Practical Statistics I MATH20812

Feedback to the unit questionnaires

The majority of students liked this course and the way it is run. As usual, some caught my enthusiasm about the subject. From the comments it is also clear that most students appreciate the way they are being forced to put regular effort and encouraged to try challenging questions.

I will not repeat the positive comments here but will address some of the critical remarks. This quote however - "it's a brilliant module where we get theoretical as well as practical knowledge." - is relevant to the comments below.

Somebody suggested to replace the lectures with labs. However, the syllabus is clear and I repeatedly point out, especially in the first few weeks of the semester, that this is a statistics course in which we happen to do all computations on computer, not a course in programming. Learning and becoming comfortable with R is only one of the objectives. Instead, as I recommend at the start of the course, why not bring your laptops to the lectures? The fun would be even greater. In fact, more students were doing this years ago when laptops were a stone or more.

There was a complaint that for a course advertised as 100\% coursework, 40\% for the in-class test is too much. Where is the contradiction here? In-class tests are coursework. In fact, the test in this course is "open world" where students are allowed to use any material they like (including internet searches), except ask a human to do the questions for them. Moreover, the questions are similar to questions from other assignments. Anybody who genuinely did the other assignments should do at least reasonably well at the test.

Finally, if you are reading this with the view of deciding if this course is a suitable choice for you, talk to students with similar attitude to their studies to yours and read the arrangements on the web site of this course.