

# Course improvement and my philosophy on learning

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Hello learners enrolled in "Excel/VBA for Creative Problem Solving"!

As you may or may not know, this is a very new course (launched in December of 2017). I am really trying to fine-tune and mold this course into a great course where you LEARN a lot!

I listen to feedback very seriously. This course is brand new, so there are bound to be issues. For example, in the first offering of the course, there were several "dislikes" for Quiz 1. I'm not a big fan of "thumbs down" and really strive to make this a better course, for everybody. As a result of this learner feedback, I worked with some learners in making Quiz 1 easier and more straightforward. If you have suggestions for improvement, please let me know. It's fine if you wish to "dislike" something; however, I won't know how to improve it unless you tell me what is wrong or how I might better improve that aspect of the course.

I also recently made HUGE changes to the course, making the challenging Week 5 optional but count for an Honors designation on your Course Certificate (see [here](#)).

My goal is for the quizzes and assignments to be challenging, but not tricky. I believe that in order to learn, one must be challenged. One of my favorite quotes is by Bruce Lee: "Don't pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one." I don't wish a difficult life on any of you (!), but I do feel that challenging oneself will only make you better, in all areas of your life. I aim to challenge you in this course and, as a result, you will come out of this course empowered with more knowledge than before!

I have designed this course with many pedagogical considerations in mind (i.e., how do learners best learn?). If you feel that learning is labored and tough at times, I'm doing this for a reason! Research has found that when learning is easy, you don't learn much despite the illusion that you know material. When learning is tough and you have to struggle to recall how to do things, learning is far more effective and long-lasting. So, keep this in mind while you take this course - if you struggle at times, this means that you are learning. And knowledge, after all, is the product that you all desire from this course, no?!

With that said, I want this course to be challenging (not overly challenging) but not tricky. If you feel that a quiz or assignment is tricky and the wording doesn't make sense, please let me know and I will make changes. If you feel a quiz is overly challenging (unfair), then also please let me know. Please offer suggestions in the discussion forum (create a new discussion if you'd like).

Thanks and good luck with the course!

Charlie Nuttelman