# Course Evaluation Summary Report - MI03101-2010F-tx1 COMPUTERS IN MGMT-HONORS

## Gips, James

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1. The instructor was prepared.
2. The instructor was available for help outside of class.
3. The instructor returned assignments/tests conscientiously.
4. The instructor showed enthusiasm about the subject matter.
5. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject matter.
6. The instructor’s explanations were clear.
7. The instructor treated students with respect.
8. How would you rate this instructor overall as a teacher?

**Strongly Disagree = 1/Disagree = 2/Uncertain = 3/Agree = 4/Strongly Agree = 5**
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1. What are the strengths of this course?

* I felt that this course was extremely useful in both teaching practical skills (excel) and business strategy.

* Instructor taught excel well and the second portion of the class was really cool and useful. He mixed in some very interesting speakers near the end of the class which I think was very beneficial.

* The readings are interesting and insightful

* Great introduction to excel and technology and how it comes into play in business. Information is presented very well, the readings are mostly interesting, and Professor Gips is fabulous.

* Very informative topics covered were relatable to real life and easy to comprehend interesting professor professor was always available for help professor was understanding Pizza Fridays!

* It was a very useful class. I've actually learned a lot from the class, whether it'd be about Excel or about the use of technology in business. The class was well paced and it followed a good guideline, not random things. The professor stays on track and is really good.

* Excel isn't hard to understand.

* I felt as though I was learning material that I would actually use in the workplace one day. Moreover, the reading and assignments were interesting.

* Provides a solid introduction to Excel functions. The second half of the course dealing with technology in business is extremely interesting and useful.

* Professor Gips was very well prepared. The Excel assignments in the beginning of the year were actually pretty fun.

* Speakers We really learn a lot in only 4 months and it is REALLY interesting. teaches us how to use Excel

* The course gives a good introduction to computers in the workforce. The information was worthwhile and present, and the examinations of popular companies made the information seem more applicable to business.

* I loved the Excel portion of this course. I felt the course gave me a great understanding on how to use all aspects of Excel and apply them to work outside of the classroom. I have actually used what I learned about Excel for other projects and classes already.

* During the first half of the semester, instruction provided a deeper understanding on how to use excel. We solved problems that executives are confronted with on a daily basis. During the second half of the semester, we learned information relevant to the business world. Content focused on the present challenges of firms within an industry today. The class heard from actual business professionals, which brought the content to life.

* The professor did a very thorough explanation of excel. I had friends in other classes who skipped right to the difficult part and were very lost. I liked how for the second semester of the class you focused on one company each class. I though it was very interesting.
* Very good information to know. Excel is a very important program to be comfortable with, and this course allows one learn many aspects of it. The study of specific companies is cool because it is a unique way of looking at them, through a technological eye. Great professor, who is extremely friendly and cares about his students. Available to help and will listen to any student's problems or suggestions about the course.

* The skills you learn on Excel are so valuable going forward in CSOM. Professor Gips is a great teacher and a very approachable guy.

* The course had a very clear focus, and followed the syllabus very clearly. Professor Gips made the reading interesting and also used presentations and outside speakers to make the class interesting.

* Computers taught me a lot about computers that I did not know previously. I found the course challenging but also feel as though I got a lot out of it.

* Professor Gips is talented at communicating the course material in a casual but effective manner. I never felt intimidated by the information or the workload, despite doing a fair amount of work.

* One strength is the use of excel at the beginning of the course. This part of the course was both challenging and fun. Microsoft excel is a tool used across the business world so learning this was very useful. Another strength is learning about technology and applying concepts to individual firms. For example, we were able to tie many concepts, such as network effects and the long tail, to many firms, such as Netflix and Amazon. I found it both interesting and useful to connect concepts with current firms. Also, James Gips is an amazing teacher. He was enthusiastic and interested in all of the material. His great teaching skills helped me learn very difficult material much easier. I know now that one of my concentrations will be information systems as a result of taking this course.

* Students learn how to use excel which is a great skill set in the real world and learn about how technologies affect the business world.

* This course is practical and the professor showed the class time and time again how valuable the information taught in class is.

* It gives a good base for a business education both in excel, which will be used a lot in the future and in the technology module.

* This course made me more interested in IT. I liked how we related IT to business I knew about in the second section to realize how they were so successful. I also really enjoyed the Excel portion of class and feel confident about my ability to use Excel in the work place.

* The warm personality of the instructor, student engagement, relevance of course material to everyday life (evidenced both through the Excel and technology modules of the course), and lack of mindless busywork.

* Variety of learning methods: work on computer, lectures, group presentations, outside speakers.

* Computers in Management is a great course. In one half of the course, students learn to use Excel, while in the second half students look at successful companies, and how they have established a competitive advantage. The class is practical, and one gets the impression that you can apply what you learn in this class to other classes, and even future careers. Professor Gips is a great professor who shows a real interest in his students. He is well organized, caring, and he makes the class fly-by.

* Computers in Management was a really good class. Professor Gips is a great guy, and he made attending class worthwhile even when the topic wasn't necessarily something I would normally find interesting. I particularly liked the Excel portion of the class because it was challenging but very rewarding when you figure out the answers.
I can clearly see the applicability of Computers in Management to my future in business. This class may have been my most valuable (long-term) of the semester. Professor Gips's teaching style kept the class interesting and light-hearted, which I personally enjoyed.

Professor Gips is the main strength. He made coming to class enjoyable. The material was pretty boring (excel and info systems), however Professor Gips somehow found a way to bring energy to each class, and now I can say that excel and info systems are interesting topics to learn about.

Teaches useful skills; concepts are immediately applicable to understanding the current business world. Great teacher.

Learning to use Excel was fun and useful, and was done in such a way to not get mundane or boring. The case studies of the second half may be important because of the concepts that were studied, but they were not particularly interesting.

Professor Gips is awesome.

2. How could the instructor improve the course?

He did a great job.

A few classes were a little dull, but most kept me interested.

Sometimes I felt like we didn't cover Excel in enough depth compared to the difficulty level on which we were tested.

Student presentations were not worth while, in my opinion

It would be great if the professor knew everyone. The class itself is flawless. However, the professor didn't really know everyone by the end of the class. Of course, it's not entirely the professor's fault since not everyone participate and it's hard to know students who doesn't really talk. However, the class was a manageable size and it would've been great if we didn't have to use the name tag by the end of the year.

Make lectures more interesting and interactive. It's hard to pay attention in this class.

none

Could be slightly more rigorous.

I think the course is fine as it. See Additional Comments for my one complaint.

It was a great course, but I feel like Professor Gips did not really prioritize learning our names. Though the class was large, it was certainly of manageable size. In order to develop any sort of relationship between a professor and student, they must first know each others' names.

I think the second portion of the class could be improved. While the readings and class discussion were interesting, I often found myself wondering why we were learning what we were learning. It all seemed to jump around and at times I felt lost.

I don't believe the instructor could have done anything better.
* There is not much that could be done to improve the course. Some of the articles about companies were a little out of date, but that did not make that much of a difference.

* He really can't improve it much. I loved it.

* Perhaps, a speaker could be introduced in the excel portion of the class. The speaker could give a presentation by showing an excel spread sheet he or she uses in their and how it functions. A real life example of excel would be helpful.

* I feel as though more things should be enforced and that more time should be taken to review.

* By unifying the course material. It was not difficult to go to the Information Systems website, the course book, and some websites in order to complete the necessary reading, but I found myself often overlooking some part. I don’t know that it’s feasible to bring these sources together, except perhaps if they all appear on the Internet. I would support some sort of effort to create an online syllabus that redirected to all the necessary readings.

* Nothing. It's great as is.

* After the excel portion of the course, the class seemed less involved.

* Some of the technology concepts in the second half were a little unclear to those without any background in understand computers. It was slightly unclear what we were supposed to focus on in the readings during the second half for the final.

* I think the Excel portion of the class was great, and don't have any suggestions for it. As for speakers, I think they could make the 2nd section more interesting, but some I didn't get much out of. It would be really cool if there were any BC alumni at any of the companies we were reading about to come in.

* The instructor could improve the course by perhaps facilitating better note-taking for students, but overall I do not view this as a major issue in the least. I have enjoyed Professor Gips’ teaching style and found the course structure to be engaging and appropriate given the material at hand.

* No suggestions.

* The only thing that I could suggest would be to even out the workload a bit more. Sometimes, especially during the second half of the semester, I would have a ton of reading to do for class, and sometimes I would hardly have any. It would have been nice if it were more uniformly spread.

* Prof. Gips did an excellent job as it is.

* Nothing. He should keep doing what he is doing.

* Including a written assignment: either a five page paper or five one page papers.

* Space the speakers out. Have one in the beginning of the semester, one in the middle and a final speaker towards the end of the semester. Or, have the speakers during the time that students are preparing their presentations as a way to not assign homework to allow them to work on their projects. Case studies were boring, and although necessary to learn concepts could be improved.

3. Would you recommend this course to other students, majors etc.? Why or why not?
* Yes, it was my favorite course. The course covers interesting material and deals with relevant business strategies.

* Yes. It is a very useful course. The excel portion, while not the most exciting stuff is certainly useful and the second half of the class is quite interesting. The second portion of the course is exciting because you get the opportunity to learn about a new company or product each class.

* Yes, b/c I learned a lot. Especially if you're going to need Excel in the future. Also a good introduction to business and competitive advantage and how a business uses technology.

* Definitely, it is a great class in all respects.

* Whole-heartedly yes. This was my favorite course this semester.

* Oh, most definitely. Professor Gips is one of the best professor for the class. He has a "geeky" sense of humor, which is great! (Geeky in the good sense, not the derogatory sense). He's also very thorough and very attentive.

* No. It is very boring.

* Absolutely. I find it is very valuable for almost everyone. These types of lessons are things that most people will need to know for their job once they graduate.

* Yes. The second half of the course was extremely interesting and in my opinion contained information useful to anyone.

* Yes, definitely. It teaches you a lot about Excel and many businesses.

* YES YES YES

* Yes, it was a very practical course for business majors; the skills in fact are practical within the respective fields of many majors; however I would say it is a little dry, and I do not think I would take the class if I did not have to.

* Yes, this was a great course to take as a freshman in CSOM. The skills I learned will be useful not only in future business classes but in the business world itself.

* I would definitely recommend this course to all CSOM students because it provides a good overview and understanding of the terminology and concepts used in the business world. Moreover, it enables one to understand why some firms are successful, while other firms are not. Also, it explains the factors which executives must constantly be aware of to ensure prosperity within a company.

* I would definitely recommend this course because it is not extremely difficult but you still learn a lot in the class.

* Yes, it is knowledge that is useful for any major, and it is interesting to look at technology through this viewpoint.

* Yes. The skills are so valuable.

* Yes. The course is interesting and the professor is great.

* Yes, I feel that this class is crucial to getting ahead in the business industry. For it teaches you the principles and fundamentals of the business world.
* Yes, without hesitation. This course was just challenging enough without being overwhelming, it was incredibly relevant to modern business, and I learned so much practical technological information.

* Yes, the concepts in this course are useful throughout society. To learn how technology is shaping the world is very important to one's understanding of the world. Microsoft excel is useful in any business. This course is very interesting and I believe many will enjoy.

* Yes, good way to take out a core requirement

* Yes. I never knew before how useful excel would be but now I love it and see practical uses for it everywhere. I think it is important subject matter for everyone to know.

* Yes, all skills learned are valuable building blocks for business.

* I would definitely recommend this course to other students, even though it is a CSOM requirement. Even if it was not, I would encourage taking it because it gave me a base knowledge in the technology sector and I think everyone could benefit from learning to use Excel.

* I would certainly go out of my way to recommend this course to other students. The material covered in this course (from Excel to the ways firms today are using technology to sustain a competitive advantage) has great bearing on the business world today, and Professor Gips' dedication to explaining these two modules in depth allows for definite value to be extracted from this course by anyone who has at least a remote interest in business.

* Yes. Definitely. It was my favorite class. Everything is interesting and engaging.

* I would definitely recommend this course to other students. Regardless of major, this class will be helpful. It is practical, and the skills learned in Computers in Management can help over a wide-variety of subjects.

* I would definitely recommend this course to other students who enjoy problem-solving. It was really interesting to use the different functions of Excel to find the answers to the questions. Sometimes, the readings for the Technology and Management portion of the semester were tough to get through, but I still think it was worth it for the information provided.

* Absolutely. We delved into analyzing interesting, relevant businesses and their use of technology to achieve a competitive advantage after spending half of the semester on mastering Excel. I feel extremely prepared for any upcoming internships or Excel-based work, and I actually enjoyed the Excel assignments. The readings begin after that half of the semester, and while they are sometimes quite long, they are very insightful.

* Yes, this material covered in this course is crucial to any business environment. It opens your mind to how technology shapes the world around us, and also teaches you how to form and make use of an excel spreadsheet.

* Yes, the technological advances in business are so prevalent that it wouldn't make sense to ignore it. This class is a great foundation for further learning.

* Yes, learning to use Excel and also knowing the concepts learned in the second half are both necessary and useful. I will have to know those topics and be able to discuss them intelligently in the future.

4. Additional comments:
* The red course book and Information Systems book often repeated each other. Reading both was a little redundant, but both aided in the learning experience.

* Pizza was awesome.

* Professor Gips is great. He really cares about the students, and seeing all of his past accomplishments and research was so amazing.

* The red MI031 course booklet contained the most informative and interesting readings out of all of my classes.

* 1. Yes. It was really good to incorporate articles from real world into the coursebook. It was really good to know how the course connects to the real world. 2. Yes. The textbook was a little pain to read (I personally don’t like reading on the internet). However, the textbook was good to read and it was interesting. 3. Yes. The page of notes is a lifesaver. 4. Yes. The alumni presentation is really priceless. It really affirmed the fact that the course is related to actual business and all the speakers were interesting. 5. Yes. The student presentations showed many technologies that I never knew existed. It was a really good way to gain exposure in a short amount of time.

* Speakers were excellent.

* I thought that the grading was sometimes unfair in that there are basically three grades all semester: a midterm, a final, and homework grades. I didn’t do terribly on the midterm, but I didn’t do great either, and it brought down my grade a lot. I wish there were other ways that I could have improved my grade throughout the semester other than doing the homework assignments.

* Gips is awesome!

* Very interesting course. I was able to take a lot from it.

* Professor Gips is such a nice professor!

* Thanks for a great class, Professor Gips!

* Professor Gips knows so much about his subject matter and has so much to teach you.

* Pizza Friday!

* I was also impressed by the relevant and interesting speakers that presented to the class.

* Overall, I am very happy that I had the opportunity to take MI031 with Professor Gips. A very engaging course taught by a very engaging man. Kudos!

* I <3 Pizza Fridays

* It seemed as if the student presentations did not follow the guidelines, as the presentations did not show that a technology was able to give the students’ companies a competitive advantage. The students instead interpreted the assignment as any company that uses technology AND has a sustained competitive advantage. I’m not sure if that is what was meant by the assignment, but the assignment seems superfluous if that is the case. Otherwise, students just did not follow directions.

* I enjoyed the student presentations, I thought they were interesting and they were just the right length so that people could actually stay focused and attentive. I also thought the page of notes on the excel exam was useful... I didn’t have to spend time memorizing formulas, instead I could focus my efforts on learning how to apply and use the formulas in real situations.