

# E401/M518: Problem Set 4b

Wrapping up the semester

Fall 2023

Due: December 12 2022 (for extra credit only)

*This problem set is very different from the other ones and is for extra credit only. Please do not feel any pressure to hand it in. However, I think that answering the following questions for yourself is a very useful activity before (or during) the winter break. Feel free to work on the following questions in groups and hand in your solutions as a group. Most of the questions should be light enough to think about during your commute, when running errands, etc. Please do not spend more than 30 minutes to write down your answers, and please do not write more than half a page for each question. Finally, feel free to not hand in parts that you feel are too personal.*

## Question 1: Your goals and overall semester experience

Reflect on the kinds of personal and/or career goals that you set at the beginning of the semester. Has your overall experience this semester confirmed you in the career path that you intend to pursue?

Were there experiences this semester that made you think about adjusting your goals?

## Question 2: Your E401/M518 class takeaway

- Do you feel like this course has helped you grow as an economist or data scientist?<sup>1</sup> On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates a completely incompetent economist / data scientist and 100 indicates the perfect professional that you would like to become, how would you rate your former self from August 2022? How do you rate your current self?
- In at most one paragraph describe the most important (2 or 3) insights you took away from this class. You might find it useful to write up two versions of your answer: one paragraph that you could use in a job interview, and one paragraph that you would use if a family member or non-econ friend asked you this question.
- Which specific skills do you feel you still need to improve in order to land your dream job after graduation? These could be economics skills, stats/math concepts, coding skills, or more general “soft” skills that are not taught in your academic program.

---

<sup>1</sup>It's totally fine if it has not. I'm absolutely NOT looking for sugar-coated answers. The content of your answers is not going to affect your grade at all.

- d. Which grade would you assign yourself for this class? Briefly (at most 2 or 3 sentences) justify your grade suggestion.

### **Question 3: Challenges ahead**

- a. What do you anticipate to be the most difficult challenges for you to overcome until your graduation? Think about whether these challenges are due to factors that are within your control or due to circumstances outside of your control.
- b. Can you think of adjustments to your approach to student life that could help you overcome these challenges? What would it take for you to implement the most important adjustment next semester?
- c. Think about which support structures (either in your personal environment, or offered through IU or other institutions) you could use to help you tackle the challenges ahead. IU has quite a few offices and programs in place to support students, and some of these may not be very actively marketed. So you might find it useful to do some proactive searching.