



# 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%**

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## 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. 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.

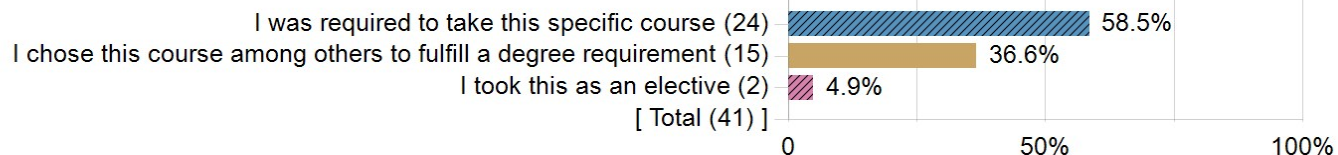
Course evaluations provide snapshots of student perspectives on their course-level learning experiences. Most experts on teaching evaluation advise that no individual method gives the complete picture of an instructor's teaching effectiveness; multiple and diverse measures, on multiple occasions, are 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.

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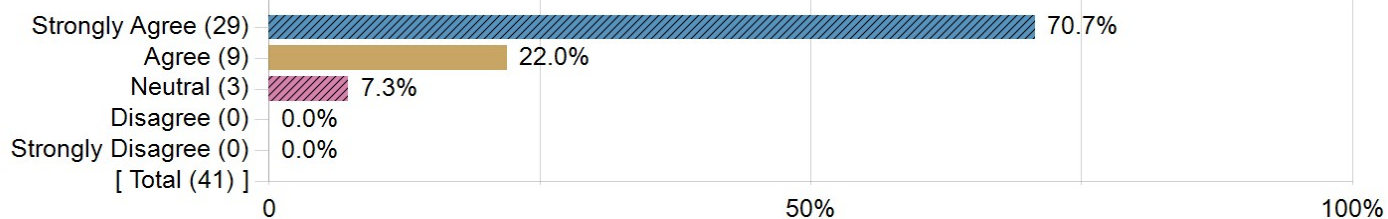
Creation Date: **Friday, May 9, 2025**

## Course Questions

Why did you take this course?



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



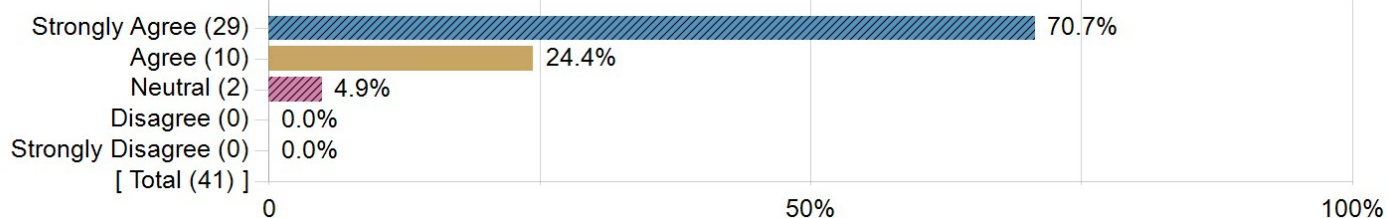
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.63

The course was well organized.



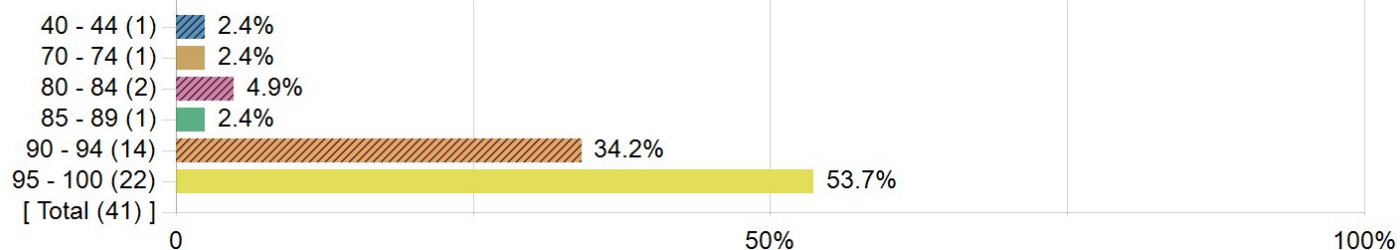
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.66

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



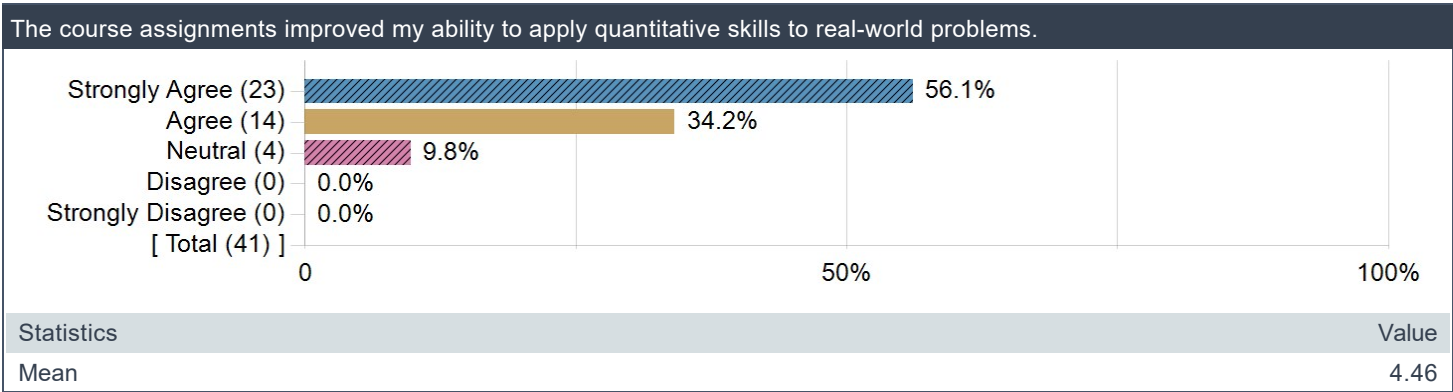
Statistics

Value

Mean

91.93

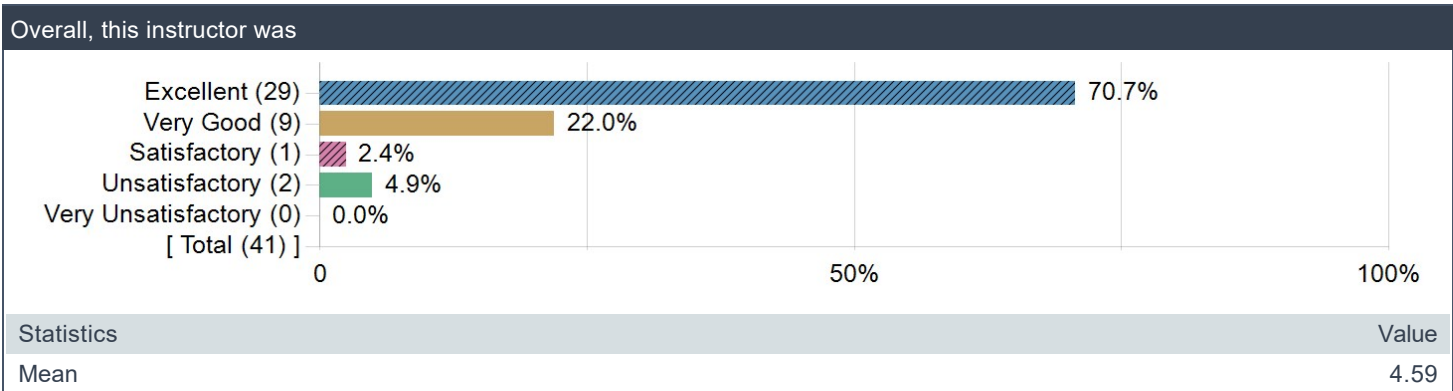
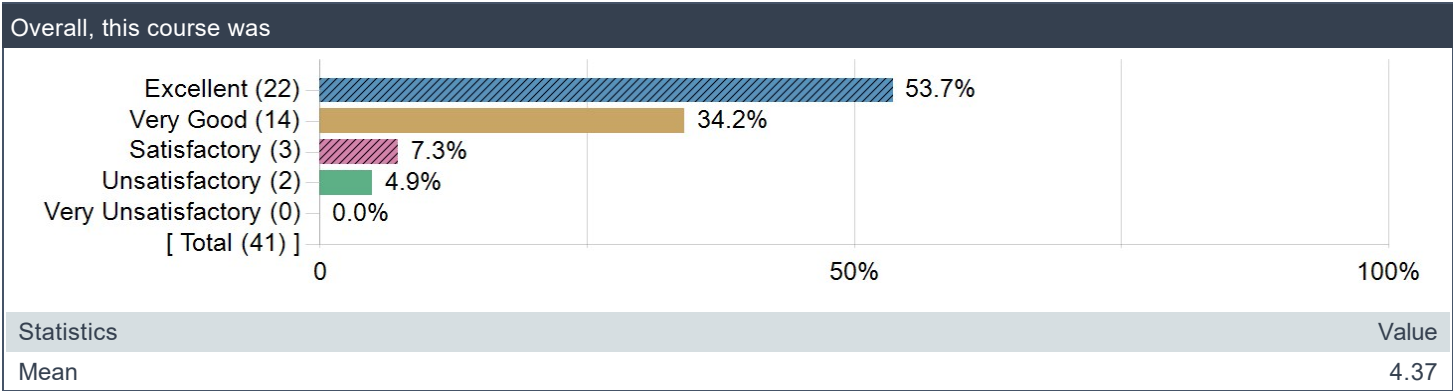
The course assignments improved my ability to apply quantitative skills to real-world problems. (Flag Question)



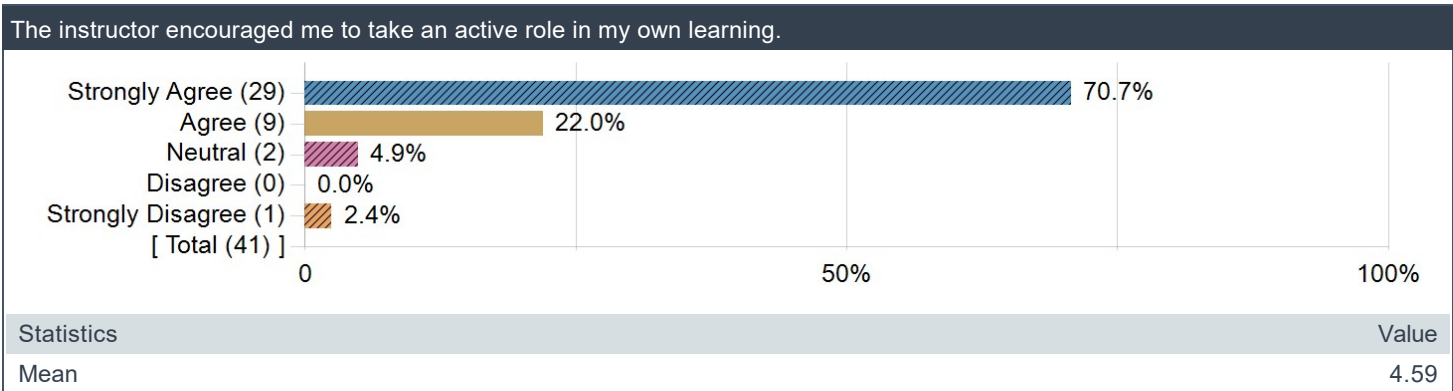
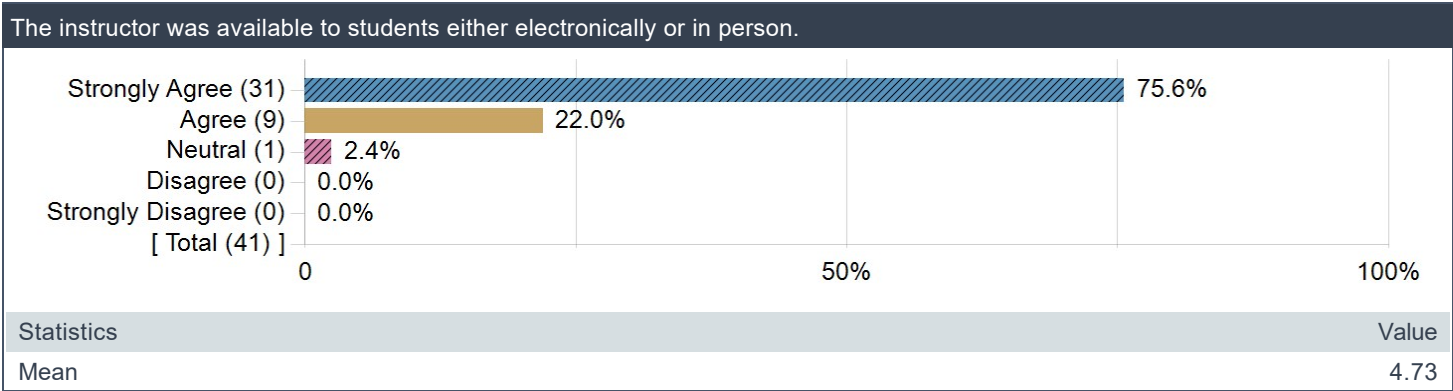
## Instructor Questions

	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

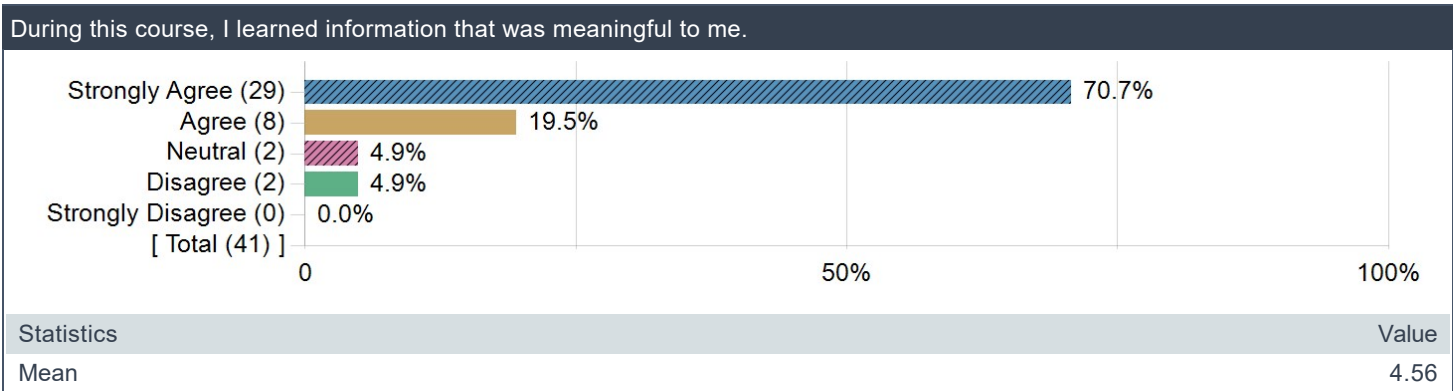
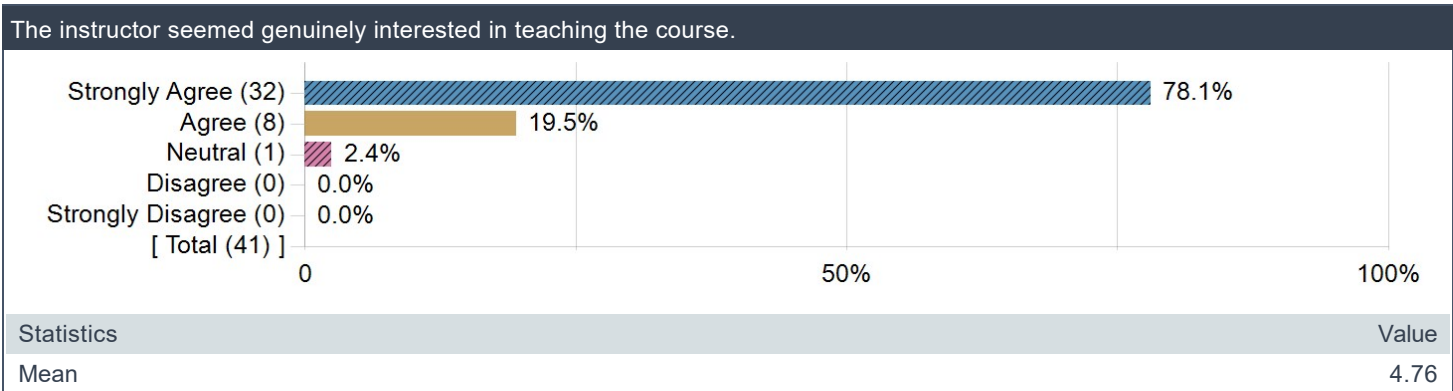
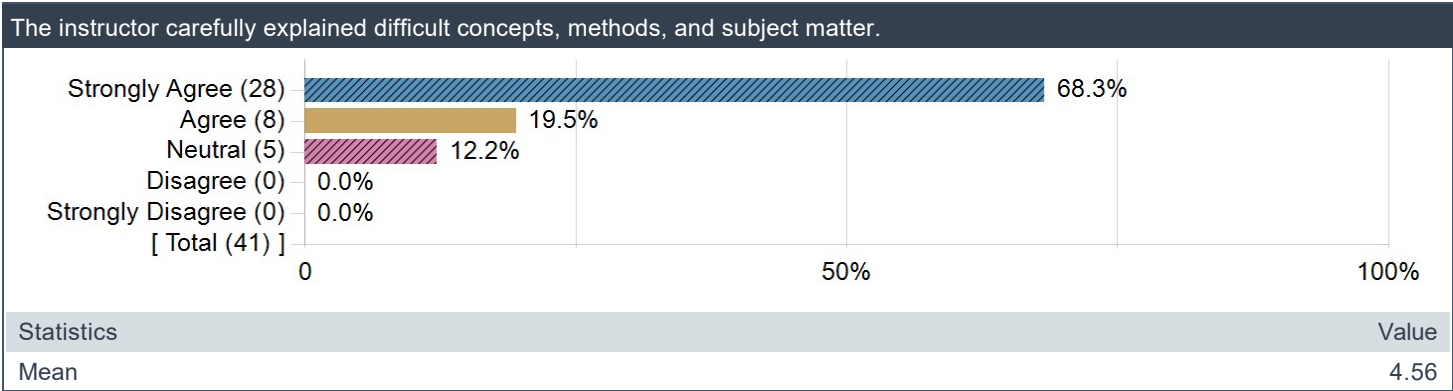
Overall Questions



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