Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

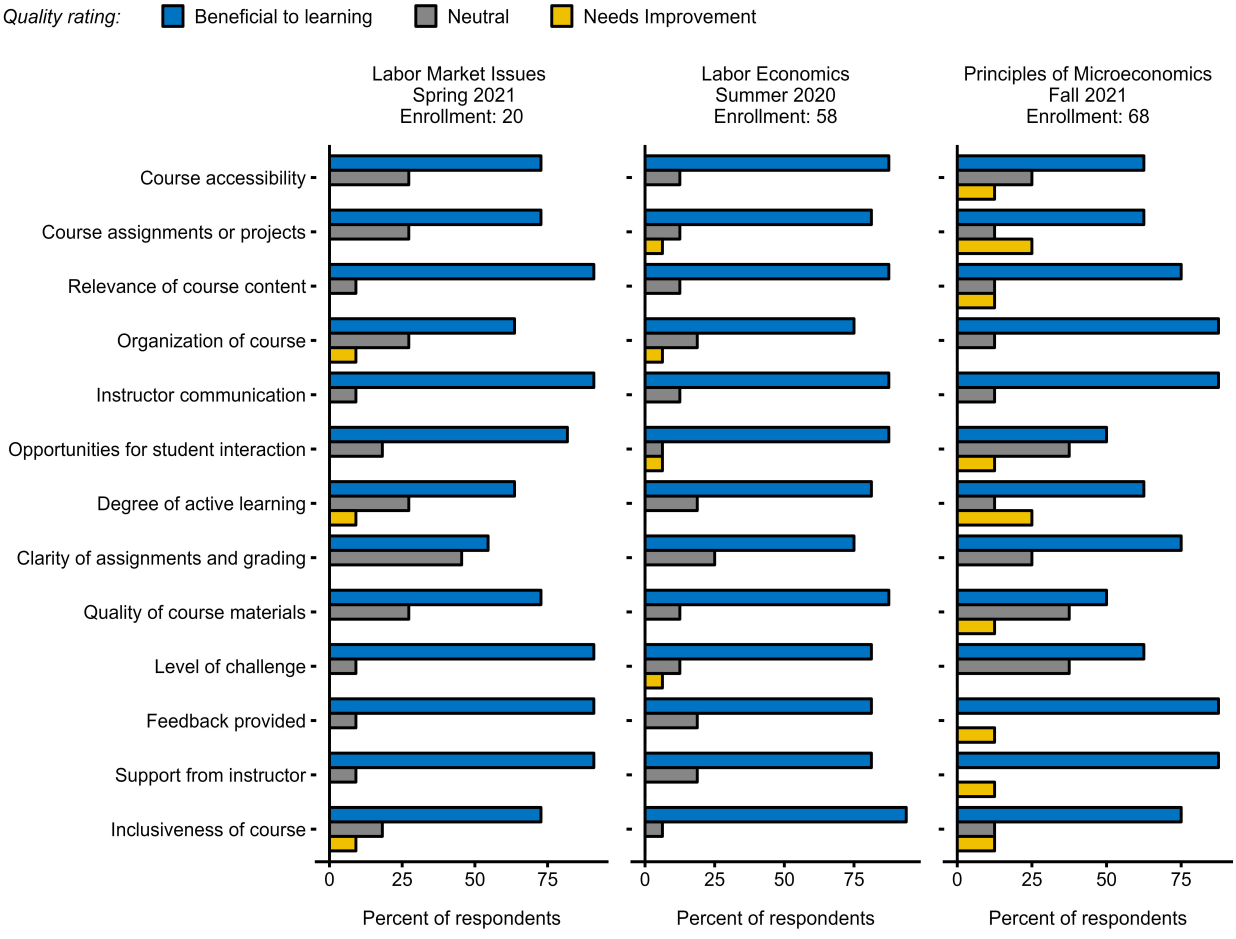
Robert McDonough

University of Oregon

Course materials I have prepared three courses and taught five sections in total as an independent instructor. Course descriptions and syllabi are available on my website (robmcdonough.com/teaching). I received the 2020–2021 Graduate Teaching Award for my development of an effective curriculum for my labor economics course.

Course	Link to syllabus
Principles of Microeconomics	robmcdonough.com/files/EC201_Fall2021.pdf
Labor Market Issues	robmcdonough.com/files/EC350_Fall_2022.pdf
Labor Economics	robmcdonough.com/files/EC450_Summer_2020.pdf

Course evaluations 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 that quantitative course evaluations are biased against female instructors [1, 2], sensitive to grade inflation [3], and do not have a strong correlation with actual learning outcomes [4]. The figure below summarizes my students' evaluation of my performance according to these benchmarks. A complete copy of my raw course evaluations is available on my website: (robmcdonough.com/files/reviews_combined.pdf).



Selected student comments

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 (junior-level labor economics course)

"*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.*"
"*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 (senior-level labor economics course)

"*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.

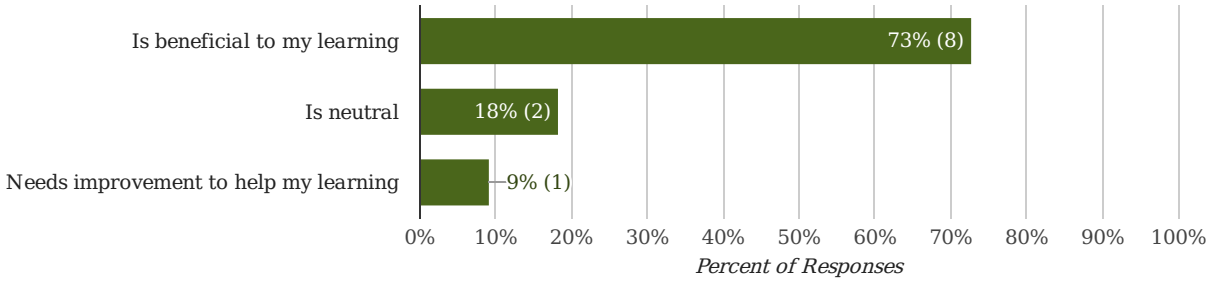
Labor Market Issues (Spring 2022 E-SES)

Instructor: **McDonough, Robert**
Subject: **Economics**
Catalog & Section: **350 34273**

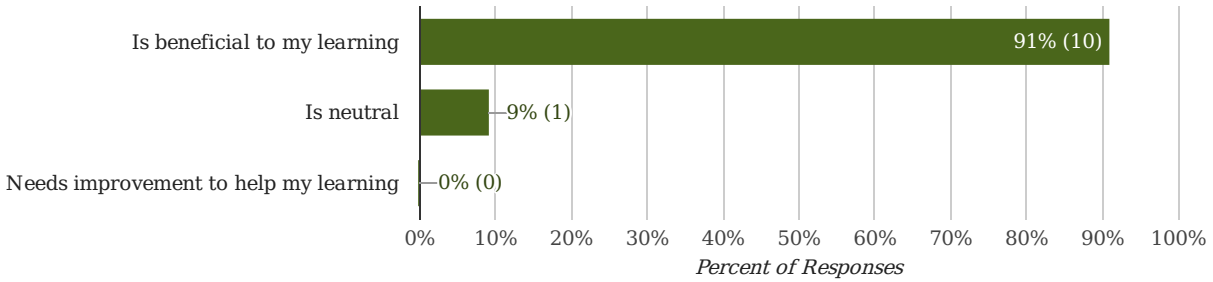
Enrollment: **20**
Responses Incl Declines: **11**
Declines: **0**

Teaching and Learning Elements

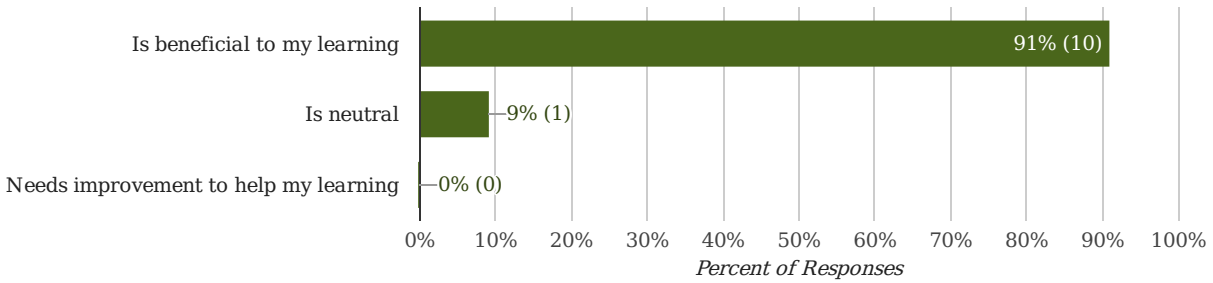
The inclusiveness of this course:



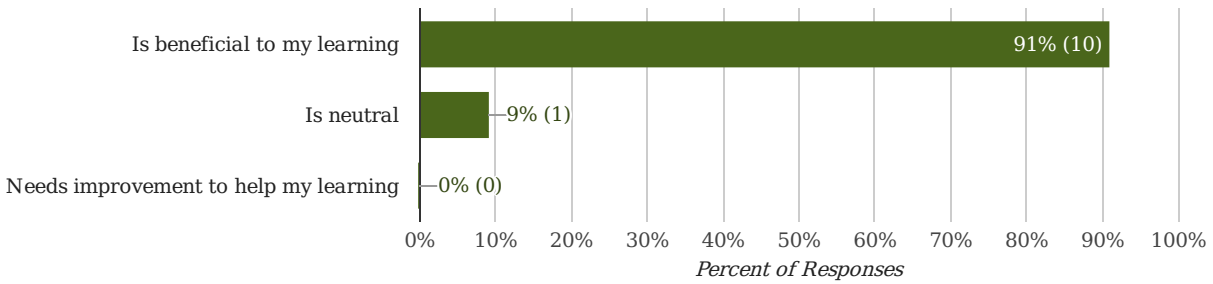
The support from the instructor:



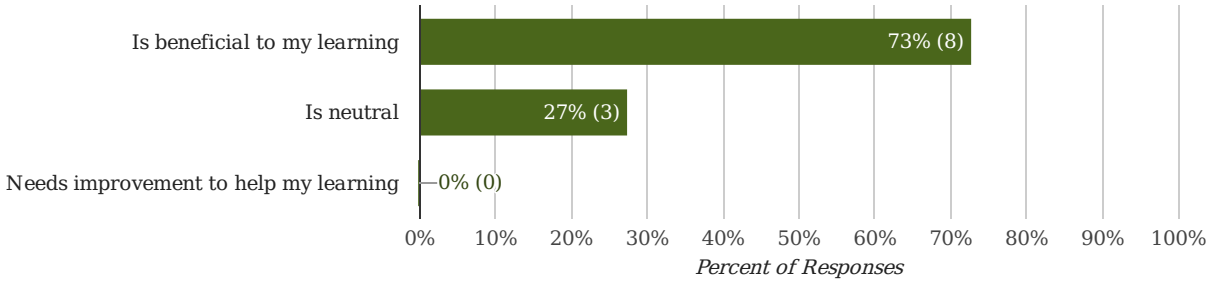
The feedback provided:



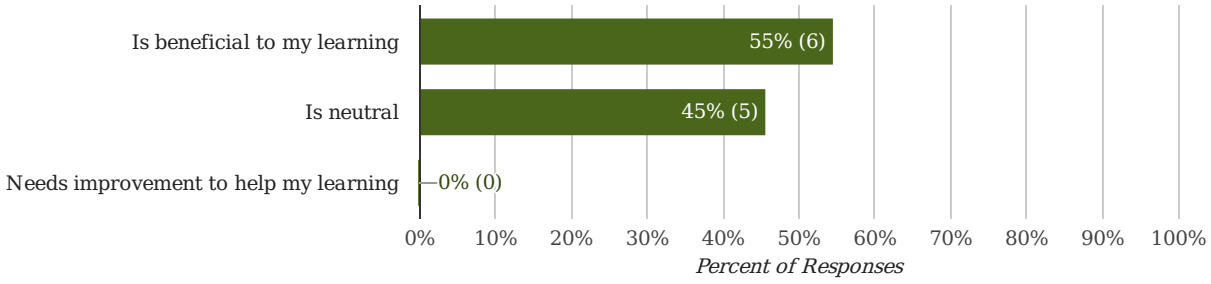
The level of challenge in the course:



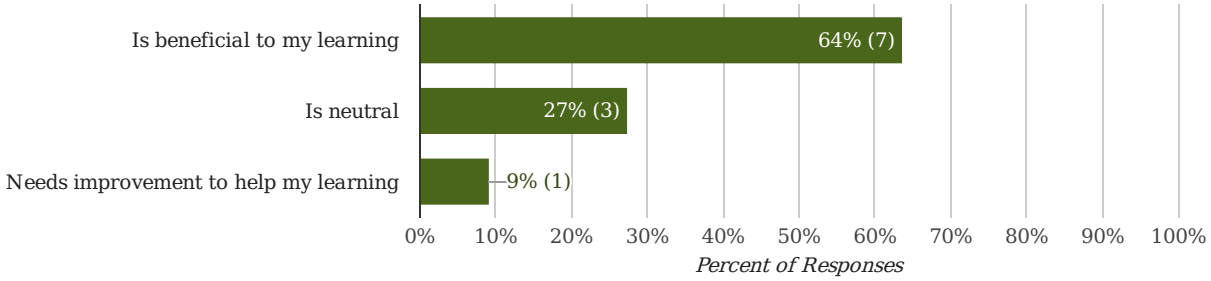
The quality of the course materials:



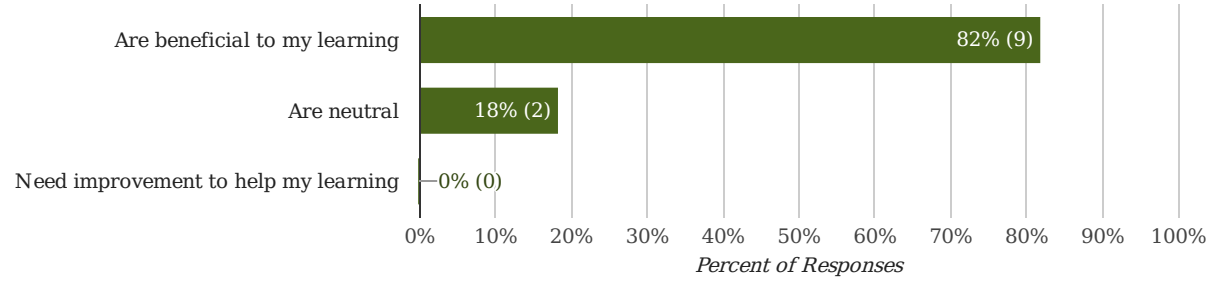
The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:



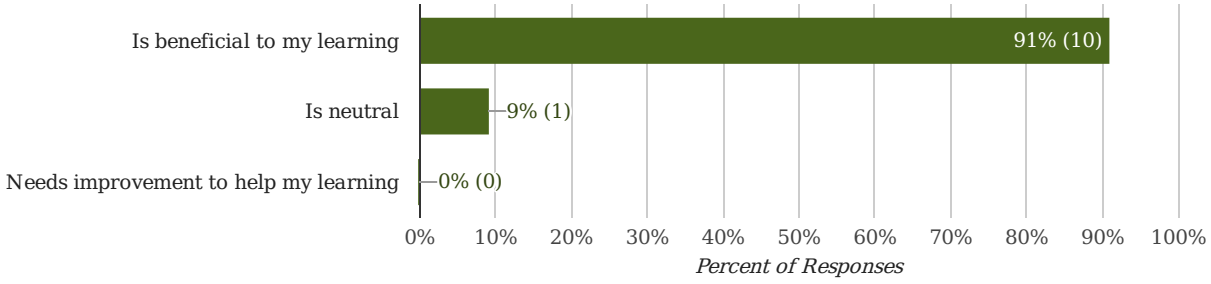
The degree to which the course includes active learning:



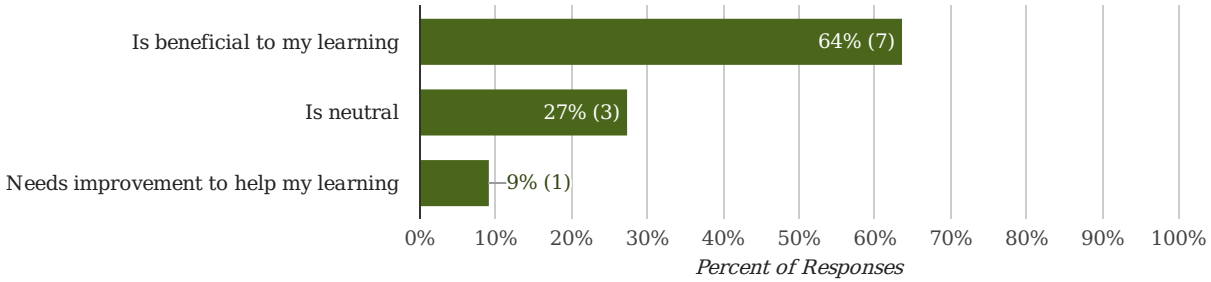
The opportunities for student interaction in this class:



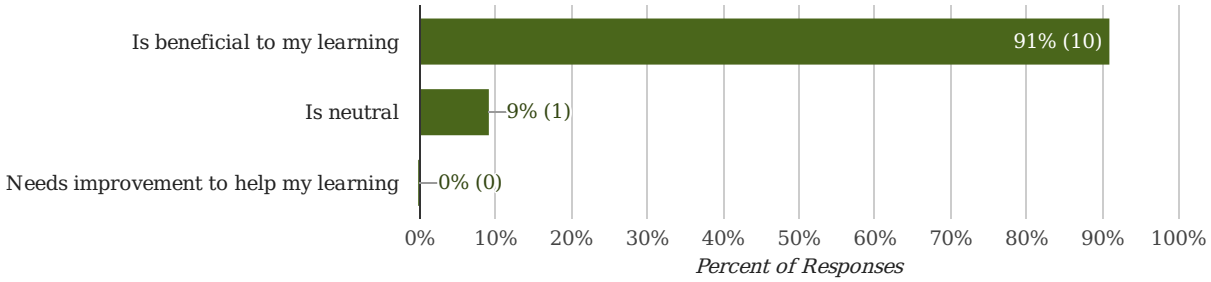
Instructor communication:



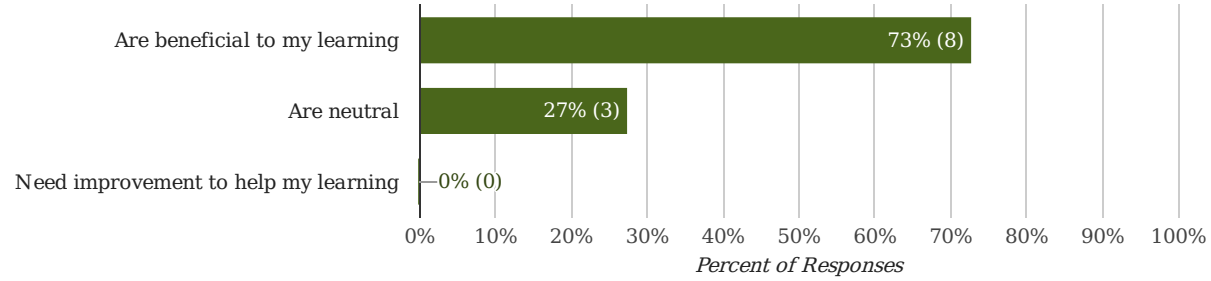
The organization of the course:



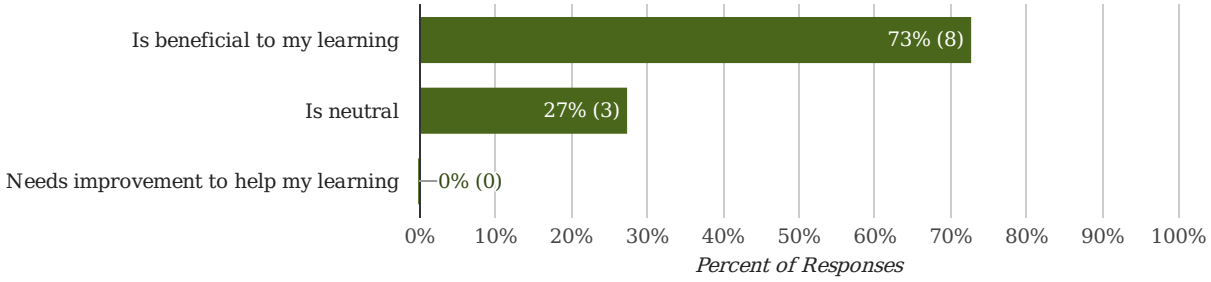
The relevance of the course content:



The assignments or projects in this course:

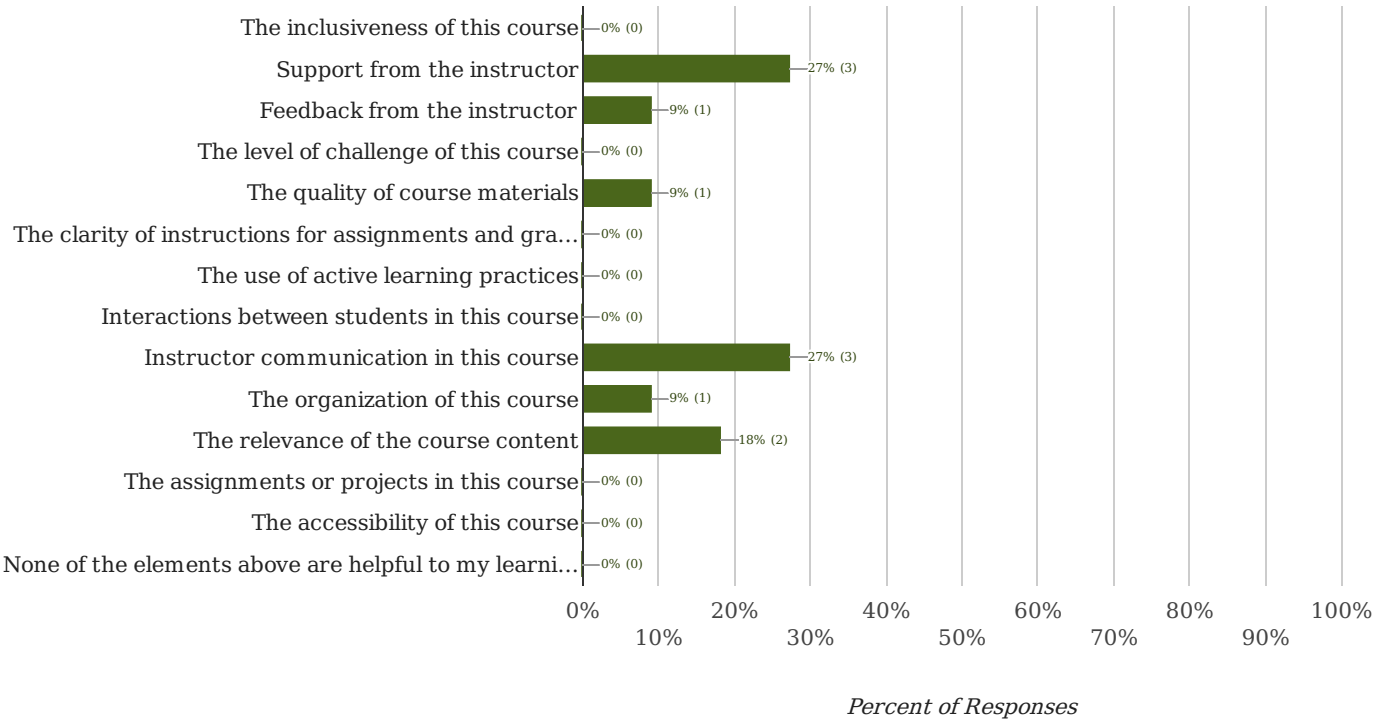


The accessibility of the course:



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.

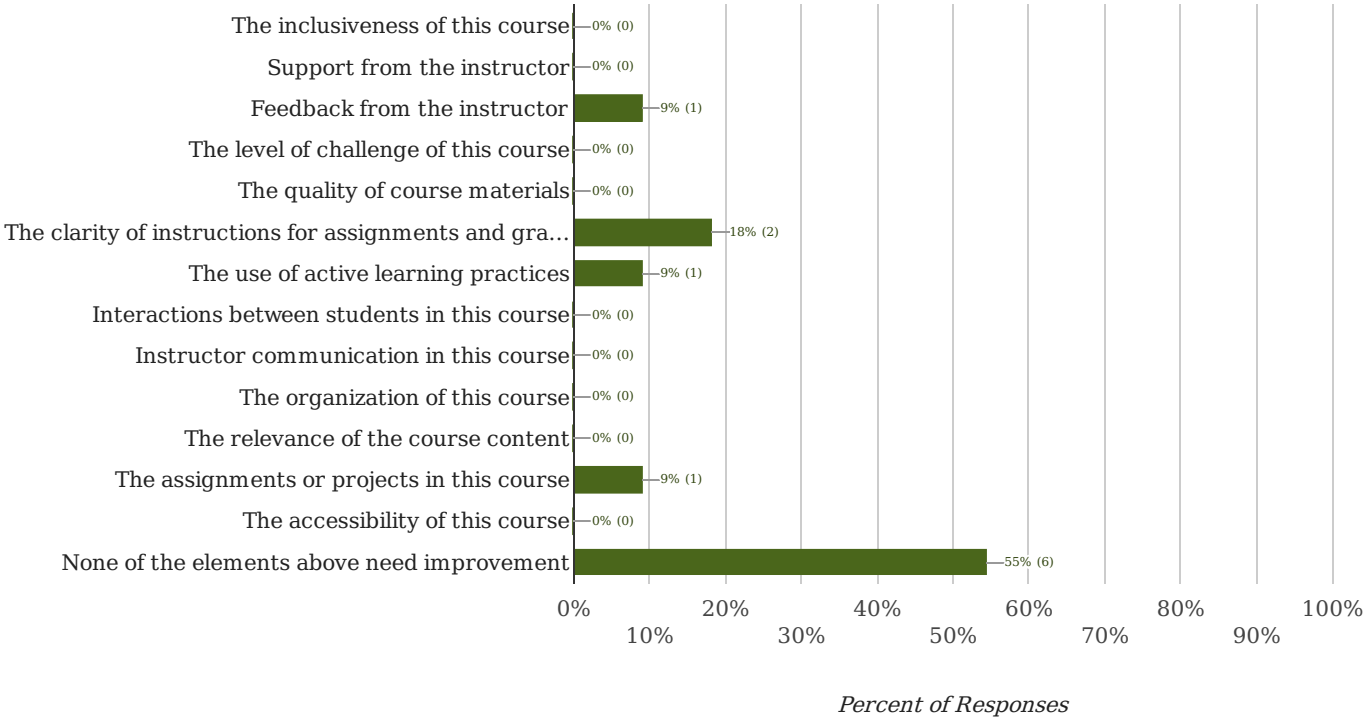
Q: What specifically about the assignments or projects helped your learning?

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.

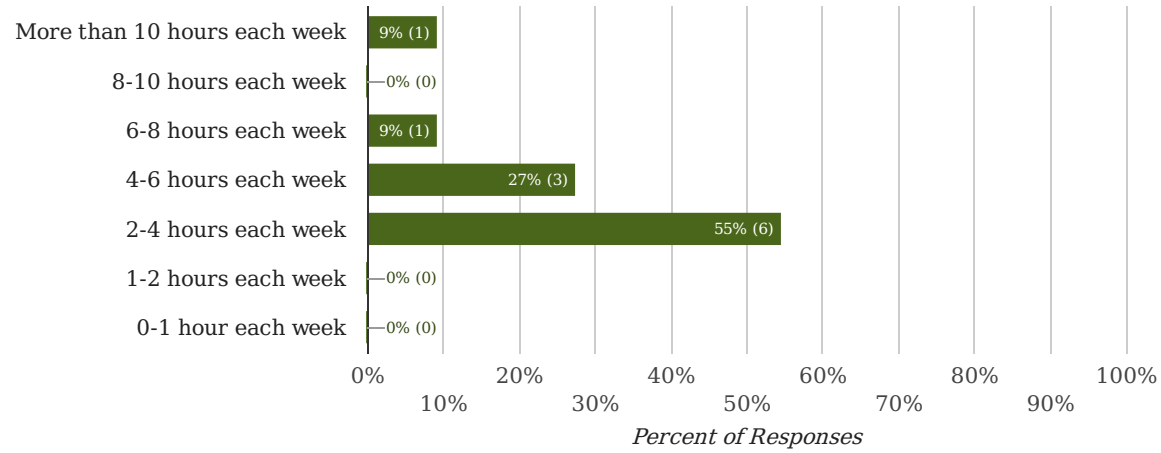
Q: What specific change in the accessibility of the course would help your learning?

Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above need improvement to help your learning.

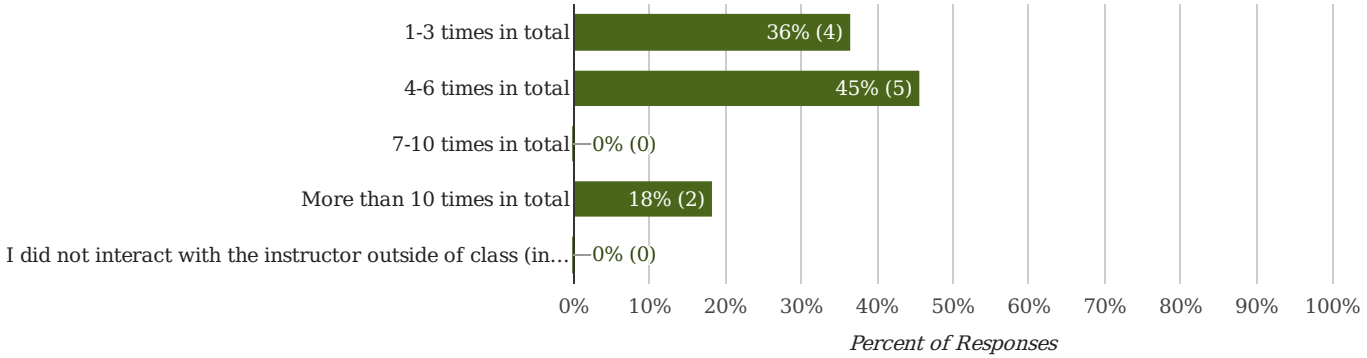
1	Robert has mastered teaching this course. I can't come up with a critique because it was always fun and engaging.
2	None.
3	good.
4	This has been of of the most enjoyable Econ class I've taken and I've learned a lot.

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 pout 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.

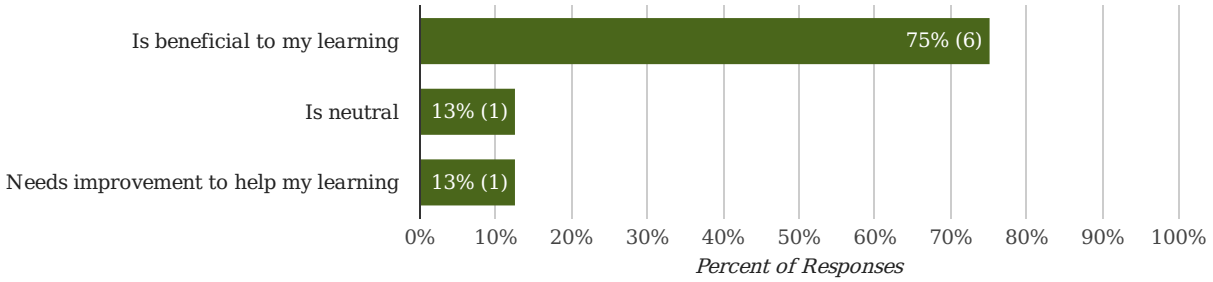
Intro Econ Analy Micro (Fall 2021 E-SES)

Instructor: **McDonough, Robert**
Subject: **Economics**
Catalog & Section: **201 12128**

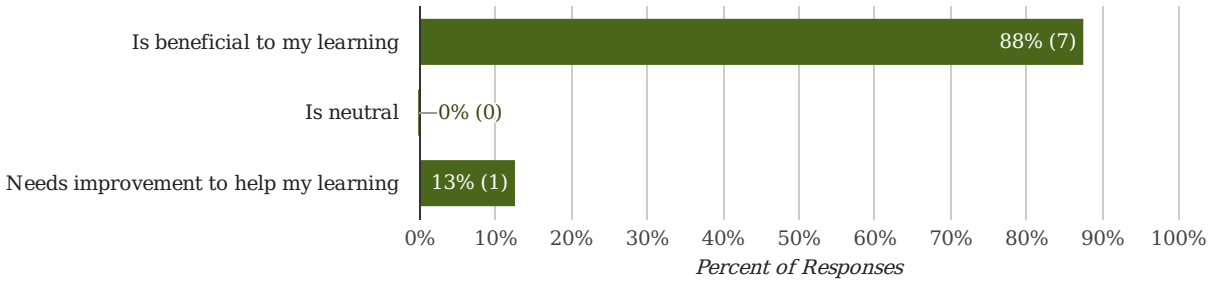
Enrollment: **68**
Responses Incl Declines: **10**
Declines: **2**

Teaching and Learning Elements

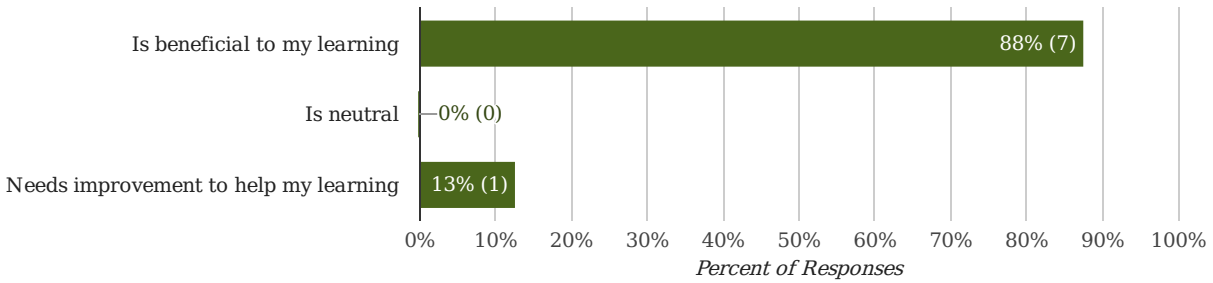
The inclusiveness of this course:



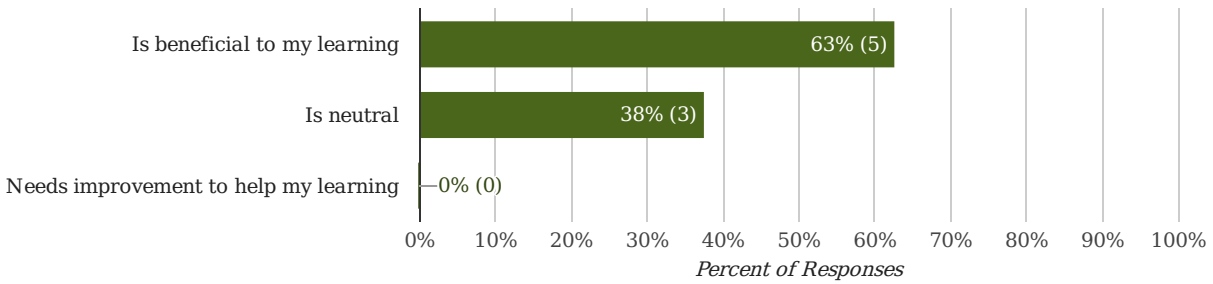
The support from the instructor:



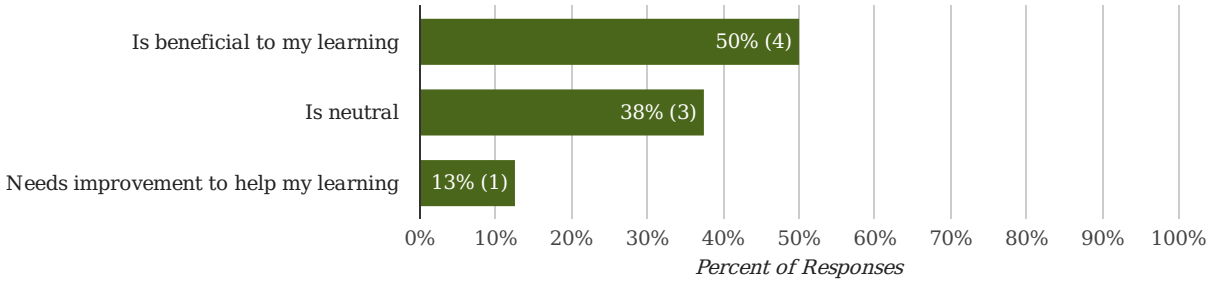
The feedback provided:



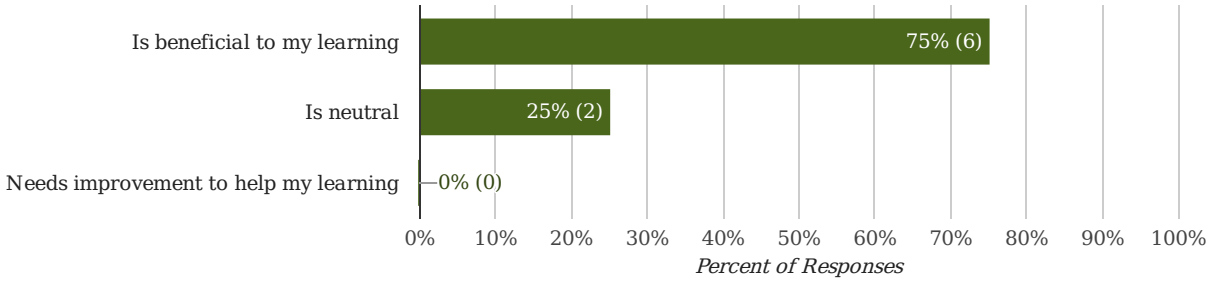
The level of challenge in the course:



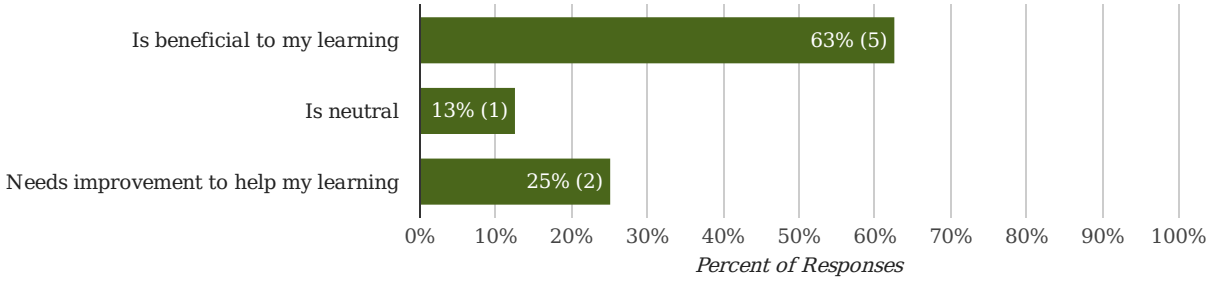
The quality of the course materials:



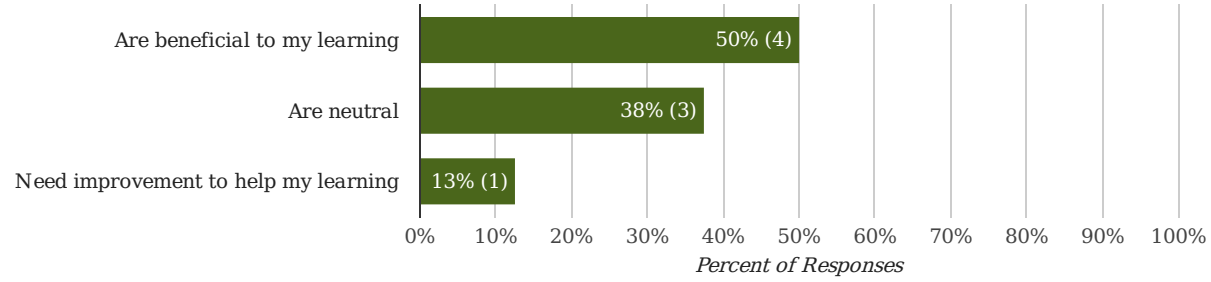
The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:



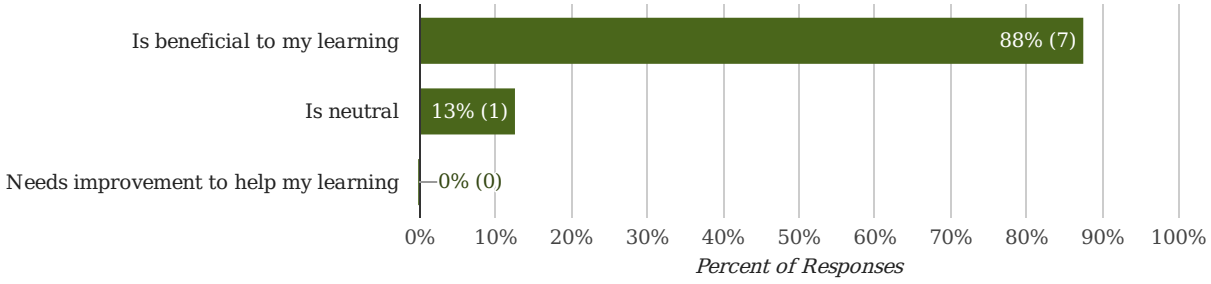
The degree to which the course includes active learning:



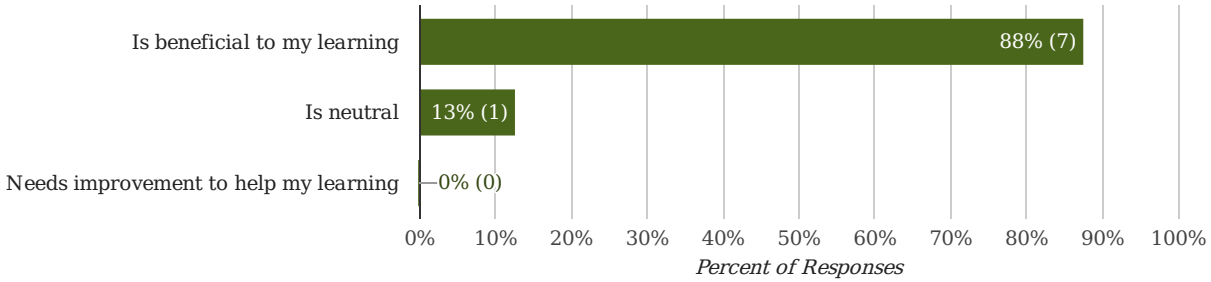
The opportunities for student interaction in this class:



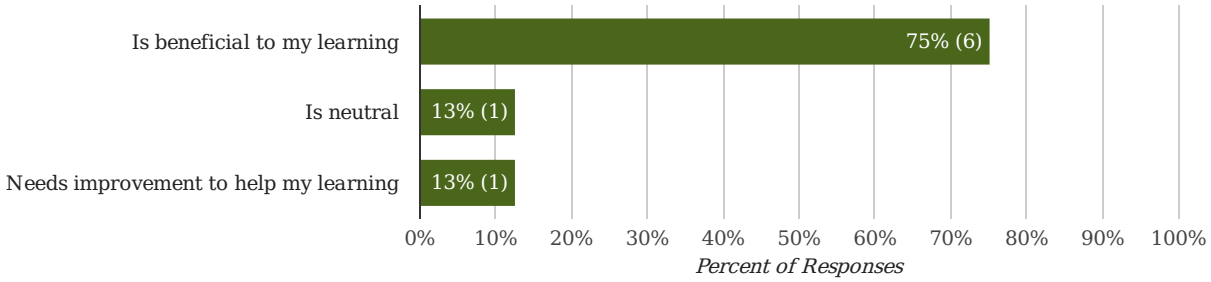
Instructor communication:



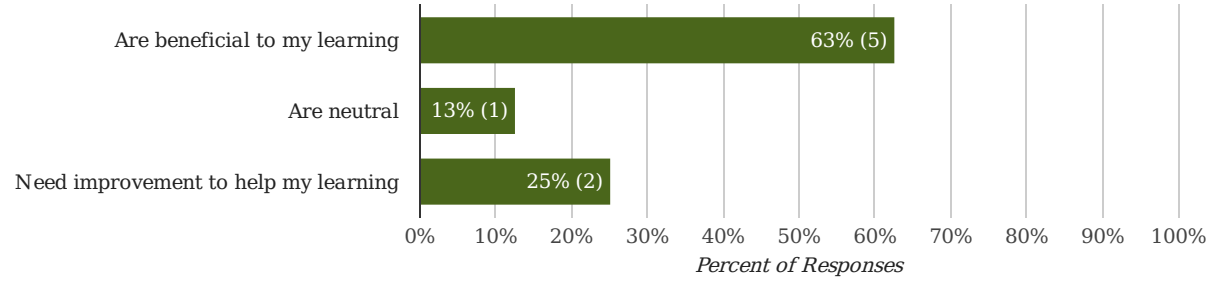
The organization of the course:



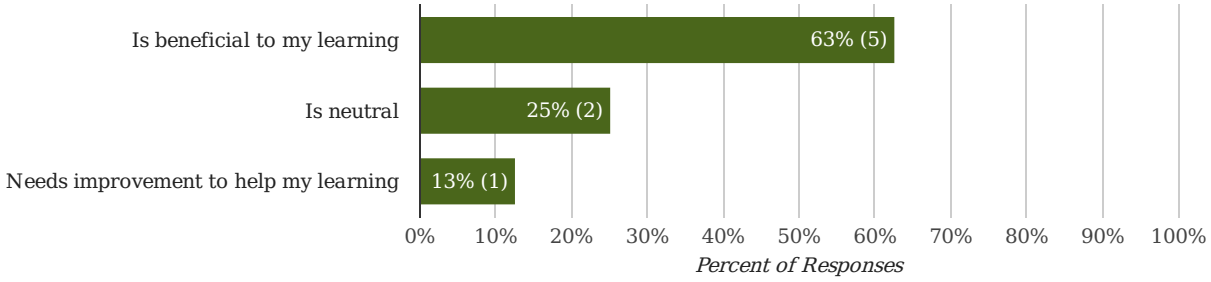
The relevance of the course content:



The assignments or projects in this course:

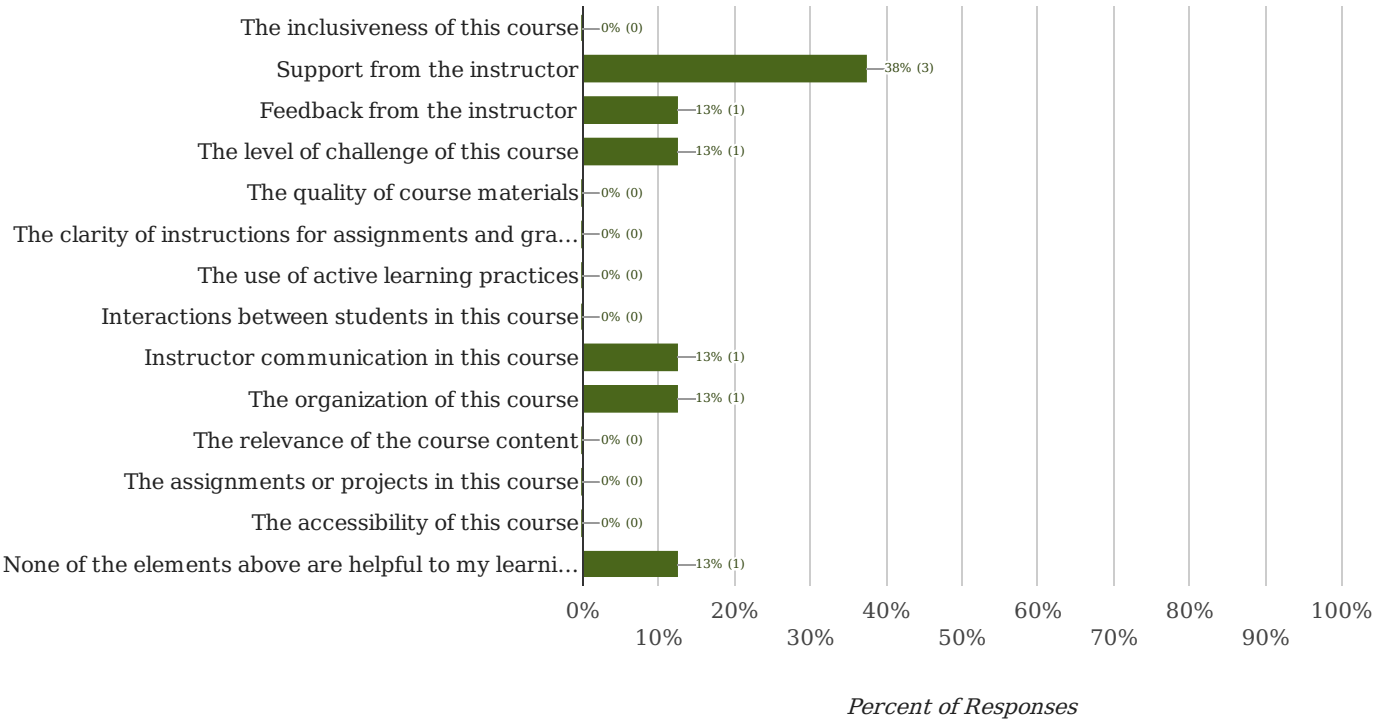


The accessibility of the course:



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?

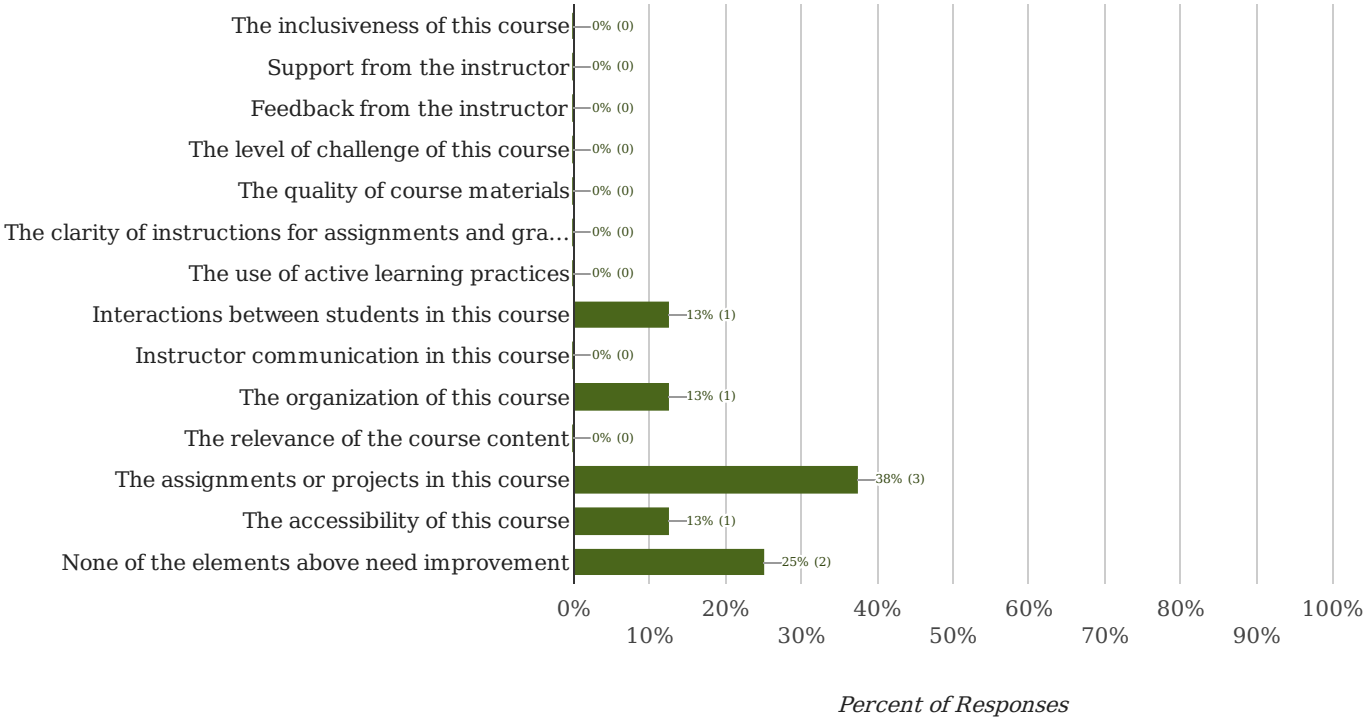
Q: What specifically about the accessibility of this course helped your learning?

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.

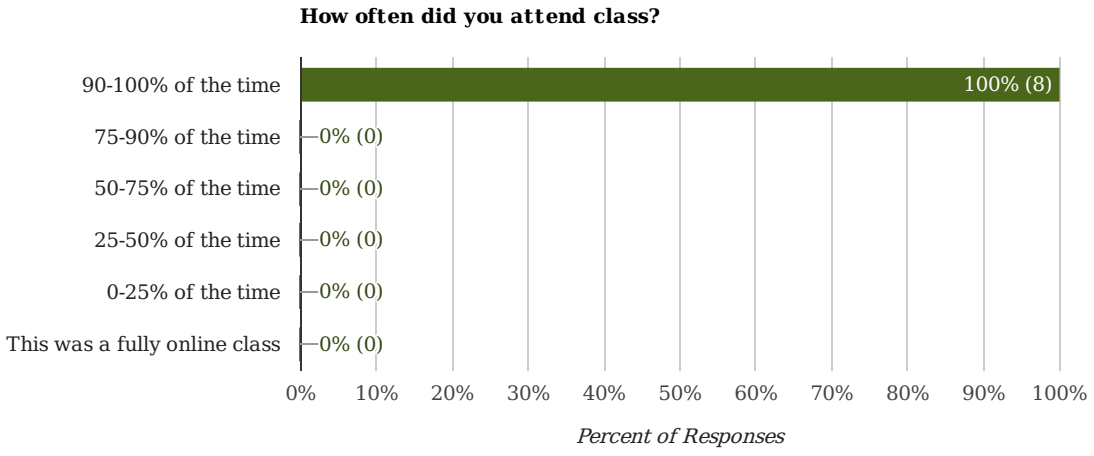
Q: What specific change in the accessibility of the course would help your learning?

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.

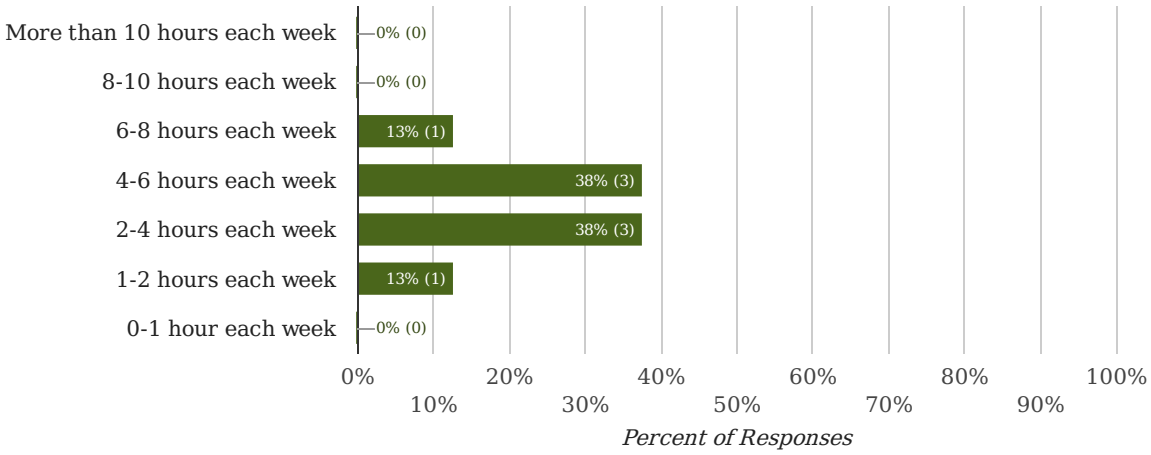
Q: Why did you attend class 75-90% of the time?

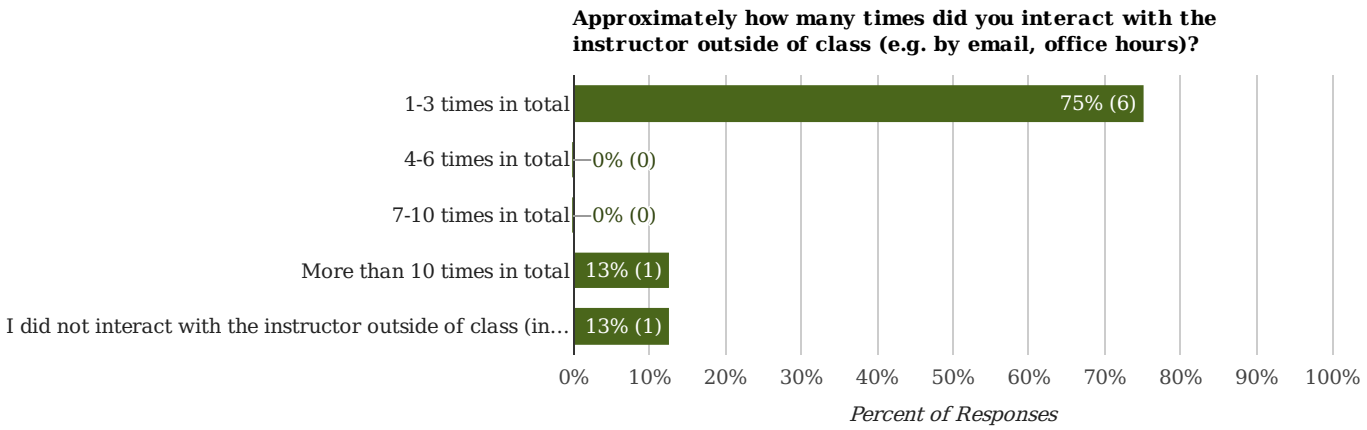
Q: Why did you attend class 50-75% of the time?

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)?





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?

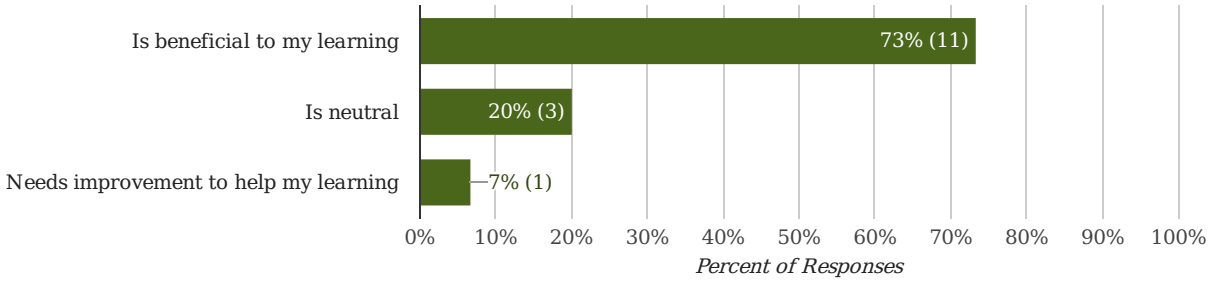
Labor Market Issues (Fall 2020 E-SES)

Instructor: **McDonough, Robert**
Subject: **Economics**
Catalog & Section: **350 16578**

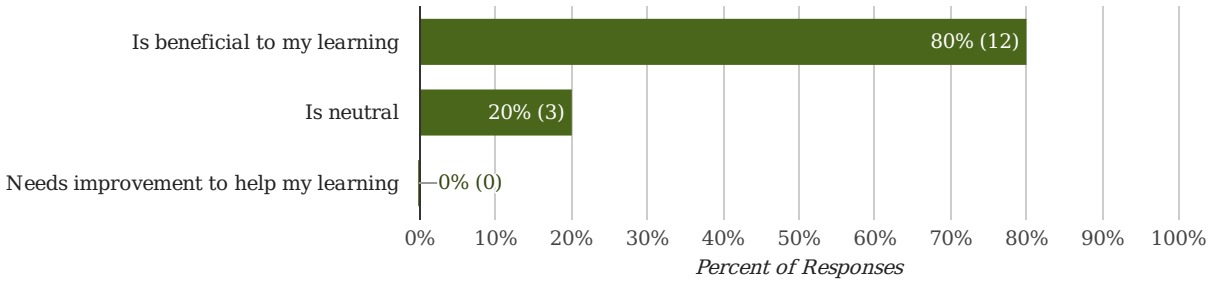
Enrollment: **69**
Responses Incl Declines: **15**
Declines: **0**

Teaching and Learning Elements

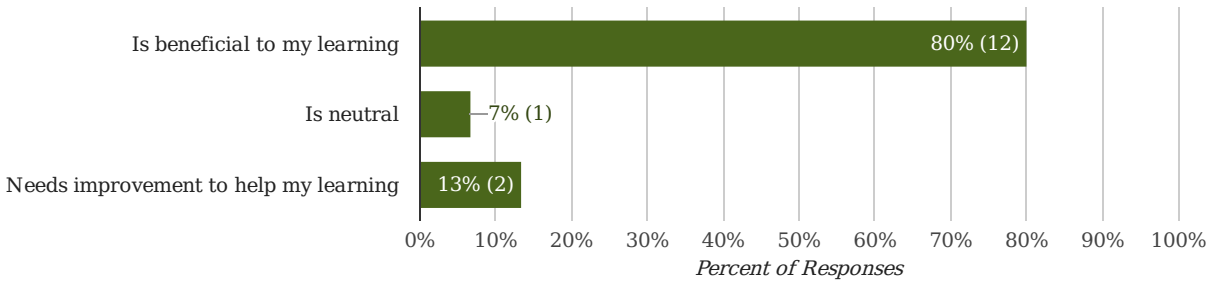
The inclusiveness of this course:



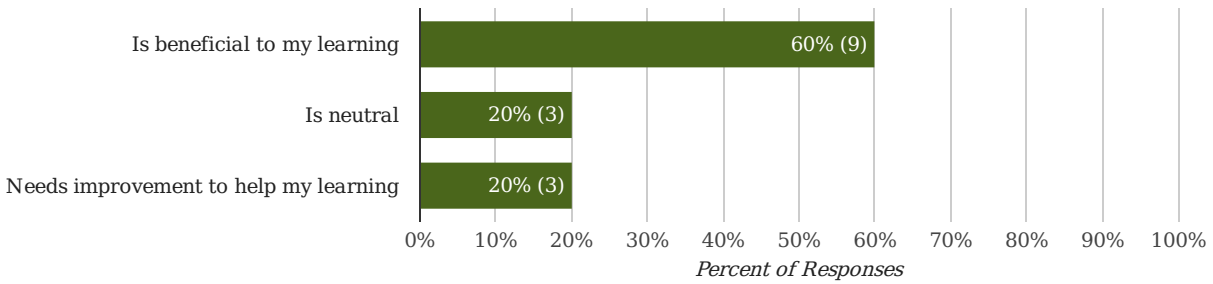
The support from the instructor:



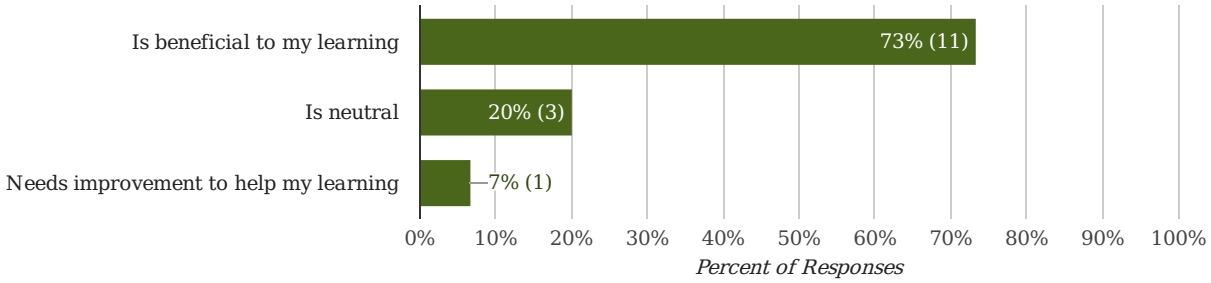
The feedback provided:



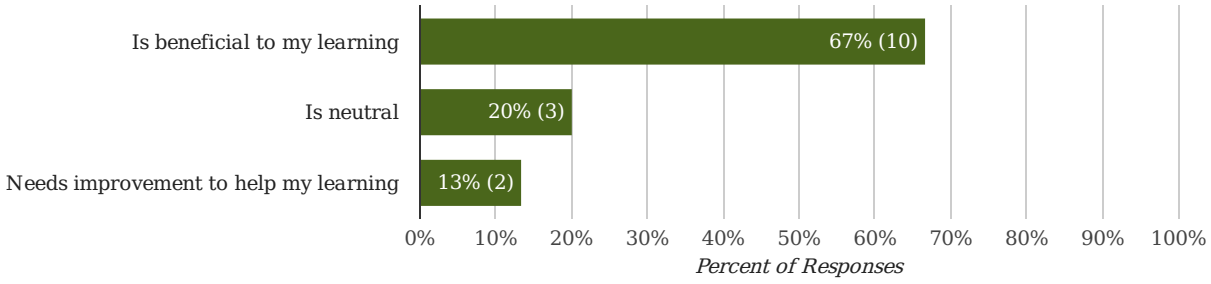
The level of challenge in the course:



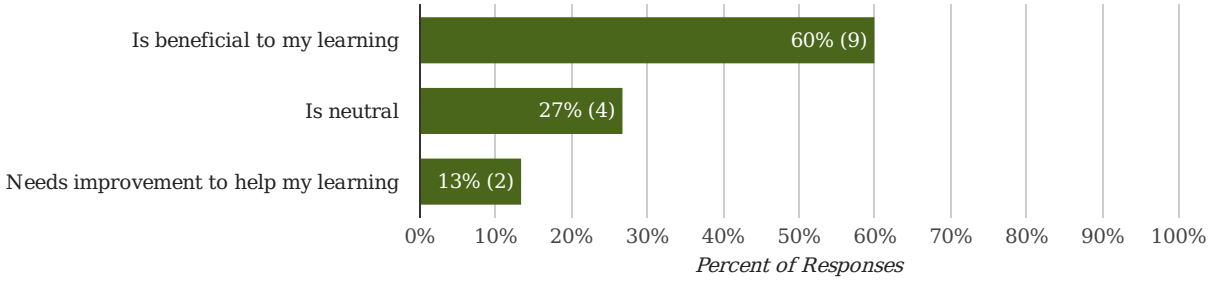
The quality of the course materials:



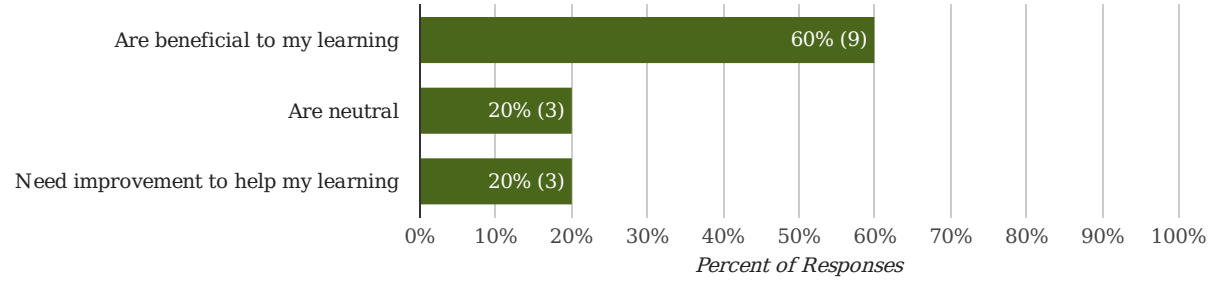
The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:



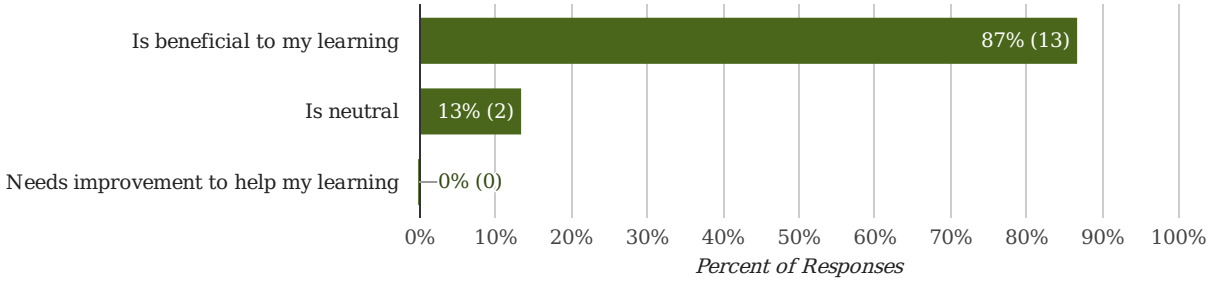
The degree to which the course includes active learning:



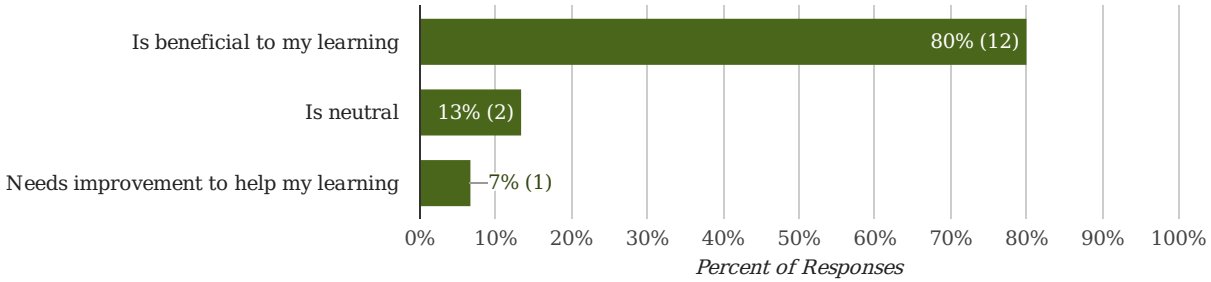
The opportunities for student interaction in this class:



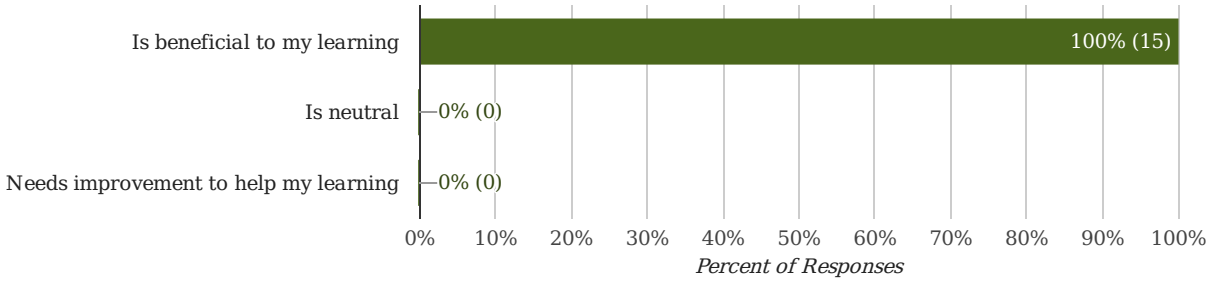
Instructor communication:



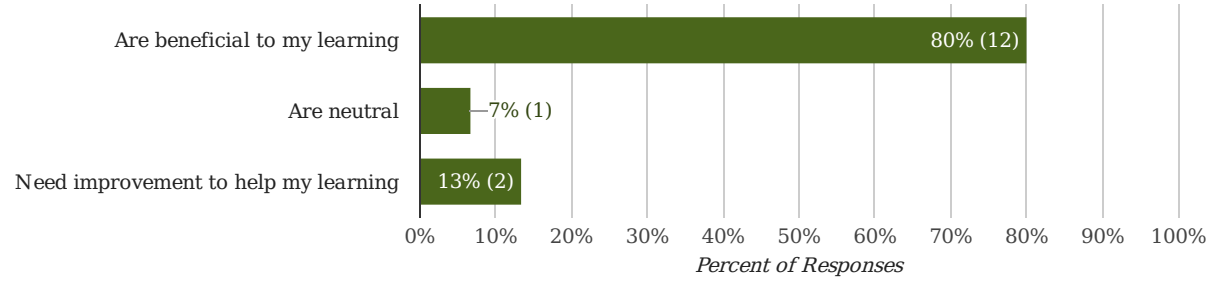
The organization of the course:



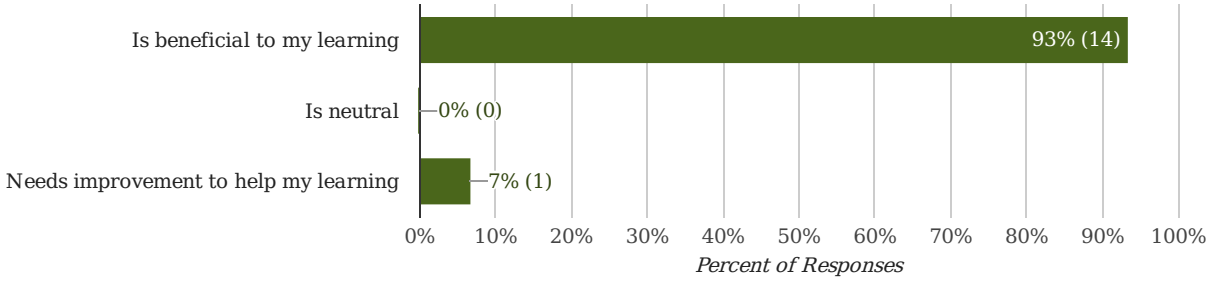
The relevance of the course content:



The assignments or projects in this course:

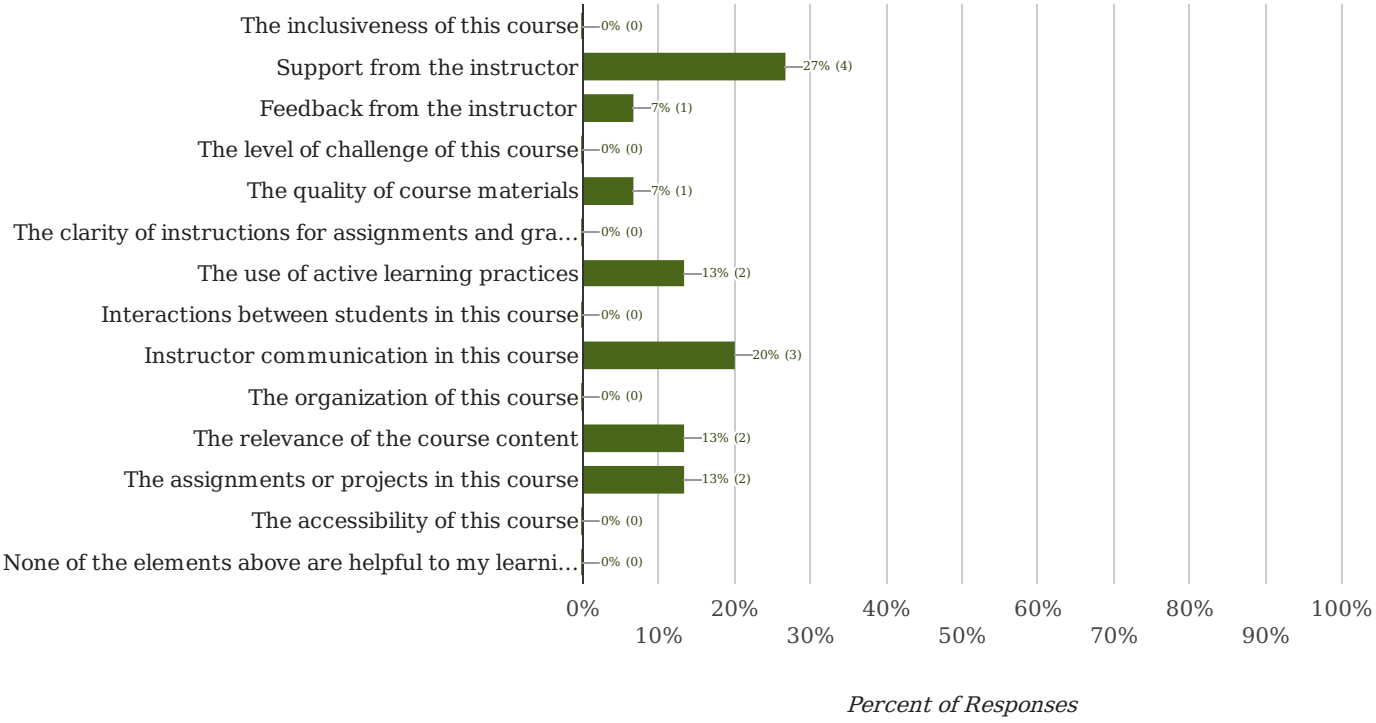


The accessibility of the course:



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 energey 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.

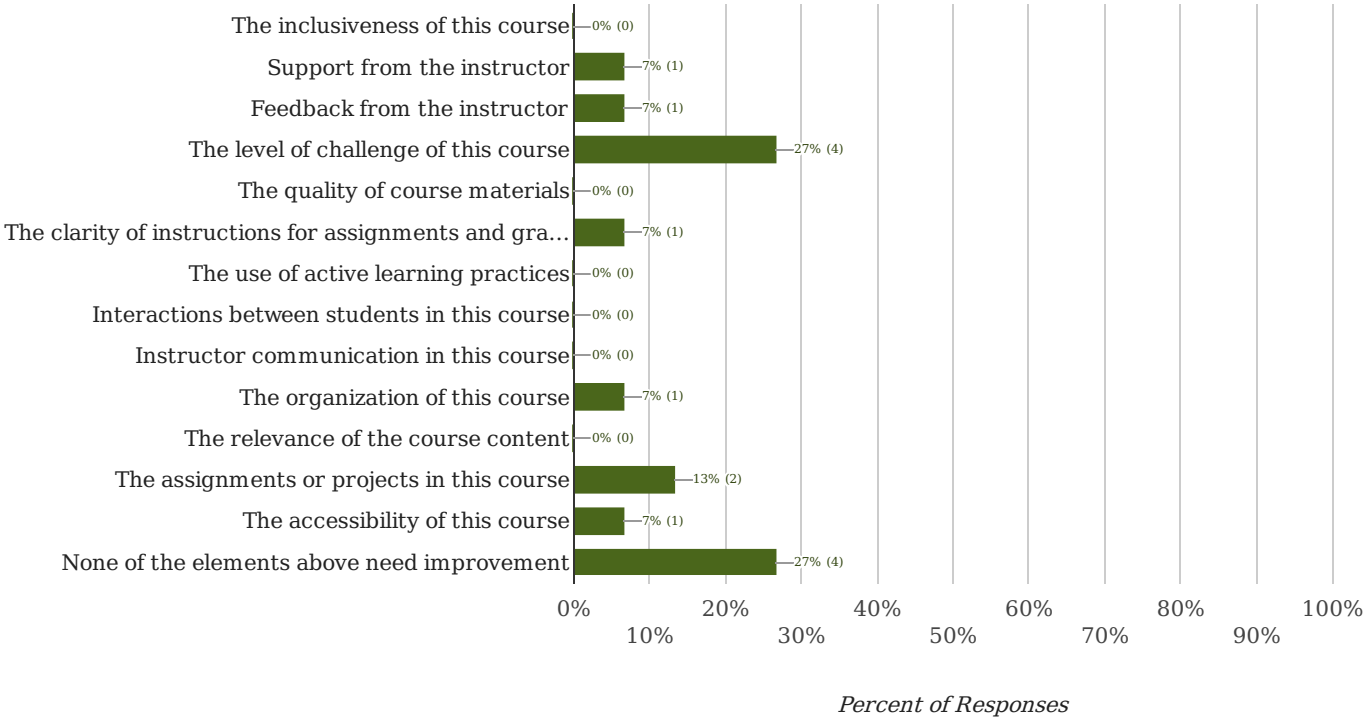
2 Really relevant to what we learn from the class. It is very helpful for me to learn this class.

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 I 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 irt 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.

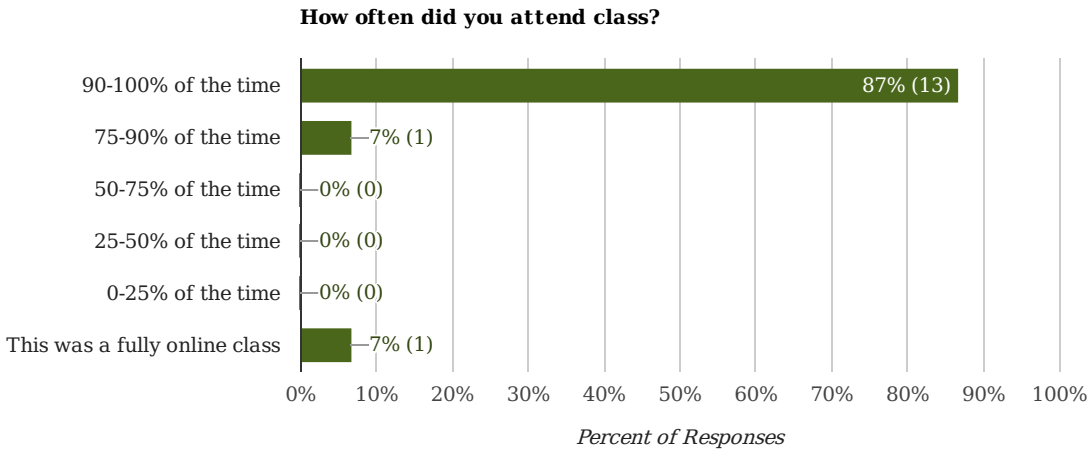
Q: Please say more about how none of the teaching elements above need improvement to help your learning.

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 then I would like, the poll questions and Roberts energy made it engaing.
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?

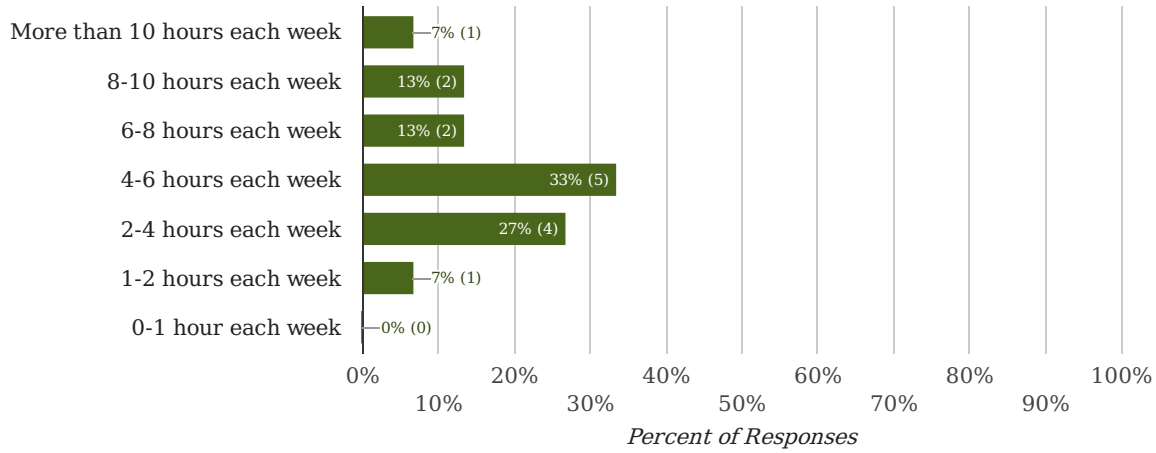
1	Attendance wasn't mandatory which helped me a lot this term to keep on track with other courses I was taking. The recording were a helpful tool i could rely on. Though I prefered being class because I could ask questions when needed.

Q: Why did you attend class 50-75% of the time?

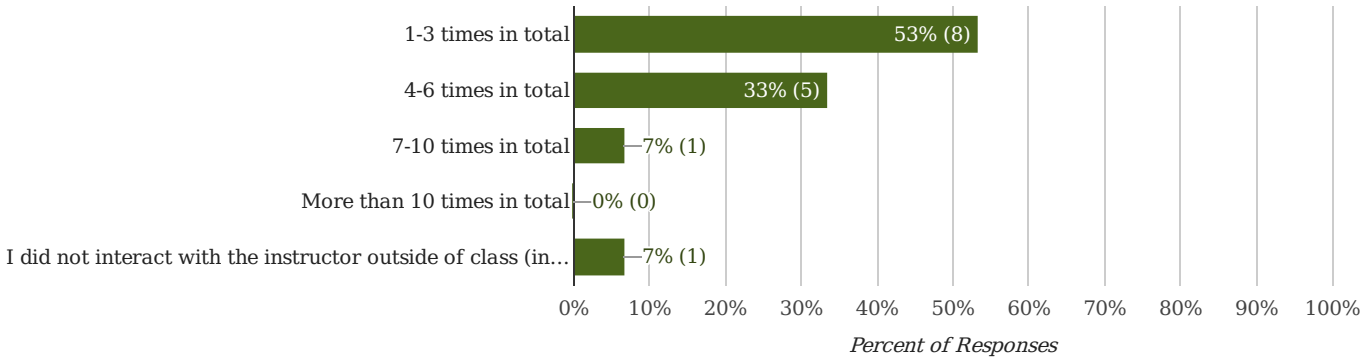
Q: Why did you attend class 25-50% of the time?

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 understable 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 do 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 quizes 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 made 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 apperciated- 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.

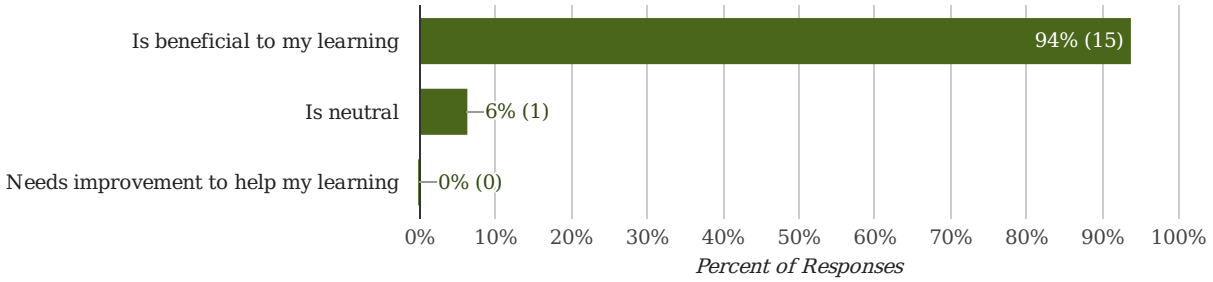
Labor Economics (Summer 2020 E-SES)

Instructor: **McDonough, Robert**
Subject: **Economics**
Catalog & Section: **450 43584**

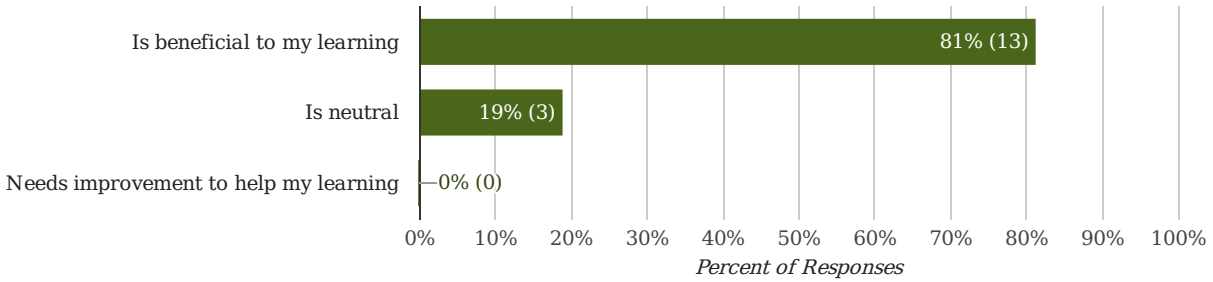
Enrollment: **58**
Responses Incl Declines: **17**
Declines: **1**

Teaching and Learning Elements

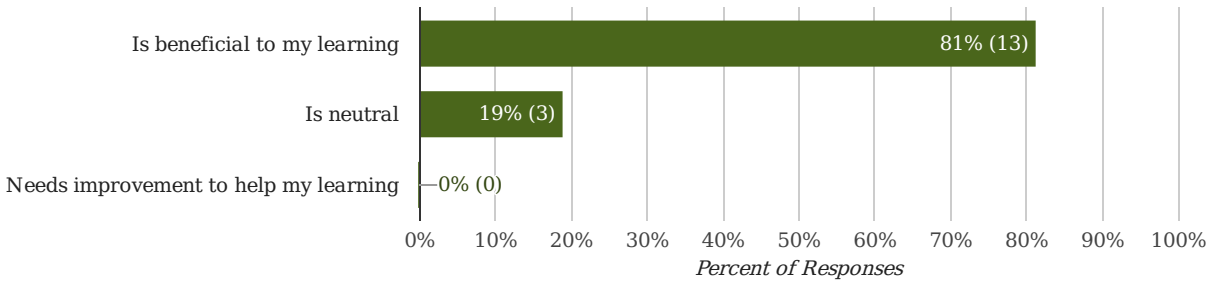
The inclusiveness of this course:



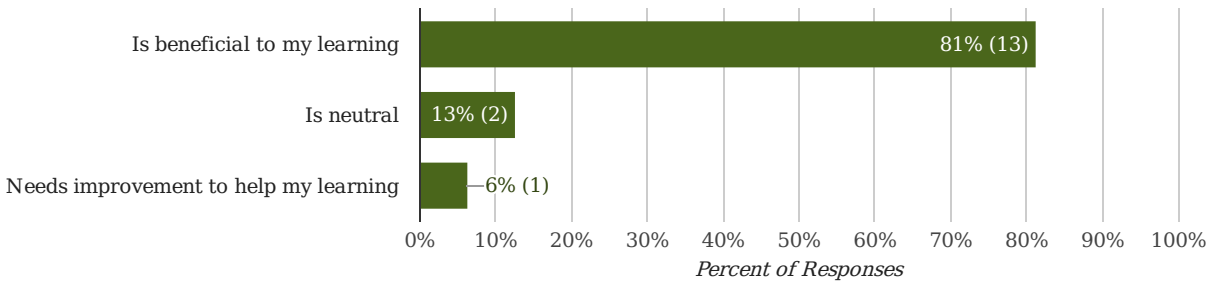
The support from the instructor:



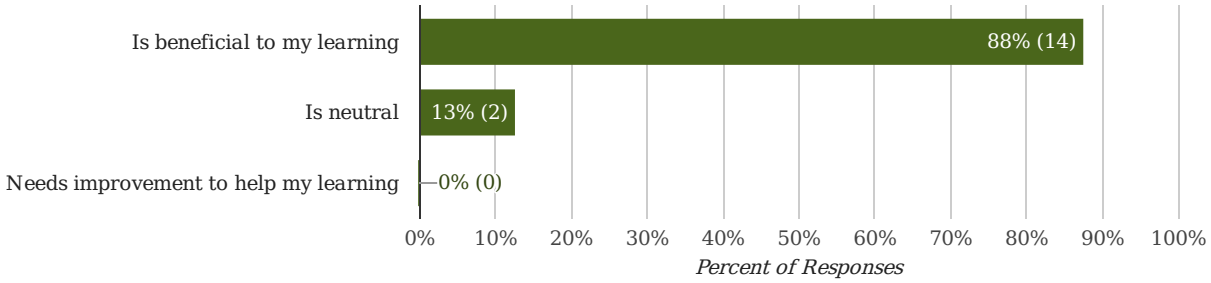
The feedback provided:



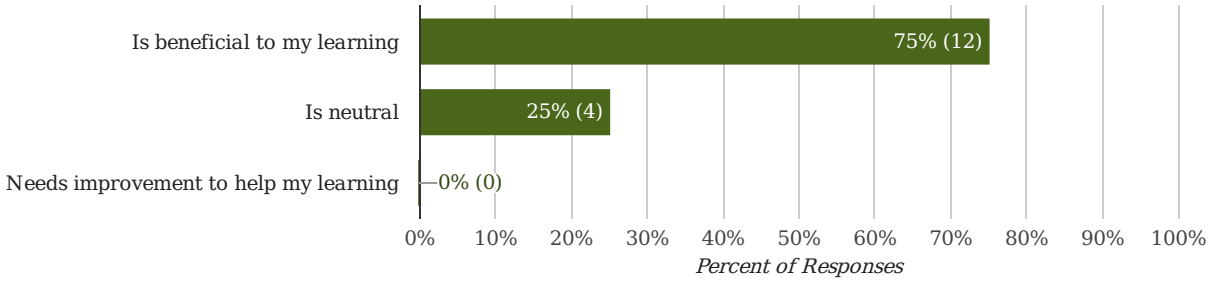
The level of challenge in the course:



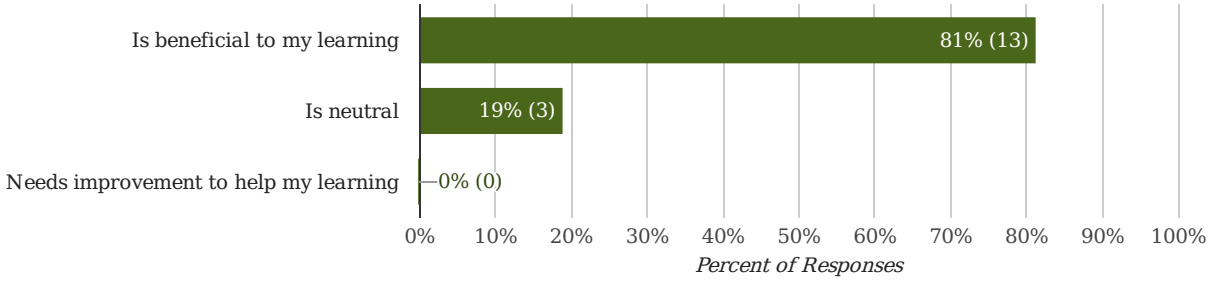
The quality of the course materials:



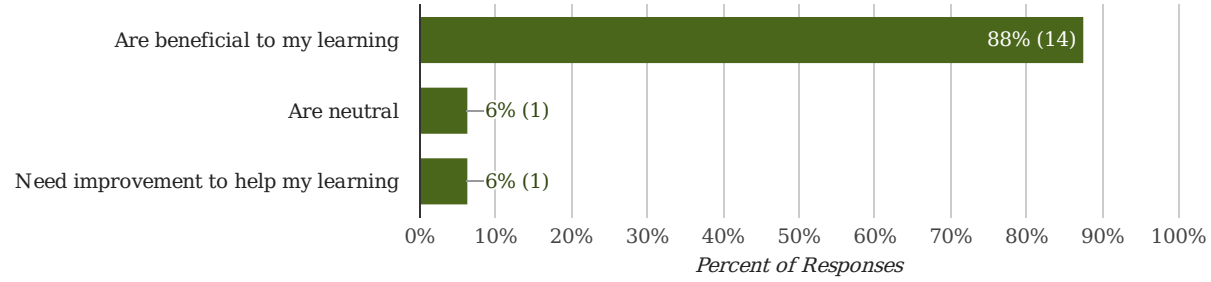
The clarity of assignment instructions and grading:



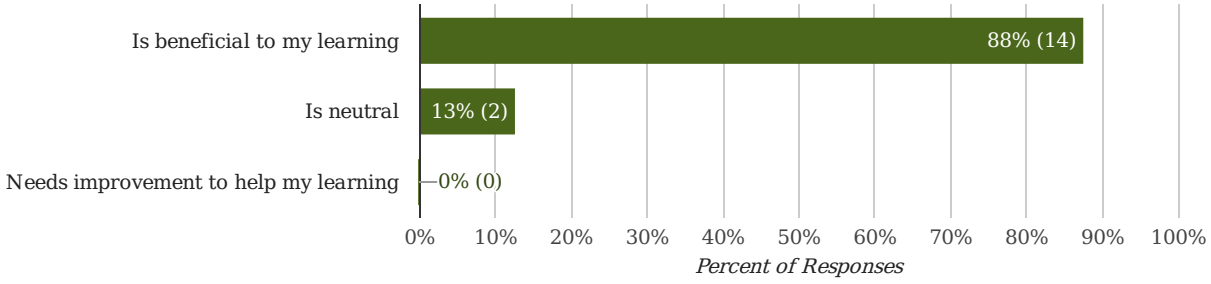
The degree to which the course includes active learning:



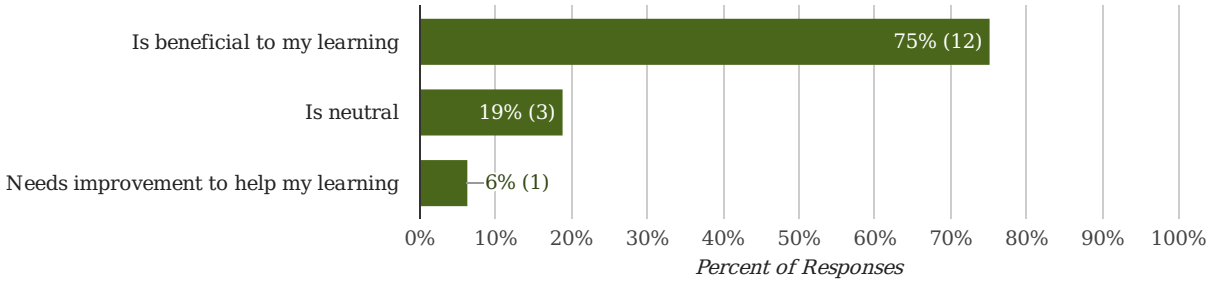
The opportunities for student interaction in this class:



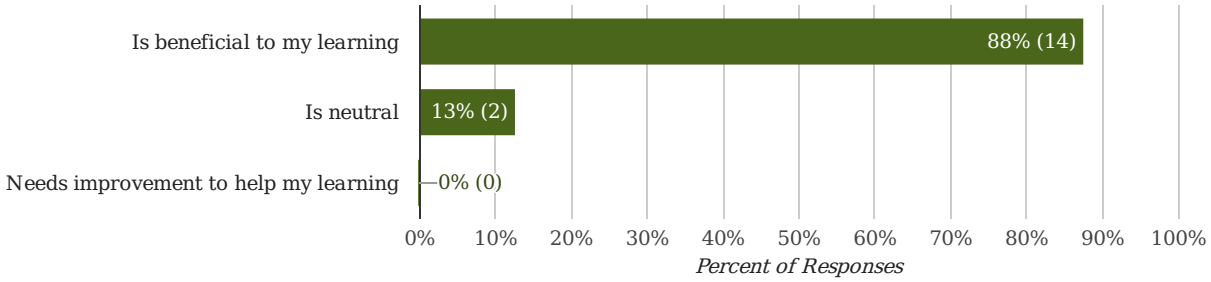
Instructor communication:



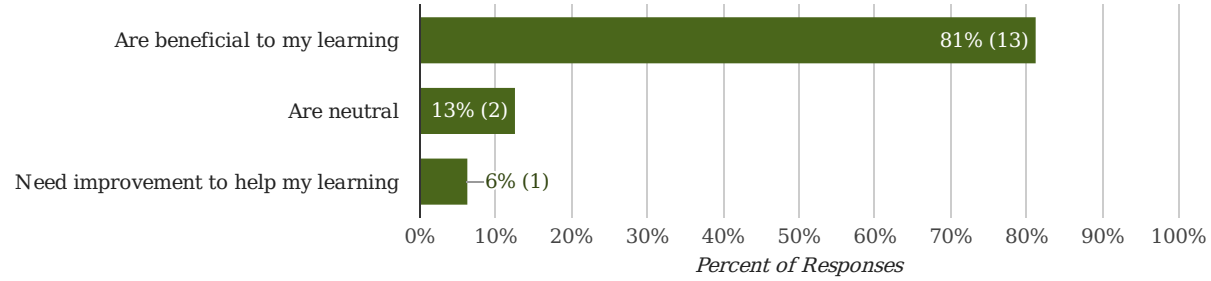
The organization of the course:



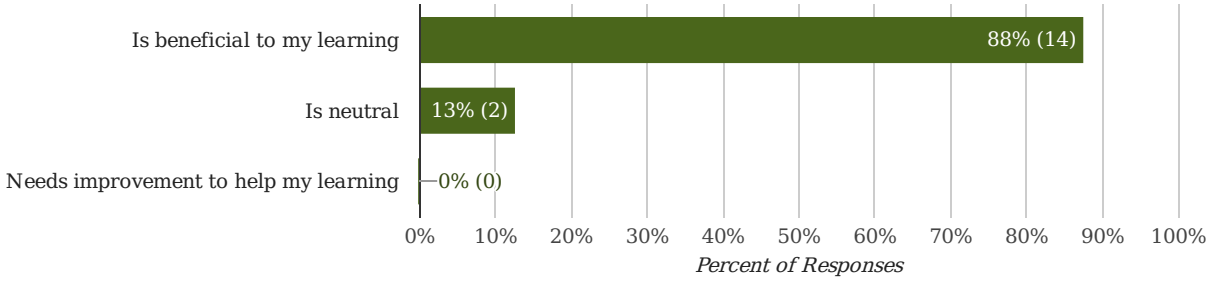
The relevance of the course content:



The assignments or projects in this course:

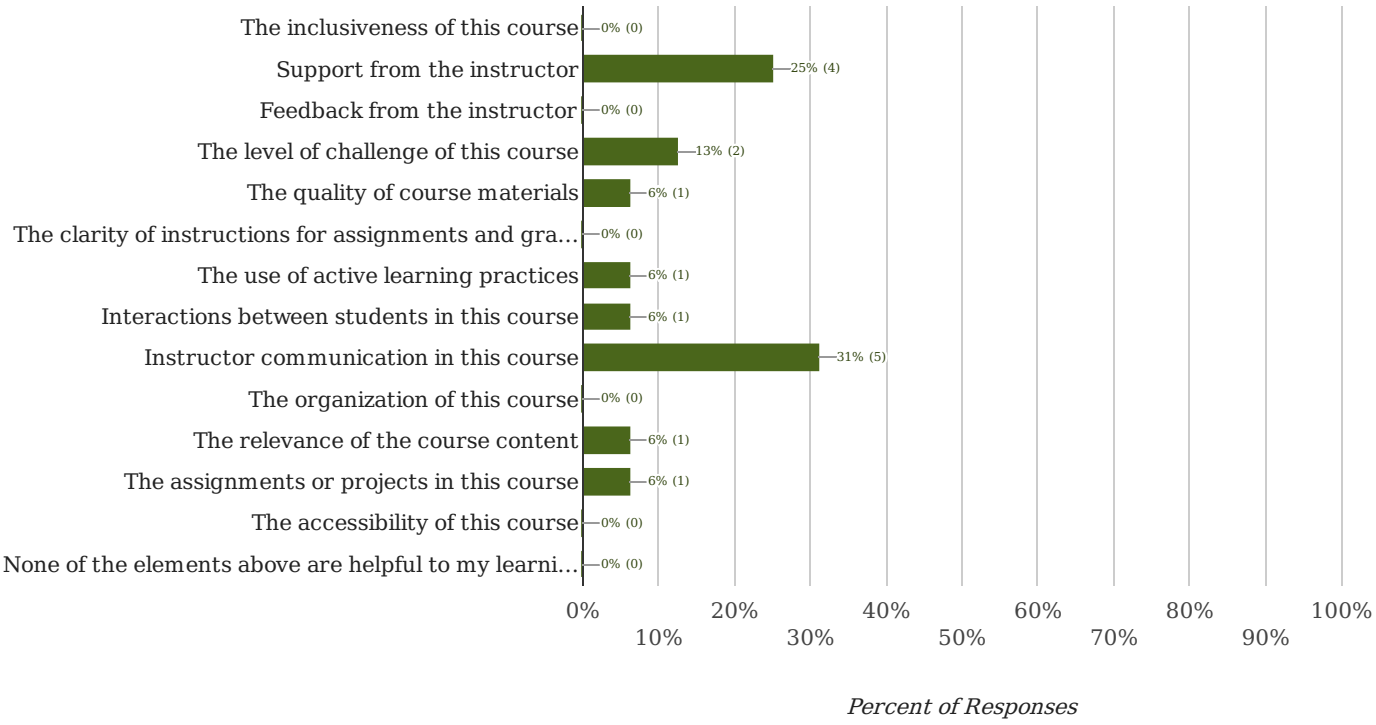


The accessibility of the course:



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 paitent
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?

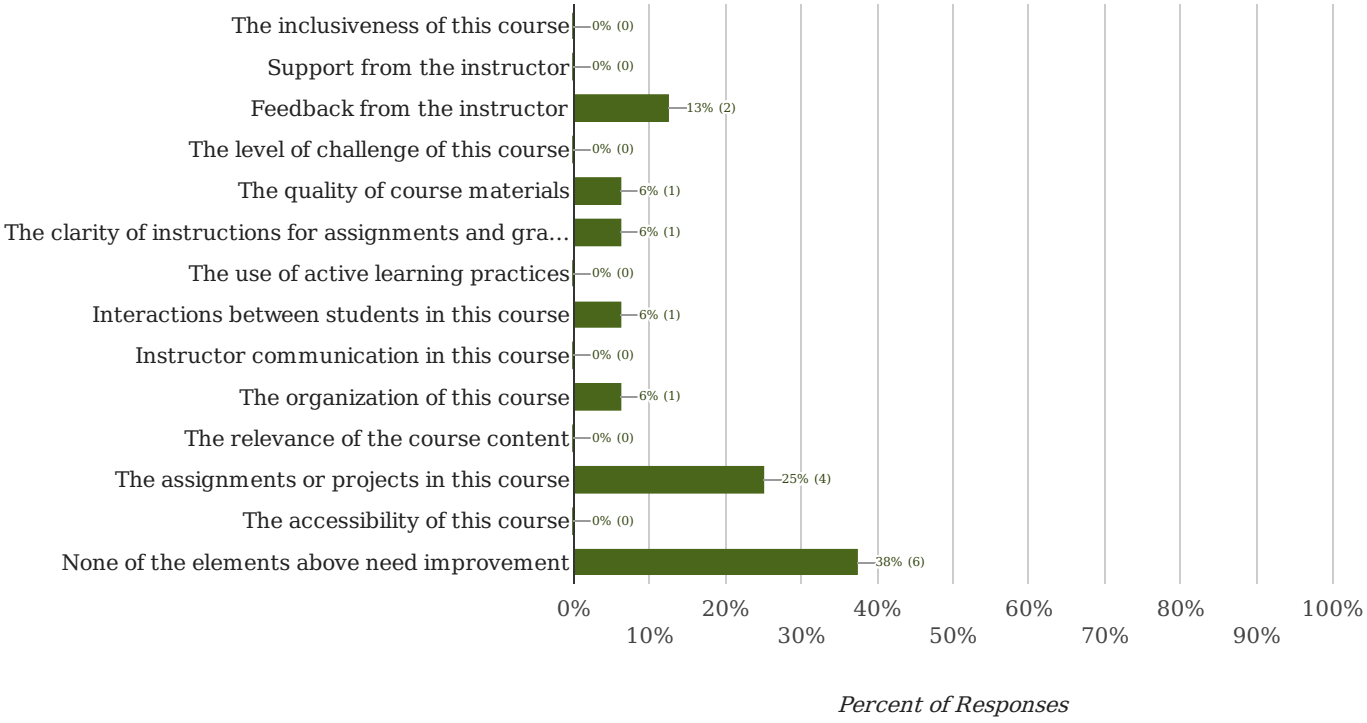
1	I think homework helps me learn economics better

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?

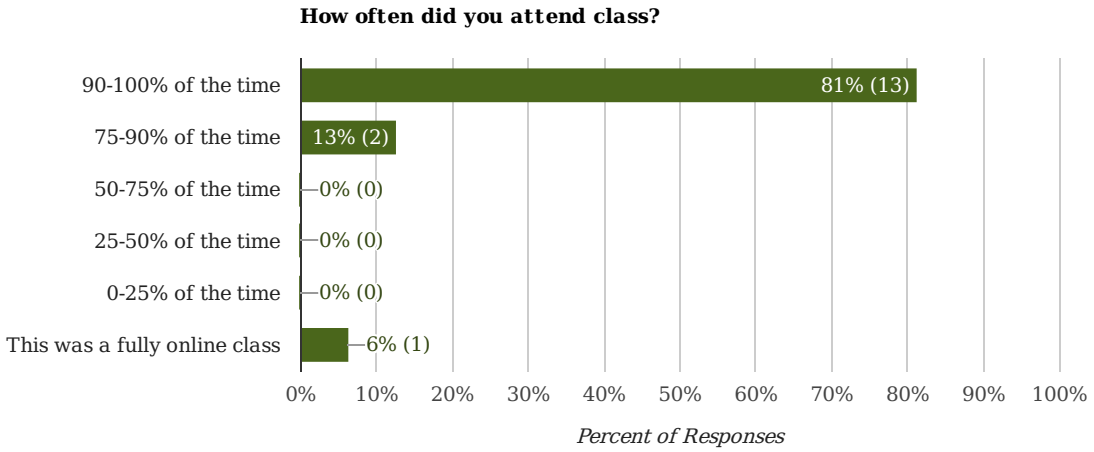
1	I think homework helps me learn economics better
2	There are some question maybe too hard to understand.
3	assignments is difficult
4	I felt like the professor was asking for a lot of homework and quizzes to be completed outside of class which made it hard to have time to study individually with the 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 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?

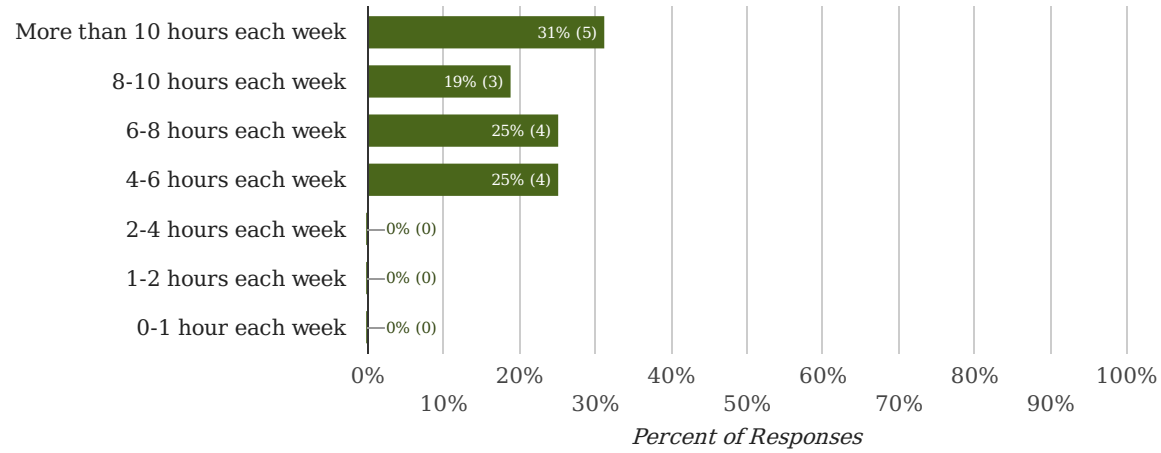
1	Work commitments. Wish I could've attended every day.

Q: Why did you attend class 50-75% of the time?

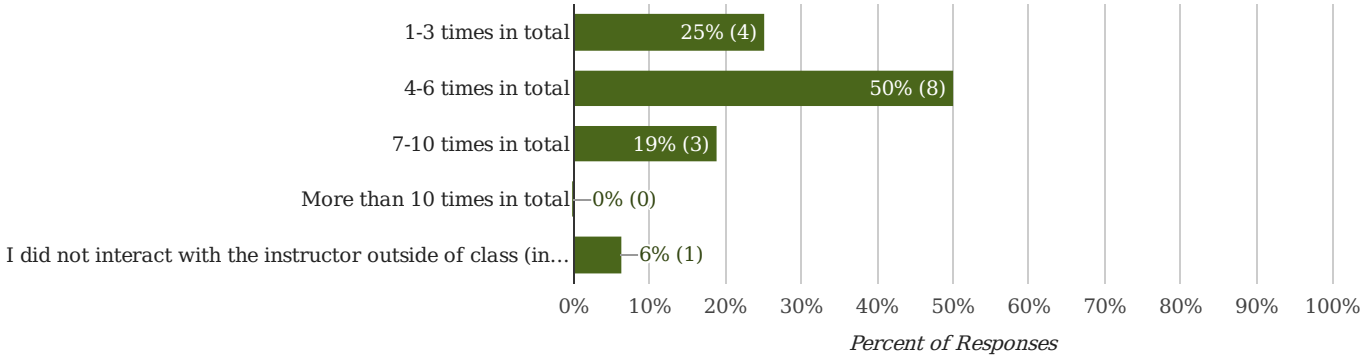
Q: Why did you attend class 25-50% of the time?

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!