Lecturer’s response to MATH3/4/68052 UEQ students’ feedback

This is a specialist course in Statistics with 10 credits of Generalised Linear Models and 5 credits of Survival Analysis, attended by 149 + 4 (Level 3)+16 (Level 4) + 96 (MSc) = 265 students, including four level 3 students taking the level 4 version. The Level 4 and MSc students did well, however too many level 3 students did not do very well in the coursework and the exam. As a result there was scaling up of the assessment marks. In the previous year, they were scaled down for being too high.

The class size has gone up to a level that is very difficult to manage and this year’s course rating is lowish at 4.07. Apart from the lecturer’s shortcomings in delivering this course despite five years of experience with it, many students came not suitably prepared for level 3, both mathematically and statistically, and they did not make enough efforts in attendance, participation and revision to make up for it.

It is a good course for people genuinely interested in statistical modelling of real life data. There are proofs, numerical algorithms and many examples of model fitting and diagnostics using R. You take logical steps to find a simple yet adequate model for your data by analysis of deviance. It does not matter if you do not know many R functions already as you will only need a handful of them.

It is not a course for students who cannot follow a mathematical proof or conduct a hypothesis test correctly from beginning to end. There are some but not too many easy marks to pick up in the exam so think twice before choosing this course.

Below are answers to questions 8 to 10. I agree with most of the comments and will try to make improvements in future.

Question 8

He gave feedback very efficiently/Nice and kind to answer all the queries/He explained thoroughly and put podcasts up/He is really good at explaining the detail of mathematics in this course/Lots of extra office hours made around exam period, online resources, very approachable and very helpful. Excellent summary and revision classes. Best lecturer. Provides podcasts/His pretty handwriting and lecture podcast help a lot. And his steady pace/The excellent structure of the module, the notes and the exercises provided/Well prepared online notes and sample sheets/I like that the lecture has been uploaded online so that I am able to annotate my notes understand the lecture more fully/Very slow but thorough explanations of the work involved - easy listening/The notes are very helpful/Clear and good pace. Good understanding of students knowledge. Good examples. Approachable/ the handout is really clear/His explanation was detail and nice arrangement/ He always show step by step for every chapter in the material courses. he also help us to understand the material very well/He will explained each materials briefly/He takes his time to explain every bit of the course. His lectures are always on podcast which I really really really appreciate/ detailed/He explained everything slowly and clearly/Clear, good pace, easy to follow/A little bit of review of the contents of last lecture really helped a lot/all the learning contents are in the notes, but lectures are just copying the notes by speaking/Do not like his approach of just reading out the typed notes and underline them on the visualiser, but he is very approachable and responds promptly to emails.
Question 9

This course is really useful for me to understand how to estimate data and how to find a fitted model. It had coursework and pretty good notes. Modelling is very important to my future career as an actuary. Very interesting course - one of my favourite I have ever done. Good delivery and informative course. All sheets and solutions uploaded promptly and blackboard is well laid out. Again, the material provided by Dr. Yuan is great but unfortunately it is very difficult to follow the lecture. He speaks very quietly and difficult to understand the word sometimes. Extended materials for linear models. Uploading the lectures online. That I've learned how to read data on computer models. Useful for future. Good notes. Interesting. Solutions to exams. The example sheet is good. Students are too many which causes too many noise while he is teaching. I learned the new type or ways in analysis data since this course is a new knowledge for me. The content of this courses. His usefulness to real life analysis. The format and structure is quite clear.

Question 10

More detailed notes. The voice of the lecturer could be a little bit louder. He could be a bit faster and give more questions. Everything is good in this course. Support class is too big, it is hard to get chance to ask questions especially if sitting in the middle. Maybe divide students and change support class to a small room. Much of the course involved the computer software R. I have not taken many modules requiring R before so a couple of catch up sessions would have been good. It could go faster. A better approach to delivering lectures is required. Also support classes are pointless if you don't have any questions. A good suggestion would be a (better) microphone. Generally, the lecturer should make sure the students can FOLLOW the lecture. But overall, it is a good module. Would like if there were more examples and whether some sections good be written on the board instead of just typed on paper. More feedback. More examples - there are a limited amount. Overall, a pretty good unit to take. It's hard to concentrate for two hours straight in a double lecture, so no two hour lectures. Sometimes I cannot read his handwritting. This course material is quite good for me. But this courses combine undergraduate and postgraduate students. This made the class so crowded and hard for Dr. Jingsong Yuan. Gives attention to all of us. I hope Prof. Dr. Jingsong Yuan can improved his lecture and speak loudly and clearly. The class size too large. It's always crowded. Maybe make the class more lively. Course almost too big which means it is often hard to receive feedback during tutorials. The materials could be arranged more clearly with big titles and pages. Less exercise sheets but more exam examples. The presentation can be quicker.