Got stuck with 2 members who did almost no work. This is a common problem for SCPD students since we have to randomly pick group members. Ended up getting an extremly low grade on the project because they did not do what was expected of them. I wish there was a way to improve this.
- Some assignments had technical difficulty that took away from their intended purpose. For example, the Del.icio.us API blocks usage after a certain number of queries.
- Many assignments dealt with material that was not covered in class and I had to learn on my own.
- For some assignments I spent much longer time than I had planned. It would be nice to know the detailed assignment at the beginning of the class so that I can plan accordingly.
- Sometimes it is too hard and requiring too much time for a weekly assignment.

4. Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all?

Strengths

- The use of exampled from industry was great. Guest lectures from people in industry and getting to know about what was going on.
- Excellent guest speakers. Lots of good recommendations for further study. Interesting and challenging assignments.
- Great instructor. Knows what's going on in the industry. Would recommend this class to anyone who's thinking of taking a job in the Internet world.
- The course and instructor were fantastic. I work at an Internet company, and this class was exactly what I needed to step back and think more deeply about what I do. Prof Weigend had a great lineup of guest lecturers from the industry.
- Excellent Lectures. Excellent Notes. Excellent Course.

Suggestions for Improvement

- The course was a little all over the place. Could have been tied together a little better.
- Clearer grading structure for SCPD students. Besides homework scores, it was difficult to figure out how I was doing in the participation area.
- At the end of the quarter, I felt the course is good but nothing to do with data mining skills. Maybe this class is very good with respect to conveying ideas, but should be good at teaching students how to use data mining skill in the E business dataset.