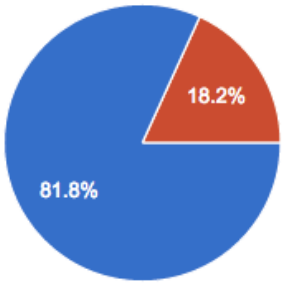
softEcon 2015: Course Evaluation

11 responses

Summary

How would you rate the course overall?

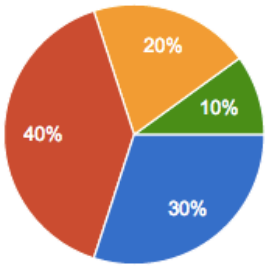


Excellent	9	81.8%
Very Good	2	18.2%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

How the course helped with your PhD research?

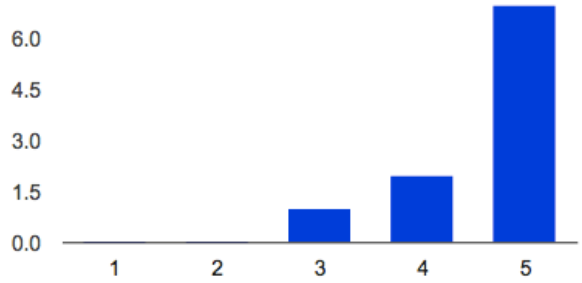
Improve my code, make it scalable and transparent. Better understanding of the different optimization routines. Better productivity.
I think this course is very helpful overall. It helps to get familiar with how to use python to implement economic models. Besides, I also learned a lot about how to organize my project well. This will help me to save a lot of time.
exposure to useful technical tools
I had been thinking of doing some projects that require generalized Roy models. Seeing how to implement these models in a proficient way has definitely helped in two ways: first, the likelihood that I will do so has increased, and in terms of my own productivity while doing any computation intensive project since I learned quite a few useful tricks from Phillip..
Introduced tools and habits that will save an enormous amount of time from having to be spent on routine/practical/logistical tasks, time which can instead be spent on work more directly meaningful to development of high quality research
The course was extremely helpful in furthering computational abilities needed for exploring my project, and providing a clear implementation of a well known model computationally
I learned how to use a very good and free software that is python. It containes lots of packages i'm interested in such as the network analysis. I also leaned how to use Github to share data with my coauthors and save previous versions as backup.
It helps us understand some basic software engineering skills. Make me more interested in doing some computation-intensive economic research in the future.
It was essential for coding
Taught me skills and tools to improve the quality of empirical work

Which part of the university are you from?



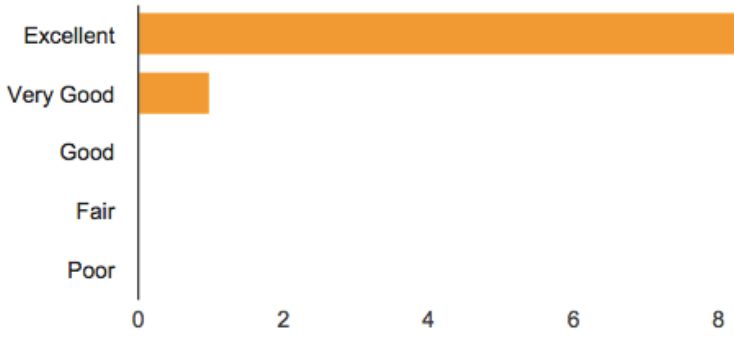
Department of Economics	**3**	30%
Harris School of Public Policy	**4**	40%
Booth School of Business	**2**	20%
Other	**1**	10%

Relative to your other classes, how useful was this course?



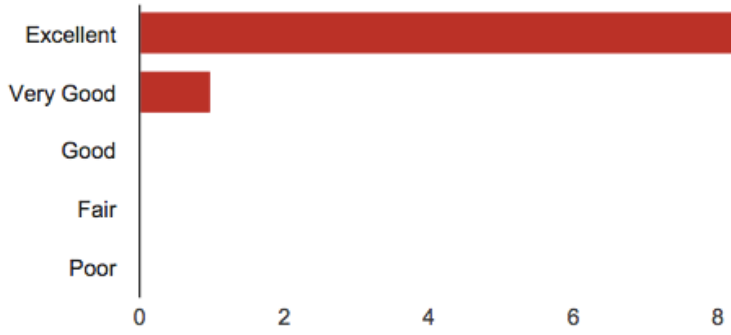
Not Useful At All: 1	**0**	0%
2	**0**	0%
3	**1**	10%
4	**2**	20%
Very Useful: 5	**7**	70%

to clearly explain the objectives of the course? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



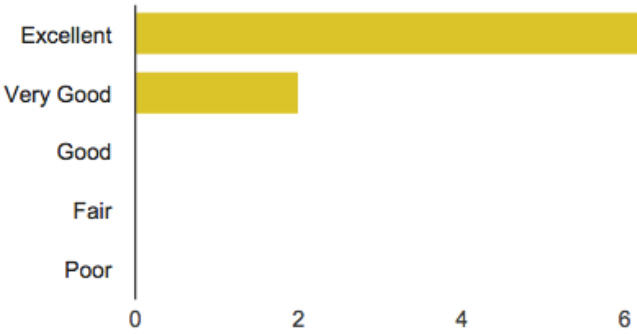
Excellent	**9**	90%
Very Good	**1**	10%
Good	**0**	0%
Fair	**0**	0%
Poor	**0**	0%

to be well organized? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



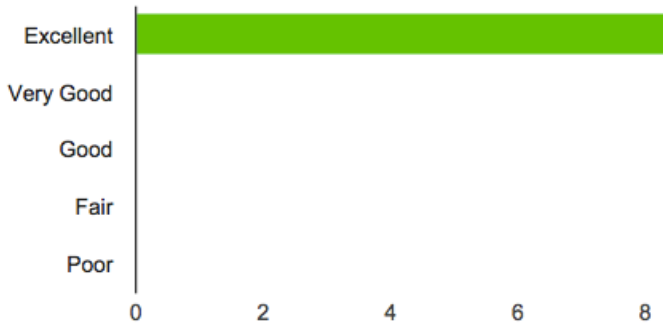
Excellent	9	90%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to present the material at the right speed? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	2	20%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to present the material clearly and understandable? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]



Excellent	10	100%
Very Good	0	0%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

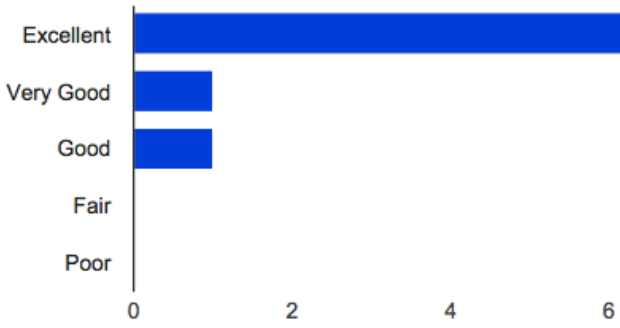
to be accessible outside of class? [How well did Philipp meet his goal...]

Excellent	9	90%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

Do you have any additional recommendations for Philipp?

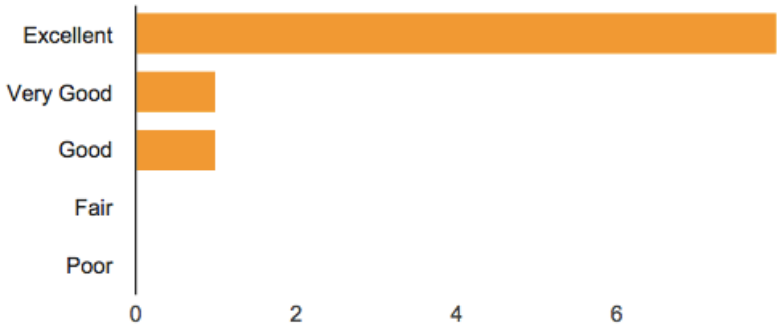
no. he is amazing and very helpful and always available

to be well organized? [How well did Yike meet her goal ...]



Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	1	10%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to present the material at the right speed? [How well did Yike meet her goal ...]



Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	1	10%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

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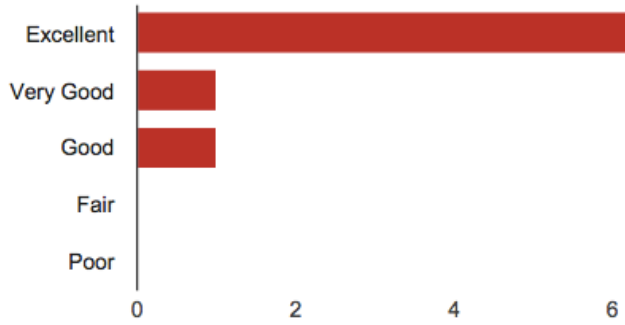
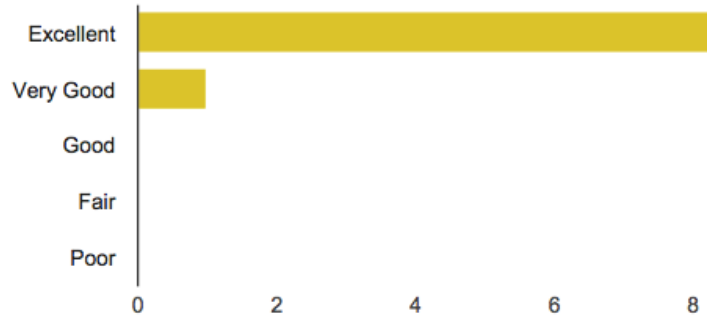


Excellent	8	80%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	1	10%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

to be accessible outside of class? [How well did Yike meet her goal ...]



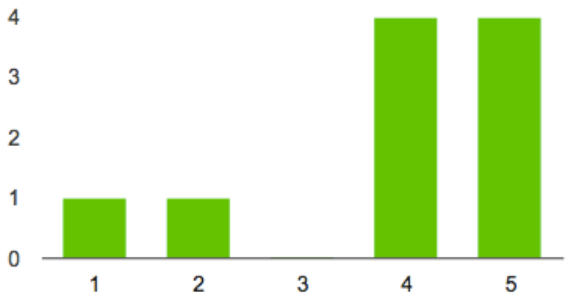
Excellent	9	90%
Very Good	1	10%
Good	0	0%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%

Do you have any additional recommendations for Yike?

Didnt attend TA sessions. So cannot comment on Yike's performance. Only thing I can say is she was very accessible outside and within the class for troubleshooting help.
very helpful and always available

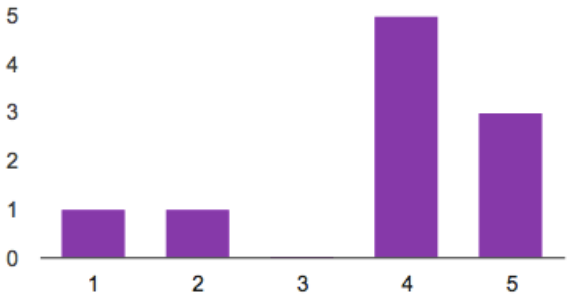
Guest Lectures

How useful was the guest lecture from the Social Science Computer Services (SSCS)?



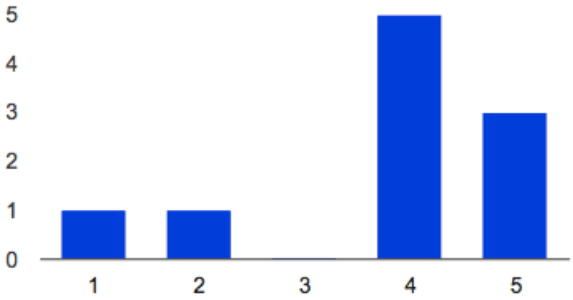
Not Useful At All: 1	**1**	10%
2	**1**	10%
3	**0**	0%
4	**4**	40%
Very Useful: 5	**4**	40%

How useful was the guest lecture from the Research Computer Center (RCC)?



Not Useful At All: 1	**1**	10%
2	**1**	10%
3	**0**	0%
4	**5**	50%
Very Useful: 5	**3**	30%

How useful was the guest lecture from Computation Institute (CI)?



Not Useful At All: 1	**1**	10%
2	**1**	10%
3	**0**	0%
4	**5**	50%
Very Useful: 5	**3**	30%

Final Thoughts

What aspects of the course should be changed?

The source was changed all the time. First the policylab-website, then github, etc. That was suboptimal. Also, more programming principles would be nice, and maybe less cloud computing.
Everything looks good. I might continue to audit the next year's class.
Should be taught in the Autumn to provide max benefit to second year students (learn the skills before they start their research). Perhaps introduce (optional) homework where a problem is posted and then students can submit their solutions for how they would tackle the problem. Then discuss in class the various pros and cons of the different methods
None; this was a really great course.
I do believe that git setup should be at the beginning and very carefully set up.
Maybe more GUI. Vangrant made my computer slow but I understand how useful it was. Maybe each students should work on their own project.

What aspects of the course should be retained?

The wide range of topics covered.
All.
Using real examples like the grm is really good!