

Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness | Paul Le Tran¹ | December 2025

The first section of this document provide a summary and the details of my student evaluations for my instruction, as an Assistant Instructor, in Introduction to Macroeconomics for the Fall 2024–2025 semesters. Across the three semesters, I have consistently demonstrated excellence in teaching, earning an average overall instructor rating of **4.6/5.0**. You can find the full details of my student evaluations in the rest of the document.

The second section of this document provides a sample syllabus for an undergraduate course I would like to develop. The course is at the intersection of macroeconomics, machine learning, and text analysis. This course would teach valuable empirical methods, including sentiment analysis and topic modelling, to equip students with modern tools for their academic pursuits using non-traditional data such as text.

1 Quantitative Feedback

The table below presents the average of my student ratings across key aspects of instruction. Students rated my performance on a 5-point scale where 5 corresponds to “Excellent” or “Strongly Agree”.

Evaluation Metric	F2024	S2025	F2025	Average
Overall, this instructor was...	4.67	4.59	4.50	4.59
The instructor effectively explained the concepts.	4.56	4.63	4.53	4.57
The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts.	4.67	4.56	4.45	4.56
The instructor’s techniques kept me engaged.	4.56	4.46	4.53	4.52
The instructor was available to students.	4.67	4.73	4.41	4.60
The instructor fostered an inclusive environment.	4.78	4.73	4.43	4.65

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2 Selected Student Feedback

“Paul is very passionate about economics, and it is incredibly evident in every lecture he gives. He has a deep understanding of the content and teaches in a way that is easy to understand and also very engaging. More importantly though, Paul is willing to work with his students. He makes office hours very accessible and is incredibly friendly. He is willing to really sit down with his students and answer questions without making them feel stupid or embarrassed for not understanding the material. In my opinion, Paul is a better instructor than some professors I have had”.

“I love when Dr. Tran connects what we’re learning about to relevant real world issues. It’s great to hear his perspective. I appreciate that he is always sensitive to other’s political beliefs in these discussions. Personally though, if you’re disagreeing on these issues with someone who is an expert in macroeconomics, I don’t really care for your political opinion. Either way, I hope he continues to talk about real world topics in class! I’ve learned a lot about the intersection of policy and macroeconomics that I will take with me beyond this course. I really appreciate how involved and passionate Dr. Tran is about the subjects he teaches”.

“The subject matter of the course could be quite difficult at times but Professor Tran was quite excellent at explaining the concepts in a simple and understandable way. One thing that I may suggest going forward is to post the full slide deck after the class rather than just the redacted slides as when reviewing, the redacted slides make it more difficult to review as some of the information is missing”.

“Helpful lectures, great practice tests, makes the class very engaging by connecting econ topics to relevant issues in our society today”.

“The in-person classes were really effective. He conveyed the information in a way that was easily understandable. The way he compiled the slides made it easier to pay attention compared to other classes. Added humor in a professional manner every now and then and made sure that his voice wasn’t monotone. His reviews were comprehensive and left me feeling very prepared for the tests. He also includes InQuizzatives for homework and I think they also significantly improved my performance”.

“Very informative lectures. Paul was very good at explaining material and making sure we understood it. For someone who is still a Phd student I was very impressed with his teaching level, besides a few things it felt like he had been teaching for years”.

“The lectures were by far the most helpful. The professor did a good job explaining historical context and showing he cared about the subjects, which definitely helped others and I stay engaged”.



Individual Instructor Report Fall 2025 Version A for ECO 304L - INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS (36020) (Paul Tran)

Project Title: **Course Evaluations Fall 2025**

Courses Audience: **88**

Responses Received: **30**

Response Ratio: **34.1 %**

Report Comments

Guide to the Interpretation of Course Evaluations at UT Austin

The goal of course evaluation process at UT Austin is to drive teaching excellence and to support continuous improvement in teaching and learning experiences. Course evaluations provide snapshots of student perspectives on their course-level learning experiences. Most experts on teaching evaluation advise that no individual method gives the complete picture of an instructor's teaching effectiveness, multiple and diverse measures, on multiple occasions, are advised to give a full picture of the teaching effectiveness of a particular instructor. Moreover, other factors, such as size of class, level of the class, and content of the course, can cause small variations in the ratings. Therefore, student perspectives for a particular instructor or course should be interpreted as a snapshot, and not as providing complete information on the teaching effectiveness of that instructor. For additional details, including the scales and how the Mean scores are calculated, please review the Report Guide at the end of this document or, [UT Austin's Viewing Course Evaluation Results webpage](#).

Creation Date: **Friday, December 19, 2025**

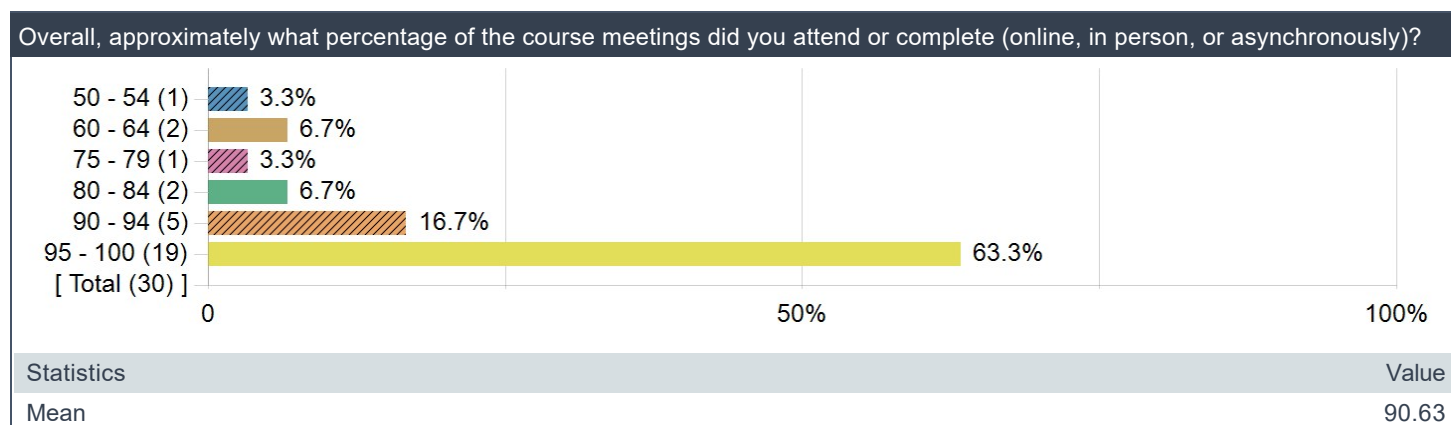
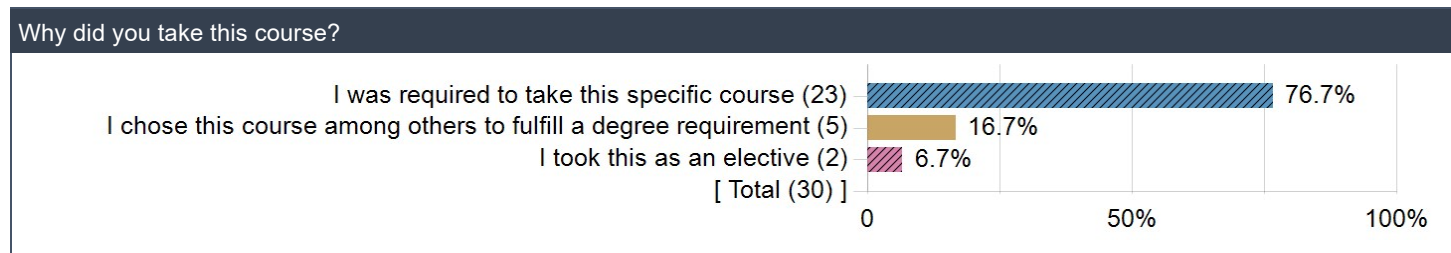
Core Questions

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Responded	Mean
During this course, I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.	46.7%	46.7%	3.3%	3.3%	0.0%	30	4.37
The course was well organized.	46.7%	50.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	30	4.43
The instructor clearly explained the course objectives and expectations.	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30	4.50
The instructor fostered an inclusive learning environment.	50.0%	46.7%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	30	4.43
The instructor effectively explained the concepts and subject matter in this course.	56.7%	40.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	30	4.53
The instructional techniques kept me engaged in learning.	66.7%	23.3%	6.7%	3.3%	0.0%	30	4.53
The instructor checked for student understanding of the concepts presented in the course.	50.0%	46.7%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	30	4.47

Overall Questions

	Excellent	Very Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Very Unsatisfactory	Responded	Mean
Overall, this instructor was	60.0%	33.3%	3.3%	3.3%	0.0%	30	4.50
Overall, this course was	40.0%	56.7%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	30	4.33

Other Course Questions



Comment Questions

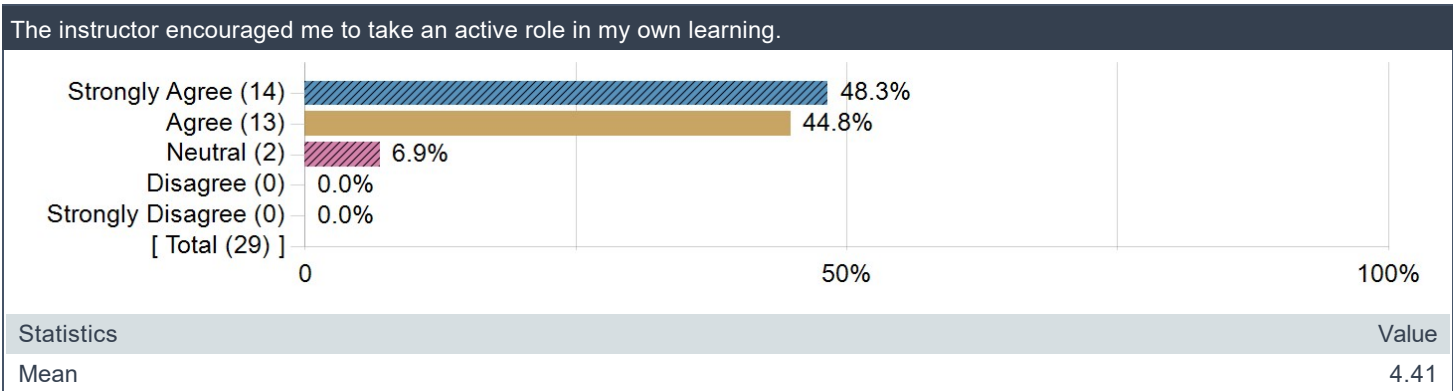
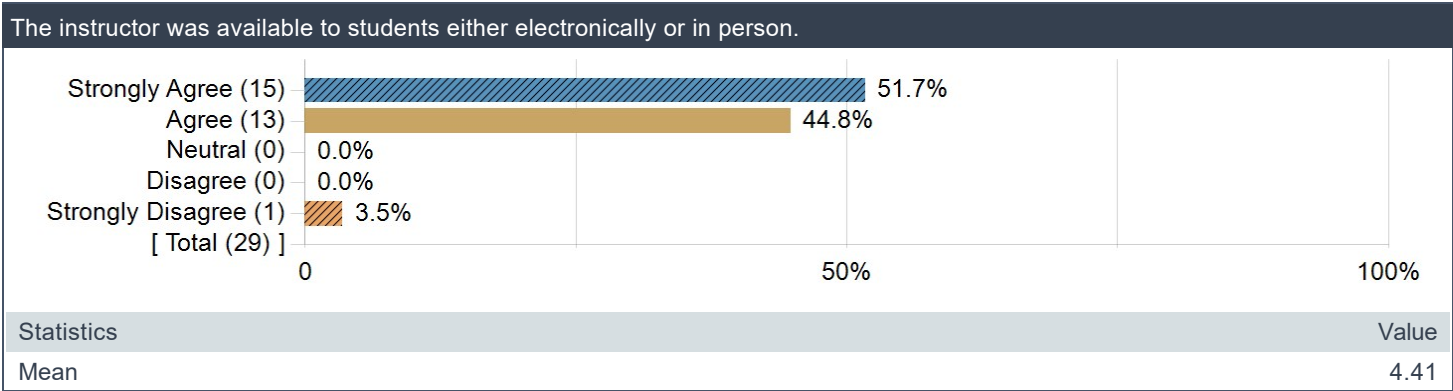
Identify aspects of the course that were the most effective in helping your learning.

Comment
The aspects of the course that were most effective were the lectures due to the fact that professor Tran goes into a lot more detail in class and answer a lot of questions if you have them.
The kahoots and inquizitives were very helpful
Kahoots, office hours and looking through tests, inquisitives
The inquizatives were helpful in both learning the content and making sure there was understanding of the material, as the ability to keep going until you got the score/grade you wanted helped incentive actually learning and not just trying to get a good grade. The lectures were interesting as well as easy to follow, his teaching style was fun, and the Kahoots helped keep me engaged.
The lectures were good and the practice problems for the tests were good.
The lectures.
The Kahoots and homework
The kahoots
Very informative lectures. Paul was very good at explaining material and making sure we understood it. For someone who is still a Phd student I was very impressed with his teaching level, besides a few things it felt like he had been teaching for years.
Paul is the man. best teacher that i have had at UT.
good class setup and not much homework
He was just very organized in the way he taught the course, which I appreciate.
He kept the class engaged
Lectures were very detailed, and professor always knew exactly what he was talking about. Kahoots also helped because they were engaging.
The posted online lectures
Kahoots in class and the test reviews on canvas were great for review. Lectures and slides were awesome in teaching me everything.
The textbook helped my knowledge, also the lectures helped my understanding of the concepts
The flow of the chapters and the class overview was helpful
The lectures were by far the most helpful. The professor did a good job explaining historical context and showing he cared about the subjects, which definitely helped others and I stay engaged.
passionate, good teacher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – very helpful with office hours – fantastic validation with academic concerns – choose good hw software; helpful hws
the teacher does a very good job at explaining the topics and being engaging

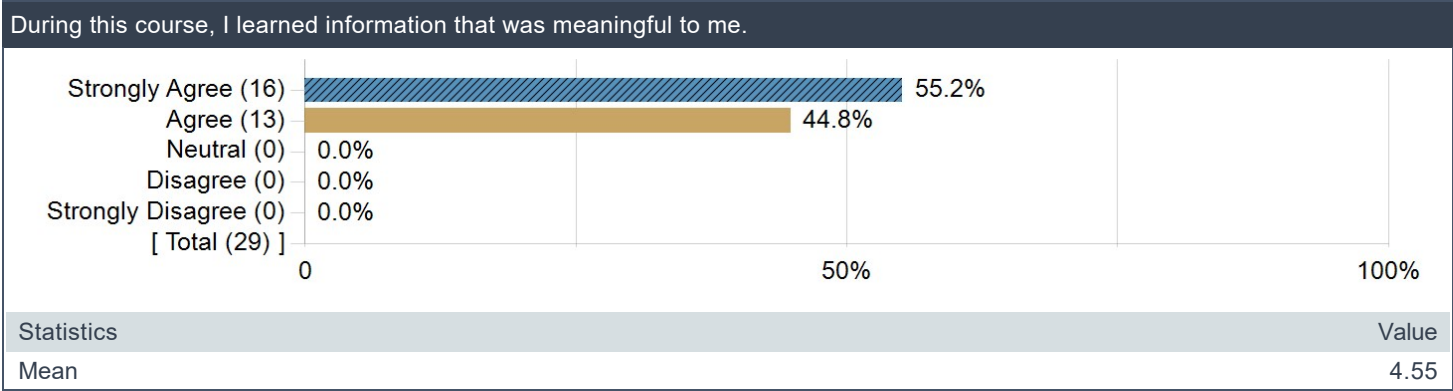
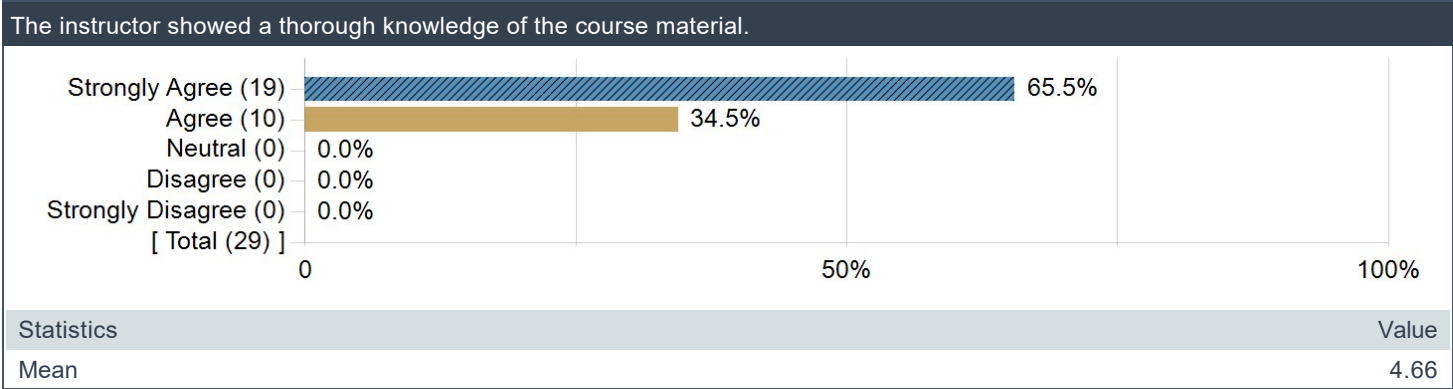
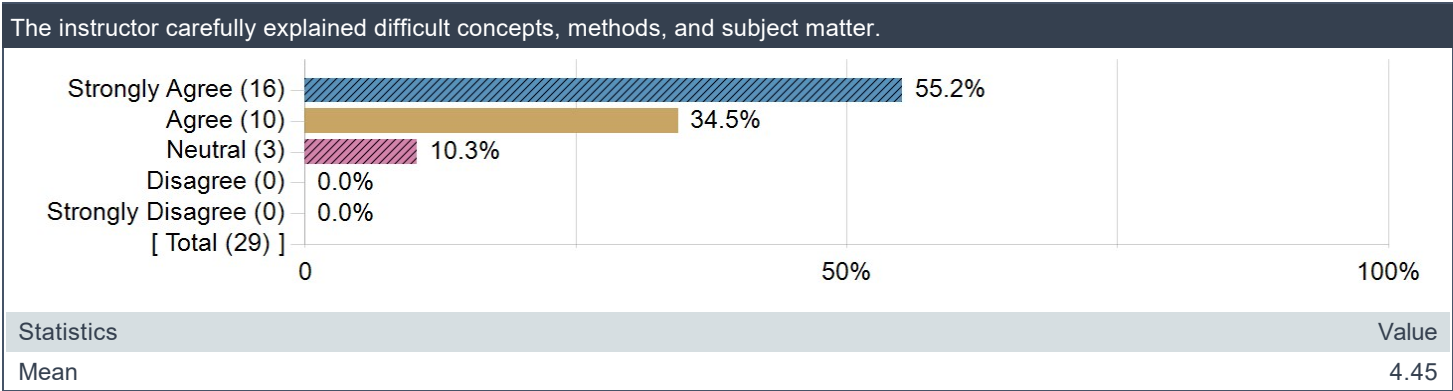
Identify the aspect of the course that you found most challenging, why you found it was challenging, and suggest one thing that could be done to help future students meet that challenge more effectively.

Comment
The aspects of the course I found most challenging were the reading. As sometime they would be very lengthy and take a while to complete.
I think there could of been more diversity of assignments to kind of round out your grade.
Paul Tran is the goat
The most challenging part of the course was prepping for exams, and even then we were given access to many helpful materials to use for review. The only suggestion I can think of is to allow students to look at the old Kahoots we did in class just as extra material.
The free response questions on the exams were most challenging because the wording on some of them could be confusing. The wording could be made a little clearer for future students.
The exams because it was a lot of content.
N/A
I thought that the tests were much more specific than anything we every learned or were given to study with. I also thought they were significantly harder than any of the kahoots and review questions we were given. I took micro with Mateer and I think his tests were written much clearer and the materials given to us much better prepared me for success. I thought that the powerpoints were somewhat helpful but honestly half of the stuff was not on the test and it was just the super niche things that were which was annoying.
Sometimes he would review a lot at the beginning of class about the material from the end of the last class. Although some review was helpful it would sometimes put us behind schedule and end up rushing material later.
the final being so early is terrible
Nothing was really challenging, as long as you do 1 chapter/week.
Test were difficult with ambiguous questions
The class got confusing at times
Nothing specific challenging
The material was difficult to grasp
Most challenging was for sure remembering formulas. I think potentially creating a quizlet for us to study would be good.
The exams were the most difficult, I walked out of them feeling quite confident, but when I went over the questions I noticed I slipped up on some easy questions. More test practice could help
fully preparing and feeling ready for exams
I suppose the tests were the most challenging, but only because they are worth the most in the grade and there is a lot of info to review.
the grading structure
– practice answering the practice test questions in class
it was hard to gauge how proficient I was at certain topics prior to taking the exams.

College, School, or Unit Questions



Faculty Selected Questions



Report Guide

Guide to the Interpretation of Course Evaluations at UT Austin

The goal of course evaluation process at UT Austin is to drive teaching excellence and to support continuous improvement in teaching and learning experiences. The two sets of scales used for core evaluation questions and the associated weights are:

Strongly Agree (5)
Agree (4)
Neutral (3)
Disagree (2)
Strongly Disagree (1)

Excellent (5)
Very Good (4)
Satisfactory (3)
Unsatisfactory (2)
Very Unsatisfactory (1)

The Mean is calculated by adding all of the weights for a single question and dividing by the number of respondents. The course workload question is not averaged.

The number of students (e.g. respondents) marking each option is reported for each of the items. These frequency distributions provide information about the level of student ratings and the spread and shape of the class distribution of responses. The distributions thus provide a picture of student perception of a course.

Course evaluations provide snapshots of student perspectives on their course-level learning experiences. Most experts on teaching evaluation advise that no individual method gives the complete picture of an instructor's teaching effectiveness; multiple and diverse measures, on multiple occasions, are advised to give a full picture of the teaching effectiveness of a particular instructor. Moreover, other factors, such as size of class, level of the class, and content of the course, can cause small variations in the ratings. Therefore, student perspectives for a particular instructor or course should be interpreted as a snapshot, and not as providing complete information on the teaching effectiveness of that instructor.



Individual Instructor Report Spring 2025 Version A for ECO 304L - INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS (34695) (Paul Tran)

Project Title: **Course Evaluations Spring 2025**

Courses Audience: **93**

Responses Received: **41**

Response Ratio: **44.1%**

Report Comments

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Strongly Agree (5)
Agree (4)
Neutral (3)
Disagree (2)
Strongly Disagree (1)

Excellent (5)
Very Good (4)
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Unsatisfactory (2)
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The Mean is calculated by adding all of the weights for a single question and dividing by the number of respondents. The course workload question is not averaged.

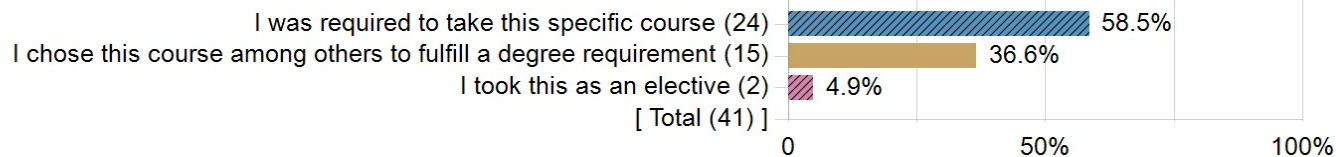
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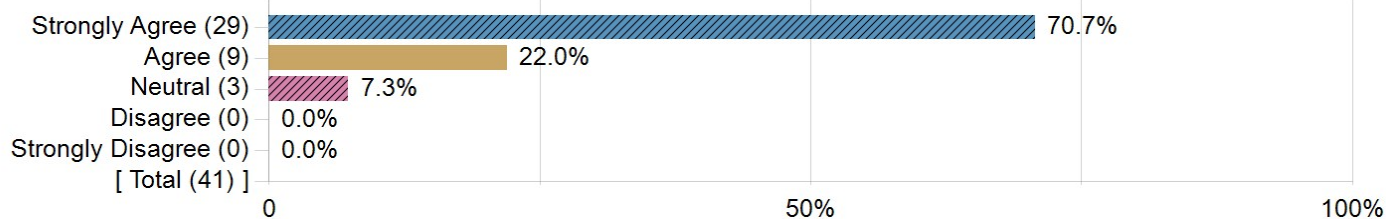
Creation Date: **Friday, May 9, 2025**

Course Questions

Why did you take this course?



During this course, I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.



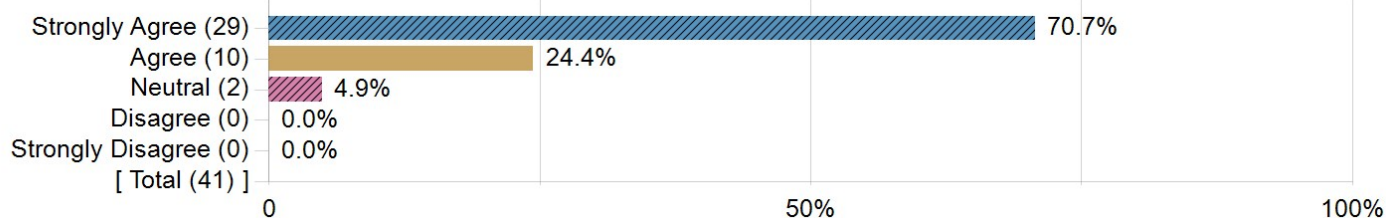
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.63

The course was well organized.



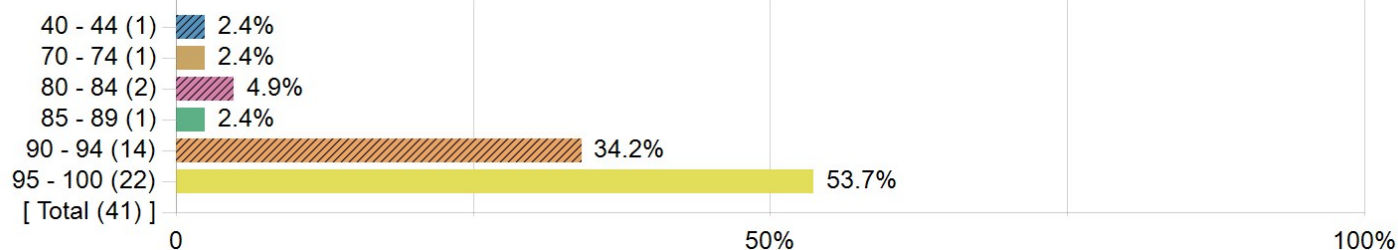
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.66

Overall, approximately what percentage of the course meetings did you attend or complete (online, in person, or asynchronously)?



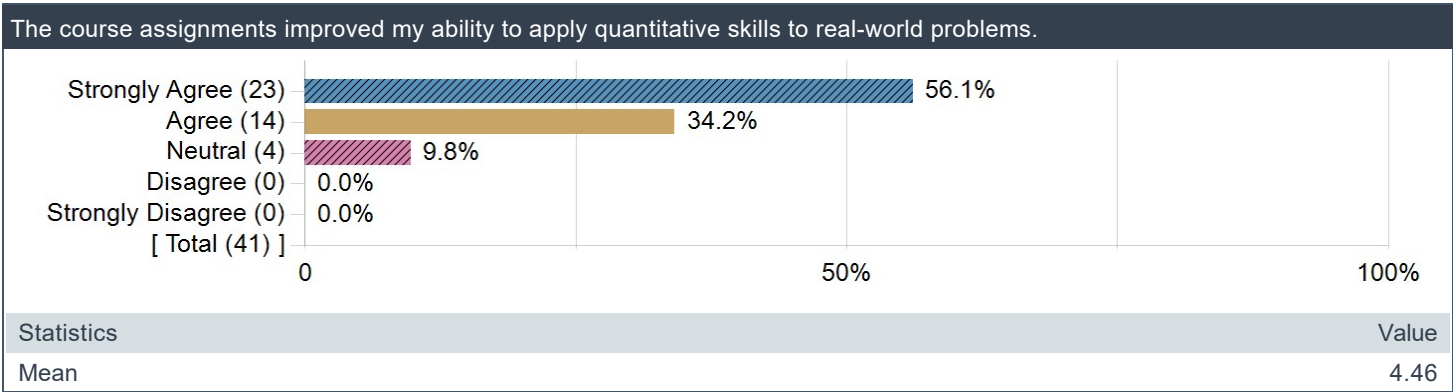
Statistics

Value

Mean

91.93

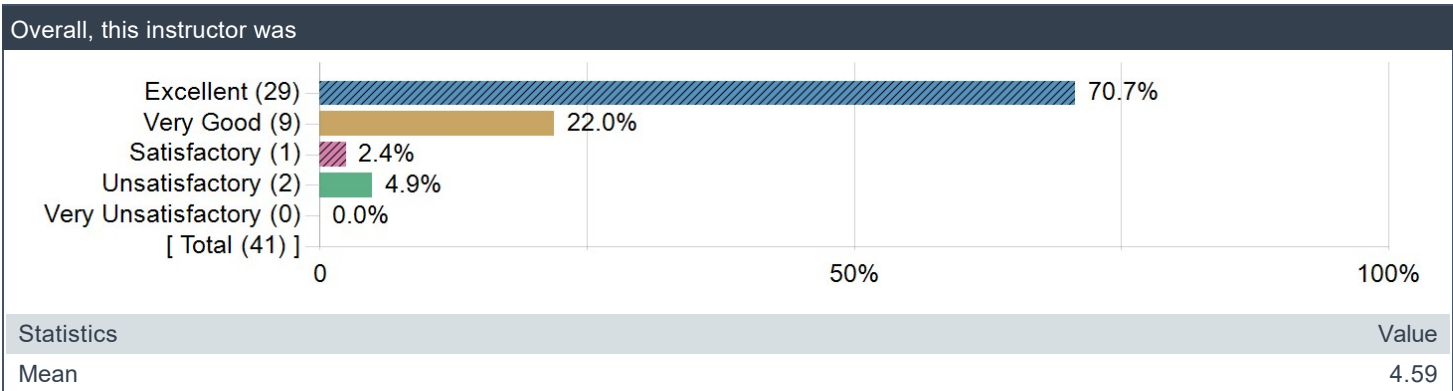
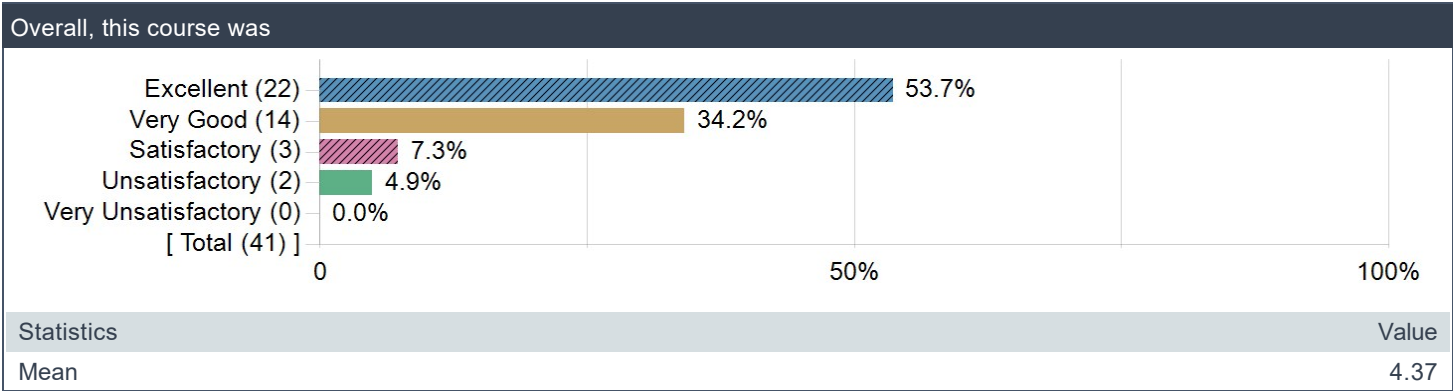
The course assignments improved my ability to apply quantitative skills to real-world problems. (Flag Question)



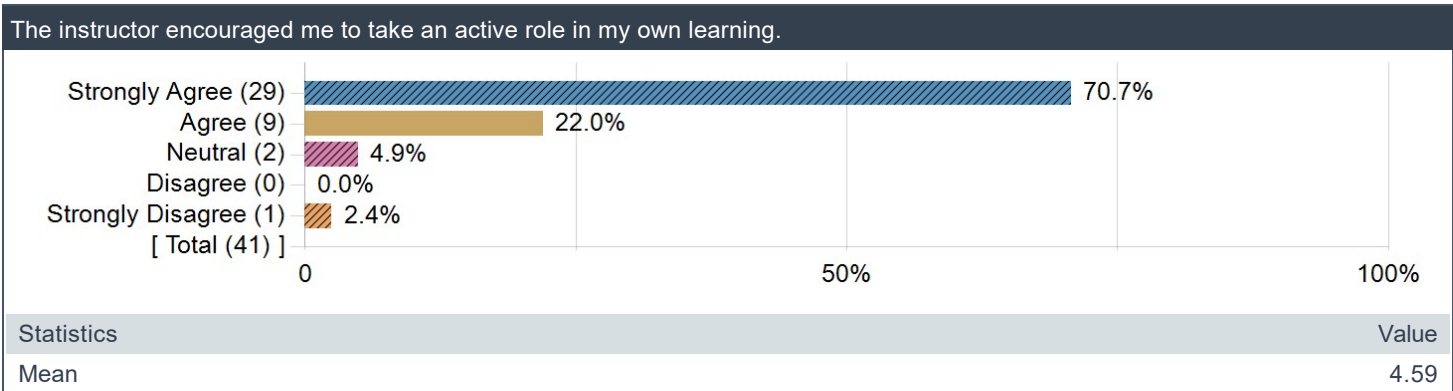
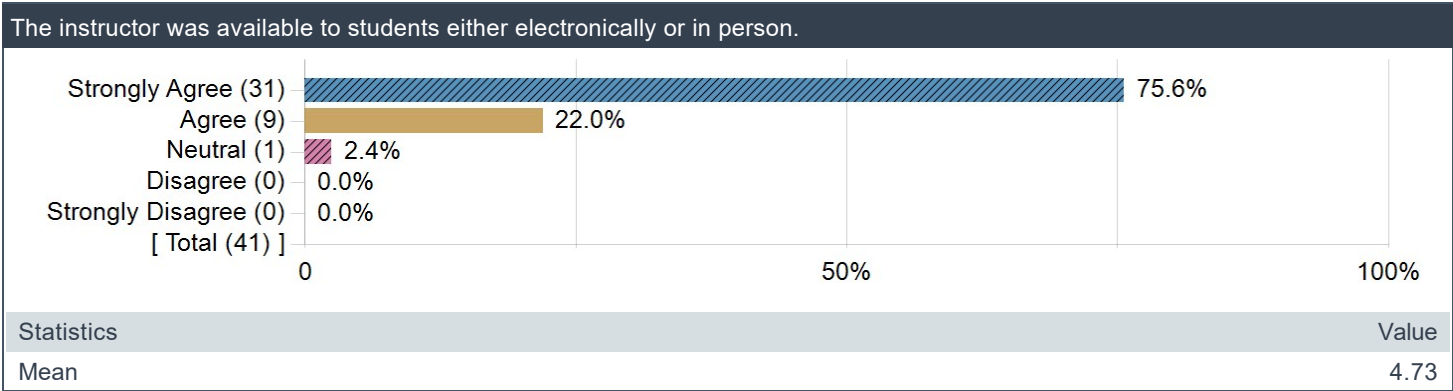
Instructor Questions

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Responded	Mean
The instructor clearly explained the course objectives and expectations.	73.2%	22.0%	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%	41	4.63
The instructor fostered an inclusive learning environment.	75.6%	22.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	41	4.73
The instructor effectively explained the concepts and subject matter in this course.	70.7%	22.0%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	41	4.63
The instructional techniques kept me engaged in learning.	68.3%	19.5%	4.9%	4.9%	2.4%	41	4.46
The instructor checked for student understanding of the concepts presented in the course.	73.2%	17.1%	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	41	4.59

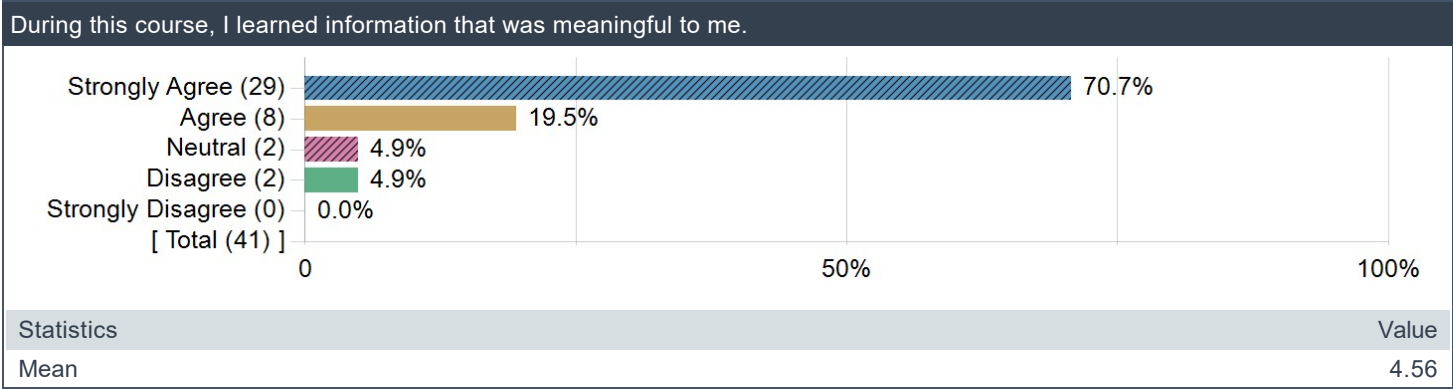
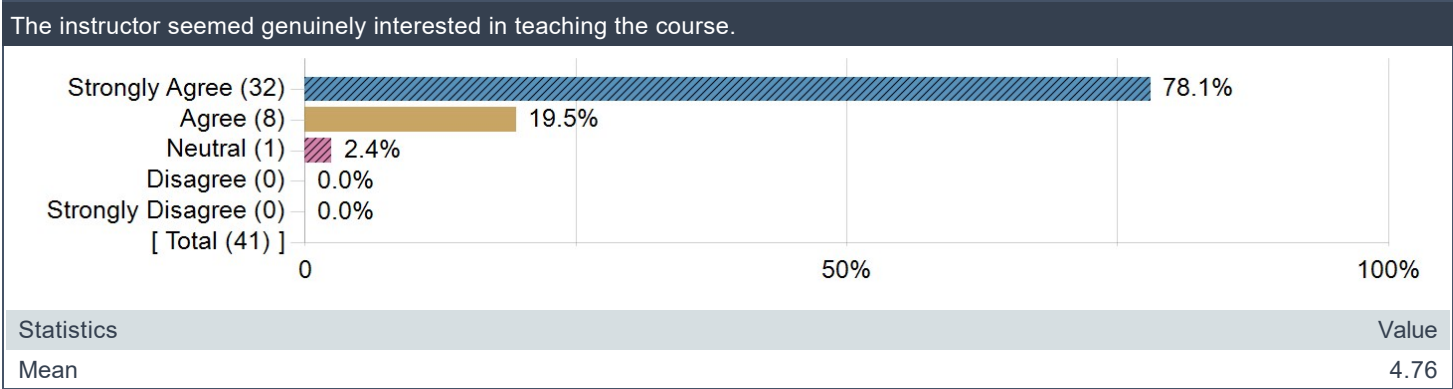
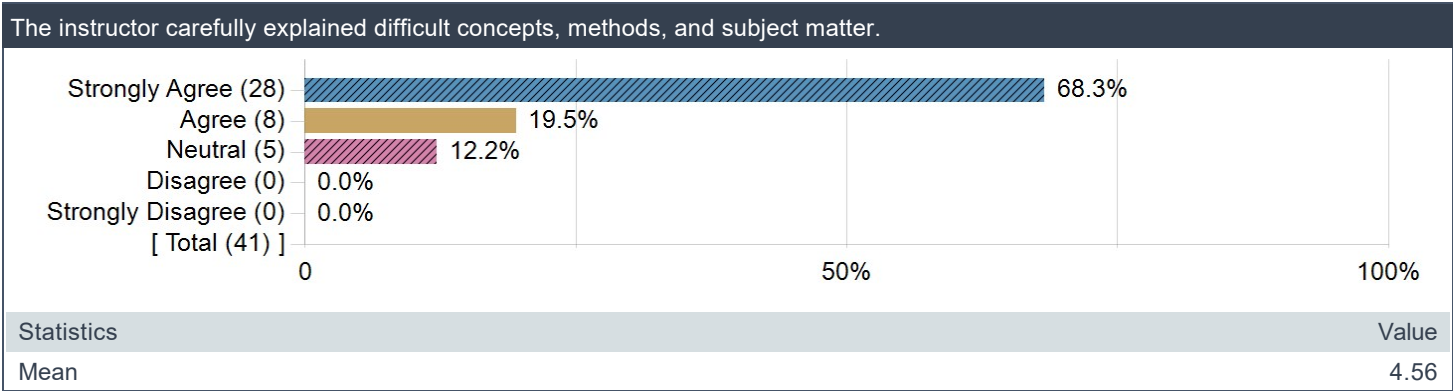
Overall Questions



College, School, or Unit Questions



Faculty Selected Questions



Comment Questions

Identify aspects of the course that were the most effective in helping your learning.

Comments
The inquizitives, the practice exam questions, and the lectures were the most effective for me.
na
reviews
daily kahoots (along with expanding more on answers when question results were mixed), open to discussions in class, reexplaining of topics, mentioning current world economic issues and applying them to in class material
Lots of analogies and diving deep into concepts
The pre study exam questions on canvas used to help a lot with my understanding of the class.
Professor Tran was very engaging in his lectures and you could tell he enjoyed what he taught.
Paul is very passionate about economics, and it is incredibly evident in every lecture he gives. He has a deep understanding of the content and teaches in a way that is easy to understand and also very engaging. More importantly though, Paul is willing to work with his students. He makes office hours very accessible and is incredibly friendly. He is willing to really sit down with his students and answer questions without making them feel stupid or embarrassed for not understanding the material. In my opinion, Paul is a better instructor than some professors I have had.
I don't think anything about this class was effective for my learning
Very clear and concise lecture that communicated concepts very well
The tests were effective because I studied a lot for them.
n/a
Kahoots
Inquizitives and Kahoots.
I love when Dr. Tran connects what we're learning about to relevant real world issues. It's great to hear his perspective. I appreciate that he is always sensitive to other's political beliefs in these discussions. Personally though, if you're disagreeing on these issues with someone who is an expert in macroeconomics, I don't really care for your political opinion. Either way, I hope he continues to talk about real world topics in class! I've learned a lot about the intersection of policy and macroeconomics that I will take with me beyond this course. I really appreciate how involved and passionate Dr. Tran is about the subjects he teaches.
The kahoots during class helped to test our knowledge
The greatest teacher who finds the way to approach the student and keep it interesting.
The Kahoots in class
Passionate about the topic, made it engaging, allowed me to succeded
Great lectures and funny
In class lectures, online recording of lectures, In class assignments
Very caring about his students understanding very well organized as well.
The inclusion of multiple kahoots during each chapter to check if you understood the content helped reinforce what I was learning.
The Kahoots and Sample exam questions
The weekly inquisitive assignments were very effective along with the kahoots every class.
Some of the most helpful parts of this course for me were the recorded lectures and access to the slides after class.
I enjoyed how the entire class was organized. I felt the slides were very in depth and hit all the main points. I also enjoyed the kahoots and the practice exams were extremely helpful.
the lectures
The kahoots every class were great because they encouraged and checked for understanding in a fun way that made me really want to do well.
Really good teacher
The organized notes that corresponded with the in-class lectures.
applying econ to real life scenarios
The most effective thing in helping me learn was the textbook. The textbook helped explain everything in much more detail than the professor.
The in-person classes were really effective. He conveyed the information in a way that was easily understandable. The way he

Comments
compiled the slides made it easier to pay attention compared to other classes. Added humor in a professional manner every now and then and made sure that his voice wasn't monotone. His reviews were comprehensive and left me feeling very prepared for the tests. He also includes InQuizzatives for homework and I think they also significantly improved my performance.
Everything was included on the Canvas Modules page which was very helpful
lectures where teacher explained concepts

Identify the aspect of the course that you found most challenging, why you found it was challenging, and suggest one thing that could be done to help future students meet that challenge more effectively.

Comments
I would say the tests were the most challenging, but adequately studying for them will help.
na
tests were not consistent with class and coursework. Questions often had multiple right answers or were ambiguous
sometimes things were explained purely through verbal explanations which made it hard or confusing to understand, even if they were explanations that helped better understand the topic. more visual explanations would have been helpful (ie. drawing out tables + showing it on the overhead) ++ the inquizitives were sometimes due before the chapter was discussed and given it was due wednesday @ 8, it was sometimes harder to complete it on time while having little to no knowledge on the topic
The exams were way harder for me that I thought it would be. I used to review a ton, but I would always mess up on the exam. That might just be a me problem but I still felt like the exams were a little too hard. I also felt like since the classes were only an hour, Mr. Tran would have to start going fast which was a little challenging for me. Mr. Tran was a great teacher though, loved having him this semester, I do think he does goes a little too fast sometimes.
N/A
My only complaint is that the Inquizitives are due at 8pm. I missed a few simply because I forgot they are not due at midnight, but I suppose that's my fault and not really a reflection of this class.
The tests were extremely difficult compared to the reviews he had us do + all the practice.
The math was a bit of a struggle but was communicated well enough that I got a good grasp on it
I found that the inquizatives were tricky sometimes.
n/a
The slides aren't filled out on canvas, so if I missed a class, then I would have to look up every fill in the blank to complete all the notes and it is very fast paces.
N/A
I can't think of anything. I think this class's workload and exams are adequately challenging.
The exams were relatively difficult compared to the microeconomics course I took the previous semester
2nd Exam, but it was more on me for not studying enough
The most challenging aspect is the notes and the content on each slide along with the fast pace. I would suggest main points with example questions to get down all of the information and to have all the information on the slides rather than having blank sections for students to be able to go back to the notes later.
So much info, I realize it's the content he has to teach but damn man
Nothing noteworthy to mention
none
The aspect of the course that I found most challenging was the exams; however, I believe the instructor provided enough reviews to study, including kahoots and practice questions for each chapter.
Preparation for midterm 2 felt very rushed compared to the other midterms. I am not sure how this could be changed but it was the heaviest content and had the least time to prepare.
I don't necessarily think there was any part of the class that I found challenging, besides the exams themselves, but that was expected and they were very doable.
The subject matter of the course could be quite difficult at times but Professor Tran was quite excellent at explaining the concepts in a simple and understandable way. One thing that I may suggest going forward is to post the full slide deck after the class rather than just the redacted slides as when reviewing, the redacted slides make it more difficult to review as some of the information is missing.
In my opinion, there was nothing about this course that was extremely difficult. There is a lot of material to take in, which is probably the most challenging, but just paying attention and being present in class along with his teaching made it easier to understand the

Comments
concepts.
the tests
I don't think there were parts that were particularly challenging about this course as it was taught well.
Nothing
The fast pace of the course as a whole.
exams were tough, all else good
The main thing i found challenging were the test. In the future the thing that could be done is having the test resemble the practice tests. I would do the practice test get all of them right (there is like 100 questions) and then I would get to the test and they would NOT be similar. If you are going to provide test material resources and label it practice exam make sure it actually resembles and old exam.
The hardest part about this class was the exams. However, a combination of the easy-to-understand lectures, InQuizzatives, and exam reviews should adequately prepare most students.
Learning all the material
memorizing specific things from textbook



Individual Instructor Report Fall 2024 Version A for ECO 304L - INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS (33855) (Paul Tran)

Project Title: **Course Evaluations Fall 2024**

Courses Audience: **33**
Responses Received: **9**
Response Ratio: **27.3%**

Report Comments

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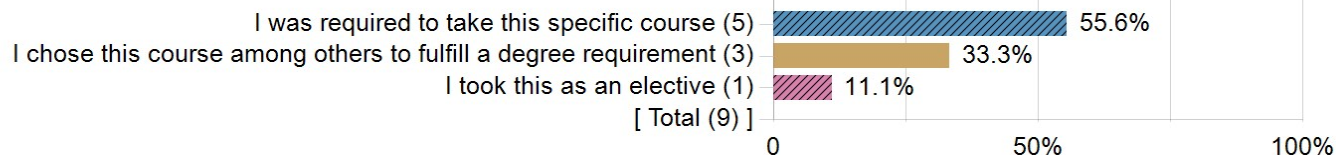
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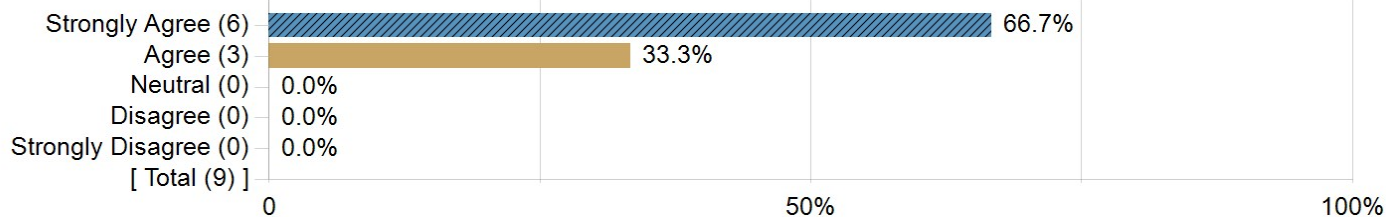
Creation Date: **Monday, December 16, 2024**

Course Questions

Why did you take this course?



During this course, I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.



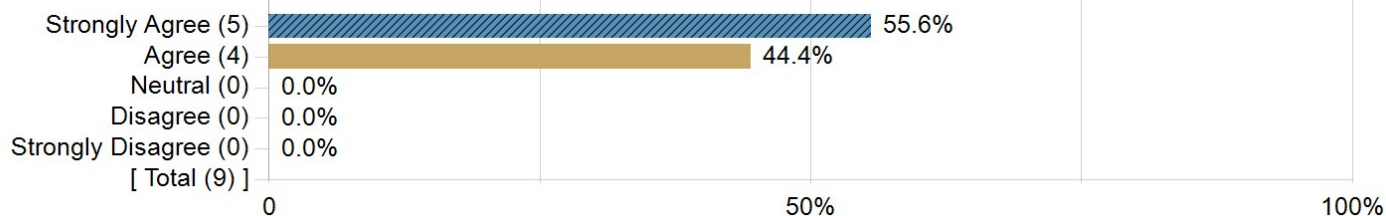
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.67

The course was well organized.



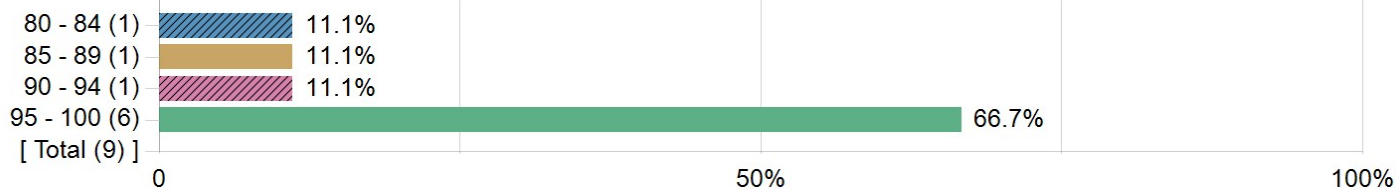
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.56

Overall, approximately what percentage of the course meetings did you attend or complete (online, in person, or asynchronously)?



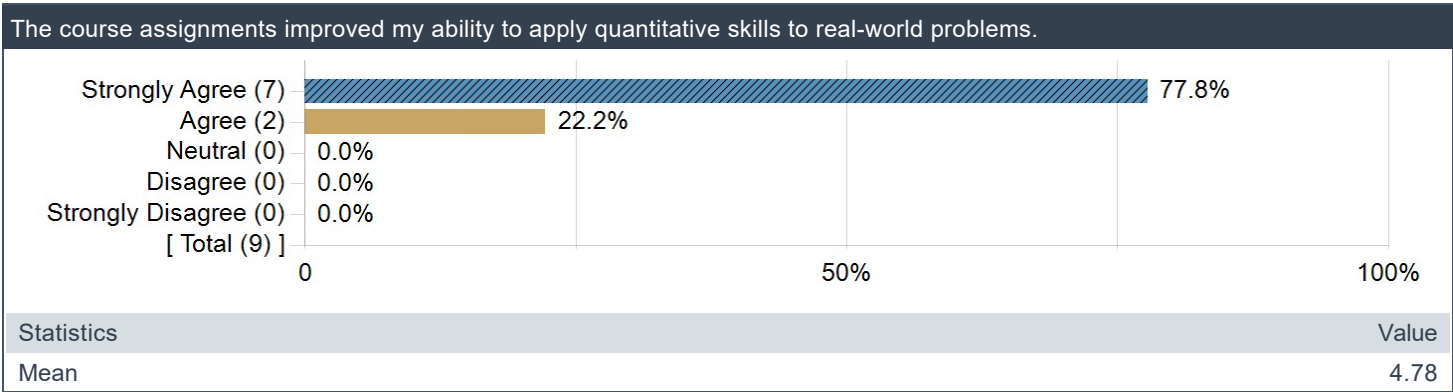
Statistics

Value

Mean

93.67

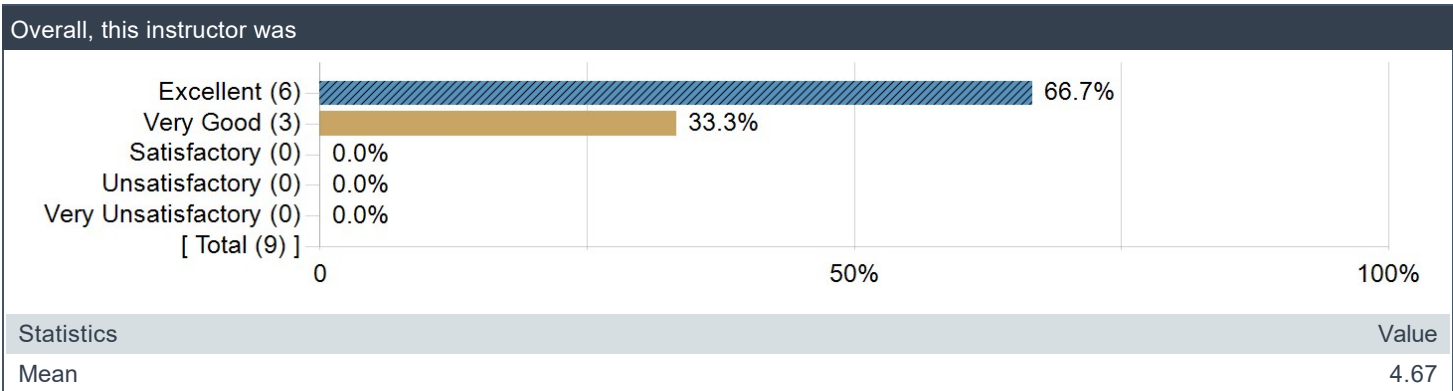
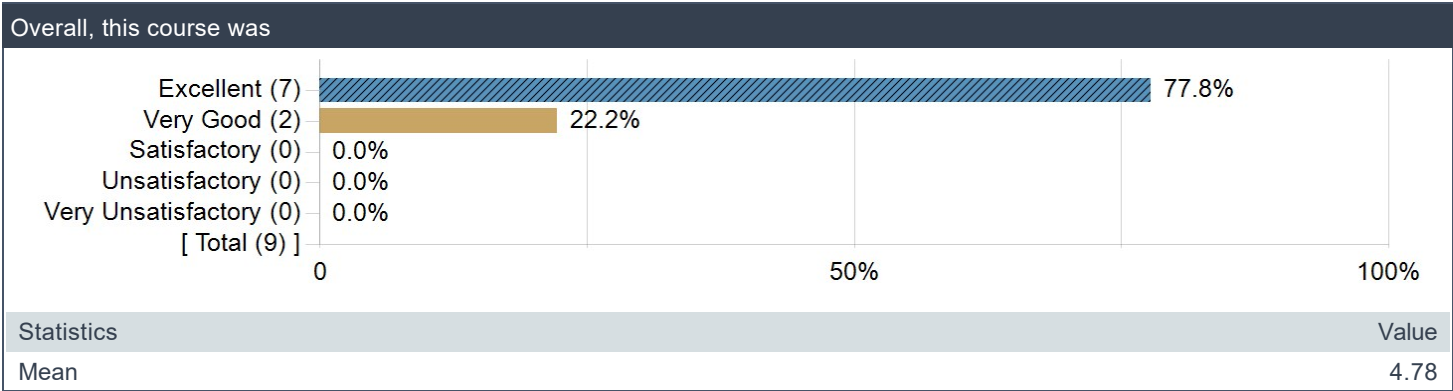
The course assignments improved my ability to apply quantitative skills to real-world problems. (Flag Question)



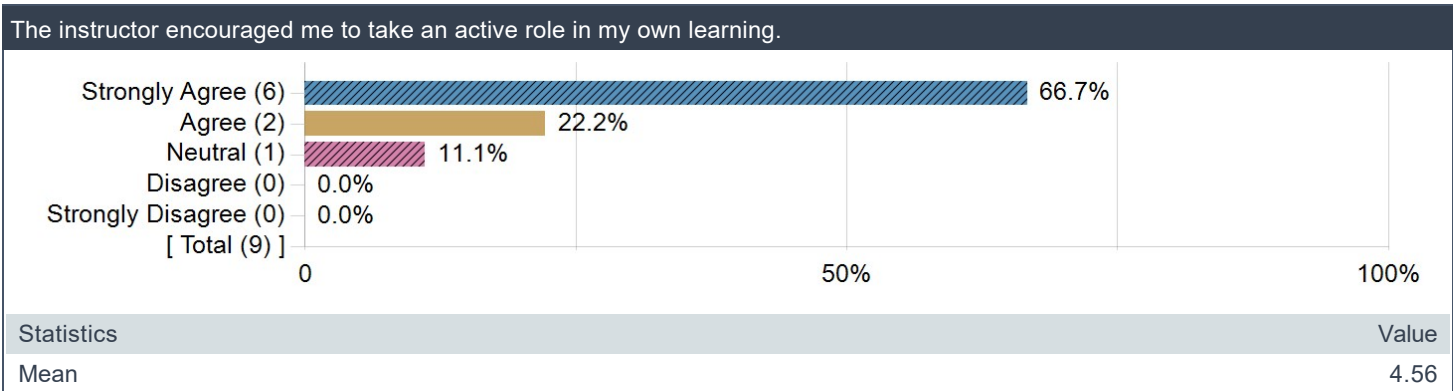
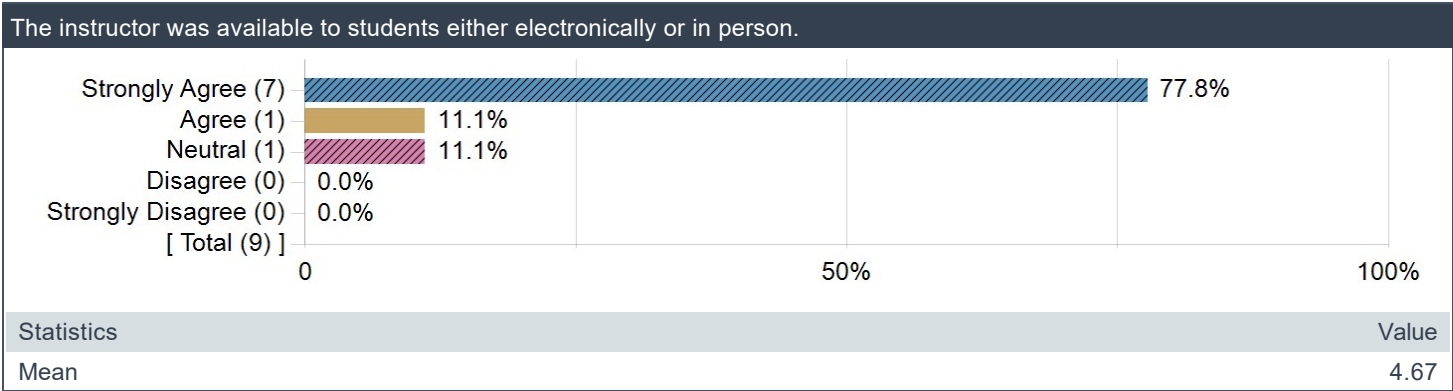
Instructor Questions

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Responded	Mean
The instructor clearly explained the course objectives and expectations.	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9	4.67
The instructor fostered an inclusive learning environment.	77.8%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9	4.78
The instructor effectively explained the concepts and subject matter in this course.	55.6%	44.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9	4.56
The instructional techniques kept me engaged in learning.	66.7%	22.2%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9	4.56
The instructor checked for student understanding of the concepts presented in the course.	77.8%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9	4.78

Overall Questions

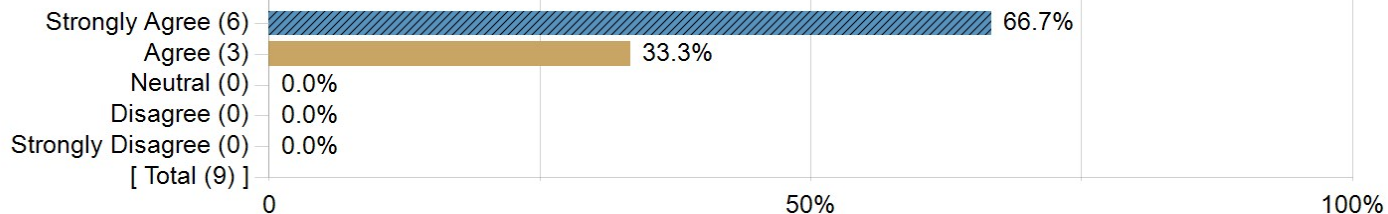


College, School, or Unit Questions



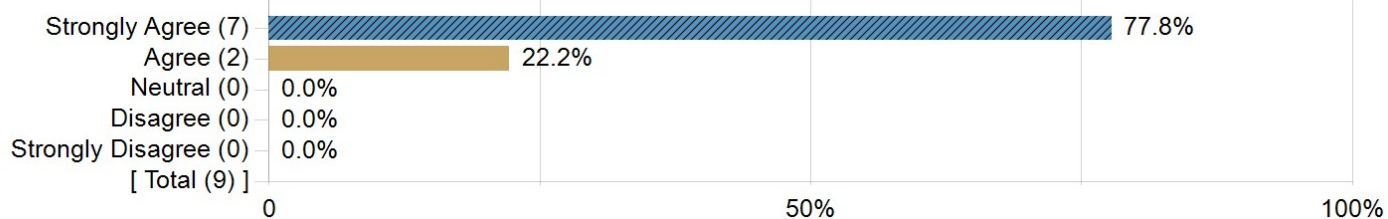
Faculty Selected Questions

The instructor carefully explained difficult concepts, methods, and subject matter.



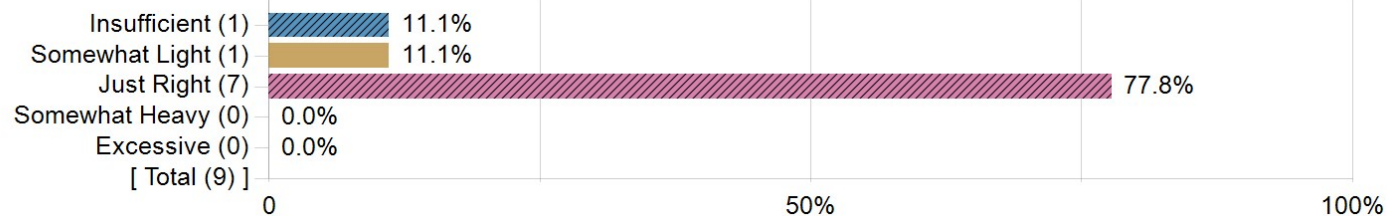
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.67

The instructor showed a thorough knowledge of the course material.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.78

In my opinion, the workload in this course was...



Statistics	Value
Invited Count	33
Response Count	9
Response Ratio	27.3%
Mean	2.67
Median	3.00
Semi-Interquartile Range	0.25
Mode	3
50th Percentile	3.00
Sum Total	0.00
Standard Deviation	0.71
Population Standard Deviation	0.67
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.24
Standard Error (base on PSD)	0.22
Aggregate Frequency 1	0.0%

Comment Questions

Identify aspects of the course that were the most effective in helping your learning.

Comments
I really enjoyed Paul Tran's welcoming attitude towards asking questions. He always encouraged us to ask questions and answered them. He is very flexible in terms of office hours, so it was very helpful to attend them. I thought it was very helpful that he was always there by our side to support us. I thought it was very effective that we covered lecture slides in class, reviewed material at home and has access to practice questions! Overall, great professor!
The practice exams, and in class kahoots were very effective in the way I studied
Paul Tran's lectures were very informative and I found he was a good instructor
I felt as if the lecture structure and course design is very simple and intended for full understanding. Going to class is very beneficial as for participation and solidifying understanding of textbook material.
Tests and Kahoots, applying learning
The everyday kahoots helped me retain and apply info in different ways each class and each of them being apart of my grade kept me focused every day. It also likely kept some classmates coming to class as well.
Helpful lectures, great practice tests, makes the class very engaging by connecting econ topics to relevant issues in our society today.
In class Kahoots and explanations

Identify the aspect of the course that you found most challenging, why you found it was challenging, and suggest one thing that could be done to help future students meet that challenge more effectively.

Comments
In terms of the course, there was not much that was challenging.
The difference between the current and capital account was a little hard to understand, so a little more time could be spent on this, but overall a very effectively taught class
This is an introduction class to Macro, but the professor at times uses real world examples that are much more complicated. Although, this really allows students to connect to real life situations. The professor also makes sure if any students have misunderstandings or questions.
N/A
The tests were difficult, but allowed me to make in-semester adjustments to my studying habits to improve.
Probably the homework. Inquisitive is genuinely just bad and has lots of trick questions. (not time efficient) I found myself quizletting them every time. I think I'd rather have problem sets similar to the practice tests.
Self-teaching. Future students should focus on inquisitive assignments as opposed to slide readings.