

# PREVENTIVE MEDICINE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS EVALUATION

## Clinical Trials

October 1996

| Question   | Responses                  |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                                   | 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9, |
| 2. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 5=Best, 1=Much to easy, 9=Much to hard) | 8, 5, 5, 5, 5, 8, 4, 5½, 6 |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                                | 8, 8, 9, 9, 7, 8, 7, 9, 9  |
| 4. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                      | 8, 8+, 9, 9, 7, 8, 8, 9, 8 |

### General Comments:

- Given the short amount of time and the tremendous amount of information I felt that Dr. Shyr did a great job in introducing new and complex concepts. The protocol project was very helpful.
- Very well constructed/implemented. Objectives stated & met. Liked the amount of work load and pace of course. Main criticism was he followed the text too closely. Would incorporate data base earlier & assign pilot database. Really enjoyed course. Felt I learned a lot of applicable information. Effective instructor.
- Superb instructor, very useful information, appropriate projects and work load. This course helped to bring together the Biostats tests/concepts by review. The protocol development was excellent. The database presentation could be shorter.
- Yu did a fabulous job in course- incredible effort, worked to answer questions, altered course to reflect needs, very thorough. Handouts very helpful. Protocol project fabulous. Critique project enjoyable.
- Overall a good course - I learned a lot about clinical trials. Probably don't need to go over the book page by page during class.
- It was an excellent idea to bring computer to class to teach Microsoft access- would make the SAS course better. I also, let's do computer homework and make our own database sheet.
- Excellent - relevant exercises. At times I felt as if we were on a whirl-wind tour. Jeff Sullivan session is a good example of how SAS should be taught. Would be useful to use Microsoft access as a small project.
- Very relevant. Could review more studies as exercise.

- Superb. Give Yu another week for the same material - sometimes too fast. Make Yu teach the measurement course quantitative part.
- This course was excellent- good text, excellent professor- good balance of exercises and assignments. First presentation on protocols should be shorter and stress only background. Turn in draft sooner so that we could get feedback before final presentation.

# PREVENTIVE MEDICINE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS EVALUATION

## Clinical Trials

November 1998

| Question   | Responses                  |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard) | 6, 5, 5, 7, 6, 5, 5, 5, 6  |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                                     | 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 10, 9, 9, 8 |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                                  | 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8  |
| 4. How was the quality of the text?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                                   | 7, 6, 8, 5, 5, 4, 7, 8, 7  |
| 5. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                        | 8, 8, 9, 7, 7, 9, 7, 9, 8  |

### General Comments:

- Should work together with afternoon class on schedules so that presentations, tests, etc do not coincide. Classroom on 4th floor much better than upstairs. Yu was a very good instructor! I learned a great deal about clinical trial methodology.
- Extremely well organized course. Excellent notes. The course might benefit from one lecture on practical aspects of clinical trials - ways to increase participation, problems of follow up, etc -- perhaps given by an experienced clinical trialist.
- Very well organized. Very helpful. I think the statistics as it is integrated is difficult to incorporate into the course. Perhaps it could be spread out. Dr. Shyr was enthusiastic and helpful. This was a very good course. The text was as good as it could be.
- I think since I haven't taken Biostat-1 and my experience in clinical trials is very limited as I have joined clinical research trials from Aug 1998. To my comments on evaluation are based on my limited experience. The text I think should be more elaborative to explain. But the teaching part is excellent.
- Very good course overall. I learned a great deal. I think the final protocol project should be discussed earlier in the course, so it can be developed over the 3 weeks rather than during just the last week. Very limited time for reading the text.
- Dr. Shyr puts in a tremendous amount of effort in preparing and teaching this course, which is highly appreciated. A better text would help. Although there is not much time to read it anyway.
- Dr. Shyr did an excellent job organizing the course and put an enormous effort into it. I thought it was taught from the perspective of a Biostatistician rather than a clinical trialist.

I would decrease the intensity of the statistics and increase the number of clinical trials reviewed.

- I truly enjoyed this course and learned a lot. Dr. Shyr was always prepared, covered the material in an understandable fashion. I appreciated the course notes.
- Dr. Shyr did an excellent job sorting through a lot of material in a short amount of time. The course could be improved by thinning the material a bit and more hands on application of concepts in class.

# PREVENTIVE MEDICINE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS EVALUATION

## Clinical Trials

November 2000

| Question   | Responses  |
|--|--|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard) | 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 5, 5,<br>5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 5, 5,<br>5, 5 |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                                     | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9,<br>8, 9 |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                                  | 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 7, 9, 7, 9,<br>8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9,<br>8, 9    |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the text?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                        | 7, 7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 9,<br>8, 9, 7, 7, 5, 5, 9, 6, 6, 9,<br>7, 7 |
| 5. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=Best)                        | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 7, 9, 8, 9,<br>8, 9, 7, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9,<br>8, 9 |

### General Comments:

- The course was very well organized and well taught. I feel like I learned a lot and I enjoyed it. Thanks. This was the best course we have had.
- The best course yet! I love Yu Shyr! Much Much Much better than all other classes. Organized, relevant, fantastic!!!
- Best course thus far. Course was excellently organized, appreciated the fact that we followed the syllabus so closely. Dr. Shyr did super job of teaching – he was so interested in helping us learn. Excellent teacher.
- Best course thus far. We covered a lot of material, but I never felt like Dr. Shyr was pressed for time. He would stop and answer questions on whatever topic until everybody understood the concept.
- I really appreciated Dr. Shyr’s willingness to answer questions and re-explain difficult concepts in detail. He is extremely approachable and genuinely enthusiastic about teaching the material. I enjoyed learning these concepts and know I will use these skills a lot in the future.
- Excellent explanation of practical issues. Well done!!
- Yu is a superb instructor for adult students!!

- Best course we have had so far.
- Dr. Shyr was the best teacher in the MPH program so far; he taught effectively and with passion qualities not everybody is able to bring the classroom. He is excellent. Thank you very much Dr. Shyr.
- Very informative!!
- Enthusiastic instructor, well organized course, excellent course book, some of the statistical explanation were difficult to understand.
- Statistics method is difficult.
- Dr. Shyr is an excellent teacher. He shows enthusiasm and expertise to the class. I enjoyed it and learned a lot of usable information.
- Great course. Excellent instructor!!
- Very good instructor that really delivers message.
- Great course, great instructor. Book was mediocre, but I understand none of the Clinical Trials texts are great – we probably have the best of the mediocre, and that is fine.
- Outstanding teacher!
- Enjoyed the course and learned a great deal. It would have been even better if we had not spent so much time on how to derive some of the equations. While the information was interesting, most of us will be using computers and/or statisticians to do this and will, therefore, not need to understand the equations at the level taught. The time spend on derivation (sometimes substantial) could be better spend on other material. Again...I really enjoyed the course. This is just a suggestion on how to make it even better.

# PREVENTIVE MEDICINE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS EVALUATION

## Clinical Trials

December 2001

| Questions  | Responses   |
|--|---|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9; 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard) | 5, 5, 8, 7, 6, 4, 5, 7, 5,<br>6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 7,<br>5, 5, 4, 5  |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                     | 9, 9, 6, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8,<br>8, 9, 9+, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8,<br>8, 8, 8, 9 |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                  | 9, 9, 4, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8,<br>8, 9, 9+, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8,<br>9, 9, 8, 9 |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the text?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                        | 8, 9, 6, 7, 7, 6, 8, 9, 7,<br>5, 7, 8, 5, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7,<br>7, 8, 5, 6  |
| 5. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                        | 9, 9, 6, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9,<br>8, 9, 9, 9+, 9, 8, 9, 9, 7,<br>8, 9, 8, 9 |

### General Comments:

- Dr. Shyr was a great teacher—thorough, smart, and effective—I truly learned a lot from his class.
- The only “con” so to speak was the wide variation in epidemiologic and Biostatistics backgrounds of the class participants—namely, some non-MPH and non-MSCI students with no background on stats or epi tended to drag the discussion down at times.
- Overall, I think it is a wonderful course. It covers a lot of topics within 3 weeks. I like it very much.
- The course books are excellent—very helpful. I also like having the opportunity to do in-class exercises. The guest speakers were very good, also.
- Dr. Shyr was EXCELLENT! He is a great communicator and a very effective teacher. The course was excellent. The acquisition of knowledge concerning the design and conduct of clinical trials exceeded my expectations. The only concern I have is regarding the course work and duration of the course. Because the course is only conducted over essentially 3 weeks, the homework, midterm and final exam required lots of effort and time to complete and design. I think most of the students still have significant clinical or research duties outside of the class, so it was difficult to accomplish all of the assigned work in the allotted time. Possible lengthening the course to 4-6 weeks would help alleviate some of these burdens. Just a suggestion.

- Yu Shyr is an excellent instructor and should be recognized for his efforts. The lecture on clinical equivalence trial should be revised- the lecture notes were intended for a audience of statisticians. Also, the last lecture (by Paul Larsen) was quite weak. All in all though, an excellent course.
- Excellent course. Enjoyable even when it is not a simple topic. The quality of the instructor is superior. Thanks!
- Excellent teaching!
- The course was excellent. I learned a lot and the professor was great. Very helpful. I would space out the homework assignments differently, so that the final and the homework assignment are not due on the same day or shorten the assignments.
- The level of the course was great and I thought the course was very well organized. Dr. Shyr is an excellent instructor. The text was okay. I didn't have too strong feeling for it in either direction.
- Great Course!! I learned a lot.
- Excellent Course. Dr. Shyr is a fabulous teacher and is really gifted. He works hard to make this course as good as it is. I have thoroughly enjoyed this course and learned a lot from him.
- Excellent syllabus! Great table of contents; easy to find what was needed. Dr. Shyr = great lecturer; obviously put effort and preparation into the course. Midterm and final projects were well designed and very helpful to demonstrate the "big picture". Overall great course.
- Maybe a little heavy on the stats; nevertheless, it was integrated into the course well and made sense most of the time.
- Some redundancy for the MPH folks, specifically meta-analysis.
- Inconsistent backgrounds among the students...some with NO stats at all; Dr. Shyr did a good job deferring and answering questions, but these folks should probably only be there for certain courses that will be most applicable. Didn't slow down the rest of the class too much, though.
- The last lecture (relational databases) was an extremely important one, but the lecturer was obviously inexperienced and did a poor job.
- The class was excellent. I found the class extremely useful for my current work in designing a clinical trial. I am much better equipped to understand the issues ahead. Dr. Shyr has the course well organized and his teaching style is effective. My only complaint is the course was not long enough—I wish it was 4 to 8 weeks long. Is there a clinical

trials II course offered from Dr. Shyr?

- Wonderful class! It was immediately obvious that you placed a significant amount of effort into organizing the syllabus—this definitely ensured my learning process was maximized and made the logic clearer. (Unfortunately, this has not been the case in other classes earlier this year) I truly learned quite a lot but—wished the course had lasted longer. Great text- readable and short enough for this quick course. THANKS!!
- The instructor was superb.
- Dr. Shyr was extremely well organized and is an excellent teacher.
- The course notes and class assignments were presented clearly and are valuable resources.
- I really enjoyed the course. Dr. Shyr is an excellent instructor and the course was very useful and worthwhile.
- Excellent introductory course. Dr. Shyr is indeed a gifted instructor. I enjoyed this course very much and am looking forward to using the skills I learned in designing clinical trials.
- Dr. Shyr is fantastic. I can make no other suggestion other than Don't Change a Thing!
- Improve lecture on databases - revise lecture notes on non-equivalence trials.
- Dr. Shyr is a dynamic and interactive lecturer. Throughout the class he both encouraged and facilitated student participation adding value to each class. This will be my 3<sup>rd</sup> class at VUMC that covered aspects of bio-statistics. Of those three classes, Dr. Shyr's was the only course that effectively conveyed the ideas of statistics and how it is best employed in designing scientific investigations and analyzing data. To date, Dr. Shyr has been the finest lecturer I have encountered. I hope he will continue to teach, because he is a truly talented instructor.

# PREVENTIVE MEDICINE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS EVALUATION

## Clinical Trials

November 2002

| Questions  | Responses   |
|--|---|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9; 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard) | 5, 5, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 5, 5, 6,<br>6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6,<br>5,    |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                     | 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8,<br>8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>9,    |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                  | 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>8, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>9,    |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the course pack?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                 | 9, 7, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8,<br>8, 9, 9, 8, 7, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>9,    |
| 5. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                        | 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8,<br>8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>9,    |
| 6. Are you in the MPH (mark 1), MSCI (Mark 2) or Eskind<br>Biomedical Library (mark 3) program?  | 6. 3, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, ?,<br>3, 2, 1, ?, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 3,<br>3, 1, |

### General Comments:

- Dr. Shyr is a fantastic professor. He is an energetic and interesting speaker. I appreciate how he reports and stresses important concepts and makes himself available to students. Additionally I appreciate his patience and interest in helping all students learn.
- Dr. Yu Shyr is one of the best professors I have ever been taught by. He is brilliant and he can simplify very complex topics so anyone can understand them. He was always available for questions and eager to help you. Before this course, I had no desire to participate in clinical trials, now I am eager to start one of my own.
- Overall very good. I think too much time was spent verifying numbers and doing calculations. I would have preferred more theory and less busy work.
- You (Yu) should remove the term “clinical equivalence” from the course notes and substitute “non-inferiority”!!
- Course was the best! Dr. Shyr did an excellent job covering difficult topics. The course load and the course pack were excellent. He was also very easy to contact during off hours. The homework assignments and midterm and final were good to recap and apply

information from the class. I will recommend this course to other people and will also encourage my management to send more people to the course. Thank You!

- 3 homeworks/midterm and final were a bit too much. It was much better and more helpful to do the last homework as an in class exercise. That way, we learned from each other.

- Regarding amount of work assigned would be difficult to do all reading of book chapters and articles. However Dr. Shyr appeared to be flexible. Very available and open to questions. He is a great teacher. Very helpful course.
- Dr. Shyr is wonderful! It is busy, but one learns a lot.
- Excellent course. It consolidated a lot of my understanding of statistical issues as they apply to clinical trials. Dr. Shyr is a very effective teacher.
- Well taught. Good coverage of lectures.
- I really enjoyed this class and I did learn a lot. Dr. Shyr is very patient and really enthusiastic. He has obviously put great effort into this course. He was flexible and willing to listen to student input.
- Course needs more time maybe four weeks would be better for students to digest material.
- This was a very good course. We learned a lot of valuable information we can use everyday. Entertaining as well, and Yu Shyr was always available to help students.
- Interesting. Good Course Pack.
- Excellent course. Very helpful! Dr. Shyr did an outstanding job. Very dynamic speaker, holds your interest.
- Excellent course. Fantastic teacher. Well taught. Very organized. One of the best classes that I ever took. Made material very understandable, very flexible.
- Dr. Shyr was very inclusive and helpful to those of us who had limited background in biostatistics. We really appreciate his patience and help. I feel that I learned an amazing amount of information and will be able to apply the information I learned very accurately in the future. Thanks, Dr. Shyr.
- Although the content was advanced and the pace accelerated, I learned much from the course. I didn't expect such emphasis on statistics but I am now more familiar with many aspects of methodology. Dr. Shyr was fair and personable, one of the best instructors I have had. I appreciate the organization of the material and will keep the course packs for future reference.

**PREVENTIVE MEDICINE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS  
EVALUATION**

**Clinical Trials**

**November 2003**

| <b>Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>   |
|--|--|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9; 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard)                               | 8, 6, 8, 5, 7, 6, 5, 7, 5, 6, 7,<br>6, 5, 7, 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 3, 6, 5,<br>6, 5, 5, 6, 5, 6, 4, 6, 5, 7, 5,<br>5, 5, 8, 5 |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)   | 9, 9, 9, 9, 7, 8, 9, 7, 9, 8, 9,<br>5, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 8, 8,<br>9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 7, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 8, 8 |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)  | 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9,<br>8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8,<br>9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 8 |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the course pack?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)   | 9, 8, 9, 9, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 7, 9, 9, 8, 8,<br>9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 8 |
| 5. How would you rate the importance of having the course pack?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=most important)                           | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 1, 8, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 1, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 9, 8    |
| 6. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1=9, 9=best)  | 9, 8, 8, 9, 8, 8, 9, 7, 9, 8, 9,<br>8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 8, 9,<br>9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 8, 8 |
| 7. Are you in the MPH (mark 1), MSCI (mark 2), Eskin<br>Biomedical Library (mark 3), Informatics (mark 4), or MMC<br>(mark 5)? | 3, 5, 4, 1, 1, 5, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2,<br>3, 2, 5, 3, 3, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 4,<br>2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2, 2, 2, 2, 5,<br>2, 1, 1, 5 |

**General Comments:**

- Excellent course! Instructor was very patient, encouraging to students.
- Yu Shyr is a fabulous professor and taught us a good amount of information in a terribly short time. The lectures were always clear with a good dose of humor, and he was always available for questions. The homework was at a good level in comparison to what we'd covered in class. The course packet was very handy!

The databases lecture, however, was quite painful- next year it might be better to get Doug Fisher from the CS Dept. Who teaches this material very well! I feel like we had very little guidance for the final (unlike the midterm) and so many of us feel rather lost. Overall, though, it was a great class!!

- This course should be 4 weeks (very exhaustive!)
- The course pack is critical for visual learners. Dr. Shyr very encouraging teacher, covered many difficult and dry topics in a way that could be broken down into small bits and therefore more easily digestible for students. All done with humor. Course was challenging but not overwhelming. Dr. Shyr appears and was for me very accessible and approachable (unlike other profs so far). Course offered something for everyone- difficult due to diversity of students. Maybe the best class I have ever taken undergrad-medschool- postgrad. Thank you!!
- Great course- Recommendation: This should be a full 4-week course. There is simply not enough time devoted to key components of the course that form the basis of clinical research study design.
- Great instructor- Dr. Shyr made a relatively complex topic seem relatively easy to digest. He was by far one of the most accessible instructors in the program. His sense of humor and sensitivity to student concerns added to the
- quality of the course.
- Would be beneficial to work more “real-life examples” in order to reinforce the material. Extend course by 1 or 2 days. Would not have to rush to get through the material.
- I use on-line notes only and it worked well except for papers in pdf formats need to label those better in the filename. Excellent class.
- Again, a lot of information in a very short time period. It would be better to have four weeks for this course. Very helpful to have the notes bound and organized I did not find the book very helpful.
- Great course. Please keep the course pack.
- Very useful, unique course of great value, instructor was clearly enthusiastic and expert in field.
- I want to thank Dr. Shyr for his patience, availability, and willingness to go the extra mile to help us day by day during class and outside of class learn the material.
- The course was pretty easy to follow the first 2 weeks. The last week I felt pretty rushed to learn the more difficult/ confusing topics. It would have been helpful to

leave another few days for Yu Shyr to go over examples and have large group question/ answer. I still felt having a hard copy of notes was helpful and easier to take notes on. I feel this course has been extremely helpful in preparing me to begin creating my own protocol...really provided an excellent foundation to build upon.

- An excellent course. Dr. Shyr makes complex statistics very simple and fun to learn. I highly recommend this course to anyone involved in clinical trials.
- This course is very important for clinical researchers. However, if more time could be spent on the course, it would be optimum.
- Dr. Shyr was a delightful and patient teacher. Had great command of the subject matter and was able to communicate it effectively to the class. The pace of the course was quite fast due to time constraints. Please consider adding an extra week to allow more time to learn and digest the material.
- It was very nice to have the prepared binder of info. Fantastic course; info very useful, really enjoyed the lectures; in-class examples and small groups exercises very useful in illustrating the different topics (also seemed to be timed very well to keep the course from being overwhelming). Instructor very responsive to class questions and feedback.
- Dr. Shyr is an excellent instructor! His delivery and explanation of difficult course topics is superb. He is passionate about his course and teaching and exudes enthusiasm daily regarding the material. Each day was exciting to learn something new. He should be commended for a job well done and this course by far has made an overwhelming impact on my career development learning curve!
- The level of the course is challenging, but good. The course pack is very thorough, but it's sometimes hard to find stuff. Course pack- very important for this course. There is too much material (notes and reading) to download. No one enjoys reading from a computer server for hours when there is an option for a hard copy. Even if the materials were web only- I would still print them. 1. Give course pack out. 2. Post notes on web too- nice to have "remote" access to look things up from anywhere. Great course.
- We definitely need the hard copy of course pack. We learned a lot. I appreciate it. With regard to "database" it was a little redundant for MSCI student. Because we had 3-hour lecture from Dr. Paul Harris.
- Very nice course. At times, it is very basic and I would have liked to have seen more detail and more complex topics covered. However, I understand that the course has to be designed for students ranging from librarians to MPH and everyone in between. I would like to see a clinical trials 2 course (like Biostats 2) that would be an elective that could cover more complex clinical design concepts

in greater detail.

- Course packet is very useful. Dr. Shyr is an exciting, animated, and effective instructor. Great course!
- Very helpful to have the course pack! This should be continued!
- Excellent teacher, thought provoking, well organized with excellent notes. NB having typed notes was crucial to the success of this course.
- Nice course!
- Course was great! Some sections were a bit tougher because I lack a stat background but overall, I learned a lot of new concepts and will definitely NOT look at papers the same way. Dr. Shyr is an excellent teacher-always available and open to students, questions, etc. I really appreciated his availability!
- If you have a laptop then the course pack is a 1 because you have a portable means to refer to slides. 9 if you don't have a laptop- it could be cumbersome to printout daily. Course pack- step procedures saves \$ could have them printed to order by the campus print shop in Rand so students pay for them.
- Excellent course
- Excellent course. Dr. Shyr did an excellent job teaching complex material in an organized way. He is clearly very dedicated to teaching. The course pack was very useful and I would recommend using it for future classes.
- Excellent course. Enjoyed Dr. Shyr's enthusiasm for his work and teaching. Appreciated his availability and willingness to accommodate his students. Seemed to quickly cover some of the important material- could eliminate some of the technical details and focus more closely on some of the most pertinent topics.
- Very effective instructor. Enjoyed course.
- Excellent course, well organized, utilized limited time very well. After this course I can evaluate scientific papers in a much more thorough way. Dr. Shyr was an excellent instructor.
- Excellent instructor. Has a special talent in making the most difficult material logical and understandable.
- Excellent course. Enjoyed it and learned a lot. Good hand out and reference material. Dr. Shyr was available at all times to help out. Great teacher.
- Very organized and concise

- Course is presented at a rapid pace, would recommend same course material, but given over an additional week or two it is difficult to assimilate so quickly, and retain.
- Intense course
- Instructor was superb and motivating, he appears to enjoy his job and to teach
- Will look at RCTs in a new light
- Course handouts are essential
- Instructor available, gives out home number, cell, office number –always willing to instruct and wants his students to learn
- Great Course. Thank you.

**Clinical Trials: Course Evaluation**  
**November 2004**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9; 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard)   | 5, 5, 5, 5, 7, 6, 5, 5, 5, 4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 6, 5, 6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 7, 5, 6, 5, 7 |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                       | 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9    |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                    | 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9    |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the course pack? (hardcopy or web)<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best) | 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 7, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 7, 9, 9, 9, 8, 7, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9 |
| 6. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1=9, 9=best)                          | 9, 9, 9, 8, 7, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8 |

General Comments:

Dr. Shyr was great!

Excellent course. Yu is a great instructor

Well organized. Appreciate amount of out of class work.

Would be better to spread homework, midterm and final out more. Very heavy work load at the end of the course; however, I learned tremendous amount of new concepts, methods, and tools from this course.

Very helpful. We learned a lot in a short period of time.

I really enjoyed this class and learned a lot. Yu is a very effective teacher and easy to follow.

Great teaching and Dr. Shyr is very patient with questions.

I wish there was a clinical trial course #2. Please do it – Dr. Shyr 8-)

The course was very helpful in helping me with my research study, looking at published data and understanding how they came to their analysis.

Need to spend more time on this course, lets say 4 weeks

Great instructor! Outstanding course material! Only one suggestion - probably consider few lectures on specialized clinical trials.

This was an excellent course. Dr. Shyr was able to pack so much useful information into such a short time.

Wonderful course overall; however, I didn't find the guest lecture on database(s) to be very effective.

The course was well presented – thank you – Dr. Shyr.

Yu Shyr is a very enthusiastic teacher. I liked the practical application.

I was going to comment that more time was needed for the protocol but the extra day will help. Yu Shyr's high energy level made this class a joy to attend. He was most willing to answer questions and to be available.

Dr. Shyr is extremely knowledgeable and very enthusiastic. I appreciate his availability and willingness to answer questions during the course. The notes are comprehensive and well organized.

I liked the hard copy of the notes but the web was very convenient also.

Excellent and well organized. Dr. Shyr is very accessible and helpful, very good teacher. Good pace to class, I think the homework assignments were very helpful. I learned a great deal from this course it was very enjoyable.

Great course and very helpful for career development.

Strengths: Instructor, organization, textbook, midterm and final very helpful for solidifying knowledge.

Weaknesses: need more feedback from homework assignments, presentations.

Best course so far!

Great course!

This course is too important to be compressed into 20 days...suggest at least 30 days...or a month other than Nov/Dec during the holidays...maybe October.....

Database lecture was difficult to understand...suggest more preparation by instructor (not talking about Shyr)

Less homework and more in class work/exercises.

Excellent. Only wish is that there were 1 more week to help absorb the information better.

Problem sets were very good. Helped me to learn the information.

I thought all lectures were helpful. The MSCI Biostats class had a lot of talks on database design, so did not provide me any new information. Maybe could coordinate that material with the Biostats class.

If the course would be 1 to half week longer, some subjects could have been expanded, such as the non-inferiority design could be done.

This is an excellent course! I only wish we had more time. Instead of 3 weeks an entire month would have been better to cover this material. Although all of the concepts were discussed...more time would allow time for the concepts to sink-in. Also a few more relevant topics or examples from the literature could be covered...Therefore I recommend more time and more credits for this course.

Yu is a great instructor...very clear, very organized. More classes should be run with his energy and his knowledge of the subject.

Dr. Shyr brought it full circle in order to make us realize the importance of what we were learning and how this simply fit into it.

Overall, I would agree with others in previous class years that this is one of the better classes that we have. Yu has high expectations, but gives us the tools to meet them. That's admirable for certain.



- I appreciated the emphasis on conceptual knowledge and practical application rather than memorization of facts. Really outstanding instructor. Consistently clear lectures, incredible patience with students and genuine interest in students learning.
- Dr. Shyr is a phenomenal teacher. I greatly appreciated his constant punctuality- always starting exactly on time and never going past 11:00. It was also wonderful and very helpful of him to be constantly available to us for questions at any time. He was so positive and encouraging, I never felt afraid to ask a question or felt as though my question was stupid or foolish. In sum, Dr. Shyr is one of the best teachers I have ever had.
- Great class.
- Dr. Shyr is an excellent instructor. I can't believe I learned as much as I did in 3 weeks.
- Excellent course, elevated my level of understanding and ability to interpret clinical trials.
- Great class, excellent presentation, homework, midterm and final are well designed. This is the best course so far!!
- Dr. Shyr is a great teacher, very enthusiastic, and always willing to help his students out.
- Great class.
- Dr. Shyr was fabulous! The course was incredible! Truly an enjoyable month. I learned a ton. Very inspirational instructor!
- A hard copy of the handout/syllabus in addition to the PDFs would be most helpful!

**Clinical Trials: Course Evaluation**  
**November 2006**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9; 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard) | 5, 6, 7, 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 5    |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                     | 9, 9, 7, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9    |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                  | 9, 9, 7, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 9 |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the course handout?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)              | 9, 8, 7, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 7, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9    |
| 5. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1=9, 9=best)                        | 9, 9, 7, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9 |

**General Comments:**

Dr. Shyr was an amazing teacher, very assessable and eager. Excellent notes. Excellent teaching style.

Great Course!

Excellent course. I appreciate all the time and effort Dr. Shyr has put into this course.

The handout is especially good. Topics very important and clearly taught. Instructor available, approachable and enthusiastic.

I did enjoy very much the clinical trial class. It is a lot of material to cover but Dr. Shyr does an unique and outstanding, very practical approach and makes even the hardest thing easy to understand. Outstanding!

Enjoyed learning the concepts- sometimes the mathematics was a little hard to follow. Dr. Shyr is a very energetic/enthusiastic instructor who really wants his students to learn. Very available and approachable.

At times I think the teaching points could have been more obvious/clear if less information was provided.

Excellent course. He is a gifted and engaging instructor and as good as any I have encountered here at Vanderbilt including my medical school experience.

I enjoyed the class overall!

It was an excellent course, but 3 weeks is insufficient time. It should be at least 4 weeks. Because of the time, some of the course work was done real fast.

I enjoyed the class very much. Dr. Shyr is an effective teacher and took a great deal of time to explain theories and give understandable and relevant examples. The only thing I would change is to give an example of a protocol for the final. Some of us who have never written a protocol would find that helpful.

Dr. Shyr is a great teacher. His handouts summarized the material on the book and simplified concepts so that we could understand them. He clearly loves what he does and it shows. I would gladly take another course he is teaching. Thanks!

A wonderful course. We did go a bit fast at times, as is the nature of doing in 14 courses. I would expand to 18 days and use extra 4 days for small group sessions with Dr. Shyr and TA's. Thank you for a great experience!!

Wonderful course! Enjoyed every topics and lectures. Awesome!

One suggestion may be to make midterm presentations over 1 week. So that students have a chance to read each article to get more out of each groups presentation. Overall, a great course, well organize handouts, and outstanding teaching,

Excellent course, very enthusiastic. Excellent handout. Should be longer!

Dr. Shyr was very approachable and extremely helpful when questions came up.

This class was very good overall. I learned a lot, and thought the subjects covered were great. The only problem was that it seemed a little rushed. The class only ended up being about 2½ weeks and I think some of the subjects needed a little bit slower pace. However, overall I really enjoyed the class.

Instructor was always available. Ensured students were able to ask questions and spent extra time on difficult subjects.

**Clinical Trials: Course Evaluation**  
**November 2007**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9; 5=Best, 1=Much too easy, 9=Much too hard) | 5, 6, 5, 5, 5, 8, 7, 5, 5, 6, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 5, 6, 8, 6, 4, 6, 6, 6, 5, 5, 7, 6, 5, 5 |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                     | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 7, 8, 9, 9 |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                  | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 8, 8, 8, 7, 7, 8, 9, 9 |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the course handout?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)              | 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 6, 9, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 7, 8, 8, 9, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9 |
| 5. What is your overall rating for the course?<br>(Rate from 1=9, 9=best)                        | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 6, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 8, 9 |

General Comments:

Great course!! Dr. Shyr shows the high level of knowledge he has, and the joy of transmitting that knowledge.

Very helpful. Excellent overview and practical application.

Great instructor! Really made it a pleasure to attend class each day and I learned a lot.

It was a great course. I learned a lot from the course. The lectures are always clear.

Dr. Shyr is a fantastic enthusiastic teacher, who obviously cares if we learn. He is well organized and thoughtful about his lectures. We are lucky to have him teach us this important course.

Sometimes I felt so lost in the mathematical derivations that it was difficult to grasp the important bigger concept and study design.

The class was very well organized. Dr. Shyr did well teaching a difficult topic. We all appreciated his enthusiasm.

The early homework helped us engage concepts effectively, and the very practical exercise of critiquing a paper for the midterm and presenting a protocol for the final were very much helpful. Thank you Yu.

Dr. Shyr is an awesome teacher and clearly cares about his students and wants them to learn. I am glad I had the opportunity to learn from him.

Lots of material. May want to cut back some of the less utilized material. Overall, very good course! Thanks, Dr. Shyr!

Great course! Dr. Shyr was very informative and organized. Liked the small group activities and journal article sessions.

Very well organized, very helpful to understand how to design a clinical trial, but also to critique a clinical trial. These are absolutely necessary skills to have to be a clinical scientist. Thank you!!!

Awesome course!! THANK YOU – Dr. Shyr!!!

Maybe more examples would be helpful; however, it is an outstanding course.

Dr. Shyr has a lot of enthusiasm for teaching. I enjoyed doing the problems in class to help with reinforcing learning class topic. I found the mid term presentations very instructive in learning process. He is always available to answer questions. Presentation on missing data topic was very abstract and if possible provide examples to make the concept better to understand.

I applaud Dr. Shyr for his abundant enthusiasm for teaching. My only concern about the course is that it is extremely intensive but we learned tons of very useful materials in less than one month.

Very useful course. I feel confident about reading clinical trials and planning one. Yu Shyr is an excellent teacher! Thanks!!!!

I really enjoyed this course and learned about the things I use to ignore when I read journal articles. I also like the applicability of the materials taught in the class.

Great Class. Thanks!!!

Very informative! Well organized! Well prepared! Always available for students who had questions! Enjoyed every lecture!



clinical trial. Would recommend making standardized scenarios for students to use to formulate a study.

Very good course, but I expected that. Thanks Dr. Shyr!!!

Excellent course. This course challenged me to learn a lot of new material. Dr. Shyr was very effective in instructing, and he was very dedicated to student's learning. I will use Dr. Shyr's handouts and lecture notes for heavy future reference.

Excellent Course!!!!!!!!!!

Felt the course was well organized, professor always available to answer questions.

More examples in handout with exact steps followed may help illustrate complex concepts.

Great course with dramatic learning curve. Suggest having 7 minute break every hour rather than 15 minute break at 10:30 ☺

Great course! In addition, Dr. Shyr was very accessible and helpful outside of class.

Dr. Shyr is approachable, enthusiastic, and dedicated. This is appreciated.

Very good course!!! Very useful!!! Lots of funs!!!

Dr. Shyr is an outstanding professor.

Clearly states important material but provides additional valuable background information. Very approachable. Assisted me with my own research projects and abstracts. Thank you – Dr. Shyr.

Excellent professor enthusiasm, commitment, and availability.

Great course. Dr. Shyr is very enthusiastic and dedicated. He's a great teacher. Class discussions and case-study were extremely helpful.

I thought the class exercises were very useful- they helped illustrate points made during the lectures.

Dr. Shyr is a very enthusiastic and dynamic teacher. I really enjoyed the course, my only suggestions for change are: How about more small group exercises? These are good for reinforcing concepts anyway. Maybe more story-telling about how to structure trials.

Thanks for an excellent course. Oh. One more think. Please let incoming MPH and MSCI students know about the requirement for writing a protocol at orientation, so they can begin generating ideas.

Overall excellent course!!!

Dr. Shyr is an excellent teacher! I learned a tremendous amount in this class. The only problem is that so much was covered in four weeks, I am sure I won't be able to remember it all. The class exercises were very helpful in applying what we had learned (and hopefully making it easier to remember).

Overall, a great course. Outstanding teacher! Excellent handout!

Really enjoyed every lecture! I would suggest teams of 3 or 4 for the mid-term presentation, less presentations with time to address all important papers.

Enjoyed the course and the class exercises. Homework was balanced and not excessive.

Excellent course!!!

Great Instructor!!

Enjoyed the course!

**Clinical Trials: Course Evaluation**  
**November 2009**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. How was the level of the course?<br>(Rate from 1-9; 5=Best, 1=Much too easy,<br>9=Much too hard) | 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5,<br>5, 5, 5, 5 |
| 2. Was the course well organized?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)  | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9,<br>9, 9, 8, 8 |
| 3. How effective was the instructor?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)                                     | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 9 |
| 4. How would you rate the quality of the<br>course handout?<br>(Rate from 1-9, 9=best)              | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 8, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 8 |
| 5. What is your overall rating for the<br>course?<br>(Rate from 1=9, 9=best)                        | 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 8, 9, 9, 9,<br>9, 9, 9, 8 |

COMMENTS:

Outstanding Course. Great organization. Great lectures.

Excellent educator- enjoyed his course very much.

Excellent course, very well organized.

I really enjoyed attending this course. There was a great balance.

Dr. Shyr is an excellent instructor. He explains things well and his handouts are very informative. He is very engaging and interactive.

The course was excellent. I know substantially more than when I started.

One of the best professors and most invested in students I have had.

Dr. Shyr is an outstanding teacher and biostatistician. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and believe it has enabled me to design and RCT that I intend to write an ROI application for in the next 2-3 months. I hope he will consider serving as a consultant for this project.

Thoroughly enjoyed the class and feel that I learned a considerable amount.

This was a great course. Yu Shyr is wonderful.

This was a great course.

Excellent course. Detail was just right. Class exercises were good. Dr. Shyr's interest in class questions was appreciated. Also appreciated his availability.

Dr. Shyr is one of the best instructors I have had while at Vanderbilt (7+ years). He is enthusiastic about the subject matter and able to clearly present the material. He is always available for questions. Great Course!

This is truly one of the best courses I have ever taken. The lectures were very well organized. The lecture notes were very helpful. Dr. Yu Shyr was extremely knowledgeable and always available to answer questions by phone, email, or office visit. It would be nice to have Dr. Shyr for other courses.

Great Professor. Dr. Shyr has enhanced my understanding of clinical trials.

Excellent energy and emphasis on relevant topics. Good assignments.

Appreciate availability of Dr. Shyr.