

BS2036SS Fundamentals of Derivatives  
 (BS2036SS-SP-18/19-MODESFG2)  
 No. of responses = 76 No. of students 178.  
 Savitar Sundaresan  
 Response rate = 42.7%  
 Program of Study = Finance and Accounting



Overall indicators

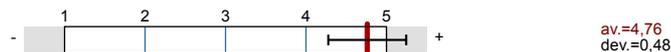
Global Index



2. Module Content



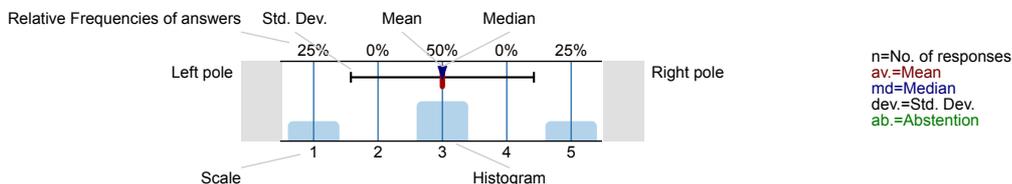
3. Instructor



Survey Results

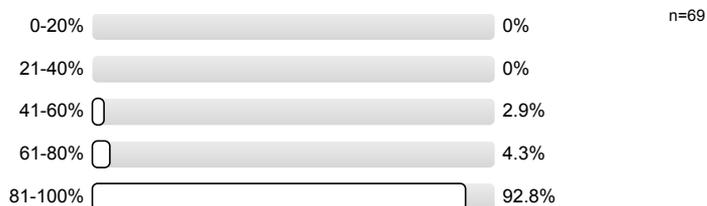
Legend

Question text



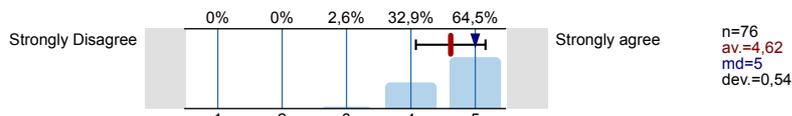
1. Attendance

1.1) How often I attended class.

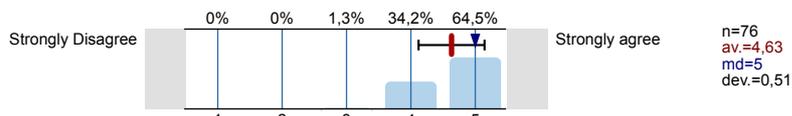


2. Module Content

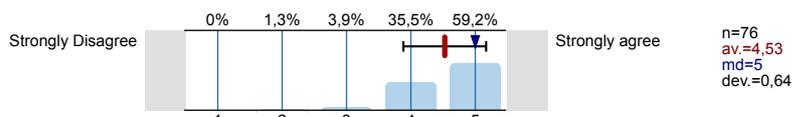
2.1) The module has clear objectives.



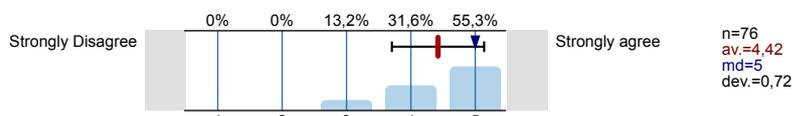
2.2) The order of the module contents made sense,



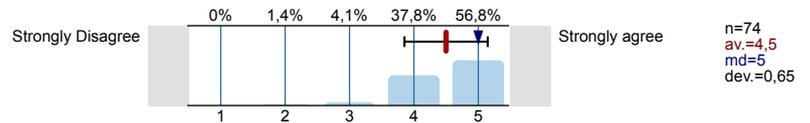
2.3) The quality of the module materials (slides, readings, exercises, case studies etc.) for this module were good.



2.4) The module components (e.g., sessions, tutorial sessions, coursework, etc.) enhanced my understanding of the topic.

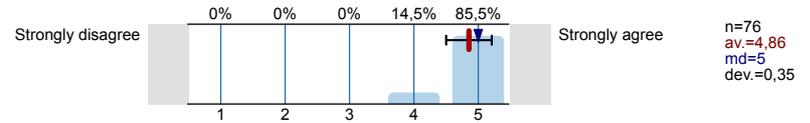


2.5) Overall, the module was effective in delivering its learning objectives.

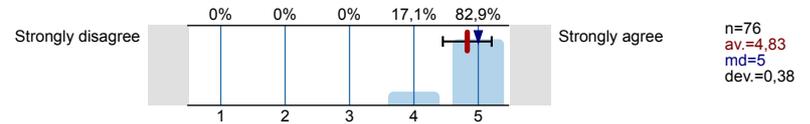


### 3. Instructor

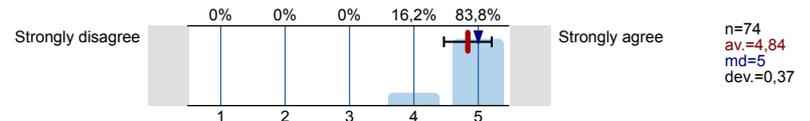
3.1) The instructor was knowledgeable about the module topics.



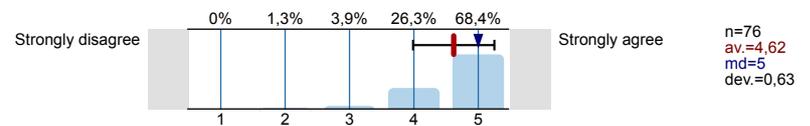
3.2) The instructor was enthusiastic about the module topics.



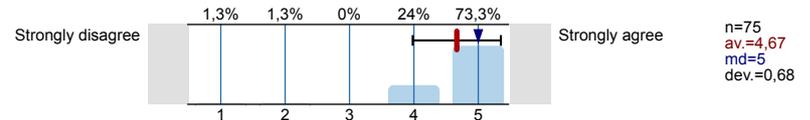
3.3) The instructor was responsive to student questions.



3.4) The instructor helped me to understand the module content clearly.



3.5) Overall, the instructor was effective.



# Profile

Subunit: Imperial College Business School 2018/19  
 Name of the instructor: Savitar Sundaresan  
 Name of the course: BS2036SS Fundamentals of Derivatives  
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

## 2. Module Content

2.1) The module has clear objectives.	Strongly Disagree								Strongly agree	n=76	av.=4,62	md=5,00	dev.=0,54
2.2) The order of the module contents made sense,	Strongly Disagree								Strongly agree	n=76	av.=4,63	md=5,00	dev.=0,51
2.3) The quality of the module materials (slides, readings, exercises, case studies etc.) for this module were good.	Strongly Disagree								Strongly agree	n=76	av.=4,53	md=5,00	dev.=0,64
2.4) The module components (e.g., sessions, tutorial sessions, coursework, etc.) enhanced my understanding of the topic.	Strongly Disagree								Strongly agree	n=76	av.=4,42	md=5,00	dev.=0,72
2.5) Overall, the module was effective in delivering its learning objectives.	Strongly Disagree								Strongly agree	n=74	av.=4,50	md=5,00	dev.=0,65

## 3. Instructor

3.1) The instructor was knowledgeable about the module topics.	Strongly disagree								Strongly agree	n=76	av.=4,86	md=5,00	dev.=0,35
3.2) The instructor was enthusiastic about the module topics.	Strongly disagree								Strongly agree	n=76	av.=4,83	md=5,00	dev.=0,38
3.3) The instructor was responsive to student questions.	Strongly disagree								Strongly agree	n=74	av.=4,84	md=5,00	dev.=0,37
3.4) The instructor helped me to understand the module content clearly.	Strongly disagree								Strongly agree	n=76	av.=4,62	md=5,00	dev.=0,63
3.5) Overall, the instructor was effective.	Strongly disagree								Strongly agree	n=75	av.=4,67	md=5,00	dev.=0,68

# Comments Report

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## 2. Module Content

2.6) Did you find this module sufficiently challenging? Please give comments below:

- - Very challenging
- -black scholes formula and some of the mathematical formulas are a bit confusing, need some previous pre-sessional courses to cover the basics
- Brilliant Lecturer
- Challenging!
- Courseworks consumed too much time
- Definitely was challenging with slightly too much material covered.
- It was quite challenging as the amount of new information covered was quite high. It also challenged our understanding of the topics, as a lot of things needed logical reasoning, not only memorizing the formulas.
- It was quite challenging but worth to challenge it
- Module is very intense.
- Most challenging module so far
- Slightly challenging
- The content is a bit difficult
- Very challenging because
  1. CWs were very demanding
  2. too many contents for the course to be completed in such a short period of time (8 wks of lectures), making me feel difficult to understand and apply the knowledge to the questions that would appear on the exam as well as to real life.
- Very hard for a lot of students  
No slides for tutorials
- Yeah.but interesting!
- Yes (3 Counts)
- Yes - this module was both enjoyable and challenging. Coursework content was very applied in a real-world sense which put the theory into practice.
- Yes although would of liked more practice questions
- Yes because professor emphasised understanding of concepts very much rather than memorising stuff.
- Yes definitely, especially on the Black Scholes Model
- Yes it was
- Yes it was totally new for me. I had a better understanding of options pricing and other derivatives which I find interesting.
- Yes!
- Yes, although it would have been very useful to do more exercises together in class to solidify the concepts.
- Yes, courseworks were very effectively in reinforcing concepts and very practical as well.
- Yes, the contents are challenging yet interesting, we would handle it with due effort
- Yes, the hardest module of the term.
- Yes, the most challenging module so far in the course
- Yes, the topics covered both provided a strong foundation for understanding derivatives as well as discussing the nuances that could be encountered in the real world.
- Yes, very technical and I may not describe it as fundamental really.

- Yes.
- Yes. The content is difficult.
- Yes. The derivatives are very tough to understand. The trading courseworks are hard to play well.
- a lot of formula bit challenging.
- i think to some extent the students are assumed that they have known some concepts previous to the learning, this result in a lot of materials difficult to understand
- the course is quite challenging as there's some quantitative concepts in class quiz is difficult but worth practicing courseworks are very interesting and provide different perspectives for study
- too challenging
- very challenging
- yes it was very challenging
- yes!  
In my mind, this is the best module that i have at imperial business school!

2.7) Did you find that this module provided the necessary tools/methodologies/intellectual development to help you advance your career or improve your job prospects? Please give comments below:

- Absolutely useful.
- Definitely yes.
- I felt the module consists of a lot of academic subjects, It would be better if there is some practical session related to this module.
- I think it helped improved my analytical thinking in general, rather than memorizing formulas.
- I think it would be more helpful for those hope to pursue a career in trading.
- I think that this module is very specific, possible too focused to be a core module.
- If I will work in the sales or trades yes.
- It gives us an overview about industries problems and capital structure. Not sure how we can use the tools we have learnt in our workspace.
- No. I think I need more exercises to prepare the exam.
- Not sure. I learnt more about the derivatives, but I feel like 8 weeks were not enough for me to understand clearly about the subject and apply these knowledge to the real life.
- The course has too much data. Students are overwhelmed and that is why they do not usually contribute in class. The professors' logic in explanations and questions goes much beyond the typical understanding - applying technique as it needs not only technical skills but also general knowledge.  
plus the second coursework made absolutely no sense. It was based more on business acumen and had very little to do with Derivatives.
- To some extent. It provided a good starting foundation for anyone who wishes to pursue a career in trading/financial instruments
- We do have necessary materials
- Yeah!
- Yes (3 Counts)
- Yes - gave a good overview of derivatives fundamental across the main products and asset classes.
- Yes gave a better understanding of derivatives contracts etc. Not as applicable in corporate finance however still very useful.
- Yes very practical but would like to perhaps be more quantitative
- Yes!
- Yes, the two coursework assignments are creative and very practical, also very interesting.
- Yes. I'm now having a more clear view about derivatives.
- Yes. The coursework is relevant to real life and practical.

- yes
- yes
- yes!
- yes, but the tutorials should be improved

#### 4. Learning Environment and Support

- 4.1) Please comment on the learning environment that impacted your experience in this module (for example: lecture theatre equipment, the Hub, rooms and facilities, support staff, etc.)
- Don't like lectures in RGS
  - Extremely knowledgeable teacher. He could answer any question you threw at him with coherence and simple explanations. Although the lectures were quick, when going back to the recordings, everything was very easy to understand and very very very well explained. Keep it up!
  - Fine
  - Good equipment
  - Good. But I would suggest the lecturer to write under the projection so that we can see his handwriting on the screen, which is quite essential for revision when we watch the video recordings. Actually, I can't see anything on white board when watching recordings.
  - Great!!!
  - He speaks quite quickly but he is willing to explain and speak about it again.
  - If the handwriting on the board can be projected on the screen, it would be much better.
  - In some rooms the AC was not working making a 3 hour class difficult
  - Lecture was enjoyable however lecturer was almost too intelligent and moved too fast for the class
  - RGS lecture theatre is not suitable for lectures.
  - Savitar wrote down a lot of content on the whiteboard. This isn't an issue in itself, however, when revising the lectures through Panopto (especially when a lecture was missed), it made it much more difficult to keep up.
  - Sometime, the lecture is at outside business school, which has not been recorded in Panopto. However, I think this course should be recorded every class (for both stream) because the content of the course is very difficult. I believe that most people would like to get back to Panopto for revision.
  - The lecturer is clear about his coursework requirements and course content. However he sometimes speaks really really fast.
  - The lecturer spoke a little bit too fast and the notes on board were hard to recognise if I weren't sit in the front. Also, it would be better if we can see notes on board via recording in order to avoid mistakes and help understanding.
  - The microphone has poor quality.
  - The new devices Savita used during the last several courses could project what he wrote into the recording screens, helps a lot
  - The room in RGS wasn't ideal- would have been better in the business school
  - all the equipments are perfect.
  - good
  - it would be nice, if there was a camera recording what is being written on the whiteboards. When in any Lecture theatre in the Business School, the recording will only show the current slides and the lecture theatre, but not the whiteboard directly.
  - menti is interesting and helpful
  - the lecturer writes in very small handwriting making it very hard for students to follow.
  - the professor is a very clear logic and good structure when delivering the lecture. he brings some new ways of thinking to me and make it easy to understand. I really appreciate that.
  - very much support and openness from lecturer provided
  - very supportive

5. Overall Feedback (Your responses are very valuable to instructors as these often highlight areas of excellence as well as of improvement).

5.1) What did you like most about this module?

- - The lecturer is extremely engaging
- - Trading game coursework -> Innovative way of learning because I will never forget again how bid-ask-spreads are influenced/determined due to this experience
  - Brexit essay coursework also very useful because we easily became familiar with different trading strategies and ways to use options. Just the assignment should not be assigned to close to the exams
- -courseworks are interesting
  - good pace
- 1. The lecture is good-structured
  - 2. The coursework is really interesting
- CW is quite interesting.
- Content (2 Counts)
- Creativity of courseworks
- I appreciate the lecturer very much for his deep understanding in derivatives and trading practice. He can always invent a game that applies the fundamental principles of trading. That was brilliant. The courseworks are very interesting and helpful in understanding the trading strategies and derivatives.
- I liked the CWs, although challenging, they were practical and interesting.
- Instructor is smart, interesting and responsible
- Interesting topics
- It covered a lot of new and interesting information.
- It was very interactive with students
- Lecturer - very knowledgeable and helpful on the subject
- Lecturer was very clear and enthusiastic
- Savi is a great lecturer, but speaks too fast!
- Savitar's approach and explanations were thorough
- Teacher is very knowledgeable and patient!!!
- The courseworks, although very time consuming, were interesting and thought provoking. It lamented key concepts from the topics covered and made the course much more appealing.
- The depth of each lecture.
- The instructor was very clear in explaining but sometimes went through the material too fast
- The knowledge the lecturer had about the topic
- The lecturer was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. The mentimeter questions tested concepts directly, very good idea
- The professor was friendly and answered the question I had.
- The teacher.
- coursework?
- courseworks are interesting.
- knowledgeable lecturer
  - good usage of mentimeter to increase class interaction
- lots of useful and technical stuff
- objective is very clear
  - coursework is very interesting

in class quiz is helpful

- the depth of this module was very deep so I like that I could feel I am learning something new continuously, not just repeating same thing.
- the instructor is wonderful and amazing  
he made me love derivatives so much!!!  
although its the most difficult subject for me, but i really appreciate to have him teach me
- very challenging and interesting to learn

5.2) What would you most like to improve in this module?

- - Introduce more practice sessions where students do more calculations on their own when doing menti questions or also in the tutorials (however it was done in some lectures and in the last two tutorials - would be good to have this in every session)
- - Introduce participation grades or a midterm exam or some kind of graded quiz where students earlier familiarise with the content and the exam weight is reduced => best would be higher participation to have interactive lectures
- -more information on the exam structure and materials  
-more practical aspect of trading/derivatives
- Could you please use the projection to present handwriting calculation? Thanks.
- Courseworks have to help us know the material more.  
The course has too much information to cram up in a 3 hr lecture and if distracted for 1min, everyone loses focus.  
  
The material is not straight forward and that is what makes students hard to contribute in class  
  
Every single student had to re-watch the lecture to understand the material which makes no sense .
- He was a bit fast when delivering the lecture content.  
  
The instructor was very effective in general, and the only thing is lecture materials are too intellectually challenging to catch up just within 9 weeks, especially for students from less quantitative background. Module Leader in the future should think about how to better structure the design of the module
- Include class participation marks
- Instructor sometimes talks too fast.
- It is a very challenging topic. As it is quite difficult, high level, it would have been great to get more exercises with an elaborate explanation. Also, we felt insufficiently prepared for the second coursework
- It would be helpful if there are some exercises
- It would be very helpful if the instructor could speak much more slowly. We need some time to absorb of what he said.
- Lecturer speaks really really fast and it sometimes impacts the quality of information conveyed especially when we try to review it through recording
- Less content felt like we were rushing through material
- Maybe also the coursework. I think the coursework is very interesting and practical, but I'm a little worried that it's so different from what we have to face in the exam. Maybe we need more exercise to practice
- More computational practice questions provided to revise the key topics.
- More exercises
- More explanations written in slides.
- More practice questions  
More quantitative
- Reduce the amount of content
- Speaking speed is too fast. Sometimes, the most important information is spoken softly which cannot be heard clearly.
- Teach more about basic concepts before going deep into further contents
- The instructor sometimes goes through the materials too quickly.
- The lecturer could consider slow down the speech speed.
- The lecturer speaks very fast, it is sometimes hard to catch every information

- The professor talked very fast. Sometimes I couldn't get what we was saying and had to rewatch the video again and again. Please slow down!
- Tutorials - more clearly defined questions beforehand and give answers and solutions for the questions following the tutorials.
- Tutorials are simply repetitive examples of lectures'. More exercise are better.
- Upload the lecture slides early for students to pre-read and print before lecture
- lower the teaching speed
- make it easier
- n.a.
- please improve the tutorial sessions. Teaching assistants only go through mathematical examples, would be helpful to go more over the real lecture material