University of Manchester
2015-16 Semester 1 Mathematics (UG & PG)

Course: I3034-MATH-38181-1151-1SE-029334: MATH38181&48181&68181 MATH38181-4-6 - Extreme Values and Financial Risk 2015-16 1st Semester

Instructor: Saralees Nadarajah *

1 - Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Agree	(5)	88	77.19%		4.75
Mostly Agree	(4)	23	20.18%		
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	(3)	3	2.63%		
Mostly Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Disagree	(1)	0	0%		

Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median
114/157 (72.61%)	4.75	0.49	5.00

2 - The feedback that I received on my work was helpful

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Agree	(5)	88	77.19%		4.75
Mostly Agree	(4)	24	21.05%		
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	(3)	1	0.88%		
Mostly Disagree	(2)	1	0.88%		
Disagree	(1)	0	0%		

Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median
114/157 (72.61%)	4.75	0.51	5.00

3 - This unit was well organised

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Agree	(5)	99	86.84%		4.85
Mostly Agree	(4)	13	11.4%		
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	(3)	2	1.75%		
Mostly Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Disagree	(1)	0	0%		

Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median
114/157 (72.61%)	4.85	0.40	5.00

4 - The course materials were helpful

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Agree	(5)	102	89.47%		4.89
Mostly Agree	(4)	11	9.65%		
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	(3)	1	0.88%		
Mostly Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Disagree	(1)	0	0%		

Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median
114/157 (72.61%)	4.89	0.35	5.00

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5 - The support classes were helpful

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Agree	(5)	94	82.46%		4.81
Mostly Agree	(4)	18	15.79%		
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	(3)	2	1.75%		
Mostly Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Disagree	(1)	0	0%		

Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median
114/157 (72.61%)	4.81	0.44	5.00

6 - The eLearning resources provided in this unit were helpful

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Agree	(5)	101	88.6%		4.88
Mostly Agree	(4)	12	10.53%		
Neither Agree nor Disagree	(3)	1	0.88%		
Mostly Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Disagree	(1)	0	0%		

Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median
114/157 (72.61%)	4.88	0.36	5.00

7 - Prof/Dr. Saralees Nadarajah's teaching was excellent

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Agree	(5)	103	90.35%		4.90
Mostly Agree	(4)	11	9.65%		
Neither Agree nor Disagree	(3)	0	0%		
Mostly Disagree	(2)	0	0%		
Disagree	(1)	0	0%		
I have not been taught by this lecturer	(0)	0	0%		

Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median
114/157 (72.61%)	4.90	0.30	5.00

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8 - What aspect of Prof. /Dr. Saralees Nadarajah's approach to teaching best helped your learning?
Return Rate   62/157 (39.49%)

• Very like Saralees's lecture, nothing to say, very good!

• Examples

• Slow explanation and writing on a paper which showed in the projector. I helps to revise when I do not remember some of those details, I can always watch the podcast and drag it to that minute. He is very responsible in the sense that he sent out reminder every week and also offered a range of office hours.

• Fantastic lecturer, very supportive and organised. Is always willing to help!

• Everything is clear and notes are concise, all examples are broken down really well.

• His explanations and hand-writing are very clear and the notes are always uploaded right after class, which helps in learning very effectively. Besides, he goes through the questions during the tutorials in detailed.

• He explains everything he is doing and gives opportunities to ask questions, the lectures are a good pace. He seems to be very approachable with encouragement to see him if you don't understand something.

• Many examples given

• Very detailed course content, good lecture explaining. The best lecturer i have meet in my three years of university study.

• Again, Dr. Nadarajah is the most patient, open-minded and hard-working lecture I have ever met! Thank you sooooo much!

• Lots of examples with a clear correlation to the method just taught.

• He gave explanations in detail.

• Dr. Saralees Nadarajah is by far the best teacher I've ever seen. Every time before classes, he will send us the outline of next lectures, which give us enough time to do the preparation. His lectures are very clear and easy to follow.

• He marked my midterm and emailed my score within 6 hours of taking the test. If only every lecturer was like this. One of the most attentive lecturers I've had, Saralees ensures all students have plenty of resources available and frequently updates his website making it easy to catch up if anything is missed. Explains everything really clearly and delivers at a comfortable pace.

• This is the second module I have done taught by Dr Nadarajah and I can honestly say that his teaching is the best I have seen. He gives us the theory we need to know and then applies it to plenty of examples. He is very approachable and is always willing to help. He responds to emails very very quickly and will never not give you a solid explanation for any question you ask. The midterm test he gave us was good in the sense that I am more ready for the final exam than other modules because it contained half the content. There are plenty of resources available online on his website which really helps! Thank you for your great teaching Sir!

• very earnestly

• Saralees is a very nice teacher, all aspects of his approach to teaching are very helpful, including materials, feedback and so on.

• Saralees is an excellent lecturer and deserves more credit than he gets. Explains things very well and offers a very good selection of online resources.

• Saralees is a good lecturer, I'd share a pint with him, though I wouldn't buy him one. I feel that in tutorial classes he can be a little bit difficult to talk to since some times when we are struggling with a problem we might get told to "try harder" or he might just tell us the 1st step which we've already got sorted or just repeat what he said when he delivered content to the whole class.

• Absolute dedication to teaching the material; easily one of my favorite lecturers. The updates of podcast times, interesting side notes, additional formulas and VERY fast mid-term feedback were all very much appreciated. A willingness to go into as much detail as needed for any problem was also very helpful.

• Rigorous attitude of scholarship.

• Dr. Saralees Nadarajah's classes are very helpful for me to understand every calculation steps. He always explain the calculation process with patience.

• His explanations on every part of the course really helped me a lot to understand the problems and examples

• He is very helpful, takes alot of his time to ensure students understand topics very well. I like the pace of the course as he ensured we understood everything before moving onto different topic. He recaps some of the material which was covered last year so we can understand the current topic well. Saralees is a great teacher and always answers questions during lecture and also during his office hours.

• He is very clear and his explanations are very detailed.

• Very detail in class notes and examples, explain the hard questions very well, give us big confidence for the exam.

• /

• Many examples and materials to study with.

• He is a great lecturer, going above and beyond to help all students understand all aspects of the course in lectures and also with all the material he provides.

• Great e-resources. Clearly written notes. Helpful information about exams.

• The way he repeats himself on little tricks to get to the right answer helps alot. He makes sure you fully get the idea, by repeating which i appreciate. I also like the way he goes through the examples line by line in handwriting so you know what is happening.

• He is extremely organised and emails his students on a regular basis to see if they need help with anything. Personally, I think all lecturers should do the same. His podcasts are extremely helpful too.

• Very dedicated prof. Probably one of the best in the university. Well delivered lectures and examples classes.

• on-line notes and solutions are all great, but his lectures and tutorial provide even more understanding, and thus probably an ideal course. Saralees exaplains in lots of detail, so you know exactly what is happening (in lectures and tutorials).

• Explains everything well, provides excellent support classes, always very quick to reply to emails or questions about the course material.

• Dr Nadarajah's teaching methods are superb. I cannot say a bad thing about him, just such a genuine, kind man who always offers to help, even out of office hours. I really like how he podcasts everything and sends students reminders of the class schedule, helpful information on exams etc. By far the best lecturer I have had at University, possibly in my academic career Frederick Tolhurst

• He's the most patient and helpful teacher I have ever seen. He always makes everyone catches up with the course. We don't need to worry about missing some points because he's always there to help.

• And I think the hand written notes are the most precious thing in this course! It's easy for students to review and check the lecture notes!

• Excellent, approachable lecturer. Lots of examples and the material is explained extremely well.

• Amazing dedicated lecturer. He makes an effort to take notice of his students. Replies email and questions quickly He should get an award for his effective teachings and effort to communicate with his students,

• The amount of time and care that he puts into his teaching and his students. Always emailing in relation to updates, podcasts, practically after every lecture and gives infinite opportunity for students to make the best out of their education. Is approachable, helpful and always available. Far and away the best lecturer I've had during my time at Manchester! Should be recognized for how much he puts into his teaching and used as a boomark for other lecturers.

• Willingness to help all pupils individually.

• Saralees does plenty of examples in the lectures which make the material easier to understand; he also puts much more effort into student feedback than any other professor he even scanned my marked mid term exam and sent it to my email when I forgot to pick it up after lectures.

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Instructor: Saralees Nadarajah *

• He is very patient when I ask him about any questions, and always give us every details about the course content. The learning materials is very helpful and detail for me to review.

• excellent handwritten notes

• He is so accurate in every aspects

• The way he went through the course material.

• I took two modules(now and in year 2) of him and I really appreciate him about his method of teaching. He does not make you boring like other statistics modules. you can follow him each minute while he is teaching. The course unite material is well organised; everything he has done in the lecture time, he posts on the black board(both the handwriting notes and pod-casts). Hence you cannot miss anything. He is always available in his office any time, you don't need an appointment to meet him. He is very interesting to help students. He is very hard working teacher.

• His patience in teaching make the lecture more clear to me. Besides, I really appreciate it he recorded every lecture so that I can scan them whenever I need.

• He always show the workings step by step

• the notes were so well organised and he is so approachable , I could easily solve my doubts .

• Went above and beyond to give us all the help we need

• He's explanations and great examples.

• I have been taught by Saralees before and I know he is a great lecturer - one of my favourite! I like the style of lectures with the visualiser and he will always wait until everyone has understood what he's written down. Good amount of examples in the lectures too.

• Nothing

• He goes through the notes and explains them well, with many examples.

• The Lecturer was very helpful in the tutorial classes, he was looking for a personal contact to the students.

• Lots of examples

• The teacher is really patient, the materials he provided is very helpful and in details. Especially, the podcast help me a lot, if there are some points I can't understand, then I can go back to watch the podcast again.

• His respond is absolutely faster than other lecturers. Also, he uploaded everything about his lecture like Podcast, hand writing in lectures etc.

• Very organised and very prompt with feedback.

• very excellent

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9 - Please provide details of what you valued about this unit	
Return Rate	45/157 (28.66%)

- Saralees' teaching was what made the unit actually fun to learn!

- The material covered is shown to be used in the real world.

- best lecturer i have had

- The online course materials are extensive and very good, the tutorials are well organised with time to complete questions, then worked through answers. The online notes are uploaded quickly and everything is available on the webpage.

- very useful and fundamental for further study

- Very organised, always looking to help out the students.

- Got more interested in the area

- 1. the content of this unit 2.the structure of teaching

- Dr Nadarajah's teaching

- The way in which the course is taught and availability of online resources.

- Being able to contact the lecturer at any time with any question was very helpful.

- Perfect.

- Dr. Saralees Nadarajah is very responsible and patient. The structure of this course is clear and reasonable…

- The lecturer is always updating us via emails about the schedules, important details for the tests/exams/tutorials and also providing us with podcasts which really helps me to revise efficiently

- The unit is well taught and is easy to follow even when you miss his lesson because he puts up same notes and extra notes. He sends emails at the start of each week telling us what will be included in this weeks schedule which allows you to read the documents beforehand. I also valued how helpful he is as he devotes a lot of his time answering questions via email and in his office making sure we understand everything properly. I like how he sets up his page so you can go through the worksheets before and then follow with it in class.

- Excellent!

- Everything was well-organised and his regular emails on the weekly schedules helped a lot.

- Risk evaluation methods

- /

- The weekly emails regarding course materials sent to me.

- All the materials provided and the way that he teaches.

- How statistics can be applied to the financial world, with real life estimators

- The professor

- great stats unit, the title implies that it is going to be a specialised subject, but the content is actually quite broad.

- I really valued the financial risk part, as I will be looking to pursue this area of mathematics/ finance in my career. The VaR and ESp were especially useful to learn. The examples classes and Stephen his assistant is very good as well.

- Further application to Statistical Methods and a little access to finance.

- In general, the course is excellent! I have to say, I like this course.

- The mathematics in this course is enjoyable. Everything in this unit seems necessary and is not just 'filler'.

- Everything.

- Teaching style and the amount help available. Challenging but interesting and do-able.

- Great feedback

- I learned a lot about the extreme values theory which I think can help me to study statistics well in the future.

- Learn a lot about extreme values and supporting statistics theory

- the detailed notes and examples

- The Unite is well organised and is to understand it.

- I really appreciate it he recorded every lecture so that I can scan them whenever I need. Secondly, Prof. Saralees' approach to teaching make the lecture explicit. Meanwhile, he explained every important example step by step to let me know how to use the knowledge I have learned.

- I enjoyed the content

- The application to financial world not just the mathematics context.

- Example classes were useful. Lecturer was excellent.

- /

- The great amount of examples

- The lecture itself was too slow and repetitive. Most of the lecture was just doing examples, rarely were proofs or any deeper background given. The material given was very good and exceeded the content of the lecture.

- The notes are excellent

- I like this course very much, I think it is useful unit for my future. I got a lot of knowledge in financial risk management..

- Hand writing in lectures is good for me, because I sometimes wrote wrong way during lecture time.

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10 - Please provide details of what you think could be improved on this unit	
Return Rate	38/157 (24.2%)

• Go through some harder examples in the lecturers to help us prepare for the coursework test and exam

• Nothing, brilliant.

• N/A

• It would be better if more practical examples can be added.

• Too many people in the example class (everyone on the course) so difficult to ask questions and get help unless you're sitting on the end of an aisle.

• N/A

• Maybe there could be more example sheets for us to review.

• Can think of nothing.

• no idea

• Only thing i can think to improve is perhaps have a sheet of equations or methods or link to such things for prior knowledge needed, as sometimes things would come up and you wouldn't be quite sure what the method was and hence how to go about revising it.

• Nothing!

• Nothing

• Nothing. Perfect.

• /

• Nothing, the course is spot on.

• Everything is fine.

• Maybe have more real life examples and more in depth about the applications in the financial world. I also think at times he may go too slow, especially going through examples which are extremely similar, no shortcuts have been used

• Keep it the way it is.

• only one thing, and it isn't even a big one but... If Saralees could update his solution sheets, as quite a few questions have solutions that answer question in a different method to that he has taught in lecture/tutorial, making them hard to follow and understand.

• Absolutely nothing, and I think this will reflect in the high results Saralees will obtain from his students.

• Everything's well done.

• And I would like to give a suggestion: show some applications about these extreme value theorems on the real world data. I think this will help the students understand the theoretical things better! The things we learned from the course are calculations, and I find it's hard to think how to apply them.

• Nothing. This is by far the most enjoyable unit I have taken at the university in my four years.

• I will like the course to be more applicable rather than just focusing on the formulas and proofing. Although a large part of mathematics is about proofs and theorems, I believe that to make mathematics more appealing. Courses should be geared towards application. Refer to MIT Mathematics with Applications to Finance for instance. Even for the financial mathematics course in Manchester is largely theory learning,.

• N/A

• Saralees asks a lot of questions to the students during the lectures and is only ever greeted by a deadly silence from students who know the answer but wouldn't dare shout out (including me) perhaps he should stop asking those questions it might save a fair bit of time!

• Well, I think every aspect is very perfect, the only thing I want to say is that I hope more examples can be given during classes.

• nothing

• Actually, I have no idea about the improvement because Prof. Saralees really does a good job.

• Nothing

• Not a lot to improve, I thought the unit was very good.

• Nothing

• More helpers/ smaller example classes

• By using less time in the lecture on doing examples (We probably used 3 or 4 lectures for examples on the ETT), the lecture could do more content. The lecture could either focus more on the theoretical background and proof all the theorems used, or focus on real world applications and explain the idea of using Extreme Value theory in more detail. The lecturer gave a huge list of articles and excerpts, that are really hard to understand without help, maybe some of those could be used in the lecture for example. The amount of emails sent by the lecturer was too big and sometimes unecessary, since all the podcasts are posted on his website anyways and everybody knows how to get them. The lecture could be faster, the content is relatively easy to understand. The Exams on the other hand seem to be very tight on time.

• Clear separation of study materials for 3rd, 4th and 6th year students on the course website would have saved time going through material. Also, I am a student from your last years Statistical Methods class, have to mention that the material and manner in which it was taught felt very similar to that module.

• For postgraduate, teacher can give them more knowledge points, there is not too much difference between undergraduate and postgraduate.

• A bit more examples will be quite useful for final exam. After I took In class exam, I feel like that.

• Lecture notes are very bulky, could probably do with being cut down a little bit