Instructor Irina Firsova

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - DAVIS

Selected Terms* (17) Selected Evaluations* (35)

Student Evaluation of Teaching



Enrollment 927 % responding 36%	Excellent Very Good		Satisfactory Fair		Poor									
70 Tesponding 5070	5	%	4	%	3	%	2	%	1	%	\bar{x}	SD	М	N
Please indicate the overall educational value of the course. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	165	49%	105	31%	48	14%	7	2%	9	3%	4.2	1.0	4.0	334
Please indicate the overall teaching effectiveness of the instructor. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	7	47%	6	40%	1	7%	0	0%	1	7%	4.2	1.0	4.0	15
Please indicate the overall teaching effectiveness of the teaching assistant. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	149	50%	97	33%	34	11%	12	4%	5	2%	4.3	0.9	5.0	297
The examinations were a fairly chosen sample of the course material.	8	53%	7	47%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.5	0.5	5.0	15
The grading was fair and timely.	10	67%	4	27%	1	7%	0	0%	0	0%	4.6	0.6	5.0	15
The amount and difficulty of the work for this course is appropriate to the number of units.	8	53%	6	40%	1	7%	0	0%	0	0%	4.5	0.6	5.0	15
This course is intellectually challenging.	10	67%	5	33%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.7	0.5	5.0	15
This course has stimulated my interest in the subject matter.	7	47%	5	33%	3	20%	0	0%	0	0%	4.3	0.8	4.0	15
The instructor presents material in a clear and organized manner.	9	60%	4	27%	0	0%	1	7%	1	7%	4.3	1.2	5.0	15
Assignments, such as problem sets, term papers and reading (textbook, reading packets or handouts) are useful to the student.	8	53%	6	40%	1	7%	0	0%	0	0%	4.5	0.6	5.0	15
The instructor is available and helpful to student during office hours.	9	60%	5	33%	1	7%	0	0%	0	0%	4.5	0.6	5.0	15
The instructor is responsive to difficulties students have in understanding the material.	8	57%	5	36%	0	0%	1	7%	0	0%	4.4	0.8	5.0	14
Overall, the instructor did a good job teaching this course	108	48%	82	37%	22	10%	9	4%	3	1%	4.3	0.9	4.0	224
Overall, the instructor did a good job teaching this course.	34	54%	19	30%	5	8%	4	6%	1	2%	4.3	1.0	5.0	63
The TA presents the material in a clear and and organized manner	110	50%	63	28%	38	17%	7	3%	4	2%	4.2	1.0	4.0	222
The TA presents the material in a clear and and organized manner.	37	59%	17	27%	4	6%	4	6%	1	2%	4.3	1.0	5.0	63
The TA speaks audibly and communicates effectively	105	48%	68	31%	32	14%	9	4%	7	3%	4.2	1.0	4.0	221
The TA speaks audibly and communicates effectively.	33	52%	18	29%	6	10%	5	8%	1	2%	4.2	1.0	5.0	63
The TA stimulates discussion in sections	98	45%	59	27%	44	20%	12	6%	4	2%	4.1	1.0	4.0	217
The TA stimulates discussion in sections.	29	48%	15	25%	11	18%	2	3%	3	5%	4.1	1.1	4.0	60
The TA is responsive to questions	114	52%	67	31%	31	14%	5	2%	2	1%	4.3	0.9	5.0	219

The TA is responsive to questions.	38 60%	17 27%	5 8%	1 2%	2 3%	4.4	0.9	5.0	63
The TA is punctual for sections and office hours	120 56%	67 31%	23 11%	5 2%	1 0%	4.4	0.8	5.0	216
The TA is punctual for sections and office hours.	39 62%	15 24%	7 11%	1 2%	1 2%	4.4	0.9	5.0	63
The TA is available and helpful to students during office hours	113 56%	57 28%	29 14%	2 1%	2 1%	4.4	0.8	5.0	203
The TA is available and helpful to students during office hours.	39 65%	14 23%	5 8%	1 2%	1 2%	4.5	0.8	5.0	60
The TA is responsive to difficulties students have in understanding the material	110 51%	64 30%	35 16%	5 2%	2 1%	4.3	0.9	5.0	216
The TA is responsive to difficulties students have in understanding the material.	35 56%	19 30%	5 8%	1 2%	3 5%	4.3	1.0	5.0	63
The grading was fair and timely	106 48%	68 31%	35 16%	8 4%	3 1%	4.2	0.9	4.0	220
The grading was fair and timely.	35 56%	11 17%	5 8%	8 13%	4 6%	4.0	1.3	5.0	63
The discussion section was a good educational experience	103 47%	69 32%	33 15%	8 4%	6 3%	4.2	1.0	4.0	219
The discussion section was a good educational experience.	36 57%	16 25%	4 6%	5 8%	2 3%	4.3	1.1	5.0	63
Overall, the TA did a good job in this course	110 49%	75 34%	26 12%	8 4%	4 2%	4.3	0.9	4.0	223
Overall, the TA did a good job in this course.	39 61%	15 23%	5 8%	3 5%	2 3%	4.3	1.0	5.0	64

Evaluate only the TA (s) with whom you attended discussion section and/or office hours.

Irina Firsova

The ta sessions are somehow always not in line with the lectures.
Difficult to understand.
n/a
I stuck mainly to attending Shotaro's section.
I typically attended both though my TA was Irina so I will evaluate her.
The discussion is helpful and she illustrates the concept clearly with examples.
Irina was super harsh when it came to grading homework assignments. I felt like homework assignments were graded just like my midterm was graded and I didn't like the structure of that. I felt like my homework assignments needed a little room for mistakes and they were more heavily weighted on correctness as opposed to the effort that I put into it to try to come up with the right answer. It created a lot of pressure for me in addition to the classes that I am already currently taking.
I liked how she taught us in detailed explanation.
Irina is amazing. She always makes herself available to provide help and support for concepts we do not understand in class.
Irina is absolutely one of the best TA's in the econ department. She is very responsive to questions and is very thorough in her answers. She is a phenomenal help and is a key reason to my success in the course.
Great lectures. Slow down the pace a little is much better!
Irina was very kind and helpful to every student who needed help, and answered every question I had about course material.
Irina is very helpful and makes sure you understand the concept during the discussion before moving on.
Great it helped reinforce the material.
Irina is an incredible TA, who can make the most complex material seem intuitive. Her expertise in this subject matter helped to bridge so many gaps in my understanding of the material and has continued to help me achieve the success I have attained in this class. Although there is a wide variety of material in this course, her section and office hours were great resources to get a grasp of everything in this course.
Great job, very knowledgeable.
Irina was great. Her examples and discussed problems helped with understanding the concepts. She was also comprehensive and patient with our questions and concerns.
Irina has a clear understanding of the material we cover and is very responsive to questions. Sometimes she can go through material very quickly and can make it difficult to write down solutions or process the material. This could make section confusing at times. If I already had a good understanding of the material then her speed did not bother me and it all made sense.
Went over easy problems pretty slowly but did them correct and answered any questions.
She definitely knows the material.
Irina answered every single one of my questions no matter how many times she'd been explaining the topic. They're amazing!!
Irina was helpful because they chose good questions to go over during discussion. Many of them were from the homework. However, they are very serious and it was hard to stay engaged.

Irina is very knowledgeable in the subject material and always lets students know that Irina's available to help. Irina's discussion sections were very helpful in preparing for the homework and exams. Irina encouraged students to ask questions if anything was not fully understood. Irina's communication was good but sometimes it would take long to receive responses on email so just one suggestion I have is to take a couple of minutes every day to scroll through emails and make sure nothing was missed. Great work, Irina, and best of luck in your career endeavors!

I only attended a few discussions, but those were effective and provided clarity on the subject matter.

I attended to Kevin's discussion. He cares about students understanding of the material and often gives us time to practice during discussion section and then he goes over the problem. He was very patient when explaining and efficient with the time. Kevin, in general made difficult/confusing concepts easier to understand. His review session before the midterm was also of much help! Thanks Kevin!

Irina has been an awesome TA for this class. She is always willing to go above and beyond in making sure that the students understand what she is teaching on. I also appreciate just how knowledgeable and prepared she has been for her discussion sessions and OH

Irina is meant to be an instructor. They are so helpful, understands the material to an amazing degree. They created examples that actually helped me learn the material with a great deal of understanding. They evolved the course far beyond the lectures and textbook.

Irina

Irina is great! Irina has taught us so much during discussions, and has gone as far as to create additional office hours leading up to our exams.

Irina Firsova only

Very patient to answer my questions.

It could be helpful to directly call on various section participants to work problems out loud and encourage discussion.

Not sure what this question was asking, there was only one TA. They were pretty good though, overall. Discussions were pretty straightforward and were a good way for me to review the more tricky concepts in class.

She knew the curriculum very well

Irina Firsova was very efficient with her work, however, it didn't align with how we were taught in class. She used her own techniques, but I it took me longer to understand concepts on how she taught. She also spoke very fast and mumbled alot.

I switched in pt

I switched into Shawn's section

The TA did a good job during discussion to go over problems that were related to the problem sets and clarified any guestions we had

I did not attend Irina's but rather Shawn's office hours + discussions and used his notes, so I will be evaluating him.

Never responded to emails and canvas messages!!!!

Irina

Sometimes the materials and notes are discussed fast, but Irina was fast in clearing up the confusion, and clear also!

Irina is very helpful, and her discussion sections are very useful. I would recommend her as a TA.

Irina did a great job at prepping us for tests. Discussion section was very useful and helped me further understand lecture material.

Irina was great. All of her discussion worksheets were extremely helpful in preparing for exams and learning the material. She makes sure to answer students' questions during section and office hours.

She went through the problems a bit fast, but discussion was incredibly helpful.

Irina was a very good TA. She knew the material well and I thought her discussion complemented the lectures well and in a way that was very useful to prepare us for the exams. She moved pretty fast through the material but if you studied/had enough background knowledge going into it then it was a good supplement to further practice the material. Plus, if you were lost she was very open to guestions and always asked if what she was saying made sense before she moved on.

Irina

She is amazing and willing to help student to succeed

Irina's discussion sections made the class and the tests a breeze

I actually truly enjoyed Irina and they were very transparent and helpful in trying to help students succeed. Were they the most approachable at times? Maybe not, but it felt like it came from potentially having a more black and white personality or communication style and being focused than a place of malice of not caring. I honestly believe Irina carried this course on their back and I know of several students in other TA discussion sections that would only review her discussion notes because they were the only helpful things in terms of review. I mentioned earlier that Irina said that the professor isn't good at reviewing what he puts on his quizzes in lecture and tries to trick students, but I do not mention that as any sort of negativity towards them. It's that sort of dedication to the students in her discussion sections and trying to get them to succeed (and maybe a bit of that potentially black and white communication style) where they want to be honest about what we are facing. They did talk/move through problems very quickly and didn't always explain parts of problems that they felt like we should already know, but at the end of the day that let us review as much material as possible during the discussion sections. If I could have Irina as a TA for every math heavy course I would have to take, I'd be glad to.

Irina

Helpful, responsive, fair, extremely effective TA, overall, awesome!

Irina was very intimidating the first couple of weeks and eventually, she began to become less. I felt like she rushed through most of the material and had this expectation that everyone to understand her. I remember she yelled at the students for asking a calculus question and instead of encouraging them she belittled them for not remembering or understanding correctly.

perfect

TA has enough knowledge to teach us. however, the grading is too harsh. The more detailed things are in previous box.

good

Irina's office hours were valuable to me and allowed me to stay on top of problem sets in the course. In addition, she did a great job explaining concepts I didn't understand.

Irina @ 5:10pm

Irina Firsova

She is a great TA. She is really helpful and responsible TA. She will always asks us if we understand the material durning the discussion. She is kind and supportive too.

Helpful and flexible.

Very informative sections, sometimes goes through examples a little too quickly.

Please provide additional information and/or elaborate on any aspect of your evaluation. These comments are often the most valuable part of your evaluation. Every comment will be read!

The professor had TAs record discussion videos and Irina did not post videos that were an hour long. While this was standard of other TAs in this class, it felt lacking to have an hour long discussion in real life and get less than that with online pre-recorded discussions felt lacking

The sessions are always ahead of the lecture, so I don't understand the things in session if I haven't skipped ahead to study future lectures

please speak louder and practice your handwriting.

Sometimes it was hard to hear what she was saying during discussion sections, so I think it would be beneficial if she spoke a bit more audibly/clearly during discussions.

Her sessions were very valuable in helping my understanding of the course.

Good!

Grading during COVID-19 should not be an effort in killing a student's chances of doing well, grading should provide encouragement to do well. That was not the case, as I would complete every assignment to the best of my ability with information provided in lecture, and I would constantly see 1/3 and 2/3 which immediately takes my grade from an A to a D. My homework should've only boosted my grade as it's a student's only opportunity to curate their understanding of the material in a format similar to a test, but without the time constraint and accompanied stress; I felt both my homework and all testing was working against me and my confidence in understanding this material, rather than encouraging me and recognizing that I'm grasping the majority of the material and not understanding the niche or specialized parts that were ultimately the deciding factors on all homework and tests.

It would be nice to include reason that you deduct point on our case discussions. I had no idea why I have points off on them even after the lecture. But overall very helpful, thank you so much!

great job explaining everything!! just went a little fast sometimes

Amazing! Great TA and Professor!

I think Irina is a phenomenal TA. Her office hours are very helpful and she responds very quickly to emails, even on the weekends. She is very nice to speak to and never pressures students when they don't understand a topic. I think Irina is a large reason why I did well in this course. I will miss having her as a TA

Please slow down a little. Students sometimes cannot follow the pace.

Irina is an excellent TA. would recommend it to any students taking her class.

Great experience and help reinforce the material, but some times a bit too fast.

Discussion was super helpful, especially for midterm preparation

This course with the team of Professor Muehlegger and TA Irina is one of my favorite courses I have ever taken. Although I was already interested in the subject matter before taking this course, possibly resulting in a slight bias, this course continued to inspire me to learn more about this subject matter and both the professor and ta were always available to help. However I did not take this course when ECN 102 was not a pre requisite, having econometric techniques in this course provided a new challenge, but also new learnings and I thought it was implemented incredibly well, in a way that allowed me to develop the understanding of data analysis as well as industrial organization. With this introduction in econometrics, I have been inspired and am now excited to take ECN 140 this spring.

You are a great TA! Good luck with the strike and your graduate studies and beyond!

The TA was very helpful in both discussion and in office hours.

Overall I enjoyed attending Irina's section and I do think it helped me in the course.

non responsive when emailed

discussion did feel kind of rote at some points, but drilling practice problems is valuable still

Irina showed up every week with practice problems that were helpful for understanding the homework! Taking the time to make these problems is appreciated and she presented them in an understandable way too!

This has been one of my favorite classes at UC Davis and Dr. Wilson has done a great job preparing the curriculum and hybrid model for this course. One suggestion I have to make this course even better is to try to implement one more midterm so that students have more resources to study for the final exam. Great work, Dr. Wilson, and best of luck!

I enjoyed how Irina structured their discussion sections. However, they did make some errors while posting problem solutions, which made some of the content confusing.

Thank you for ensuring that we practiced a good amount of questions during discussions. This was helpful for completing the problem sets and also gaining a deeper understanding of the course concepts.

Once again, Irina is an absolutely amazing TA. They are so good at their job I am almost disappointed that this will be my last economics course and I will not have them as a TA again.

Irina is a great TA. They were very organized in all of their discussion sections and their office hours were extremely helpful. Irina was patient and clear, making sure and checking in often if we had any questions.

Irina is the only reason I am doing well in this course! Irina provides us with multiple examples and problems sets during discussions and office hours to help us better learn the material

The TA is really good in teaching and helping the student success in the class

Overall she was an amazing TA!

Irina was such a great TA. I literally only succeeded in this class because of them. They basically had to re-lecture everything since the professor didn't cover enough in lecture. They taught the entire course themselves, and it's clear because the students who attended discussion and office hours did much better than students that did not. They are the kindest person and also the best TA I have had at Davis. They also offered to talk about career help and went above and beyond to make sure we were prepared for exams. I am super thankful for Irina's help. They seriously had to teach the entire course themselves and do all the work that the professor should have been doing.

Not much else to add that I didn't already say in question 2. The TA was pretty good and I thought this class' discussions were helpful for review.

none

Shawn is a fantastic TA, with a gift for teaching. Everything we discussed in section was magically clear, even if it wasn't before. Simplification and clarity were the names of the game in Shawn's section, and it was the perfect supplement to lecture.

Shawn was an amazing TA, probably the best one I've had so far. His notes and help were crucial to my understanding of the class content.

no additional comments

She was especially helpful during office hours. I felt prepared going into exams because of her discussion worksheets and her explanations of the different types of problems.

Irina communicated information clearly, expanded on what we covered in lecture, and provided good resources/practice to help prepare us for the exams. It seemed like she cared about how well we did in the class and that she wanted us to succeed. Honestly, she was one of the most effective and helpful STEM TAs I've ever had.

None

Irina always took their time to explain concepts I was stuck on and is very nice!

Irina's discussion sections made the class and the tests a breeze. She answered every question clearly and clearly highlighted what the important parts of problems where.

Grading was very quick but wasn't always fair or comprehensive. This truly was just a very disappointing class in a lot of regards, and students talk a lot about how difficult and at times unfair it is. I not only think that UC Davis can do better, but it is the bare minimum that they do better, especially if they want to provide "equitable" education. Lastly, as I mentioned, I really enjoyed Irina and felt they were the star of the course.

Very, very helpful with consolidating information to help understand the week's content, also helpful as lecture notes were not posted, and Irina's section helped a lot when I missed lecture.

Overall - Lang is an awesome professor. I was intimidated by the fact that I was taking intermed. macro and intermed. micro at the same time - and emailed him asking for advice. He was comforting and validated my fears, and gave me very real advice which was helpful. Overall - he is a great professor, among one of the best in the econ department, that I hope I get to take again sometime.

Thank you for being so supportive and kind!!

the comments are in the first box

Even though I couldn't attend discussions, Irina was able to keep me updated on concepts discussed in section.

Not sure what happened but we still don't have our midterm 2 grades back after 3 weeks. Besides that TA did an ok job with discussion and office hours

Professor Shahar Sansani is a great professor and TA is also really helpful and supportive.

Very flexible with office hours to accommodate student schedules.

everything is good

Overall course was taught pretty well, students are aware of what is expected of them in terms of assessments.

TA always not upload the discussion note, sometime she only upload empty file, some times she upload like a week after her discussion time.

Please provide additional information and/or elaborate on any aspect of your evaluation. These comments are often the most valuable part of your evaluation. Every comment will be read!

Very helpful instructor and cares about the students!

Really good professor but sometimes hard to understand what she's saying

An excellent teacher, she is super understanding and always willing to help. She is very knowledgeable. Her tests and exams are fair!

Professor Firsova is an amazing instructor who is truly interested in and cares about economics! She explained concepts clearly and met the needs of the students. Exams were completely fair and reflected the material taught in class.

Irina, was very understanding and willing to work with myself and other students through challenges. She took the time to make sure that students were doing the best they could and was very approach.

I thought the instructor taught the material well and pointed out economic nuances. The only reason I scored low on the second midterm was because I had gone home over the weekend and didn't prepare for the exam. The instructor had sufficient and good practice problems for the midterm that if I had done would've earned me a better score like I got on the first midterm.

None

This professor is an absolute treasure, they break down the material into small sections to make it easier to understand the logic behind the concepts and equations within the class. The example problems in class applied to our homework problems and all materials were posted in a timely manner. The class was organized so that problem sets could be completed in parts rather than having to complete it all at once. For example, the lecture on Monday and Tuesday would cover the first part of the problem set (which the professor would inform us of) and the following week would cover the rest. This way we had adequate time to complete the problem set without having to be rushed. The problem set was due two days before the exams, so we had a day to review the answer key before taking the exam. This was extremely beneficial to our learning success because we could correct our work, better our understanding, and have time to absorb any changes in our understanding. One problem on the exam was always taken from the lecture example or homework so students were very familiar with the professor's questioning style and expectations. The professor consistently and compassionately monitored how the class was doing with the curse material and made adjustments based on student feedback. This meant rearranging the course schedule to reflect where we are or adjusting the problems on our problem set to give us more practice. The professor would happily answer our questions and was never condescending. They also encouraged students to really connect with the material by asking us to create our own practice problems with an answer key. Students had to think about the material and check their understanding when creating these problems and it was a great exercise in problem solving. This professor did a good of of being an example and teaching the course material. Also, they went above and beyond when working with students who have accommodations and eased any anxiety I had concerning whether or not my accommodations would be honored.

It is pretty hard to understand when she is speaking, she has a thick accent. Needs to work on clearer handwriting. Skips important steps sometimes under the assumption it is already known.

Term	Eval Opened	CRN	Subject	Course	Section	Enrollment	% Response
Summer Session 2 2022	8/29/2022 6:00 AM	74010	ECN	001A	A01	30	46
Summer Session 2 2022	8/29/2022 6:00 AM	74011	ECN	001A	A02	4	50
Winter Quarter 2022	3/7/2022 6:00 AM	45695	ECN	001AY	A01	27	25
Winter Quarter 2022	3/7/2022 6:00 AM	45696	ECN	001AY	A02	26	46
Winter Quarter 2022	3/7/2022 6:00 AM	45697	ECN	001AY	A03	27	29
Winter Quarter 2022	3/7/2022 6:00 AM	45698	ECN	001AY	A04	24	33
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	61908	ECN	100A	A01	45	35
Summer Session 1 2024	7/22/2024 12:00 AM	51080	ECN	100A	A01	26	50
Summer Session 1 2024	7/22/2024 12:00 AM	51081	ECN	100A	A02	6	33
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	61911	ECN	100A	A04	6	33
Spring Quarter 2022	5/27/2022 6:00 AM	40039	ECN	100A	B01	17	52
Spring Quarter 2022	5/27/2022 6:00 AM	40040	ECN	100A	B02	7	71
Winter Quarter 2024	3/11/2024 12:00 AM	21271	ECN	100A	B03	39	46
Fall Quarter 2020	12/1/2020 12:00 AM	29863	ECN	100A	B04	33	42
Winter Quarter 2024	3/11/2024 12:00 AM	21272	ECN	100A	B04	30	50
Winter Quarter 2023	3/13/2023 6:00 AM	21267	ECN	100B	A01	40	37
Winter Quarter 2023	3/13/2023 6:00 AM	21268	ECN	100B	A02	40	25
Spring Quarter 2021	5/27/2021 12:00 AM	62426	ECN	121A	A01	38	42
Fall Quarter 2023	12/4/2023 12:00 AM	29982	ECN	121A	A01	35	28
Spring Quarter 2024	5/30/2024 12:00 AM	38397	ECN	121A	A01	38	28
Spring Quarter 2021	5/27/2021 12:00 AM	62427	ECN	121A	A02	37	51
Fall Quarter 2023	12/4/2023 12:00 AM	29983	ECN	121A	A02	34	11
Spring Quarter 2024	5/30/2024 12:00 AM	38398	ECN	121A	A02	37	27
Fall Quarter 2022	11/28/2022 6:00 AM	30064	ECN	121B	A01	13	38
Winter Quarter 2021	3/8/2021 12:00 AM	21208	ECN	121B	A03	39	25
Fall Quarter 2022	11/28/2022 6:00 AM	30066	ECN	121B	A03	6	33
Fall Quarter 2021	11/29/2021 6:00 AM	30264	ECN	121B	A03	34	35
Fall Quarter 2021	11/29/2021 6:00 AM	30265	ECN	121B	A04	4	50
Winter Quarter 2021	3/8/2021 12:00 AM	44759	ECN	121B	A05	40	47
Summer Session 1 2022	7/18/2022 6:00 AM	53740	ECN	122	A01	37	21
Summer Session 1 2022	7/18/2022 6:00 AM	53809	ECN	122	A04	12	25

Spring Quarter 2023	6/1/2023 6:00 AM	40170	ECN	125	A01	28	50
Spring Quarter 2023	6/1/2023 6:00 AM	40171	ECN	125	A02	28	32
Summer Session 2 2021	8/30/2021 12:00 AM	74157	ECN	160A	A21	22	36
Summer Session 2 2021	8/30/2021 12:00 AM	74158	ECN	160A	A22	18	22