

# Columbia Law School

## Course Evaluation System

Year Term: 08S  
 Course Name: CORPORATE FINANCE  
 Course Number: L6232  
 Course Section: 1  
 Instructor(s): JONATHAN KLICK

Total Number of Registered Students: 141  
 Total Number of Students Evaluated the Course: 78

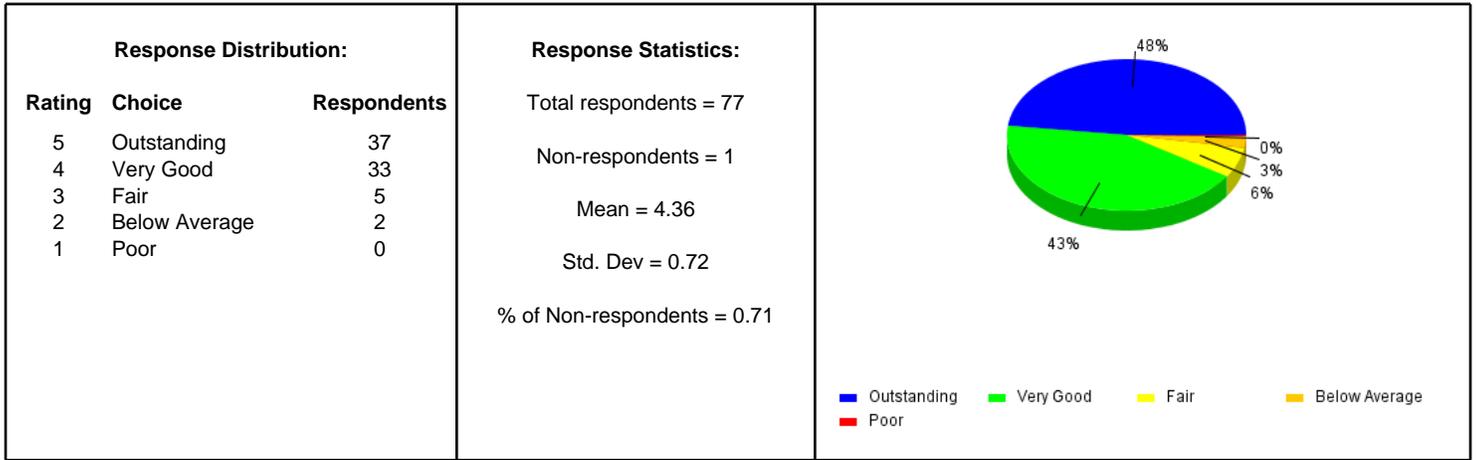
### 1. Overall effectiveness as a teacher

<b>Response Distribution:</b>			<b>Response Statistics:</b>			
<b>Rating</b>	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	Total respondents = 78 Non-respondents = 0 Mean = 3.72 Std. Dev = 0.99 % of Non-respondents = 0.00			
5	Outstanding	15				19%
4	Very Good	38				49%
3	Fair	16				21%
2	Below Average	6				8%
1	Poor	3				4%

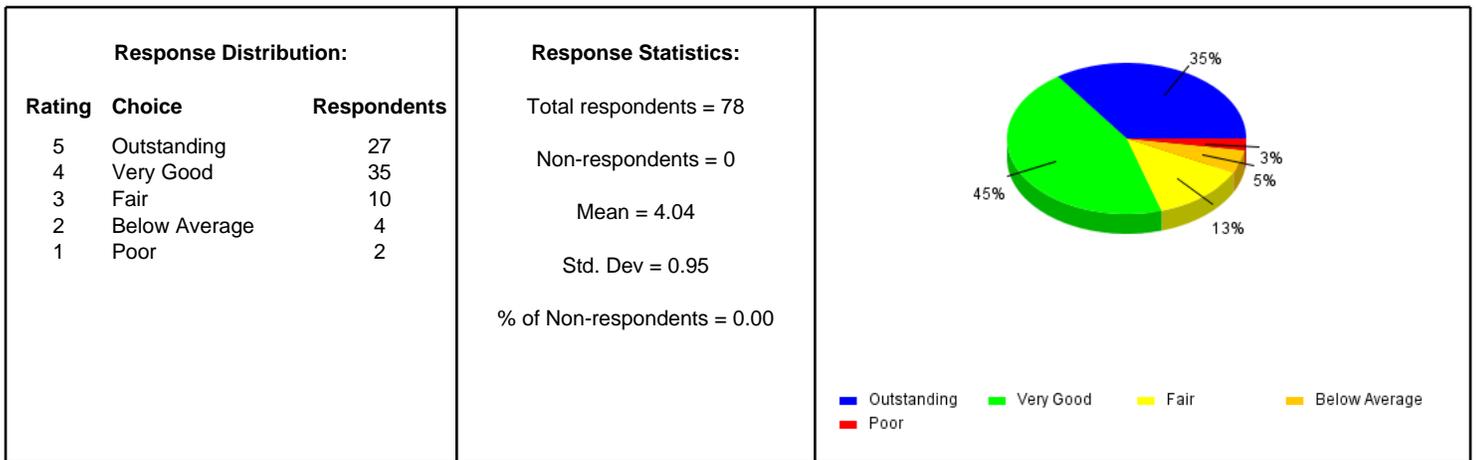
### 2. Overall effectiveness of the course

<b>Response Distribution:</b>			<b>Response Statistics:</b>			
<b>Rating</b>	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	Total respondents = 78 Non-respondents = 0 Mean = 3.55 Std. Dev = 0.94 % of Non-respondents = 0.00			
5	Outstanding	10				13%
4	Very Good	35				45%
3	Fair	24				31%
2	Below Average	6				8%
1	Poor	3				4%

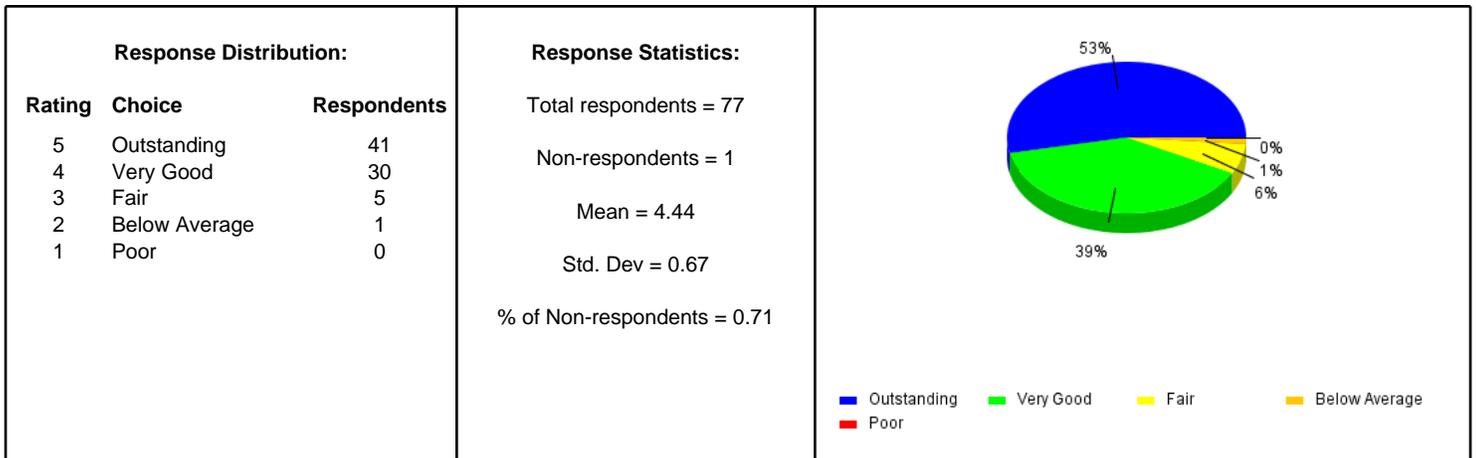
### 3. Professor's knowledge of subject matter and current trends



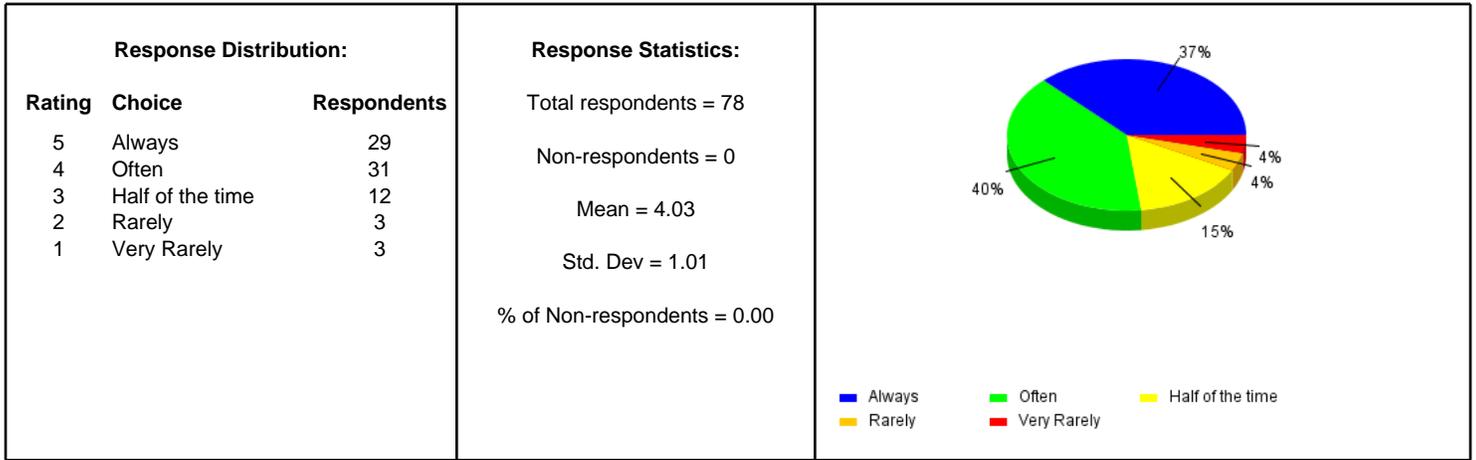
### 4. Professor's ability to explain difficult concepts



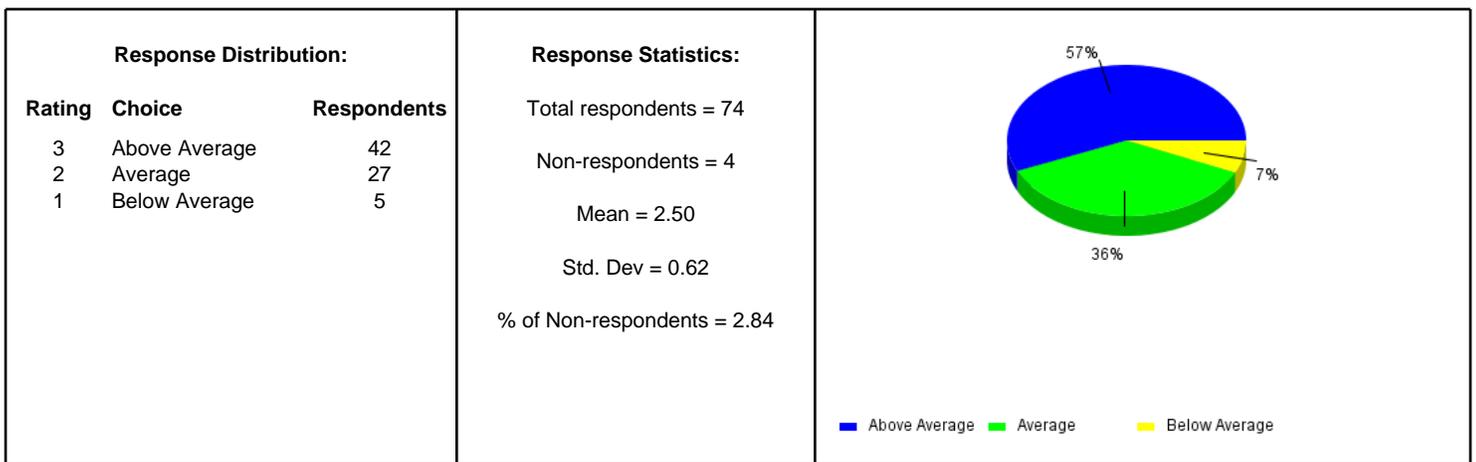
### 5. Professor's respect for students, including those of differing experiences, backgrounds, and viewpoints.



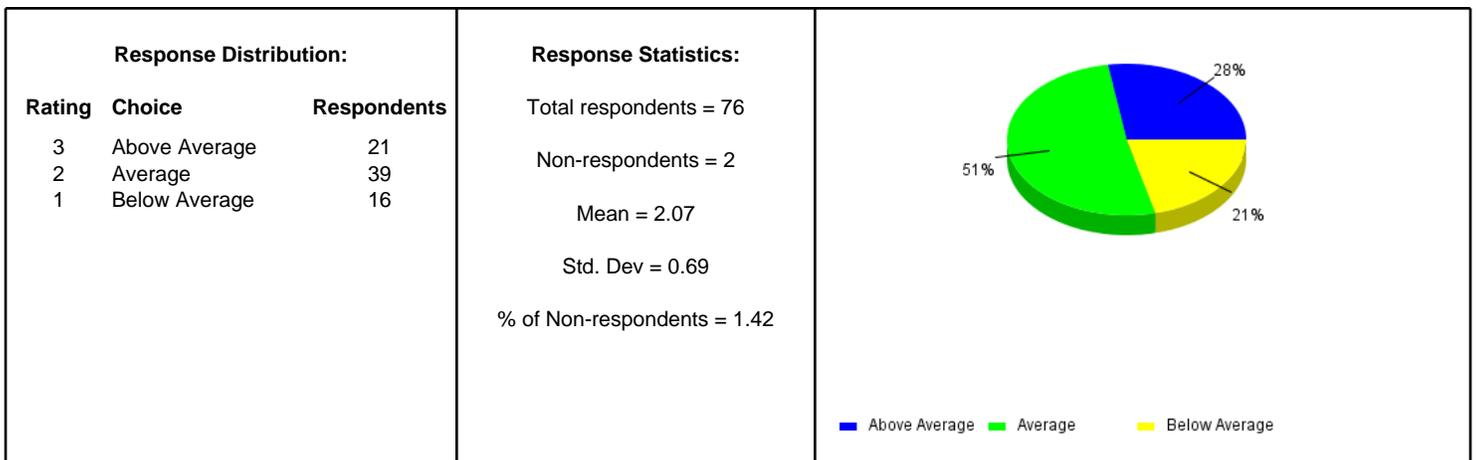
6. I attended class



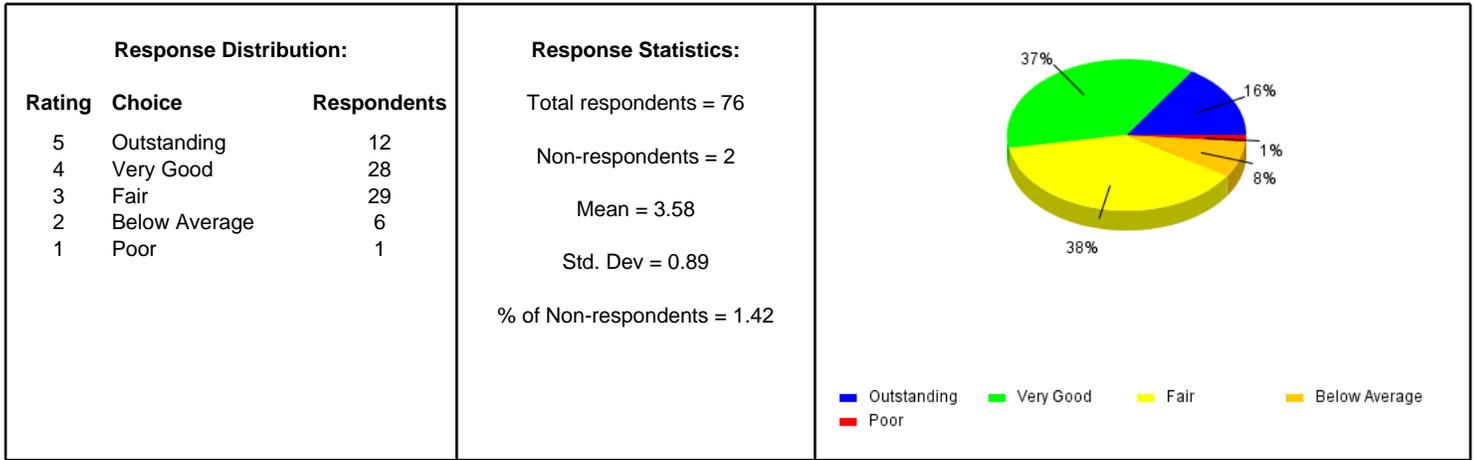
7. I found the interest of the subject matter



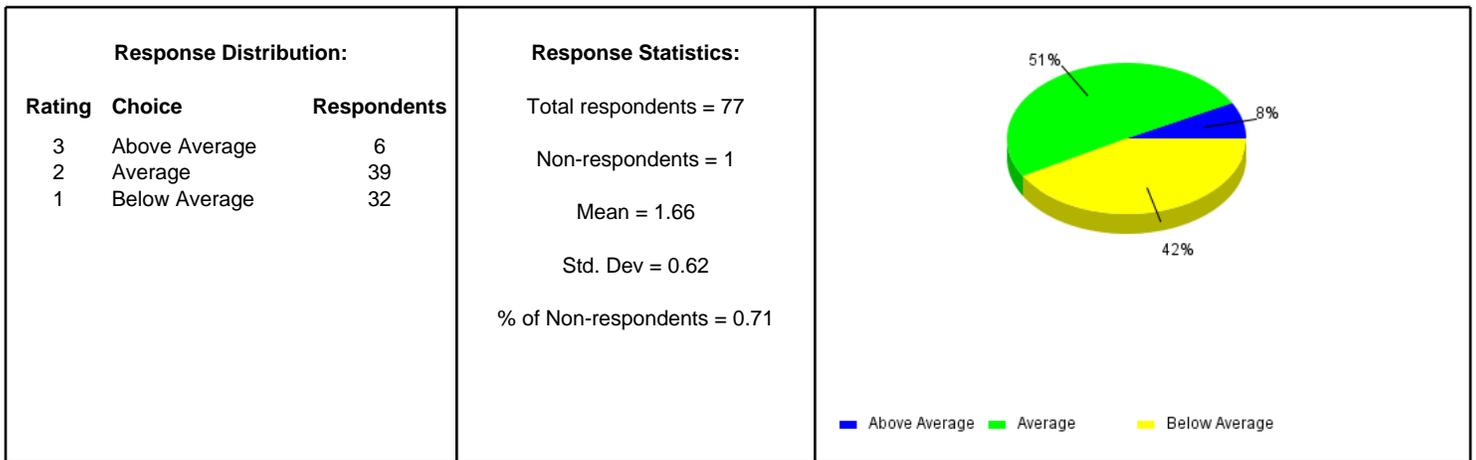
8. I found the difficulty of the subject matter



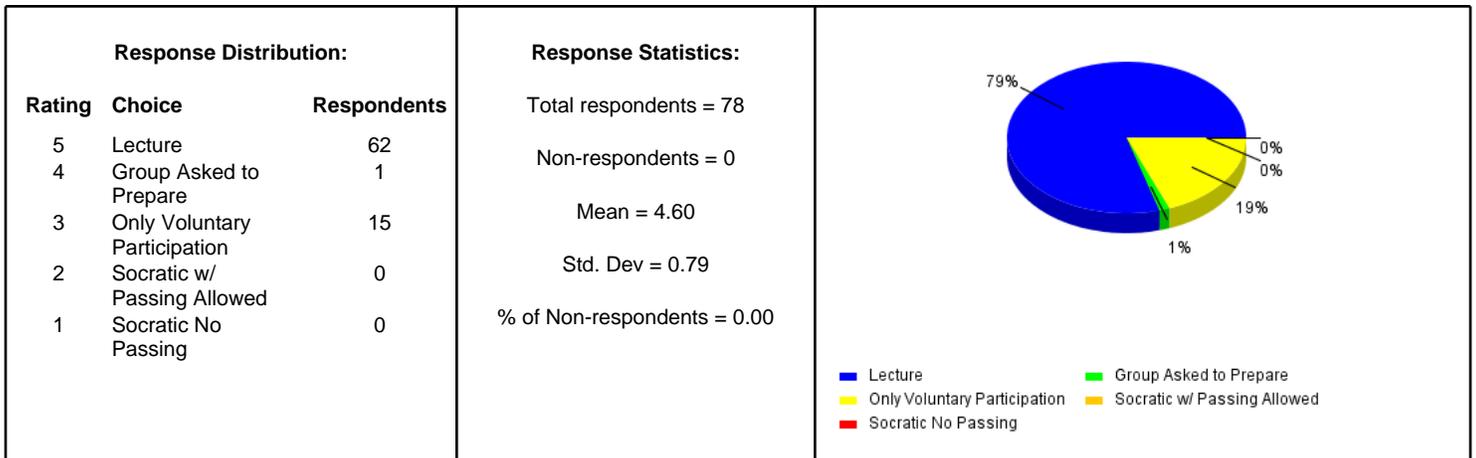
9. The quality/editing of the course materials was



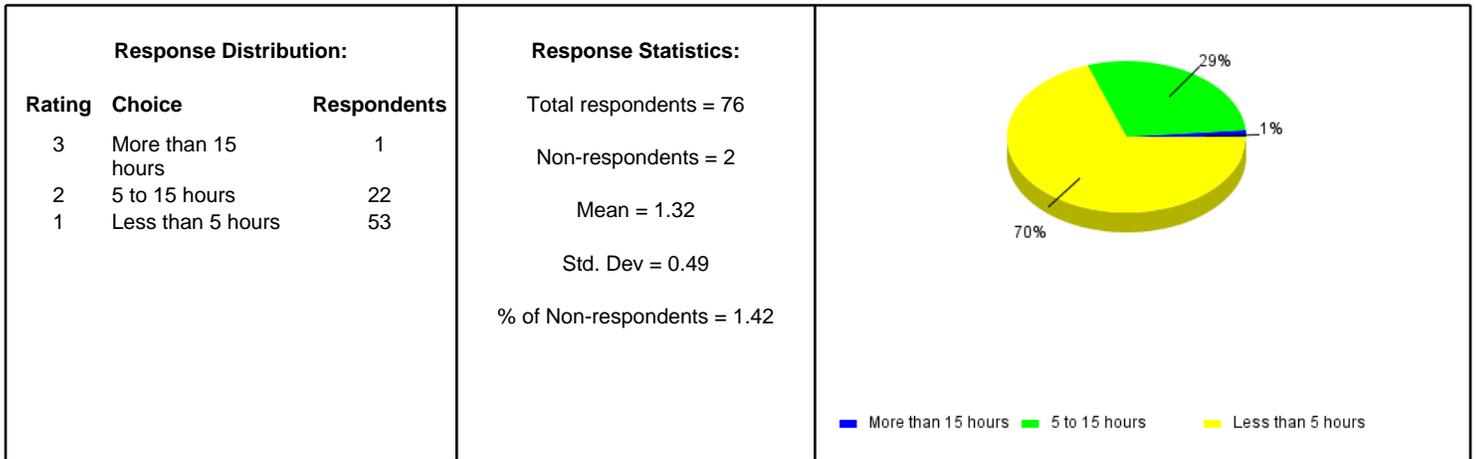
10. I found the pace of the course, including the workload



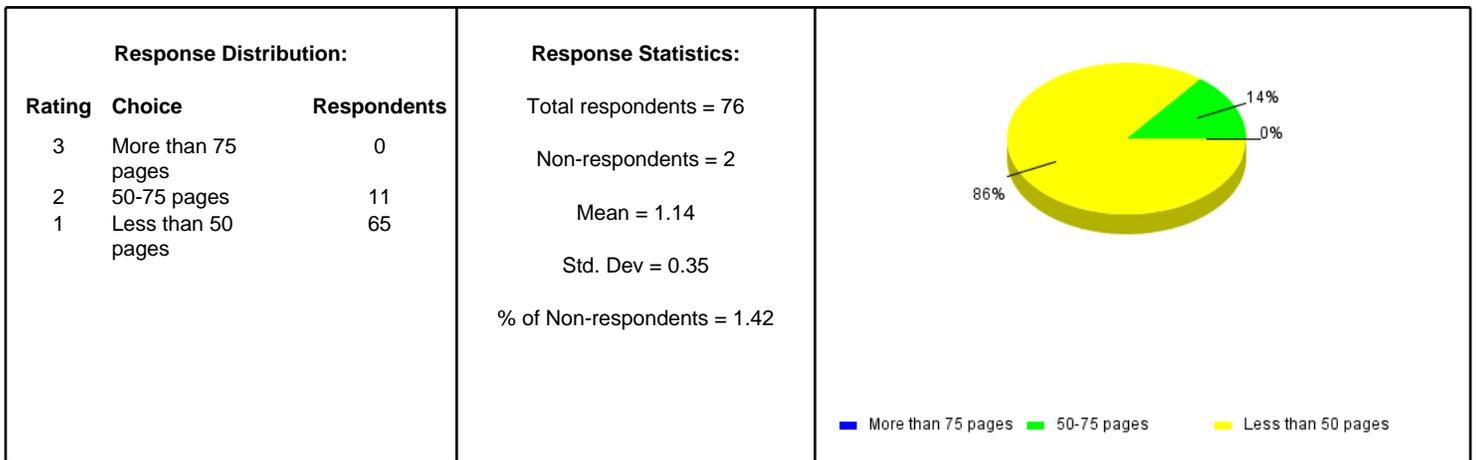
11. Professor's style was primarily



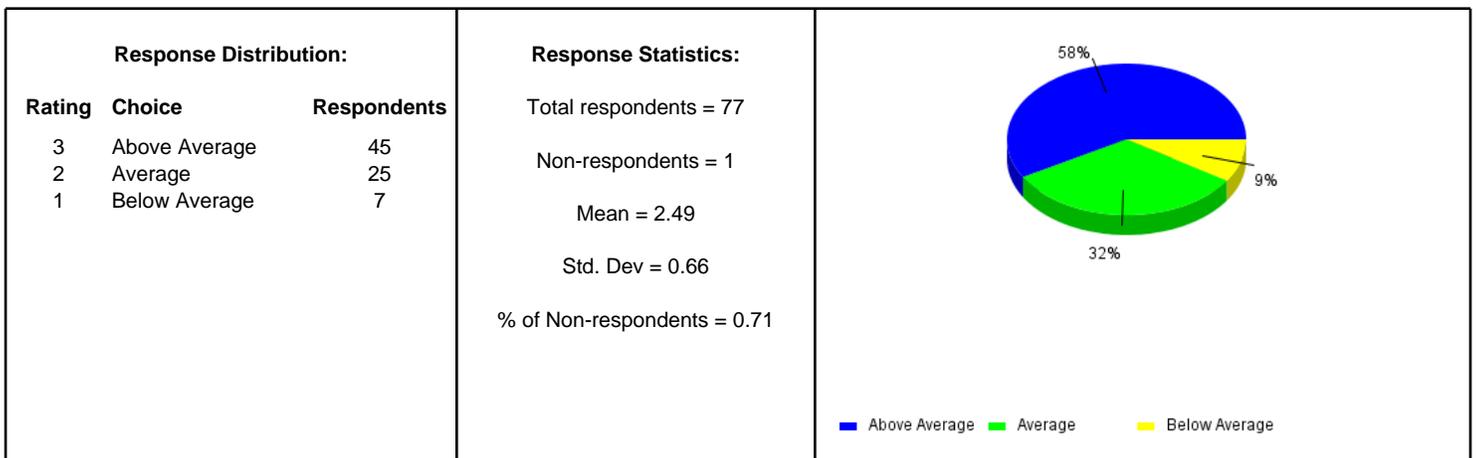
**12. How many hours per week, on average, did you spend in preparation for class (excluding exam preparation and special projects)?**



**13. Approximately how many pages of reading were assigned per class?**



**14. I found the importance of the subject matter**





## Course Evaluation Report

Course Title : <b>CORPORATE FINANCE</b>
Instructor(s): <a href="#">JONATHAN KLICK</a>
Semester and Year: 08S Course #: L6232 Section: 1 Points: 3.0
Location: <a href="#">GRHL</a> 104 Day/Time: <a href="#">TR</a> 11:00am-12:10pm



### 1. Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the professor's teaching methods and style.

Response(1)	He is knowledgeable and quick-thinking, but cares less about the fact that sometimes students can't keep up with his thoughts.
Response(2)	He is lecturing in the driest way, making it very hard to listen to.
Response(3)	Prof. Klick knows what he is talking about and was very good at breaking down concepts into understandable parts in class. He is not the most engaging lecturer and he paid far too much attention to the obnoxious LLMs who sat in the front of the class and wasted a bunch of time asking for calculator tutorials in class. The other LLMs in the class were great, however, given their work experience and relevant comments.
Response(4)	Prof. Klick is direct, open to questions and very efficient explaining all the concepts.
Response(5)	Very good.
Response(6)	The professor clearly knows he is speaking to lawyers who don't necessarily like numbers; he is careful when explaining concepts and does not hesitate to repeat when he feels students do not understand. I liked the pace of the course and his teaching style (lecture without notes). You don't have to read tons of pages before class. Class attendance is very important though and way better than reading the book at home by yourself.
Response(7)	The textbook was very interesting and very plain to understand. The writing on the blackboard by professor was not easy to catch. It would be better if he organizes writing on the blackboard and uses handouts more often.
Response(8)	I really liked Klick but I wish he had narrowed the reading to parts of the chapters that were actually pertinent. Other than that I thought the class was great. Perhaps more voluminous problem sets to practice on would be useful.
Response(9)	Not a law school casebook method. Use of a corporate finance textbook as you would have in an undergraduate course. For this topic a textbook would definitely be better than a casebook.
Response(10)	Finance is math based, which means it should be taught didactically with examples. Klick just rambles on about corporate law all day long without actually teaching anything substantive. I learned everything on my own.
Response(11)	The professor often related real-world happenings to the material covered in the course. He explained concepts well.
Response(12)	In my opinion, the course did not go as deep as it should. The professor went less deeper in very important matters of corporate finance than Professor Gordon did in on his M&A course. Besides, he did not quite follow the book, so we have no support material to study from. Besides, he was really good in explaining difficult concepts.
Response(13)	Professor has very laid back teaching style. No socratic method or other pressure in the class. Yet he is extremely knowledgeable and pays attention to financial and legal details.
Response(14)	He is a truly great professor. He explains the most complex concepts in the most comprehensible way. Moreover, he is a truly cool guy and makes class interesting and entertaining. I think it is nice to have a young guy (he is 32!!) teaching a class at CLS for a change. I really hope CLS offers him a residency.

Response(15)	I can't tell who is lazier, the 3L's in the back of the class or the teacher. He's a very nice guy, but he doesn't prepare notes for the class and I'm not sure he even does the reading from the book. His lectures slowly meander around random thoughts of corporate finance, that don't get much deeper than 3 equations and common intuition of finance.
Response(16)	The course is great and professor Klick is really good. I hope Columbia will hire him. This was the first classes he taught here, so I think that in the next future he could be even better.
Response(17)	Klick is a great professor and knows how to explain hard concept beautifully and simply. he is really an excellent teacher. takes seriously every question, and answers carefully with a lot of patience.
Response(18)	Lecture-only style made for weak class participation.
Response(19)	Takes hours to explain what could be done in minutes, and the real problem is that he doesn't get to the more difficult issues that actually come up in his problem sets. He absolutely understands the math and the concepts behind the math, but does not know how to teach applied math - merely shows how to plug in the numbers, but not enough of the thought process behind it.
Response(20)	There is no structure in the classes. According to the syllabus we should have done one or two chapters of the book per week, but there was actually no relation between book and classes. Also the back-of-an-envelope calculations done on the black board were oftentimes more confusing than helpful. Prof. Klick announced in the first class that he would not care whether we attend classes or not - his teaching style reflected this attitude all the time. It's nice to have relaxed profs but this was way too casual.
Response(21)	He's a nice guy and very smart, and the lectures are very good once you get into the rhythm. When he showed up on the first day I thought he was the AV guy coming to set up the projector. This wasn't like a law school class, more like a college class. Not that it's a bad thing, very refreshing but sort of disorienting after two and a half years.
Response(22)	Unfortunately, the failings of the course find there way into the Klick's teaching methods. The few times I attended class, I was almost awestruck at the simplicity of the material covered.
Response(23)	The teacher was fairly funny which kept the lectures interesting even though the subject matter is a little dry. I felt class time could have been better used working through difficult mathematical problems rather than discussing fairly simple policy/business decisions that we could easily get from the book.
Response(24)	The teaching method is quite laid back, which is pleasant. But the course does not follow a very clear structure, so I often did not know was we were currently discussing. Prof. Klick's handwriting is also difficult to read on the blackboard. He is friendly and funny, but he gives speeches - should structure the course more. Maybe use overhead projector for handwriting (calculations).
Response(25)	Professor Klick knows well the subject and explains it in an easy way for law student. He never calls on people.
Response(26)	Klick is an amazing teacher. He makes complex concepts seem easy and makes no big fuzz out of things.
Response(27)	Professor Klick is a very good teacher and explains difficult concepts very effectively, keeping things simple. very relaxed and laid back style of teaching
Response(28)	Professor was engaging.
Response(29)	he was very laid back. seemed like a cool guy. he basically just lectured and did a few problems on the board.
Response(30)	I feel a bit bad for Professor Klick. He's a nice guy and does try to teach us something, but this is just not a law school course and I think we're all going to evaluate him from the perspective of expecting a law school course. I think the downside to his teaching style is that he comes across as if he actually believes we're really not going to learn much from this course so why bother. I think the course itself lends to that feeling, but his teaching style reinforces it.
Response(31)	This is a very useful course. Prof Klick had a very pleasant, easy-going manner of teaching.

Response(32)	Good class to clarify concepts.
Response(33)	Suggest introducing knowledge in a more systemic way.
Response(34)	strength: The professor was kind to students who ask questions. weakness: Each lecture was not organaized.
Response(35)	The professor does not call on students, which can be seen as sort of a positive aspect. However, attending classes only do not prepare students for the exam, where calculations are required. Most os the time, the professor is lecturing on economic concepts that are really interesting, but the intuitions built this way do not help when you have to deal with the calculator.
Response(36)	Very laid back professor with a great teaching style.
Response(37)	Klick is just how a professor should be: brilliant, young, kind. To Columbia: hire this guy. To students: take this course (to the extent Columbia will follow my suggestion)
Response(38)	He always made everything quite clear. Distributed problem sets, which was nice. And was always willing to record class on fridays or whenever someone couldn't make it so you could just listened to it online. Very cool and "un law school." I in fact took this course just because I liked him.
Response(39)	Klick is very easy going; you can tell he knows the subject matter and gives a relaxed approach to the class.
Response(40)	Nice guy. Great ability to explain difficult concepts.
Response(41)	Professor Klick definitely knows his shit. My only fear is that he makes the course seem so easy in class that I will walk into the final feeling overconfident. I also wish that there was less of an emphasis on calculations and more of an emphasis on concepts, but I guess the former is to be expected from the nature of this particular beast. Lastly, Professor Klick has a very easy-going style that I found informative and engaging - sort of what you would expect if the Comic Book Guy from the Simpsons were your law school professor. He probably rates at the top of the list of professors I've had at this school with whom I'd like to spend a weekend drinking beers and bowling.



## *2. Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course.*

Response(1)	The course was scheduled for tuesday and thursday but due to some reasons, friday classes were held for so many weeks. Those with classes on Fridays could not attend these classes since the professor made no effort to learn about the schedules of the students. Missing one class every week added to the overall ineffectiveness of the professor, made it really hard to attend regularly.
Response(2)	The course covered a lot of really important ground. I am glad that it was taught like a business school class (which it really is) rather than a law school class. I think that I will use what I learned in life and in my practice. That said, we deviated extensively from the material in the course book at times. This is fine, but we had little to no supporting reading to supplement our knowledge of concepts that Prof. Klick did in class.
Response(3)	For a Corporate Finance course, we did few exercises and focused too much in the concepts.
Response(4)	I would have no problem saying that you should have had microeconomics in college before taking this class. Too much time is spent on stuff people should know, and the text book is written for idiots.
Response(5)	Do problems in TA session; focus class time on more general ideas, themes, etc.
Response(6)	Corporate finance is very important for a M&A lawyer. A must.
Response(7)	The textbook is outstanding. This is precious opportunity to examine corporate finance and how to calculate present values and future values. However, if the professor uses various techniques, such as handouts and slide, it would be better.

Response(8)	This course would be better if it were split into two levels. People with backgrounds in economics or business found it painfully boring to spend hours learning how to calculate percentages and standard deviations, yet for people without this background and/or with a fear of numbers, the class may still have moved too quickly.
Response(9)	Very straightforward class. The subject matter is very interesting.
Response(10)	The course is important for securities and corporate governance related issues. The weakness is that it is boring and finance-related governance issues are engaged from a business perspective; i.e. as if you were an idiot.
Response(11)	The main thing to know about this course is that there is not that much material to learn. If you know how to do simple present/future value calculations, you probably already know what is going to be covered in the first half of the course. The pace is slow, and the material covered is very simple. Depending on how you look at it--this is a strength if you're looking for an easy course, and a weakness if you're looking for a challenge.
Response(12)	strength: it is a really important matters for corporate lawyers weakness: the professor did not follow the support materials and did not went as deep as I think he should.
Response(13)	Professor did a very good job of identifying the aspects of corporate finance important for law students to learn. The class focused on discussion of financial concepts, rather than court cases. In this way, I think the course will be extremely useful for students looking to work in transactional practice.
Response(14)	The course is very interesting without having an overwhelming workload (unlike many law classes...it is taught "business-school" style...understanding is more important than being buried by tons of reading). The book adopted is definitely outstanding.
Response(15)	Could have used more practice problems
Response(16)	All strenghts. Jonathan is a really nice guy and he knows the subject matter really well. The book (Bodie, Merton) is just GREAT! Weakness: we had no outlines available, since this was Klick's first year at Columbia.
Response(17)	I think there should more time dedicated to problem sets solving in class.
Response(18)	If you already have a handle on math and finance, this course is fairly easy, and also may cover some new concepts in a concise way. The book is fairly good, although the accompanying CD-ROM is missing materials. If you don't like math, stay away.
Response(19)	The book is very good and very easy reading. However, it is tremendously overpriced. The fist week was superficial bullsh*t. Prof. Klick tried to cover all finance related problems of corporate law (eg. agency costs), macro economics (eg. inflation) and the rest of the world - and failed. Actually, I learned more about finance in prof. Gordon's M&A class (where finance is only one of many topics) than in prof. klick's class throughout the whole semester.
Response(20)	Problems were useful. It can be frustrating because many of this course's aspects are covered in other law school classes, so the difficulty of the class varies greatly from student to student and chapter to chapter.
Response(21)	Far, far too easy. The entire semester's worth of material might have been covered (easily) in a week (it was in M&A).
Response(22)	I wish the class would have covered more material. The material was also fairly elementary which is understandable in an intro class but I could have gone for some more difficult concepts.
Response(23)	Overall good course. But in my opinion, not well suited for lawyers. Asset pricing and bond value, there is nothing legal in it.
Response(24)	Excellent overview of corp finance on a marco level. Would have been better to focus more on the quantitative side of things.
Response(25)	Not as relevant to legal practice as I expected.
Response(26)	It's an interesting course and Klick makes it fun. The downside is the pace of the course. Some topics were repeated under different perspectives (but were basically the same thing), so I think

	we could have covered more topics.
Response(27)	The course subject is very interesting and it is actually a shame that we were encouraged to buy the book which was not very useful for the class itself - the class was MUCH more shallow than the book and thus sometimes not challenging enough. I dont think this is on the side of the instructor but more the studends themselves - maybe he thought we cannot handle more complicated - and interesting - things
Response(28)	Teaching corporate finance to law students is always tricky. The course should have a major mathematical component, but math-intensive courses are not appropriate for many law students. As a result, parts of the course were taught too slowly because fairly simple math was involved.
Response(29)	the biggest weakness is that the course is very basic. the subject is important and interesting, but if you have any sort of background in or understanding of finance, this course is going to seem remedial to you. but you might be ok with that since it means the material will be pretty easy for you. also, there are no cases to read for this class, so that is very nice.
Response(30)	The course is a waste of time. If this is what MBA students "learn" then I'm really glad I went to law school.
Response(31)	There were some parts where there was excessive doctrinal concepts explained in class. This was useful but maybe more calculations would have been more useful.
Response(32)	Suggest spending more time in "corporate finance", rather than introducing general financial knowledge.
Response(33)	There were some LL.M. students who asked meaningless questions over and over again, which interrupted the lecture many times.
Response(34)	There should be a mid term exam. More exercises should be given and corrected during class.
Response(35)	The course was entirely lectured. Even without doing all the readings it was easy internalizing concepts during the class, thanks to the high quality of teaching.
Response(36)	Very math heavy, which is good--this is corporate finance. However, the book was MUCH more detailed than Klick, and hard to follow, so you really relied on the class.
Response(37)	At some point it seemed to lack of methodology. Eventually everything seemed to make sense.



### ***3. Please offer additional feedback or anecdotes about the professor or course.***

Response(1)	If Prof. Klick stays in Columbia for another semester, just stay away from him...
Response(2)	The class is good for someone who wants a business school-like corporate finance class. It is not a traditional law school class.
Response(3)	It would be nice is the sample problem sets had more than one problem.
Response(4)	N/A
Response(5)	Professor moved a substantial number of classes onto Fridays and justified it on account that recordings would be available. This is bad not only because CLS is not an internet educational institution, but also because it reveals that his lectures were worthless.
Response(6)	Great guy...hire him!!!
Response(7)	Professor's tone of voice constantly sounds bored.
Response(8)	Having only voluntary participation is relaxing, but it has its bad side. When no one volunteers, he asks even simpler questions, which makes volunteering even more embarrassing. By the 3rd week, only LL.Ms ever spoke.
Response(9)	Please don't teach down to the lowest common denominator. This is Columbia Law School, we should either know the basics of Corporate Finance already, or we should be expected to learn them on our own.

Response(10)	Consider alternatively taking Financial Statements Analysis. Maye more useful for lawyers, both for M&A and litigation.
Response(11)	great professor, shame he is only visiting
Response(12)	could be very useful if you don't know much about finance, or very nice for your schedule if you do.
Response(13)	The professor should be in proper attire.
Response(14)	The professor is a very nice guy, who answers all questions in the best possible way. He is also really respectful with all students. Classes are relaxed and he sometimes gives funny examples.
Response(15)	At least 7 classes were scheduled on Fridays although the course was supposed to be held only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As a result many folks could not attend these Friday classes and missed a significant portion of the course.
Response(16)	I enjoyed the course even though I would have liked more focus on the law.