

**A Summary of Spring 2002 Student Ratings of Courses
by Course Level**

The Student Ratings System at Texas A&M University.

The student ratings system is a form of the Cafeteria Model which permits students, deans, department heads, and faculty to take part by selecting items to be used on the ratings form.

Formative purpose: The Texas A&M student ratings system was designed to meet the needs of faculty for formative information that would assist them in improving their courses. Faculty obtain this formative information by selecting additional items pertinent to their teaching. Summaries of responses to those items are prepared only for the instructor who requested them. In Spring 2001, 6.8% of instructors requested additional items on their forms, down from 12% the previous year and 24% in 1992. Previous studies have indicated that instructors do derive benefit from selecting additional items.

Student participation: Students participated through the Student Senate which worked with the Faculty Senate to develop the student ratings system. Student Senate representatives wrote five global items which were intended to be the core items on all forms. At present, these items are used on all course appraisal forms in the Colleges of Architecture, Business Administration, Liberal Arts, and in some departments of the College of Agriculture. The total number of courses using these items to rate the course and instructor in Spring 2002 was 1566. These are the only items that are in widespread use across two or more colleges.

The Student Senate Items are:

- **Repeat** — I would take another course from this professor.
- **Fair Grade** — The exams/projects were presented and graded fairly.
- **Work Amount** — The amount of work and/or reading was reasonable for the credit hours received in the course.
- **Effective** — I believe this instructor was an effective teacher.
- **Help** — Help was readily available for questions and/or homework outside of class.

The distributions of means on each of the items and the overall mean are presented in the following tables and displays. For comparison purposes, separate distributions for each of the five levels of courses are presented as well as the distributions of all courses.

Each table includes the following point information for the distribution: the mean, the median, the minimum, the maximum, the 25th percentile and the 75th percentile. Spread information is provided by the standard deviation and the interquartile range.

The information found in the tables is also displayed graphically in box and whisker plots.

Anatomy of a Boxplot

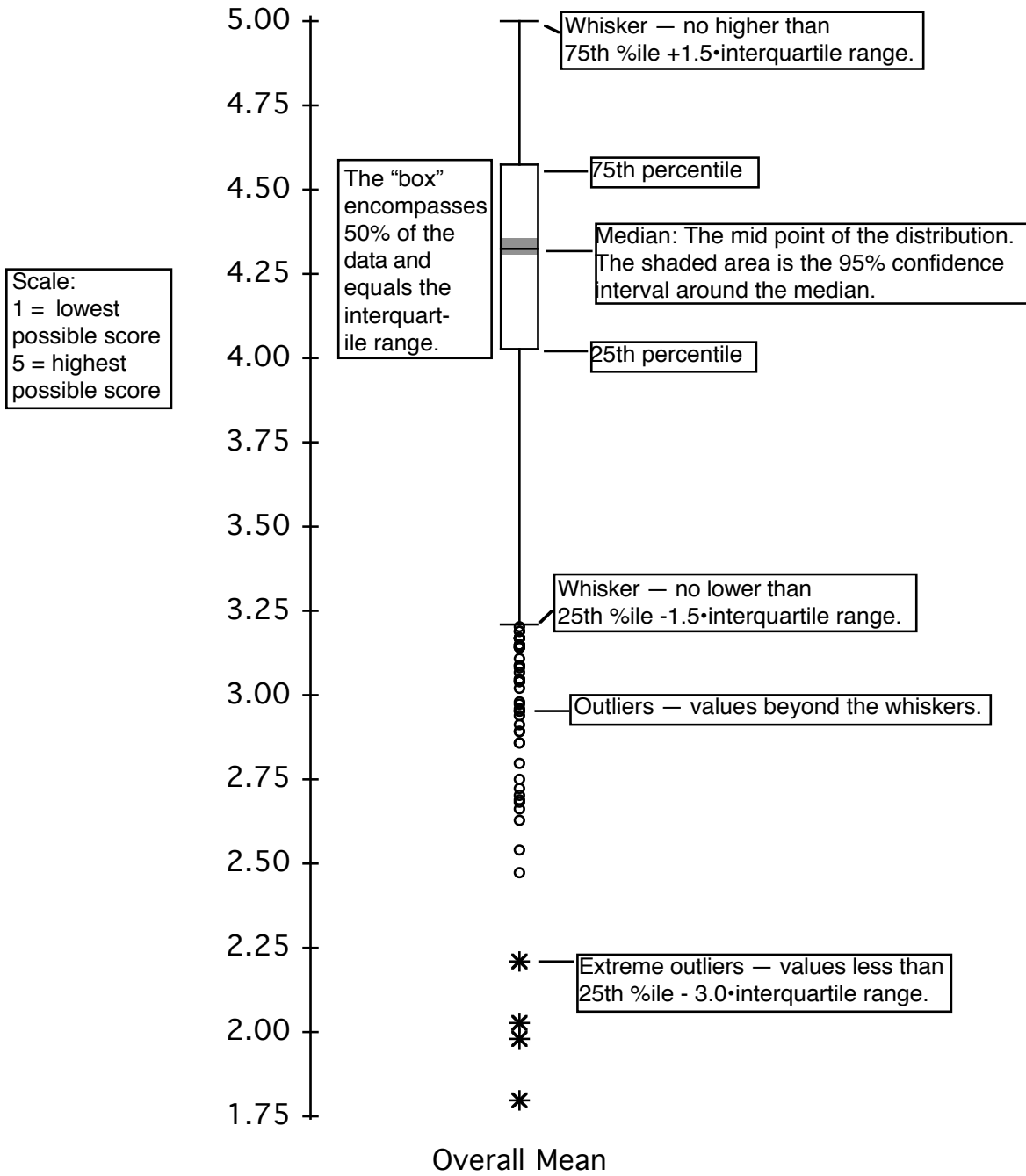


Table 1: 100 Level Courses

<i>Variable</i>	Overall Mean	Repeat	Fair Grade	Work Amt.	Effective	Help
Count	158	158	158	158	158	158
Mean	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.2
Median	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.3
StdDev	0.46	0.70	0.57	0.61	0.53	0.50
Min	2.8	1.8	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.2
Max	5.0	5	5	5	5	5
25th %tile	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.8	4	4.0
75th %tile	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.6

Count = number of means

Mean = mean of means

Median = median (midpoint) of the distribution of means

StdDev = standard deviation of the distribution of means

Min = lowest mean in the distribution.

Max = highest mean in the distribution

25th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 25% of the scores fall

75th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 75% of the scores fall

Distribution of Means for 100 Level Courses

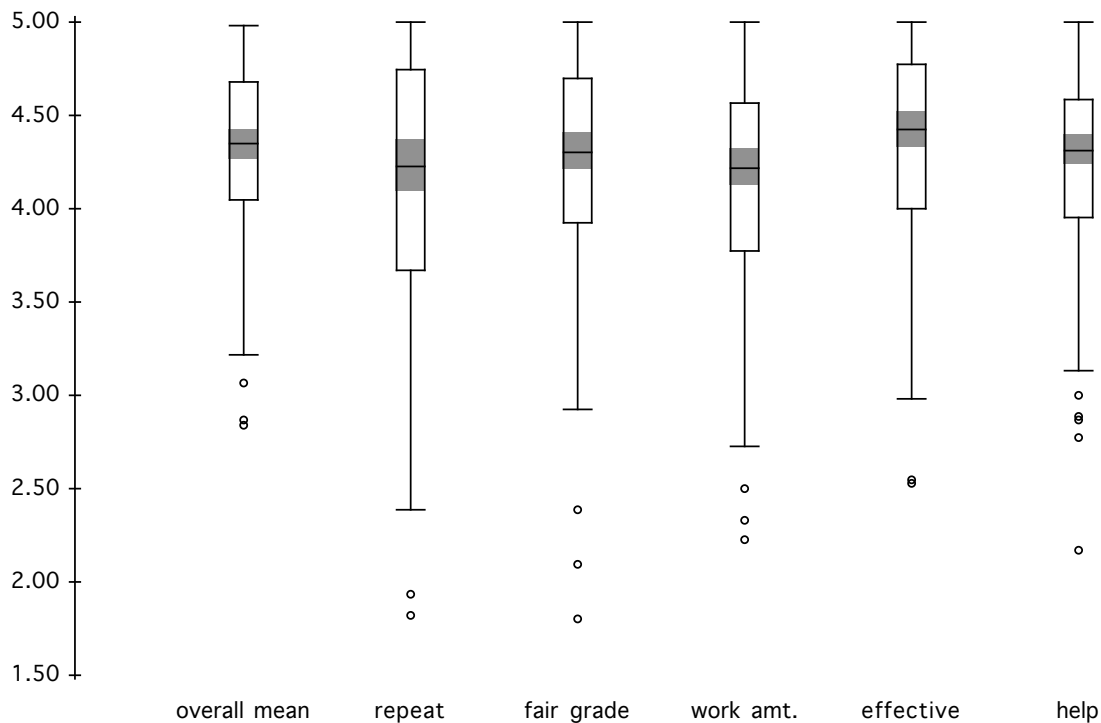


Table 2: 200 Level Courses

<i>Variable</i>	Overall Mean	Repeat	Fair Grade	Work Amt.	Effective	Help
Count	411	411	411	411	411	411
Mean	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2
Median	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
StdDev	0.42	0.67	0.54	0.56	0.53	0.41
Min	2.9	1.7	1.9	2	2.3	2.7
Max	5	5	5	5	5	5
25th %tile	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.9	4
75th %tile	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.5

Count = number of means

Mean = mean of means

Median = median (midpoint) of the distribution of means

StdDev = standard deviation of the distribution of means

Min = lowest mean in the distribution.

Max = highest mean in the distribution

25th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 25% of the scores fall

75th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 75% of the scores fall

Distribution of Means for 200 Level Courses

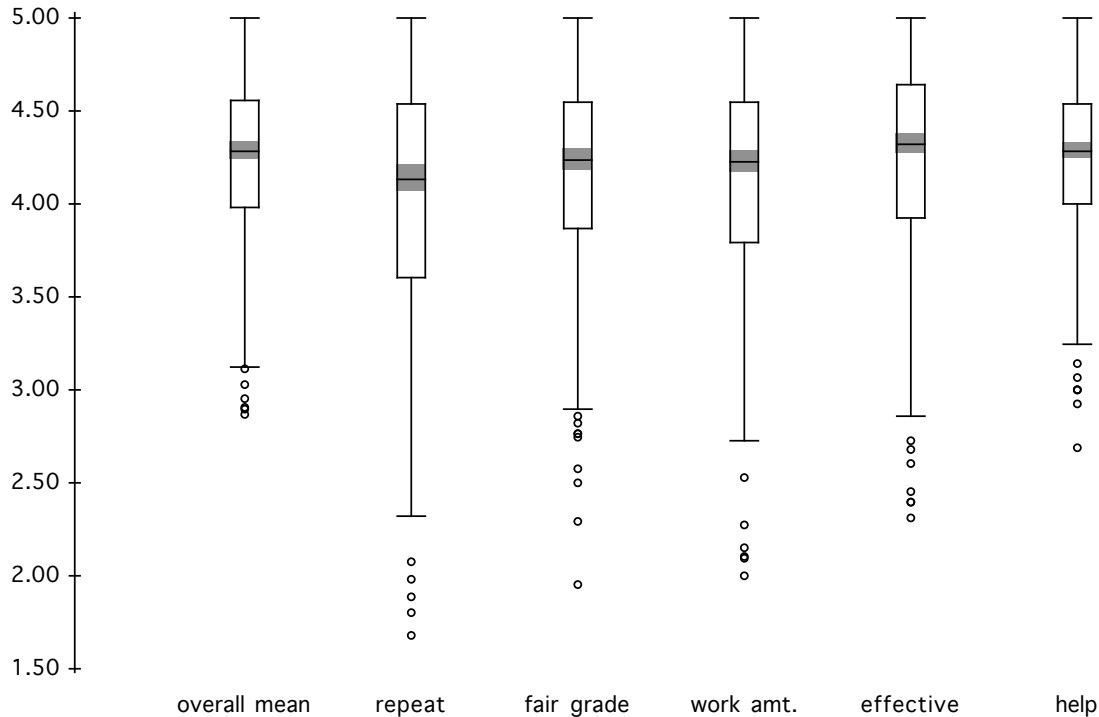


Table 3: 300 Level Courses

<i>Variable</i>	Overall Mean	Repeat	Fair Grade	Work Amt.	Effective	Help
Count	397	397	397	397	397	397
Mean	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
Median	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4
StdDev	0.45	0.66	0.51	0.52	0.55	0.44
Min	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	2
Max	5.0	5	5	5	5	5
25th %tile	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	4	4.0
75th %tile	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6

Count = number of means

Mean = mean of means

Median = median (midpoint) of the distribution of means

StdDev = standard deviation of the distribution of means

Min = lowest mean in the distribution.

Max = highest mean in the distribution

25th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 25% of the scores fall

75th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 75% of the scores fall

Distributions of Means for 300 Level Courses

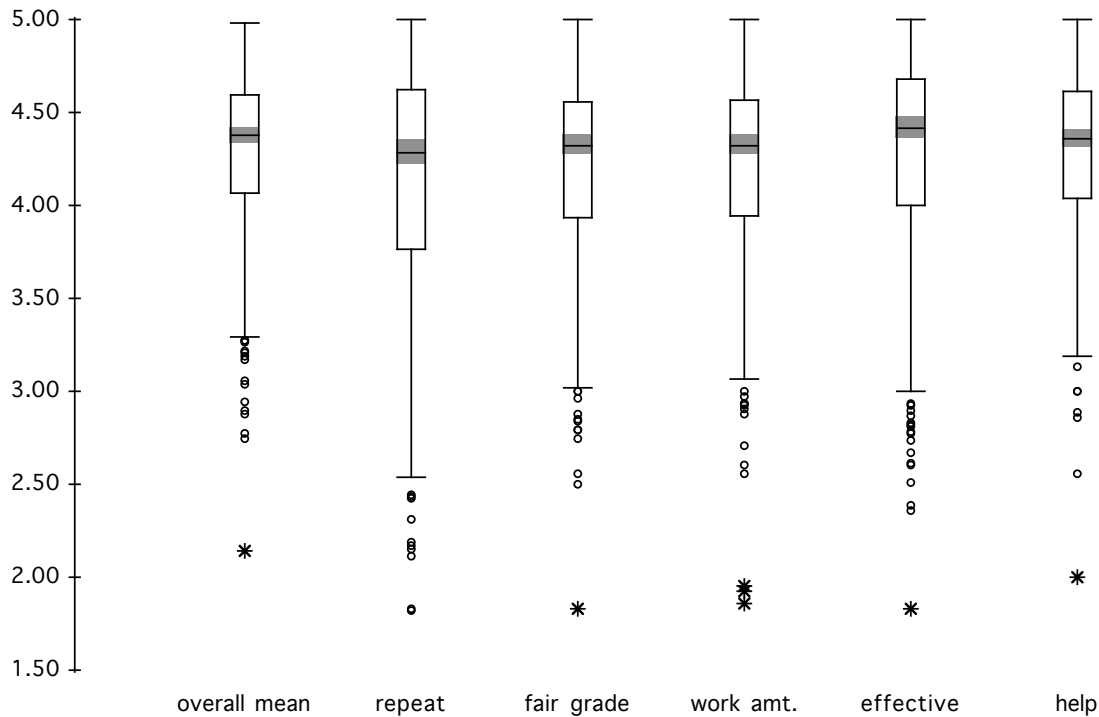


Table 4: 400 Level Courses

<i>Variable</i>	Overall Mean	Repeat	Fair Grade	Work Amt.	Effective	Help
Count	322	322	322	322	322	322
Mean	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3
Median	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4
StdDev	0.48	0.67	0.51	0.60	0.58	0.45
Min	2.5	1.9	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.3
Max	5	5	5	5	5	5
25th %tile	4.0	3.8	4	3.9	4.0	4.0
75th %tile	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.7

Count = number of means

Mean = mean of means

Median = median (midpoint) of the distribution of means

StdDev = standard deviation of the distribution of means

Min = lowest mean in the distribution.

Max = highest mean in the distribution

25th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 25% of the scores fall

75th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 75% of the scores fall

Distributions of Means for 400 Level Courses

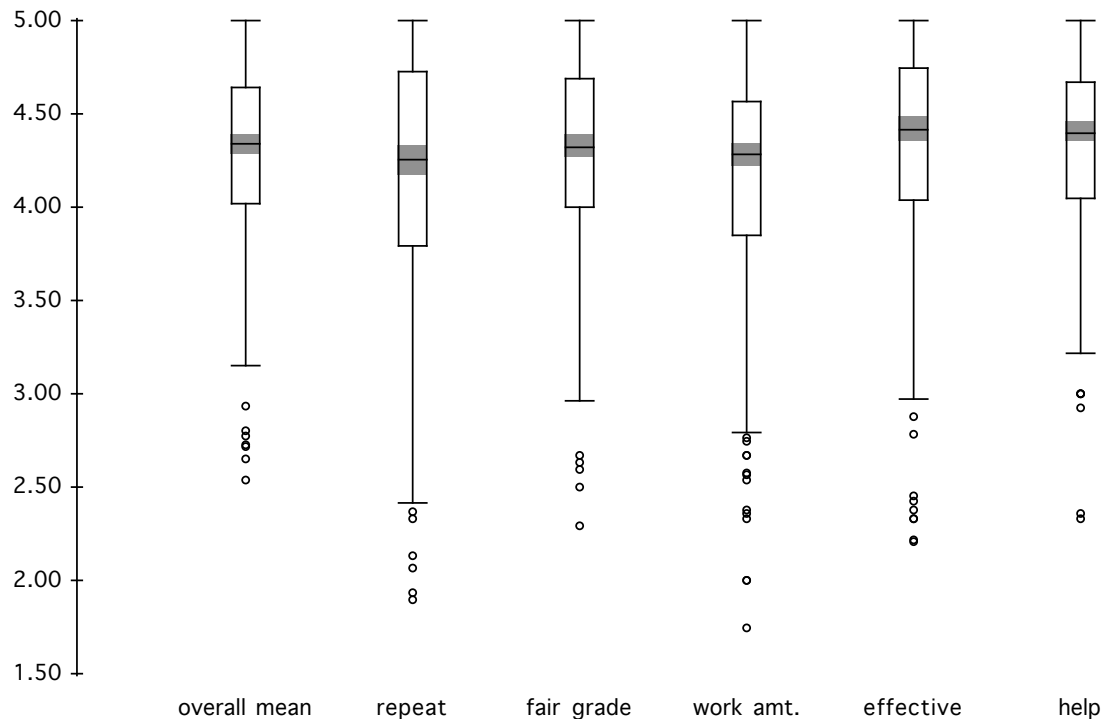


Table 5: 600 Level Courses

<i>Variable</i>	Overall	Repeat	Fair Grade	Work Amt.	Effective	Help
	Mean					
Count	277	277	277	277	277	277
Mean	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.5
Median	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.6
StdDev	0.45	0.73	0.65	0.64	0.54	0.40
Min	2.9	0	0	0	2.4	3.1
Max	5	5	5	5	5	5
25th %tile	4.2	4	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3
75th %tile	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.9

Count = number of means

Mean = mean of means

Median = median (midpoint) of the distribution of means

StdDev = standard deviation of the distribution of means

Min = lowest mean in the distribution.

Max = highest mean in the distribution

25th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 25% of the scores fall

75th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 75% of the scores fall

Distributions of Means for 600 Level Courses

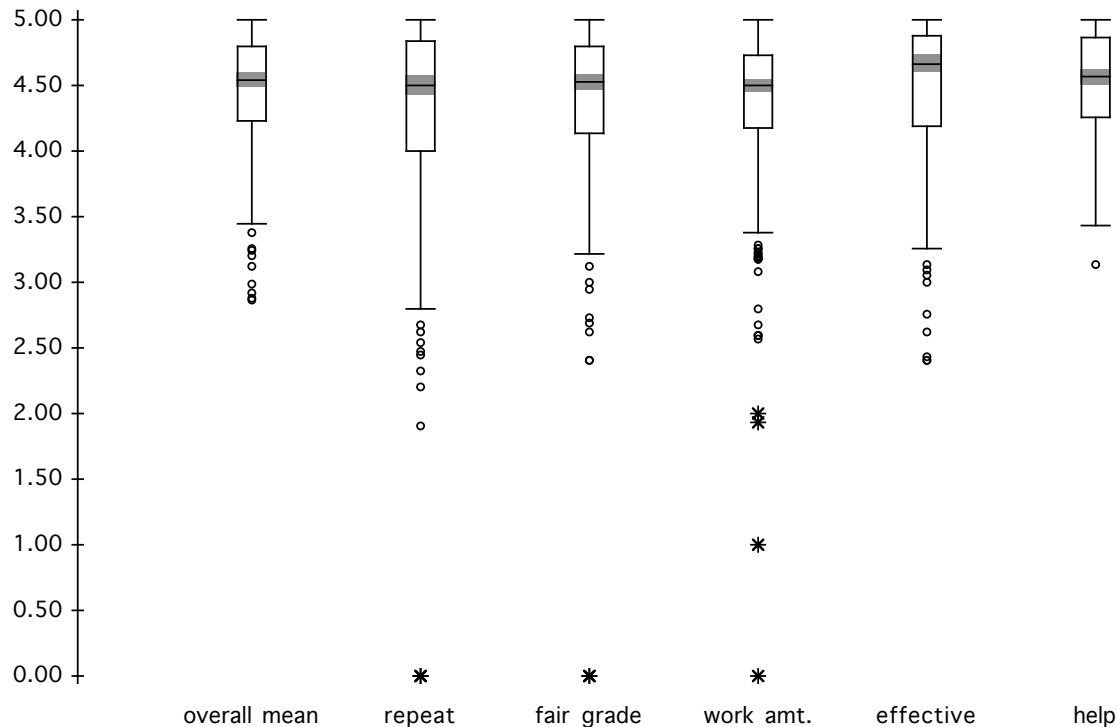


Table 6: All Courses

<i>Variable</i>	Overall Mean	Repeat	Fair Grade	Work Amt.	Effective	Help
Count	1566	1566	1566	1566	1566	1566
Mean	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
Median	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4
StdDev	0.46	0.69	0.56	0.58	0.55	0.45
Min	1	0	0	0	1.8	2
Max	5	5	5	5	5	5
25th %tile	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1
75th %tile	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.7

Count = number of means

Mean = mean of means

Median = median (midpoint) of the distribution of means

StdDev = standard deviation of the distribution of means

Min = lowest mean in the distribution.

Max = highest mean in the distribution

25th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 25% of the scores fall

75th %ile = the point of the distribution below which 75% of the scores fall

Distributions of Means for All Courses

