

From: Coffman, D'Maris d.coffman@ucl.ac.uk

Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

Date: 16 October 2017 at 07:49

To: Mao, Xuxin xuxin.mao@ucl.ac.uk

Cc: Aniket, Kumar k.aniket@ucl.ac.uk, Roberts, Aeli a.roberts@ucl.ac.uk, Taka, Katerina k.taka@ucl.ac.uk

DC

Hi Xuxin

I will look at this, but I suspect it wasn't even that current in 2004 when it was first published. Routledge can be pirates this way, and it's particularly concerning because there is very little else called 'Construction Economics' out there. Most of what is available otherwise is for QS courses or at the BTEC level. Has anyone looked at Gerard de Valence's book for the future? He's a visiting prof with us and the intro to his text has a v good discussion of what CE is and isn't.

Best wishes

D'Maris

On 16 Oct 2017, at 07:42, Mao, Xuxin <xuxin.mao@ucl.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear D'Maris,

Thanks for your email.

Please find the construction textbook attached. It is a older version but most contents are kept for the 2016 version except a few new examples.

Best wishes,

Xuxin

Dr Xuxin Mao

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From: Coffman, D'Maris

Sent: 16 October 2017 07:25:51

To: Mao, Xuxin

Cc: Aniket, Kumar; Roberts, Aeli; Taka, Katerina

Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

Hi

I'm not sure I've seen the Myers (2016) book but is it really teaching Samuelson micro? On what rationale? It's very difficult to use the construction examples if the micro theory is wrong unless you just extract short readings on Moodle and don't make them buy the book. I've only ever taught Macro to them but I really did intend for Aniket to teach micro and Xuxin to teach macro as they wish. It's great if the content is coordinated, but if they disagree, it's up to each individual lecturer.

Yes, of course, the course needs to be tailored to construction management students, but intro micro also needs to be taught correctly. It's a course taught everywhere, not just in economics departments but in politics, development studies, international relations, law, business, etc. No one teaches Samuelson any longer and it's a real problem if they did because micro-founded macro needs a correct base. I'm reluctant to wade in on content but can someone show me a copy of this book since one of you is claiming it's wrong. In the absence of that, I am concerned with academic freedom and Aniket is teaching micro and Xuxin macro.

Thanks

D'Maris

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2017, at 07:13, Mao, Xuxin <xuxin.mao@ucl.ac.uk> wrote:

Dear Kumar,

Thanks for your email. However, please do keep our future email exchanges in a friendly and mutually respecting tone.

I really appreciate your efforts and am very thankful to you for delivering microeconomics based on your fantastic teaching experiences.

I agree that there is improvement to be made for this module. Given the module contents have long been set in the undergraduate handbook and briefed to students during the introduction and first teaching week, if changes have to be made, we need to discuss them properly with the students and undergraduate course leader Dr Aeli Roberts and administrator Ms Katerina Taka.

By the way, the book cost can be reimbursed via our department as I informed you before you purchased Meyers (2016) Construction Economics which I still think is a very good book with actual construction examples.

As we discussed, we can adopt economic principles from the <http://www.core-econ.org/> text book and construction examples from Meyers (2016), which I do not see why it is not unteachable.

I hope you understand that I only want to deliver a good economics module together with you for students in construction project management not ones in an economics department. I am not against changes nor modern economics, but things have to be done following proper procedures.

Given the week 8 contents were updated on Sunday, they should be delivered for the coming Monday lecture. We then should definitely arrange a meeting to put things forward smoothly based on necessary arrangements.

Best wishes,

Xuxin

From: Aniket, Kumar
Sent: 16 October 2017 01:13
To: Mao, Xuxin
Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

Dear Xuxin,

I have been very upset that you have wasted a lot of my time and effort by making me buy the Meyer book and trying to make me teach something that is impossible to teach. You have no idea how much time I have wasted in the last few weeks trying to work out how to reconcile modern Economics with Micro. You have also given me the wrong impression that you were going to design the course and I just had to follow it. This is not what D'Maris had in mind. I have had a chat with D'Maris and she made it clear that she wants me to design the course the way I think is appropriate. You may like to clear that up with D'Maris if you like.

What I am teaching is Micro - the way it is taught in the best Economics departments in the world. Institutions, inequality, social contracts, firms and consumer choice are all interlinked. After all, how can you unlink consumer choice from institutions or firm choices from property rights? I have been teaching Micro, Macro, Development Economics, Political Economy, International Trade for more than 15 years now. So, I think I know what Micro is.

What you are talking about is Samuelson Micro, which is no longer taught. I cannot in good conscientious teach something that is no longer considered correct. You are welcome to look the syllabus of Faculties around the world and if you find that I am wrong, I am happy to discuss it.

If you are concerned, I am happy to defend my plan with a meeting with D'Maris. You are welcome to take over the whole course and teach it just the way you want to. But, if I am going to teach it, it is going to be the modern way.

Best wishes,
Aniket

From: Mao, Xuxin
Sent: 16 October 2017 00:38:18
To: Aniket, Kumar
Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

Dear Kumar,

I just got the chance to look at the slides to be delivered next Monday.
This is a outstanding lecture note. I really appreciate your efforts that you have made.

However, I am concerned about how ENVS 1006 is being delivered.

We should follow the syllabus more closely, which means microeconomics first and then macroeconomics.
And we definitely need to combine construction examples with economic principles, which means the construction economics text book needs to be used.

If we do not follow it, it will give students conflicting information. I know it is too late to change the week 8 contents, but I do hope that we can catch up after your lecture so that we get consensus first before we delivering any more contents.

Best wishes,

Xuxin

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From: Aniket, Kumar
Sent: 04 October 2017 17:41
To: Mao, Xuxin
Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

Dear Xuxin,

Great!!! Thank you very much!!!

Best wishes,
Aniket

From: Mao, Xuxin
Sent: 04 October 2017 17:36:07
To: Aniket, Kumar
Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

FYI

Dr Xuxin Mao

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From: Mao, Xuxin
Sent: 04 October 2017 17:07:35
To: Aniket, Kumar
Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

<https://moodle-snapshot.ucl.ac.uk/16-17/>

UCL Moodle Snapshot 16-17

moodle-snapshot.ucl.ac.uk

UCL Moodle is the centrally supported virtual learning environment (VLE) used in over 4000 of UCL's courses and programmes to support and enhance teaching, learning and research. All members of UCL are able to login to Moodle.

My number 07404490133

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From: Aniket, Kumar
Sent: 04 October 2017 14:28:06
To: Mao, Xuxin

Subject: Re: Quick questions about the course

Hi Xuxin,

Thanks a lot. I am in a seminar just now and back at 4pm. Will knock on your door then.

Best wishes,
Aniket

On 4 Oct 2017 1:59 pm, "Mao, Xuxin" <xuxin.mao@ucl.ac.uk> wrote:
Dear Kumar,

Many thanks for your email!

I am available all the afternoon and you are welcome to come for a chat!

Best wishes,

Xuxin

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From: Aniket, Kumar
Sent: 04 October 2017 13:22:04
To: Mao, Xuxin
Subject: Quick questions about the course

Hi Xuxin,

Hope you are well. I think I start teaching next week? I just had a couple of quick questions. If you are around, we could just have a quick chat. I was a bit confused because the timings for the lecture you sent me is different from the timings on the common timetable. Also, I have not been able to find the slides from the last year on the moodle site. Would it be possible to either have access to the material from the last year and/or the material from the publisher's website? It would really help in preparing the material for the lecture next week.

Best wishes,
Aniket