

Teaching Statment

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Throughout the last six years of my PhD, one of the most rewarding through-lines was learning how to most effectively teach economics and engage students in the economic thought process. As an undergraduate student, my best economics professors were those who fostered their students' curiosity and created an environment where students actively engaged with the course materials. From my experiences as a student and my academic interests in the science of pedagogy, I sought to create the same environment for my students as both an instructor and a teaching assistant.

My central teaching philosophy is to stimulate students' natural curiosity about a subject to motivate deep learning of the topic thereafter. Besides being motivated by my experience as a student, this philosophy also has scientific support. Neuroscientists have shown that stimulating someone's curiosity triggers the brain's reward system, which helps the individual engage in deep learning¹. Recent studies in educational economics show success in this philosophy in K-12 learning², and the above neuroscience literature suggests a similar philosophy can be successful for students in higher education as well. In addition, I am a strong proponent of experiential learning whenever possible. Economic concepts can often be abstract and inaccessible. I overcome these barriers by engaging students with connections to their own experiences as well as other academic disciplines.

My first experience designing and instructing a course was Introduction to Statistics in the summer of 2021. Most students enter a Statistics class with a misconception that the topic is dry or uninteresting. Because of this, stimulating curiosity and using experiential learning were vital in engaging students and inspiring deep learning. An additional challenge was that the course was instructed online over Zoom, which can often make students feel mentally distanced from the course as well. To engage students from the beginning, I had students fill out a brief questionnaire. This questionnaire asked various questions about the student's interests, beliefs about statistics, and life experiences. In addition, I presented them with choices from popular behavioral economics paradigms (for example, Tversky and Kahneman's Jacket and Calculator problem). Throughout the course, I would use (anonymous) data from this survey to inform practice exercises. For example, when studying hypothesis testing I was able to have students test the hypothesis that the framing in Tversky and Kahneman's Jacket and Calculator problem had an effect on their answers. In studying regression analysis, we performed regressions where the response variable was the student's aversion to statistics on a 0 to 100 scale. I believe these exercises were extremely helpful in keeping students engaged with the topics and produced a more fruitful learning experience as a result.

¹Gruber MJ, Gelman BD, Ranganath C. States of curiosity modulate hippocampus-dependent learning via the dopaminergic circuit. *Neuron*. 2014 Oct 22;84(2):486-96. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2014.08.060. Epub 2014 Oct 2. PMID: 25284006; PMCID: PMC4252494.

²Alan S, Mumcu I. Nurturing Childhood Curiosity to Enhance Learning: Evidence from a Randomized Pedagogical Intervention. 2022 October 15.

My second experience in instructing a course was in Intermediate Microeconomics in the summer of 2022. This course is typically viewed as one of the more challenging courses in the undergraduate economics program. This perception largely stems from the degree of abstraction that is present in such a course and the course's quantitative requirements. Thus, at every step, I sought to bring the course's abstract concepts to life. A key example of this was during the last week of the course, which focused on game theory. To pique the students' curiosity, I had them play a series of live classroom experiments against one another (for example, various prisoner's dilemmas, coordination games, and the centipede game). After having them experience the games firsthand, I then derived the theoretical predictions of best-response and Nash equilibrium in the games analytically. We then compared these results to the results of their experiment, and either discussed possible reasons for any deviations or appreciated the predictive power of the theory. For this course, I also utilized two forms of instruction. Most classes would begin with a more classic presentation of slides about the course's content, introducing definitions and theoretical concepts. The second half of each class would then go to the whiteboard, where the students and I would put those concepts to work solving various problems. By doing so, I fostered a back-and-forth relationship between the abstract content of the course and the practical implementations of this content, which I believe helped the students have a deeper understanding of the course materials.

In addition to instructing and designing the two courses above, I have also served as a teaching assistant for two statistics courses and three microeconomics courses. My main responsibility as a teaching assistant was to lead recitation lectures and to aid students in grasping the concepts taught in their main lectures. In these lectures, I created additional practice problems for students to work on, in addition to their required homework problems. We then went through these problems step-by-step together. I also helped students by presenting lecture content from a different angle than that provided by the instructor. For example in intermediate microeconomics, I spent an entire recitation going through the intuition behind the Slutsky decomposition in consumer theory, to assist students in understanding the calculus-heavy approach taken in their lectures.

In all of the settings above, I also took pride in my accessibility and communication with students. I fostered an environment where students felt comfortable speaking up if they did not understand a concept, and could approach me during office hours, after class, or via e-mail if they need additional help with the content.

I would feel comfortable teaching any course at the undergraduate or master's level. I would also be comfortable teaching PhD-level microeconomic theory and experimental/behavioral economics. At the undergraduate and master's levels, I would be particularly excited to teach any course in microeconomic theory and application, econometrics, statistics, and experimental/behavioral economics.

Instructor Name: Spurlino, Eric Cyrus	Term: Summer 2022	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: ECON-UA 10-001 (2321) - Interim Microeconomics (Lecture)
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13 out of 42 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 31.0%

Course Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall evaluation of the course.	4.6	13	100.0%	5 - Excellent	9	69.2%
				4 - Good	3	23.1%
				3 - Adequate	1	7.7%
				2 - Poor	0	0.0%
				1 - Very Poor	0	0.0%
The course objectives were clearly stated.	4.5	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	8	61.5%
				4 - Agree	4	30.8%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was well organized.	4.6	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	9	69.2%
				4 - Agree	3	23.1%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was intellectually stimulating.	4.5	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	8	61.5%
				4 - Agree	4	30.8%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was effective at helping me learn.	4.6	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	9	69.2%
				4 - Agree	3	23.1%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The classes were informative.	4.6	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	9	69.2%
				4 - Agree	3	23.1%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
The course was challenging.	4.0	13	100.0%	2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	4	30.8%
				4 - Agree	6	46.2%
				3 - Neutral	2	15.4%
				2 - Disagree	1	7.7%
The course increased my knowledge of the subject.	4.7	13	100.0%	1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	10	76.9%
				4 - Agree	2	15.4%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%

Instructor Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall evaluation of the instructor.	4.8	13	100.0%	5 - Excellent	10	76.9%
				4 - Good	3	23.1%
				3 - Adequate	0	0.0%
				2 - Poor	0	0.0%
				1 - Very Poor	0	0.0%
The instructor provided an environment that was conducive to learning.	4.6	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	8	61.5%
				4 - Agree	5	38.5%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor provided helpful feedback on assessed class components (e.g., exams, papers).	4.7	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	9	69.2%
				4 - Agree	4	30.8%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor was effective at helping me learn.	4.7	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	9	69.2%
				4 - Agree	4	30.8%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor encouraged student participation.	4.6	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	8	61.5%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
				4 - Agree	5	38.5%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	8	61.5%
The instructor was effective at facilitating class discussion.	4.6	13	100.0%	4 - Agree	5	38.5%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	10	76.9%
The instructor was open to students? questions and multiple points of view.	4.8	13	100.0%	4 - Agree	3	23.1%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	10	76.9%
The instructor was accessible to students (e.g., via e-mail and office hours).	4.8	13	100.0%	4 - Agree	3	23.1%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	10	76.9%
The instructor created an environment that promoted the success of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.	4.7	13	100.0%	4 - Agree	4	30.8%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	9	69.2%

Instructor Comments

Describe the one best thing about the course or the instructor that was effective in helping you learn. If you could suggest one thing to improve the course, what would it be?

- Instructor is very accessible outside of class and very helpful. He also communicates in a very prompt manner. Super patient of addressing students' questions about the course materials.
- very clear teaching
- none
- none
- Responds email real fast
available after course
Teaches things clearly
Great instructor!!
- Excellent office hours
- Clear teaching, and reasonable homework and exam difficulty.
- N/A
- good
- Very good
- they responded quick in both campuswire and email

Describe the one best thing about the course or the instructor that was effective in helping you learn. If you could suggest one thing to improve the course, what would it be?

- Prof Eric's lecture is very well organized and the material was very easy and good looking
- He is really accessible!!

Instructor Name: Spurlino, Eric Cyrus	Term: Fall 2021	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: ECON-UA 10-015 (9038) - Interim Microeconomics (Lecture)
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13 out of 65 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 20.0%

Course Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall evaluation of the course.	4.0	13	100.0%	5 - Excellent	4	30.8%
				4 - Good	7	53.8%
				3 - Adequate	1	7.7%
				2 - Poor	0	0.0%
				1 - Very Poor	1	7.7%
The course objectives were clearly stated.	3.8	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	3	23.1%
				4 - Agree	7	53.8%
				3 - Neutral	2	15.4%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	1	7.7%
The course was well organized.	4.1	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	5	38.5%
				4 - Agree	6	46.2%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	1	7.7%
The course was intellectually stimulating.	4.2	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	6	46.2%
				4 - Agree	6	46.2%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	1	7.7%
The course was effective at helping me learn.	3.6	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	3	23.1%
				4 - Agree	6	46.2%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	2	15.4%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	1	7.7%
The classes were informative.	3.6	13	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	3	23.1%
				4 - Agree	5	38.5%
				3 - Neutral	3	23.1%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
The course was challenging.	4.7	13	100.0%	2 - Disagree	1	7.7%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	1	7.7%
				5 - Strongly Agree	10	76.9%
				4 - Agree	2	15.4%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
The course increased my knowledge of the subject.	4.5	13	100.0%	2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	7	53.8%
				4 - Agree	5	38.5%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	7	53.8%
				4 - Agree	5	38.5%
				3 - Neutral	1	7.7%

Recitation Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall, the recitation instructor was effective at helping me learn.	5.0	4	30.8%	5 - Strongly Agree	4	100.0%
				4 - Agree	0	0.0%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The recitation was useful for achieving the goals of the course.	5.0	4	30.8%	5 - Strongly Agree	4	100.0%
				4 - Agree	0	0.0%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The recitation instructor provided helpful feedback on assignments (e.g., exams, papers, homework, lab reports, etc.).	5.0	4	30.8%	5 - Strongly Agree	4	100.0%
				4 - Agree	0	0.0%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The recitation instructor was accessible to students (e.g., via e-mail and office hours).	5.0	4	30.8%	5 - Strongly Agree	4	100.0%
				4 - Agree	0	0.0%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer	
				Answer	Answer %
The recitation instructor created an environment that promoted the success of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.	5.0	4	30.8%	5 - Strongly Agree	100.0%
				4 - Agree	0.0%
				3 - Neutral	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%

Instructor Comments

Describe the one best thing about the recitation section or the instructor that was effective in helping you learn. If you could suggest one thing to improve the section, what would it be?

- Eric was a great help to get me through this course, I would not be able to understand any concept without him explaining it over in the recitation. Very accessible outside of class too. Thank you so much.
- He was very helpful in clarifying the instructor's lectures and making concepts seem simple. However, I'd suggest having recitation in a place where everyone could see the whiteboard.
- Overall, Eric was a fantastic TA this semester. He almost always answered any questions I had through recitation, and the few times that recitation wasn't enough, he was very accessible through email and office hours. Especially towards the end of the course, he created an environment that made it easy for students to ask questions and get the help they needed.
- Eric's recitations were especially helpful due to the practice problems and examples he showed on how to use the material. His teaching was really straightforward in a way that made him easy to understand and approachable.

Instructor Name: Spurlino, Eric Cyrus	Term: Summer 2021	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: ECON-UA 18-001 (2620) - Statistics (P) (Lecture)
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6 out of 43 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 14.0%

Course Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall evaluation of the course.	4.2	6	100.0%	5 - Excellent	2	33.3%
				4 - Good	3	50.0%
				3 - Adequate	1	16.7%
				2 - Poor	0	0.0%
				1 - Very Poor	0	0.0%
The course objectives were clearly stated.	4.2	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	3	50.0%
				4 - Agree	1	16.7%
				3 - Neutral	2	33.3%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was well organized.	3.8	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	1	16.7%
				4 - Agree	3	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	2	33.3%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was intellectually stimulating.	4.3	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	2	33.3%
				4 - Agree	4	66.7%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The course was effective at helping me learn.	4.5	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	3	50.0%
				4 - Agree	3	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The classes were informative.	4.5	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	3	50.0%
				4 - Agree	3	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
The course was challenging.	4.5	6	100.0%	2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	4	66.7%
				4 - Agree	1	16.7%
				3 - Neutral	1	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
The course increased my knowledge of the subject.	4.2	6	100.0%	1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	2	33.3%
				4 - Agree	3	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	1	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%

Instructor Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall evaluation of the instructor.	4.0	6	100.0%	5 - Excellent	2	33.3%
				4 - Good	2	33.3%
				3 - Adequate	2	33.3%
				2 - Poor	0	0.0%
				1 - Very Poor	0	0.0%
The instructor provided an environment that was conducive to learning.	4.2	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	2	33.3%
				4 - Agree	3	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	1	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor provided helpful feedback on assessed class components (e.g., exams, papers).	3.8	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	2	33.3%
				4 - Agree	1	16.7%
				3 - Neutral	3	50.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor was effective at helping me learn.	4.2	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	2	33.3%
				4 - Agree	3	50.0%
				3 - Neutral	1	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The instructor encouraged student participation.	4.3	6	100.0%	5 - Strongly Agree	2	33.3%

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	Question Response Rate	# of Responses to the Answer		
				Answer	Answer	Answer %
				4 - Agree	4	66.7%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	2	33.3%
The instructor was effective at facilitating class discussion.	3.5	6	100.0%	4 - Agree	0	0.0%
				3 - Neutral	3	50.0%
				2 - Disagree	1	16.7%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	4	66.7%
The instructor was open to students? questions and multiple points of view.	4.3	6	100.0%	4 - Agree	0	0.0%
				3 - Neutral	2	33.3%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	4	66.7%
The instructor was accessible to students (e.g., via e-mail and office hours).	4.7	6	100.0%	4 - Agree	2	33.3%
				3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	4	66.7%
The instructor created an environment that promoted the success of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.	4.5	6	100.0%	4 - Agree	1	16.7%
				3 - Neutral	1	16.7%
				2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
				1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
				5 - Strongly Agree	4	66.7%

Instructor Name: Spurlino, Eric Cyrus	Term: Fall 2020	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: ECON-UA 10-015 (9855) - Interim Microeconomics (Lecture)
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3 out of 11 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 27.3%

Recitation Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	# of Responses to the Answer	
			Answer	Answer %
Overall, the recitation instructor was effective at helping me learn.	5.0	3	5 - Strongly Agree	100.0%
			4 - Agree	0.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The recitation was useful for achieving the goals of the course.	5.0	3	5 - Strongly Agree	100.0%
			4 - Agree	0.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The recitation instructor provided helpful feedback on assignments (e.g., exams, papers, homework, lab reports, etc.).	5.0	3	5 - Strongly Agree	100.0%
			4 - Agree	0.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The recitation instructor was accessible to students (e.g., via e-mail and office hours).	5.0	3	5 - Strongly Agree	100.0%
			4 - Agree	0.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The recitation instructor created an environment that promoted the success of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.	5.0	3	5 - Strongly Agree	100.0%
			4 - Agree	0.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%

Instructor Comments

Describe the one best thing about the recitation section or the instructor that was effective in helping you learn. If you could suggest one thing to improve the section, what would it be?

- reviewing material in a new way; none
- The recitation instructor has very detailed class notes and summarizes prof's points well.
- Review of content covered each week and going through of practice problems were extremely helpful.

Instructor Name: Spurlino, Eric Cyrus	Term: Summer 2020	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: ECON-UA 18-003 (2288) - Statistics (P) (Lecture)
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12 out of 35 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 34.3%

Lab Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	# of Responses to the Answer		
			Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall, the lab instructor was effective at helping me learn.	4.1	12	5 - Strongly Agree	7	58.3%
			4 - Agree	2	16.7%
			3 - Neutral	0	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	3	25.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The lab was useful for achieving the goals of the course.	4.1	12	5 - Strongly Agree	7	58.3%
			4 - Agree	2	16.7%
			3 - Neutral	1	8.3%
			2 - Disagree	1	8.3%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	1	8.3%
The lab instructor provided helpful feedback on assignments.	4.6	12	5 - Strongly Agree	8	66.7%
			4 - Agree	3	25.0%
			3 - Neutral	1	8.3%
			2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The lab instructor was accessible to students (e.g., via e-mail and office hours).	4.3	12	5 - Strongly Agree	7	58.3%
			4 - Agree	2	16.7%
			3 - Neutral	3	25.0%
			2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The lab instructor created an environment that promoted the success of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.	4.2	12	5 - Strongly Agree	6	50.0%
			4 - Agree	3	25.0%
			3 - Neutral	2	16.7%
			2 - Disagree	1	8.3%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%

Instructor Comments

Describe the one best thing about the lab section or the instructor that was effective in helping you learn. If you could suggest one thing to improve the section, what would it be?

- explaining things clearly
- I felt like at times he would just rush through all the homework and problems and I was more focused on making sure that I had all the notes instead of making sure that I was understanding what he was saying. for the future it would be nice If he could just slow down and make sure that we clearly understood everything
- The instructor is very helpful
- Eric was super accessible.
- Went over homework answers in depth. I would suggest more practice problems related to the exam.
- very clear and informative

Instructor Name: Spurlino, Eric Cyrus	Term: Fall 2019	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: ECON-UA 10-015 (9386) - Interim Microeconomics (Lecture)
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9 out of 28 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 32.1%

Recitation Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	# of Responses to the Answer		
			Answer	Answer	Answer %
Overall, the recitation instructor was effective at helping me learn.	4.6	9	5 - Strongly Agree	6	66.7%
			4 - Agree	2	22.2%
			3 - Neutral	1	11.1%
			2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The recitation was useful for achieving the goals of the course.	4.7	9	5 - Strongly Agree	7	77.8%
			4 - Agree	1	11.1%
			3 - Neutral	1	11.1%
			2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The recitation instructor provided helpful feedback on assignments (e.g., exams, papers, homework, lab reports, etc.).	4.2	9	5 - Strongly Agree	6	66.7%
			4 - Agree	1	11.1%
			3 - Neutral	1	11.1%
			2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	1	11.1%
The recitation instructor was accessible to students (e.g., via e-mail and office hours).	4.6	9	5 - Strongly Agree	6	66.7%
			4 - Agree	2	22.2%
			3 - Neutral	1	11.1%
			2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
The recitation instructor created an environment that promoted the success of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.	4.7	9	5 - Strongly Agree	7	77.8%
			4 - Agree	1	11.1%
			3 - Neutral	1	11.1%
			2 - Disagree	0	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%

Instructor Comments

Describe the one best thing about the recitation section or the instructor that was effective in helping you learn. If you could suggest one thing to improve the section, what would it be?

- Went in depth on lecture notes and helped us understand problems that we did not know.
- TA is very helpful in making things clear. The professor's way of teaching is a little abstract.
- Good review.
- nice recitation leader.
- very helpful, I learned the whole course from him.
- The recitation instructor explicitly described all issues students had in class.
- The recitation leader did helpful reviews and was very approachable during office hours.
- Helped make all the lectures clearer!
- IDK

Instructor Name: Spurlino, Eric Cyrus	Term: Summer 2019	Evaluation Type: Final	Class Description: ECON-UA 18-003 (2079) - Statistics (P) (Lecture)
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4 out of 20 students completed the survey.

Survey Response Rate: 20.0%

Lab Questions

Score range is 1 - 5

Question	Average	# of Students Who Answered the Question	# of Responses to the Answer	
			Answer	Answer %
Overall, the lab instructor was effective at helping me learn.	3.8	4	5 - Strongly Agree	25.0%
			4 - Agree	50.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	25.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The lab was useful for achieving the goals of the course.	4.3	4	5 - Strongly Agree	25.0%
			4 - Agree	75.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The lab instructor provided helpful feedback on assignments.	4.0	4	5 - Strongly Agree	25.0%
			4 - Agree	50.0%
			3 - Neutral	25.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The lab instructor was accessible to students (e.g., via e-mail and office hours).	4.3	4	5 - Strongly Agree	25.0%
			4 - Agree	75.0%
			3 - Neutral	0.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%
The lab instructor created an environment that promoted the success of students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.	4.0	4	5 - Strongly Agree	25.0%
			4 - Agree	50.0%
			3 - Neutral	25.0%
			2 - Disagree	0.0%
			1 - Strongly Disagree	0.0%

Instructor Comments

Describe the one best thing about the lab section or the instructor that was effective in helping you learn. If you could suggest one thing to improve the section, what would it be?

- the lab allows time to ask for clarifications
- Eric really helped solidify what was going on in the course. I really appreciated his examples in recitations. It would be great if he could go slower and explain examples more in-depth, but overall he was very helpful.
- Eric was as helpful as he could be but often just would be confused about the material. It was as if he was learning it alongside us.

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS (ECON UA-10)

Summer Session I 2022

Instructor:	Eric Spurlino (spurlino@nyu.edu)	Lecture: MTWR 9.00-10.30
Grader:	Mina Kim (mina.kim@nyu.edu)	Silver Center Room 101A
Office Hours:	Eric: MT 4-5, 19 W 4th St, Room 620	

The course comprises six units, with roughly one each week:

1. Preferences and Utility
2. Consumer Choice and Demand
3. The Market
4. The Firm
5. Choices Over Risk and Time
6. Strategic Interaction

Lecture notes (in the form of slides) for each week will be uploaded to Brightspace before the Monday of that week, with adjustments made as appropriate. The lecture notes should be seen as guides to the course, to be filled in with more detail by yourself through attending lecture. Current department guidelines are to not have “in-person” designated courses be offered as “hybrid”, and therefore lectures will not be recorded, and in person attendance is highly recommended!

My office hours will be accessible via both in person and over Zoom. If you cannot make official hours (noted above), please email me for an alternative time.

There are two aspects of the course that will contribute to the overall grade.

- There will be a series of 6 problem sets, one for each week. These problem sets will together account for 40% of the grade. For each student, the lowest individual homework score will be dropped and not count toward the grade. Each week’s homework will be available online starting on the Monday of that week, and will be due by the start of lecture on the following Monday. Homework must be submitted online on Brightspace by this time, in PDF format only. You can work on homework in groups, but each student must turn in their own copy.
- There will be two equally weighted exams which will be in person and in class. Together, the exams will account for 60% of the grade. The first exam covers Weeks 1-3, and the second exam covers weeks 4-6 (i.e. it is not cumulative). You must complete both exams. If you have to miss an exam, please email me in advance so we can schedule a prompt (in-person) make-up exam.

Course grades will be determined using the scale above. Letter grades will not be given for anyone component, but point grades will be given for each. These points are then weighted by the scheme given above. Once your final course score (out of 100) is determined, we will use the class distribution of scores to determine how these translate to letter grades. The economics department guidelines for class grade distributions are roughly (A: 29%, B: 40%, C: 22%, D: 5%, F: 4%), where, for example, B refers to B+,B, and B-). Note that this is a rough guideline, and not at all a strict curve. I will commit to doing no worse than the department grade distribution. For example, if your course score is in the top 29% of the class, you are guaranteed to do no worse than a A-.

In addition to the Lecture Notes, I would recommend (although do not require) using any edition of *Intermediate Microeconomics* by Hal Varian. I will denote corresponding Varian (9th edition) chapters in the lecture guide attached, but encourage you to get whatever version you find cheapest, and you can contact me about finding the corresponding chapters in that edition.

Week 1: Preferences and Utility (Varian 2-4)

1. Monday May 23: Introduction, Preferences and Choice
2. Tuesday May 24: Utility Functions
3. Wednesday May 25: Budget Sets
4. Thursday May 26: Optimization

Week 2: From Primitives to Observables (Varian 5-6, 8)

5. Monday May 30: Memorial Day, NO CLASS
6. Tuesday May 31: Utility Maximization
7. Wednesday June 1: Demand and Choice I
8. Thursday June 2: Demand and Choice I

Week 3: Into the Market (Varian 7, 32)

9. Monday June 6: Revealed Preference
10. Tuesday June 7: The Edgeworth Box
11. Wednesday June 8: Exchange Equilibrium and Pareto Optimality
12. Thursday June 9: Computing Equilibrium

Week 4: Exam 1 and The Firm (Varian 19-20)

13. Monday June 13: The Firm 1
14. Tuesday June 14: The Firm II and Review
15. Wednesday June 15: Exam 1
16. Thursday June 16: NO CLASS

Week 5: Enriching the Choice Space–Time and Risk (Varian 10, 12, 13)

17. Monday June 20: Juneteenth, NO CLASS
18. Tuesday June 21: Lotteries
19. Wednesday June 22: Expected Utility Risk Aversion
20. Thursday June 23: Choice over Time

Week 6: Strategy (Varian 28-29, 38)

21. Monday June 27: Insurance and Adverse Selection
22. Tuesday June 28: Oligopoly Behavior
23. Wednesday June 29: Games I
24. Thursday June 30: Games II

Week 7: Exam 2

25. Monday July 4: Independence Day, NO CLASS
26. Tuesday July 5: Review
27. Wednesday July 6: Exam 2

ECON-UA 18: STATISTICS

2021 Summer Session I

Instructor:	Eric Spurlino	Time: MTWR 12:30pm-2pm
TA:	Aleksandra Alferova	Recitation: R 3-4:30pm
Zoom Office Hours:	Eric: T 10-11am, R 9-10am	Aleksandra: F 10-11am

Course Description

This is an introductory course in probability and statistics. The goal of the course is to develop a fundamental understanding of statistics, which requires a sufficiently detailed course in probability. Models of probability and statistics are among the most fundamental tools in the Economics toolbox. While an underlying goal of this course is to prepare for future study of Economics, the material will only cover general topics to provide a deeper understanding of all sciences. As statistics is an essential component of scientific language, students will ideally finish the course better-equipped to embrace all forms of scientific literature.

Textbook

Since textbooks are expensive and I won't be following any directly, I recommend two textbooks easily available online for free.

1. *Probability and Statistics* by DeGroot and Schervish, which can be obtained online for free as a PDF (<http://bio5495.wustl.edu/Probability/Readings/DeGroot4thEdition.pdf>). This book is very long and very comprehensive, and no doubt covers much more than we will be able to cover in this course.
2. *OpenIntro Statistics* available here (<https://www.openintro.org/book/os/>) for free. This one is less exhaustive than the book above, but written very clearly and with lots of supplemental materials which will aid any studying

Course Structure

Lectures will all be synchronous (live) and take place on Zoom through the course website. Attendance to these is not mandatory, and all lectures will be recorded for later viewing to accommodate those in distant time-zones. While attendance is not mandatory and the courses will be recorded, your attendance is **highly** recommended if possible.

Office Hours

Office hours will be at the times designated in the header. These will also take place virtually, by joining the appropriate Zoom room on the course webpage at the designated times. If you need to schedule additional time to talk by appointment because of timezone difficulties, you can email myself at spurlino@nyu.edu or Aleksandra at aa6549@nyu.edu.

Grading

There are four components to your grade:

1. Homework (5 total, 4 graded): 33%
2. Exam 1 (Monday, June 14th): 33%
3. Exam 2 (Thursday, July 1st): 33%

Homeworks will be submitted online on the class website, and graded by Aleksandra. Homeworks will be due on Thursdays prior to recitation. Since COVID and virtual learning presents the opportunity for disruptions in one's schedule and ability to complete course assignments, we will drop the lowest grade on any homework. If a problem comes up that prevents you from completing any one homework on time, you can use this policy to have that one missed homework not count against your grade. But remember you can only use this **once** during the session. Since Aleksandra will be going over the homework solutions during her recitation, late homeworks will not be accepted. Collaboration on homeworks is allowed, but each student must upload their own solutions, written by themselves.

Exams will not be multiple choice and be similar to homework in their level of difficulty and type of question. The two exams are assigned equal weight, and the cover only the content covered in the previous 3 weeks. However, the material of this course naturally builds off of itself, so some concepts from the first half will still be relevant for the second exam.

Exams will be open book and take home. You will have a 12 hour window in which you may start your exam, and you will have at least 90 minutes to upload your completed exam once you begin the exam. The exact technology for doing this is not yet determined, but you will be shown specifically how to upload and take the exams prior to the exam date.

Course grades will be determined using the scale above. Letter grades will not be given for anyone component, but point grades will be given for each. These points are then weighted by the scheme given above. Once your final course score (out of 100) is determined, we will use the class distribution of scores to determine how these translate to letter grades. The economics department guidelines for class grade distributions are roughly (A: 29%, B: 40%, C: 22%, D: 5%, F: 4%), where, for example, B refers to B+, B, and B-. Note that this is a **rough** guideline, and not at all a strict curve. I will commit to doing *no worse* than the department grade distribution. For example, if your course score is in the top 69% of the class, you are guaranteed to do no worse than a B-.

Schedule

The first 3 weeks up to the midterm will be focused on the fundamentals of probability theory, leading into the theory of sampling. In the latter 3 weeks we will apply these fundamentals to begin studying the basics of statistical estimation. Further details about specific material and reading will become more clear as we progress.

Week 1: Probability I (Sample spaces, events, set theory, prob. properties, conditional prob.)

Week 2: Probability II (Random variables, distributions, joint dist.), Common Distributions (Discrete)

Week 3: Common Distributions (Discrete and Continuous)

Exam 1: Monday June 14th

Week 4: Inference (Sampling, confidence intervals)

Week 5: Hypothesis Testing

Week 6: Regression, experimental design

Exam 2: Thursday July 1st