



## Course and Instructor Evaluation Summary Department of Economics

Rittenhouse, Katherine  
ECON 138 - Economics of Discrimination (A)  
Spring Quarter 2022

**Number of Students Enrolled: 40**  
**Number of Evaluations Submitted: 34**

### PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

#### 1. Your class level is

1 (2.9%):	Freshman
0 (0.0%):	Sophomore
7 (20.6%):	Junior
25 (73.5%):	Senior
1 (2.9%):	Graduate
0 (0.0%):	Extension
0 (0.0%):	Visitor

#### 2. Your reason for taking this class is

24 (70.6%):	Major
3 (8.8%):	Minor
2 (5.9%):	Gen. Ed.
5 (14.7%):	Elective
0 (0.0%):	Interest

#### 3. What grade do you expect in this class?

14 (41.2%):	A
17 (50.0%):	B
2 (5.9%):	C
0 (0.0%):	D
0 (0.0%):	F
1 (2.9%):	P
0 (0.0%):	NP

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

4. I learned a great deal from this course.

2 (5.9%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
2 (5.9%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
18 (52.9%):	Agree
12 (35.3%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

5. How many hours a week do you spend studying outside of class on average?

3 (8.8%):	0-1
12 (35.3%):	2-3
11 (32.4%):	4-5
5 (14.7%):	6-7
0 (0.0%):	8-9
3 (8.8%):	10-11
0 (0.0%):	12-13
0 (0.0%):	14-15
0 (0.0%):	16-17
0 (0.0%):	18-19
0 (0.0%):	20 or more

6. How often do you attend this course?

1 (3.0%):	Very Rarely
6 (18.2%):	Some of the Time
26 (78.8%):	Most of the Time
1:	[No Response]

## COURSE MATERIAL ECON 138

7. The course material is intellectually stimulating.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
14 (42.4%):	Agree
19 (57.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

8. Assignments promote learning.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (3.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
14 (42.4%):	Agree
18 (54.5%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

9. Required reading is useful.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree  
10 (30.3%): Agree  
23 (69.7%): Strongly Agree  
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable  
1: [No Response]

10. This course is difficult relative to others.

2 (6.1%): Strongly Disagree  
12 (36.4%): Disagree  
14 (42.4%): Neither Agree nor Disagree  
4 (12.1%): Agree  
1 (3.0%): Strongly Agree  
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable  
1: [No Response]

11. Exams are representative of the course material.

0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree  
0 (0.0%): Disagree  
5 (15.2%): Neither Agree nor Disagree  
8 (24.2%): Agree  
9 (27.3%): Strongly Agree  
11 (33.3%): Not Applicable  
1: [No Response]

12. Do you recommend this course overall?

33 (100.0%): Yes  
0 (0.0%): No  
1: [No Response]

13. Course ECON 138:

- I like the economic approach on subjects that are major social talking points
- You get a new perspective on discrimination, I highly recommend the course.
- Frankly, this course should be required for Econ majors. It is extremely important for people to grapple with these issues.
- I really enjoyed this course and I feel like I learned a lot from all the papers that we read and from all the presentations that Professor Rittenhouse gave in lectures.
- the best econ class for practical and moral application
- This has been a very insightful course that brings forth an economic lens to everyday issues of our society in terms of discrimination and looking at potential explanations on the economic side.
- I enjoyed ECON 138 as it takes topics that we see in the news and apply them to studies that quantitatively support the possibility of discrimination.

- Professor is nice and the slide her provided is so clear. I learned a lot.
- I have really enjoyed this class and am so glad that I took it at UCSD. The readings that are provided are critical and really reveal a lot about the different types of discrimination and how to identify it in controversial conversations and empirical data.
- The course material is very interesting for people in any major and I would consider it to be a great course to take for the DEI requirement.
- Very interesting course, definitely relative to what is going on in today's news and how it impacts us as students.

#### 14. Exams/Quizzes/Papers:

- good
- There will be 3 writing assignment and reflection notes for each week. The final gonna be oral exam.
- Paper are stimulating and rely on information learned in class
- Papers are fairly graded and the TA does a great job with recommending ways to fix what a student previously did wrong.
- The papers reinforced the concepts that we have gone over in class. They even go as far as to push us to think about alternative explanations for discrimination, as each study is not perfect.
- The papers are pretty fair and do a good job of synthesizing the information we have been taught. They are straight forward and require you to think and summarize information, which is good in a class with so many layers.
- Papers worth 50% of grade and attending office hours will help grasp a better understanding of topics as it seems the answers should be precise .
- the papers in class simulate the ability to retain the information taught and allows for a personal flair and interpretation
- The papers were difficult, but definitely promoted learning for me because they exposed my weak points in my understanding of the material.

#### 15. Reading [title(s) and comments]:

- Just read assigned reading and class to be in the loop.
- Reading material is diverse and relevant
- Required readings are actually discussed in class so there is no unnecessary time wasted to read articles that will not further your knowledge in the course. These readings are very essential to course understanding.
- The readings are new, relevant, and challenge previously held beliefs. I really like how Professor Rittenhouse approaches the material and leaves the floor open for students with different opinions or thoughts!
- Reading the articles before class was definitely crucial to understanding the material so I thought it was the right approach to have graded participation in class where she called on us to

answer questions about the articles. I think many students, including myself, were used to being quiet behind our Zoom screens during the long remote learning period as a result of the pandemic, so it was smart to give everyone an incentive to speak in class and promote discussions.

- We are assigned reading for each lecture, and we will read it with questions before class.
- The readings are confusing at times but are interesting in that you can learn about the different ways that the researchers conduct their studies.
- There is reading assigned every class but they are doable.
- the readings although academic papers that can be confusing are relatively easy to understand with deeper thought and add sustenance to the course.

## **INSTRUCTOR Katherine Rittenhouse**

16. Instructor displays a proficient command of the material.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (29.0%):	Agree
22 (71.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

17. Instructor is well prepared for classes.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
11 (34.4%):	Agree
21 (65.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

18. Instructor's speech is clear and audible.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
8 (25.8%):	Agree
23 (74.2%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

19. Instructor explains the course material well.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
11 (34.4%):	Agree
21 (65.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

20. Lectures hold your attention.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
2 (6.5%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
14 (45.2%):	Agree
15 (48.4%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

21. Instructor's lecture style facilitates note-taking.

1 (3.2%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (3.2%):	Disagree
3 (9.7%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
11 (35.5%):	Agree
15 (48.4%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

22. Instructor shows concern for students' learning.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
10 (31.3%):	Agree
21 (65.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

23. Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
5 (15.6%):	Agree
26 (81.3%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

24. Instructor is accessible outside of class.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (3.1%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (28.1%):	Agree
22 (68.8%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

25. Instructor starts and finishes class on time.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (29.0%):	Agree
22 (71.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

26. Instructor is effective in promoting academic integrity.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
9 (29.0%):	Agree
22 (71.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

27. The instructor practiced effective teaching strategies that acknowledged and valued differences among students, including differences of race and gender identity.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (3.2%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
5 (16.1%):	Agree
24 (77.4%):	Strongly Agree
1 (3.2%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

28. Instructor Katherine Rittenhouse:

- Great instructor just wish she had a better TA
- Professor Rittenhouse is an excellent professor and clearly teaches the material well. She does a good job of relating economics to the world around us and challenges us to think of the material in a different light. When approaching controversial subjects, Professor Rittenhouse is sensitive and intentional with her language and always clarifies what she is saying, so there is no room for misunderstandings. I have appreciated getting to visit her in office hours and she is very helpful with explaining the material (specifically regression charts) both inside and outside the classroom!
- Professor Rittenhouse was definitely very qualified for her position as our instructor because she

was able to highlight the key economic ideas and translate the complex data in order to thoroughly explain the author's economics reasoning in their arguments.

- Professor Rittenhouse is great at introducing an economic viewpoint to difficult subjects that are major talking points in news and politics. She challenges my approach to these tougher socioeconomic matters
- This course has the potential to be very emotional for certain individuals and professor Rittenhouse did a very good job of holding a neutral position and making everyone feel comfortable. she constantly engaged the class and made sure that the key points were understood overall very good professor
- Professor Rittenhouse does a great job at taking into consideration students' circumstances. When I couldn't make it to class, Professor Rittenhouse responded to email in a timely manner and answered any questions I had with as much detail as possible.
- Rittenhouse is one of the best instructors that I have had in the Economics department. She explains the material extremely well, both explaining the implications of the papers we were reading and discussing their limitations.
- Professor Rittenhouse is an amazing professor who truly cares about the students. She is well prepared and teaches the course wonderfully.
- She is knowledgeable and objective person. Her class is informational and perfect prepared.
- very detailed and explanatory makes learning these tough subjects easier to understand.
- Very professional, wants students to interact and ask questions. Available outside of office hours and very understanding if issues arise when it comes to attending lecture. Stops often to make sure we are following along and understanding the material. Would take class with instructor again. Wants all students to learn and makes the class a friendly safe place to be and appreciates participation even if not quiet what she is looking for.
- Professor Rittenhouse supports all students in that she is easily accessible outside of class and very accommodating to personal emergencies. Her lectures are also engaging in that she asks questions throughout her lectures to facilitate critical thinking and a better understanding of the material.

29. Do you recommend this professor overall?

33 (100.0%): Yes  
0 (0.0%): No  
1: [No Response]

### Custom Question 5

30. Please provide examples of the ways the instructor did or did not create a learning environment that welcomed, challenged, and supported all students.

- Professor Rittenhouse created an inclusive learning environment by creating space for class discussions, providing good questions, and always asking students to think of policy solutions and the "next step" , which was helpful to those of us who are not used to thinking purely in an economic context.
- I think she did everything perfect



- Made sure that everybody gets a chance to ask questions (even anonymously for those who are afraid of public speaking).
- lots of discussion opportunity, she welcomed all questions and was very accommodating to all of the students.
- created a safe space for all too feel comfortable participating and explained reasonings for her topics clear and concise
- I had a fairly bad depressive episode this quarter, and Rittenhouse did her best to make accommodations for me so that I would still be able to be successful in the class.
- Every week she assigned weekly reviews that allowed student feedback, and if asked and necessary, she would address concerns and welcome feedback
- Professor Rittenhouse creates a learning environment that challenges and supports all students in that she poses critical thinking questions such as possible public policies that could potentially decrease discrimination or her willingness to pause lectures to make sure students understand the newly taught concepts.
- Going to office hours helped clear up any confusion on the various topics that we went over in class because Professor Rittenhouse would take the time to answer any questions that I had and would explain the models in multiple ways to ensure that I understood the material.
- Professor wants class to be interactive and ask for participation and ask questions regarding assigned reading to ensure we are grasping the main ideas. The writing assignments test over multiple lectures to ensure certain key aspects are understood.

Please note that any responses or comments submitted by evaluators do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, Economics, Academic Affairs, or UC San Diego. Responses and comments are made available without auditing or editing, and they may not be modified or deleted, to ensure that each evaluator has an opportunity to express his or her opinion.