

Teaching Statement

Tsung-Hsien Li

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I enjoy teaching because I like exchanging ideas with students. I also believe that both teachers and students can benefit mutually from an effective lecture delivery. In this narrative, I will start by discussing two selective margins that can improve lecturing. Both of them will be implemented to the possible extent in my class. Then, I will mention my teaching experience and preference.

First, connecting each topic throughout a course can enhance students' learning efficiency. The idea is to link a new topic with previous topics that share the same concept or methodology. For example, a recap on the theory of consumer choice can be integrated into the introduction to firm behavior. Given that firms can be considered a specific agent who aims to maximize their profits subject to resource constraints, students can apply the same methods taught in consumer theory to solve a firm's problem. As a result, this cross-topic integration can help students remember what they learned and, more importantly, build up their understanding of the new topic based on what they already know.

Second, compared to the standard methods of lecture delivery (e.g., blackboard, PowerPoints), I prefer using an interactive dashboard since such a tool provides a spontaneously executable environment.¹ For instance, I once saw a professor explaining how a dynamic game leads to multiple equilibria by playing a game jointly with students to fight against a robot.² As the majority on the dashboard determines the action taken, almost all students engaged in voting, and some "leaders" even started to spread propaganda for their "correct" actions. We played the game four times together and, unsurprisingly, we lost some of them. Until today, I still remember how actively students were participating, and I believe that this innovative way of interactive teaching can facilitate learning.

I have taught a few courses as a teaching assistant in Taiwan and Germany.³ The most recent course was undergraduate Macroeconomics at the University of Mannheim. There were around 50 students with different cultural backgrounds in my class.⁴ This particular experience allowed me to learn how to interact with and lecture a cross-cultural group of students.

I am interested in teaching any macro-related subjects at all levels, including but not limited to Macroeconomics, Money and Banking, and Household Finance. Field courses related to my current research focus on consumer finance and default are particularly preferable. I am also passionate about numerical methods, such as efficient algorithms for solving heterogeneous agent models and problems of both discrete and continuous choices (e.g., default/consumption, retirement/labor supply).

¹ For example, Binder (<https://mybinder.org/>) or Jupyter Notebooks (<https://jupyter.org/>).

² We were playing a dynamic game of leapfrogging investments and Bertrand price competition.

³ Please refer to my CV for the list of courses.

⁴ My duty was to hold two sessions per week, each of 1.5 hours. Please see the attached teaching evaluation (conducted voluntarily).

Tsung-Hsien Li]

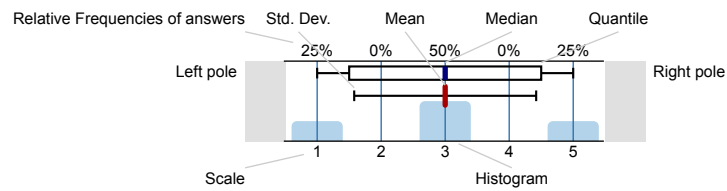
Makroökonomik A (Wednesday B2) (VWL253)
No. of responses = 12



Survey Results

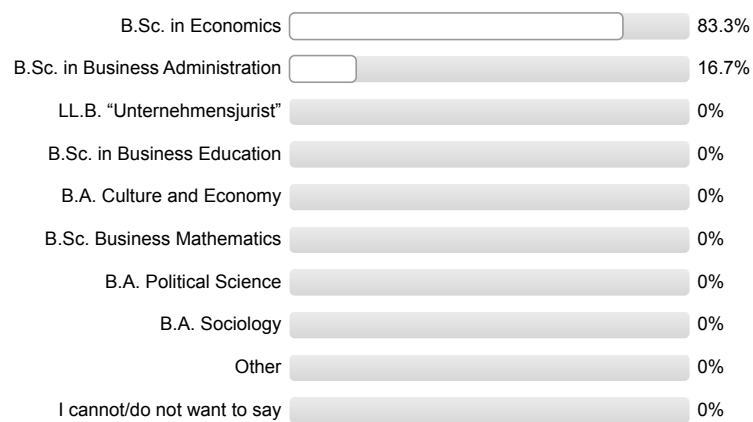
Legend

Question text



n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
md=Median
dev.=Std. Dev.
ab.=Abstention

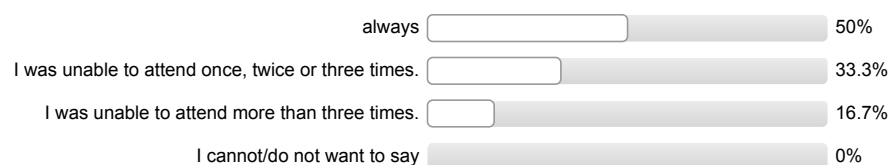
Your course of study:



What is your current semester?

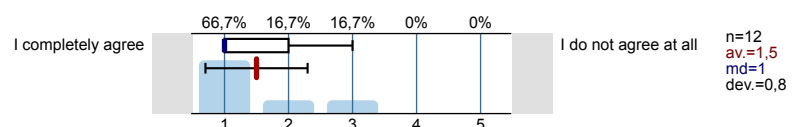


How often did you participate in the course?

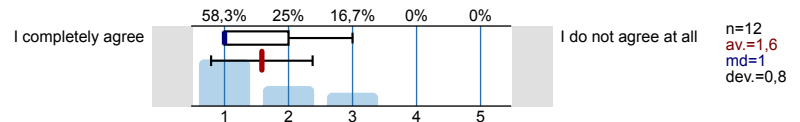


Please comment on the following statements about the course:

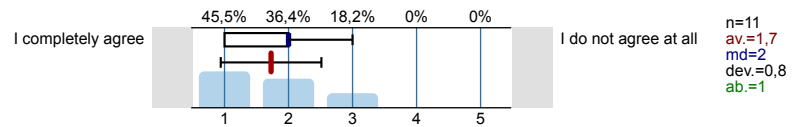
The course contents were very well structured



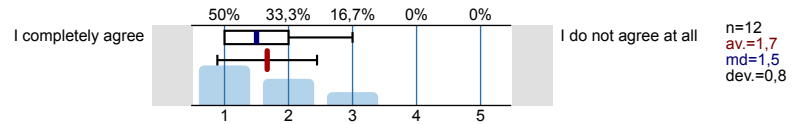
The single lectures were clearly structured.



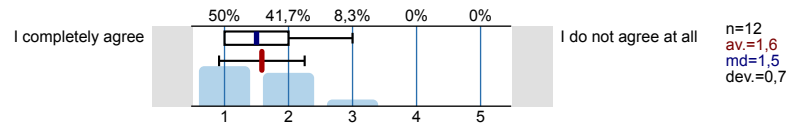
The choice of topics was comprehensible.



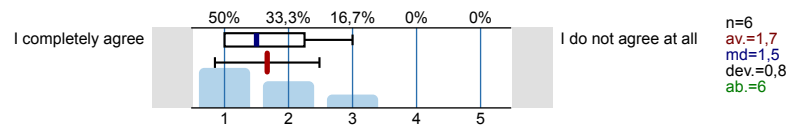
The course was very interesting.



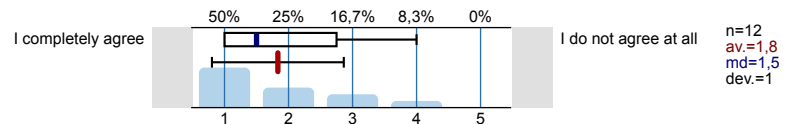
The course contents were illustrated very well by using appropriate examples.



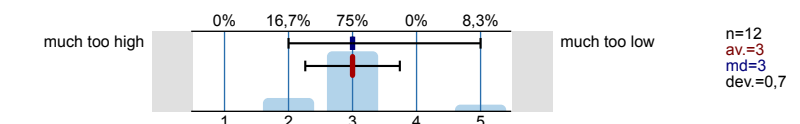
The recommended literature was very helpful.



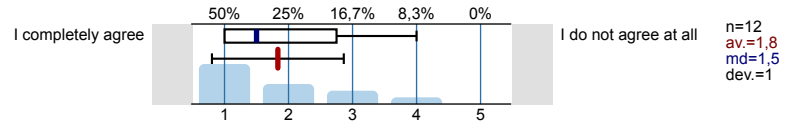
The amount of course content could easily be mastered.



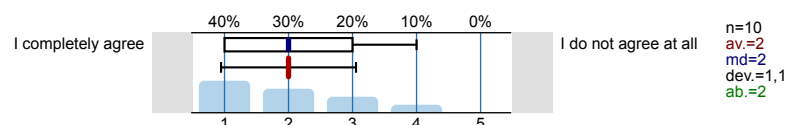
The degree of difficulty was...



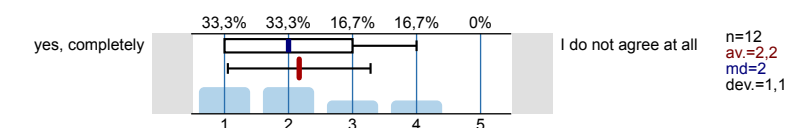
If appropriate: The practical exercises were well coordinated with the lecture.



If appropriate: The course's/instructor's homepage is very good.

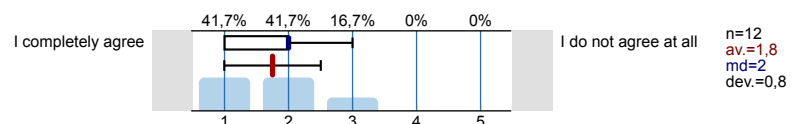


Did you have the necessary prerequisite knowledge?

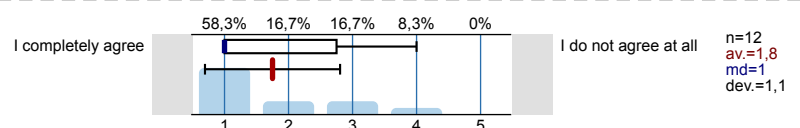


Please comment on the following statements concerning the instructor's teaching ability:

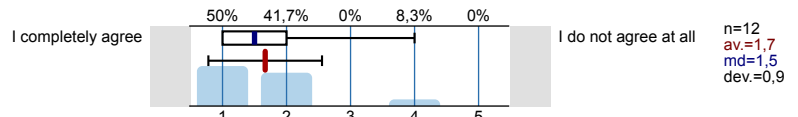
(Even complicated) Issues were always explained clearly.



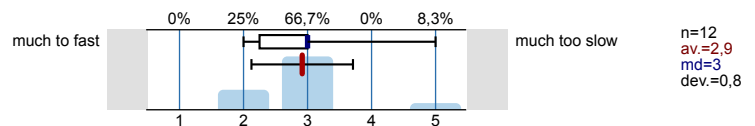
The formal/mathematical presentation was very easy to understand.



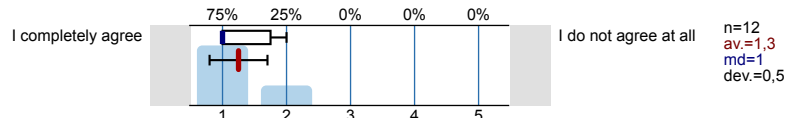
The verbal presentation was very easy to understand.



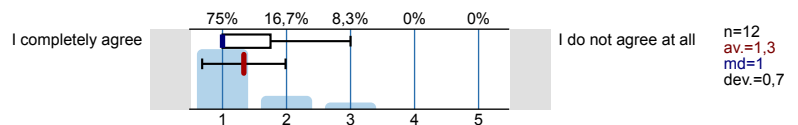
The pace of the course was...



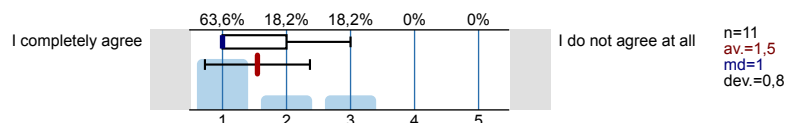
The instructor demonstrated a high level of commitment in this course.



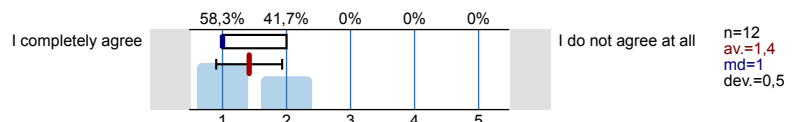
The instructor motivated me.



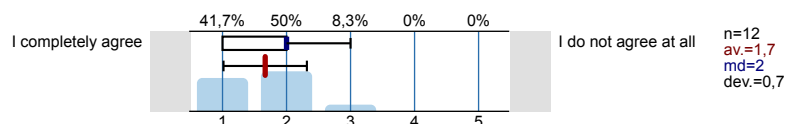
The instructor always seemed very well prepared.



It was apparent that the instructor was very interested in the students' learning progress.

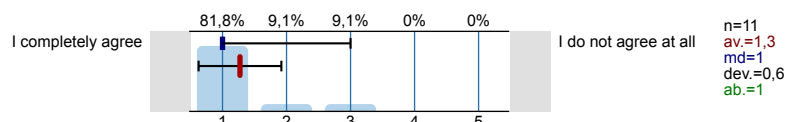


only exercises: The instructor encouraged the open and creative participation of students.

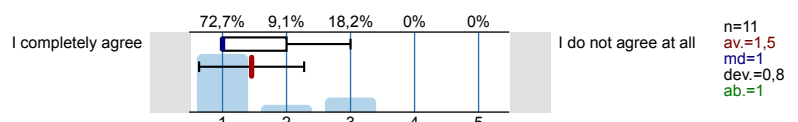


Please comment on the following statements regarding instructor support:

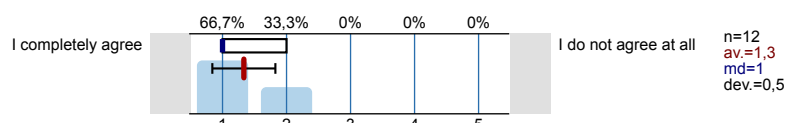
The instructor was always available for questions.



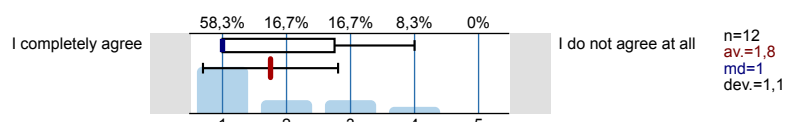
His/her answers were always very helpful.



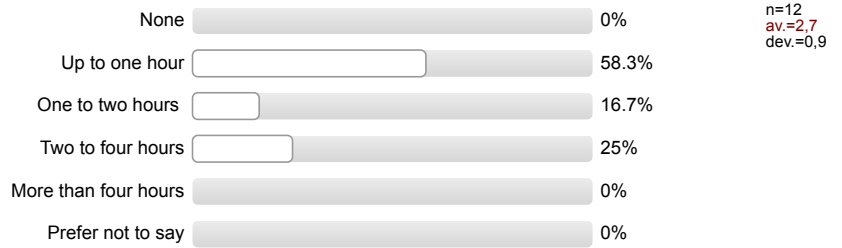
Overall, I am very satisfied with the instructor.



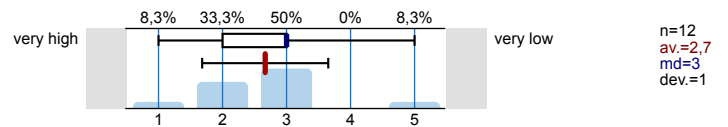
Overall, I am very satisfied with the course.



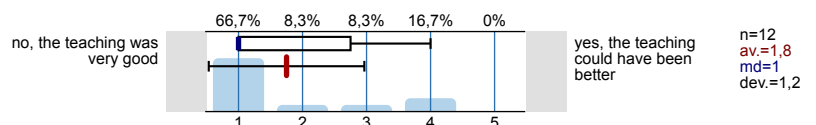
How much time did you spend on preparation and follow-up work for each weekly lecture?



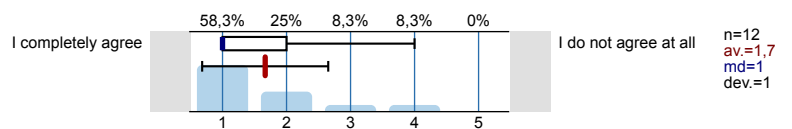
In relation to the number of ECTS credits I receive, the average workload for this course is ...



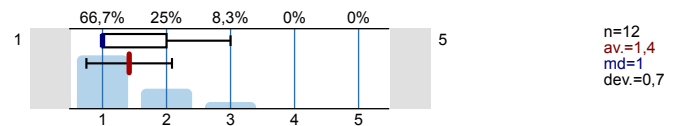
Could the teaching have been better without reducing the amount of material and the degree of difficulty?



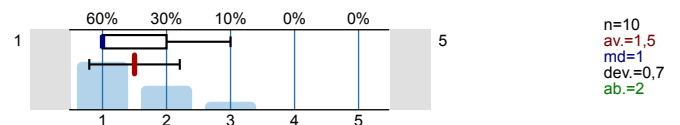
I learned a lot in this course.



What grade (1 = excellent) would you give the instructor for this course?



And what grade do you expect for your exam (if appropriate)?



Open questions asked by the instructor:

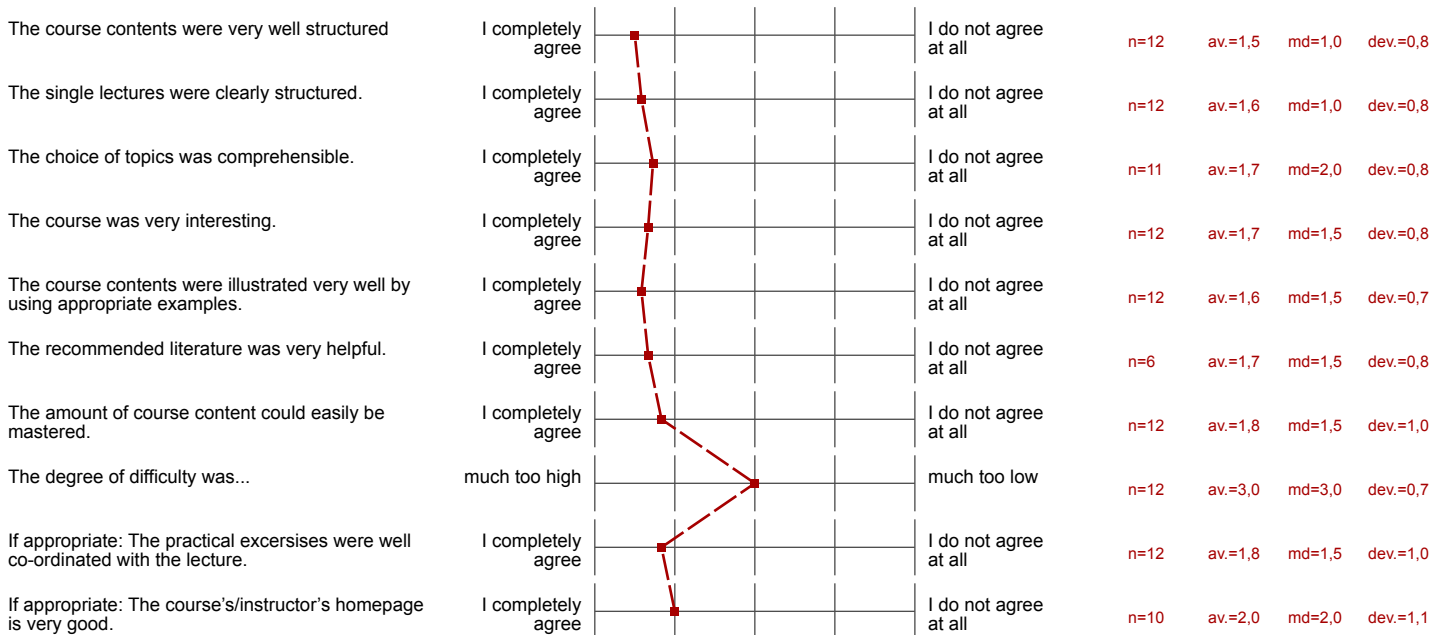
- | | |
|------------|--|
| Question 1 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |
| Question 2 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |
| Question 3 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |
| Question 4 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |

Profile

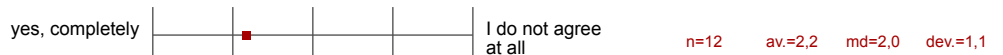
Subunit: Abteilung Volkswirtschaftslehre
 Name of the instructor: Tsung-Hsien Li
 Name of the course: Makroökonomik A (Wednesday B2)
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

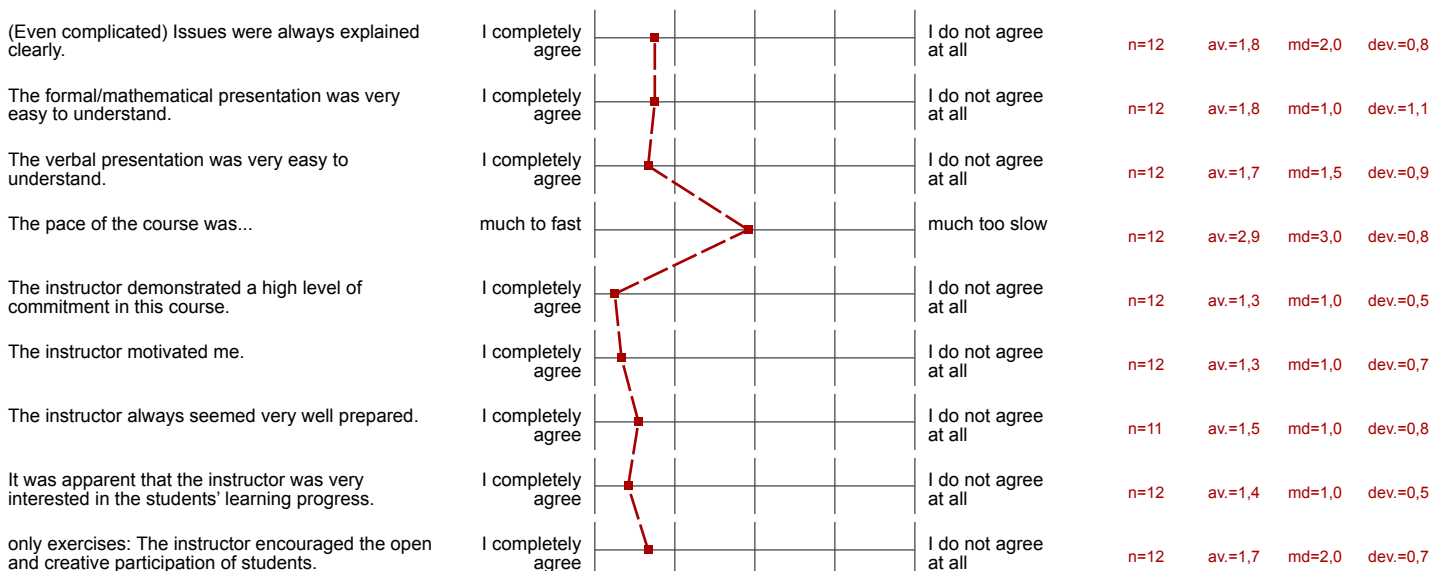
Please comment on the following statements about the course:



Did you have the necessary prerequisite knowledge?



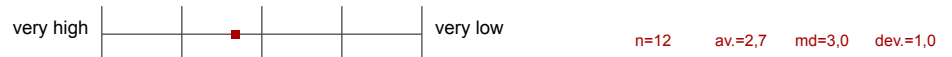
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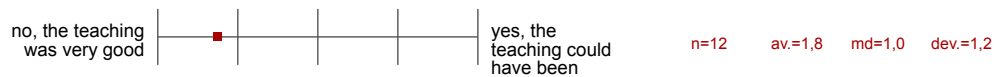
Please comment on the following statements regarding instructor support:

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------|------|---------|--------|----------|
| The instructor was always available for questions. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=11 | av.=1,3 | md=1,0 | dev.=0,6 |
| His/her answers were always very helpful. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=11 | av.=1,5 | md=1,0 | dev.=0,8 |
| Overall, I am very satisfied with the instructor. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=12 | av.=1,3 | md=1,0 | dev.=0,5 |
| Overall, I am very satisfied with the course. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=12 | av.=1,8 | md=1,0 | dev.=1,1 |

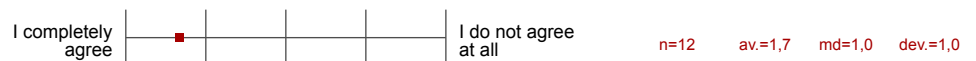
In relation to the number of ECTS credits I receive, the average workload for this course is ...



Could the teaching have been better without reducing the amount of material and the degree of difficulty?



I learned a lot in this course.



What grade (1 = excellent) would you give the instructor for this course?



And what grade do you expect for your exam (if appropriate)?



Open questions asked by the instructor:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Question 1 (*) | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all |
| Question 2 (*) | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all |
| Question 3 (*) | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all |
| Question 4 (*) | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all |

(*) Note: If the number of responses to a question is too low the evaluation will not be displayed in the profile line.

Comments Report

And what grade do you expect for your exam (if appropriate)?

Did you have any exceptional difficulties during this course? (!)

What was especially good, in your opinion? (+)

What could be improved? (-)

■ You're doing a good job!

Tsung-Hsien Li

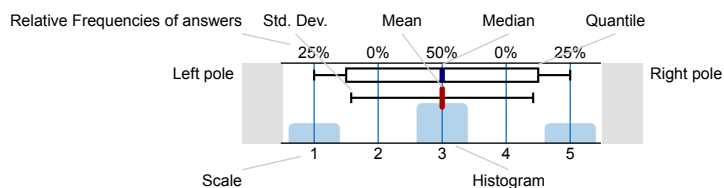
Makroökonomik A (Thursday B3) (VWL254)
No. of responses = 5



Survey Results

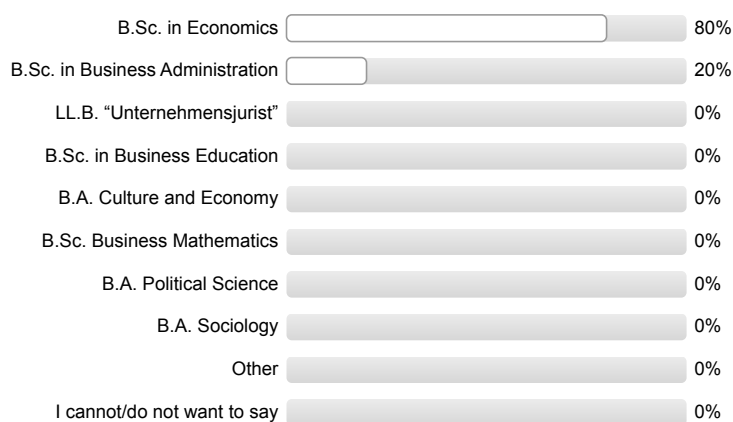
Legend

Question text



n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
md=Median
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Your course of study:



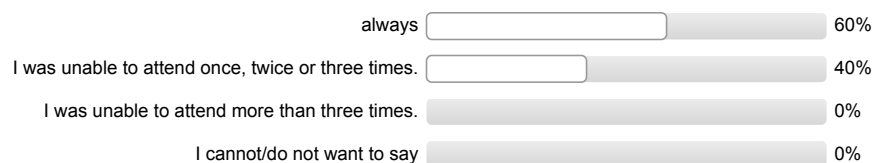
n=5

What is your current semester?



n=5

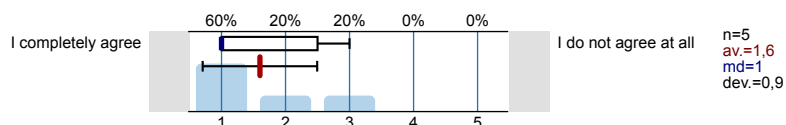
How often did you participate in the course?



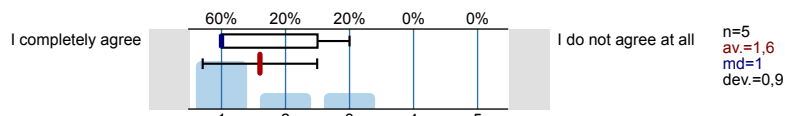
n=5

Please comment on the following statements about the course:

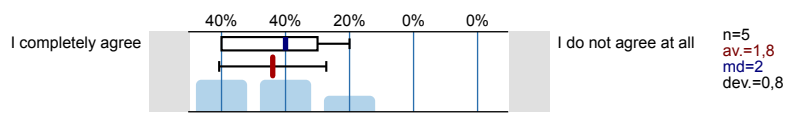
The course contents were very well structured



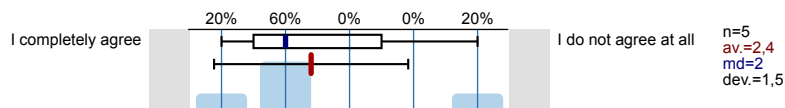
The single lectures were clearly structured.



The choice of topics was comprehensible.



The course was very interesting.



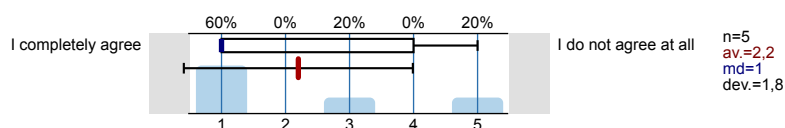
The course contents were illustrated very well by using appropriate examples.

The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate.

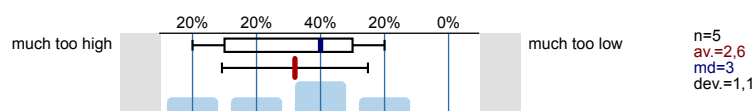
The recommended literature was very helpful.

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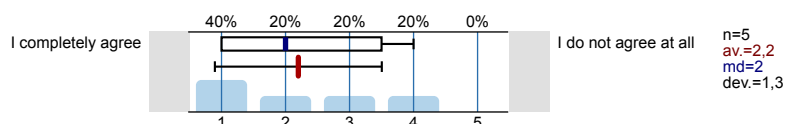
The amount of course content could easily be mastered.



The degree of difficulty was...



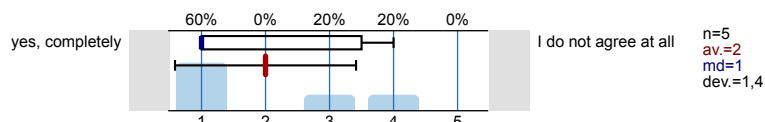
If appropriate: The practical excersises were well co-ordinated with the lecture.



If appropriate: The course's/instructor's homepage is very good.

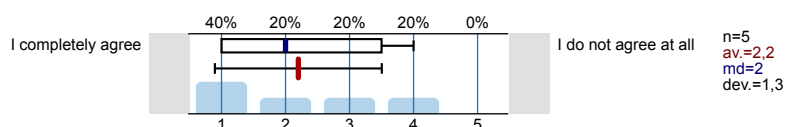
The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate.

Did you have the necessary prerequisite knowledge?

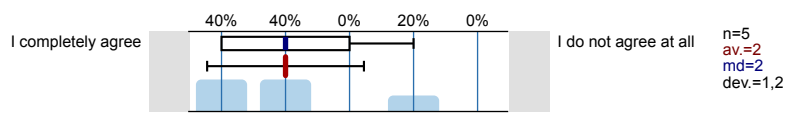


Please comment on the following statements concerning the instructor's teaching ability:

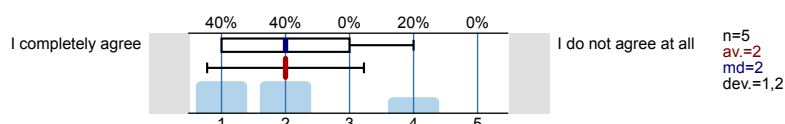
(Even complicated) Issues were always explained clearly.



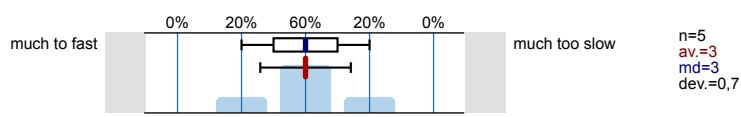
The formal/mathematical presentation was very easy to understand.



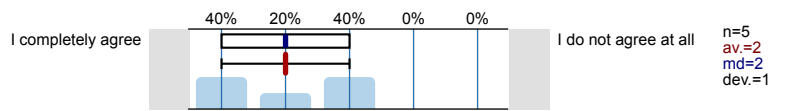
The verbal presentation was very easy to understand.



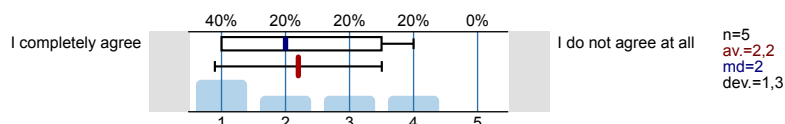
The pace of the course was...



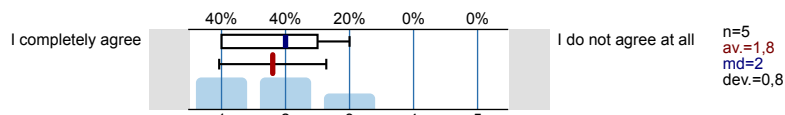
The instructor demonstrated a high level of commitment in this course.



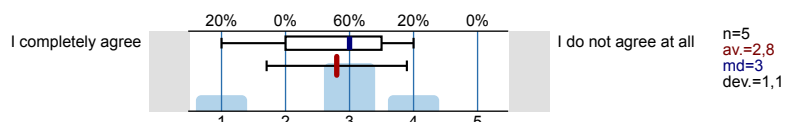
The instructor motivated me.



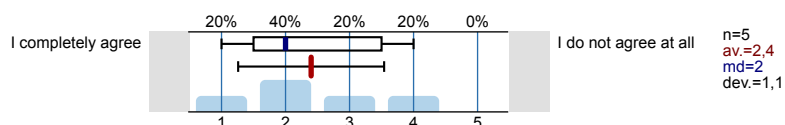
The instructor always seemed very well prepared.



It was apparent that the instructor was very interested in the students' learning progress.

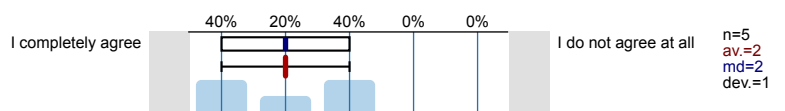


only exercises: The instructor encouraged the open and creative participation of students.



Please comment on the following statements regarding instructor support:

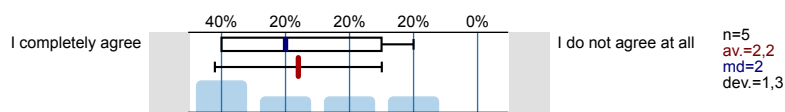
The instructor was always available for questions.



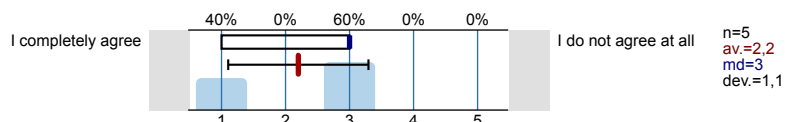
His/her answers were always very helpful.

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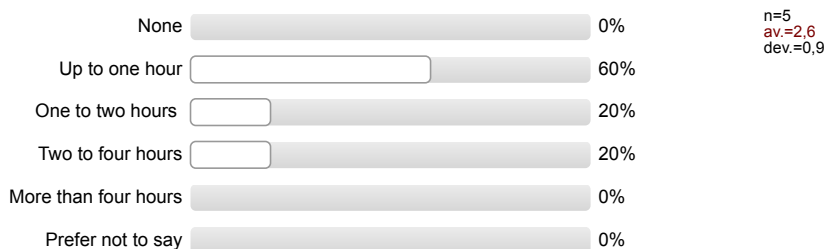
Overall, I am very satisfied with the instructor.



Overall, I am very satisfied with the course.



How much time did you spend on preparation and follow-up work for each weekly lecture?



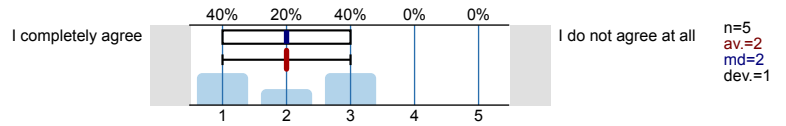
In relation to the number of ECTS credits I receive, the average workload for this course is ...

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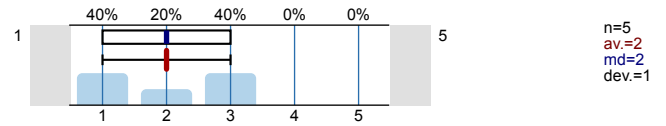
Could the teaching have been better without reducing the amount of material and the degree of difficulty?

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I learned a lot in this course.



What grade (1 = excellent) would you give the instructor for this course?



And what grade do you expect for your exam (if appropriate)?

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Open questions asked by the instructor:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Question 1 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |
| Question 2 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |
| Question 3 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |
| Question 4 | The evaluation will not be displayed due to low response rate. |

Profile

Subunit: Abteilung Volkswirtschaftslehre
 Name of the instructor: Tsung-Hsien Li
 Name of the course: Makroökonomik A (Thursday B3)
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

Please comment on the following statements about the course:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|-----------------------|-----|---------|--------|----------|
| The course contents were very well structured | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=1,6 | md=1,0 | dev.=0,9 |
| The single lectures were clearly structured. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=1,6 | md=1,0 | dev.=0,9 |
| The choice of topics was comprehensible. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=1,8 | md=2,0 | dev.=0,8 |
| The course was very interesting. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,4 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,5 |
| The course contents were illustrated very well by using appropriate examples. (*) | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | | | | |
| The recommended literature was very helpful. (*) | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | | | | |
| The amount of course content could easily be mastered. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,2 | md=1,0 | dev.=1,8 |
| The degree of difficulty was... | much too high | | much too low | n=5 | av.=2,6 | md=3,0 | dev.=1,1 |
| If appropriate: The practical excersises were well co-ordinated with the lecture. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,2 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,3 |
| If appropriate: The course's/instructor's homepage is very good. (*) | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | | | | |

Did you have the necessary prerequisite knowledge?

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|-----|---------|--------|----------|
| yes, completely | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,0 | md=1,0 | dev.=1,4 |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|-----|---------|--------|----------|

Please comment on the following statements concerning the instructor's teaching ability:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|-----------------------|-----|---------|--------|----------|
| (Even complicated) Issues were always explained clearly. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,2 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,3 |
| The formal/mathematical presentation was very easy to understand. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,0 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,2 |
| The verbal presentation was very easy to understand. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,0 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,2 |
| The pace of the course was... | much to fast | | much too slow | n=5 | av.=3,0 | md=3,0 | dev.=0,7 |
| The instructor demonstrated a high level of commitment in this course. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,0 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,0 |
| The instructor motivated me. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,2 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,3 |
| The instructor always seemed very well prepared. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=1,8 | md=2,0 | dev.=0,8 |
| It was apparent that the instructor was very interested in the students' learning progress. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,8 | md=3,0 | dev.=1,1 |
| only exercises: The instructor encouraged the open and creative participation of students. | I completely agree | | I do not agree at all | n=5 | av.=2,4 | md=2,0 | dev.=1,1 |

Please comment on the following statements regarding instructor support:

The instructor was always available for questions.

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

n=5

av.=2,0

md=2,0

dev.=1,0

His/her answers were always very helpful. (*)

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

n=5

av.=2,2

md=2,0

dev.=1,3

Overall, I am very satisfied with the instructor.

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

n=5

av.=2,2

md=3,0

dev.=1,1

Overall, I am very satisfied with the course.

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

n=5

av.=2,2

md=3,0

dev.=1,1

In relation to the number of ECTS credits I receive, the average workload for this course is ...

(*) very high | | | | very low

Could the teaching have been better without reducing the amount of material and the degree of difficulty?

(*) no, the teaching was very good | | | | yes, the teaching could have been

I learned a lot in this course.

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

n=5

av.=2,0

md=2,0

dev.=1,0

What grade (1 = excellent) would you give the instructor for this course?

1 | | | | 5

n=5

av.=2,0

md=2,0

dev.=1,0

And what grade do you expect for your exam (if appropriate)?

(*) 1 | | | | 5

Open questions asked by the instructor:

Question 1 (*)

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

Question 2 (*)

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

Question 3 (*)

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

Question 4 (*)

I completely agree



I do not agree at all

(*) Note: If the number of responses to a question is too low the evaluation will not be displayed in the profile line.

Comments Report

And what grade do you expect for your exam (if appropriate)?

Did you have any exceptional difficulties during this course? (!)

What was especially good, in your opinion? (+)

What could be improved? (-)

- + his approach and enthusiasm for teaching
 - + the speed he worked at
- Mathematical equations