



Learning Environment Survey (LENS) Spring 2026

LENS Full Individual Instructor Report, Spring 2026 for Data Analysis for Business (ECO 230-04) Spring 2026 (Saharnaz Babaei Balderlou)



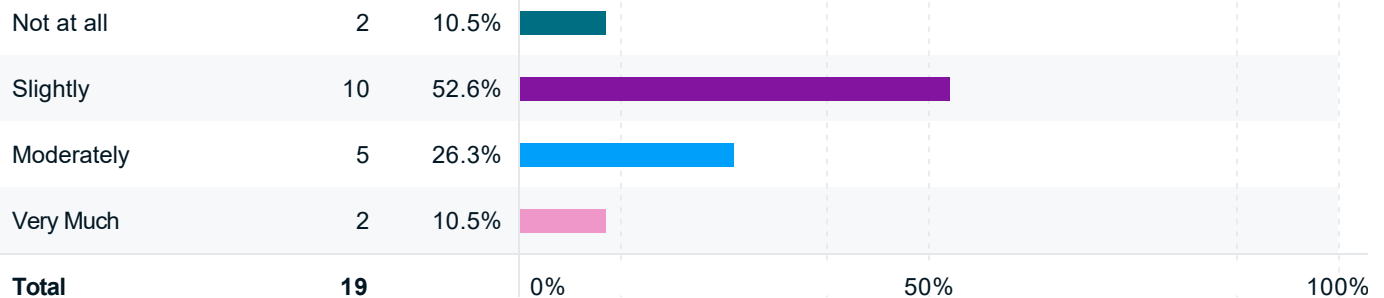
Created **Wednesday, May 27, 2026**



Courses Audience: 35
Responses Received: 19
Response Ratio: 54.3 %

Motivation

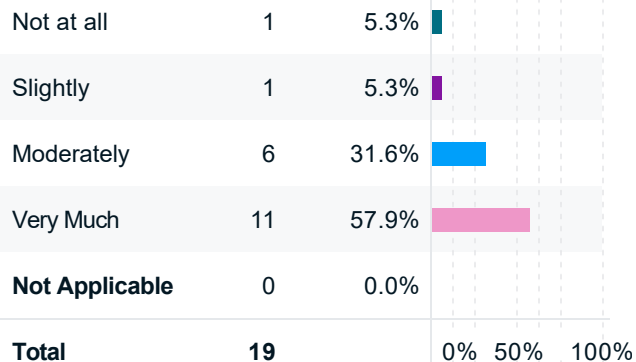
To what extent were you looking forward to learning about this subject?



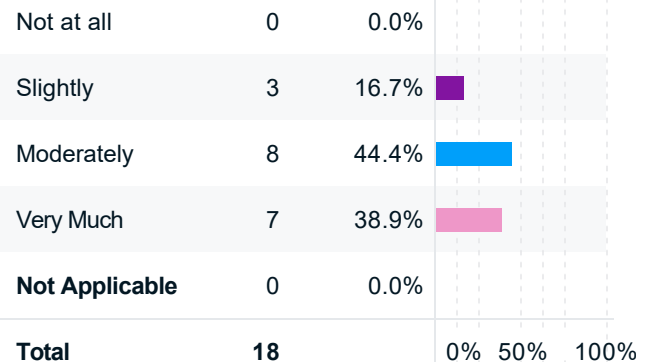
Instructional Activities

To what extent did the following course components contribute positively to your learning?

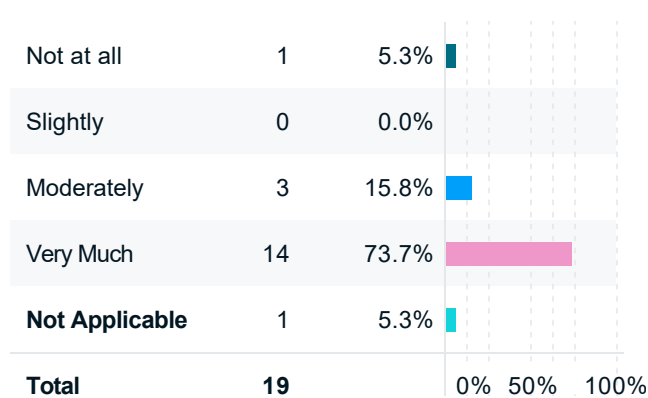
1. Lecture (live or recorded)



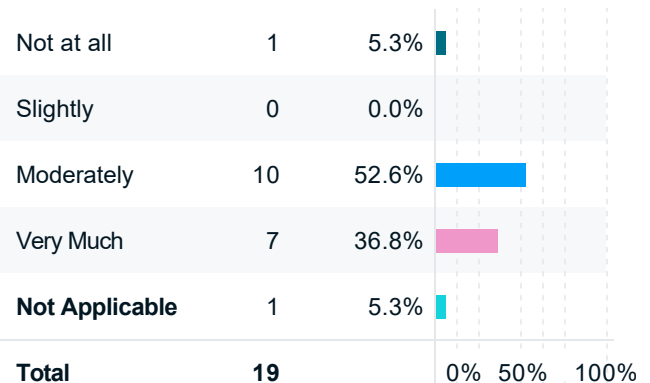
2. Discussion (live or online)



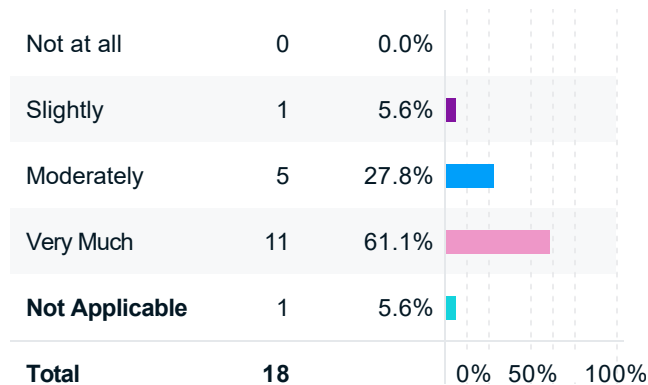
3. Guided activities (live virtual or in-person: such as solving problems, completing exercises, lab work, and/or other hands-on activities)



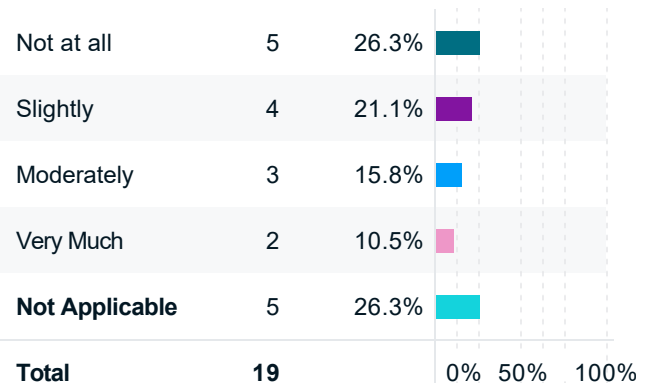
4. Independent homework activities (such as solving problems, completing exercises, lab work, or other hands-on activities)



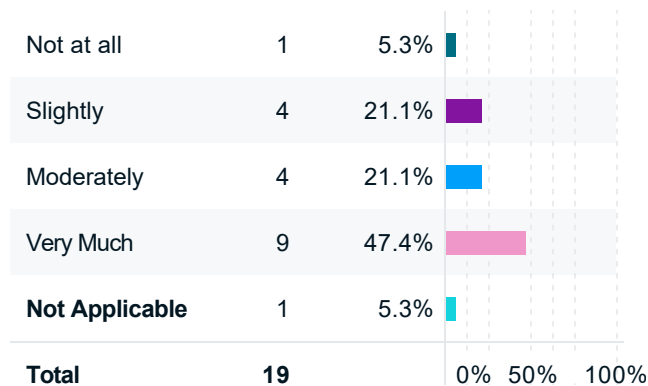
5. Major course projects (such as term papers, research projects, community engagement projects, etc.)



6. Assigned readings



7. Content videos (not lecture)



Student Learning Behaviors

Which of the following activities/strategies did you use to enhance your own learning in this course? (Select all that apply):

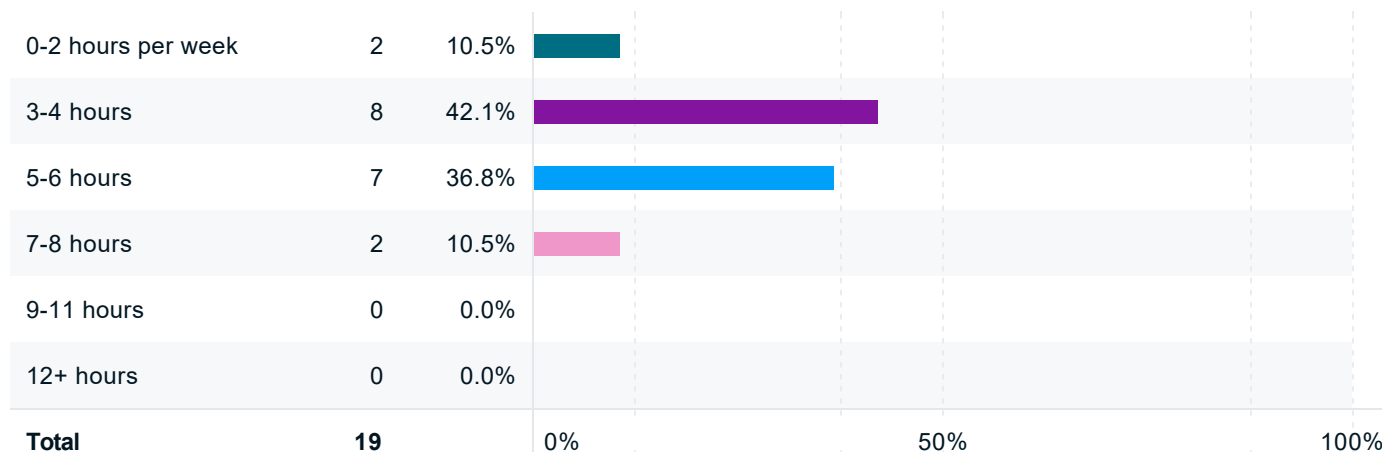


Describe what else you did (or could have done) to contribute to a positive learning experience in this course.

Comment
I went to class every day and the professor was very good at explaining how to navigate Excel poist could and Tableau to help me do the homework on my own
I think showing up to each class is very important to learning the material. Participating in the in-class labs also helped a lot.
Something I could have done is take more notes. During lectures I would listen rather than take notes so then when it was time to take quiz I had to go back and take notes on slides.
Throughout this course, I made an effort to contribute to a positive learning experience by staying engaged during class and participating in group work. I worked collaboratively with my group members on assignments and presentations, making sure to communicate clearly and help keep everyone on track. I also stayed organized with deadlines and put effort into completing assignments to the best of my ability.
I could have spent more time practicing learning R with others.
Paying attention in class discussion will help a lot for the homework and for future projects.

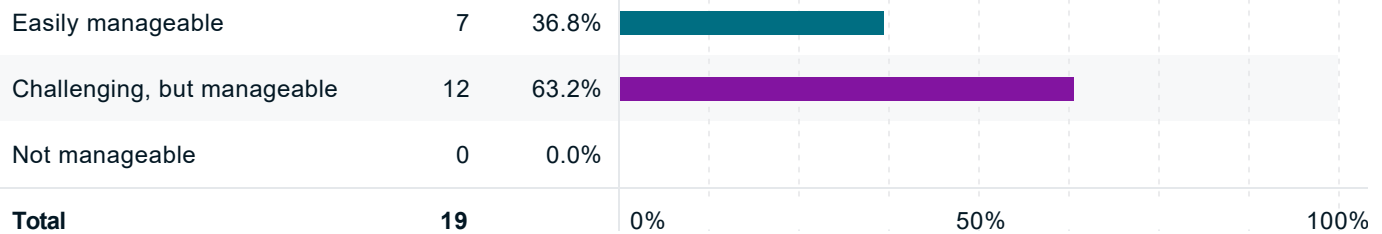
Time on Task

On average, how many hours per week did you spend on this course? (Include time spent in class, reading, watching videos, completing assignments, studying, etc.)



Workload Manageability

In my experience, the workload in this course was...



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment

everything was explained how to do in class you just have to be good at managing your time correctly

I think the coding in Posit Cloud was very difficult for me, but it was manageable and I appreciated the partial credit on some of the assignments.

Majority of work could be done in an hour if you knew what you were doing.

The workload required consistent effort, but it was reasonable with good time management. There were times when multiple assignments overlapped—like working on the “Cows and Statistics” project while also preparing presentations—which made things feel a bit heavy. However, most assignments were clearly structured, and using class materials and previous labs helped me complete them. For example, even though the RStudio assignments were difficult at first, breaking them down step-by-step made them doable. Overall, the workload pushed me but was manageable if I stayed organized and kept up with deadlines.

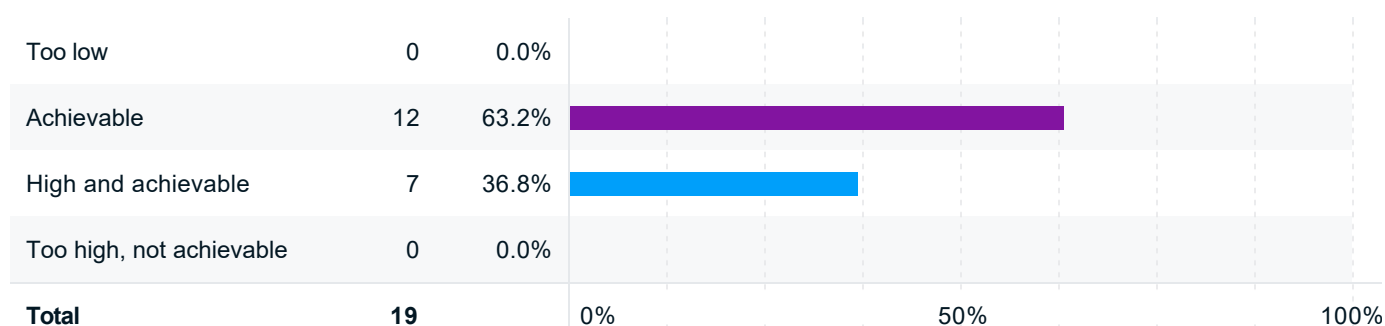
This class was the most manageable of the classes I've had this semester. It wasn't too much to handle and I appreciated that.

I think the class was difficult in a sense, but it was very manageable to complete everything.

There were not a lot of homework assignments in this class, but the ones that we had were a bit challenging. There was normally ways to get help if you got lost on the homework, so it was manageable.

Expectations

I felt that the expectations for my performance in this course were:



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment

95 for an A is pretty high in my opinion

she explained her expectations of us in class every well

I did not have any experience with coding in R coming into this class, so that was a challenge. However, it is possible to still finish the class with a good grade.

As long as you did the work and participated in class you could get a good grade

The expectations in this course were set at a high level, but they were realistic and attainable with effort. Assignments like the RStudio projects and presentations required critical thinking and attention to detail, which pushed me to improve my skills. For example, the "Cows and Statistics" assignment was challenging at first, but using class examples and working through errors helped me complete it successfully. The grading expectations were also clear, which made it easier to understand what was required to do well. Overall, the course expected a lot, but it was fair and achievable if you stayed engaged and put in the work.

I think that getting an A in that class was very achievable, it was just if you put in time to complete and understand the work

The topics that we covered like excel and tablau and coding were difficult concepts, so we were not expected to be perfect at it. There was normally always help if we got lost or resources to use.

Course Alignment

In my experience, I felt I was being evaluated...

Rarely on clearly communicated objectives (usually unstated or unclear)	2	10.5%	
Sometimes on clearly communicated objectives (sometimes unstated or unclear)	4	21.1%	
Almost always on clearly communicated objectives	12	63.2%	
I'm not sure	1	5.3%	
Total	19		0% 50% 100%

Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment

if you were confused all you had to do was email her or ask her in class, she was super helpful.

All the expectations were communicated before we would start labs or activities. And all homework included what was expected in the instructions.

The expectations for assignments and grading were usually clear, which made it easier to understand how I was being evaluated. Most assignments included instructions, rubrics, or examples that showed what was expected. For example, projects like the RStudio assignments and presentations had specific guidelines to follow, so I knew what to focus on to do well. There were occasional moments where instructions could have been clearer, especially with more technical assignments, but overall the objectives were communicated well. This helped me stay on track and understand how my work was being graded.

At times it was difficult to navigate the canvas page to locate specific expectations for the projects in particular. When they were found however, it was very clear.

All the homework or things that we were supposed to know were things that we had practiced in class, such as making graphs or learning to code.

Peer Interactions

In my experience, learning together with other students in this course (through discussions, activities, and/or projects) was...



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment

this was super important i felt like if i didnt interact with my peers i would have not gotten through the class or labs, its super helpful to reach out to your neighbors.

A lot of in class activities involved working in groups and communicating to fill out sheets

Working with other students in this course was helpful and generally well-supported. Group projects and in-class activities gave us opportunities to collaborate, share ideas, and learn from each other. For example, working on presentations as a group required communication and coordination, which helped improve both understanding of the material and teamwork skills. While there could have been more structured discussion at times, overall the course provided enough opportunities and guidance for effective collaboration.

The entire course was based on group work, my group members helped each other throughout every single class

There were projects that we would work with our group, especially our one final project. There were also many times in class that we would do small in class things where we would interact with our group.

Belonging

I felt comfortable contributing to class discussions and/or activities.



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment
most of the class would not tlak but the professor wants to hear what you have to say to help improve your learning
A lot of in class time was encouraged to ask questions and contribute to what we were learning
Always felt comfortable in this classroom.
There was some background knowledge that we needed to know for the class, but the professor made sure that we knew what those things were and retaught us if nessisary.

Opportunities

I had the same opportunities to achieve in this course as other students did.

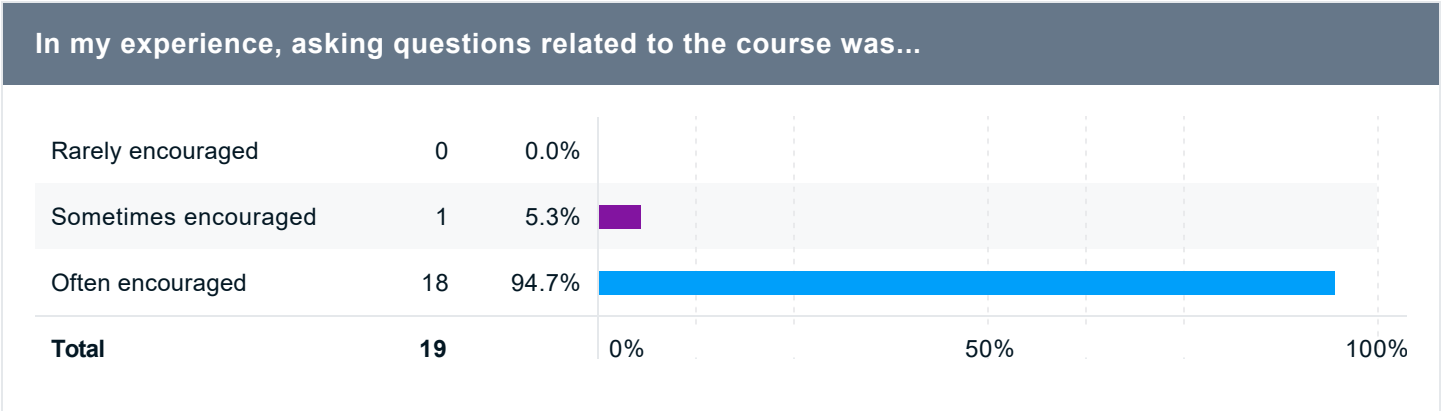
Rarely	0	0.0%	
Sometimes	1	5.3%	
Most of the time	18	94.7%	
Total	19		

0% 50% 100%

Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment
everyone was given the same amount of opportunities to improve there grade it just if they did it or not
Everyone was given the same extra credit opportunities and work
I had the same opportunities as other students all the time, the professor made sure of that.
Every student was able to achieve all opportunities if they put in the time required
Expectations were communicated sometimes but not perfect, sometimes me and my group were confused on what we were supposed to be doing.

Support



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment

like i said before the professsor wanted you to ask questions and deepen your learning

We had multiple work days to ask questions and were able to email and get a response quick

Asking questions in this course was often encouraged, both during class and outside of it. The instructor was open to answering questions and provided clarification when topics were confusing, especially during more technical assignments like the RStudio work. For example, when students ran into errors or didn't understand certain steps, the instructor was willing to help and guide us in the right direction. This made it easier to stay engaged and not fall behind. Overall, the environment made it comfortable to ask for help when needed.

I was someone who always had a lot of questions, especially during the labs, and Dr. Saharnaz Babaei–Balderlou never made me feel bad about it! She was always super nice and understanding.

Dr. B was great about answering questions, very friendly and helpful

Always would ask us if we have questions.

Feedback

In your experience how would you describe the usefulness of the feedback you received in this course?



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comment

she was really good at helping me navigate prombles i had in the crouse

All work if you had points taken off were given feedback on where you went wrong

The feedback I received in this course was helpful in improving my understanding and performance. Comments on assignments pointed out specific areas where I made mistakes and how I could fix them, especially on technical work like the RStudio assignments. For example, when something didn't run correctly, the feedback helped me identify what went wrong instead of just telling me it was incorrect. This made it easier to learn from mistakes and apply those corrections to future assignments. Overall, the feedback was clear enough to guide improvement and keep me on track.

She was super helpful and always wanted her students to improve and learn new things.

We were given lots of very helpful feedback on a large majority of things especially the first group project.

The feedback was hard to interpret regarding the use of R, everything else was great feedback

Some of the feedback was a bit confusing to understand, but there was often feedback on our assignments

Open Response

If you have any additional comments you would like to make about the learning environment in this course, please do so here and be specific. Please focus your comments on the learning environment and content of the course (i.e., assignments and materials) and not unrelated matters (such as the instructor's appearance).

Comment
Overall, the class was great. Most of the hard work is done during class, which helps a lot with learning. I also loved the more project-based than exam-based class. I felt as though this aspect of the class took a lot of stress off of me, as it was the only class out of 5 without constant exams, so I felt less stressed and still learned the same amount.
good professor, liked the class
you were a great teacher and thank you for a wonderful semester
While all homework and labs were completion grades I wish there was still feedback on what we did wrong so when it came time for individual projects we knew what the right way to do things was. I found myself to be doing things one was that I didn't know was wrong and wouldn't find out until we had a project graded for correctness
Overall, the learning environment in this course was positive and supportive. The mix of assignments, projects, and presentations helped reinforce the material in different ways. The hands-on work, especially using RStudio, was challenging but useful for building practical skills. One area that could improve the experience would be providing a bit more step-by-step guidance on more complex assignments, especially for students who are new to coding. Overall, the course was well-structured and helped develop both technical and collaborative skills.
Overall, Dr. Saharnaz Babaei-Balderlou was an amazing professor. She was funny, kind, and very understanding. She is also passionate about what she teaches, which made the class more interesting. The only thing that I would say could be improved is the organization of the Canvas page. There was a little too much going on, and what seemed like 3 different ways to get to the same place. Other than that, I enjoyed this class!