

## EVIDENCE OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

ROBERT McDONOUGH

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

**Teaching Experience** I have prepared and taught courses at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the past two years. I have instructed two 400-person sections of our Introduction to Economics course (covering microeconomics and macroeconomics) for several terms. Additionally, I teach a case-based principles of microeconomics course to students in the [Shuford Program for Entrepreneurship](#) once a year. I have also taught small versions of my introductory course for the Honors Carolina program, as well as upper level electives in labor economics. I also taught three courses (five sections total) at the University of Oregon while a graduate student, where I received the 2020–2021 Graduate Teaching Award for my development of an effective curriculum for my labor economics course. I can provide a statement of teaching philosophy upon request.

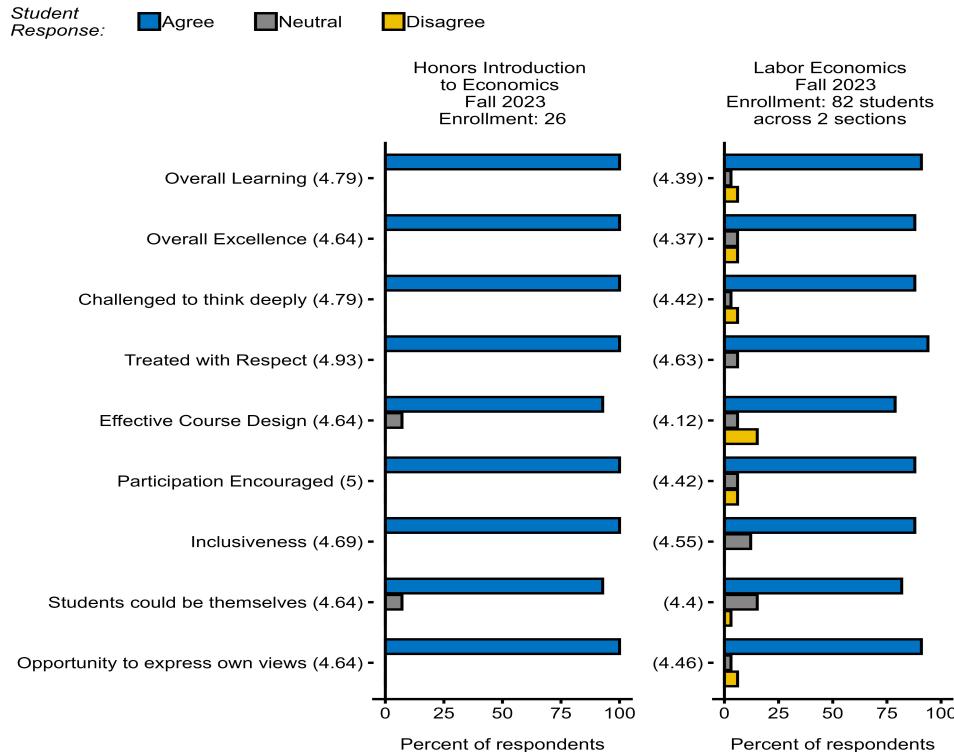
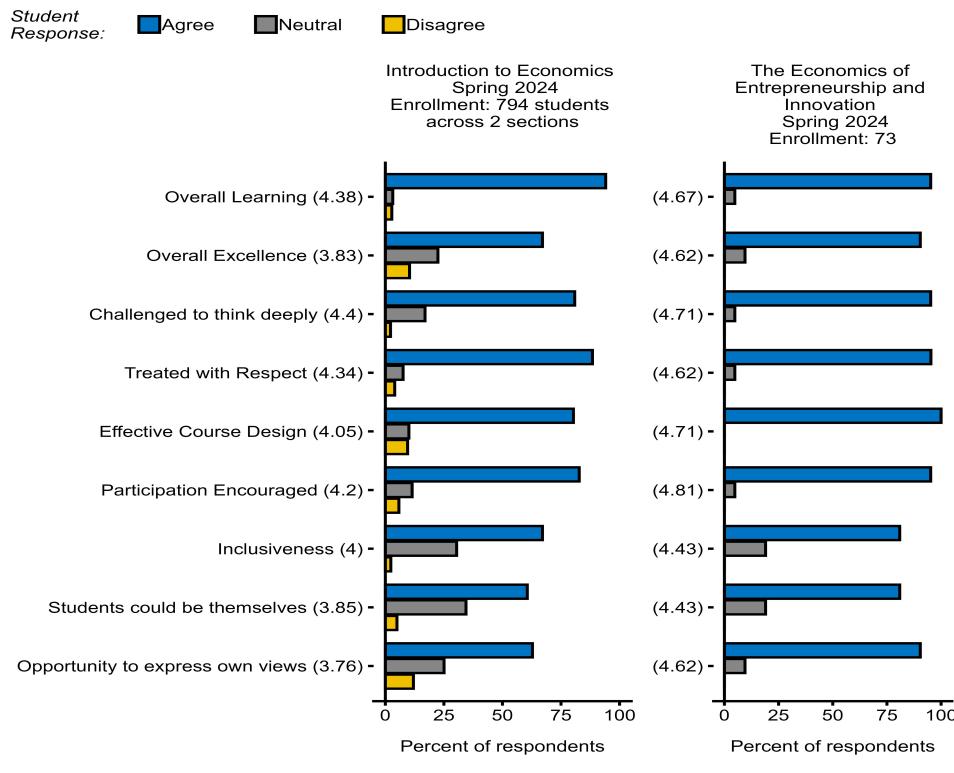
**Course Materials** Course descriptions and the most recent versions of my syllabi are available on my website at the links below ([robmcdonough.com/teaching](http://robmcdonough.com/teaching)). I can provide sample lecture slides, course assignments, and assessments upon request.

Course	Link to syllabus
Introduction to Economics	<a href="http://robmcdonough.com/files/ECON101_Fall_2024.pdf">robmcdonough.com/files/ECON101_Fall_2024.pdf</a>
The Economics of Innovation and Entrepreneurship	<a href="http://robmcdonough.com/files/ECON111_Fall_2024.pdf">robmcdonough.com/files/ECON111_Fall_2024.pdf</a>
Labor Economics	<a href="http://robmcdonough.com/files/ECON480_Fall_2023.pdf">robmcdonough.com/files/ECON480_Fall_2023.pdf</a>
Principles of Microeconomics (UO)	<a href="http://robmcdonough.com/files/EC201_Fall2021.pdf">robmcdonough.com/files/EC201_Fall2021.pdf</a>
Labor Market Issues (UO)	<a href="http://robmcdonough.com/files/EC350_Fall_2022.pdf">robmcdonough.com/files/EC350_Fall_2022.pdf</a>
Labor Economics (UO)	<a href="http://robmcdonough.com/files/EC450_Summer_2020.pdf">robmcdonough.com/files/EC450_Summer_2020.pdf</a>

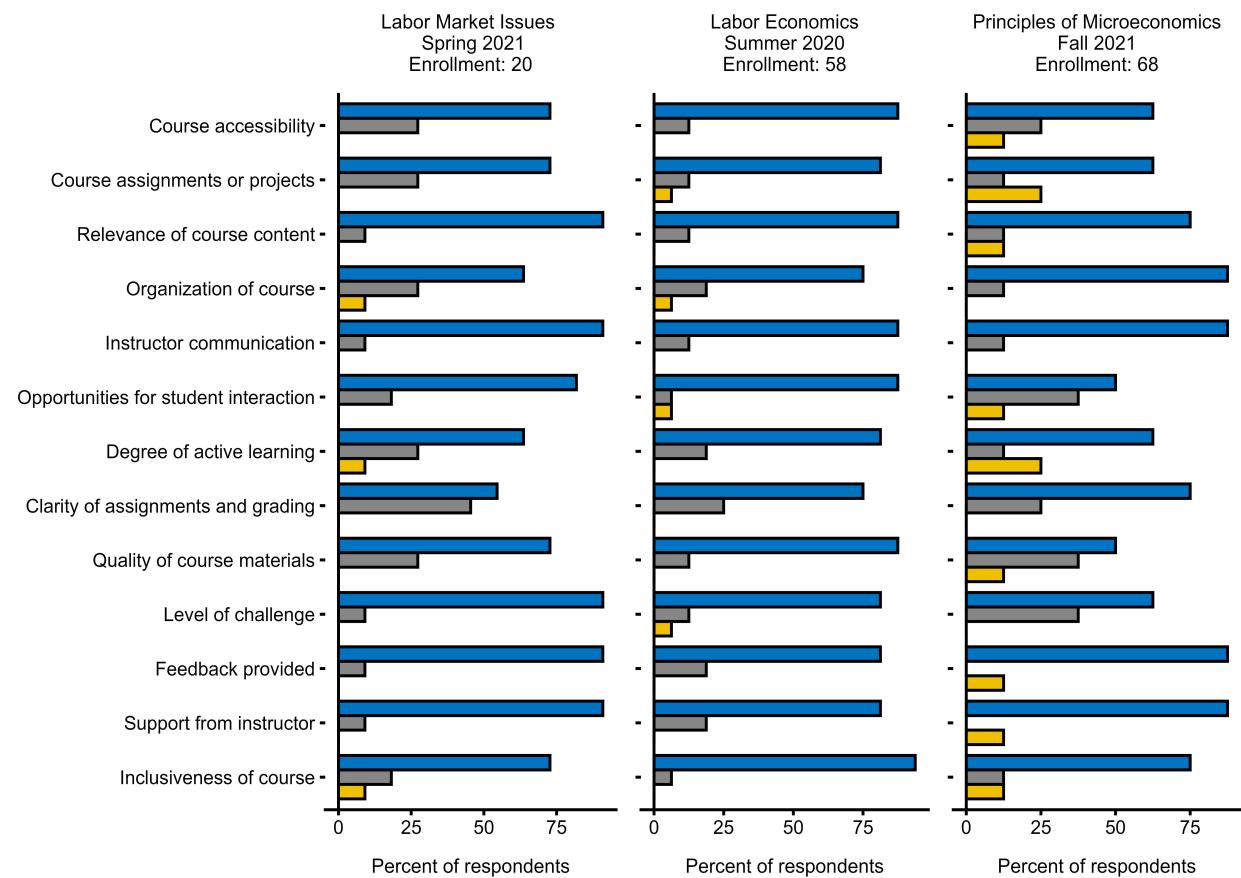
**Course evaluations** My course evaluations provide evidence that students consistently report high levels of learning and engagement across terms. I have summarized these evaluations on the following page. A copy of this document including all of my raw course evaluations is available on my website: ([robmcdonough.com/files/reviews\\_combined.pdf](http://robmcdonough.com/files/reviews_combined.pdf)).

UNC uses a standard 5-point Likert scale in student evaluations. The figure below provides the mean response value for each question asked, and also summarizes my students' evaluation of my performance into coarse categories of "Agree", "Neutral", and "Disagree".

In 2019 the University of Oregon replaced quantitative evaluations with qualitative evaluations. Instead of asking for numeric ratings, the qualitative evaluations ask students to assess whether 13 different aspects of a given course are "beneficial to learning" or "need improvement to help learning." This change was driven, in part, by evidence surrounding the shortcomings of traditional evaluations [1, 2, 3, 4]. The figure below summarizes my students' evaluation of my performance according to these benchmarks.



Quality rating:     Beneficial to learning     Neutral     Needs Improvement



## **Selected student comments**

### Introduction to Economics

*"He was a very engaging professor and his lectures were enthusiastic and exciting. The textbook readings and followup questions were very helpful. His policies of asking questions as we left "Ticket Out the Door" and being very easy to reach made it so easy to ask questions and get help."*

*"Professor McDonough made a sometimes confusing subject matter incredibly approachable and engaging. Always willing to answer any questions and conceded when he did not have an answer. He is someone who is passionate about teaching and the subject matter he is teaching."*

*"He was very engaging, getting students to participate in several interactive activities. It helped me remember a lot of the concepts and kept me paying attention in class."*

*"Robert is a very funny and interesting teacher. He has a unique way of teaching that really appeals to the college student. Economics can be a really challenging subject, and he made sure that we weren't just reading the slides or books, but were able to relate to a lot of the concepts."*

*"His lectures, even though they have 200+ students, are absolutely amazing. You feel like he's talking directly to you, and his lectures are incredibly entertaining. I often found myself putting my computer down and not taking notes just so I could pay more attention to him, which helped me understand the material and not need notes for later."*

### Honors Introduction to Economics

*"He was very responsive to feedback and genuinely wanted to improve my class in any way he could. Whether through asking for feedback on how things were going, or having a poll at the end of class to ask any additional questions and he would answer them thoroughly. He worked to have interactive examples in his class such as the reeses cup example. In addition, he provided study resources which were helpful for exams. While I am not getting an A in this class by any means, I felt that he wanted all of his students to succeed and worked hard to do that."*

*"Professor McDonough always took the time to make sure his students completely absorbed and understood the material he was teaching us. If we didn't understand it one way, he would teach us another. He was super available outside of class and devoted so much to his students to make sure that we got the best learning experience possible. He made me love economics again, and I am forever thankful that his classroom was such a welcoming atmosphere."*

### The Economics of Entrepreneurship and Innovation

*"Professor McDonough was a great professor that exposed the class to many important parts of microeconomics that applied to entrepreneurship. I was consistently engaged in his class and he did a great job of teaching the course in an organized manner. Learning about economics through real case studies of businesses was very interesting and helpful for understanding economic concepts."*

*"McDonough made sure that the class participated and structured the class in a way that basically depended on our engagement."*

### Labor Economics (UNC)

*"Offered so much support and learning outside of class and was always willing to make time to explain topics."*

*"He was very accessible outside of class and included many helpful learning resources such as*

*problem sets, the textbook, reading quizzes, and office hours.”*

*“Professor McDonough provided us with lecture slides that were very helpful towards homework and quizzes that we had in his class. all his lecture were very interactive and interesting having us engage in what he is teaching.”*

*“He allowed students to share their ideas in class, as well as provided ample opportunities to ask questions in and out of the class.”*

*“Prof McDonough is awesome! He is the best economics professor I have ever had, and explains things so clearly.”*

### Principles of Microeconomics

*“He is funny and approachable, which makes his class feel laid back and incredibly welcoming. He creates an environment that I am excited to learn in.”*

*“Robert is a really great teacher! At the beginning of the term I was nervous for this course because of my previous bad experience in my high school Macroeconomics class, but I truly enjoyed this class. He was always super helpful in answering questions, teaching material, and supporting his students. The material was challenging enough to keep me interested, but not overwhelmingly hard. I also like how the material matched what I discussed in other classes and was applicable to my daily life.”*

*“Great teacher. he understands his subject of expertise and it shows. He is truly passionate about what he does and has an amazing, fun, and happy personality. His passion for economics helps me overlook the less interesting parts.”*

*“He is a great teacher and is a little more informal than some of my other professors. It makes it easier to listen to him and understand what he’s saying.”*

*“I don’t want to sound dramatic but Robert’s class is one of the only reasons I didn’t drop out within the first 4 weeks. He’s the most supportive instructor I have this term, and one of my top 5 most supportive instructors I have ever had. This course was not easy for me, but he made it clear that he believed in me, and it was clear he meant it.”*

### Labor Market Issues (UO; junior-level labor economics course)

*“He made himself very available.”*

*“The lecture slides are always well thought out and the professor always is willing to expand and clarify on class concepts.”*

*“Absolute GOAT. Would recommend anyone to take some of his courses.”*

*“The instructor does a great job of explaining the intuition and relevancy of each topic so I have a better overall understanding of the material and why it’s important.”*

*“The weekly quizzes are important. It seems the classes that I understand the content more in have weekly quizzes. The quizzes make you think about the content you learned that week, instead of putting it off until the problem sets or midterm/final.”*

*“Since the course felt like it was built around remote lectures, the use of active learning practices helped greatly in understanding material.” (from digital course taught in 2020)*

*“I really like the in-class polls. It’s an incentive that makes sure I attend class and helps me gauge how well I am retaining the information that is being presented.” (from digital course taught in 2020)*

### Labor Economics (UO; senior-level labor economics course; digital instruction)

*“I think that this class was translated really well into a summer class. I highly enjoyed the content and I think it came at a reasonable pace.”*

## References

- [1] Anne Boring. Gender Biases in Student Evaluations of Teaching. *Journal of Public Economics*, 145:27–41, 2017.
- [2] Friederike Mengel, Jan Sauermann, and Ulf Zölitz. Gender Bias in Teaching Evaluations. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 17(2):535–566, 2019.
- [3] Laura Langbein. Management by Results: Student Evaluation of Faculty Teaching and the Mis-Measurement of Performance. *Economics of Education Review*, 27(4):417–428, 2008.
- [4] Trinidad Beleche, David Fairris, and Mindy Marks. Do Course Evaluations Truly Reflect Student Learning? Evidence from an Objectively Graded Post-Test. *Economics of Education Review*, 31(5):709–719, 2012.

**Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2024**  
**Robert Mcdonough, ECON 101-001 ECON: INTRO**  
**Mode: IP (In Person)**

Raters	Students
Responded	359
Invited	398
Response Ratio	90.2%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.39	4.00	0.69	358	1.1%	0.8%	2.8%	48.6%	46.6%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.30	4.00	0.86	357	1.1%	3.6%	8.4%	37.8%	49.0%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.28	4.00	0.86	356	1.1%	3.4%	10.1%	37.6%	47.8%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.03	4.00	0.89	358	0.8%	1.7%	27.9%	32.7%	36.9%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	3.87	4.00	0.95	358	1.4%	3.9%	32.4%	31.0%	31.3%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	3.82	4.00	1.00	358	2.2%	7.3%	24.9%	37.4%	28.2%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.42	5.00	0.74	359	0.8%	1.7%	5.0%	39.3%	53.2%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.02	4.00	0.99	357	2.5%	7.6%	10.1%	44.8%	35.0%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	3.83	4.00	1.03	356	2.2%	9.8%	19.9%	38.8%	29.2%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.

N	Yes	No
356	99.4%	0.6%

## Open-Ended Responses

### 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Spring 2024 semester?

#### Comments

Professor McDonough made the class very engaging and entertaining. You can tell he tries to be relatable and entertaining. I do wish that lecture didn't go quite as fast and that the exam short answers questions were a bit more fair. I think that short answers questions should have been taught in lecture and/or recitation. It felt like many short answers were made to trick us.

They had plenty of study sessions and study groups all throughout the year, and made it known every week that they were available for people to use. Also gave a review paper that had most of the topics that were going to be on the test.

He had a lot of different things available outside of class to help people learn

Comments

During lectures and recitations. They both were really helpful to learn all the material.

Professor McDonough was an excellent instructor and explained topics in a way that made me relate them to my own life, thus helping me understand better. His lectures were structured very similar content-wise to what we read in the textbook and this helped avoid confusion. Overall, Professor McDonough is the reason I came to enjoy economics and add it as my second major.

He showed up to teach and he was nice (besides the first midterm)

His lectures were very engaging and informational. It is hard in such a large lecture to feel like we are heard, but he did offer the chance to ask questions at the end of every lecture which was good.

Making tests extremely hard. Made me want to get drunk right after

Left a lot of resources available

Allowed for his presentations to be available on Canvas.

He was energetic and helpful. Lectures were engaging and more than just reading off slides. Also, he was always willing to help in office hours.

The lectures were very engaging. ROb made the lectures fun to sit though and easy to learn from, offering various examples to simple everything down.

His lectures were extremely helpful as he made sure every subject was entertaining and collaborative rather than simply giving a boring, plain lecture based on reading off the slides.

Always available and explains problems thoroughly.

He was a very engaging professor and his lectures were enthusiastic and exciting. The textbook readings and followup questions were very helpful. His policies of asking questions as we left "Ticket Out the Door" and being very easy to reach made it so easy to ask questions and get help.

Recitations helped me a lot to understand the course material.

Good lectures

Provided ample opportunities for questions in class, office hours/help sessions.

I believe there were a lot of resources given to students with ECON help sessions and other ways for students to receive help.

Robert is incredibly passionate about Econ, making the course very accessible for prospective Econ majors, business majors, and non-majors. I appreciate the structure he has created, including lectures, achieve homeworks, problem sets, and ample breaks to study for exams. He also includes a ticket out the door at the end of his slides and office hours.

He gave us all the resources we could use.

Through in class activities and engaging polls

Robert had very engaging lectures that encouraged student participation. He gave us extra credit opportunities and was very fair. Recitations helped me really understand the material we went over in lecture.

He made sure we had regular homework assignments and problem sets as checks for understanding.

Deez

Achieve homework weekly to reinforce topics learned in class. Problem sets to try harder open ended problems as practice for the open-ended questions of exams.

He made his lectures very entertaining while also informative. Learned a great deal from this course. Also liked how the textbook aligned perfectly with the content we did in class.

The volunteer opportunities and hands on activities were a blast. I greatly enjoyed the atmosphere of the room whenever we had a participation activity to help us understand what we were learning that day in relation to economics. The Paper Airplanes, Running Up the Stairs versus Doing Push Ups, and other activities made learning fun and engaging unlike sitting still and listening to a lecture for an hour. I would love it if Robert put more hands on activities in the course (it honestly made me look forward to coming to class).

He was very engaging, getting students to participate in several interactive activities. It helped me remember a lot of the concepts and kept me paying attention in class.

Gave examples through videos and volunteer things

Comments

As it was a big lecture hall, Professor McDonough lectured efficiently and tried to make the lectures related to the things he thought we would know about.

After midterms he provided opportunities for reflection and sent out material to help students prepare for tests and better understand the subject matter.

the practice problems were helpful

He taught very informative lectures that were impactful and mindful. Although, I do believe that a lot of the content taught during class and tested on during achieve homework's does not adequately reflect that material on the exams. The exams are much harder than the material taught.

There was a lot of extra activities and help which was nice for studying.

He was a great lecturer and made bland material interesting

He provided office hours, lessons, and demonstrations to help us learn the content.

There were lots of homework assignments to enhance learning as well as problem sets. Office hours were available to answer specific questions and the end of week announcements helped to sum up the content learned for the week.

He offered endless opportunities to meet for office hours and ask questions

He was an engaging lecturer.

He was very eager to teach econ and broke it down into understandable examples. He also had fun activities that we did in class occasionally that would relate to the econ principles that were interesting.

Prof. McDonough made learning economics fun through relatable examples and clear outlines for us to follow.

Professor McDonough made a sometimes confusing subject matter incredibly approachable and engaging. Always willing to answer any questions and conceded when he did not have an answer. He is someone who is passionate about teaching and the subject matter he is teaching.

He was very interactive with what was in the textbook so, not only did we learn about what was in the textbook through our own readings, it was repeated to us in class in a way that majorly helped in memorizing and understanding the content!

By being the most coolest Econ Instructor

Held office hours

Did well with all the achieves, problem sets, and practice questions/exams

He is a very nice guy and knows the subject very well so he gave good explanations for the material.

The polls and examples are great. I really just like the teaching style. I felt like I learned a lot through examples and good connection to material.

He gave lectures and held review sessions.

He was very enthusiastic with the way he taught.

Giving us many homework opportunities and lots of options to go to office hours or Econ aid

was enthusiastic about econ which showed through in the course

Holding office hours, review sessions, and sending emails.

I really liked the way the class was structured, and there were only about 3 types of assignments I had to expect from the class (problem sets, Achieve homeworks, and exams). This organized structure was helpful for knowing what was due and when.

Slideshows

ticket out the door forms, lots of help sessions, problem sets

His lectures were terrible and annoying. You had to learn from the textbook.

Proper teaching and providing good materials

ECON 101 was a challenging course. Professor McDonough was easily accessible throughout the course, and had various resources available to students.

Comments

He gave us many opportunities to receive help on the content of the course and hosted many review sessions for his lectures.

He created opportunities for us to use econ in real world examples. His lectures could be more improved and more interactive and not just content based.

Office hours

Offered opportunities to pursue instruction outside of class

He encouraged us to ask questions in class, was an overall good presenter of the material, and structured the class in a way that incentivized students to do the necessary work to succeed in this class.

The Econ review sessions were amazing and his lectures were always full of excitement that led me to feel passionate while learning.

Provided good resources

He taught lectures very well

Making lectures engaging and less boring by doing class activities and discussions

Professor McDonough always brought a lot of energy to the lectures.

He had engaging lectures.

He was very involved and made lectures interesting by interjecting his talks with including video and class activities that were relevant to the topic at hand.

My instructor had office hours and review sessions available.

Lots of homework to practice

Robert McDonough made learning possible during the Spring 2024 semester through providing detailed lectures on the material.

Lectures were posted on canvas, interactive Poll Everywhere, weekly online homework and problem sets once a month to make sure we were on track with the material.

Learning was made possible through in class activities and problem sets.

Prof. McDonough made learning possible through his excitement for teaching each day in class. He was very optimistic and prepared to teach class which made it easier to pay attention in such a large classroom. With the size of the class, he did the best he could by explaining the material properly.

His lectures are engaging, fun, complex, and interesting. I liked using achieve as a homework tool and I felt like it was manageable!

His lectures were very good. He was clear and animated and I enjoyed coming to class.

He helped adjust exam percentage requirements as the semester progressed which helped immensely

Robert was a knowledgeable and kind guy who provided thought-provoking and informational lectures.

Explaining things in class.

Dr. McDonough is very enthusiastic about economics, which made it much easier to learn and be interested in the content of this course. Lectures were engaging and presented the material differently from the textbook, so we were able to have a more thorough and complete understanding of the content.

Professor McDonough is very passionate about economics and made it easy to attend class. He was flexible with assignment due dates. He made some mistakes on the first exam but took responsibility and made sure it did not happen on the second exam. Admitting fault in that situation can be difficult but he did not hesitate to do so.

he was able to seek our needs when it came to issues or problems with any of the materials for the course.

He made learning possible by making himself available for questions and making many resources available to use to gain more knowledge in and outside of class.

He did offer a large amount of ways to improve, especially since I really struggled in the class – multiple office hours and study sessions with the TAs and ULAs

Prof. McDonough brought real passion to the course and encouraged his students to share in his passion for economics.

Lots of office hours, help sessions, etc. Very willing to answer questions. Fun examples and interesting questions. I also appreciated how much he did to remove grade stress so I was more able to focus on learning

Comments

Professor McDonough was very passionate about the material and tried to make lectures as entertaining as possible.

he ate but maybe he should record his lectures – have more practice material

his individual office hours were incredibly helpful and a great opportunity to meet the professor and ask questions.

Very forgiving and listened to students feedback throughout the course of the semester.

Super accessible

Lots of help sessions in Econ Aid.

N/A

He posted achieve homework with the correlated textbook chapters we were supposed to read, which helped me to learn and review the material on my own. He also had us do problem sets which I worked on with friends to collaborate and learn more information better using real-world examples.

He made lectures very exciting by himself being excited. His lectures were engaging and fun. He also was very organized, and we could always get help if we need it. The homeworks were helpful as well.

explained the topics well in class and gave us opportunities to practice outside of class

he was good at explaining things and was clearly very enthusiastic about the subject!

He made sure that enough information was given.

He gave enthusiastic lectures every meeting period and made sure that everyone knew exactly what they needed to do to succeed.

He had great examples and explanations of course material. There was always something to refer to when I got confused, whether it was class slides he posted, homework that I could do over and over again with feedback, the campuswire, or help sessions. He basically made it impossible to not understand. If you used the resources, you understood. He also didn't try to trick us. I know this is a hard course, but he tried to make it as understandable as possible.

Many resources for review and studying

Through providing specific definitions for terms in the notes.

I really liked his teaching method.

Practice exams, lecture slides, problem sets

He was always available to meet for extra help.

He was very knowledgeable and excited about economics.

May review sessions and times to come in for additional help were offered.

He provided us with multiple polls to keep us engaged and a ticket out the door to ask questions.

lectures, office hours, review sessions, recitations

He took in feedback from the class and adjusted as needed.

He had a lot of help sessions.

He was very accomodating and gracious.

the way he taught was very engaging

He did his best to provide students with resources to study and learn the material.

He was very passionate about the subject that made it worthwhile going to class. Also all of the homework assignments helped, and it made completing them worth it that you could get a 100 and see what you were doing (to help yourself learn).

The class environment was interactive and engaging,

The textbook was extremely helpful as there is many sources that helped me study and learn in it.

Comments

He made many office hours available as well as holding study hours with TAs and ULAs before exams which was really helpful.

Useful power points and helpful problem sets. I also feel the recitations were extremely useful as those were most similar to what we are being tested on. One thing that may be of value is adding more worked problems to your power points as I feel like that was a part of where I was left confused after lectures was trying to figure out how to do some of the problems on the achieves. Ultimately, just one example problem of what we should expect to see would be useful.

Professor Mcdonough gave us extensive opportunities outside of class to get help with the course content and especially for exam prep.

He was very good at explaining the concepts.

Learning was made possible through lectures, problem sets, weekly homework problems, textbook readings, practice exams, recitations, and office hours in the EconAid center. Overall, I thought that the structure of the class helped to adequately prepare me for exams and learn the content.

having many review sessions

Professor Mcdonough was truly one of the best teachers I have had in a big lecture class. He cares about his students, but nevertheless pushes them to succeed.

Robert was always so enthusiastic about the material which made it easier to engage with the lecture. Robert also offered a lot of extra help sessions with the TAs during midterm and final season, which was so incredibly helpful.

He is an interactive lecturer. Lots of interesting in-class activities. There could be more emphasis on textbook readings as they can be lengthy and hard to understand after reading by ourselves outside of the classroom.

the problem sets in recitation always helped me understand, my recitation TA was very good at explaining

Relevant questions on the problem sets were very helpful when studying for exams.

He made class somewhat interactive with different activities and demonstrations.

McDonough provided enough homework to help me review after class. Also, his lectures were interactive and helpful.

Recitations helped so much in reviewing course material.

The achieve homework has helped a lot in explaining the class material that I struggled with.

Robert did a great job at trying to meet everyone's needs and took a very humanitarian approach when it came to conflicts and problems with the material, exams, etc. I really liked the assignments we had, I think that they all helped me learn in some way, even if it was just additional practice.

idk

He provided many resources to aid learning and his lectures were very engaging.

He gave midterms, problem sets, and achieve homework. However, they were times during lecture where we would not be able to digest the material. Though he would try to get through material really quickly so we could leave, I would have rather he let us actually digest what he was saying before he moved on to another part of information, as I would not be able to keep up and I would quickly get confused. It would also seem like sometimes during his office hours that he was really angry or mad at me for asking questions, and it made me feel a bit like a loser for coming.

N/A

He had consistent help sessions outside of class

He was engaging and very passionate when teaching which made the content easier to digest.

I liked that there was not that much mandatory work, but that there were plenty of resources available. It allowed you to put in the amount of effort you wanted.

Really gave plenty of options to do well in the course if you wanted to.

good presentations

Encouragement

I think by answering questions and providing helpful review sessions before exams.

Comments

His problem sets, and homework through Achieves are perfectly aligned with the content that we were learning in class, which allowed for me to understand the material better.

I liked the opportunities to practice problems for exams.

Lectures, homework, exams.

Professor McDonough really made the idea of Economics fun and I did really enjoy coming to class. This class was something that scared me coming into it, but professor McDonough is a super nice and outgoing person who did a lot of class demonstrations to make economic principles easier to visualize. He was super helpful in organizing office hours and review sessions, and was always open to talk after class. His lectures were always interesting and fairly easy to follow.

I thought Robert McDonough was a phenomenal and amazing professor. He made every effort to connect with the students and used a lot of different techniques to teach. I went to office hours a lot and he was always very attentive and receptive of what I was asking and would explain his answers in different ways until something clicked for me. He also was so incredibly understanding of things I had going on outside of the classroom, which I greatly appreciated.

he was very helpful outside of class

He had a lot of help sessions which were helpful to answer my questions

Professor McDonough is without a doubt passionate about the material he teaches. I think his passion for economics really helped me want to better understand the material that was being presented.

His lectures were informative and consistent in their format, making class content easy to digest in general. The resources provided for midterms were helpful, however, sometimes the lectures were too content/notes heavy and fast-paced to really understand each concept.

lectures are super engaging and Robert is so passionate about teaching

Professor McDonough was extremely engaging and made the course material easier to understand. I genuinely learned so much from lecture and believe he is one of the best lecturers I've had at UNC so far.

I appreciated the recitation practice questions.

Robert held engaging and informative lectures, office hours and help sessions, and was always open to answer questions.

Dr. McDonough provided helpful lectures that summarized the course readings and provided several opportunities to seek help through office hours and review sessions.

Very entertaining

He had great lectures and helpful homework

Mr. McDonough kept my attention during our lectures with his fun comments, intro music, and great explanations!

taught us during lecture and gave problem sets

I liked the way class was set up. I liked how the lectures followed the pre-readings because I took notes on the readings and always felt prepared for class. I also feel as though the entire class was very fair. All class policies were fair, clear, and made sense, and I think that his first lecture made his expectations and reasoning evident. ECON 101 is a difficult course, but Rob gave us all the resources necessary to succeed. Furthermore, he is a great lecturer, and though some of the macro lessons were a bit confusing, he clearly conveyed the subject and explained it with both jargon and real world examples. Wonderful professor and great guy!

good lectures

He offered office hours, and lectured very well.

he was a good teacher

Great teacher

His lectures were very in-depth and expanded upon the topics we were supposed to know in great detail.

lots of explanation and office hours

didn't respond on campus wire to essential questions near exam times; told us that he was disappointed in us all; grading seems to pull everyone's grades down on purpose which is dumb; I study so hard and I can't manage to get anything going in this class; also how on earth are you going to give our short answer to ULA grad students and people

Comments

way past econ 101 and ask them if it makes sense (ofc it does to them!!!!) but you are forgetting about who is actually taking the class; i legitimately feel like nothing i do is good enough for this class and the study methods im using here ive used many times successfully; maybe if everyone's getting 60s thats a better representation of the teacher than the students – this is unc not many people are trying to get a bad score

He was very thorough in his lectures

Lectures were interesting and had good content. The textbook was applicable and interesting.

Providing homework, problem sets, and recitation assignments to learn the material.

He had lecture slides and gave us practice problems

He held review sessions, taught lectures, and provided practice materials on the content.

He offered many opportunities to learn content and really understand the material.

– encouraged questions/feedback

– provided room to practice without being faulted/penalized

– made class resources available after lecture

He held many help sessions every week, as well as led engaging lectures. One helpful part of class was the ticket out the door, where we could ask questions that would be posted in an email.

Spoke with passion

Offered ample opportunities to ask questions which he personally answered, offered extensive office hours and help sessions.

We had access to slideshows from class at any time with the problems we went over during class.

Definitely made the content a little more interesting given his experiences and comparisons.

Professor Mcdonough is very talented at helping explain the course topics. His use of real-world examples and explaining things in a real-world setting helped me so much to understand.

He made the content pretty understandable with his lectures. His TAs and ULAs were available as a resource, as well as himself. His teaching style was interesting and I would be able to stay more focused.

He taught very thoroughly and with enthusiasm.

He broke up the material into manageable chunks that were easier to understand. McDonough also made help available everyday for if it was needed. He also organized exam review sessions that were held by DAs the day before the exam to practice topics that were going to be on the exam, as well as to go over all the topics. This allowed any confusion to be cleared up and allowed me to go into the exams very confidently.

He was an active professor

Professor Mcdonough hosted help sessions through TAs and gave us study materials.

Through office hours and discussions

Was always available, and provided a lot of study resources.

He provided extra practice questions and a practice exam to help with exam performance.

He always held class during our scheduled time. His lectures were always very organized and he used the full class time. Before exams he set up review sessions, always had a place for questions in class, and had readings to go with each lecture.

Holding TA session

Problem sets and giving real world examples for some of the concepts we learned.

The achieve homework was unlimited so we could use this as practice for exams and problem sets.

Professor Mcdonough is an excellent instructor and presents the material in easy to digest increments.

## Comments

In my opinion, the tests were not a good gauge of the students knowledge base of the material. The 60 min time limit was not enough as there was a large quantitative portion to each midterm, which took time to calculate the answer correctly. We were not afforded enough time and the difficulty level of the majority of the questions was beyond what an introductory course should be. I personally put in 20+ hours prepping for each midterm and did poorly on both. With that amount of time and effort, that should not be the case. The review tests that were sent out were much easier than the actual exam.

My intention is not a knock against Professor McDonough, who is great in every other aspect of his teaching, but rather a critique of the testing process that hopefully will be considered for future classes.

He explains each concept very thoroughly and clearly.

Interactive lectures, relevant homework and problem sets, office hours

Provided lots of review sessions and time outside of class to work with students

He made himself available whenever we needed. He provided us with all the tools we needed to succeed in the class.

He brought so much energy to classes about what is arguably not a very energetic subject. His mentality around and enjoyment for economics made every class exciting and enjoyable.

He allowed for questions and was clear about instructions and help sessions

Achieve homeworks, lectures, recitations, and problem sets were all helpful.

Robert was very enthusiastic about economics which created a positive learning environment, he always wanted students to feel prepared for his exams. He provided weekly announcements and always encouraged students to ask questions which he shared with all students in case others had similar questions. His learning software provided the ebook and open note, infinite attempt quizzes to help with our understanding. The problem sets also allowed further practice. He posted his slides after each lecture and provided many opportunities for review sessions.

His expressive lectures kept me engaged and allowed me to feel more comfortable with the material.

Robert held consistent classes each week with informative slides and high energy each class.

He made the lectures fun and engaging

Professor McDonough is very engaging during lectures and fun to listen to.

He made classes fun!

He's definitely the best ECON 101 teacher! He's entertaining and engaging, available to help, and a good lecturer.

– Variety of ways to demonstrate knowledge (homework assignments, problem sets, exams, etc)

– Lectures were comprehensive and engaging, complimented assigned textbook readings to encourage understanding of material

## Lectures

Providing many homework assignments to help my understanding and the practice test available before exams.

My instructor provided students with many opportunities for extra help outside of class and recitation, which was a really helpful option to have.

he was available at office hours

He gave us homework and chapters to read at a steady pace and allowed practice through problems done in class and in recitations and problems sets.

His lectures were engaging and he provided enough practice for us to learn the material. I think a little bit more provided practice would be helpful with the exam.

My instructor was accommodating with grades and modification to exam grading in order to ensure that we were focused on learning the material and less on our grades.

Robert McDonough made learning possible through comprehensive and easy to understand lectures. He also had plenty of time allotted at the econ aid center where I could go for follow up questions or help with out-of-class work.

He offered countless help sessions and review sessions prior to midterms, and also for those struggling with problem sets and homeworks.

Comments

through good lectures with slides and the problem sets and practice exams helped me learn the material

Prof. Mcdonough made econ approachable and interesting. As a stem major, I never saw a point to taking Econ 101 and had heard horrible things about the course, but Prof. Mcdonough made this so enjoyable and something that I found useful for my future. I truly think he changed my perspective on econ and made this class a highlight of my semester! Hes the only professor I can truly say makes me want to take another econ class!

He offered lots of opportunity to receive help in the Econ aid center and held review sessions before exams at multiple times which was convenient.

He offered a lot of help sessions and covered all the bases for questions/asking for help. It was very helpful to have the achieve as completion.

Robert Mcdonough held engaging lectures and the problem sets helped further my understanding of the material.

He, along with his TA's, offered many review sessions and office hours.

He always had the lecture notes posted.

His lectures were in depth to help learn. The Achieve problem sets were not super effective though. He offered help in EconAid which was helpful good lectures. although really fast

Encouraged us to do the work instead of just grading for correctness

He often included in class questions and poll everywheres to make the class more interactive which is difficult in a 400 person lecture. I also appreciated that he uploaded the notes before and after class so that we could go over the notes on our own time.

Helpful during office hours and at the EconAid center.

Engaging and fun

he understood that as an athlete I would miss some time and was very easy to work with on making things up / staying on top of things

I appreciated that we had unlimited attempts for the achieve homework and the amount of work outside of class was always reasonable. His lectures are engaging and I like how he posts the lecture slides after class so during class you can listen and not scramble to take notes.

Dr. Mcdonough provided enough resources to be partially successful in ECON 101. While I had a hard time with the class, and I feel like lectures were a little too dense, he still treated students with respect and kindness and wanted every student to succeed.

Many help sessions available, low stakes practice that was helpful

Through the problem sets and the variety of assignment types that he offered made it easier to learn the content. He also posted more practice assignments for those that needed the extra help which was very helpful when exams were coming near.

Your course is great, but make the FRQ section of your midterms more similar to what we actually do in class.

Or, if you are going to give us a curve ball, make us aware in class of the logic behind that trick question without actually giving us the question.

We have to KNOW that an economic scenario can occur to be able to study for it – if we don't know that said scenario is even a possibility, how are we supposed to know how to solve it?

Homework, problem sets, practice problems

Recitations and review sessions

Dr. Mcdonough did a good job teaching in classes and making sure he thoroughly explained subject material so that we could understand. However, his midterms were quite unfair at times and I think that if he made them a little easier and similar to practice questions and course content then we would be more prepared. Also, the full 75 minutes should be allotted for the midterms rather than just 60 because I feel like time is not something that we should be tested on that heavily.

He was articulate during lectures and posted all lecture material after class. Resources were organized in a way that was easy to access.

We had a variety of different ways to practice and engage with what we were learning, for example recitations where we could discuss problems in small groups or problem sets where we got to think deeper about the subject matter. Professor Mcdonough was really passionate about the material and understanding with grades, he really made it easier to

Comments

focus on learning the material and getting a strong foundation, instead of stressing about deadlines. He also was very open to feedback throughout the semester and made adjustments accordingly. Great professor!

He offered in class and out of class instruction and help and provided resources to help students review and practice the material on their own.

Professor McDonough created an interactive environment for all students to learn, excel, and grow in the field of economics. He wasn't shy of expressing his own views and thoughts on the subject matter, always been enthusiastic throughout all lectures he's given. Another aspect is that Professor McDonough is really passionate about economics, which is an innate trait that I truly respect in a professor, as it has provided a more, suitable condition for students to learn economics.

During Lecture, Office Hours, and through Canvas announcements.

His lectures were very detailed and he offered plenty of help sessions.

He taught the class well and made sure we had opportunities to get help.

He brought energy to a fairly boring class, making it easier to pay attention.

Professor McDonough was open to answering questions during class, quick to answer emails, provided adequate study materials, provided office hours, and organized review sessions for any upcoming exams.

Excellent lecturer and speaker. Professor McDonough makes his lectures exciting and engaging.

He provided review sessions, help sessions, recitations, and other classes.

The lectures were engaging. He also made sure to give us textbook readings, and gave us ample problems that helped us to apply what we learned in class. Also a bunch of opportunities to ask for help when needed.

McDonough was excellent at lecturing engagingly, rarely wasting time and being efficient.

Great lectures

Robert gave us a lot of helpful information and went above and beyond to provide extra resources.

The assignments, PollEvs, and class lectures all helped portray the material in an all-encompassing way.

Office Hours

He explained everything as consistent as possible and provided as much assistance outside if he wasn't able to.

Professor McDonough provided the class with a surplus of resources to use for studying or extra practice with the content. There were also review sessions/office hours that occurred frequently throughout the week, so a teacher was always accessible in case a student had a question or needed clarification on a topic.

He made sure to include demonstrations and real-world examples that were relatable.

Being available for questions available about problem sets, achieve homework, and the exam.

Professor McDonough provided multiple resources for us to use to fully understand the material and he always made class engaging. I never knew what to expect but it was always very exciting and I was engaged the entire time.

The homework assignments and recitations reinforced what was taught in lecture, which was helpful in committing content to memory. There were also incentives to go to class and get work done, which encouraged me to do all of it.

He encouraged students to collaborate and work together on the material brought in class

He was available during office hours and kept us up to date if anything in his schedule changed.

Robert was obviously passionate about economics and teaching it to us. This made his lectures much more engaging for me. I also appreciated the amount of time he devoted himself to review sessions.

providing learning opportunities, going over test material and more

A lot of different opportunities to earn points and practice the subject.

Lectures twice a week and held office hours in the EconAid center. He was always making sure we were getting all the information possible to really understand the material by

Comments

posting a good amount of midterm review. He also used CampusWire but there would be times when questions would not get answered. He also posted class lectures slides that were written on but would always forget or miss the marks he made in class demonstrating the material.

Learning was possible because he made class interactive and everyone was allowed to participate. He used simple language that we could all understand. He always offered lots of help with class material if you wanted to attend office hours and even during class asked if we needed to know everything.

He was very positive, energetic, and encouraging. He also tried to relate subject matter to daily life or pop culture to better connect with students. He was very clear with examples and instructions during lectures. He also tried to help us succeed by creating as many study/learning opportunities as possible. He valued practice over perfection which definitely helped facilitate learning.

By posting power points on Canvas, hold many office hours, and being specific about what chapters to read.

Really thorough with notes and gives helpful homework. The problem sets also really help with exam short answers.

I can tell that McDonough loves the information that he teaches which allows for students to be better engaged during lessons!

He was extremely engaging and informative. He was able to make Economics fun to learn. I really enjoyed the class.

Professor McDonough made learning ECON 101 fun. At first I didn't think that I would like ECON but after taking his class I really became interested in it due to his teaching and I honestly feel like it might be the major I choose to pursue. Overall Professor McDonough is awesome and is really helpful and supportive!

He provided a lot of office hour opportunities with himself and the TAs.

had interesting lectures.

idk

I think there was a lot of leniency with merit, especially when it came to redemption and dropped grades.

He often asked questions to the class or used poll everywhere to encourage student participation in the class. Also, you could tell that Professor McDonough was passionate about the subject and knew wholeheartedly what he was talking about.

Provided lots of resources and extra help outside of class.

## 2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

Comments

PLEASE GET BETTER TA's. THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO TEACH AT ALL!!!! They made learning in this course 10x harder no one should have to deal with that.

Unlimited attempts for achieve homework

Every aspect of this course should be kept for future times.

I loved the engagement and connection with students. It was not just sitting in a room, listening a lecture, taking notes. McDonough was excited and energetic. This made learning about econ interesting and not so boring. I also liked the availability of office hours and how helpful McDonough was at all times. Seems he wants his students to succeed. Econ 101 is difficult but he makes it a good experience, not just a trudge.

The hands on volunteer opportunities for sure, especially the paper airplanes activity. I feel like the paper airplanes activity made a lot of people happy with memories of nostalgia.

The achieve homework and recitations.

achieve and Recitations

I think doing the concepts in simple terms which he does when speaking.

The music before the class, awesome energy

I think the Achieve homework, problem sets, and recitation activities should be kept for the future.

The aspect of adding review sessions before exams.

Comments

He should keep the unlimited attempts on the homework but he should provide more practice problems for students and be more consistent on posting the recitation sheets as well as the answers for them.

I enjoyed the online textbook and homework format for this course.

The walk on music for Prof. McDonough is fun. I also appreciated having access to the slides.

It was helpful to have a slideshow to go with lectures but I wish it was posted before class so we could annotate on the slideshows and follow along better if he switched the slide too fast.

all

Everything

Weekly recaps were super helpful.

I liked that you had unlimited attempts on homework and the textbook gave good feedback on what you did wrong and how to improve your answer to get to the correct one.

Problem Sets and recitations were very useful.

I'm not sure. The class was just fine.

All of it, think it was a very nice layout.

I think everything should be kept because everything served as a valuable resource, and without all of the homework, problem sets, and exams, I would not be able to actually learn ECON.

fun lectures

The recitations and office hours

Problem sets are good ways of familiarizing with the material

Ability to earn extra credit on exams. Recitations.

lectures, problem sets, and receptions and practice exams

all

N/A

The recitations and the amount of help sessions.

I would keep the grading breakdown, the poll questions, the textbook (topics were broken-down very well), and the achieve!

Powerpoint notes and practice exams.

I think the lecture style should be kept, as well as the various help sessions and help materials provided to students.

The textbook was very helpful for this course. I enjoyed how Achieve allowed give us infinite attempts for the homework so I could learn from my mistakes without being penalized.

All of it. I would have liked doing more practice problems in class tho.

The achieve homework was useful and helped me to remember information, at some points though it could have been more tailored to what we were asked on exams in order to maximize learning efficiency. I enjoyed recitations but there were times I felt my TA was confused and often explained things in a way that was more confusing and it was clear the class felt so as well.

make midterms more reasonably and more professionally

The aspects that should be kept are those in which the achieve homework's and problem sets are not over applied as they are an adequate amount.

Achieve

keeping achieve at unlimited attempts, poll-everyone for attendance to encourage people to come and reward those who do, problem sets give good practice for exams

The textbook and assignments.

Comments

The lecture style

N/A

the achieve textbook and problem sets were a good way to establish the material.

The problem sets were very helpful.

I do think the achieve assignments helped make sure I understood the material as best I could.

Making the homework assignments unlimited helped me learn more, and made the homework less stressful.

The help sessions.

I like his enthusiasm

The energy he brings to class

The problem sets

The problem sets were probably a really good for practicing.

N/A

Help sessions, problem sets

home works

achieve homework and problem sets

Every aspect!

the problem sets

I think the strictness Robert had on ECON is vastly important, though it sucks from a student perspective.

The grading system is wonderful

I think the slides are useful and I like the way he explains certain concepts.

McDonough

– Engaging lectures, problem sets, review opportunities

Not sure

The practice tests, review sessions, and manageable homework load should all be kept for this course.

Recitation should definitely be kept for the future, it was helpful to have a smaller group of students to go over the topics we were discussing.

problem sets, midterm practice tests, Achieve homework, overall all of it was helpful for the class

Your course is great, but make the FRQ section of your midterms more similar to what we actually do in class.

Or, if you are going to give us a curve ball, make us aware in class of the logic behind that trick question without actually giving us the question.

We have to KNOW that an economic scenario can occur to be able to study for it – if we don't know that said scenario is even a possibility, how are we supposed to know how to solve it?

I liked the achieve hw, it was very helpful to have unlimited attempts.

Office Hours, problem sets, recitations

Everything.

Comments

no

The Achieve Homeworks every week kept me on track.

the lectures

Everything

Problem sets

I like the textbook and homework and problem sets. The problem set zooms were amazing.

I think having 2 midterms is nice for the class, just in case you do bad on the first one you have a chance to keep your grade up by doing well on the next one

I think the demonstrations he does helped keep everyone engaged

The problem sets very helpful.

All!

The practice problems and tests

Literally everything

His bountiful energy.

Everything

I think Prof. McDonough's teaching style is exciting and effective and he should keep it the same ultimately. I would say the only thing that bored me at times were the slides but I don't see how else we could write the notes without the slides so it was overall a good and effective way to teach this course.

Achieve, same content, etc

I don't think there was anything specific.

The macmillan learning

Extra credit and practice tests and practice homework

The visual representations of notes on the screen.

All aspects except the extremely stressful test taking environment.

Providing a practice exam and review content sheet

The problem sets were a great way to learn material.

Achieve Homework

I definitely like the problem sets, and I think the Achieve homework was helpful. I'm not sure what all is required to be taught, but there were many times when we learned something in class and pretty much never used it again, some things just felt like a waste of time.

the class ws good much better than what ive heard

The grading style: homework, problem sets, etc.

The achieves are helpful in learning the chapter materials.

The lectures with the slides, the achieve/recitation/problem sets dropped, etc.

The structure of the class was helpful, especially with how the units were ordered. I liked the extra practice with the problem sets as well.

The meeting time is great, the use of PollEv is a helpful resource, and Achieve as this helps identify any areas that I need to brush up on before examinations. I would also recommend for the topic guides/review guides to continue being provided before exams. This will help students focus in on the right aspects when studying to make sure they are the most prepared for each exam and the final at the end of the semester.

Comments

All of it

Practice exams and practice hw problems.

I liked the problem sets

the achieve homeworks

I do wish that he's go through the slides slower. I( felt like reading the textbook made the lectures seem less useful since they're exactly whats in the textbook but less in depth. I would have loved more in depth practice with longer/more complicated problems in class. I also would have liked more practice midterms.

the fun, group activities in the front of the class

The class examples that used students were always very fun to watch. For example, the push up/jogging competition at the beginning.

I think all of the material that was taught was relevant and should be kept in the future.

All

The textbook was excellent and explained concepts well.

The problem sets because they help you practice for exams. It helped me get an idea of what to expect also because it was many steps and different questions it was a good practice outside of class.

I think everything. I would also add to teach the stuff that going to be on the exams like do at least one example with a question similar because I feel like some of them were not similar.

The achieve homeworks, the problem set grading scale, the recitation problems.

Umm I guess all

I think that the way that McDonough taught the lectures was good because he uses an engaging tone and is enthusiastic about what he is teaching. The real life examples he incorporates into the lectures are what really helped me learn.

Deez

Aspects regarding the practice material of achieve and problem sets. The review sessions should be kept as well.

The textbook, interactive poll-evs, fun lectures

The structure of the course

all – the structure is great

All of it.

Recitation worksheets were helpful

TAs and ULAs typically didn't know what they were doing – he should run extra help/pre exam sessions

I think that having homework assignments, problem sets, etc. weighted against heavier things like midterms and the final is good.

Practice midterms

I think that the forgiveness built into the grading system was very helpful (ex. dropped achieves, recitations, problem set). I think that the exams were sometimes slightly unfair in terms of content, but overall doable and reflective of the content we were expected to know. I appreciated Dr. McDonough's analogies and the creative ways that he presented the material.

I liked the music that was played at the beginning of class.

The ticket out the door is a good way to provide feedback on the lecture as well as ask questions.

keep it the same, well taught course

Having recitation once a week is very helpful. Being able to do more practice that is written by the same person who writes the exams is very helpful.

Comments

The accessibility.

I think the amount of homework was good given how demanding this course is.

The lecture format as well as the grading system. Professor McDonough was very understanding when taking into consideration the mistakes on the first exam. However, the exams were a bit unfair just with the time limit given. The MCQ's require genuine thought and understanding of the material which is completely understandable but I believe the time limit makes it nearly impossible to dedicate the time necessary to the mcq and the short answer. Further, the wording on the exams was very confusing and could be interpreted many different ways. Even the TA's were having trouble when explaining the answers in the recitation after the exam.

Tickets out the door, Poll Everywhere, Achieve, and Prof. McDonough's purple suit.

econaid

Lecture style ( I appreciated that this was not a flipped classroom)

He is a great professor!

Try to make the practice exam similar to the real exam.

Everything except the FRQs on exam: expectations for them were not laid out well in advance. I scored great on the MCQ but was confused by the FRQs while understanding the material at large

I enjoyed the paper airplanes.

The set up is something to keep with the assignments. I think that you should keep the drop of the midterm if it helps students.

Achieves.

I did appreciate that the homework was a completion grade, as well as recitations. I think the workload wasn't too much, and the problem sets for example were good practice for the exams.

The problem sets were great practice for the exam and I like that the recitation worksheets were uploaded online. I would like to have more practice exams because there was really only one and you get through it pretty quickly and that doesn't give you an opportunity to see if you improved.

Interactive components during lecture, and practice problems during recitation.

Great structure

I thought the achieve homework were really good for practicing the new material we were learning.

Everything

lectures achieves

I would keep all the opportunities outside of class to find help with the content. I really liked the practice problems that one of the ULAs made before the second exam and would like to see those made more often.

all

Everything, make tests better

The review sessions definitely.

The office hours, and then I would add more practice problems in class.

all of it

him

The weekly recitations were very helpful in revisiting the week's topics for extra practice and should be kept.

structure of class

I think what was mentioned in 1 could be used for future times, as well as the use of problem sets for our FRQs.

Comments

The lessons and lectures were great. The Recitations were helpful. Unfortunately, the tests didn't reflect either.

I think the poll everywhere example problems were a good way to test the concepts we had learned in the moment. This strategy helped me cement topics in my mind.

Unlimited attempts on homework. I can't understand the material if I am only given four or five attempts per questions and get all of them wrong. In other classes I heard people complaining about this and Robert allowed us unlimited attempts which i feel really helped me when trying to learn the new material for that week.

I would definitely say that the "ticket out the door" questions should be kept, and the practice problems from the textbook.

Keep recitation for this course.

Achieves help

I believe the overall structure of this course is effective and simplest to follow.

The order in which material was introduced.

Honestly I don't know what I would change about it. I really enjoyed it all.

The structure of homework, problem sets, and exams should not be changed.

The lowest midterm should drop if the final exam grade is higher.

His energy made it easier to stay involved with his lectures. The cool activities we did throughout the semester was a nice touch.

The achieve homework should be kept.

The homework, his lecturing style, and the slides being uploaded.

dropping many of the grades is very helpful and makes me feel good about the class and the assignments we do during recitation or problem sets. have a smaller problem set every week instead of so many achieves because working out the problem helps me

The achieve homework, the problem sets

Posting the lecture slides

I thought that all of the aspects of this course were great! The lectures were very organized and built upon each other in a way that made sense to me. If any part of a lecture or reading left me confused, those questions could be answered in recitation or office hours. I think that practice problems are the best ways to truly learn this sort of content, so I really appreciated the number of problem sets, practice midterms, and other ways that we were able to practically apply the concepts that we learned in lectures. This, combined with resources like recitations, the EconAid Center, and office hours gave me many valuable ways to make sure I understood the content going into exams, and for future use later in my econ degree.

I know future Econ classes might hate me for this, but I do think that more problem sets would've helped make sure that I understood the concepts in the lectures for that week. The Achieve homework helped me learn the basic idea from each lecture/chapter, but the format of the questions was different from the format used in exams, so they weren't as helpful in preparing for exams as the problem sets were. I think that increasing the frequency of problem sets could help with learning concepts and practically applying what we learn.

Achieve homework format and in-class practice midterm

His personality.

I thought the way recitations were structured was so helpful, it was always a great review and practice session of the material covered in that week.

the recitation is helpful

The econaid center schedule

Recitation, achieve, problem sets

Problem sets, maybe more practice problems and quizzes

Lectures, polls, homeworks

Comments
Achieve homework and problem sets.
I enjoyed the structure of the course and the assignment break down.
The ticket out the door always was helpful for answering any last-minute questions that I may not have had the chance to have had otherwise
I liked the achieve and how spread out problem sets were
Problem sets and recitation papers are super helpful. Also ticket out the door
The slideshows being posted makes relearning the material very easy
I like his grading policy (completion on homework) and I think the way he grades problem sets are fair as well.
The ability to have stuff be dropped in case you messed up a little at one point.
Achieve homeworks, ULA sessions, Paper airplane day
2 days a week
In class polls to make sure you attend class, except the exams were very different from the difficulty of the practice exams in a hard way and somehow he figured out a way for the short response for the exams to include some combination of topics we never learned together in class making it extremely difficult.
Definitely the class activities because more people were engaged and less sleepy
Problem sets, practice tests. But Free Response on tests is too vague, assumptions shouldn't be made.
The amount of homework is very doable and helped me learn the material (Achieve).
I think the pace of the homework assigned is great! We get the entire week to complete the assignments which was super helpful given my fluctuating schedule, and we learned as we went throughout the week so you could continue to test yourself at your own pace.
I think posting examples of how they solved the problems for previous tests would help future students on how to approach the problems.
Achieve homeworks and possibly even more problem sets
help sessions during exam review
Achieve homework and problem sets.
I think that the problem sets should definitely be kept for future course. Problem sets really allowed me to see throughout the term what concepts I needed to study and what concepts I generally understood. Because the homework was graded for completion, these problem sets served as a really good indicator on my stance on the material in the class.
campus wire, needs a smaller class size; maybe want to change how the entire thing is done and what practice is given; maybe helpful to post panopto recordings
Only a few exams, and more in-depth presentations and examples to explain new concepts.
I like the PollEV's, problem sets, and general class style. However, the exams were extremely different from in class style, the TA's in recitations frequently taught things the wrong way (true errors not just different methods), problem sets and exam styles were extremely different, exams between classes were inconsistent in difficulty, and more. This class needs work, and there should be better resources for students. Often, while studying, I felt I did not have enough material to practice with. I had to study knowing the exam would be something I had never seen before, which is not the way the class should be taught. If students want more study material (practice problems) they should have that resource!
I think overall the structure of the class is very well done.
Smaller class sizes
I think it would be extremely beneficial if he kept up some of the "fun" examples like in the beginning of the semester where he demonstrated weakening demand with candy. Just fun things like that to enhance what we know.
review sessions with TA and the way he grades problem sets
I think it was all good.

Comments

The order of the class and structure was well done. I liked the problem sets and thought that they were helpful in learning the material. The achieve readings also went well with the course description and was actually applicable.

Class time should be used to go over notes and recitations should be used for additional practice.

The lecture structure and unlimited attempts on achieve.

The Achieve homeworks were actually decently helpful (Although the price tag isn't great), and the problem set grading was nice so I wouldn't be too scared for losing too many points.

I believe the course is pretty fair and should remain the same.

An additional opportunity that Robert has provided for his students are extra credit opportunities as well as altering the grading scale in favor of his students. I think this is extremely generous as well as more representative of our abilities and improvements in his class. I hope he continues to implement this in his future classes because it was extremely encouraging for me as a student that had no prior academic experience of Economics before taking this class.

all of it

Achieves

All practice material

Recitations were really good

I feel like the lecture and recitations are helpful, but the weight that the exams hold should be changed since the difficulty of the material in the homework and problem sets is nowhere near the difficulty of the exams.

Posting the lectures online, online homework for completion along with the problem sets

I think the problem sets were very helpful in preparing for the exams.

Activities with volunteers from audience when appropriate.

The homework over and over is great. The various sources of help were great. I think honestly everything should be kept even down to the fact that McDonough is teaching.

I liked the problem sets and the recitation assignments. Those were really helpful in helping me better grasp the concepts. However, I wish they were more reflective of midterm/exam materials (vice versa) because I found the exams to be a lot more difficult than what is taught in class.

The achieve homework is helpful, as well as the problem sets and recitation practice.

I enjoyed the lecture-style classroom. I also appreciated how accessible Prof. McDonough and the TAs were with frequent help and review sessions before exams.

I think that the study guides provided, the homework, and the problem sets should be kept in the future. I think that this course is flexible enough to where the student decides how well they do themselves.

5 problem sets, weekly achieve, and super awesome lectures

- achieve homework for practice
- in class lectures with slides easily accessible

Keep up the enthusiasm, but please make the exams easier (specifically the difficult short answer problems)

I liked how interactive the lectures were since the material became more interesting to learn.

The review sessions and econ-aid sessions should definitely be kept

All of it! Prof. McDonough nailed this course!

Achieve HW

The grading for achieve homework and problem sets. Personally, I did not really find my recitation helpful.

I think all can be kept except for the exams which were far more difficult than necessary. I think the material was fair but they were worded extremely confusing.

Comments

The learning software was easy to work with and the problem sets were really helpful for preparing for the open response section of our exams.

Paper airplane class

Robert is an excellent lecturer. Additionally, the outside help— campus wire, exit ticket Q&As, etc. were very helpful.

I like the random activities

All of it should be kept. I loved it.

The Problem Sets and Recitations

lectures

I believe every aspect of the course should be kept for the future incoming learners of economics!

In-class examples were really helpful and I think should be kept for future times.

The structure of the problem sets.

I like the participation in class and the econ aid

test review, but more in depth

Problem sets

EconAid center, problem sets

The drops for the recitation, achieve and the replacing of the lowest midterm grade should definitely be kept because it allowed us to not be completely stressed over our grade

All

The resources that we had available to us. The material is challenging and the more I worked with what we were given, I was able to understand it a lot better. I'm sure these resources helped other students as well. Also the engaging class lectures.

Achieve homework, problem sets, practice problems in recitation. I do think that we should have practice problems that resemble the same difficulty and critical thinking skills required of the frq problems on the exams. I did not feel very fair to see various graphs be combined for the first time when I was taking an exam. I also think that it would be more engaging and I would have learned more if we had done more practice problems in class while we were in the process of learning concepts.

Achieve

The poll everywhere and the achieve homework.

Recitations are very helpful and problem sets

Same energy

All the resources that are available (EconAid, office hours, achieve, problem sets, TAs, ULAs, etc)

Guided worksheets in recitation for participation.

all

The recitations are extremely helpful.

Everything

Everything

I think that the grading system is good.

I think that the problem sets were really good practice as they help you grasp the material on your own and let you find things you might be struggling with, which allows you to ask questions and improve.

Accessible resources and additional study resources (midterm topic outlines, etc.)

Comments

Truly, I think the structure of the class was great and the amount of work assigned was very fair and reasonable for a 4-credit hour course.

The in-class notes/slides should be kept.

the in-person examples or demonstrations are a good way for students to interact in class

the recitations

Recitation helped me apply what we were learning in class.

The Achieve homework, lecture slides, and recitations should be kept. I would have appreciated if we were able to receive more partial credit on midterms.

-Problem Sets

-Achieve Homework

Achieve book and questions, polls, interactive class

The textbook was definitely useful for explaining the course content and was always aligned with Professor McDonough's lectures. His method of teaching was also very effective because it was engaging and informative, so the course structure should be maintained.

I think the demonstrations should be kept.

I thought that the examples in lectures were good. However, one thing that I would 100% change about this class is that it was entirely lectures. There was no chance of in-depth thinking during class because we hardly answered any exam-like problems. I really did not like how shocking the exam questions were. Rather than being yelled at during lecture for 1 hour and 15 minutes, we should spend more time doing real practice problems.

I like the recitation structure where we work with the ULAs and TAs to go through worksheets to promote understanding and working with the material beyond notes. I also liked the structure of the lectures.

The ECONAid center is extremely helpful.

**Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2024**  
**Robert Mcdonough, ECON 101-002 ECON: INTRO**  
**Mode: IP (In Person)**

Raters	Students
Responded	367
Invited	396
Response Ratio	92.7%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.37	4.00	0.78	367	1.6%	1.9%	3.5%	44.1%	48.8%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.37	5.00	0.78	367	0.8%	2.5%	6.8%	39.2%	50.7%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.13	4.00	0.92	365	0.8%	6.3%	12.9%	38.9%	41.1%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	3.97	4.00	0.90	366	0.8%	1.4%	33.1%	29.5%	35.2%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	3.84	4.00	0.93	367	0.5%	4.1%	36.5%	28.3%	30.5%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	3.71	4.00	1.06	366	1.9%	12.6%	25.4%	33.1%	27.0%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.38	4.00	0.70	367	0.3%	1.6%	6.3%	43.1%	48.8%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.08	4.00	0.95	367	1.4%	7.6%	10.1%	43.9%	37.1%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	3.83	4.00	0.99	366	2.5%	6.3%	25.1%	38.5%	27.6%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.

N	Yes	No
365	99.7%	0.3%

## Open-Ended Responses

### 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Spring 2024 semester?

Comments
Clear, concise lectures
Rob was very accessible for questions after lecture and in the EconAid center. His lectures were super organized and engaging and his enthusiasm made me want to come to class every day, despite attendance not being mandatory and class being late in the day.
He did a good job teaching
Robert was very engaging in class making learning the difficult content of ECON 101 a whole lot easier to understand. His passion during lecture really shined through, which I as a student appreciated.

Comments

Dr. McDonough was a great teacher. I efficiently taught a massive amount of content in one semester. His lectures were consistent, structured, and relevant. My only complaint was that we did not have sufficient practice with certain concepts prior to the exams. While it was nice that there was only one problem set every three weeks, it would have been more beneficial to have one due every week so that we were engaging with the content on a regular basis. The online textbook assignments with each chapter were not sufficient.

Professor McDonough taught in an interesting and engaging way, making it far easier to learn the content. There were ample resources (lecture slides, homework problems, problem sets, textbook chapters, etc.) to prepare for exams and to enhance our understanding of the content.

Pretty engaging and good at explaining. Improvements: I didn't like that attendance was graded. If it wasn't, I feel that I could have spent my time more efficiently doing other things.

The classes were thorough and so were the supplemental recitations.

he had fun lectures with activities to explain topics. he also was very enthusiastic about what he was teaching.

Robert is a very funny and interesting teacher. He has a unique way of teaching that really appeals to the college student. Economics can be a really challenging subject, and he made sure that we weren't just reading the slides or books, but were able to relate to a lot of the concepts.

Many office hours and help sessions

I thought he was a great instructor and was great at explaining concepts. He held multiple class review sessions by different people and gave us many different resources that could help us learn the content and study for tests. The way he structured the class made it focus on learning the content rather than worrying about grades. The participation and completion-based credit was so useful and took a lot of pressure off the assignments while still having us learn the content and work through problems.

McDonough had consistent office hours and many opportunities to get help out of class.

He really encouraged us to want to learn and ask questions. This was definitely proven through the high numbers of participation in outside help. People wanted to understand the subject matter.

He held office hours which were extremely helpful.

Robert McDonough made it possible through many learning possibilities

He was very open to taking questions in class and out of class. He provided a sufficient amount of resources to help us better understand the material and overall was a very respectful professor who would listen to all of our struggles with the class without judgement. I felt very comfortable going up to him and asking a question whether it was related to course material or resources I found outside of class.

Recitations were the best way to learn. Additionally problem sets were helpful despite being graded. Achieve also helped.

Extremely well at explaining material in class with great examples.

I feel that Prof. McDonough encourages his students to succeed in this class even as difficult as it is. The setup of the course is overall helpful however, I feel that the weight of exams should be adjusted—I feel that the ECON aid department relies on exams to test an individual's knowledge of course material, without considering that some individuals struggle with the academic testing environment that is currently in place now.

provided many resources and time to meet, was always available to his students

He was very consistent and made the information easy to understand through explanations.

he was super cool

He had us do the achieve assignments which helped.

He gave us a multitude of materials and learning aids to help us understand any and all class material.

He had constructive, informative lectures and posted practice problems with keys.

Professor McDonough made learning possible by teaching our class during our designated class periods for the full amount of time.

He and his TAs had plenty of office hours, the canvas/achieve pages were utilized very well, and he was very gracious with extra credit on our first exam.

It's a big course and professor McDonough made it attractive in class.

He encouraged a high energy engaging class setting

Comments

He was always available along with the TA's in the ECON-AID Center, always had a form you could fill out if you didn't understand a topic, made fun examples.

Holding office hours and answering questions through the "ticket out the door" form

Robert McDonough is very passionate about the course material, and he engages well with his students. I can tell that he cares about their success as well as their opinions (to an extent).

McDonough makes Econ interesting with great real world examples.

His lectures were very effective. He did demonstrations for a lot of the concepts, explained things very clearly, and posted the lecture slides after class. He also provided extensive resources for practice before exams (study guide, practice questions for every unit, and a practice exam with an answer key, on top of recitation activities and the homework we completed for each unit). He usually didn't allow questions during lecture as there was so much material to go over and not enough time, but that's what recitation was for, and he definitely did his best (using PollEv, sending out a weekly review of everything we learned and answers to any questions people asked through PollEv, etc.). He also gave us points back on our exams for questions in which there was ambiguous language. I appreciated this, because all professors make mistakes occasionally, but he is one of the few who takes accountability for them and makes sure we aren't affected negatively by them.

Having a different perspective on the readings during the lectures was really helpful.

The professor was a very engaging lecturer which I enjoyed.

Offered extra study sessions and during econaid help.

Made concepts of economics digestible for students

consistent lectures with engaging teaching styles

Robert explained lectures very thoroughly. However, if you are reading this Robert, please please please change the way you do exams. Or do not state that you are "looking to see how much we know about Econ" bc the exams are more so a test of time management than economic theory. I found that to be extremely frustrating.

Good examples and energetic in class helped

Robert was an engaging lecturer and responded well to student questions. Everything was graded in a timely manner, and the course progression was easy to follow.

The variety of assignments, including the problem sets and achieves, allowed me to practice my knowledge by applying it to real life problems.

I'll start off by stating this, McDonough was great. His lecture was captivating and he was constantly linking content back to key takeaways from the course that made it that even students who weren't interested in Economics outside of getting the pre-req were able to walk away with practical knowledge how to look at the decision systems of the world around us. McDonough was extremely communicative and made a great deal of effort providing material online, making himself and TAs accessible, providing review material for exams, and review opportunities throughout the entire semester. McDonough was extremely fair, he understood when he made the first midterm far too difficult for students and understood and rectified mistakes he had made which was sincerely a nice shift from other professors who place themselves on a pedestal and push blame onto students for their mistakes. McDonough was funny and always had a great suit. I would take another class with him.

My major qualms with this course came around assessment. The second exam was fair and the grade weighting and policies made sense, were forgiving, and made space for students to change course if their grade was going in the wrong direction. My biggest issue was the testing environment. I understand that examinations are important to the course and should be held with great integrity, however, during both midterms the testing environment was stressful, angry, and had a bit too much intensity drawing away from the intent of the assessment. During the second midterm when a student next to me was suspected of cheating, McDonough rushed over, raised his voice, and dragged the student to the front of the room. This gave me an anxiety I didn't even know I had (not of cheating, but just from his intensity), and I couldn't perform for another five minutes, which was not a good addition to an already time-constricted test.

I understand rules and testing policies are important to the integrity of exams and course fairness, but I believe there are a few steps that can be taken to greatly reduce student stress while still underscoring exam rules. The yelling during testing is unnecessary, unhelpful, and unwanted. When students are suspected of cheating, those incidents should be taken care of quietly and discreetly as to not further ruin the fairness of the exam. Testing rules and time limits can be a little more casually explained just with less cursing and anger at the start of an already stressful exam. Even if you just take a few deep breaths, it would really mean a lot to students. I understand that examinations are stressful for you as well, but know that we hear you regardless of your tone and volume.

Comments

Other than that, I would just want to see practice exam difficulty closer to the actual difficulty of the exam, I felt that the practices were always a bit too easy compared to the real tests.

He was very enthusiastic

Robert McDonough allotted a great deal of office hours and zoom sessions, which helped greatly outside of class.

Professor McDonough was enthusiastic and passionate about the subject matter, giving students no choice but to engage with the course deeply. He always showed that he wanted the best for his students, and even with a big class, made a good effort to make everyone feel recognized.

Did a great job giving us enough resources to study on our own and to bring up our grade outside of the exams. I really appreciate his system with teaching so many students and I could not recommend him more.

He taught well.

Very interactive

He hand-made practice exams, problem sets, and exam review topics to help us with the exams.

He wrote interactive questions that provided good opportunity for learning.

Providing captivating lectures and effective recitation assignments. Also providing extra practice problems before the tests.

Lots of office hours and ECONaid were available, plus practice midterms and extra homework problems for studying.

He posted slides from lecture, worked out problems during lectures, and included examples.

Robert McDonough held very elaborate and interesting in class examples. He was also very understanding for work and timing.

Robert McDonough was a very enthusiastic professor. You could tell he was very knowledgeable about the subject. He explained things in a good way and had organized lectures that made it easy to follow.

engaging lectures, held review sessions, wish he was more understanding to students and took feedback would make learning much better.

Robert McDonough made learning possible by providing students with an extensive amount of resources.

He was relatable and showed an effort to meet us on our level as students.

He was very passionate about what he was teaching which made it easier to pay attention.

He is fun guy! we <3 Robert!

Lectures and recitations and review guides before tests

The lectures were very engaging and allowed us to learn a lot without having too much actual content in the slides.

They had lectures that taught the material.

Textbook readings then lectures helped me learn the content.

He had many different opportunities to ask questions and many different assignments to help us learn.

he always answered questions and at the end of each class offered the opportunity to ask questions through poll everywhere.

It is clear through McDonough's enthusiasm that he loves econ. The energy that he brings to his lectures makes the content more bearable despite being difficult. I enjoyed how he tied in relatable content with to lectures.

So welcoming, used in-class examples to enhance understanding the material, and held office hours multiple times per day.

Gave us enough time to finish assignments

He held a lot of review sessions, office hours, and help sessions outside of class which was very

He consistently held lectures and offered lots of extra help in office hours

NA

Comments

He gave a lot of resources to materials such as practice problems and slides to lectures. He held office hours and gave opportunities to ask questions through email and such.

He had interesting lectures and homework that was actually relevant to what he was teaching and the material that we needed to know.

He had lectures and was accessible or made sure other people were accessible.

He provided a plentitude of outside resources.

Mcdonough always offered clear explanations, different learning materials, and worked to engage students through interactive activities. He never discouraged questions and discussions, and the TA's provided constructive feedback, and created a good learning environment.

He made class entertaining yet relevant.

Offering a lot of resources, like practice midterms, problem sets, recitations, study sessions, office hours.

was funny

Gave practice problems in class, assigned relevant work for recitations, tried to add interesting teaching to keep us engaged, announced office hours and help sessions for students, seemed like he actually cared about what he was teaching.

His lectures were well planned out. He managed to keep the material engaging with poll questions and problems built into the lectures to make it an active learning environment where he's not just talking at you. He managed to simplify the concepts and give analogies that allowed me personally to understand material that was harder for me. I thought the problem sets were incredibly helpful because it helped me learn what I didn't know and prepared me for the short answer questions in the exams. I appreciate that the questions he gives for practice are representative of what you will see on the exam. ECON is a hard subject I think Robert is an exceptional professor and well suited for this introductory course.

He provided many homework assignments and participation grades to help our grades, but the tests themselves were much more difficult than any of the homework assignments or problem sets. Not only did the time constraint make the tests hard, but the short answer sections seemed to have many degrees of difficulty above any practice in problem sets or homework assignments. This was discouraging.

Well structured lectures

Prof. McDonough has made learning economics very exciting; I really appreciate his dynamic attitude. I like the way that Prof. McDonough explains concepts in class and that he uses outside materials (especially music and news segments) to incorporate real-life economics into the classroom setting.

I also really liked that Prof. McDonough talked about serious real-life issues (such as women in the workplace and the barriers that exist, how economic issues disproportionately affect POC) in an informative and accepting way; these are topics that don't always get discussed in university classes, and especially in southern states. Prof. McDonough made the classroom feel like a very warm and inclusive environment and I really appreciate that he did not shy away or talk about these topics in a flippant way.

He gave good slides and interesting lectures

Posts the notes at the end of class and allowed us to ask any thing we needed to in weekly wrap ups

The lectures were accessible and engaging. Coursework outside of class was not overwhelming but instead provided good practice for lecture material. The problem sets provided thoughtful practice that I think allowed me to personally assess whether or not I was grasping material. I also appreciated the way problem set grades were weighted with 80% of your grade being completion. I also thought that the Achieve homework being fully completion gave students a low stress way to practice course material and lowered all homework stress.

By providing extra homework problems and review sessions to make sure everyone could learn

He honestly didn't I had to learn everything by myself because I understood nothing in class

He set a syllabus at the beginning of the year and stuck to it, with consistent correlations between the Achieve homework/textbook and the content we were learning.

His lectures were very engaging, and his teaching was very clear and easy to catch on to. His outside office hours were also extremely helpful and helped me learn and finalize more material even outside of class. He was always very willing to help and he wanted his students to do good which helped me improve and learn overall.

Through the recitations and problem sets as it provided practice questions to understand ECON concepts.

He has explained topics well in class.

Comments

He definitely did a good job teaching such a large lecture class and being interactive

He spoke loud during lecture to make sure the whole class could hear.

He really pushed us to learn the content before the exams, and this forced me to learn pretty much everything.

Dr. Mcconough led a very organized class with a lot of practice material. His design of the course made many difficult concepts feel manageable, and I felt that I was able to really grasp each topic despite the large class size.

He made learning possible through the different poll questions he provided during the in person lectures. As a result of these, I understood how to better solve the problems provided. I think that having the problem sets and recitations also provided me with a chance to learn and really apply the material. However, there were many aspects of this course that could have been better. For example, Professor McDonough could have encouraged more questions during class. These questions would have been beneficial to learning the material as a class. One of my professors for Calculus 3 often allowed for 10 minutes for questions every other day we meet. Additionally, I think that tests could have been much easier. I understand that he challenged us to think critically during the tests, but the challenging material combined with the other challenging material presented to us in the other aspects of the course was almost overwhelming in the time frame. To be honest, the fact that he did not allow us to utilize the last 15 minutes of the course for the test was very annoying as I did not understand why he challenged us with the material but did not allow for us to use this time to our benefit. I think future classes should allow for the utilization of those critical 15 minutes.

Professor Mcdonough was enthusiastic and very knowledgable about economics. As someone who had never taken econ before, he made it very easy to understand difficult concepts and always related the material to the real world. He used great examples and made the content interesting.

He made sure we had a plentiful amount of work to make sure we were learning

Provided plenty of extra opportunities for help and to learn.

He lowkey is the best professor I have had the pleasure of listening to. His lectures are very informative and you can tell he puts alot of thought into his lectures.

Lots of resources

He made it possible by having comprehensive slide shows and using examples.

He explained seemingly hard topics in an easy and clear way for us to understand better.

He was very reachable when we had questions and gracious with study tools.

His lectures were entertaining, Homework wasn't hard but taught me a lot and got me to read the textbook.

I think the fact that he tried to keep us engaged in class was very helpful

He offered helpful practice problems throughout his lectures. Additionally, his lectures allocated time toward the most important concepts in each chapter which corresponded well with what topics made up the majority of our assessments.

Engaging lectures and valuable use of my time

Mcdonough thoroughly explained concepts in economics.

He posted slideshows that broke down each chapter.

I was happy with how the course was taught,

During recitation, we were able to apply what we learned in class.

I believe that recording lectures would be beneficial. When my other classes record lectures it allows me to go back and review things that were talked about in class. I know that you may believe that this encourages skipping lecture but in my experience this is untrue for the students that want to learn.

Homework and Problem Sets

With a variety of different ways to reinforce the content, I was really able to get an understanding and then found it easy to review because of the different options Professor Mcdonough provided. His availability during office hours was also beneficial, as was his ability to take feedback and implement it into making a stronger, more effective learning experience for his students. I was able to think in new ways during the course, which was able to translate into improvement in the course and confidence in learning the material.

He held lots of help sessions which was nice.

Comments

He always had office hours and all of the TAs always had time to help so if you needed help you just had to ask or take it into your own hands.

The problem sets were fantastic and the lectures always felt useful and well organized.

Outside of being a great lecturer in class, he had fun in-class activities to get students engaged and paying attention more to the content. Outside of class, he held numerous learning opportunities through help sessions, office hours, and other events.

he provided plenty of resources if you wanted to put the work in. Classes were held at the right time, with notes and plenty of outside materials. He had a lot of office hours and TA office hours for any extra help.

McDonough made sure to offer many opportunities for review sessions and help within the econ aid center for exam prep. During class we would offer exam polls which were helpful.

Held help sessions, posted slides, made class times flexible (between 12:30 and 3:30), and always ready to help answer a question that I had.

He was very accessible and encouraged questioning and consideration of things we didn't know. He ensured that we were able to get our questions answered in great detail.

I learned by paying attention during lectures and doing the interactive work.

I liked the poll everywhere that tested what he just taught us

He gave a lot of notice about assignments

Lots of opportunities to ask questions.

Great at making lectures interesting.

Made the content interesting, has a good personality and makes lectures fun to listen to.

I think that all of the info was explained well in lecture, but if anyone was still confused, there was a lot of available opportunity to seek extra help / do practice examples

Mr. McDonough encourages students to ask questions, and will go into detail about why something works the way it does. He's passionate, kind, and always willing to listen. His lectures, even though they have 200+ students, are absolutely amazing. You feel like he's talking directly to you, and his lectures are incredibly entertaining. I often found myself putting my computer down and not taking notes just so I could pay more attention to him, which helped me understand the material and not need notes for later.

I could not have enjoyed this class more. 11/10.

He provided good, structured lecture slides and examples that he would work through with us during lecture. He provided an EconAid schedule for us to access him or ULA's to help us with homework questions, problem set questions, or concepts we do not understand.

He gave consistent lectures that gave the needed material without too much fluff.

Being SUPER available with consistent office hours and offering help sessions. Having a campuswire was also very helpful.

homework i guess

Robert McDonough listened to our needs and was always reminding us of homework due dates and exam dates.

the homework, textbook, and slides were really helpful to review material and get a better understanding of the subject.

He held frequent office hours which made asking questions easy.

explained course material clearly during lecture, appreciated the weekly Q/A posts, facilitated and held midterm review sessions, assigned a variety of problems

Prof. McDonough was clear and practical in his approach to teaching.

My instructor had us do various forms of work to prepare and better understand and practice newly learned concepts including chapter readings and problem sets. In addition he would go through each chapter and better explain every topic during class.

he gave us many opportunities to practice for exams, open up office hours, retake questions on homework assignments, etc.

I thought his lectures were always super well-designed. He spoke well and was really easy to follow, and his passion made class more interesting for sure. I've personally

Comments

thought a lot about incorporation econ as a minor (PPE) or major since taking this class and he's a big part of that.

Giving us opportunities to ask questions through help sessions and office hours

Concise lectures, problem sets, recitations

HE make it fun

Professor McDonough made learning possible during this semester by providing various different opportunities for practice and help. First, we learn the material during a lecture and then we have weekly multiple choice practice problems to complete. Every few weeks, we also have a short answer assignment to complete. During our weekly recitation, we practice short answer questions, as well. These assignments allow me to practice the material I learned in class. If I ever need help, there are many TA and ULA help sessions I can attend.

Gave lots of resources

posted homework in an appropriate manner that really made the topics easy to learn

He came to class prepared with slide shows, and explained all of the material in depth.

He was a fairly interesting lecturer, made it relatively easy to pay attention. He is straight forward with his expectations.

He made learning possible for me by having class according to schedule as well as offering office hours and help sessions.

He offered homework that reflected what we did in class to offer practice of the concepts we learned.

Through lectures, homework, problem sets, and recitations

Was very super inspiring.

Professor McDonough made learning possible through problem sets, but did not prepare us well for actual exams. Learning is mainly based on the textbook.

fun, interactive, and engaging lectures

Provided lots of outside help if needed toward exams.

The lectures were very well executed and it was clear that he took the time to make sure a efficient presentation was ready. He also posted extra help and resources on time and accessible.

Offered lots of office hours.

He was quick to reply and communicated information to us clearly.

Achieve, Problem sets, and lectures

Robert had great lectures and provide lots of opportunities for help during econ aid. He was also pretty fair in grading things such as the problem sets and short-response of midterms.

My instructor made learning possible because he would post the slides after class and would provide extra practice.

He was very expressive and enunciates well in his lectures which helps me pick up what he's saying even though I'm more of a visual learner.

he had a lot of times to meet with him or TAs at the econ aid center. he also told us how to be successful by showing us what the people who did good on midterm 1 did to study.

he was really good with giving the information and having lots of available help. I liked him a lot

Explained concepts in more ways than just one. Often used real world applications.

Despite having large lectures with many students, Professor McDonough always made himself available as a resource to students and answer as many questions as he possibly could. The lecture slides were insightful and easy to follow along, and there were MANY resources provided to help students study for exams.

He provided us with the textbook to read through and also clarified this information the next day in class. It made it easy to learn everything thoroughly.

He allowed the slides to be put online so I can do the notes before the class and learn whilst I am actively in the class.

He created engaging lectures allowing me to learn better. Also, using real-world examples helps me understand the content.

Comments

I enjoyed the way Mcdonough lectured, including examples and walking through the examples step by step. I enjoyed the variety of media: poll everywhere, textbook, achieve questions, problem sets, videos shown in class, etc..

He really is a good teacher, I think econ is just a hard class to teach because its sooooo much information but he really did everything he could to correct his mistakes along the journey of the course . I feel like we would be buddies in real life so that makes a hard class much more bearable, super hard not to like the guy!

Very strong lectures.

I came to Professor McDonough with concerns about the course and I asked for his help to better plan for the next exam. He said no. While that was disappointing because it would have contributed to my success in the course, it was how he said no that I found to be unprofessional. I understand it is his course and he has the right to say no, but he did not offer any suggestions to the problems I expressed. The tone of the email felt as though I offended him for simply making a suggestion and instead of getting the help I needed, I was met with condescension and contempt.

McDonough was so accommodating to his students and TAs/ULAs alike, as far as I am aware. He gave us multiple forms of communication, including through things like a detailed syllabus and access to CampusWire, and lectures, recitations, and homework were all so diverse and allowed us to learn the content in diverse hands-on manners with access to different resources, such as through group discussions, Achieve, and problem sets.

He was a great professor. Lectures were clear. Lots of additional practice provided and review sessions to ensure learning.

Made slideshows available after class and included lots of meeting times in case students had questions.

Many review sessions

Robert had several available learning resources and aid centers that allowed us to ask for and access help whenever necessary to assist in our learning. I felt that though the course was tricky, there have been several ways to seek help and resources to learn and improve.

His TAs often held review sessions, as well as the course's ULAs. Dr. McDounough was always great at answering his emails, or making sure that a TA would correspond with us when he couldn't. It was apparent that he cared deeply about every student's success.

He provided LOTS of practice from problem sets to the achieve homeworks.

Dr. McDonough lectures very enthusiastically and provides personal help in the EconAid center.

Professor Mcdonough is a very passionate teacher who really wants us to learn the information that is being taught in class. He makes learning possible through presenting powerpoints and greatly elaborating on the different aspects of the topics as well as including several examples to help better understand the information.

He made his lectures very entertaining

He was available for help through the Econ aid center, and was very helpful for review for the second midterm.

Offered many resources

Dr. Mcdonough did a great job of always starting on time and staying organized. He was very transparent about grading criteria and what he expects of his students.

I thought the lectures were very well structured.

N/A

recitations and problem sets are super helpful

This is a hard course but Robert's enthusiasm and willingness to work with students made it a lot better than I was expecting. I was really challenged but it forced me to work hard and I learned so much

He was really good at helping students as much as he could with help sessions, office hours, and recitation

The instructor Robert McDonough made learning possible through many opportunities by encouraging participation and other opportunities.

Despite the size of the class, Professor McDonough used Poll Everywhere and tickets out the door to keep students engaged. He also incorporated unique, fun activities, which made such an analytical class more creative and interesting. I also always appreciated the songs before the class because they hyped me up to learn.

He provided open feedback and area for questions

Comments

He help many study sessions on the days leading up to exams.

During the Spring 2024 semester, Robert Mcdonough truly facilitated my learning experience in several impactful ways. His approachability and openness to questions created a welcoming environment where I felt comfortable seeking clarification and delving deeper into course material. Additionally, Professor Mcdonough's use of diverse teaching methods, including interactive lectures and hands-on activities, catered to various learning styles, ensuring that each student could engage with the material effectively.

I think the set up for the class was good and the amount of participation he allowed for students who volunteered. Teaching a class with 300+ students can be difficult, but I think he went about it in a way that was really beneficial towards students learning the material.

Through engaging lectures and efficient recitations.

He was very excited about what he was teaching

Robert was a great professor. While I, at times, found the way he wrote his exams (and specifically the wording of his questions) confusing and even more rarely overly challenging, I loved the way he presented information in the course, and found his lectures interesting, engaging, and well thought out. I would recommend future students to take Robert's class and engage with him personally as much as possible.

Instructor Robert Mcdonough made learning possible for me during the Spring 2024 semester by explaining concepts in great detail to help grasp a better understanding and answered any questions that students had. Also, he went through practice problems which made it more easier to understanding concepts and equations in the class.

Professor Mcdonough is engaging and enthusiastic.

sharing valuable information.

He elevated the learning experience through posting the slides and making it easy to understand him in class. He was very vocal and enthusiastic which made it better and fun to learn econ.

Well put together slideshows, very well spoken, easy to understand his teaching methods

The course set up is extremely good, the way everything is weighted pushed me to try my best and learn as much as I could.

Achieve homeworks, problem sets, and midterm review problems

He gave example problems in class and time to actually solve them. He provided his powerpoints with the solved questions. He was very enthusiastic about the information he taught.

McDonough was passionate about his lectures and often explained concepts in a way that was clear and easy to understand. McDonough was also super accessible outside of lectures and look his time during office hours to make sure questions were thoroughly answered.

The instructor made learning possible by encouraging class participation and attendance, which made me more inclined to go to class each day.

He assigned enough work so that students could get enough practice for content, but no so much that it was not manageable. In addition, his lectures were content heavy but interesting.

He did a good job giving engaging lectures and this was supplemented by practice on achieve, which was a good study tool to check for learning/understanding. The problem sets were also good for this, but I wish there were more practice opportunities.

His lectures were very passionate and he was good at explaining most subject matters

He made lectures very interesting and engaging. I really liked the format of his slideshows. Problem sets were also helpful and reasonable. I think the first midterm had its issues, but after receiving student feedback, professor McDonough made adjustments and the second midterm, while challenging, was appropriate.

- was clear with explanations

His lectures were extremely informative and he does great with keeping your attention throughout class.

He was engaging and made the homework assignments accessible.

He explained everything thoroughly and gave everyone opportunities to ask questions.

The lectures were pretty easy to follow with easy to understand examples.

Comments

Classes were very engaging and never boring.

engaging lectures

He was very enthusiastic and you could tell he was passionate about what he was teaching.

He was enthusiastic and made class interactive.

Professor McDonough ensured that we were well prepared for each exam and set up the course in a way that provided enough structure for there to be minimal confusion on assignments and topics we were learning. For such a notoriously difficult course, McDonough made the content easy to digest and interesting to learn about through his lectures and assignments.

He was very personable and fair when it comes to grading.

He gave us multiple different methods for us to learn

Good lecture instruction and review sessions.

Problem Sets, Achieve, and Lectures were all extremely helpful and thorough in terms of what would be on the exams. He also encouraged participation in every class, making it interesting while also keeping it relevant to course material. You can tell he wants all his students to succeed.

He gave us problem sets that helped a lot with understanding things.

Very engaging lectures and course resources.

He gave us homework and readings that related to the lessons we learned in class.

Poll Everywhere or through office hours he always had announcements letting us know everything in the course. Kept us very updated and cared about the students.

He hosted and spoke during all class times and held office hours.

There were a lot of resources to ask for help if needed.

I lectured. It wasn't the most nuanced class structure.

Mr. McDonough gave us a textbook with a massive amount of information which the lectures were based off of. He also offered us problem sets and achieve work, both of which gave us additional practice outside of class time. Additionally, before the midterms he posted a variety of review problems to help with studying.

He gave a lot of resources for me to use.

he was very communicative and accommodating, super engaging and funny professor

review sessions, active lectures, good homework

The instructor made learning possible for me during the Spring 2024 semester by providing multiple resources to get practice with the material

Dr. McDonough was always accessible outside of class and there were office hours everyday of the week for those who needed help. The classes were engaging and he used current events to teach the material. By giving us real world examples of topics, I feel like I was truly able to grasp what was being taught because I could connect it with current news and events. The work assigned outside of class such as the Achieve and problem sets really helped with furthering my knowledge of the topics.

He came to class, that was a plus.

Interactive classes and engaging lectures. Also, many tutoring hours, Zoom help, and office hours were available.

He was very communicative with the class. Him and the TA(s) held many office hours and review sessions.

He did a lot of cool interactive things in class to keep us engaged

slides and lectures were very helpful to go over the homework and materials.

engaging lectures

Lots of practice opportunities.

I loved the lectures and it kept me really engaged during the course.

Comments

He offered many extra help sessions and resources and kept us updated with any schedule changes that may have impeded our ability to attend the aforementioned help sessions.

His lectures were very detailed and the fact that he posted the slides after was really helpful for studying. I wasn't able to go to any office hours with him, but I imagine that he would answer questions well. He was engaging and very passionate about the subject in lectures.

Multiple engagement, with polls and recitations

he did a great job in explaining the concepts

He always made sure resources were available and ready! I felt like it was always easy to access extra help.

he was consistent with his teachings

we had lots of practice opportunity

Letting us know when there would be help sessions. Also, giving us the answers with explanations after each problem set.

Good lectures , and weekly rap ups

Mcdonough did a great job of keeping the class focused and explaining things in a way that would make sense to students.

He's really enthusiastic about economics.

He conducted lectures and explained topics thoroughly

I really liked the problem sets as they were super helpful, but I did not find them similar to the exams.

He made his PowerPoint presentation readily available to all students in his section, made room for office hours weekly and also made an interactive online resource available for discussion of concepts in class between students

Material was straight from textbook, recitations, etc

presentations

Very compelling lecturer and the structure of homework and everything was good too.

He was very good lecturer and good at communicating information effectively. was also very helpful and patient in econaid sessions. It was quite difficult to keep up at his speed though, especially when doing calculations, and i think slides should be posted before class so we can annotate them as our notes. I know you don't so class attendance stays up but in your own words, the opportunity cost principle should let us choose that and it would only be beneficial to us to have those beforehand.

u

I liked the interactive demonstrations to help us learn.

Robert McDonough made learning possible for me this semester as he really took the time to teach us hard econ concepts in his own words and in a simple way. I appreciate how he held many office hours and held review sessions for our tests. Although McDonough provided lots of practice in his slideshows and problem sets, I was disappointed when I got to the first microeconomics exam as it was extremely hard and vastly different from the problems we had been tested on in our homework. However, I thought the second midterm did align with our practice and was fair. Although the class has been hard for me, I do think Mcdonough is a great teacher, helped me really understand the concepts deeply, was funny, and obviously has great knowledge about this topic.

Lectures, review sessions

He provided lots of opportunities for further study and support outside of class.

He was very helpful in and out of class and gave us fun examples for us to learn off of. He was also very enthusiastic and energetic during his lectures

He lectured in an engaging way, and assigned many relevant homeworks to help me understand the material.

Offered many homework assignments, problem sets and practice questions during class. He also provided help sessions throughout the year.

Robert McDonough made his canvas page include everything which was very helpful for exam reviews and problem sets

Comments

He had several opportunities for students to ask clarifying questions. Personally attended the EconAid center. Responded to emails. He was very attentive to the needs of his students.

He was understanding and met with students individually.

He was very educational.

He often explained materials with examples which was extremely helpful

1. Engaging Lectures: Professor McDonough's lectures were captivating and easy to follow. He broke down complex economic theories into digestible chunks, using real-world examples that resonated with your experiences.

2. Real-World Relevance: He constantly emphasized the practical applications of economic theories, showing how they could be applied to solve real-world problems. This made the subject matter more relatable and engaging for you.

3. \*\*Supportive Atmosphere\*\*: Professor McDonough fostered a supportive learning environment where you felt valued and respected. He was approachable and always willing to help clarify any doubts you had outside of class.

4. Accessible Resources: He provided additional resources such as readings, videos, and online materials to supplement your learning. These resources allowed you to delve deeper into topics that interested you and reinforced your understanding of key concepts.

5. Application-Oriented Approach: Professor McDonough encouraged you to apply economic principles to analyze and solve problems in various contexts. This hands-on approach helped you develop critical thinking skills and prepared you for real-world challenges.

Overall, Professor McDonough's teaching style and dedication to your learning made the Spring 2024 semester a rewarding and enriching experience for you. His passion for economics and commitment to his students truly made a difference in your academic journey.

Lots of practice problems

Professor McDonough was very benevolent with the post-test reflections that allowed us to focus on learning rather than just grades. He always related class topics to real-life examples which helped us learn econ terms in conjunction with real life.

He taught

He was very clear and concise in his lectures, making sure students could learn and hear what he had to say on both micro and macroeconomics. Additionally, McDonough made it more hands on with the PollEverywhere questions which helped students learn more hands-on information and application.

He kept consistent class and ensured what we were learning was consistent from both sections

Good speaker, pollevs

he made the classes fun and encouraged students to engage

He was my favorite professor through this semester because he was interested in what he was teaching. Not saying that other instructors of mine weren't but he always came to class with a great attitude and tried hard to connect with his students with humor and passion.

He was really engaging during lectures, and the readings went along with the lectures

Through lectures and online homeworks

Robert's lectures were very engaging, and he used real life examples to explain and break down economic concepts. His style of teaching made the material of this course very digestible, and he offered many opportunities to receive help outside of class.

Robert provided a really fun learning environment that made me excited and interested in learning the material that he was teaching.

He gave us lots of practice questions in and out of class

## 2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

### Comments

It was fine, but the exams were terribly written

In class demonstrations at times.

His joyful energy! hes rad.

I liked how assignments were due at the same time every week, so you knew what to expect.

All of it the class was great. There aren't really anything that stood out that I didn't like.

Lecture style, worked examples.

problem sets, practice midterms, econ review sessions.

all of them

### Problem Sets

I think the problem sets were the most helpful part of me understanding the content, as they were the most similar to some of the exam questions and were just challenging enough for me to complete, as well as were helpful to connect different concepts together.

I like the way the lectures were held because they were sometimes interactive.

I like the practice tests we have before the midterms and going over the FRQ the day after in recitation. I also really like how much communication there is from my instructor, as econ is never far out of mind! He always fixes any typos or mistakes on his part quickly and fairly, and makes life easy as long as you keep up with the expectations of the class.

I like how the homework is no stakes, which allows me to not be worried if I make a mistake. I also think the problem sets are helpful in doing practice problems.

I think the problem sets and poll everywhere examples were the most helpful in clarifying how to approach economic questions.

the second midterm reflecting the practice exam very well

I enjoyed every part of this course.

the achieve work

There are certain aspects of this course that I believe should be retained for future iterations. The accessibility and approachability of the instructor played a crucial role in facilitating learning. Encouraging questions, providing timely feedback, and maintaining open lines of communication were all instrumental in creating a supportive learning environment.

I liked how recitations were opportunities to practice the concepts discussed during lecture.

Achieve homework and problem sets

the various forms of assessment

The fun activities done in class should be kept, maybe a little more activities in class to make it slightly more engaging not just notes notes notes

Achieve homeworks (unlimited attempts).

All aspects.

Definitely the recitations

the achieve work, the extra available practice problems/ practice exams, the lecture notes.

problem set grading

all

Homework and problem sets.

I think that the structure of the course is very well done and should continue to be done so in this manner.

Comments

Honestly, all the amazing resources at our disposal. I would not have the grade I have in this course if there wasn't so many opportunities for help. Furthermore, the staff that Professor McDonough has are excellent – very nice and understanding of the students uncertainty with course concepts. I have had to resort to a ULA for different econ professor before, and the experience was much different. I would keep friendly, and approachable TA's and ULA's. It really makes so much difference.

I liked the problem sets and achieve questions. I really liked that you put all the powerpoints on canvas.

The achieve practice.

the amount of homework assigned, as well as the problem sets.

Everything

the aspects of this course helped me a lot

Keep doing polls and keep the class engaged with activities.

The achieve assignments, lectures, and problem sets.

All of the things I responded to in the first section, as well as problem sets and practice tests.

I like the format, archive ,problem set and midterms instead of all grades come from two exams.

The recitations

I like the structure of his grading. Because the midterms are quite difficult I like how we have some bit of cushion from Achieve homeworks, recitations, and problem sets.

Energetic in class and keeping class engaged during lectures

The lecture and poll participations

The exam schedule was helpful

Textbook.

I think having the lowest assignments dropped is good.

I liked when Prof. McDonough would incorporate in-class examples into his lectures because they helped to make sure that I understood the concepts that were being taught. Poll Everywhere questions were very helpful for in-class self-assessments. My only complaint is that Prof. McDonough's handwriting made it difficult to go back to the slides and review these example questions; they were hard to follow and without referencing my own notes, it was difficult to understand where numbers and variables were assigned/computed.

I also really liked the weekly update emails; including the "ticket-out-the-door" Poll Everywhere questions in the email were very helpful because it let me know where my understanding of the class material compared to everyone else's. Having a weekly summary of the class helped me to stay up-to-date on class material, even when I wasn't able to come to class. I wish that all classes did this.

I also appreciated that Prof. McDonough was very open and used experiences and examples from his own life to help us to relate the economics questions.

Problem sets

I think the recitations being graded for completion should be kept. I like the fact that the problem sets are graded for accuracy and completion; however, I believe that they could just be graded for completion to allow for ease within this course. Homeworks being graded for completion is something that should be kept as a part of this course.

interactive recitations, and going over problem sets.

The money realted music to start the class. Also airplane day

I think the problem sets are good

All of it

Everything

Resources

the problem set and homework load that is given, is manageable but ensures you understand material

Comments

The achieve practice problems and the problem sets helped when it came to practicing the material.

Problem sets and achieve work were good homework

Fun activities as examples.

Consistent Econ Aid help sessions, exit tickets where we could ask questions post-lecture, Achieve-style homework

The achieve practice problems should stay because they gave us hands-on practice.

Less harder exams and more closer to our course content.

I believe the textbook work and problem sets should be continued for future classes.

The achieve should be kept it helps students keep up with modules

- his enthusiasm

The ability of the final to replace the grade of one of the midterms.

The lecture and flexibility with the achieve homeworks and recitations should be kept.

The ability to ask questions.

The homework consistency, the study-guides though they didn't do much.

Review sessions, recitation

The pre-exam support should be kept and overall it was really solid.

I know the question didn't ask what should be changed about the course but there was nowhere else to answer so ill just say here that the pace was a bit slow in the beginning of the semester and then a bit too fast near the end. I wish the could change in the future.

PollEVs, office hours.

Unlimited attempts on homework and recitation worksheets,

I thought the text book was educational and not boring, and it aligned with the content we taught in class which was super helpful. I also thought the multiple review sessions were great for extra practice.

Posting slides of the lectures is helpful for future reference

Achieve homework/textbook

Problem sets, achieve homework, recitaiton practice

several longer problem sets vs one longish one each week

Spending class time going through how to do problems should be a consistent part of this course.

The lecture style and recitations should be kept. The tests may need to be altered so they are more in line with the content.

Help sessions

Outside help sessions and review days, practice exams in class.

he didnt explain practice problems well

Everything

PollEv to express questions for answering at the end of class since there is not much time offered in class.

All the grading policies are perfect and I wouldn't change anything I don't think.

Though the achieves were very helpful along with the recitation setup.

I think the poll questions were well planned out I would suggest keeping them in there not only for attendance but also for accountability. In an hour long class its easy to drift off

Comments

and the poll everywhere questions kept me invested in the class. I really enjoyed the theory of the firm lecture, being able to visualize these concepts brought to life helped me remember them.

Lectures are good. Slides are very comprehend-able and organized.

Apparently there is no place to offer criticism for the course. So typical but whatever I'll do it here, these things are the biggest waste of anyones time anyway. I understand this is designed to be a weed-out course, but the exams are unnecessarily hard, and are even more so in comparison to Staub's course. It is honestly entirely unfair. We are studying for 20–30 hours before the exam for there just to be tricks in the free response that tests us on our reading and not on our knowledge of the content. Also, the expectations to solve things we have not been taught in class under insanely constricting time limits exhibits sheer stupidity from the makers of the exam. If you want to make the exam harder, ask more questions and take the entire hour and 15 minutes that you are allotted. And for gods sake, make the practice exam more reflective of the difficulty on the actual exam, and stop screwing kids by messing up the exam questions. Its unacceptable really.

The access to a lot of practice materials should definitely be kept, such as the Achieve homework, problem sets, practice midterm, and recitation worksheet. These materials really helped me understand each concept.

the problems sets are very helpful and I think there should be more

I hope Robert keeps his excitement for teaching, I think his energy helps to keep students engaged. I also think it is crucial for the exam prep and help resources to be kept for students success.

I think the course is currently great.

The posting of lectures slides and accessibility of material was very key in my learning for this course and should definitely be continued.

The lecture style should be kept similar for future times this course is taught.

Fun demonstrations to illustrate concepts

his humor and joke

The weekly multiple choice homework assignments, the worksheets in recitation, and the problem sets should be kept for this course because it allows students to apply the information they learned during lecture and forces them to practice.

Good grade-to-assignment ratio

Homeworks, style of grading/excusing absences, style of lectures and recitations

Definitely keep Problem Set Help Sessions every week, those were very helpful.

The recitations, problem sets, and textbook assignments were definitely helpful, but I would strongly recommend making a problem set due each week.

I think the course should remain the same potentially with more practice exam options.

I think all aspects of this course should be kept for future times. He was very generous with his time, and I felt that he did in fact provide everything he could have to help every individual student succeed in the class. I really like the format of the class and I like that we go over an individual topic every class that follows along with the homework. This format was a little different in the first half of the class and wasn't as organized, however, Professor McDonough takes very well to criticism and after the class gave feedback, he followed along with that and tried the best he could to accommodate to the needs of the class. I really enjoyed this class and has by far been my favorite class I've taken at UNC.

Recitations were well taught. Achieve is helpful. Additionally, achieve should be kept low-pressure. Allows us to really learn from our mistakes.

Everything

Everything. I am so glad I have Professor McDonough for this course. This was my first economics class I've taken, and I was very nervous going into it because I've heard terrible things from friends who have taken it with other professors. However, Professor McDonough broke down the material into small chunks and made it all easy to understand. I cannot emphasize enough that Professor McDonough was AMAZING. Econ is definitely difficult, and a lot of work, but Professor McDonough made this class as enjoyable as possible and was an incredible professor overall.

The order by which we did the readings and the in class examples. The recitation worksheets were also really helpful.

Comments

Pollevs, low attendance grade percentage, lecture material, practice exams.

Problem sets and the homeworks help students understand the concept

The ULAs review sessions should be kept.

office hours

The weekly wrap UPS and achieve homework,

The textbook. The way Achieve homework and problem sets are weighted for completion.

the Achieve homeworks are helpful in evaluating and helping to build knowledge

I thought the problem sets were helpful and good practice

Problem sets

The problem sets I found were very helpful .

The office hours and practices on recitations.

The slideshows with all of the notes and the achieve homework.

the textbook

Everything regarding this course should be kept the same. Maybe in the future, some quizzes should be added to lighten up the affect of the final exam as it is worth 30 percent of our grade.

the achieve unlimited attempts, recitations, and keep publishing slides

The class environment.

The problem sets

The textbook and Achieve homeworks were very helpful.

Problem Sets written by the instructor.

Recitation assignments, lectures being posted, textbook work, and all of the practice problems.

I think all aspects should be kept!

The number of/spacing between problem sets

the recitations

I liked the achieve homeworks and problem sets.

I like the achieve homeworks and think that they should be kept because it gives a good opportunity for easy points and helps review the material

I think that the homework system should be kept. It was nice knowing I can make 100 on the Achieve and the problem sets can help me make sure I know the content.

Having my recitation person work through the worksheets with us fully was great and I think that should be kept up.

I thought the lectures were well thought out and as engaging as possible in a 400 person lecture hall. I think the Problem Sets were also helpful reviews every couple weeks.

class participations and polls

Office hours, help sessions.

Please fix your typos in the slides.

I think class engagement/enthusiasm was helpful in keeping the course as engaging as it could be.

energetic and engaging lectures, problem sets were very helpful

Comments

Achieve, problem sets, participation points, more practice

Achieve homework being no penalty per try.

The achieve work

Lectures

I think that the in-class Poll Everywhere should be kept as it help make sure that we understand what is being taught and I also think that the Practice Problem sets are very helpful.

The achieve homework

The amount of available review and tutoring was very helpful for improving scores on the second midterm.

Problem Sets

In class demonstrations were a lot of fun at the beginning of the semester, I wish those had been consistent throughout

Achieve homeworks, textbook reading

The problem sets, achieve, and recitation were very helpful getting practice with the concepts.

Good lectures – achieve hw doesn't always align with class presentations, and I would benefit from small group projects/discussions (outside of recitation)

Literally everything. I would change nothing about how this course was taught.

same

dropped midterm

The achieve assignments and problem sets.

The teaching style is good, the lectures are engaging.

There need to be WAY more practice problems available before tests. If there were more of these, people would have significantly better opportunities to get good grades. The lack of practice problems is the one issue I have with this class.

Problem sets and recitation materials.

The workload was pretty perfect: 2–3 EOC chapters per week, a problem set about every 2–3 weeks, 2 midterms, and a final. This felt like enough work to challenge students but not overwhelm them. One thing, however, that should definitely be changed is using all made up currencies on tests. This confused me and a number of my classmates, distracting us from the point of the problem. In the future, it would be nice to deal with dollars and McDonough marks, or even dollars and euros, for example, instead of RRC Ruples and McDonough marks or whatever it was on the midterm. When both currencies are made up, it becomes distracting.

I like how he did in class participation activities. These were very helpful and allowed me to deeply understand the content.

The achieve homework and textbook readings were helpful, as well as the posted lecture slides. In the future, the tests should be more representative of the problems we do in class and on problem sets.

The polls were engaging

I liked how the slideshows directly followed the textbook

I really enjoyed the achieve readings and HW because it helped me understand the content further.

I think the problem sets should be kept for the future.

I enjoyed the lectures that had an activity it helped keep me engaged.

I found the length of the exam time limiting for how demanding the exams were. This was only my main complaint, but I understand the goal of the time restraint as well

The problem sets should be kept as I felt they were a great way to test your knowledge of the content before the tests. I felt that there was enough stake in them but not so much pressure that they were dreadful to have, and I felt that they were a good benchmark to where I was at and how much I needed to study.

Comments

the grading policies that show care for students and how the class is structured more around learning concepts and less around earning high grades

I think that the lecture slides should be kept, and I think the examples made sense

All of it. This course was absolutely perfect.

I think the office hours, help sessions, and review sessions before midterms should be kept.

Opportunity cost, taxes, international finance

The homework assignments were helpful

Network of support with the Econ Aid Centre.

The lecture style.

Above all else, I think the recitation is most helpful for understanding and applying concepts to practice problems. I also think the lecture can be helpful, but I wish Dr. McDonough's lecture slides were more straightforward and easier to digest. He often gets very excited about the material and starts going on tangents about complications and counterarguments for each concept he details, which makes the material a lot more confusing. Generally, he talks in-depth through material the entire lecture period without taking breaks, which doesn't allow us to process information or ask him clarifying questions.

The course should keep its lecture style. The style was very easy to follow along to.

The slideshows on the screen were great — it helped me take notes. But I wish each slide show was published directly after the class so that I could go through and complete any notes I missed during class, as it is very fast pace. McDonough normally publishes them at the end of the week when we finish going over the module/ unit.

review sessions by TAs

The aspects of this course that should be kept for future times include the problem sets and achieve homeworks.

Recitations were helpful, practice midterms, lecture notes, and achieve work.

Office hours, review sections, and creative ways to engage students were very helpful. I enjoyed when he would pick students from the crowd to illustrate a point.

The interactive nature of the course.

The textbook was a great pre-class reading and the problem sets really helped me solidify my understanding of the material.

N/A

The practice midterms they were very helpful

Recitations really helped a lot.

Multiple tries on homework questions without penalty. Posted slide deck for students to access. Engagement opportunities during lecture.

Keep playing music as people are walking in for class.

I like the problem sets as they are very helpful in making sure that we study good

Roberts structure of teaching was helpful. SO thankful I could get him and not Staub. He was actually a good teacher and a kind human

– keep the achieve work

– need to change the lecture style – he went way to in depth with things that weren't as important – too reliant on the textbook

– NEEDS MORE EXAMPLES – we literally go over how to do something either one time or partially and that is always the FRQ on the midterms, so unfair

The way it is being taught right now seems pretty good to me. It really depends on who teaches the class and who leads the recitations because their demeanor determines whether or not you feel comfortable asking questions. Fortunately, I had a good ULA who helped me in recitation.

pollev

Problems sets, lectures, and eoc questions.

I think all aspects of this course should be kept.

Comments

the fun learning environment, active class, regular schedule

I think the problem sets should be kept for the future

The problem sets, the Achieve, connecting topics to real world examples

I really like the textbook software, i never used achieve before and actually enjoyed the abundance of homework questions and reading the textbook

d

All aspects.

The Problem Sets were essential because they were the closest thing to the exam we could learn.

The recitations should be kept.

In class participation

Practice exams

NA

I think his lectures and slides are very informative in breaking down materials that were in the book.

I think that the course should be taught the same way.

The material and interactive sections.

ECON aid

This course should continue utilizing the achieve platform along with the textbook.

I like the problem sets because they offer practice.

More time on tests so students have a chance to demonstrate their knowledge.

The homework having unlimited attempts helped a lot.

I like the course fine, but I think that Achieve homework should be done before class and then have a more brief lecture followed by more practice problems in class. Since not every TA was exactly the same, learning of problems falls on the individual and their respective TA rather than hearing how Prof. McDonough wants us to do the problems himself (especially if we have class during EconAid).

I would recommend keeping the problem sets and practice tests as both offered amazing practice for the material on the exams.

please keep in the class volunteer parts, it was really fun to watch

I like the formatting of the achieve homework and the problem sets.

I think that the extra practice and practice exams should be kept because they are extremely helpful.

The extra credit opportunities, that reward students for putting in the effort even when they may not be testing to their best ability.

the achieve extra practices and the problem sets

I

I liked the lectures and recitations.

I think that in the future, I would find the amount of course content easier to understand and digest if there were more opportunities for quizzes or tests, instead of everything being dumped onto only two midterms

problem sets

All of it I guess.

I think the recitation is necessary as it allows for practice problems and extra questions that cannot be completed during the lecture. I also think the problem sets are very helpful

Comments

in giving us more examples of potential questions.

All of the aspects! Especially the problem sets.

There should be more problem sets, they're very helpful

Acheive

Problem sets are a hassle only because they were sometimes difficult, but they were definitely helpful in allowing students to understand the coursework. Also, the Achieve homework was super helpful because it allowed you to submit the answers as many times as you want. This allows each student to get feedback on every answer, whether right or wrong, further influencing the amount of information a student is learning.

achieve hw was super helpful

Maintain problem sets and weekly achieves. They help keep us in the cycle of practicing the material.

I found that Robert was very prompt at uploading lecture slides that included his written notes that were shown in class. This, combined with the study guides he posted for each unit were very helpful in reviewing material for exams.

I did not like McMillian learning. While the initial exposure to ideas shown in class were helpful, I didn't think the required questions were ultimately very applicable to the specific way we discussed many of these ideas.

Some aspects of this course that should be kept for future times is posting the slides and having practice problems to work through.

Recitations are very helpful and reinforcing.

The recitations

All aspects keep the same energy and similar teaching way because it's effective.

The exam written response questions are the recitation material after the exam.

giving infinite attempts for achieve home works.

I think the extra achieve was great!

powerpoints

achieve hw, problem sets, recitation

The answer key with explanations.

Lectures are good, maybe less exam heavy

I liked how the achieve homework had unlimited attempts so students could focus on learning without the fear of failing grades. I wish the PowerPoint presentations would be made available on Canvas prior to the class so I may copy and paste graphs/visuals into Google Docs, where I take notes.

Multiple achieve homeworks and few problem sets

The lectures were kept educational, relevant, and entertaining at times. That was a big plus in the class since a lot of the big lectures were dense and compact, making it easy to lose track of focus or concentration without the little videos and funny skits in class.

Everything

The lecturing. Also the rare times in which he did fun demonstrations to express concepts

econ aid, review sessions

The problem sets and textbook helped me the most throughout the class. The textbook has all of the information we learned about in the lectures and the problem sets are very similar to some of the test questions so they were very helpful.

Overall, I think the structure of the course is phenomenal and should be left as it is. From weekly assignments to problem sets and recitation question, students have access to a broad array of practice problems which helps enforce their understanding of the basic concepts of Economics.

The EOC Problems

Comments

everything

Everything

more pollevs

Problem sets

Everything, I can't think of anything that I would change off the top of my head.

The fun activities

The online homeworks

Dropped assignments

Problem sets.

Weekly achieve work.

Lots of meeting times with TA's and ULA's

Having the ability to ask questions at the end of class

I think as an instructor, Robert is one of the best and most passionate and should continue to teach this course. Additionally, the achieve problems and problem sets are actually great aspects that help in learning and should remain in the course amongst the other activities.

lots of office hours

The work load and the way class was taught.

The slide shows and interactive activities

The problem sets and achieve problems should be kept because they were great practice for exams and final.

Keep the recitations and problem sets.

Everything.

The chapter reviews and the problem sets.

Keeping the way Canvas is structured and having TA review sessions

The class format encourages committed learning

problem sets

The course should retain its engaging lecture format, which effectively breaks down complex economic theories. Additionally, the interactive discussions and emphasis on real-world relevance were beneficial for student comprehension and engagement. Continuing to the Achieve homeworks, problem sets, and recitations allow students to practice and grow their skills.

Recitations

I really like all of the real world and in class examples that he did. It helps to create a visual for the subject we are learning and they are always fun so it helps me to absorb and remember the topic and information we are learning. I also think that the achieves were good homework and practice.

The vast amount of office hours and help sessions.

All of it except the exams

The split between micro and macro topics should be kept separate for the future, as this made the course as a whole feel less daunting. I think the balance between achieve, problem sets, and other assignments was manageable yet still adequate in providing students with preparation and practice.

I think the overall structure is very good, especially the way information is presented.

Comments

I enjoyed how the achieve gave us as many tries as possible because otherwise I would of spent hours and hours making sure I got it right first try

The problem sets and attached textbook.

The achieve homework.

I think the flipped classroom style can be difficult at times, but if you are willing to put in work it is not too bad.

All of it.

All of it.

The homework is good practice because you're allowed to answer as many times to understand it.

There is a lot of material in this course that can be difficult to understand. Did not find the recitations to be useful. The exams were more difficult than class teachings and other assignments.

The way he sets up the homework, like unlimited times of trials for Achieve homework.

I think the recitations should be kept as the practice is helpful.

The problem sets.

Achieve homework should be kept, the problem sets, and recitation.

I think the PowerPoint slides we can follow and Robert's lecture style should be kept for future times this course is taught. I also enjoyed having the textbook as it helped me further understand economic concepts, and it gave me a good refresh of course content before exams.

The problem sets and the recitations were very helpful regarding ways to ensure you are understanding the material and practicing it.

I like the problem sets

**Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2024****Robert Mcdonough, ECON 111-001 ECON FOR ENTREPRENEURS****Mode: IP (In Person)**

Raters	Students
Responded	21
Invited	73
Response Ratio	28.8%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.67	5.00	0.58	21	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	23.8%	71.4%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.62	5.00	0.59	21	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	28.6%	66.7%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.81	5.00	0.51	21	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	9.5%	85.7%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.43	5.00	0.81	21	0.0%	0.0%	19.0%	19.0%	61.9%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.43	5.00	0.81	21	0.0%	0.0%	19.0%	19.0%	61.9%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.62	5.00	0.67	21	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	19.0%	71.4%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.71	5.00	0.56	21	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	19.0%	76.2%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.71	5.00	0.46	21	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.62	5.00	0.67	21	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	19.0%	71.4%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.

N	Yes	No
21	100.0%	0.0%

## Open-Ended Responses

### 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Spring 2024 semester?

#### Comments

Professor McDonough made learning possible for me this semester by providing extremely in depth and engaging lectures that allowed me to really enjoy learning about the course material.

His energy in class makes us understand concepts easily.

Professor McDonough was a great professor that exposed the class to many important parts of microeconomics that applied to entrepreneurship. I was consistently engaged in his class and he did a great job of teaching the course in an organized manner. Learning about economics through real case studies of businesses was very interesting and helpful for understanding economic concepts. McDonough was also always willing to answer questions no matter what point in the lecture we were at.

Flexible office hours and real-world application examples of concepts that made learning easier.

great professor!

McDonough made sure that the class participated and structured the class in a way that basically depended on our engagement.

Robert encouraged class conversation and happily answered any student questions and clarified things when needed. His classes were interesting and we got to talk about modern brands and do fun activities in class to help learn the material. Although every class was lecture style, he made class very interesting. He was also available at office hours to assist with any questions we had about the class or problem sets, which was very helpful. He attempted to make personal connections with students and learn our names, even though our class was large.

Being available, extremely knowledgeable, and enthusiastic.

He had very relevant topics and related them back to our lectures and learning topics.

He spent a lot of time making sure we understood and made class engaging

He clearly explains all concepts and facilitates engaging classroom discussion.

He was a great professor.

Professor McDonough helped us understand microeconomics in the scope of successful startups. He could have improved with his flexibility around extenuating student circumstances for assignments.

He created an exciting environment for learning during his classes, especially during the morning (thanks to that ginormous cup of coffee)

it was great

The cases were essential to understanding the big picture ways of how economic principles are utilized in the real world. The problem sets helped me critically think about the course material throughout the semester.

## 2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

### Comments

The case study structure of the course should definitely be kept for the future.

totally paper aircraft

I loved how the class revolved around case studies, and I also appreciate the opportunities for office hours that were offered. I really like the style of the class because it gave students opportunities to participate in discussion throughout lecture.

the problem sets are very helpful.

everything!

The case studies are really helpful for applying the concepts we learn.

The style of the class, the breakdown of how our grades are structured, and the structure of tests and class in general

All aspects

All the cases.

I think this class was very effective

Robert McDonough! He is amazing!

All of it

Polls in class drive up engagement.

all of it

The Case studies, problem sets, and participation/attendance requirements.

**Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2023**  
**Robert Mcdonough, ECON 101H-002 ECON: INTRO**  
**Mode: IP (In Person)**

Raters	Students
Responded	14
Invited	26
Response Ratio	53.8%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.79	5.00	0.43	14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%	78.6%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.93	5.00	0.27	14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	92.9%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00	14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.69	5.00	0.48	13	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30.8%	69.2%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.64	5.00	0.63	14	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	21.4%	71.4%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.64	5.00	0.50	14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.7%	64.3%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.79	5.00	0.43	14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%	78.6%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.64	5.00	0.63	14	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	21.4%	71.4%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.64	5.00	0.50	14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.7%	64.3%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.

N	Yes	No
14	92.9%	7.1%

## Open-Ended Responses

## 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Fall 2023 semester?

### Comments

Professor McDonough always took the time to make sure his students completely absorbed and understood the material he was teaching us. If we didn't understand it one way, he would teach us another. He was super available outside of class and devoted so much to his students to make sure that we got the best learning experience possible. He made me love economics again, and I am forever thankful that his classroom was such a welcoming atmosphere.

Prof. McDonough was the best professor I could have asked for Econ101. He was reachable in and outside of class, always willing to answer questions, and willing to talk. He created as many review opportunities possible both in and out of class.

Extremely engaging, great at communicating, extremely fair yet challenging with grading.

He explained information very enthusiastically and very well. Very engaging lectures and very good answers to our questions.

Robert's ECON101H class was like a breath of fresh air for me coming to college. After taking a gap year, I was incredibly detached from the world of academics. I expected college to be similar to what I remembered of high school. With teachers actually teaching in lectures and giving useful resources conducive towards learning outside of them. Coming to college however, I found this wasn't the case. Instead of learning things in class and being given work and resources outside of class to reinforce, or put into practice what was learned, I found that I would learn little to nothing in lectures and would have to do the bulk BOTH learning and work outside of class. This hasn't been true for my economics class.

Robert does an incredible job of teaching during his lectures for a multitude of reasons. For one, he always, always encourage, acknowledges, and provides answers questions. This helps increase the clarity of the subject matter. Robert also always comes prepared with incredibly informational slides. His slides add a lot of value to his lectures, providing graphs, clear cut definition, key takeaways, and also being interactive. But Robert doesn't let his slides do all his work, his verbal explanations are what I've found the best part of his lectures, and his slides serve to accentuate what he talks about. Often professors will go on tangents, explaining things that are not necessary, and sometimes completely irrelevant to the subject matter. Robert never does that. He always says on topic and focused. Only saying things that will help deepen our understanding of his material. Robert also uses in class participation to keep us involved and give us an opportunity to apply what we've just learned to a problem. When it comes to exam review, Robert also posts a plethora of extra, optional practice, to further allow us to apply what we've learned.

Robert, from my experience, is also a really genuine, kind individual with a passion for economics. This paired with his willingness to help whenever possible make learning economics in his class an incredibly pleasant experience.

Professor Robert is awesome and very effective all around in his job. I couldn't believe this was his first semester teaching as he taught as though he's been in the field for long. I love his classes are they are very interactive and engaging. His passion for the subject matter alone is just amazing.

N/A

He was very responsive to feedback and genuinely wanted to improve my class in any way he could. Whether through asking for feedback on how things were going, or having a poll at the end of class to ask any additional questions and he would answer them thoroughly. He worked to have interactive examples in his class such as the reeses cup example. In addition, he provided study resources which were helpful for exams. While I am not getting an A in this class by any means, I felt that he wanted all of his students to succeed and worked hard to do that.

Lots of office hours, willingness to answer all questions, very open!

Professor Mcdonough made a great efforts to provide students help during office hours, and through answering questions through email.

He really just met students where they were at, and that was greatly appreciated.

I enjoyed having a lecture of what we read on the book. I have heard of ECON 101 being a flipped classroom; however, I believe I learned more and was able to fully grasp the concepts in a lecture environment. The problem sets helped greatly with understanding the concepts. I do wish we had more practice questions in McDonough's format — however, I know this can be difficult and time consuming.

Always willing to answer questions and explain concepts via office hours, email, even in the ECON aid center when it's not the designated time. Prof. McDonough was very approachable and kind.

## 2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

### Comments

I like the problem sets, the ability to work through achieve questions multiple times until you get the correct answer, and the practice questions in recitations.

Overall and exam review sessions.

Everything

I liked the exam formats.

The slides should be kept. The overall structure of the course should be kept. I think Robert is also an integral part of the experience. I've talked with people in other econ sections with different professors and it appears that our experiences differ radically. I'm overall a big fan of Robert's class and wouldn't want anything changed.

Posting the slides is a GREAT asset.

Continuing to do math on the board, fun interactive examples, poll everywhere questions, practice exams.

Office hours, practice midterms/format of recitations and psets, classroom teaching (as opposed to flipped classroom), review sessions with ULAs

I believe current examples of day-to-day business and economy news made the course more interesting. I wish that at the end of each presentation, Professor McDonough would have created a summary slide of ALL of the content for that unit (including information we need to know for the test that wasn't covered in class). This would have made day to day studying easier because we only received a "test topics" sheet a week before the test.

How problem sets are graded and the weekly achieves

Problem Sets, lecture style, recitation questions, and midterm practice

I really liked the problem sets because they were challenging and provided me with a way to explain the concepts throughly.

**Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2023****Robert McDonough, ECON 480-002 LABOR ECONOMICS****Mode: IP (In Person)**

Raters	Students
Responded	18
Invited	40
Response Ratio	45%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.44	5.00	0.98	18	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	61.1%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.72	5.00	0.67	18	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	5.6%	83.3%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.50	5.00	0.86	18	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	22.2%	66.7%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.67	5.00	0.69	18	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	11.1%	77.8%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.56	5.00	0.70	18	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	22.2%	66.7%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.56	5.00	0.86	18	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	16.7%	72.2%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.50	5.00	0.99	18	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	27.8%	66.7%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.11	5.00	1.28	18	5.6%	11.1%	5.6%	22.2%	55.6%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.44	5.00	1.04	18	5.6%	0.0%	5.6%	22.2%	66.7%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.

N	Yes	No
17	94.1%	5.9%

## Open-Ended Responses

### 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Fall 2023 semester?

Comments
-Very understanding and willing to work with students -No pressure on attendance -Exams were not outrageously difficult or tricky
good lectures, very available for office hours and student questions. Found overlap between the course content and the interest of the students
In general, I think the content of the ppt taught by professor is very clear, which enables me to learn effectively. However, I am very confused about a project called value your degree in the homework set in the course, which makes me anxious and confused.
He was actively engaged in the material and provided thorough explanations.
Prof McDonough is awesome! He is the best economics professor I have ever had, and explains things so clearly.
Dr. Rob was great and so was this course. His office hours were really good and he had a lot of availability.
Good, clearly explained lectures and homework that reflects lecture materials.
Making himself available for office hours and through canvas message whenever anyone had questions.
Robert was always happy to help me with any questions I had about course material. He was accommodating and structured the course in a way that made me understand econ more than I ever have at UNC! I cannot express how grateful I am to have had Robert this past semester, he was such a great teacher/professor.
He allowed students to share their ideas in class, as well as provided ample opportunities to ask questions in and out of the class.
1) very clear and organized teacher (posted lecture slides on canvas) 2) practice exams )+ key helped me prepare for the exams 3) helpful in office hours
He offered office hours and help if I reached out via email
Very enthusiastic lecturer which is great most days! Really accessible outside of class and helpful in hours. Always can answer questions related to course material.
You can tell that Dr. McDonough is very passionate and knowledgeable about the content, which definitely translates to his lectures. He always allows us to ask questions when we are confused and tries his best to explain concepts in multiple different ways to help every student who learns a bit differently. I really enjoyed his class!
Gave assignments and allowed students to view past lecture slides.
The structure of his homework assignments and tests made this very difficult. The assignments graded on gradescope were very vague and unclear about the grading. In addition, no posted answer keys to homework assignments made studying for the exams very difficult, mainly since you could only get the answers during office hours since he was unreachable over emails, which never was convenient with my schedule. Overall, the structure and course content released favored a professor who did not want to write new test/homework questions every semester, instead of favoring a beneficial learning experience for students
Great professor. Very enthusiastic and encouraged students to learn. Very accessible outside of class and provided good help during office hours. Great person & professor who taught very effectively.

## 2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

### Comments

-the inclusion of grades other than exams, which were weighed reasonably; not everything depended on the exams  
-no pressure on attendance  
-lax personality and approachability of professor  
-content we learned  
-old versions of textbook being acceptable

The problems sets should be kept for the future but reading quizzes were not quite as helpful.

I loved everything, but especially the valuing your degree project!

### lecture style

The office hours, the posted slides, and the practice midterms.

Everything! Especially the Valuing Your Degree project.

The PowerPoint slides being released before class, the project, and problem sets should be kept for the next course.

keep posting lecture slides ahead of time. the problem sets should be kept as well.

### The problem sets and review session before the test

I really enjoyed the weekly, low-stakes reading quizzes. They helped keep me on track with the content without being too overwhelming (because I knew they were only 3–4 questions).

I also appreciated that there were only 4 problem sets in the course. In other classes, there were 7–8 problem sets that were quite overwhelming and long, so I appreciated only assigning 4 that contained only the most important information. I do think that adding true/false questions to the problem set would be helpful in preparing us for the midterms, though.

Although I know it is expensive and not the easiest to set up, I do think an iPad or similar tablet that you could screen share to the projector would be super helpful for this class. There are a lot of graphs, math problems, and visuals with this class, so I think annotating on the actual slides would be super helpful for students to see exactly what Dr. McDonough is pointing at, referring to, or showing on the graphs. (I am just thinking this because the chalkboard in our classroom was a bit difficult to see at times and sometimes unclear). Just a suggestion!

### lecture slides and the valuing your degree project

Reading quizzes were somewhat helpful, but I would change a lot of the structuring in the future, explained above

Keep the valuing my degree paper. I learned a lot from it about my real life.

Keep the number of problem sets (not too overwhelming but covered content) AND the extra credit!

very good course

**Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2023****Robert McDonough, ECON 480-003 LABOR ECONOMICS****Mode: IP (In Person)**

Raters	Students
Responded	15
Invited	42
Response Ratio	35.7%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.33	5.00	0.90	15	0.0%	6.7%	6.7%	33.3%	53.3%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.53	5.00	0.52	15	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	46.7%	53.3%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.33	5.00	0.90	15	0.0%	6.7%	6.7%	33.3%	53.3%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.40	5.00	0.74	15	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	33.3%	53.3%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.20	5.00	1.01	15	0.0%	6.7%	20.0%	20.0%	53.3%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.33	5.00	1.05	15	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	53.3%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.33	5.00	0.90	15	0.0%	6.7%	6.7%	33.3%	53.3%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.13	5.00	1.25	15	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%	26.7%	53.3%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.29	5.00	1.14	14	7.1%	0.0%	7.1%	28.6%	57.1%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.

N	Yes	No
15	100.0%	0.0%

## Open-Ended Responses

### 1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Fall 2023 semester?

Comments
He really encouraged class discussion on each topic, on the other hand we were not given answer keys to our Problem sets which made it really difficult to understand the course material or study for exams.
good lectures
Offered so much support and learning outside of class and was always willing to make time to explain topics.
Robert brings exceptional energy to every class.
Professor Robert is full of energy, respects students, and is a professor that students love.
He allowed me to learn material from more than source and provided questions each week following the material from that week.
He was very accessible outside of class and included many helpful learning resources such as problem sets, the textbook, reading quizzes, and office hours.
He always hosted office hours and always answered questions before and after class. He is very passionate about the subject and teaches it well. One of my favorite ECON professors.
By making himself available to answer any questions about course content either in person or through canvas.
Lectures and problem sets.
Professor Mcdonough provided us with lecture slides that were very helpful towards homework and quizzes that we had in his class. all his lecture were very interactive and interesting having us engage in what he is teaching.
He made learning very difficult for me by not having enough resources or availability for the subject matter. He was very hard to access and had two office hours per week, one at the gizmos bar on franklin which is a very difficult location for many students (no free parking and can also be uncomfortable for students...). He never posts answer keys for problem sets so its really hard to learn when the only way to know what you got wrong is by going to office hours (alongside all of your classmates who also don't know what they got wrong). I feel like the exams were not always fair, but of course it is very difficult to study for a class when all you have is a practice midterm to go off of. I felt like there were often trick questions on exams and the grader wasn't always fair either. He often dismissed students concerns about this kind of structure (I personally think he did this to avoid having to write new problem sets each semester...). This was one of the hardest courses for me to get help in and I do not recommend it.

## 2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

### Comments

Everything was fine, but no solutions to problem sets was frustrating.

practice exams

The structure of the course was great and easy to follow and the content was engaging.

I enjoy when Robert uses real-world examples to explain labor economics concepts to the class.

The only small suggestion is that you can modify the proportion of right and wrong parts of the exam, because right and wrong are almost impossible to review, and the points are huge. It is often easy to skip a level if you make one mistake. The main thing is that it is difficult to control. In many cases, everyone gets perfect marks on the written questions. If you get a few correct or wrong questions wrong, you will make a lot of mistakes.

The only part of the class that I thought was confusing were the true false portion of exams.

I liked how extra credit points were build into the problem sets. Additionally, I liked the reading quizzes; I feel as they helped better my understanding of the material.

One critique that I have is that I wish assignment and exam grades came out in a more timely manner. I also wish that there were more practice problems for exams

All of it. I would add more in class examples and calculations/ graph drawing.

I think the valuing your degree assignment should be kept for the future.

### Problem sets

the valuing your degree was something that really made it an interesting class to see why a degree is worth getting for some individual and how it can impact someone's labor.

the content is interesting. the exams are dreadful

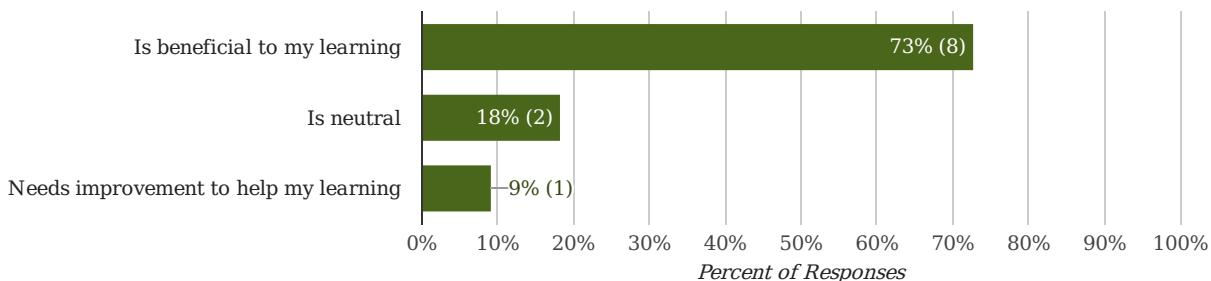
# Labor Market Issues (Spring 2022 E-SES)

Instructor: **McDonough, Robert**  
 Subject: **Economics**  
 Catalog & Section: **350 34273**

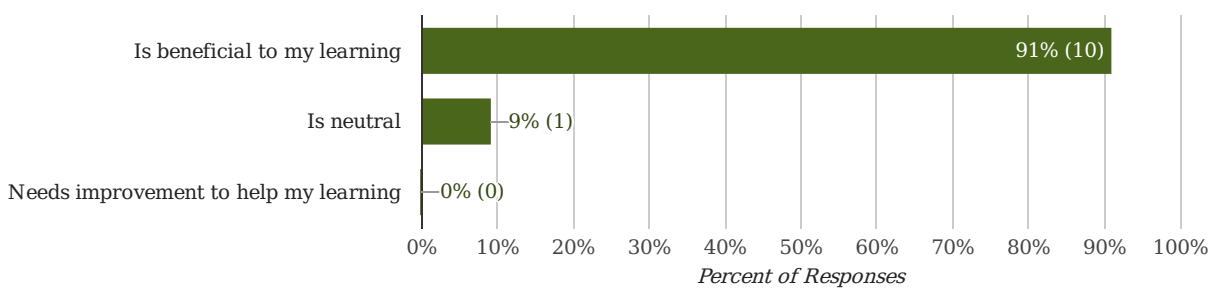
Enrollment: **20**  
 Responses Incl Declines: **11**  
 Declines: **0**

## Teaching and Learning Elements

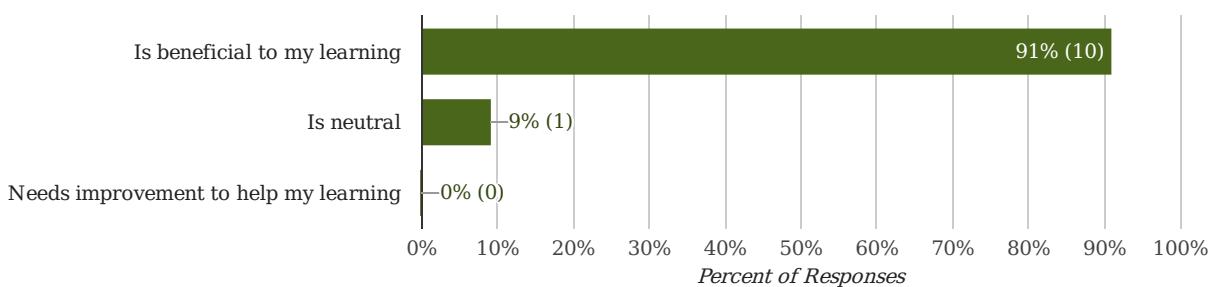
### The inclusiveness of this course:



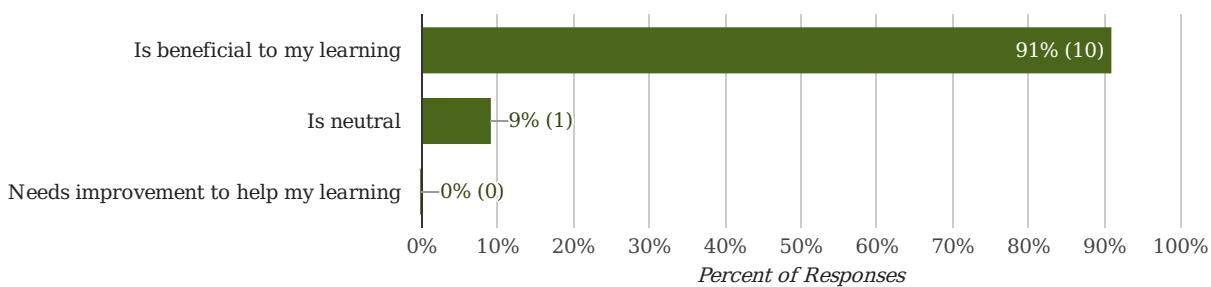
### The support from the instructor:

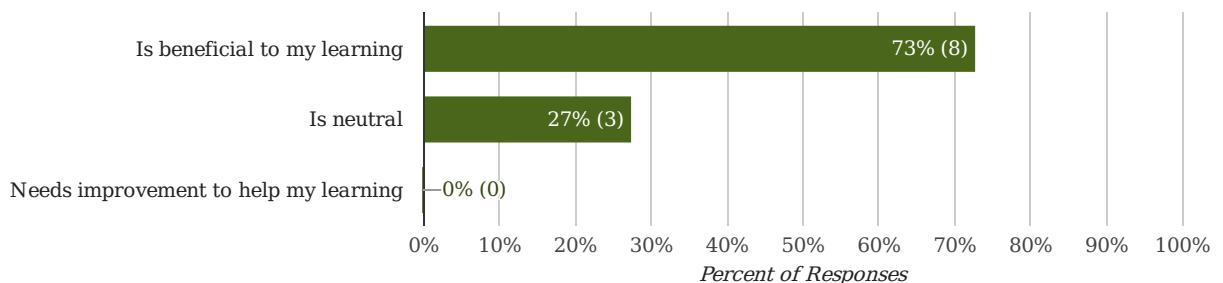
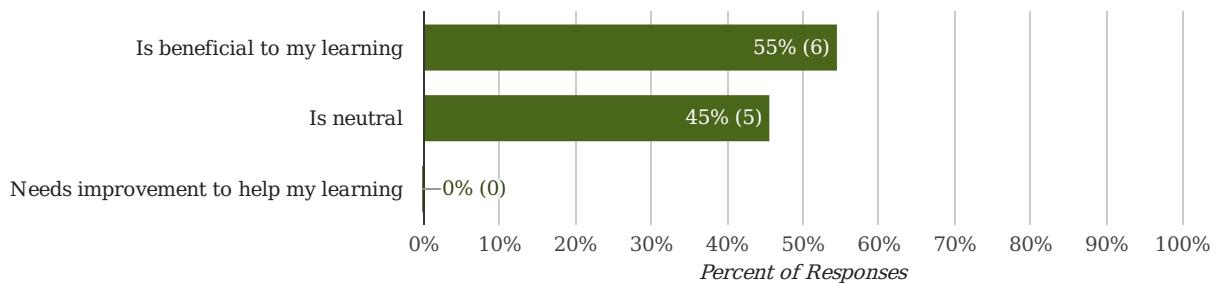
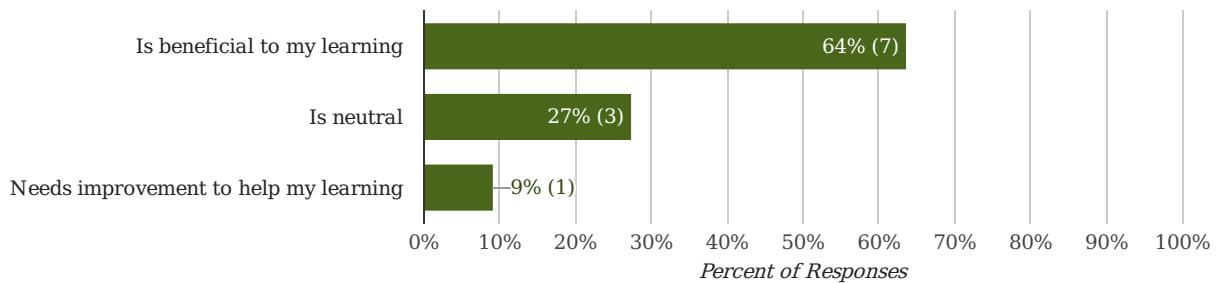
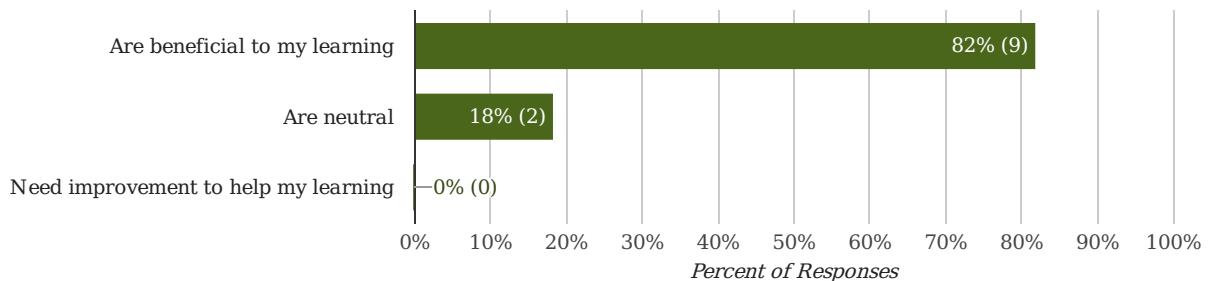
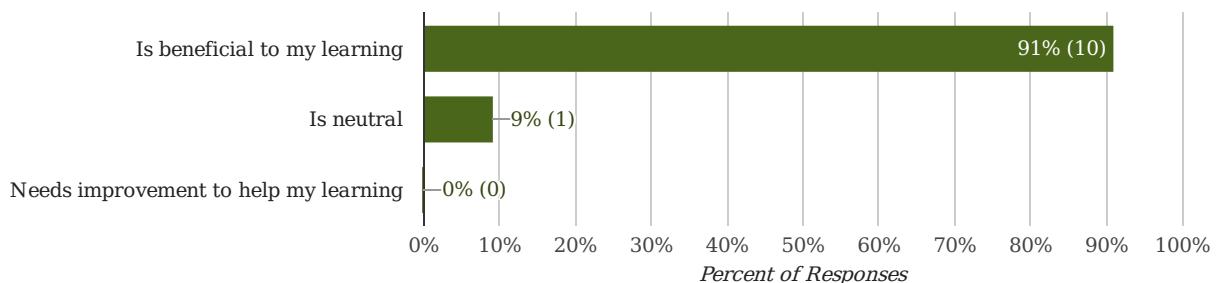


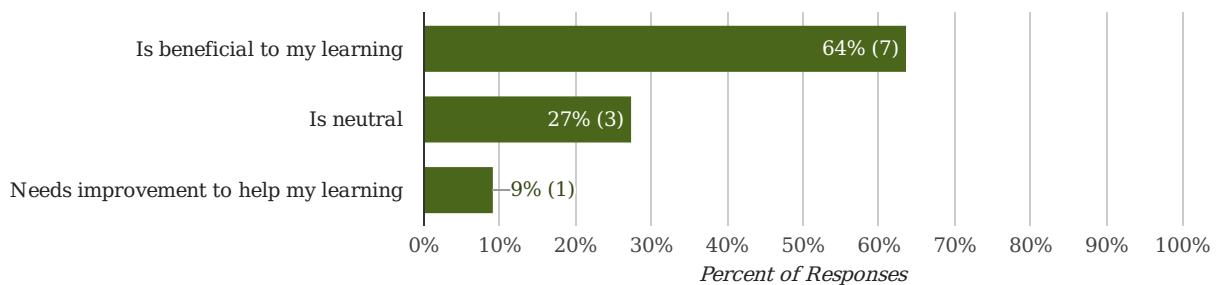
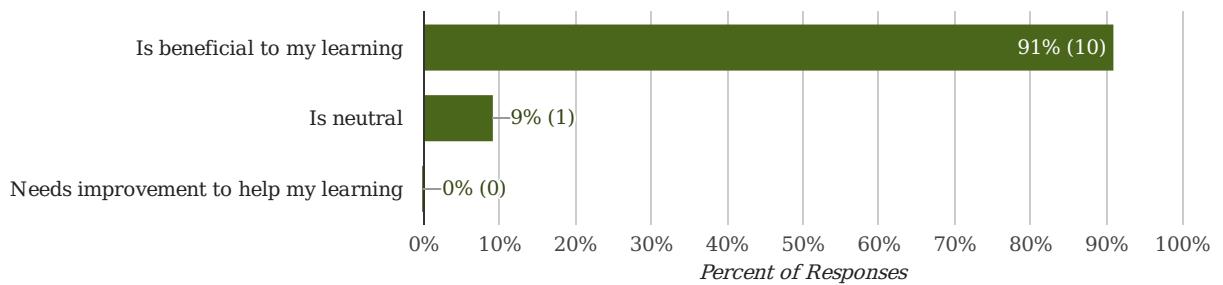
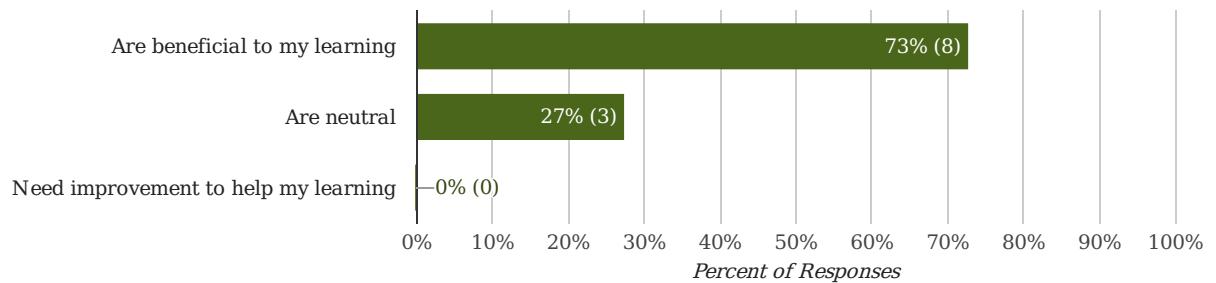
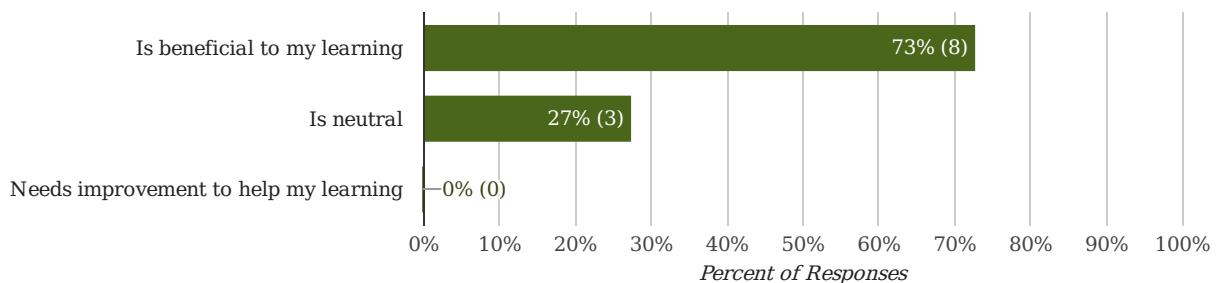
### The feedback provided:



### The level of challenge in the course:

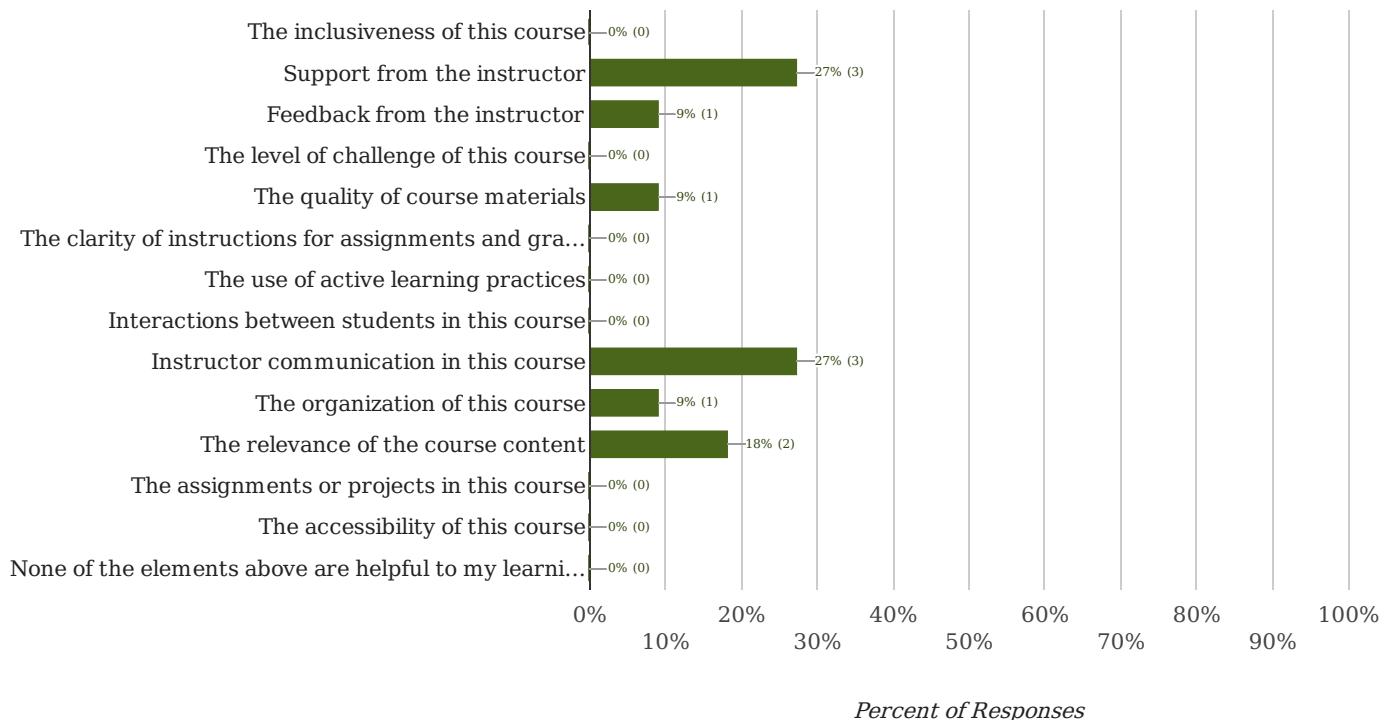


**The quality of the course materials:****The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:****The degree to which the course includes active learning:****The opportunities for student interaction in this class:****Instructor communication:**

**The organization of the course:****The relevance of the course content:****The assignments or projects in this course:****The accessibility of the course:**

Most Beneficial

**Please select the teaching element that has been MOST helpful to your learning, and then provide a detailed written comment about what worked well and why.**



## Most Beneficial Comments

What's Been MOST Helpful to Your Learning? (11 comments)

**Q: What specifically about the inclusiveness of the course helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the support from the instructor helped your learning?**

- 1 He is always available and willing to help me with anything.
- 2 He lets me bother him when I need help more than he should. I love that.
- 3 good.

**Q: What specifically about the level of challenge helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the feedback helped your learning?**

- 1 Great communication.

**Q: What specifically about the quality of course materials helped your learning?**

- 1 Interesting course content.

**Q: What specifically about the clarity of instructions helped your learning?**

---

**Q: What specifically about the use of active learning helped your learning?**

---

**Q: What specifically about the interactions between students helped your learning?**

---

**Q: What specifically about instructor communication helped your learning?**

---

- 1 Robert lets his students know what is going on in terms of assignments and is always open to beneficial class discussions.
- 2 The instructor does a great job of explaining the intuition and relevancy of each topic so I have a better overall understanding of the material and why it's important.
- 3 The instructor is very active and clearly puts a lot of thought into how he communicates. For example, he tries to center almost every example from our own perspective.

**Q: What specifically about the organization of this course helped your learning?**

---

- 1 The weekly quizzes are important. It seems the classes that I understand the content more in have weekly quizzes. The quizzes make you think about the content you learned that week, instead of putting it off until the problem sets or midterm/final.

**Q: What specifically about the relevance of the course content helped your learning?**

---

- 1 All topics felt relevant and important in today's labor market. Topics are useful for a variety of majors.
- 2 Material from class perfectly reflects what's on the homework and exams.

**Q: What specifically about the assignments or projects helped your learning?**

---

**Q: What specifically about the accessibility of this course helped your learning?**

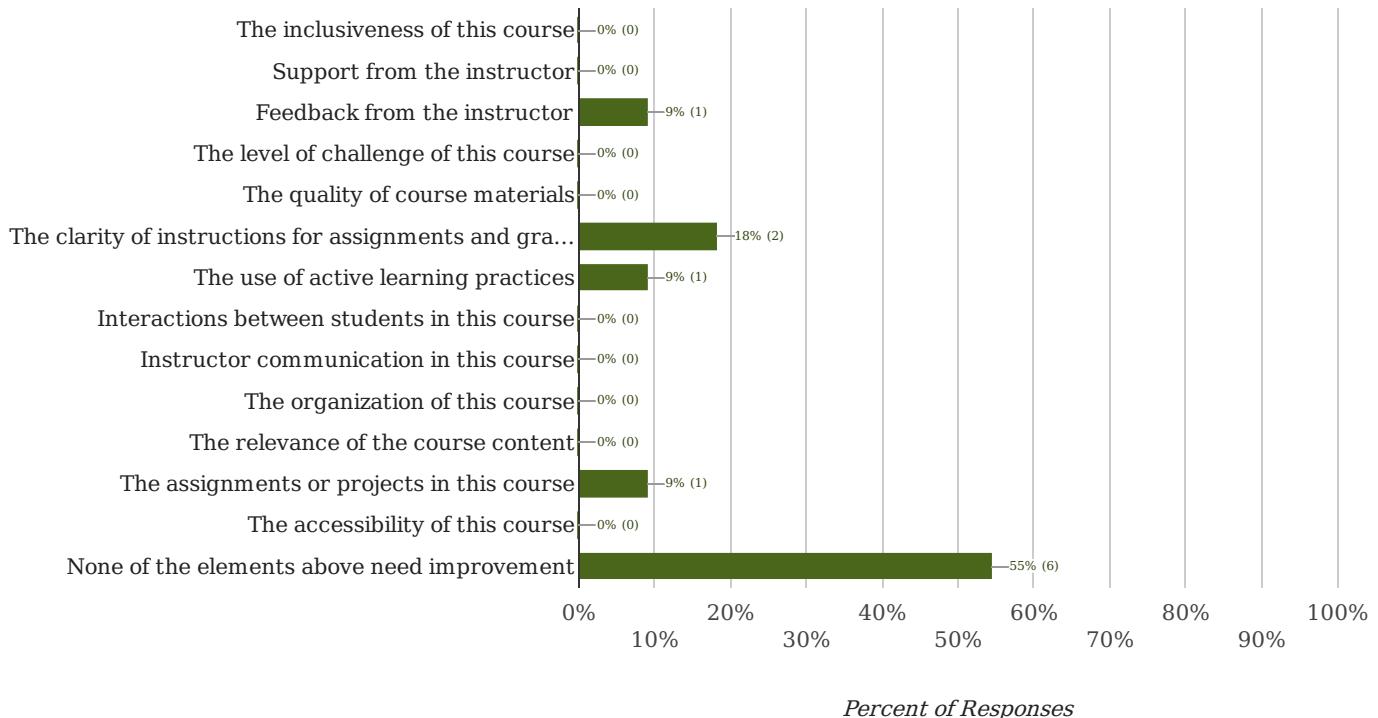
---

**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above were helpful to your learning.**

---

Most In Need of Improvement

**Please select one teaching element that could most use some improvement to help you learn, and then provide a detailed written comment about what specific changes you suggest.**



## Most In Need of Improvement Comments

What Could MOST Use Some Improvement to Help you Learn? (9 comments)

**Q: What specific change in the inclusiveness of the course would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the support from the instructor would help your learning?**

---

**Q: Was the course too hard or too easy? What specific change related to the level of challenge would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the feedback would help your learning?**

---

- 1 Sometimes the grader for the course wasn't super clear when giving feedback, and sometimes when you ask Robert for clarification he would ramble (not necessarily a bad thing, but it was easy to get confused)

**Q: What specific change in the quality of course materials would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the clarity of instructions would help your learning?**

---

- 1 Grading wasn't too unclear, but clarity could be higher when answering specific questions.

- 2 I feel, due to economic problems having ambiguous answers sometimes, that it can be a little confusing to tell when a definite answer is what was wanted on a homework.

**Q: What specific change in the use of active learning would help your learning?**

- 1 It would be helpful to do examples in class of homework and exam type questions. We never do examples in the class to practice questions and it makes it frustrating when doing homework and taking the midterm.

**Q: What specific change in instructor communication would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the interactions between students would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the organization of the course would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the relevance of the course content would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the assignments or projects would help your learning?**

- 1 I think students would benefit more from having two attempts on quizzes. I know personally, after getting a few wrong (or sometimes all of them) I wasn't incentivized to go back and learn from my mistakes because there was no opportunity to get some points back with a second attempt. Just a thought.

**Q: What specific change in the accessibility of the course would help your learning?**

**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above need improvement to help your learning.**

1 Robert has mastered teaching this course. I can't come up with a critique because it was always fun and engaging.

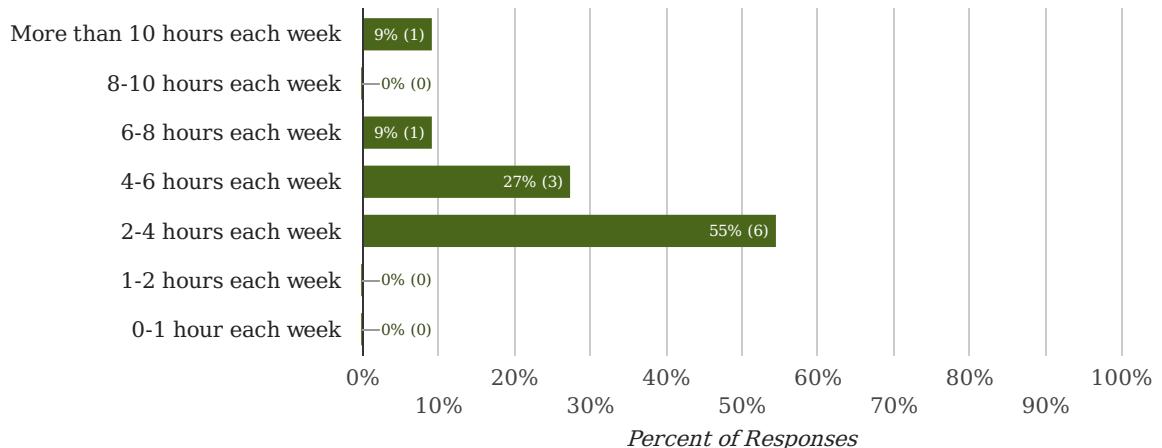
2 None.

3 good.

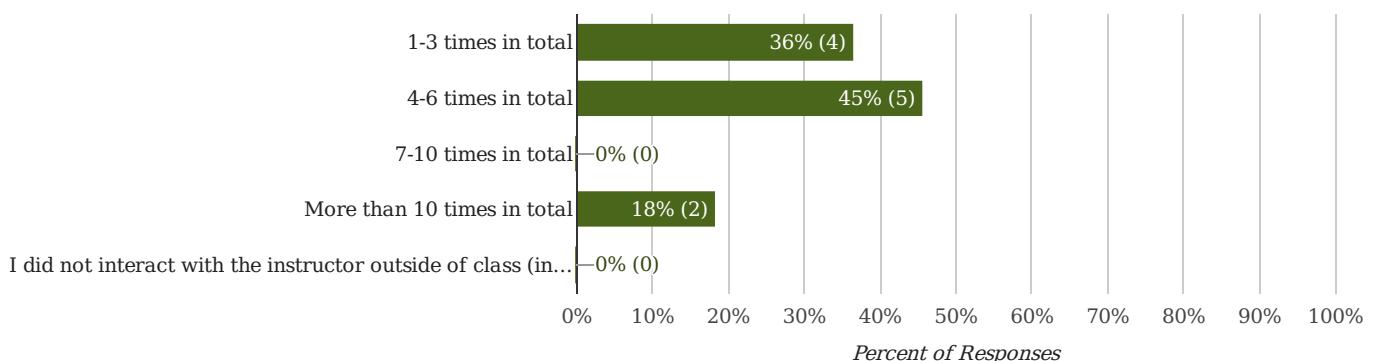
4 This has been one of the most enjoyable Econ class I've taken and I've learned a lot.

Student engagement in their own learning

**How many hours per week did you spend on this course (not including any face-to-face class time)?**



**Approximately how many times did you interact with the instructor outside of class (e.g. by email, office hours)?**



## COVID Impact

### Impacts on my Learning (8 comments)

**Q: Describe any challenges you may have faced this session: for example have you experienced technology/connectivity issues, home/personal issues, limited motivation, time management challenges, or distractions that have negatively impacted your learning?**

- 1 Time management. Have to put a lot of work into the problem sets.
- 2 Not necessarily a challenge, but I would have liked to have more, non-graded, worksheets with full problem examples.
- 3 idk I am stupid. that was a problem sometimes.
- 4 Lots of being sick.
- 5 None.
- 6 n/a
- 7 i like this class. it is good and also good.
- 8 Balancing work and school.

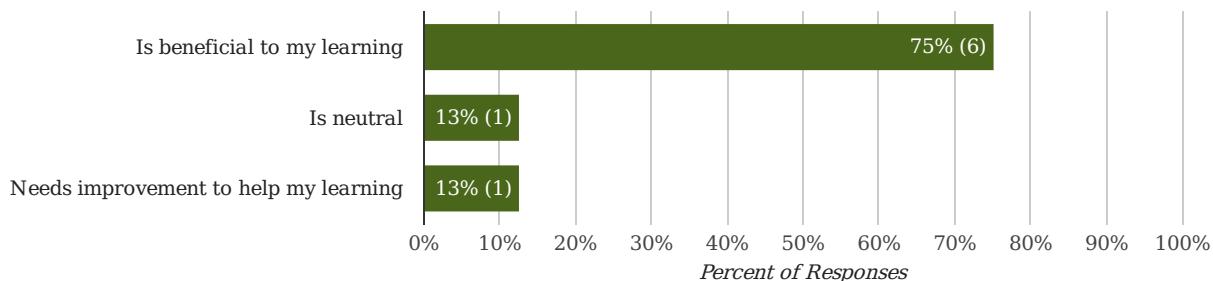
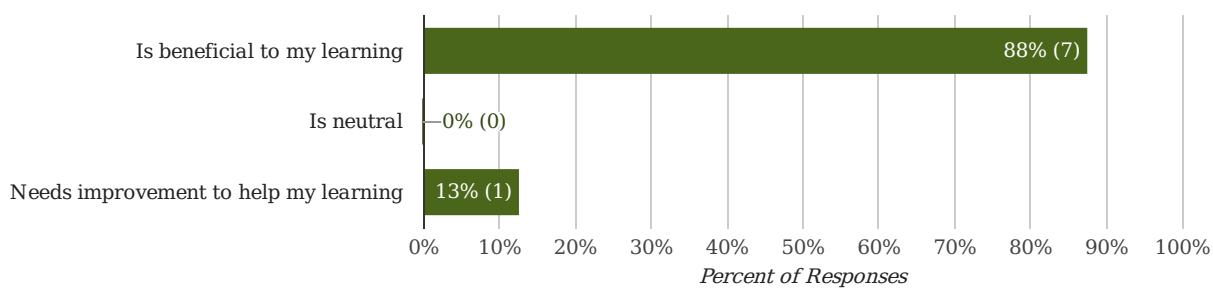
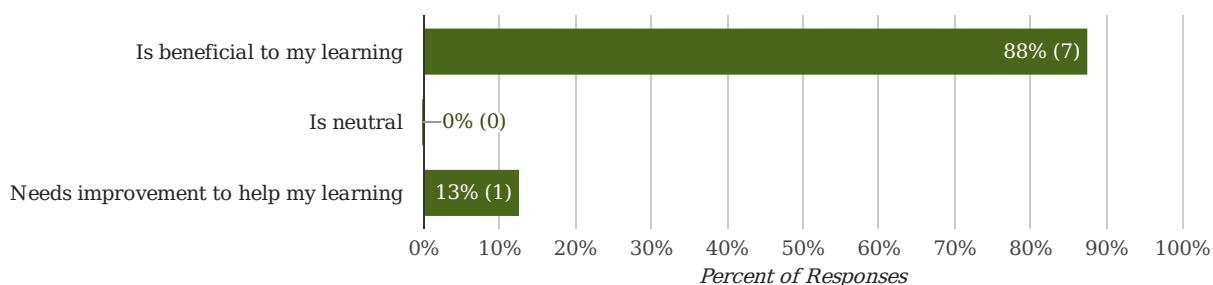
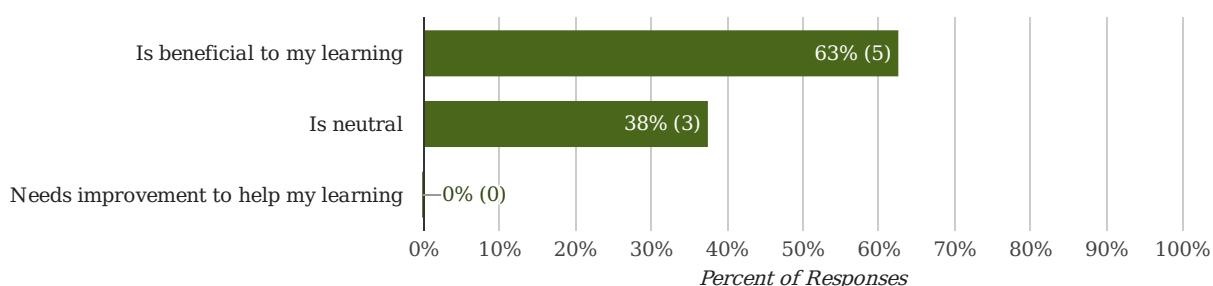
Is there anything else you would like to say about your learning experience?

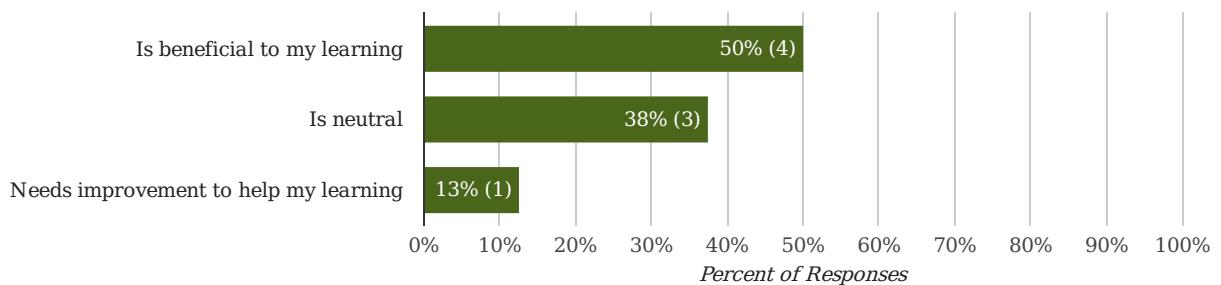
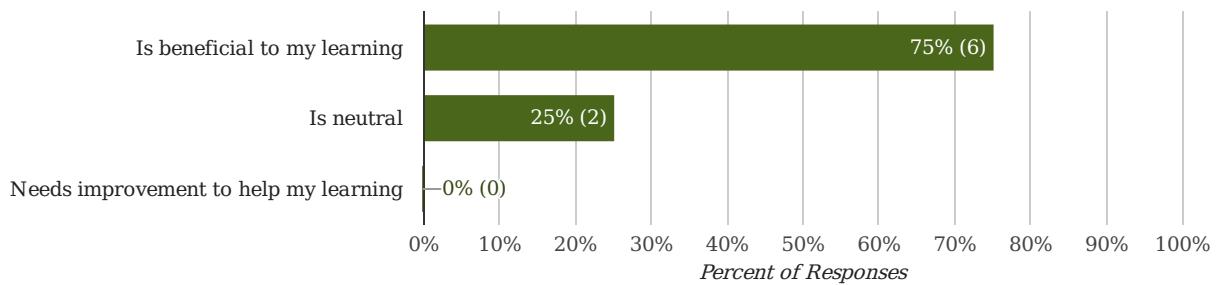
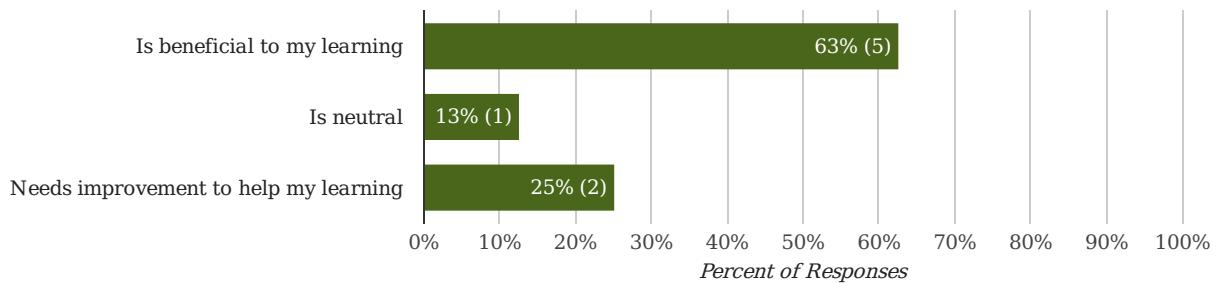
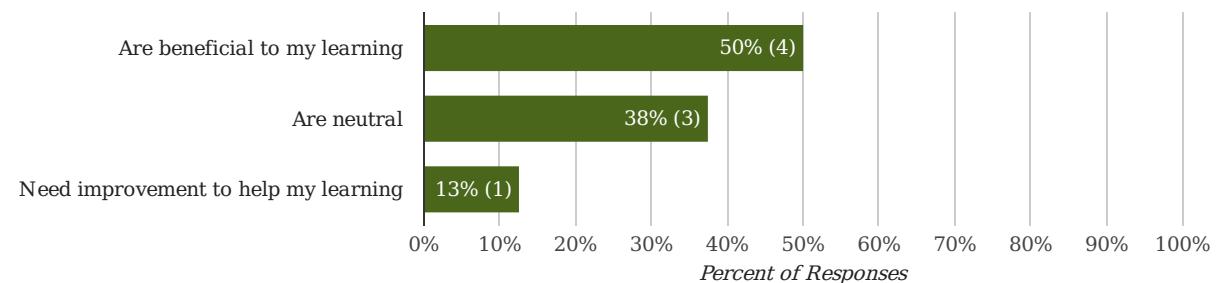
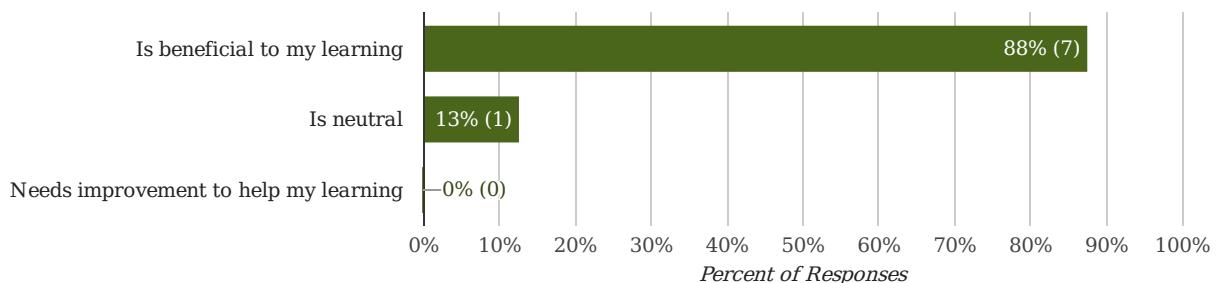
Final Question (3 comments)

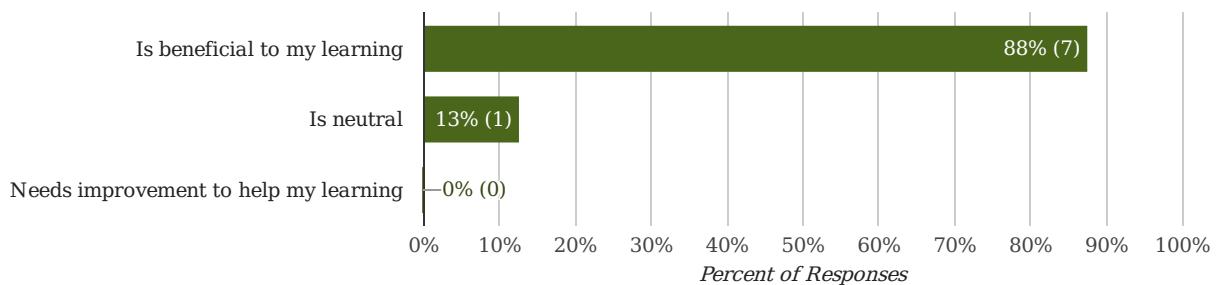
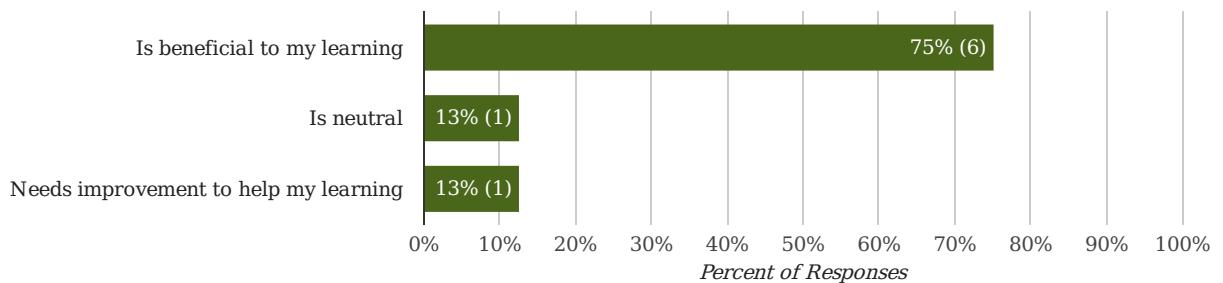
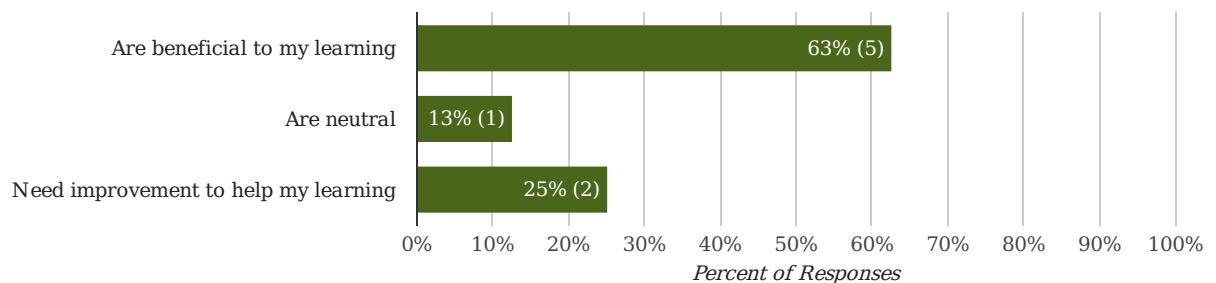
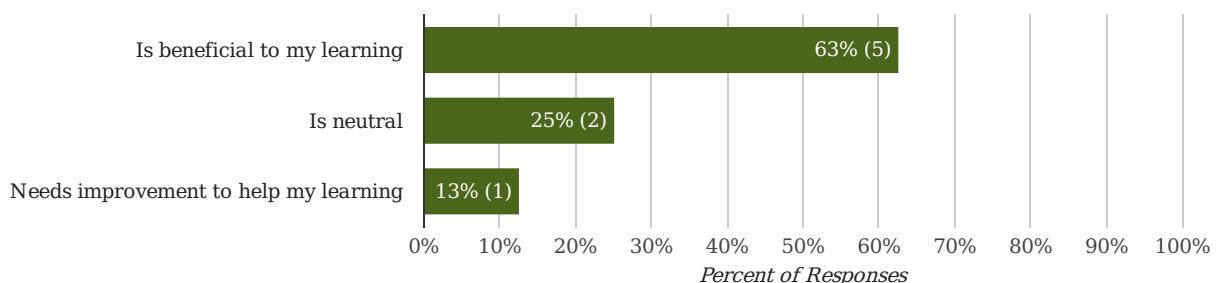
**Q: What else would you like to say about your learning experience in the course? Please avoid personal comments about the instructor.**

- 1 Robert truly has a knack for teaching. He brings positive energy to every class and students can tell he values their learning experience. Econ classes most often suffer from poor teaching from grad students who do not have any passion for teaching. Robert was the exact opposite and has a promising career ahead of him through creating a beneficial learning experience that will impact students' lives.
- 2 Robert is the best instructor I have had at UO, even more so than my professors. Extremely engaging, animated, knowledgeable. Robert also writes very fair tests. Nothing bad to say about this class. Honestly Perfect.
- 3 Great course, great professor.

## Teaching and Learning Elements

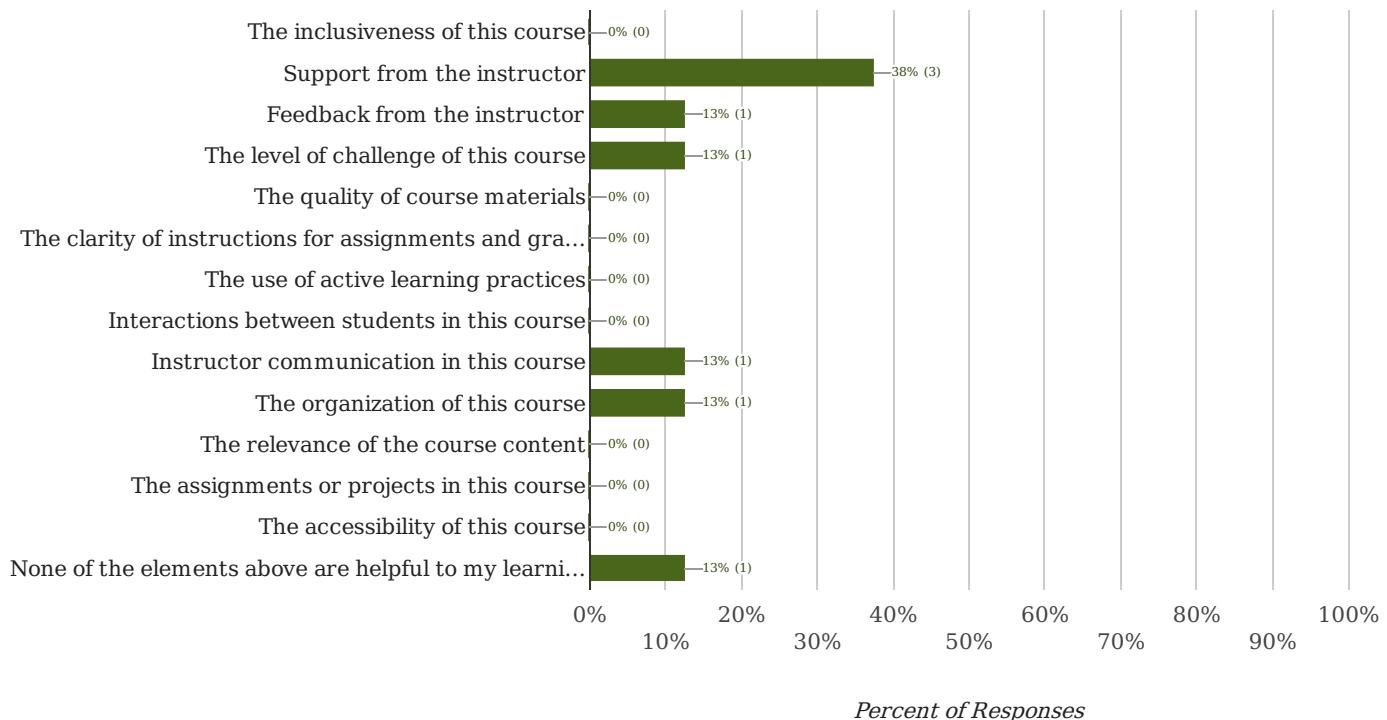
**The inclusiveness of this course:****The support from the instructor:****The feedback provided:****The level of challenge in the course:**

**The quality of the course materials:****The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:****The degree to which the course includes active learning:****The opportunities for student interaction in this class:****Instructor communication:**

**The organization of the course:****The relevance of the course content:****The assignments or projects in this course:****The accessibility of the course:**

Most Beneficial

**Please select the teaching element that has been MOST helpful to your learning, and then provide a detailed written comment about what worked well and why.**



## Most Beneficial Comments

### What's Been MOST Helpful to Your Learning? (8 comments)

#### **Q: What specifically about the inclusiveness of the course helped your learning?**

#### **Q: What specifically about the support from the instructor helped your learning?**

- 1 He is a great teacher and is a little more informal than some of my other professors. It makes it easier to listen to him and understand what he's saying.
- 2 Robert is a really great teacher! At the beginning of the term I was nervous for this course because of my previous bad experience in my high school Macroeconomics class, but I truly enjoyed this class. He was always super helpful in answering questions, teaching material, and supporting his students. The material was challenging enough to keep me interested, but not overwhelmingly hard. I also like how the material matched what I discussed in other classes and was applicable to my daily life. He truly wants everyone to understand and do well which is amazing!
- 3 I don't want to sound dramatic but Robert's class is one of the only reasons I didn't drop out within the first 4 weeks. Robert, more than once, went out of his way to make sure my needs were met in order to succeed in class. He's the most supportive instructor I have this term, and one of my top 5 most supportive instructors I have ever had. As long as you reach out to him first (email or office hours) to let him know you need/want help, he will bend over backwards for you. This course was not easy for me, but he made it clear that he believed in me, and it was clear he meant it. He didn't allow me to even think about doubting myself.

He also interacts with students during class. He is funny and approachable, which makes his class feel laid back and incredibly welcoming. He creates an environment that I am excited to learn in.

#### **Q: What specifically about the level of challenge helped your learning?**

1 Overall course material was challenging and made me rethink how to approach this course.

**Q: What specifically about the feedback helped your learning?**

1 Meeting with the professor for office hours helped me to better understand the course content.

**Q: What specifically about the quality of course materials helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the clarity of instructions helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the use of active learning helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the interactions between students helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about instructor communication helped your learning?**

1 Great teacher. he understands his subject of expertise and it shows. He is truly passionate about what he does and has an amazing, fun, and happy personality. His passion for economics helps me overlook the less interesting parts.

**Q: What specifically about the organization of this course helped your learning?**

1 Helped me understand next sections

**Q: What specifically about the relevance of the course content helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the assignments or projects helped your learning?**

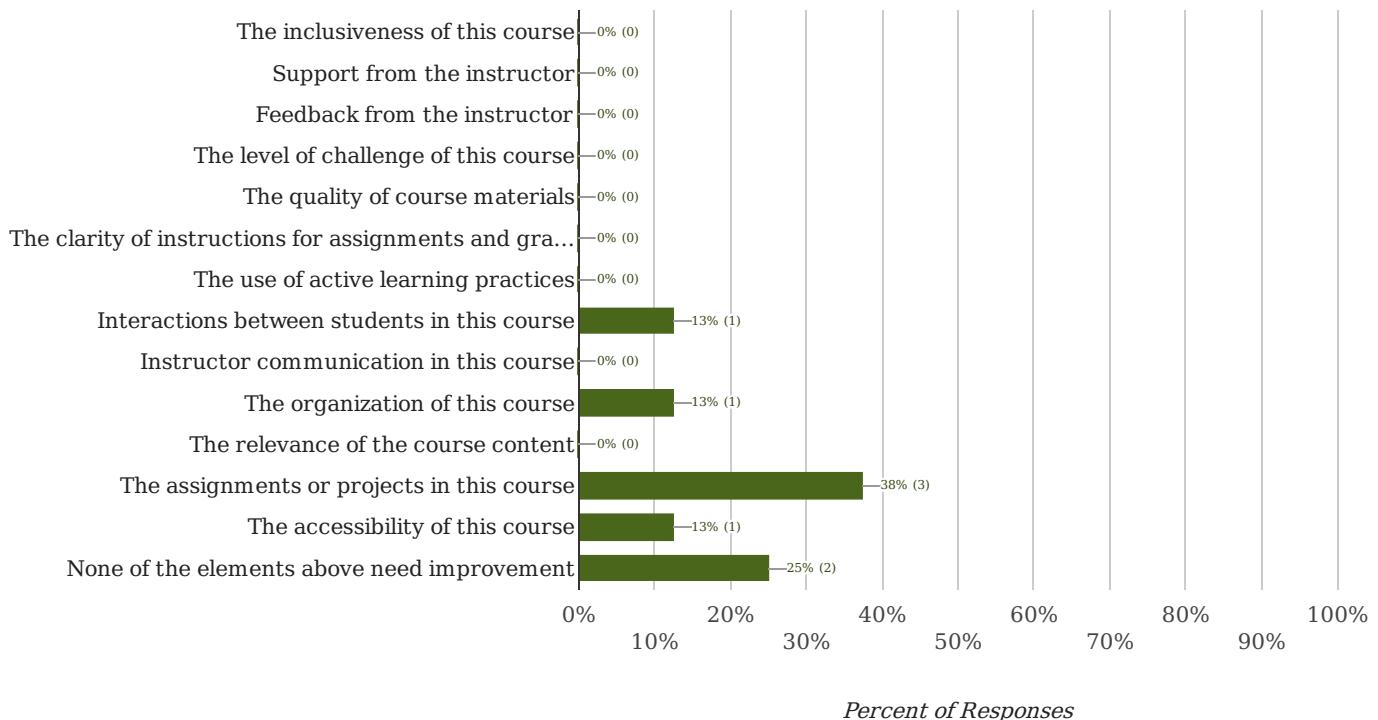
**Q: What specifically about the accessibility of this course helped your learning?**

**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above were helpful to your learning.**

1 The teacher teaches as he talks to peers instead of students. The teacher should actually teach students like they do not understand econ at all.

Most In Need of Improvement

**Please select one teaching element that could most use some improvement to help you learn, and then provide a detailed written comment about what specific changes you suggest.**



## Most In Need of Improvement Comments

What Could MOST Use Some Improvement to Help you Learn? (8 comments)

**Q: What specific change in the inclusiveness of the course would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the support from the instructor would help your learning?**

---

**Q: Was the course too hard or too easy? What specific change related to the level of challenge would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the feedback would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the quality of course materials would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the clarity of instructions would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the use of active learning would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in instructor communication would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the interactions between students would help your learning?**

- 1 This is more of a "listen and take notes" class, but there could be a little more interaction.

**Q: What specific change in the organization of the course would help your learning?**

- 1 I read the textbook in order but lectures were not chronological so i got a little confused.

**Q: What specific change in the relevance of the course content would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the assignments or projects would help your learning?**

- 1 The modules were busy work that felt like a game. they did not connect to the connect in class and I wish we were given classwork or homework that would actually benefit the students for the tests.
- 2 I believe a few more assignments could not do any harm.
- 3 My first three assignments were marked as late because I didn't know how to use inquizitive.

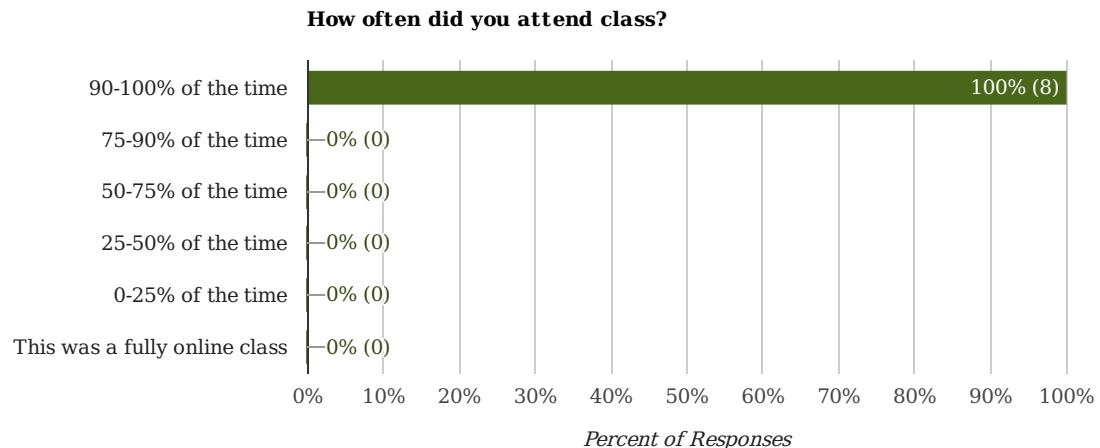
**Q: What specific change in the accessibility of the course would help your learning?**

- 1 Not having to pay to do the assignments would be nice, especially since we are already paying so much to get the class.

**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above need improvement to help your learning.**

- 1 Besides the length of the first midterm being too long for the amount of time given, everything was great!
- 2 Don't really think there's much to improve

## Student engagement in their own learning



How Did You Support Your Own Learning? (8 comments)

**Q: Why did you attend class 90-100% of the time?**

- 1 It is important to go to classes.
- 2 If I did not I would be lost in the class.
- 3 Attending benefited my learning.
- 4 Good class
- 5 The lectures were engaging and covered beyond the textbook so I wanted to get the additional material and figure out what the textbook really meant.
- 6 I believe academic attendance is important to academic achievement/success.
- 7 I had to miss a week when I was class, but I reached out to Robert about it and he met with me privately to make sure I got all the content that was given that week.
- 8 Because being present in class is the best way I learn.

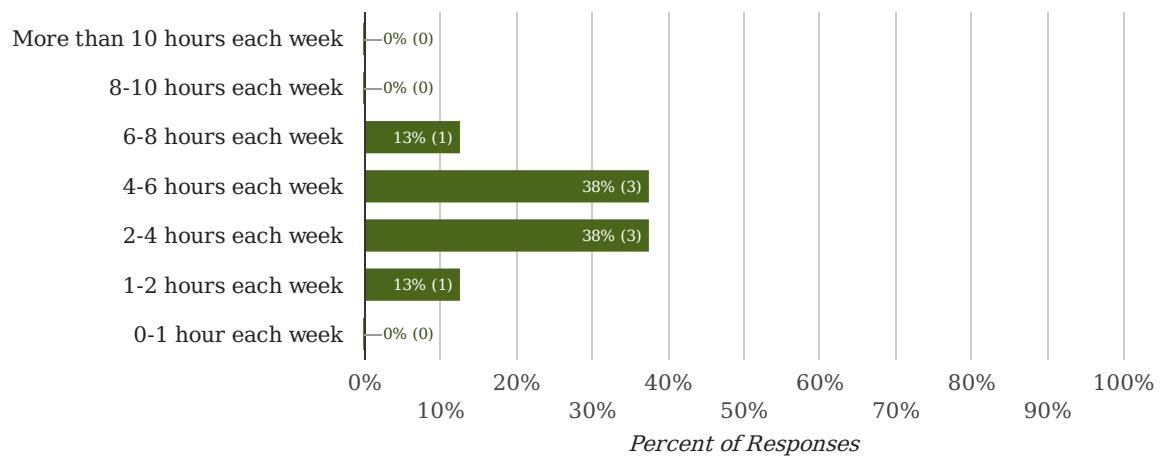
**Q: Why did you attend class 75-90% of the time?**

**Q: Why did you attend class 50-75% of the time?**

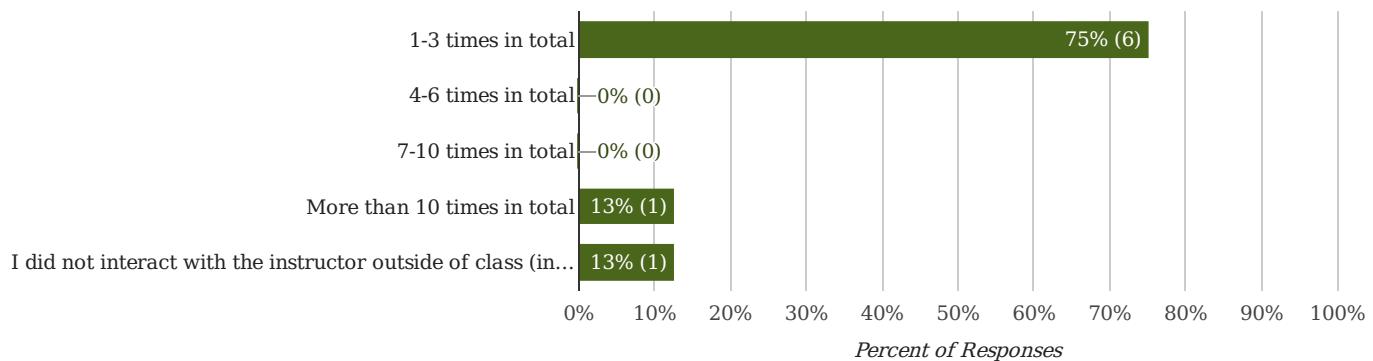
**Q: Why did you attend class 25-50% of the time?**

**Q: Why did you attend class 0-25% of the time?**

**How many hours per week did you spend on this course (not including any face-to-face class time)?**



**Approximately how many times did you interact with the instructor outside of class (e.g. by email, office hours)?**



## COVID Impact

### Impacts on my Learning (8 comments)

**Q: Describe any challenges you may have faced this session: for example have you experienced technology/connectivity issues, home/personal issues, limited motivation, time management challenges, or distractions that have negatively impacted your learning?**

- 1 Just a lack of motivation
- 2 I had a hard time adjusting to being away from home and time managing the modules for this course.
- 3 No challenges that severely impacted my learning.
- 4 N/A
- 5 Testing anxiety has caused me to perform poorly on tests even when i am prepared for them.
- 6 N/A
- 7 This course was overall very hard for me, especially being off of my adderall and being w/o AEC accommodations. I also think that this being the only class I liked this term make me psych myself out about it. My study habits throughout this course were borderline debilitating.
- 8 Time management was a big issue.

Is there anything else you would like to say about your learning experience?

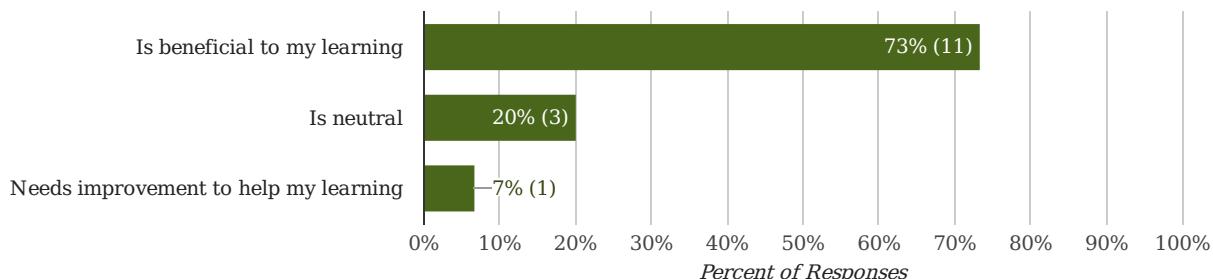
# Labor Market Issues (Fall 2020 E-SES)

Instructor: **McDonough, Robert**  
 Subject: **Economics**  
 Catalog & Section: **350 16578**

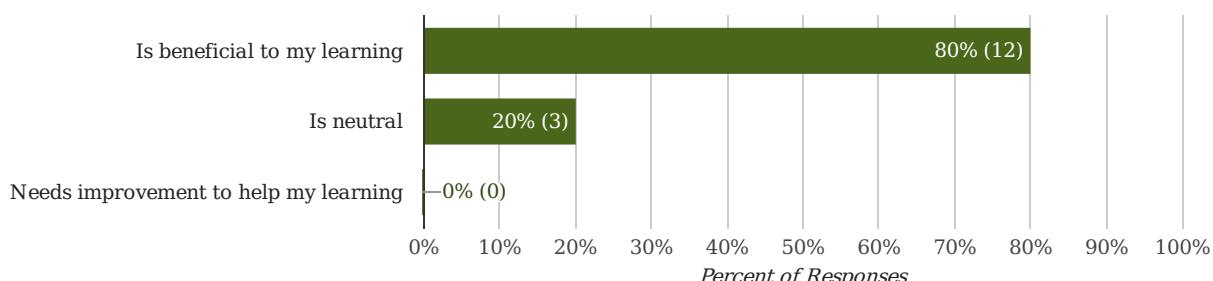
Enrollment: **69**  
 Responses Incl Declines: **15**  
 Declines: **0**

## Teaching and Learning Elements

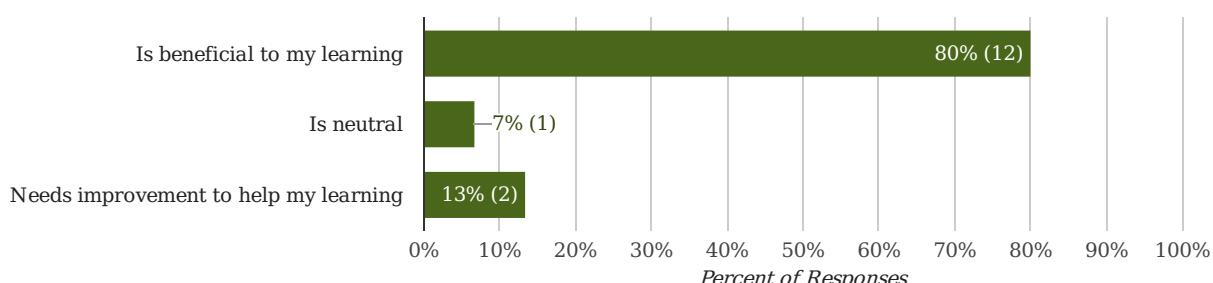
### The inclusiveness of this course:



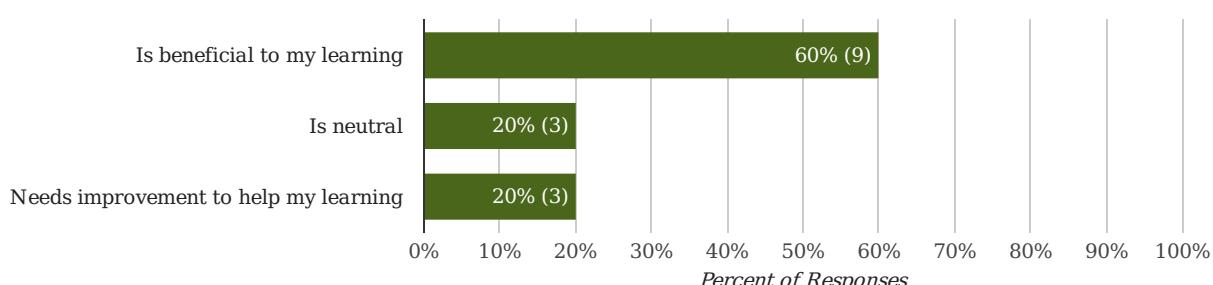
### The support from the instructor:

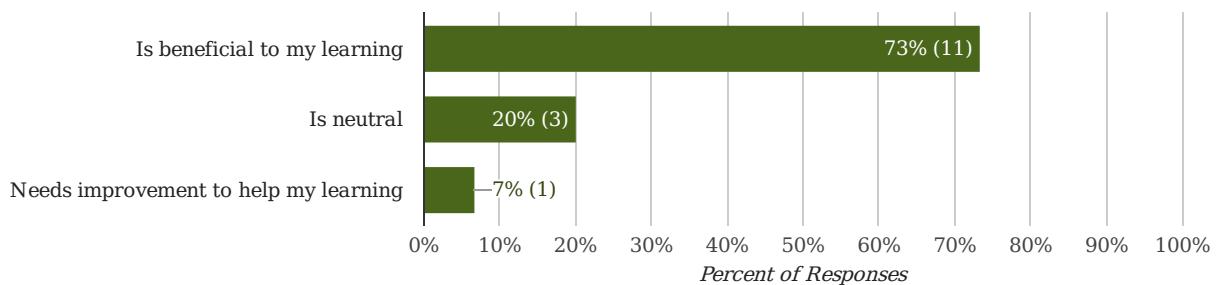
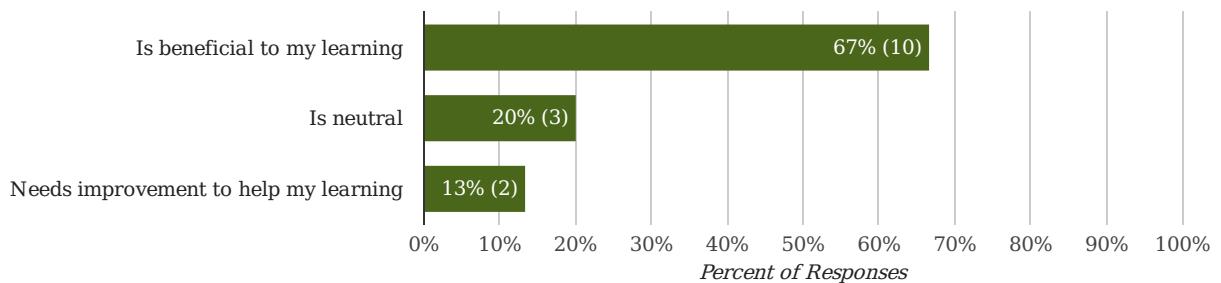
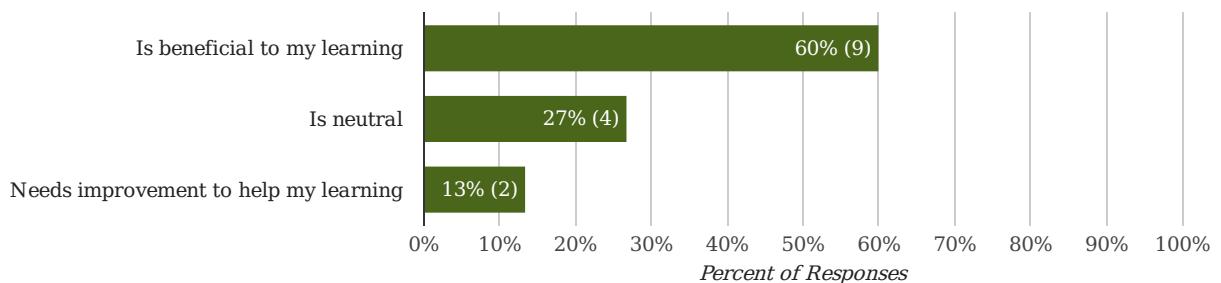
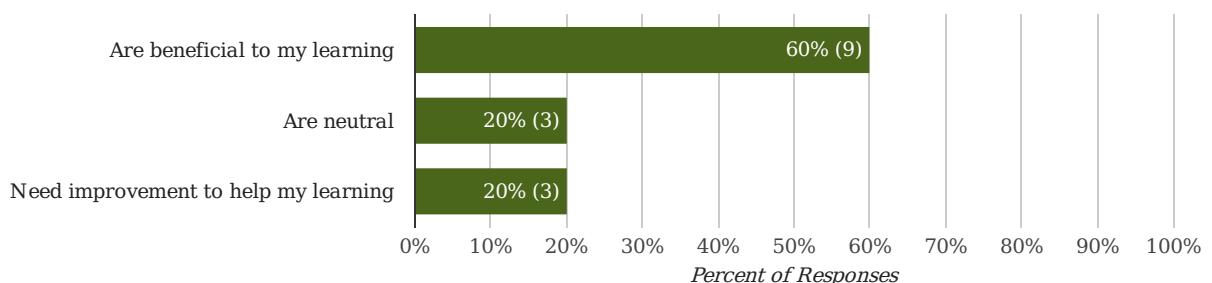
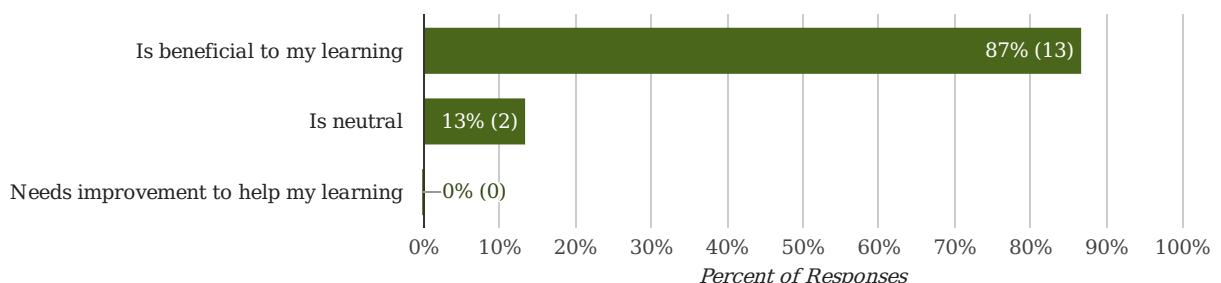


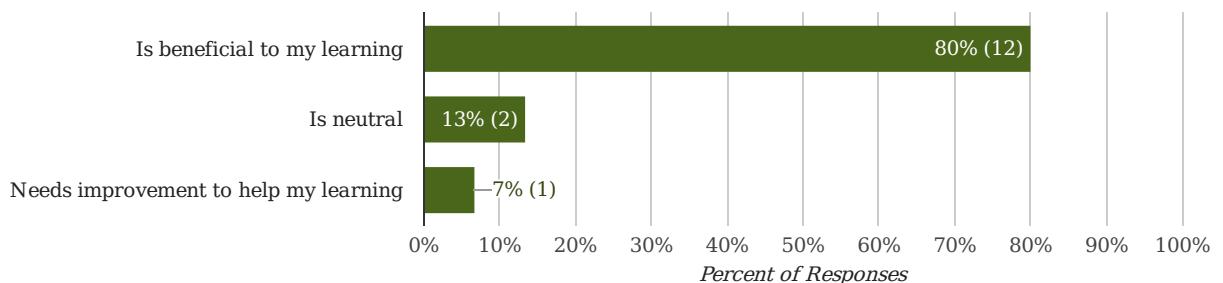
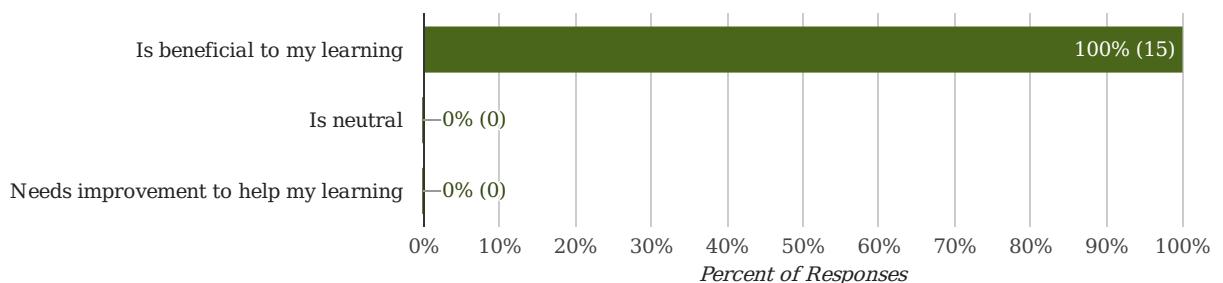
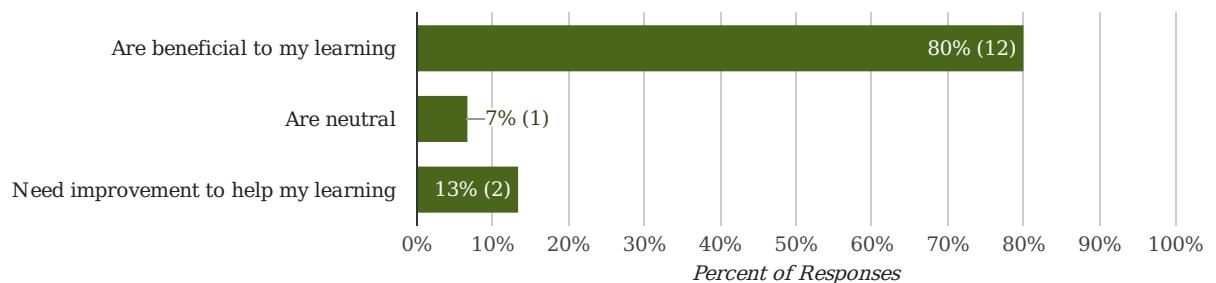
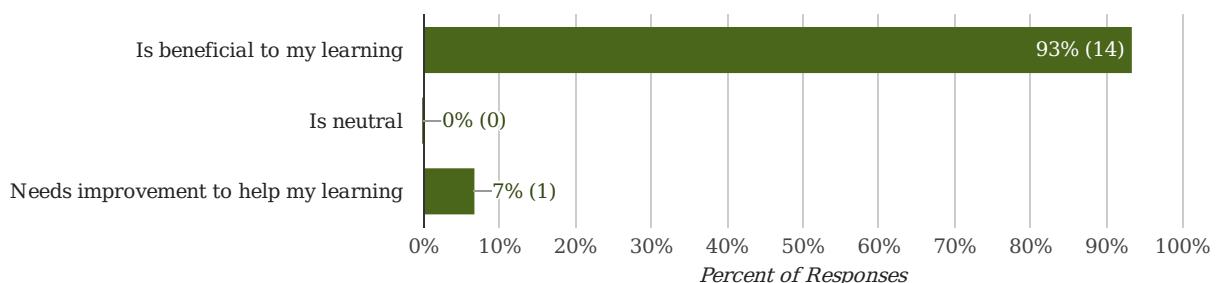
### The feedback provided:



### The level of challenge in the course:

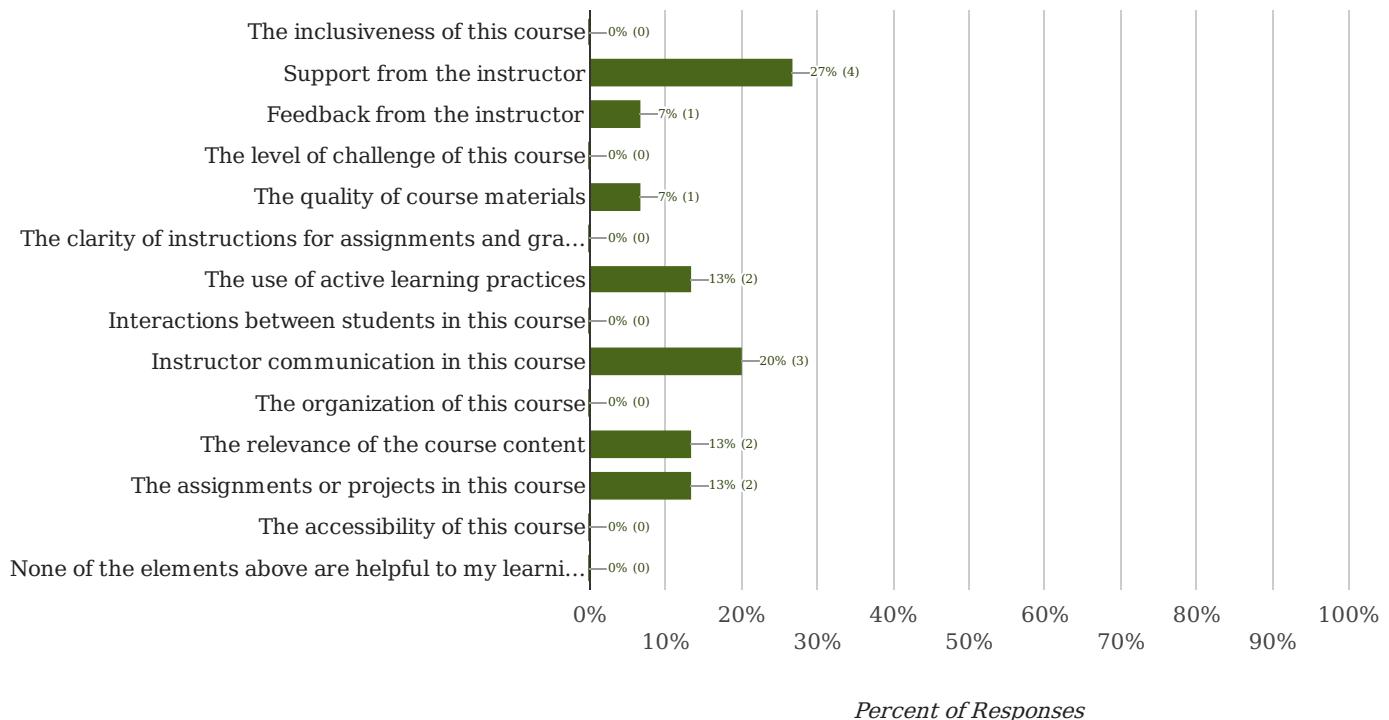


**The quality of the course materials:****The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:****The degree to which the course includes active learning:****The opportunities for student interaction in this class:****Instructor communication:**

**The organization of the course:****The relevance of the course content:****The assignments or projects in this course:****The accessibility of the course:**

Most Beneficial

**Please select the teaching element that has been MOST helpful to your learning, and then provide a detailed written comment about what worked well and why.**



## Most Beneficial Comments

What's Been MOST Helpful to Your Learning? (15 comments)

**Q: What specifically about the inclusiveness of the course helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the support from the instructor helped your learning?**

- 1 He was very helpful in OH, which helped me better understand the material
- 2 The instructor was very engaging and fostered a very positive classroom. The instructor's passion for the subject and attention for the students made it a great experience.
- 3 He made himself very available
- 4 Robert is genuinely one of the nicest professors I've had. He truly cares about if his students understand the material and will go above and beyond to make sure they do. His zoom lectures, although were very lengthy and sometimes went over, they were very informative and structured really well. Robert also brought a comedic tone to class and when we learned about more touchier topics, he made sure to make everyone feel included and "safe".

**Q: What specifically about the level of challenge helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the feedback helped your learning?**

- 1 I really like the in-class polls. It's an incentive that makes sure I attend class and helps me gauge how well I am retaining the information that is being presented. You are always willing to answer questions from students in class and provide lengthy answers

that help to understand the concept.

**Q: What specifically about the quality of course materials helped your learning?**

- 
- 1 The lecture slides are always well thought out and the professor always is willing to expand and clarify on class concepts.

**Q: What specifically about the clarity of instructions helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the use of active learning helped your learning?**

- 
- 1 Since the course felt like it was built around remote lectures, the use of active learning practices helped greatly in understanding material.
  - 2 The lectures were jammed packed with information. The information was presented at a rapid pace causing us to fly through certain topics, go over time, or not actively engage with the material. Classes were hard to digest and I think condensing certain topics or slowing down in the middle of classes to either work through problems or do breakout rooms would help the overall engagement of this course.

**Q: What specifically about the interactions between students helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about instructor communication helped your learning?**

- 
- 1 Robert is one if not the best professor I have had in my time at UO. He is incredibly passionate about what he teaches and is able to have students fully engage in the material during the class. He communicates very well and offers great support and feedback. Absolute GOAT. Would recommend anyone to take some of his courses.
  - 2 He sent announcements and emails, and quickly fixed issues.
  - 3 What I enjoyed most about Robert's teaching is his passion for the subject and the excitement and energy he brought to every lecture. He always good communication with us and was very clear on what he expected.

**Q: What specifically about the organization of this course helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the relevance of the course content helped your learning?**

- 
- 1 My major is economics
  - 2 Labor market is extremely relevant cause it applies directly to me as I will graduate soon and hope to find job

**Q: What specifically about the assignments or projects helped your learning?**

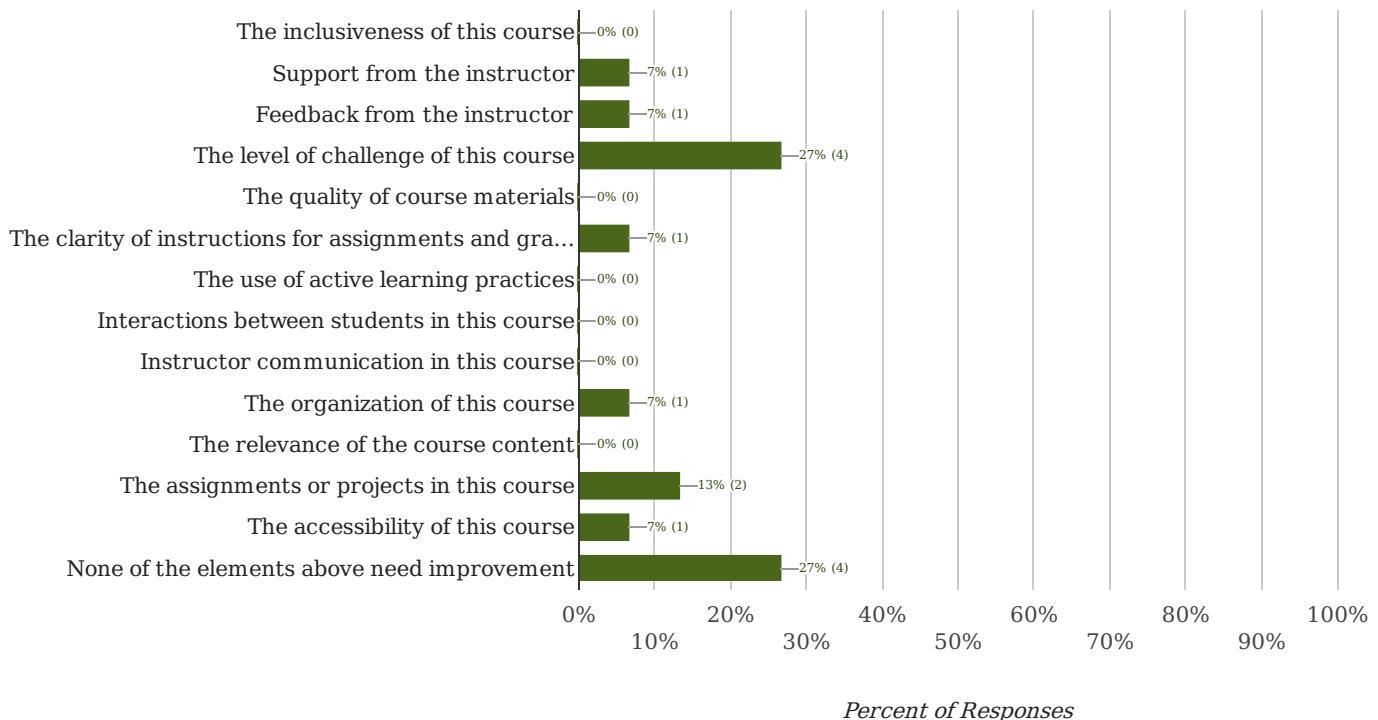
- 
- 1 Assignments felt like a good level of challenging that gave me room to learn. Problem sets were pretty well organized.
  - 2 Really relevant to what we learn from the class. It is very helpful for me to learn this class.

**Q: What specifically about the accessibility of this course helped your learning?**

**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above were helpful to your learning.**

Most In Need of Improvement

**Please select one teaching element that could most use some improvement to help you learn, and then provide a detailed written comment about what specific changes you suggest.**



## Most In Need of Improvement Comments

What Could MOST Use Some Improvement to Help you Learn? (14 comments)

**Q: What specific change in the inclusiveness of the course would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the support from the instructor would help your learning?**

1 The professor was very knowledge of the subject, wanted his students to succeed, and offered great support to the class.

**Q: Was the course too hard or too easy? What specific change related to the level of challenge would help your learning?**

1 A super challenging class, especially the midterm and quizzes.

2 This class is very challenging but in a good way, however due to the challenges of school with COVID i think it might have been too difficult at times.

3 The course was really difficult. I noticed that the averages were consistently low. The questions on the quizzes and problems sets were difficult. The grading on the problem sets was unclear, as I would sometimes take answers directly from the lecture and still get the problem marked incorrect. It would have been helpful to receive a key for the problem sets after grades were posted so I could use it to help study.

4 This class took a lot of time and work outside of class time. First I had to make sure that I understand the concepts which meant going back to slides and taking additional notes, then we also had weekly quizzes, lengthy problem sets throughout the term, and the exams were very difficult for me. I definitely learned a lot but if the level of challenge had been a little less, this class would've been less stressful.

**Q: What specific change in the feedback would help your learning?**

- 
- 1 I think what would have really been helpful if once a week for 15-20 minutes he would review the problem set questions and answers. I find I learn best is when we get direct feedback on the problems we were assigned.

**Q: What specific change in the quality of course materials would help your learning?****Q: What specific change in the clarity of instructions would help your learning?**

- 1 Questions had to get very specific/obscure because of the prevalence of online answer websites. Most questions were pretty good, but I think in online contexts there need to be alternatives to this instructor-intensive workaround.

**Q: What specific change in the use of active learning would help your learning?****Q: What specific change in instructor communication would help your learning?****Q: What specific change in the interactions between students would help your learning?****Q: What specific change in the organization of the course would help your learning?**

- 1 I didn't find an overarching conclusion for the course that would help me sum up everything I learned this term. This has been helpful in other courses. The last topic felt rushed and as a result less helpful to my learning than other topics.

**Q: What specific change in the relevance of the course content would help your learning?****Q: What specific change in the assignments or projects would help your learning?**

- 1 One of the greatest challenges of the class was the course assignments. A lot of the time the material was manageable to understand and lecture was also clear. However, with quizzes and assignments the language was often unclear in terms of wording that made it difficult to understand what was intended. Understandably that is not the goal to learn, but it became that way when it was difficult to even understand multiple choice questions. At times it felt like interpreting the question and seeing what answer was best fit; there may always be a 'well technically' this is right/wrong on many multiple choice.'
- 2 I think this is just a personal thing but, I find myself understanding the material during lectures and answering the poll questions correctly, but I haven't done too well on the weekly quizzes. I'm not sure if it's just because I can't remember what I learned or what.

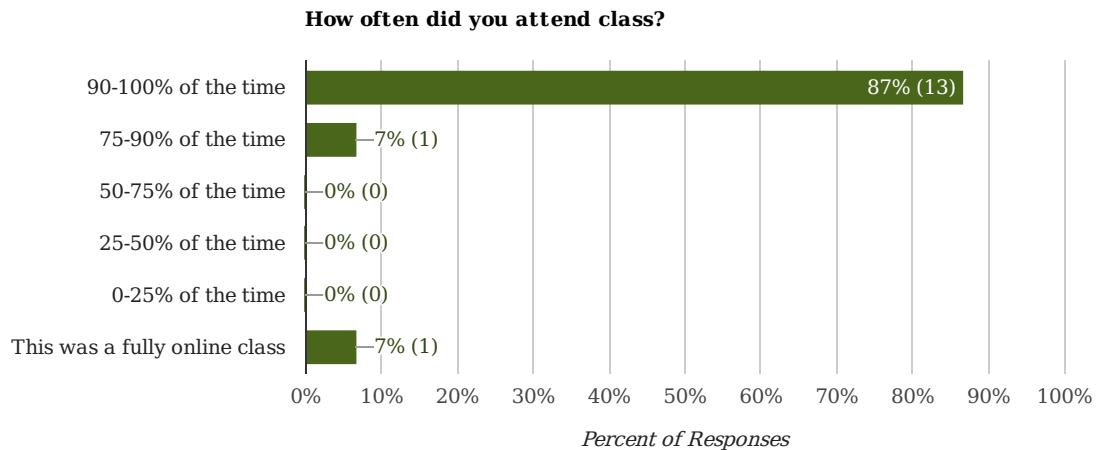
**Q: What specific change in the accessibility of the course would help your learning?**

- 1 I had an instance where I submitted a problem set on canvas and it never made it to the instructor, it dramatically lowered my grade, I was locked out of a quiz on the day it was supposed to happen.

**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above need improvement to help your learning.**

- 1 I did not think there was anything that needed improvements. if anything just the wording on some of the exam/problem set questions.
- 2 This Class is perfect!
- 3 N/A

## Student engagement in their own learning



### How Did You Support Your Own Learning? (13 comments)

#### **Q: Why did you attend class 90-100% of the time?**

- 1 The professor is enjoyable and makes coming to class worth it because of his enthusiasm.
- 2 I enjoyed going to class because Robert is a great professor and being there is extremely beneficial to understanding the material.
- 3 I found it necessary to excelling in this class
- 4 Sometimes I could not make it.
- 5 As noted, the course is built around lecture, thus it was crucial to learning the materials.
- 6 N/A
- 7 The extra credit incentives helped me stay accountable. I also didn't want to fall behind because then it's harder to catch up.
- 8 I needed every poll question points I could get, as well as I enjoyed hearing him lecture. Although 1:30 is a bit longer than I would like, the poll questions and Roberts energy made it engaging.
- 9 Cause it's online
- 10 I was interested in the material and extra credit opportunity.
- 11 Because it aided my learning, was doable, and was pretty fun.
- 12 I enjoyed class and learning the material and how Robert structured his teaching was very beneficial for my learning.

#### **Q: Why did you attend class 75-90% of the time?**

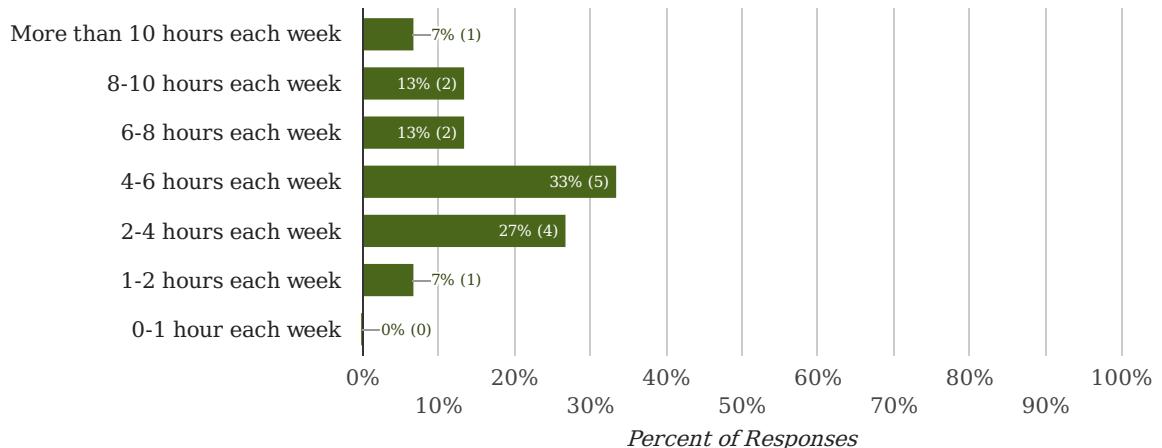
- 1 Attendance wasn't mandatory which helped me a lot this term to keep on track with other courses I was taking. The recordings were a helpful tool I could rely on. Though I preferred being in class because I could ask questions when needed.

#### **Q: Why did you attend class 50-75% of the time?**

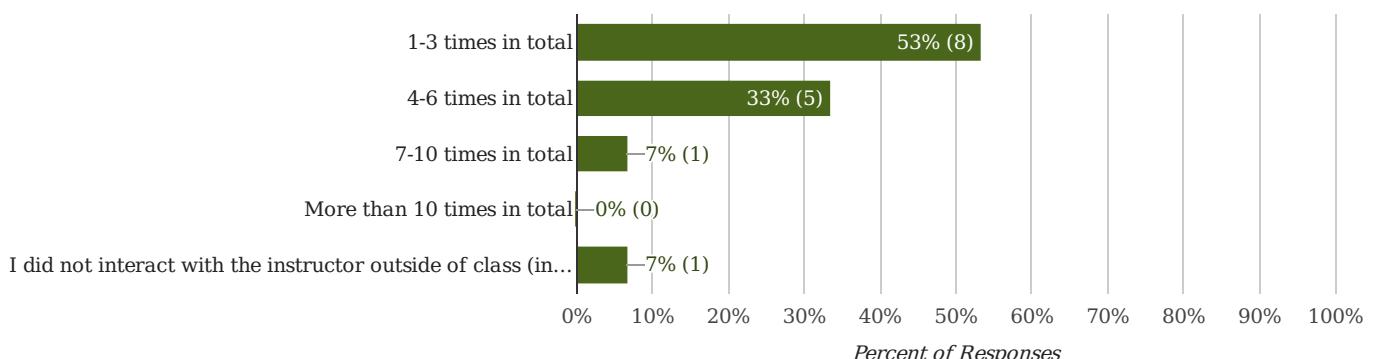
#### **Q: Why did you attend class 25-50% of the time?**

#### **Q: Why did you attend class 0-25% of the time?**

**How many hours per week did you spend on this course (not including any face-to-face class time)?**



**Approximately how many times did you interact with the instructor outside of class (e.g. by email, office hours)?**



## COVID Impact

### Impacts on my Learning (12 comments)

**Q: Describe any challenges you may have faced this session: for example have you experienced technology/connectivity issues, home/personal issues, limited motivation, time management challenges, or distractions that have negatively impacted your learning?**

- 1 N/A but the professor has said he can be accommodating if you ask which is great.
- 2 2020
- 3 My homework was misplaced by the canvas software, i have had multiple issues like this in this class.
- 4 none
- 5 Limited motivation toward end of term, feeling frustrated with the problem sets and not understanding the material.
- 6 Technology was a pain some weeks. Motivation was also difficult.
- 7 It was extremely difficult to focus during remote lectures, especially with chapter readings were not posted before to be read. However, the recorded lecture 100% attributed to relearning the materials at any time; it balanced out the negative impacts of remote classes and is greatly helpful. Responsiveness was difficult at times as well. Again understandable that all instructors have varying lives and ability to be responsive. However, remote classes I feel are more demanding in the sense where it requires more accessibility to instructors for clarity.

8 N/A

9 Learning from home is very hard for me and I had very little motivation. I don't feel like I am retaining as much as I could have during in-person classes.

10 There was no obvious challenges that come to mind.

11 Limited motivation cause we're at home most of the time

12 N/A

## Is there anything else you would like to say about your learning experience?

### Final Question (6 comments)

**Q: What else would you like to say about your learning experience in the course? Please avoid personal comments about the instructor.**

1 I loved this class and that is all due to Professor McDonough. I was actually engaged the whole time and wanted to learn because he is so great at making lectures engaging and exciting. Other ECON classes I have struggled to pay attention because the professor just read directly from slides the whole time

2 Your slides are not the best to use for looking back for information because of the format and the writing on slides. I would prefer longer quizzes by 2 or 3 questions so that 1 question isn't 33% of the grade. Most importantly I appreciated your enthusiasm for labor economics, it made it a lot easier to care about what I was learning.

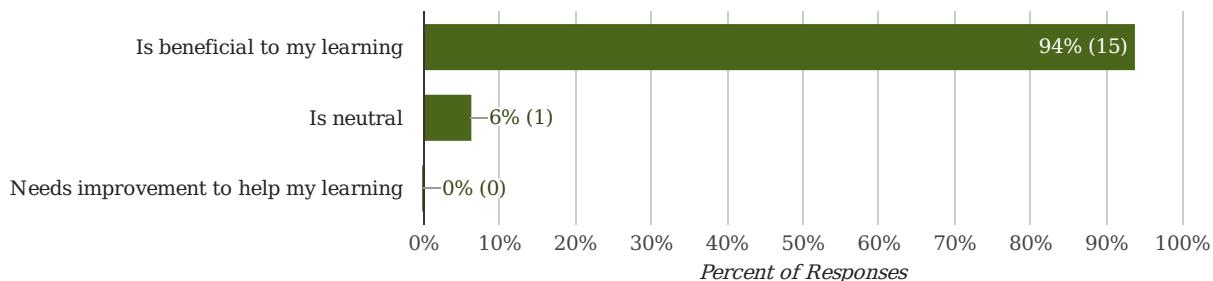
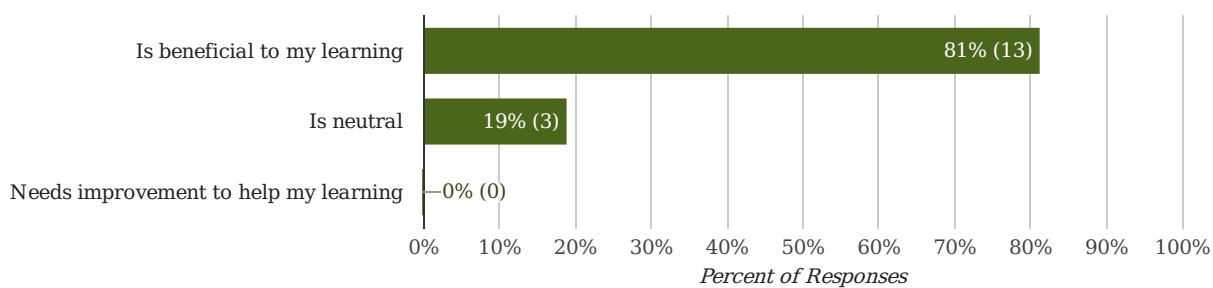
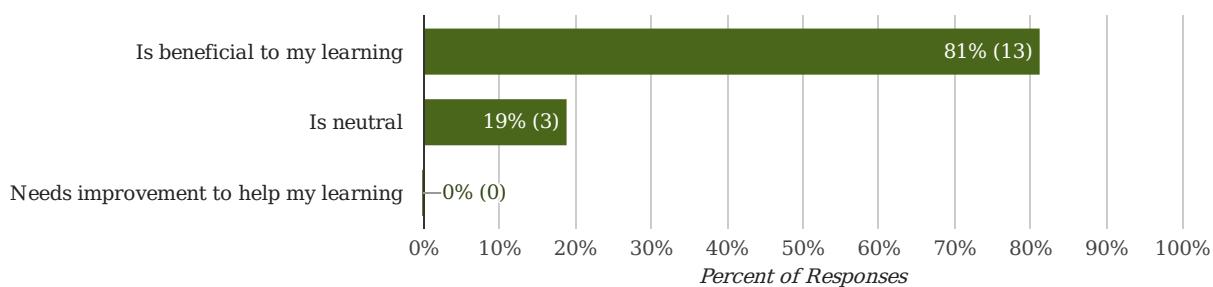
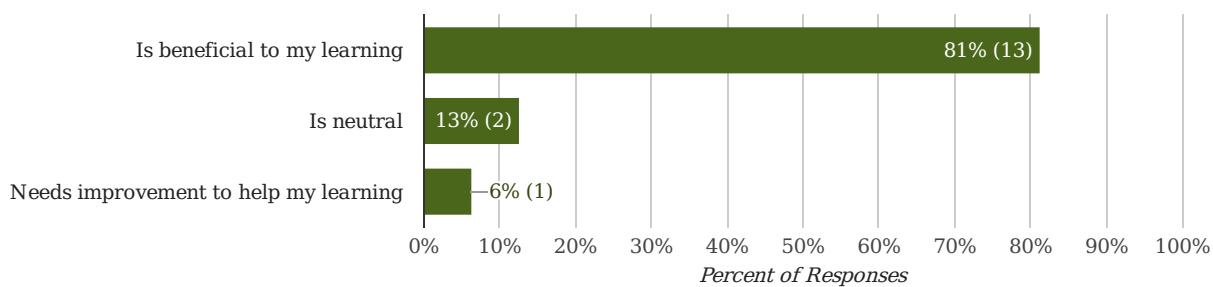
3 Understandably, this course was built and adjusted as needed for the course and the effort is clear. It was just difficult at times to understand because of instructor instructions and for me required rewatching the same 10 minutes lectures countless times for example to just make an educated guess of what is required for the question. Additionally feedback on assignment was very difficult since material that required feedback would not be received after until exams even if it was good practice. Additionally, despite the quiz scores being 6 points a week, it felt like still very high stakes since it was difficult to understand the multiple choice; thus making it difficult for learning/review.

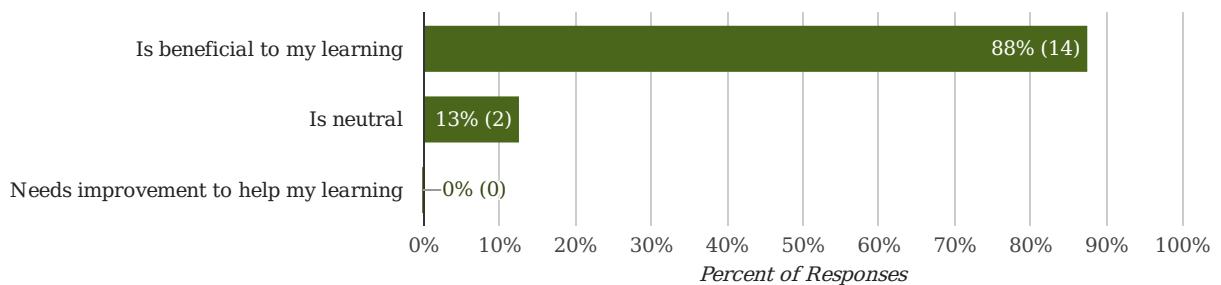
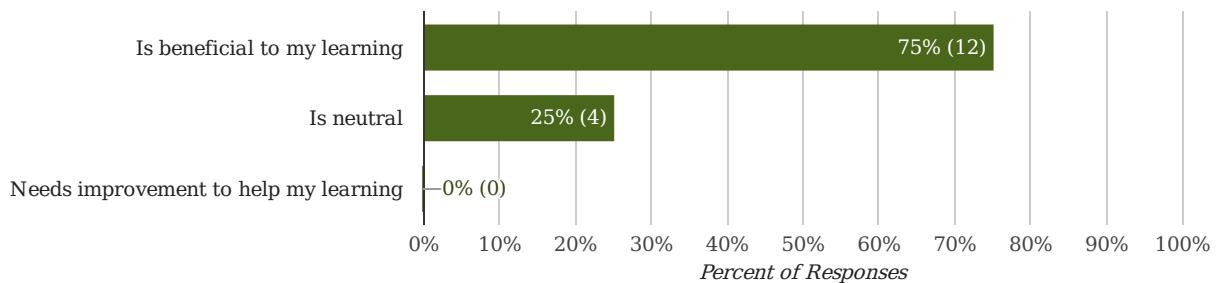
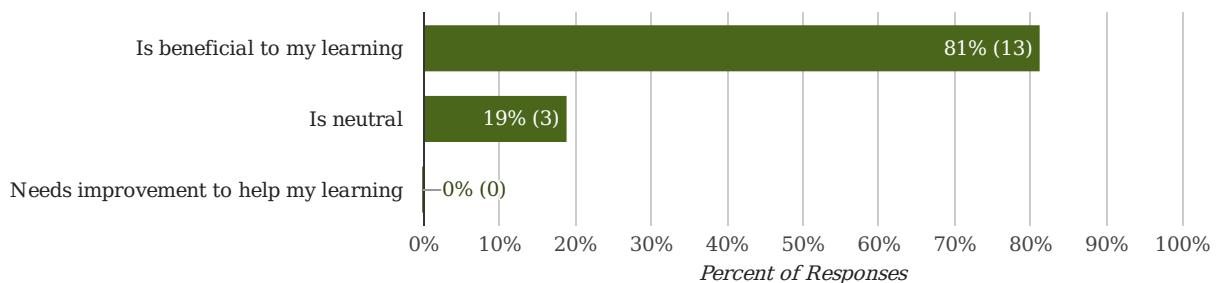
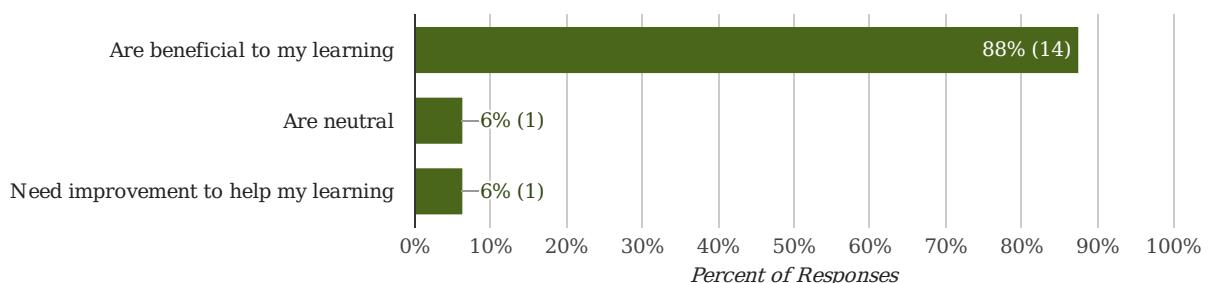
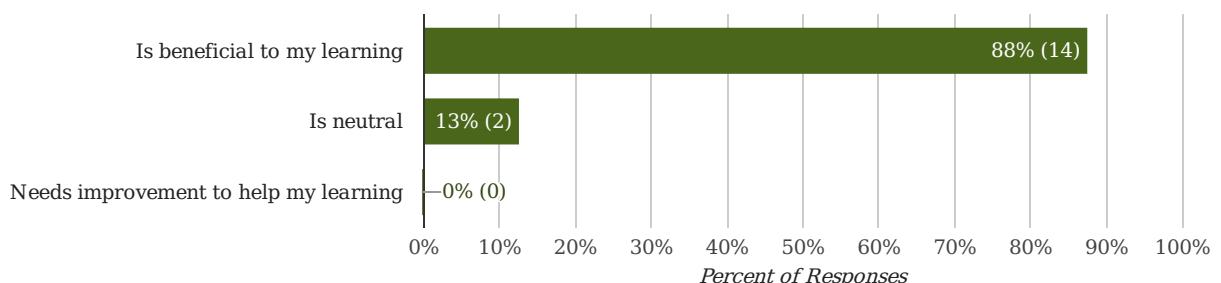
4 You are a great teacher and very passionate about what you're teaching! It helps me because it makes me want to pay attention in class.

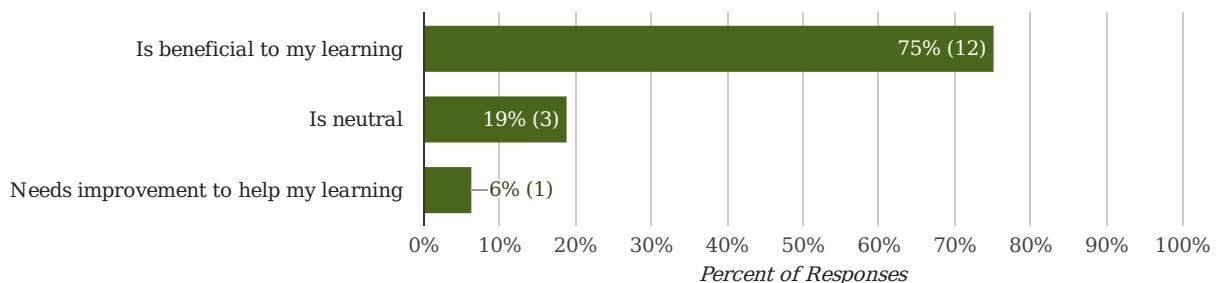
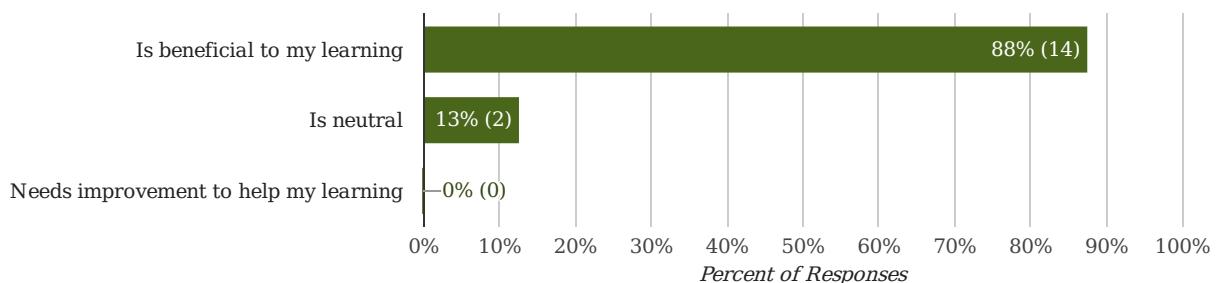
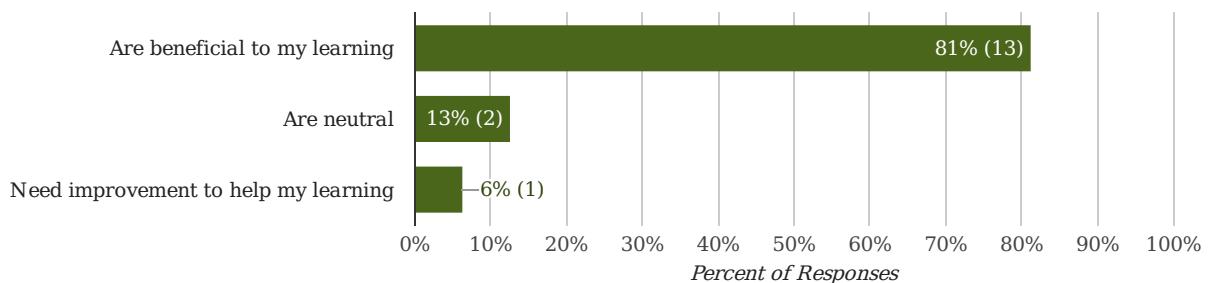
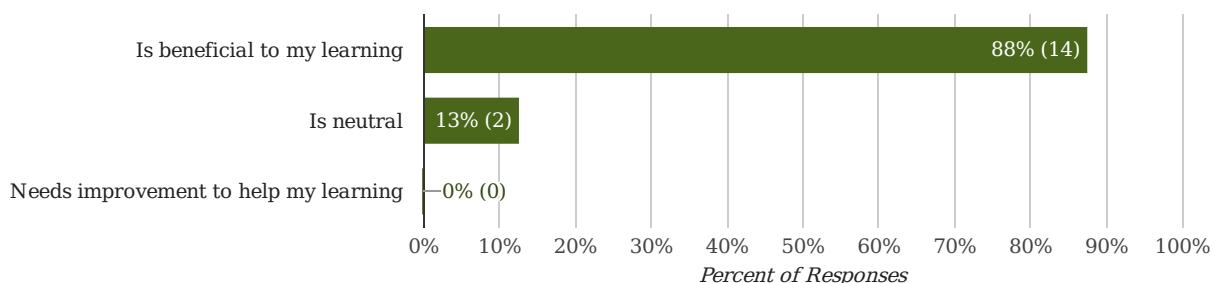
5 I believe Robert is a great young professor that both cares deeply about his subject and the students. I reached out to him during the course about my standing in the class and he replied with a detailed response that I greatly appreciated- Harrison C

6 Great person and great teacher. Even with online classes, I felt as I learned as much as I would've in an in person class if not more.

## Teaching and Learning Elements

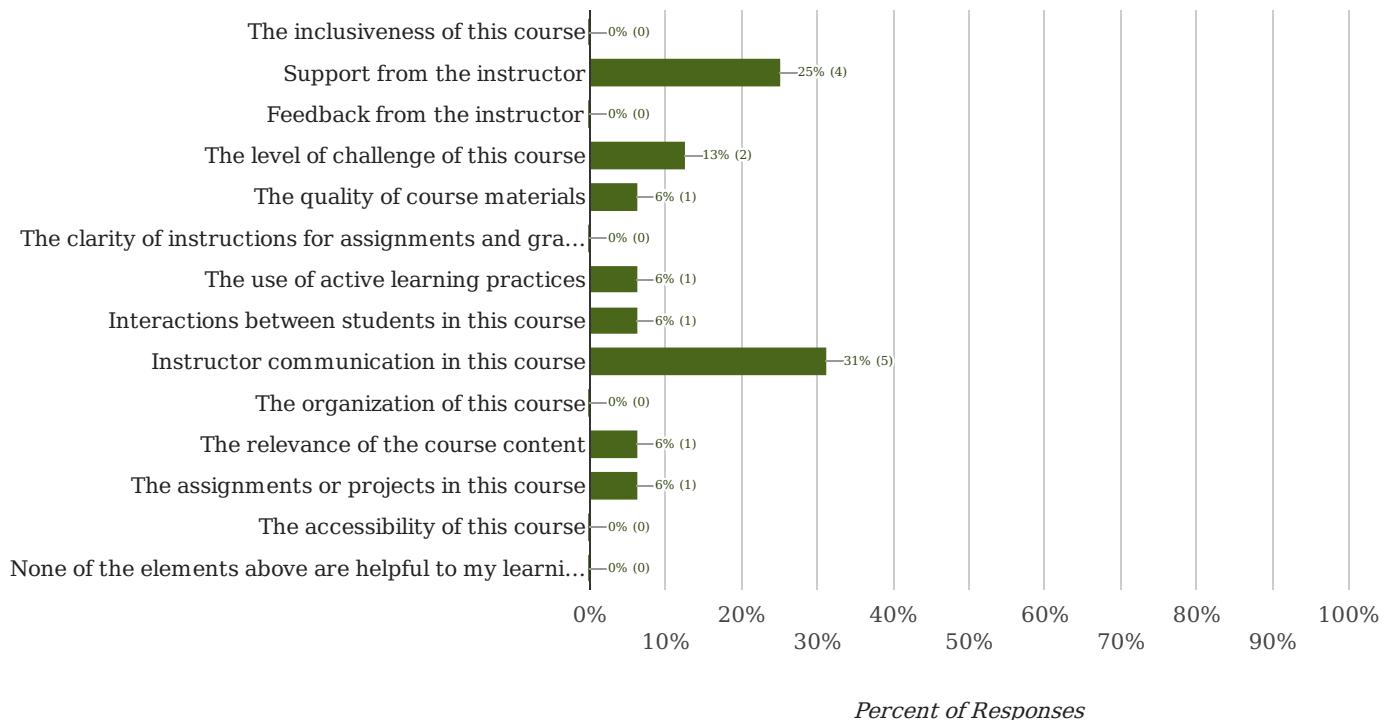
**The inclusiveness of this course:****The support from the instructor:****The feedback provided:****The level of challenge in the course:**

**The quality of the course materials:****The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:****The degree to which the course includes active learning:****The opportunities for student interaction in this class:****Instructor communication:**

**The organization of the course:****The relevance of the course content:****The assignments or projects in this course:****The accessibility of the course:**

Most Beneficial

**Please select the teaching element that has been MOST helpful to your learning, and then provide a detailed written comment about what worked well and why.**



## Most Beneficial Comments

What's Been MOST Helpful to Your Learning? (16 comments)

**Q: What specifically about the inclusiveness of the course helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the support from the instructor helped your learning?**

- 1 nice and patient
- 2 remote teaching
- 3 very helpful
- 4 good

**Q: What specifically about the feedback helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the level of challenge helped your learning?**

- 1 The course is very compact. A one-month course requires us to spend a lot of time to complete study and homework.
- 2 This course was challenging and rewarding.

**Q: What specifically about the quality of course materials helped your learning?**

1 The lecture slides

**Q: What specifically about the clarity of instructions helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the use of active learning helped your learning?**

1 easy to recap

**Q: What specifically about the interactions between students helped your learning?**

1 Everyone was really active during the lectures.

**Q: What specifically about instructor communication helped your learning?**

1 .

2 There were no surprises in this course. What needed to be done was communicated very clearly.

3 My instructor always listened to his students. When we spoke up and said he was going to fast, he listened and slowed down. He would ask great questions, which kept the class engaged.

4 On the course, instructor always asking questions, and common on our answers.

5 Sent out very detailed announcements and spent time to answer questions which helped my learning and comfortability in the course.

**Q: What specifically about the organization of this course helped your learning?**

**Q: What specifically about the relevance of the course content helped your learning?**

1 Being able to apply concepts learned in class through real world applications

**Q: What specifically about the assignments or projects helped your learning?**

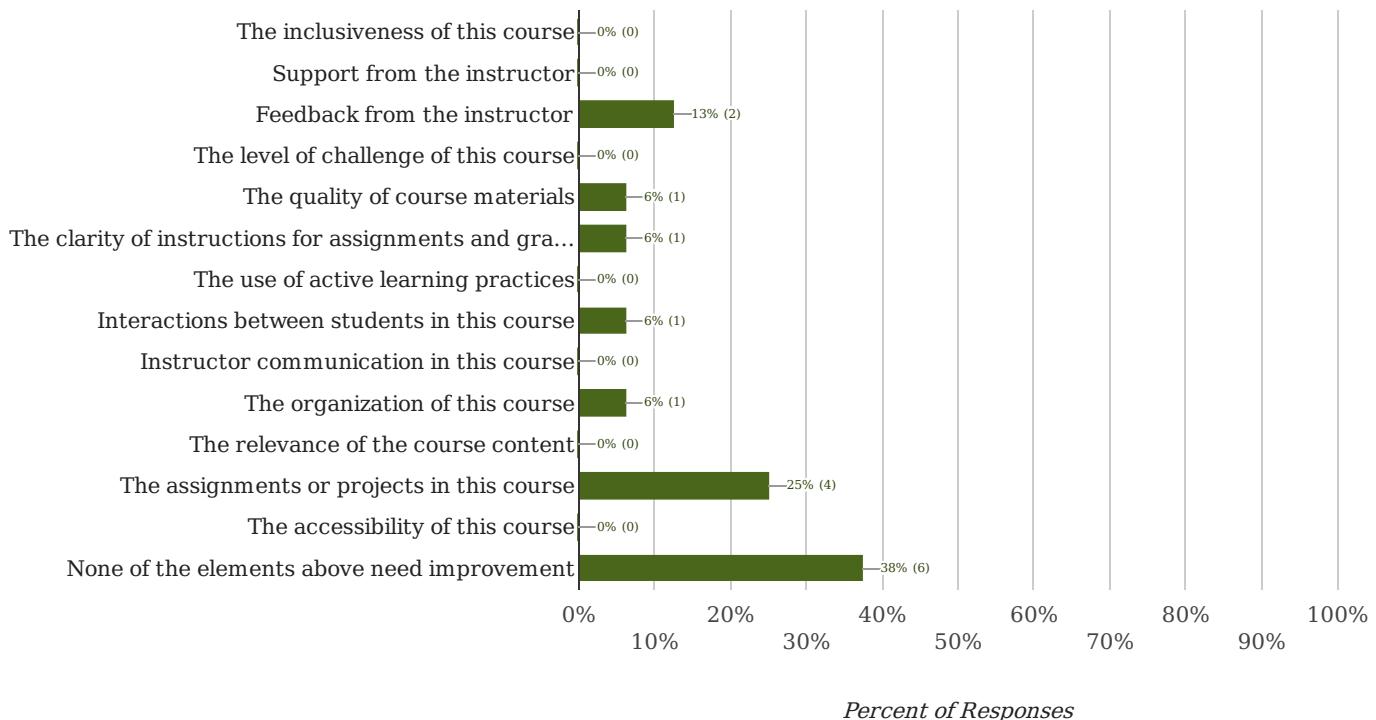
1 I think homework helps me learn economics better

**Q: What specifically about the accessibility of this course helped your learning?**

**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above were helpful to your learning.**

Most In Need of Improvement

**Please select one teaching element that could most use some improvement to help you learn, and then provide a detailed written comment about what specific changes you suggest.**



## Most In Need of Improvement Comments

What Could MOST Use Some Improvement to Help you Learn? (14 comments)

**Q: What specific change in the inclusiveness of the course would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the support from the instructor would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the feedback would help your learning?**

1 remote teaching

2 good

**Q: Was the course too hard or too easy? What specific change related to the level of challenge would help your learning?**

**Q: What specific change in the quality of course materials would help your learning?**

1 The lecture slides

**Q: What specific change in the clarity of instructions would help your learning?**

- 
- 1 Every assignment will have very clear feedback.

**Q: What specific change in the use of active learning would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the interactions between students would help your learning?**

---

- 1 More engagement with one another despite the online environment

**Q: What specific change in instructor communication would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the organization of the course would help your learning?**

---

- 1 I felt that one of the most important topics was left until the end. Chapter 12 should be included earlier on if possible. The relevance of those topics in the worlds current state would have been an amazing moment to learn in that point in time. Sadly it was barely touched on.

**Q: What specific change in the relevance of the course content would help your learning?**

---

**Q: What specific change in the assignments or projects would help your learning?**

---

- 1 I think homework helps me learn economics better
- 2 There are some question maybe too hard to understand.
- 3 assignments is difficult
- 4 I felt like the professor was asking for a lot of homework and quizzes to be completed outside of class which made it hard to have time to study individually with the textbook and reviewing lecture notes.

**Q: What specific change in the accessibility of the course would help your learning?**

---

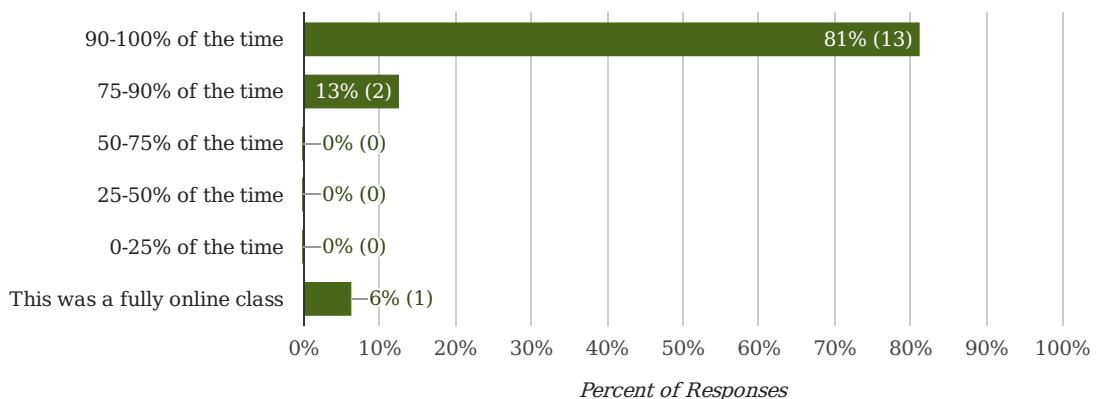
**Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above need improvement to help your learning.**

---

- 1 None.
- 2 I think that this class was put together pretty well. It was challenging but not overwhelming. I will say though that I think the weekly quizzes were not necessary. While they take weight off of other portions of the class, Its something that I could easily forget about because I am so focused on the problem sets.
- 3 Robert killed it, one of my favorite economics courses in all of my time here.
- 4 The instructor was doing good.

Student engagement in their own learning

### How often did you attend class?



### How Did You Support Your Own Learning? (10 comments)

#### Q: Why did you attend class 90-100% of the time?

- 1 Participate in Zoom to understand what I learn every day.
- 2 I think class is very important and can get extra points.
- 3 More engaging going to every class, if I miss one I miss a lot, heavier workload on me to make up looking up the lecture video at a later time.
- 4 I find it beneficial for students to be in class so we can get the best learning experience.
- 5 time is short
- 6 I need to keep myself disciplined, attending regularly. If I don't treat my classes like a shift at work, I would fall behind. Plus I'm paying to learn, why not take advantage of time I've been given to learn.
- 7 All I have is ec450 this month lol
- 8 I enjoyed it.
- 9 There was a lot of material being shared and i felt i would be really behind if i missed a class.

#### Q: Why did you attend class 75-90% of the time?

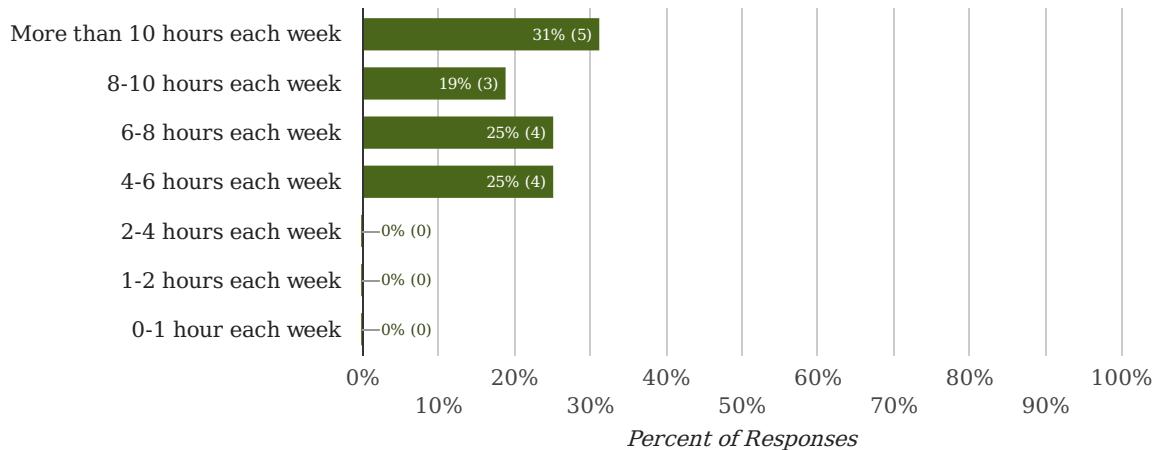
- 1 Work commitments. Wish I could've attended every day.

#### Q: Why did you attend class 50-75% of the time?

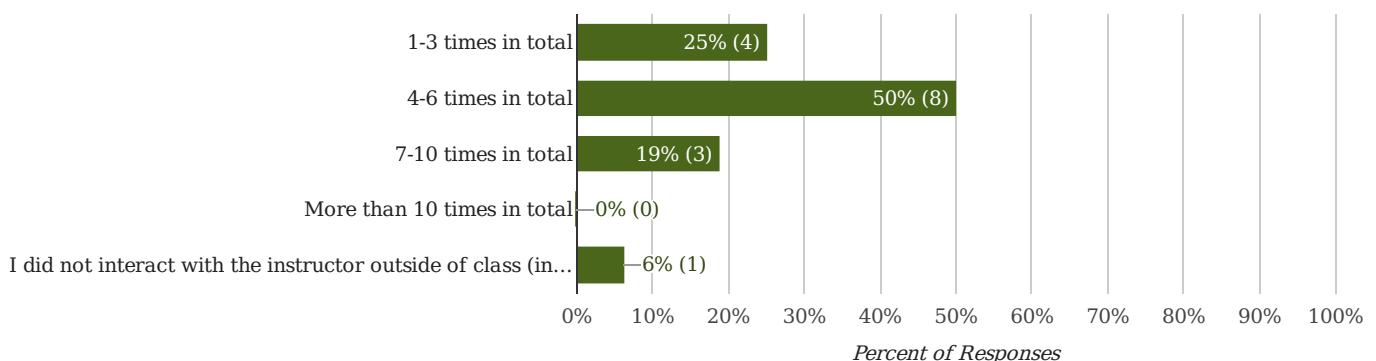
#### Q: Why did you attend class 25-50% of the time?

#### Q: Why did you attend class 0-25% of the time?

**How many hours per week did you spend on this course (not including any face-to-face class time)?**



**Approximately how many times did you interact with the instructor outside of class (e.g. by email, office hours)?**



**Is there anything else you would like to say about your learning experience?**

Final Question (2 comments)

**Q: What else would you like to say about your learning experience in the course? Please avoid personal comments about the instructor.**

- 1 I think that this class was translated really well into a summer class. I highly enjoyed the content and I think it came at a reasonable pace. I don't think the quiz's are necessary. I would recommend shifting that weight on to the problem sets. The problem sets were very helpful in learning the content. I will say problem set 1 was too long, and problem set 3 was too short (though it wasn't meant to be). PS2 was a good length (5 questions). Thank you for a good summer course experience.
- 2 Thanks for a great course, Robert!