

Spring Quarter 2020
Selected Evaluations* (16)
Student Evaluation of Teaching

 Enrollment 238
 % responding 40%

	excellent	very good	satisfactory	fair	poor				
	5 %	4 %	3 %	2 %	1 %	\bar{X}	SD	M	N
Please indicate the overall educational value of the course.	49 51%	35 36%	8 8%	1 1%	3 3%	4.3	0.9	5.0	96
Intellectual content of the course.	52 54%	33 34%	7 7%	0 0%	4 4%	4.3	0.9	5.0	96
Degree to which the amount and difficulty of the course work is appropriate to the number of units.	36 38%	38 40%	12 13%	4 4%	6 6%	4.0	1.1	4.0	96
Please indicate the overall teaching effectiveness of the instructor.	50 52%	31 32%	10 10%	2 2%	3 3%	4.3	1.0	5.0	96
Presentation of the material by instructor.	53 55%	26 27%	10 10%	3 3%	4 4%	4.3	1.0	5.0	96
Preparation and organization of the course by the instructor.	56 58%	30 31%	4 4%	3 3%	3 3%	4.4	0.9	5.0	96
Availability of instructor outside of class (e.g. Apt. email, office hours).	58 64%	23 26%	4 4%	3 3%	2 2%	4.5	0.9	5.0	90
Instructor's enthusiasm about the subject matter.	73 76%	17 18%	2 2%	4 4%	0 0%	4.7	0.7	5.0	96
Instructor's fairness and timeliness of grading.	55 57%	27 28%	8 8%	4 4%	2 2%	4.3	0.9	5.0	96
Usefulness of assignments.	41 43%	41 43%	6 6%	5 5%	3 3%	4.2	1.0	4.0	96

What did you appreciate most about this class?

Really interesting class. I feel like I've learned a lot and it's opened my eyes to a lot of things about the world. The polling for the lectures was really genius! I feel like the polling was super helpful in letting her know whether or not we understood a problem/concept from the lecture.

The real life knowledge that I can take from this class.

Interactions with the teacher through chat

The skills I learned in analyzing risk

I really enjoyed learning about real life economic development projects & seeing how people's lives transformed. I also really enjoyed learning about how societal norms can tie into a country's development.

I gained a lot of skills of working on excel. It also gives more insight about poverty.

The professor was very passionate about the subject matter, taught wonderfully, and was always willing to engage with the students.

no

This class really guide me to dive into understanding Developmental Economics regarding poverty and inequality. I think understanding the complexity of poors' life and mechanisms to reduce poverty and inequality is crucial in helping us understand the world better.

clear PowerPoint during class, nice contents

Laura is a great professor and her enthusiasm truly translates through her teaching. She was extremely accomodating and one of the best professors I've had so far.

Although on several occasions the class was sad, it also taught how there is still time for change. There was a good balance of historical research and current research embedded in the course readings, which really allowed you to see the evolution of development economics.

Responded fast for pressing questions and made sure everyone's needs were accommodated.

The dedication of the instructor

I appreciated how enthusiastic the professor was about the class as well as the organization of the material presented.

organized course, make every concept crystal clear

she was very willing to explain concepts

Material in section was very helpful

The content f how to measure poverty line.

Applications of econ to development

The optional reading provided by the instructor was very insightful.

I found everything we learned was interesting and worth knowing.

I appreciate learning about poverty in depth and the ways economists have approached the topic.

There was a lot of useful information and the professor was really sweet towards students.

I really appreciated Laura's passion for this course. It was clear through her live zoom lectures that she is truly invested in the work that she is teaching her students. She is very willing to slow things down to further explain material that may be confusing. Very adapting and understanding of student comprehension.

The organization made everything easier on us as students and made the information easy to access when doing assignments. All the material tied together very well.

How relevant it is to our world and we can see connections with what we are learning to our own lives.

I appreciated the in-depth discussion of topics.

I really loved learning all the different topics and how organized everything was.

I liked that the material we learned could actually be applied in the micro-loan proposal.

The class material is really interesting and helpful.

I appreciated that the class had a lot of review time to make sure the students understood the subject.

I appreciated being taught the content of development economics. It is increasingly important in a world full of developing countries, and helped clear some misconceptions I had about certain concepts.

The amount of content we covered. This is definitely the most topics, both theoretical and applied, that I have learned from an economics class at Davis.

The fact that the winning proposal will actually get funded.

It just opened my mind, I learned a lot of critical thinking skills.

I liked that problem sets allowed me to practice and reflect on the content learned.

Every lecture was recorded and available if we were not able to attend live lecture. Also, the lectures were well planned.

I appreciated how relevant the textbook and assigned readings were for the class.

The teacher was very accommodating of any situations that arose.

How it was well rounded with basic economic theories and real world situations

Everything was taught in class and recorded and could therefore be easily redone for a hw assignment (most of the time). It's also a class with cool topics

The teacher's willingness to answer questions

This class has honestly shaped my degree objectives. Learning about economic development and the real challenges that struggling countries face was so rewarding. I really hope to take more ARE classes after this.

Materials were interesting and easy to understand.

The new information being taught and how straightforward it is.

I don't feel pressured at all from this class being online. The class is very organized and it really helps me learn while not being on campus.

The instructor is clearly very interested and motivated to help students apply and understand material as well as succeed. As an economics major some of the classes tend to feel the same and repetitive after a while, however this was not the case for this class.

Through the lecture and know more how to measure something like poverty line.

I can tell it is well prepared. Laura is very helpful during lectures and office hours.

It was well-structured.

The professor is responsible

Nothing

It applied the theory to real world applications whether its through stories, research studies, or just telling us how what we learn about has been applied in the real world.

This class was awful I hated every minute of it. This class is just a bastardized version of much better econ classes, with a bunch of feel bad about poor people in Africa virtue signaling thrown in. I've never done a course eval at Davis but I was motivated to this quarter because of how much I hated this class.

This class taught me a lot about risk and credit which I didn't see as a mechanism to combat poverty before.

This is my first economic class that incorporates excel into presenting and analysing economic data. I feel that I am more proficient in excel now. The class is also my first econ development class, so I got to see how the economic of undeveloped countries work differently than other countries.

As an Economics major, in the future I want to help communities or countries in need. Learning about development economics helps me understand more how I could do that

Are there any aspects of this course you would like to see improved?

There were a lot of readings for the class that I felt weren't that necessary and/or vital or significantly relevant to what we were learning in class. In addition, at times it felt like the readings were impossible to keep up with. I would recommend decreasing the readings and/or specifying which parts are the most important. It was hard to know what to focus on in a very long chapter or article. Also, for the problem sets, it would be helpful if it could mention which lecture slides or section slides/handouts to refer to for help. Some questions ask for things that are discussed multiple times across multiple lectures and in different situations. This makes it hard to know what slides to refer to in order to better understand how to do the problem sets.

N/a

The problem sets are huge and it's difficult to form a group in an online class.

I didn't find the section videos very useful & they were quite lengthy to watch before attending a full 50 minute section. Some videos were 30+ minutes which were hard to balance along the side the readings.

There are so many reading in this course and make it very stressful to me.

No.

no

I think I would prefer the professor to go over the new material first and use the section video as a review.

mo

The length of the readings was quite a lot.

No part needs to be improved. The professor was the best I've had at Davis. Despite the circumstances, she was a great teacher. I look forward to seeing her around in Davis.

nothing!

More interactive

I do not see any aspects that needed improvement.

No

there was a lot of material to cover and it felt very rushed, especially for material after the midterm

There are some questions of the quizzes that we haven't talked about much.

This quarter has been very challenging for me and I'm pretty sure for other students as well. I find it very ignorant for the professor to assign immense amount of work and even a longer exam. However, students in class complaint about the length of the assignments the professor said that we should normalize the pandemic. That shows how much the professor care about the students. My parents lost their jobs and I'm currently working 2 par time jobs in order to support myself and my family but for the professor to completely ignore how we feel.

no

More training in use of excel.

The proposal project is kinda hard only because it's during such a hectic time of the quarter and it's a ton of writing. And my group struggled to find any unique places to fund

Problem sets could be a little more user friendly. It was hard to work on it with my teammates without messing up the formatting or finding it difficult to access all at once.

Quizzes were sometimes a little tough so maybe make a couple of them droppable instead of just one.

More examples to help with related problem sets.

At times the readings did feel long at times especially for a quarter system, maybe more specific excerpts would help because the readings feel to interesting to just leave out. At times the examples needed better explaining, during lecture it got a bit confusing even if section explained it again a bit better. Wordings for quizzes were confusing more common than one might expect, this lead to students missing them because of framing and not because they did not get the material.

N/A

No.

The only real problem I had with the course was that there was just so much material to get through, sometimes it was skimmed or gone over too quickly just for the sake of time. Additionally, I think the course description should edited to highlight the intensity of the course and how much knowledge in math & excel is needed to do well. I don't think anyone taking the course really understood what was expected of us in the course.

The problem sets were a good opportunity to apply our knowledge but did not really help with the midterm.

I think I had a little bit of trouble to do group work this quarter since I was taking the class abroad

have more examples within lecture to have a better understanding of the material for the homework.

The weekly quiz questions could be written more clearly, and the answers to poll questions during lecture could be made available within the slides for easier student reference.

Lecture. I HATED that we sped through new material and crept through review. Professor would just speed through reading long blocks of text that were typed out while I was scrambling to write things down. So I spent extra time copying notes down and going through it until I understood it. But the next day in class, we would review the exact same thing I had scrambled to learn the class before, but somehow more slowly than we learned it the first time. I would have preferred to learn more slowly the first time and spend less time on review. This is my only complaint of the course I really enjoyed it overall!!!

Not particularly

Teach the math in lecture so that discussion isn't teaching material that gets tested on.

Better organization, I feel that section was covering material that was very complex initially because it was usually next week's material. I would like it if each week's section covered that week's material (this was very common early in the qtr)

It would be nice to have had our discussions recorded so we could have been able to refer back to them when doing our problem sets. Particularly because the PS had a lot of excel involved and most of us do not use it regularly.

I would have liked to see more emphasis on the processes/methods required for assignments and quizzes to be covered in lecture, instead of having to watch pre recorded lecture videos in addition to attending discussion sections that were very rushed.

No it was an amazing class. A little difficult though.

no it was great!

I didn't like that quizzes were only 1 attempts and the scores were muted after so you couldn't even see right away if you had failed or passes an online quiz. With the CRAZY AMOUNT OF MATERIAL AND READING this class required. It deserves at least 6 units. It required collaboration between students which is above a normal 4 unit classes work load. There were many 20+ pages of articles and sometimes even 40+ ON TOP OF CHAPTER READINGS and lectures.

The examples in the lecture slides often contained mistakes making it more difficult to study, the teacher nor the Tas provided no resources to seek help with excel/google slides meaning that we had to learn it ourselves

Perhaps take more time to cover the lectures about risk preferences since there was a bit of content to go through on excel and math equations to go over.

No

N/A

The distribution of problem set 3 and loan proposal are a bit too close to each other and too close towards the final.

No

Some content seems irrelevant to development economics.

I think office hours would have been easier in person, but that is not the professor's fault.

Many assignments to do.

Do not assign so many long readings.

No

Offer better classes so Econ majors aren't forced to suffer through this garbage. The class selection was complete garbage for Spring 2020. All the good classes like Money and Banking are full before I get my Pass 1 , so instead I have to suffer through this garbage. Thanks for assigning group assignments during a quarter where everyone is quarantined at home, that was a real 200 IQ move.

possibly less reading because there was a lot.

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Maybe filming sections

What did you appreciate most about this instructor?

The professor comes very prepared for class each time. When she teaches, I can tell that she spends a lot of time preparing and puts a lot of effort into every aspect of the class. It's easy to see that she is a very hardworking professor. She also really cares a lot about the students.

She was very helpful and very quick at responding to emails. She was very enthusiastic and understanding. Also very good at communicating the curriculum.

She makes sure the students understand what she is teaching.

She is extremely organized.

I appreciate Professors Meinen-Dick enthusiasm throughout lecture & her readiness to answer student's questions. She was always available & super informative in her office hours & quick to respond to emails.

She is very responsible and i can see that she put a lot of effort in this class.

This instructor was clearly very knowledgeable about development economics and is passionate about her work/teaching. She is super fun and also a great lecturer.

no

Laura is very passionate about the subject and she has valuable hands-on experience in Economic Development that helps to understand the current environment. The instructor is also really friendly and easy to approach, she addresses to questions in calss and emails immediately.

very clear explanation

Laura's enthusiasm and organization of the course.

The instructor always summarized lecture material on the next meeting day. It really helped recall the information because most of the material did overlap with each other. The instructor was understanding of her students, provided extra meeting times if need be, and never neglected the explanation of the material.

I loved how she was engaged with her own material and knew a lot about her field. It is nice having her speak about her own work of study as well!

Her dedication and knowledge on answering to questions

The instructor was very organized and was reachable outside of class hours.

Best professor in UC Davis

very enthusiastic

Helpful in office hours and enthusiastic.

N/A

Seemed to understand what students go through and catered to us

Her fairness in grading.

She was awesome and made the online quarter go smoothly while still making sure we learned a lot.

Lauren has been extremely compassionate and empathetic with all of us.

She was patient with students who had questions and always had good answers.

Passion, commitment, and helpfulness.

The effort, organization, and responsiveness to questions. Impressed by the structure, made little reason to feel as if things were not available and accessible to do well in this class.

She was very understanding and patient.

I appreciated her enthusiasm.

The instructor was extremely knowledgeable on the subject matter and was always very supportive of her students. She kept her students engaged and interested through class through graphs and polls which were very helpful.

I enjoyed how the instructor was excited about the material that was taught and practiced what she teaches.

The extra credit

I appreciated How enthusiastic the instructor was during the lecture, she made class more interesting!

I appreciate the instructor's enthusiasm for the subject matter, and her willingness to answer questions that students had.

Professor is super kind!!! She is extremely responsive to students' needs during class in Zoom and also over email.

Very approachable, never makes you feel patronized/dumb when asking questions

She was very kind

She was very enthusiastic about the course material, and she answered questions with enough depth.

Her enthusiasm for the subject. You can tell she loves what she teaches and it makes you appreciate it more.

I really appreciated Laura's expertise and enthusiasm that she brought to every lecture. She communicated the relevance of the class very well.

She was very fair and was energetic about what she taught.

I appreciate how much the professor cared about what we were learning about!

Her enthusiasm for the material and wanting to help students understand the material. She wouldn't stop trying to explain or clarify points if students feel stuck

n/a

Professor Meinzen-Dick always included helpful additional content for us to read out of interest on our own time. Her passion for the course was always evident at each lecture. Whenever complex concepts arose, she ensured that every question was answered with detail and provided such clarity for the class. Her exams were challenging but always reasonable and relevant to what we learned. I most appreciated how she took the time to meet with me individually when I was struggling with a problem set. Her enthusiasm for teaching is clear and she made the remote learning process smooth and worthwhile.

Very nice, helpful and understanding!

She is very understanding and accommodating. She truly cares about her students and the materials being taught. So glad she taught this class and got to know her

The passion for helping the poor.

Their flexibility, organization, passion for the subject, and carefulness.

The professor is very passionate and her teaching style is very interesting. Every time I attended class and see her, i will always feel happy.

Her knowledge of the class.

I can tell she is very passionate about the subject matter, which spills over into her explanations. I can also tell that she is dedicated to students understanding the subject matter.

Nothing

Her organizational skills through canvas. Online classes are not the most enjoyable but having all the course content clearly accessible and broken down into week by week content has made it sooo much easier to learn.

Nothing, everything about her grated on my nerves. I appreciated the fact I could watch the lecture videos at 1.5x speed so as to waste less of my time. And thanks for the easy A.

Her enthusiasm to teach.

She is passionate about the topics she was talking about. Her real world examples also make the lectures more enriching and interesting.

She was very enthusiastic about the subject matter and was very approachable

Is there anything you would like to see the instructor do to improve his/her teaching?

N/a

Nothing to add.

N/A

I wish she can be better at managing her pace in class. Sometimes it is very slow, and sometimes very fast. It would be better if she can reduce the use of verbal fillers because they are very distracting. Also try finish one sentence before jump to the next one.

No. I think she was one of the best professors I've experienced in the econ department and I would love to take another class with her in the future!

no

Nothing, she is perfect!

no

N/A.

The professor was really great! She demonstrated command of the subject matter, was attentive to student concerns, always timely, and respectable. Thank you!

Provide more videos related to the subject instead of just readings.

nope

No

slow down a bit

N/a

no

Just keep teaching and improvements will follow.

No.

Not much, maybe lower the number of readings a little.

No

At times the examples needed better explaining, during lecture it got a bit confusing even if section explained it again a bit better. Wordings for quizzes were confusing more common than one might expect, this lead to students missing them because of framing and not because they did not get the material.

N/A

No.

Just explaining the math concepts more thoroughly & having more practice with it that wasn't graded or just graded for completion. It was hard when the only time we were able to practice the math was for a weekly quiz where it greatly impacts our grades & the problem sets where again it really impacts our grades.

Nothing

Slowing down during lectures would be more helpful for absorbing material rather than rushing through the slides to get to a certain point.

Maybe adapt more tablet use rather than whiteboard, but everyone is adapting to online situations right now--it's understandable.

Sometimes the pacing was a little off, like a lot of time would be spent on the "business" part of class and then bigger concepts were a little rushed. I know it's her first time though so not a huge deal at all

She's good at what she does, especially since it was an online course

Not that I could think of.

Nope. Great professor.

putting a little less content in each lecture so we can go through it slower and not rush through the slides

Her teaching is pretty solid for someone with limited experience. There were a few subjects that she had trouble explaining in depth or clarifying if the scenario changes. But she did an excellent job at explaining because I was able to get pretty high marks on my midterm without doing all of the reading. That shows that she was doing a great job in the classroom because she didn't need a book to teach me the material, her words and her slides were sufficient

n/a

Nope. There also isn't a section to comment about our TA's experience. I'd like to say that Matt and Miki were by far the best TAs I've encountered thus far at Davis. They are always willing and happy to help students and their mastery of the subject is clear. Such great teaching overall from this course.

N/A

Nope. Keep up with the good work! I would love to take your class again but I am graduating this quarter.

No

Make assignments format easier to do, the assignment questions are good and very relate with contents but the format of the word document is make me annoy, it is hard to copy and paste for long sentence.

The pace of the lectures is sometimes not too good. Sometimes Laura talks about the difficult part for a short time and then spends a lot of time on something obvious.

Don't talk about abstract concepts. Lecture about what's in the tests. Also, remove the section quizzes or at least don't ask questions from long readings on it.

Not really, she did a really good job.

Yeah maybe try actually teaching the material the entire class is graded on. All the assignments are math based and yet the entire class is boring you death about poor people in Africa. Complete Social Justice Warrior garbage class. This is the worst class I have ever taken at Davis. Its more like an Anthropology class with Econ tacked on, professor should go work in a different department that better suits her interests. And I'm doing just fine in my grade, so this is not because I'm unhappy with my grade in the class. I just want to make completely sure anyone who reads this knows how terrible this class was, and how much I hated it.

na

I wish the professor is more thorough with her explanations when it comes to equations and how to apply them.

No

Term	Eval Opened	CRN	Subject	Course	Section	Enrollment	% Response
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84580	ARE	115A	A01	13	23
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84581	ARE	115A	A02	20	40
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84582	ARE	115A	A03	16	37
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84583	ARE	115A	A04	14	28
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84584	ARE	115A	A05	16	62
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84585	ARE	115A	A06	15	33
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84586	ARE	115A	A07	21	33
Spring Quarter 2020	5/28/2020 12:00 AM	84587	ARE	115A	A08	21	57
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84635	ECN	115A	A01	16	50
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84589	ECN	115A	A02	10	30
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84636	ECN	115A	A03	13	53
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84637	ECN	115A	A04	15	33
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84638	ECN	115A	A05	14	50
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84593	ECN	115A	A06	15	40
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84639	ECN	115A	A07	9	33
Spring Quarter 2020	6/1/2020 5:00 PM	84640	ECN	115A	A08	10	20