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email

Kim Ruhl <kruhl@stern.nyu.edu>

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To: David Backus <dbackus@stern.nyu.edu>

Slice and dice as you see fit.

Hello Everyone,

A Giant Thank You

I would like to thank all of you for making this semester's Global Economy class such a success. Your comments, suggestions, and questions made the class (and will make future classes) better than ever.

People who think about the science of teaching look for metrics to gauge the value added a course provides. A typical way to measure this is to administer a short quiz before the course starts and a similar quiz after the course ends. Comparing the two quiz grades is a measure of the value of the course. I am sure you all feel that you have taken enough tests, so I would like to suggest an alternative.

Attached to this email is an article from the Financial Times. When you have a few minutes, I invite you to read through it and think about how you would have approached this article on September 17th--the day we started the semester-- against how you would approach it today. I hope you find this as your own metric of value added, and I hope that the benefit was worth the effort that you put into the class.

Keeping in Touch

As you move on from this course, and eventually from NYU, keep in mind that, to paraphrase Professor Freedman, my course comes with lifetime "technical support." Feel free to drop me a line if something comes up in your life and you think I might be of help. I've had many interesting conversations with former students who have wanted to talk through economic questions that arise on the job.

In addition, we here at Stern Economics are trying out a new way to keep the conversation going with our former students and the community at large. We've started what, for now, is best described as a blog where we touch on both the humorous (The Norwegian Butter Crisis!) and the serious (we are set to roll out a series of 3 articles on the Euro crisis). I describe it as a blog, for now, because our next step is to set up a way to take questions and topic ideas from former students and build up conversations, similar to the ones we would have in class. If this sounds interesting, I encourage you all to sign up to follow us by email. That way, you will be alerted when new material is posted. You can find us at: <http://nyusterneconomics.wordpress.com/>

Grades

Exam scores and final course grades are posted to Blackboard. The exam had a mean of 74, median of 78, std of 12. The maximum score was 94.

If you wish to see your exam, I will be back in the office starting January 23. Drop me a line as that week approaches and we can schedule a meeting. I will be out of the office, and mostly out of email contact, until then.

Lastly, I wish you all the best of luck in the coming semester and in all of your future endeavors.

Best regards,

Kim