

Teaching Effectiveness

By Jeremy Garrison

I have served as a graduate teaching instructor for ECON 202 (Principles of Microeconomics) for the past five semesters and as a graduate teaching assistant for ECON 202 or ECON 204 (Principles of Macroeconomics) each semester for the three years before that. Over these past six years of teaching, I have consistently received positive feedback from students in course surveys as well as from peers and mentors in observations and evaluations. Below, I present a sample of comments from students and teaching observers and survey data from the most recent semester.

Selected student comments from course surveys

Jeremy was an amazing professor! It was clear he was a master of the subject and was really good at explaining economics! I liked the format of the in class activities. They kept me engaged and checked my understanding. Jeremy was good at coming up with creative in class activities

Jeremy is great. He makes a great learning environment and he is passionate about what he is teaching, I really liked this course!

The instructor was very helpful. He goes over everything until everyone understands. Stops every now and then to ask if anyone is lost or has questions. He has office hours and always reachable. Great professor overall. Made a hard concept easy.

Thank you for a class that I really enjoyed. I only took this class because I had to, but I'm happy to say I learned a lot and I'm walking away with some very useful perspectives and information. If Construction Management doesn't work out I'd consider pursuing economics.

Very passionate about the topic. I didn't want to take this class but was mandatory and the instructor made it interesting.

He was always engaging the class and making sure that everyone knew what was going on.

I think Jeremy wants to see us succeed and shows it in class with the enthusiasm showed during the lectures.

This instructor has been such a big help to me, I have been recently going through some physical barriers and he has never stopped helping me and being understanding no matter how many people are in his lecture.

Probably the fastest replies I have received from a teacher which is much appreciated.

Jeremy was great and understanding. Really elaborated on the discussion and facilitated a great learning space by incentivizing group work.

Jeremy was a good professor and was good at communicating and explaining expectations.

The instructor was great and very helpful. Even though almost all of the content was confusing to me, he really took the time to understand my questions and explain them in various ways until I actually understood. He was very nice and I loved his energy. I would absolutely take his class again.

he did a wonderful job and is a great instructor and person. i enjoyed having him.

A very active instructor who had always intended to provide students with an environment that was informative and engaging.

He is a great professor, knowledgeable, down to earth and I love how it's not just death by power points, the fact that he goes off and does his own thing on the overhead projector teaching and doing it in real time was pretty useful for me to see how to set up the problems from scratch and how to see how the graphs should look like.

awesome professor; i took AREC last year and this course was structured way better and i enjoyed learning the concepts

Very much enjoyed this class and gained a lot from it.

He was great! He made the lectures fun and understandable.

Professor Garrison is a great professor and cares that everyone is actually learning!

This instructor was cool. They were reasonable and nice to everyone. They kept me engaged and the information made sense. It made the class feel nice to be in class.

I think he is the best professor. I love the way he teaches in ICAs.

I have really enjoyed this class this semester and have learned a lot! Professor garrison is very supportive and understanding!

Jeremy was great. Very informative, made himself accessible. I liked his style of teaching very much.

Mr. Garrison is a great professor. He is also very nice and respectful.

it's evident jeremy loves his work! it was great to be in his class

Jeremy is great at answering questions and helping people understand the content.

I thought he was very knowledgeable and kind and he made Econ an enjoyable class

I have enjoyed your class, and I have learned even more about economics than I did in high school.

This class was one of my favorites. Thank you for a great semester.

I think he's a great instructor, the more interactive nature of the lectures and not just reading off the slides helps to better understand the material and stay engaged.

[The learning environment] was good, very inclusive and conducive to my learning as a person with a disability.

The learning environment is great. Everyone in class is willing to learn and everyone helps each other if needed. The environment is a nice environment and nothing about it doesn't make me wanna learn.

he did a great job trying to help all students and get them engaged

This has been a great class, and I found all of the material to be presented in a meaningful way that was easy to understand.

My class environment feels safe and open to communication, and I am not scared to speak up/ ask questions.

The learning environment is supportive and the professor is good at teaching.

Professor Garrison create an inclusive and welcoming environment. He did not judge people for who they were but supported everyone for who they were and supported whatever they identified

with. I felt comfortable coming to class and speaking up. The course was challenging, but with all of the support that was provided, I was able to do well.

The timeliness of your responses in emails was always super helpful and you are super understanding and willing to help us when we make an error. You were always teaching us with timeliness and the lectures were always engaging.

Great class, great professor. It felt challenging at first, but I found the flow quickly.

Jeremy expects us to contribute during lecture and he liked it when we worked together with our peers on in-class activities. This was great though, because it helped me succeed in this course.

The instructor expected us to participate in class and have a good understanding of the topics each week. The instructor also expects us to be respectful and inclusive.

Prof. Garrison expected that we be present in class and encouraged group discussion. This often helped comprehension. He wanted us to come to class already had read the week's reading and learn what else he had to teach us.

He wants you to learn in a fun and great environment and he does a grate job on it

He wants us to share our thoughts, whether they are just answers to questions, critiques, agreements, or our own questions. He wants the best for us and truly wants to see us succeed. Just turn stuff in! I really enjoyed being his student!

he is passionate about what he teaches and wants others to know more about it

he cares a lot about this class, and so he does a great job teaching.

He was understanding but challenged us to do our best. He would engage students in class if he felt they were distracted, but in a responsible manner.

The instructors expectations were high because he expects us to be engaged and want to learn and he gives us opportunities to do that.

I think professor Garrison expected me to be engaged and to think about the deeper meaning of the material and the bigger picture.

Professor Garrison expected us to show up and try our best. He expected us to learn, pay attention, and to contribute to group activities. He was reasonable and offered a lot of help outside of class time.

Selected comments from teaching mentor and peer observation

Jeremy's eye contact with students is great, especially given the size of the classroom. Rephrasing your students' response after he asks questions is a good way to get students to talk and reaffirm that they were heard, and their response was validated/ appreciated. – Jackie Young

I commend your approach in guiding students towards the correct answer without explicitly stating "you are wrong" when their responses are insufficient. Encouraging participation, even when answers might be incorrect, is crucial for fostering a positive learning environment. – Jackie Young

Jeremy primarily uses the PowerPoint slides but can switch over to different modality such as DocCam when he finds it to be more effective to teach in such way. – Jackie Young

I felt that the class seemed incredibly engaging, especially given the class size and the structure during both observations. – Jackie Young

Students were taking notes during class, especially when the instructor was using graphs to explain the topic. I think the in-class discussion is a better way to engage students in class which I might borrow from this class. – Arifa Shabnum

Great use of activity, slides, and doccam! It was a tricky module to get across to the students and you made it clear and fun. You also got questions that you handled well within the scope of the course which is quite limited. – Bhavya Sinha

You offer your students a lot in recitation. You naturally engage a number of students in your presentation of the material. I appreciate your suggestion for students to disagree with one another rather than “self-segregate” into their camps. – Anders Fremstad

Survey data from Spring 2025 (ECON 202)

	Students	Impact	No impact
<i>Lectures</i>	114	92% (105)	8% (9)
	Students	Strength	Not a strength
<i>Support from instructor</i>	112	92% (103)	8% (9)
<i>Instructor communication</i>	112	94% (105)	6% (7)
<i>Inclusive environment</i>	111	95% (105)	5% (6)