

Principles of Macroeconomics (Spring 2018)

Instructor: **Spitze, Scott**

Section: **0100**

Course Title: **Principles of Macroeconomics**

Course ID: **ECON:1200:0100**

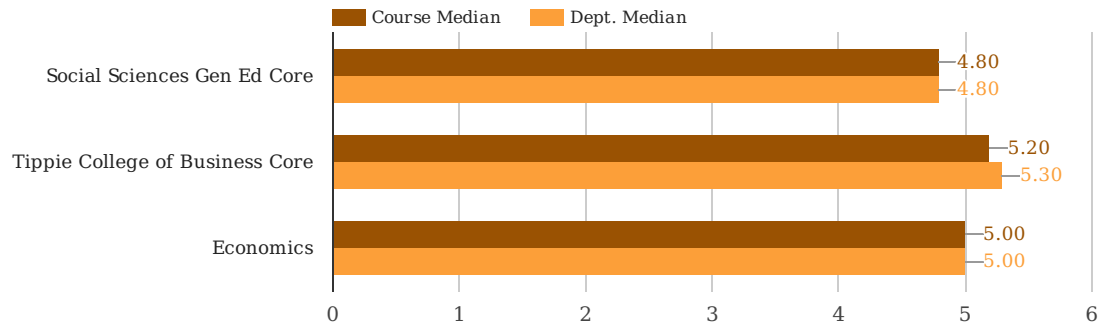
Objectives:

Enrollment: **45**

Responses Incl Declines: **31**

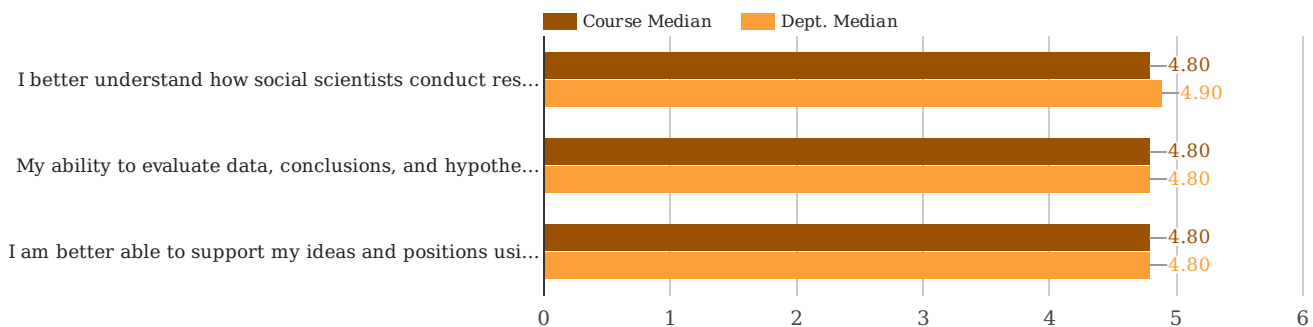
Declines: **0**

Category Summary



Category	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Mean	Dept. Mean	Median	Dept. Median	STDEV
Social Sciences Gen Ed Core	86	63.7%	4.52	4.62	4.80	4.80	1.20
Tippie College of Business Core	150	66.7%	5.00	4.86	5.20	5.30	1.23
Economics	150	66.7%	4.68	4.62	5.00	5.00	1.35

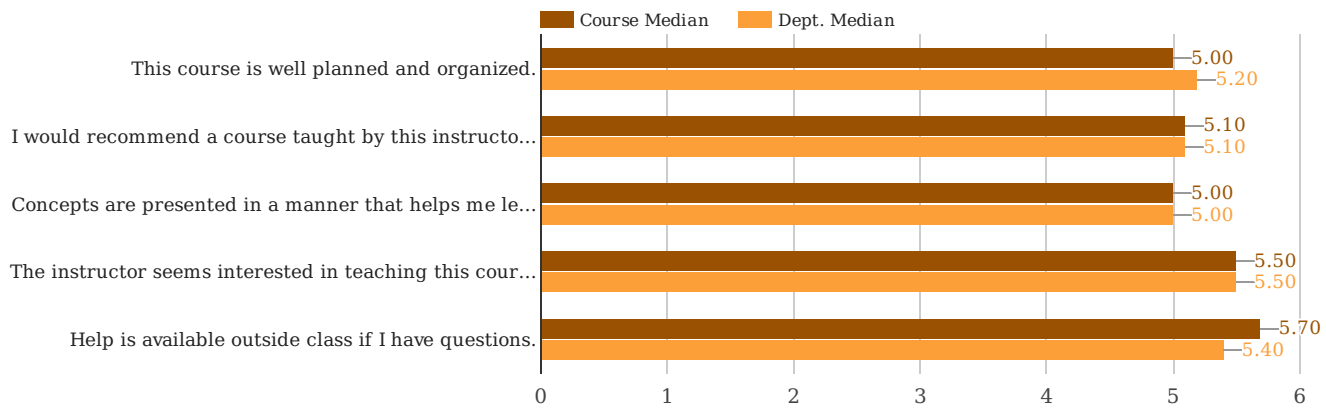
Social Sciences Gen Ed Core



Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median
I better understand how social scientists conduct research, gather data, and derive conclusions.	29	64%	4.55	4.63	4.80	4.90
My ability to evaluate data, conclusions, and hypotheses has improved.	29	64%	4.48	4.61	4.80	4.80
I am better able to support my ideas and positions using evidence.	28	62%	4.54	4.61	4.80	4.80

Note: 6:Strongly Agree (6); 5:5; 4:4; 3:3; 2:2; 1:Strongly Disagree (1);

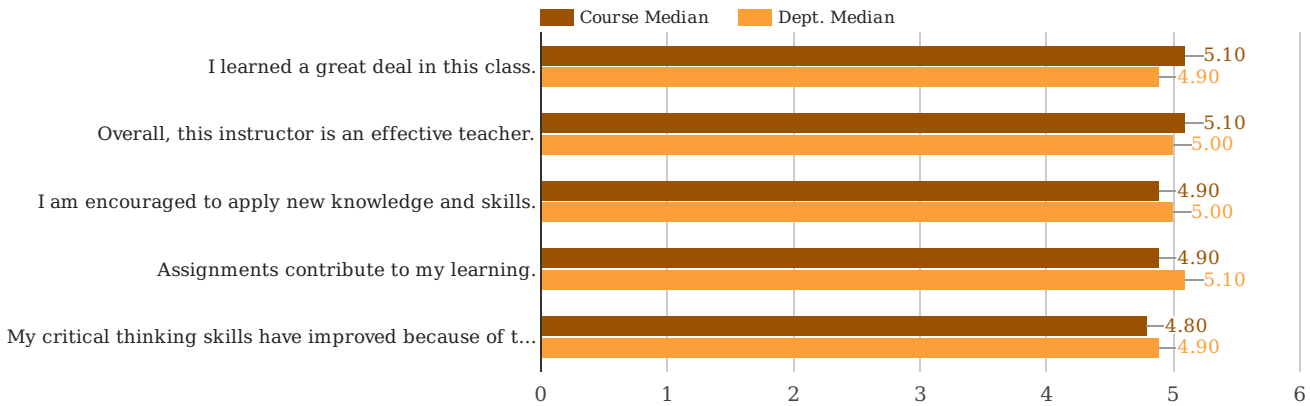
Tippie College of Business Core



Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median
This course is well planned and organized.	30	66%	4.80	4.83	5.00	5.20
I would recommend a course taught by this instructor to other students.	30	66%	4.83	4.66	5.10	5.10
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn.	30	66%	4.67	4.66	5.00	5.00
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course.	30	66%	5.33	5.09	5.50	5.50
Help is available outside class if I have questions.	30	66%	5.37	5.07	5.70	5.40

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Economics



Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Dept. Mean	Course Median	Dept. Median
I learned a great deal in this class.	30	66%	4.80	4.58	5.10	4.90
Overall, this instructor is an effective teacher.	30	66%	4.83	4.51	5.10	5.00
I am encouraged to apply new knowledge and skills.	30	66%	4.73	4.67	4.90	5.00
Assignments contribute to my learning.	30	66%	4.47	4.75	4.90	5.10
My critical thinking skills have improved because of this class.	30	66%	4.57	4.61	4.80	4.90

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Written Comments (9 comments)

Q: Additional comments

- 1 I think it would've been helpful to have slides and not have had paragraphs of information because thats overwhelming. Also if you cant

make it to class its hard to get notes because its not like highschool where we all know each other.

- 2 The homework assignments were not helpful in understanding the in class material. It would be more beneficial to have homework that had problems to help practice for quizzes/exams.
- 3 I can honestly say that Mr. Spitze is one of the best instructors I have ever had. He goes over exactly what will be on exams and quizzes. He is very helpful and always very kind. His tests are challenging, but for the right reasons. By far not the easiest class I have ever taken, but one of the best. I would strongly recommend Mr. Spitze to any student interested in Macroeconomics, and I only wish I could take all my classes with him.
- 4 I liked the class, but get the students more involved with open ended questions like (what do you think would happen?) before just telling us the answer. I know that you incentivize talking in your class with points but more open questions to get students involved would be good. It's too late to start using it now as the meta has been set that you will just answer your own questions but I would try to implement this next semester.
- 5 Great teacher. Great guy. Takes a little to get used to him and his style, but overall he is passionate about economics and teaching and wants you to succeed.
- 6 I really enjoyed Scott as my professor. Appreciated working around my work schedule to meet and review quizzes and notes outside of his office hours; very appreciative. Thank you!
- 7 His lectures are very long, talky, and boring
- 8 I think a PowerPoint would be easy to read and much more engaging than lecturing while writing on the whiteboard.
- 9 Professor Spitze is a great Professor and he seems like he really cares about teaching his class.

Instructor's Questions (82 comments)

Q: What did you think about the homework of listening to podcasts? Would you prefer more traditional problem sets?

- 1 I think the homework were good for me, I can know some other stuff after listening podcasts.
- 2 No I would keep the podcasts it was easy and interesting!
- 3 I enjoyed the podcasts. I found them interesting. Maybe make the questions a little harder to entice people to actually listen to them instead of googling the answers.
- 4 I think the podcast assignments may have given the illusion of being a simpler assignment, but I did not really like the length of them. Also, I feel like if you have a hard time with being a solely auditory learner, they can be hard to follow. I feel like there should have been a mix of traditional problems and podcasts.
- 5 I thought the homework and listening to the podcasts was interesting, and a nice change of pace compared to usual homework. I like the current homework style.
- 6 I would prefer more traditional problem sets because although the podcasts got us thinking about the implications of the material learned had on the real world, it was difficult for me to figure out what we would be quized/tested on just by listening to podcasts that didn't follow the book.
- 7 I thought the Podcasts were interesting and enjoyable to listen to. Some traditional homework would probably help me learn better though.
- 8 Traditional problem sets to help prepare for quizzes/tests
- 9 I would prefer more traditional problem sets because it would help me more out on tests. But the podcasts were interesting.
- 10 I liked it but it maybe would of been more helpful to do math problems or definitions that way we can better prepare for a test/quiz.
- 11 While the homework was very interesting, it did not help me practice these concepts and prepare for the quizzes or exams. I am a very hands on learner and this style didn't work for me.
- 12 I think that the podcasts that were chosen definitely related to the course material. However, for my personal learning style, I would have liked to have more exam-related problems for homework. The podcasts would be nice to offer as extra credit or randomly during the semester as homework.
- 13 I liked listening to the podcasts because it brought real world issues into account which was insightful and interesting. It helped me better understand.
- 14 I thought the podcasts were very efficient. I learned a lot of different information that had a real world connection and an application of what we were learning in class.
- 15 I really liked the podcasts they helped set the stage for the upcoming lessons and contextualised the subject matter into the terms of real life situations.
- 16 I really enjoyed the homework of listening to podcasts. It makes doing homework entertaining and keeps my attention.

- 17 i prefer more common problem, instead of the podcast which need to spend more than 1 hour to do that.
- 18 the homework wasn't that helpful to learning.
- 19 I enjoyed the podcast and really liked how material we have learned in class applies to the real world.
- 20 no I liked listening to real world examples of the things we were learning.
- 21 I liked the podcasts and found them interesting. However, it would have been more beneficial to have problems like we see on the the tests and quizzes in the homework. Often times the only real chance we got to practice some of them was on tests or quizzes.
- 22 I felt that the homework was very reasonable. It was different at first not having any assigned problems, but I feel enough of those examples were given during class, and these homeworks gave me a better macro understanding of how these concepts could be applied in reality.
- 23 I like the homework but literally EVERY SINGLE TIME there is a graph on the quiz I get like no points because I don't understand how to do it... so more traditional problem sets would be a good addition
- 24 I liked the homework and would not recommend changing it
- 25 The podcasts were definitely interesting to listen to, but problems might help prepare for the exam more.
- 26 I loved listening to the podcasts because it was more interesting to listen to and I thought a lot more about the information because I had to respond with the questions that went along to it. It was also fun to learn about world events that go with course material.
- 27 I mean I enjoyed the podcasts, they were very interesting to listen to. Just to be honest I don't think they were applicable at all. I think what I was learning and taking notes over never really had an impact on me because I never saw it in a question form. When it came to the quizzes it was the first time I had ever been asked anything about the topics so the quizzes were very difficult. I believe that having question homework would be more effective that way the quizzes are not so much of a shock.
- 28 The podcasts were extremely easy and they helped me understand some concepts we would talk about a little better, but we never really applied the Podcasts to in class activities/other things.

Q: What were this instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- 1 Strengths: enthused about what he was talking about and knew his information
Weaknesses: presenting information. Not having loads of paragraphs, doesnt help us learn because we're too busy trying to wrote dtuff down we cant process... also its so much information thats not paraphrased its harder to study for quizzes. Try using slides that you post to icon like fill in the blank ones that make students come to class, but still isnt writinf the whole time ir guced them time to listen and process! Not standing in front of the board because I couldn't see a lot of what you were writing so I had to wait until you were done, thats where slides would be helpful.
- 2 Not a great presenter/speaker. Sloppy handwriting. Passionate, wants to help his students, corrects his mistakes. Cool guy great teacher great class.
- 3 Some strengths were probably the knowledge of course material and availability. Some weaknesses were probably the ability to answer a question concisely in a way that is easy to understand.
- 4 Seemed very interested in teaching the material and making sure that he was explaining it as best as he could. Does not put any of the notes from class on line.
- 5 Very enthusiastic about the course, could not read the writing on the board sometimes. He was always encouraging if we didn't understand a topic and willing to meet outside of class anytime.
- 6 Strengths: energy, enthusiasm
Weaknesses: presentation of information
- 7 Messes up notes/problems in class sometimes

overall effective teacher and is willing to help students when needed
- 8 Provided information in an easy to learn way. Could use more media examples.
- 9 Strengths - explained the material very well and prepared us for the midterm with giving us a practice.

Weaknesses - none
- 10 You explain concepts well and encourage our learning. However as stated earlier, it is really hard to learn without practice or more of a discussion. This is completely lecture styled.
- 11 Scott was super approachable and didn't carry himself in a way that made him seem intimidating. I found his office hours to be the most helpful part of the course and wish that I would have started going to them earlier. I thought that offering Extra Credit for asking a question/going to office hours was a great idea and I honestly don't think I would have started going to office hours or asking questions in class if it weren't for this encouragement. Sometimes, he seems a bit scatterbrained and can make silly mistakes in his notes, which can make things confusing.
- 12 Strengths is that he always took time to review and make sure people were understanding the material but weaknesses are that we

could not really read the handwriting on the board and he went super fast so our hands would often cramp up half way through the class. It was just A LOT of notes.

- 13 I thought you did a very good job relaying the information from the book the notes were helpful a for studying because I had all the information needed. I'm not really sure for weaknesses. There is a lot of information given and once and not a lot of further explication but the good notes helped with studying on my own to understand the ideas better.
- 14 He was very well prepared most days, yet on the few times he made a minor mistake he never penalised the students. He was also very understanding of grades and was willing to go above and beyond to help.
- 15 Strengths: Making sure that the entire class is clear on the information that is being taught.

Weaknesses: None that I can think of off the top of my head.
- 16 the material was presented very clearly, just engage a little more with the class
- 17 I really liked that the notes were hand written. It helped with learning. I also liked the structure of the class and the schedule of assignments and quizzes.
- 18 Boring lectures that go way to long
- 19 The instructor is very enthusiastic and willing to help learn. However the class feels disorganized and often times material is hard to learn due to poor handwriting, small print and going to fast. A lot of the info could be better learned through a powerpoint or some sort of presentation.
- 20 He is very approachable, non-judgemental, and very fair. There were no weaknesses that I noticed.
- 21 As much as I liked the podcast homework, it was too easy. I would add some traditional problem sets with the homework because the homework was pretty easy to complete with a whole weeks time, it would help me understand the graphs better and apply it more
- 22 His strengths were explain difficult topics, and his weaknesses were engaging the class.
- 23 Very kind and easy to talk to, could be more confident in what he is saying.
- 24 Strengths: He is very good at explaining harder concepts in different ways. Talks loud enough for everyone to hear him. Very clear and neat notes on the board. Doesn't talk too fast and leaves notes on the board instead of quickly clicking through a powerpoint. Very fast grader and will answer questions in class with ease.
Weaknesses: N/A
- 25 Scott were very enthusiastic and upbeat about this course, which was very nice. I think that he may get a lot of comments talking about students dragging on class and getting zoned out, but that'll happen in an hour and 45 minute long class. I was thankful about the 5 minute breaks every hour or so. I think a weakness would have been just not being able to see what the matter would look like in a question form before a quiz.
- 26 Strengths were that he cared about our success as students. Weakness was that the material we learned was solely through copying exactly what he wrote.

Q: What changes would you recommend this instructor make in the future?

- 1 I hope you can write your word a little bit more bigger on the board in the future.
- 2 Doing slides and posting notes to icon
- 3 Less straight out of the book stuff, more in depth on certain subjects would help.
- 4 I would recommend maybe looking up some words for accurate spellings, as misspells can sometimes be a distraction.
- 5 Maybe put the notes online so students can review that as well for the exams and quizzes.
- 6 Either write bigger or make slides before class of the material so all the students can see it. It was hard to catch everything sitting in a seat that was almost at a 90 degree angle with the white board.
- 7 (Stated earlier)
- 8 change the homework to make it more helpful for quizzes/exams
- 9 Use more media examples.
- 10 Assign more homework that will prepare us better for quiz/test
- 11 Maybe. The instructor is nice and helpful, but his teaching style for at least this class I would only recommend to people who learn well by listening.
- 12 I would encourage Scott to make the classroom more interactive. Instead of just copying notes down from a piece of paper onto a whiteboard, maybe ask the students more questions about the material and encourage them to participate and directly interact with the material in class.
- 13 I think the quizzes are good but they are super hard. I study for all of them but they are just impossible, maybe if the quiz was every week so there was less material to study.

- 14 I thought the course was well planed and well executed. As I'm not majoring in business it was nice to have homework every other week and to not have to do a whole lot out side of the class room. I thought you did a really good job with this course.
- 15 Giving a few more problem sets directly in class so that students could try to solve them on their own then see immediately what they did wrong. Just seeing the instructor solving the problem wasn't always enough, but trying to solve the problems outside of class often resulted in questions. Having time in class to work on them would be nice.
- 16 Keep the class the way it is. You have created a positive learning environment that is enjoyable for students and easy to learn in.
- 17 maybe put some real problem about Macroeconomic, instead of writing something about the homework because we are not taking the writing class.
- 18 engage more
- 19 On the syllabus or on ICON have what chapters are being covered for the upcoming quiz.
- 20 Make class shorter or lectures interactive
- 21 Use a powerpoint or some presentation tool during lectures. More practice problems like we see in tests or quizzes on homework.
- 22 There isn't really much I could recommend. I think this is a very strong class as it is.
- 23 Ask more open ended questions to get the students more involved in the discussion so you aren't just talking to yourself the majority of the time (you ask the question and then you answer it yourself)
ADD GRAPHS to the homework
- 24 Have the class be more engaging just a class of notes. It's economics so I enjoy this style, but overall all a very boring class.
- 25 Add some optional practice problems after the lesson
- 26 Maybe add a short paper comparing a specific podcast to what we learn in class so it is more than homework and quizzes.
- 27 I would recommend changing homework styles, or working through practices problems in class, ooooooo practice problems would have helped a lot.
- 28 Make the delivery of information less like notes and more like a classroom setting.