

At the University at Buffalo (SUNY), I taught Introduction to Macroeconomics during the summer semester. Additionally, I fulfilled the role of a teaching assistant for various courses, which involved tasks such as grading, conducting office hours, and leading recitation sections. In this teaching portfolio, I include:

- Quantitative summary of student evaluations of teaching
- Illustrative written responses from student evaluations of teaching
- Sample syllabus
- Sample make-up/retake exam agreement

## 1 Quantitative summary of student evaluations of teaching

### 1.1 Instructor: ECO 181 Introduction to Macroeconomics

I taught Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECO 181) during the summer semesters of 2023 and 2022. Below, I summarize my student evaluations for the two sections of ECO 181 Introduction to Macroeconomics I taught as an instructor of record at UB. The first table shows the evaluation of summer 2023 ECO 181. The second table shows the evaluation of summer 2022 ECO 181. Full student evaluations of teaching for all of my teaching, peer teaching evaluations, and sample student work are available upon request.

**Total number of students: 52**

	# of Respondents	Responses Rate	Avg	SD	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
<i>◊ Instructor clearly presented learning expectations</i>	12/52	23%	3.4	1.2	8% (1)	17% (2)	<b>17% (2)</b>	<b>42% (5)</b>	<b>17% (2)</b>
<i>◊ Instructor enthusiastic about course</i>	12/52	23%	4	0.9	0% (0)	0% (0)	<b>33% (4)</b>	<b>33% (4)</b>	<b>33% (4)</b>
<i>◊ Instructor welcomed students to seek help</i>	12/52	23%	3.8	1.1	8% (1)	0% (0)	<b>17% (2)</b>	<b>58% (7)</b>	<b>17% (2)</b>
<i>◊ Instructor presented material clearly</i>	12/52	23%	3.3	1.3	8% (1)	25% (3)	<b>17% (2)</b>	<b>33% (4)</b>	<b>17% (2)</b>
<i>◊ Course was well organized</i>	12/52	23%	3.2	1.4	17% (2)	17% (2)	<b>17% (2)</b>	<b>33% (4)</b>	<b>17% (2)</b>
<i>◊ Course was intellectually challenging</i>	12/52	23%	3.7	1.2	8% (1)	8% (1)	<b>17% (2)</b>	<b>42% (5)</b>	<b>25% (3)</b>
<i>◊ Work load was reasonable</i>	12/52	23%	3.8	1.1	8% (1)	0% (0)	<b>17% (2)</b>	<b>58% (7)</b>	<b>17% (2)</b>

**Total number of students: 72**

	# of Respondents	Responses Rate	Avg	SD	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
<i>◊ Instructor clearly presented learning expectations</i>	10/72	14%	3.8	1.5	20% (2)	0% (0)	<b>0% (0)</b>	<b>40% (4)</b>	<b>40% (4)</b>
<i>◊ Instructor enthusiastic about course</i>	10/72	14%	3.8	1.4	10% (1)	10% (1)	<b>10% (1)</b>	<b>30% (3)</b>	<b>40% (4)</b>
<i>◊ Instructor welcomed students to seek help</i>	10/72	14%	4	1.2	10% (1)	0% (0)	<b>0% (0)</b>	<b>60% (6)</b>	<b>30% (3)</b>
<i>◊ Instructor presented material clearly</i>	10/72	14%	3.3	1.7	30% (3)	0% (0)	<b>10% (1)</b>	<b>30% (3)</b>	<b>30% (3)</b>
<i>◊ Course was well organized</i>	10/72	14%	3.5	1.3	10% (1)	10% (1)	<b>20% (2)</b>	<b>40% (4)</b>	<b>20% (2)</b>
<i>◊ Course was intellectually challenging</i>	10/72	14%	3.5	1.4	10% (1)	20% (2)	<b>10% (1)</b>	<b>30% (3)</b>	<b>30% (3)</b>
<i>◊ Work load was reasonable</i>	10/72	14%	4.1	0.7	10% (0)	0% (0)	<b>20% (2)</b>	<b>50% (5)</b>	<b>30% (3)</b>

### 1.2 Teaching Assistant

I worked as a teaching assistant at the University at Buffalo for five years, assisting with various classes. Here is a list of the courses:

- ECO 182: Introduction to Microeconomics - Spring 2021, Spring 2023

- ECO 181: Introduction to Macroeconomics - Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- ECO 411: Health Economics - Fall 2022
- ECO 480/580: Econometrics 1 - Spring 2019, Fall 2022
- ECO 461: Econ. Forecasting and Fluctuations - Spring 2021
- ECO 581: Econometrics 2 - Spring 2020
- ECO 380: Economic Statistics and Data Analysis - Fall 2019
- ECO 551: Mathematics for Economists - Fall 2018

I compiled student evaluations for the recitation into the following graphs:

Figure 1: Students' evaluation of ECO182: Introduction to Microeconomics Recitation for the past 5 years

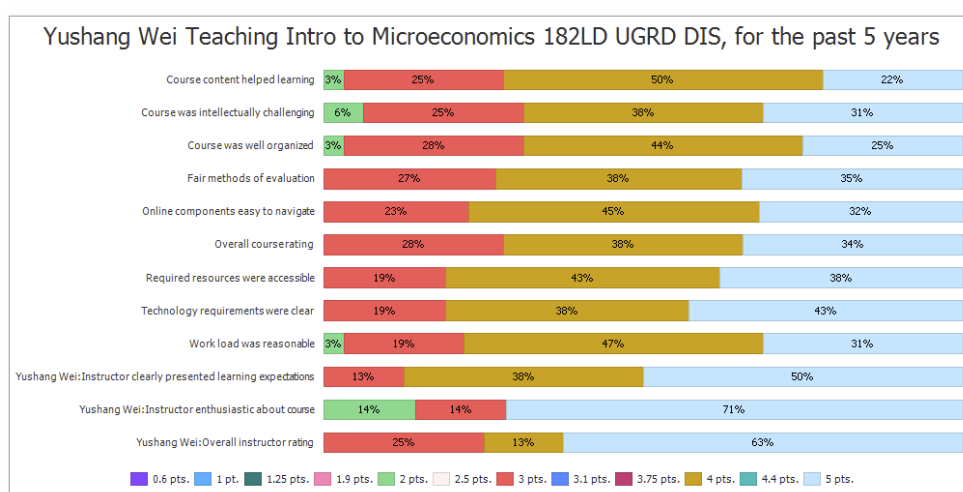
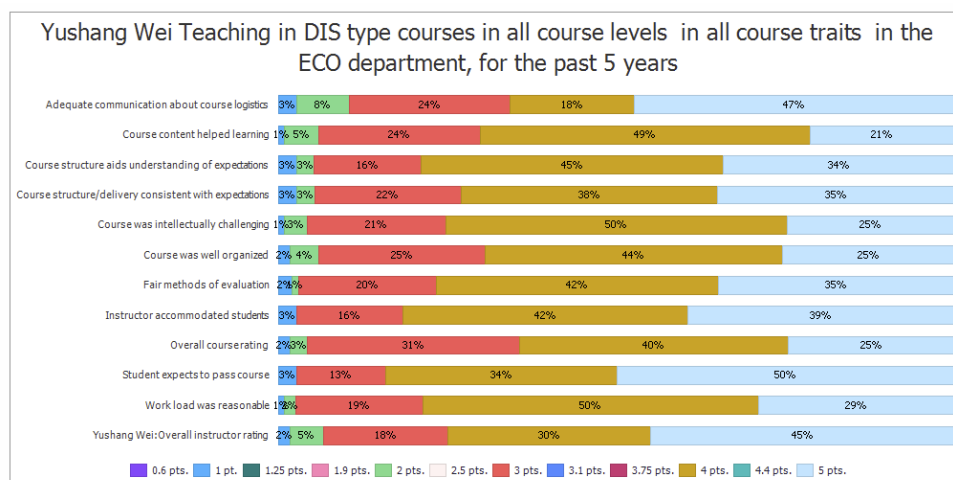


Figure 2: Students' evaluation of ECO181: Introduction to Macroeconomics Recitation for the past 5 years



## 2 Illustrative written responses from student evaluations of teaching

### 2.1 ECO181: Introduction to Macroeconomics

- **Comments on teaching effectiveness**

- The instructor is super reasonable, fair and communicated things well and clearly. Doesn't get better than that. Made the course less stressful and everything was laid on the table and negotiated reasonably. Kind Professor too.
- This instructor is very effective in this course because even though she's not fully teaching she goes through practice problems and material that helps students to better understand the material.
- The instructor was effective, and reviewing the chapter questions helped me understand a little bit more on the chapter.
- helped clarify certain topics I didn't understand and went over questions I had trouble on
- Yushang was great!
- excellent
- Very effective
- This instructor is very effective in this course because even though she's not fully teaching, she goes through practice problems and material that helps students to better understand the material.
- neutral
- GOOD CLASS
- Perfect
- She explained everything to the max so we would understand the topic.
- Yushang was effective in discussing the material for the course.
- She's passionate about the course

- **Comments on most effective elements**

- How kind, understanding and professional the professor is. Very real and comfortable to talk with and learn from.
- The system for work was well organized. I knew I would have homework every week and when it was due. The discussion quizzes were set up well.
- They were very responsive to emails and very helpful with class assignments.
- She always did a great job explaining things.
- It helped with very understanding concepts.
- I like that Helen or Yushang sent out a PDF of the notes created after the discussion.

- I liked how the TA would provide us with a detailed copy of the answers to the discussion questions.
- Some works are so difficult, but I find many ways to solve it.
- I think the recitation assignments were effective in thinking about class material in a different way in a smaller setting.
- I liked the quick review of the material covered that week.

- **Suggestions to improve course**

- Everything was perfect!!!
- I would recommend making this class more than 2 days if online with less hours. It's extremely hard to maintain my focus for so long even with the breaks.
- More lectures with real-life examples and student engagement exercises.
- I want more fun activities.
- less information in time, it is too much to actually understand in such a brief span of time.
- There is not much that Yushang could have done to improve this class. The only thing that was a little questionable was when she altered the format of Exam 1 from what was on the syllabus. Ex: including calculation questions when it was only thought to be multiple choice and true/false.

- **How class could better meet learning needs**

- Would rather have more in-person classes
- Get rid of COVID
- activities

## 2.2 ECO182: Introduction to Microeconomics

- **Comments on teaching effectiveness**

- The instructor always helps us review what we learn so far and teaches us techniques on doing questions. very good overall
- You're perfect! Give her a raise!
- The instructor makes everything clear and easy understanding. And she offers great help with the course materials.

- **Comments on most effective elements**

- She's just amazing; even tho student participation was a little less, she did her job honestly and very well! I never attended any professor's lecture and only did readings and attended discussions with her. I think I did very well in the class.
- The lectures are intelligent and helpful. The instructor offers great explanations to our questions towards course materials.
- worked on what we needed

- I liked the quick review of the material covered that week
- **Suggestions to improve course**
  - better interacting
  - Nope, definitely keep discussions.

### 3 Sample syllabus

#### Introduction to Macroeconomics - ECO 181

Summer

**Instructor:** Yushang Wei

**Instructor's Email:** yushangw@buffalo.edu

**TA:** Wenhao Yang

**TA's Email:** wyang43@buffalo.edu

**Lecture and Discussion zoom Link:** Check it on Brightspace

**Instructor Office Hour:** Regular office hours: check it on Brightspace, or Email me to make an appointment

#### **Course Description:**

Macroeconomics concentrates on the basic economic principles relevant to the resource utilization problems of the economy as a whole. We will establish general principles and discuss recent macroeconomic events. This course provides an overview of the fundamental economic principles and measures used to evaluate the economy, such as gross domestic product, the inflation rate, the unemployment rate, and federal deficits. The course examines how the economy functions, what causes economic difficulties, and the policies that are used to improve the functioning of the economy. ECO 181 may be taken independently of ECO 182. There are no prerequisites.

#### **Course Objectives for Principles of Macroeconomics:**

- Students will become familiar with measures of economic performance, learn to use these indicators to evaluate current economic conditions and understand how markets function in a capitalistic society.
- Students will learn the major perspectives on what determines the performance of the overall economy and will learn to analyze impacts on the economy.
- Students will learn the key approaches to macroeconomic policy. They will develop skills to analyze the impacts of policy actions and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different policies.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

- Locate and use information related to economics.
- Express general economic concepts and analyze the economic outcomes of government interventions.
- Demonstrate ability to integrate knowledge and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner.

During the course, students will learn how to:

- Use supply and demand to explain various economic phenomena and principles.
- Explain the measurement and importance of GDP, inflation, unemployment, money, and trade. Be able to describe the cause and effect of changes in all of these variables.
- Read and explain the content of economic materials from a secondary source (such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, etc.) Relate economic concepts to these real-world events and critically evaluate the impact of economic policy.
- Compare and contrast various economic theories and policies. This includes being able to critically analyze the Fiscal, Monetary, and Exchange rate policies.

### Course Requirements:

- **Textbook:** *Economics* (5th edition) by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells.
- **Technology Requirements:** To effectively participate in this course, regardless of mode of instruction, the university recommends that you have access to a Windows or Mac computer with webcam and broadband. Your best opportunity for success in the blended UB course delivery environment will require these minimum capabilities, as listed on the UB Student Computer Standards website. **Most of the content posted to Brightspace is most easily accessed by using a computer, not a mobile phone.**
- Register [classquestion.com](https://classquestion.com) to **earn extra credits** during the Lecture. (Free for all students) **Class code: FGXXM**

### Course Structure:

- **Lectures:** Attendance is not mandatory. Attendance is strongly encouraged, as some exam questions will come from class discussions. Class participation will not count directly towards your final grade but will be counted as extra credits (please register [classquestion.com](https://classquestion.com)) (5%).
- **Discussion:** Attendance is not mandatory. Attendance is strongly encouraged, as some exam questions will be similar to the discussion problem set. The answer to the discussion problem set will not post on Brightspace. Occasionally discussion sections may go over material I intended to cover in lectures. In any such cases, I will let the class know that the discussion sections will not only review but cover new material.

- **Quizzes:** 3 quizzes in total. Your final grade will automatically drop to the lowest one. Therefore, only 2 quizzes will be counted in your final grade. Designed to take no more than 20 minutes, it focused on a limited number of topics. All multiple-choice or true/false questions.
- **Homework:** 3 assignments in total. All assignments will be posted on Brightspace. (Multiple Attempts)
- **Discussion Attendance:** You have two options to earn the attendance points: 1) Participate in the real-time discussion sections. (Need to participate at least 45 minutes of the discussion) 2) Watch the recording of the discussion after the class. However, please note that in order to receive attendance points, you will need to watch at least 45 minutes of the discussion recording. When watching the recording, please DO NOT download it. If you download and watch the recording, your attendance will not be counted. WATCH IT ONLINE AND LOG IN!!!
- **Exams:**
  - Exam 1: Covers all topics since the beginning of the term.
  - Exam 2: Covers all topics after the first Exam.
  - Exams and quizzes will be open-book, open-note assessments

### Course Outline:

- █ Ch 1: Economic Principles
- █ Ch 2: Circular-Flow Model, Opportunity Cost, PPF
- █ Ch 3: Supply and Demand, Equilibrium Analysis
- █ Ch 4: Consumer and Producer Surplus
- █ Ch 5: Government Price Controls
- █ Ch 8: International Trade
- █ Ch 21: Macroeconomics: The Big Picture
- █ Ch 22: Measuring National Production, Measuring the Price Level
- █ Ch 23: Measuring Unemployment and Inflation
- █ Ch 24: Long-Run Economic Growth
- █ Ch 25: Saving, Investment Spending
- █ Ch 27: Aggregate Supply and Demand
- █ Ch 28: Fiscal Policy
- █ Ch 29: The meaning of Money, The US Federal Reserve System
- █ Ch 30: Monetary Policy

**Grading Policy:** Homework(20%), quizzes (20%), Exam 1 (27%), Exam 2 (27%), Discussion Attendance:(6%)

### Important Dates:

Exam #1 ..... June 14, 2023  
 Exam #2 ..... July 05, 2023

**Final Grades:**

Grade	Quality Points	Percentage(unit:%)
A	4.0	93.0 - 100.00
A-	3.67	90.0 - 92.99
B+	3.33	87.0 - 89.99
B	3.00	83.0 - 86.99
B-	2.67	80.0 - 82.99
C+	2.33	77.0 - 79.99
C	2.00	73.0 - 76.99
C-	1.67	70.0 - 72.99
D+	1.33	67.0 - 69.99
D	1.00	60.0 - 66.99
F	0	59.9 or below

**If you cheat during the course, you will receive a final grade of an F for the course.**

Incompletes (I/IU)\*: A grade of incomplete ("I") indicates that additional course work is required to fulfil the requirements of a given course. Students may only be given an "I" grade if they have a passing average in coursework that has been completed and have well-defined parameters to complete the course requirements that could result in a grade better than the default grade. An "I" grade may not be assigned to a student who did not attend the course. Incompletes (I/IU)\*\*: Prior to the end of the semester, students must initiate the request for an "I" grade and receive the instructor's approval. Assignment of an "I" grade is at the discretion of the instructor.

For all graduate-level courses, an interim grade of Incomplete (I) may be assigned if the student has not completed all requirements for the course. An interim grade of 'I' shall not be assigned to a student who did not attend the course. For all graduate courses, the default grade accompanying an interim grade of 'I' shall be 'U'. It will be displayed on the UB record as 'IU.' The default Unsatisfactory (U) grade shall become the permanent course



grade of record if the 'IU' is not changed through formal notice by the instructor upon the student's completion of the course.

Assignment of an interim 'IU' is at the discretion of the instructor. A grade of 'IU' can be assigned only if successful completion of unfulfilled course requirements can result in a final grade better than the default 'U' grade. The student should have a passing average in the requirements already completed. The instructor shall provide the student specification, in writing, of the requirements to be fulfilled.

### Important Information:

- **Deadlines are absolute:** All assignments and exams must be completed on the due date. Late work will not be accepted and will be graded as zero. **There are no make-up quizzes or homeworks.**
- **Exams:** Two equally weighted exams will be given during the semester. Each exam time limit is approximately 90 mins.
- **Email Policy:** When you send me an email, be sure to include the course title (ECO181) in the subject line (Example: ECO181 your name). To ensure that your email reaches my inbox and reduces confusion, include your course title and section number in your email subject line. Students are required to check their email at least once a day.

### Here is the Email Template:

Subject: ECO 181 [your name]

Dear Instructor [Last Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am [Your Name], a student in your [Course Name] class this semester. I have a question about [the specific topic, assignment, or concept you want to ask about].

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

- **Time Zone:** The default time zone is Eastern Time (ET) for all assignments, exams, discussions, etc.
- **No Class On JUNE 19th:** Since it's the Juneteenth holiday.
- **Syllabus Change Policy:** The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

- If you have a question – ASK!!! If I am going too fast, please ask me to slow down.

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is critical to the learning process. It is your responsibility as a student to complete your work in an honest fashion, upholding the expectations your individual instructors have for you in this regard. The ultimate goal is to ensure that you learn the content in your courses in accordance with UB's academic integrity principles, regardless of whether instruction is in-person or remote. Thank you for upholding your own personal integrity and ensuring UB's tradition of academic excellence. The academic integrity policy is available at [buffalo.edu/academic-integrity](http://buffalo.edu/academic-integrity).

**Accessibility Resources:**

If you have any disability which requires reasonable accommodations to enable you to participate in this course, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources in 60 Capen Hall, 716-645-2608 and also the instructor of this course during the first week of class. The office will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations, which can be found on the web at: <http://www.buffalo.edu/studentlife/who-we-are/departments/accessibility.html>.

**Course Fees:**

The dollar amount of any course-specific fees above and beyond UB tuition and fees and the reason such fees are being assessed.

**Counseling Services (Mental Health):**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning or reduce their ability to participate in daily activities. These might include strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, health concerns or unwanted sexual experiences. Counseling, Health Services, and Health Promotion are here to help with these or other concerns. Students can learn more about these programs and services by contacting:

- Counseling Services: 120 Richmond Quad (North Campus), phone 716-645-2720 and 1st Floor Michael Hall (South Campus), phone: 716-829-5800
- Student Health Services: 4350 Maple Rd., Amherst, NY 14226, phone: 716-829-3316
- Health Promotion: 114 Student Union (North Campus), phone: 716- 645-2837

**Sexual Violence:**

UB is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and stalking. If a student has experienced gender-based violence (i.e., intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), UB has resources to help. This includes academic accommodations, health and counseling services,

housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and assistance with reporting the incident to police or other UB officials if the student so chooses. Contact UB's Title IX Coordinator at 716-645-2266 for more information. For confidential assistance, students may also contact a Crisis Services Campus Advocate at 716-796-4399.

### **Protecting Course Materials Disclaimer:**

All materials prepared and/or assigned by me for this course are for the students' educational benefit. Other than for permitted collaborative work, students may not photograph, record, reproduce, transmit, distribute, upload, sell or exchange course materials without my prior written permission. "Course materials" include, but are not limited to, all instructor-prepared and assigned materials, such as lectures; lecture notes; discussion prompts; study aids; tests and assignments; and presentation materials such as PowerPoint slides, Prezi slides, or transparencies; and course packets or handouts. Public distribution of such materials may also constitute copyright infringement in violation of federal or state law. Violation of this policy may additionally subject a student to a finding of "academic dishonesty" under the Academic Integrity Policy and/or disciplinary charges under the Student Code of Conduct.

## **4 Sample make-up/retake exam agreement**

The following is a sample of a make-up/retake exam agreement designed to assist students who are dissatisfied with their previous midterm performance. After signing the agreement, students have the opportunity for a second chance to take the exam and challenge themselves.

### **Student Make-up Exam/Retake Exam 02 Agreement**

#### **• Scheduling and Rules:**

1. The make-up exam 02(or Retake Exam 02) is scheduled for Sunday, July 10th, 2022, running from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm ET.
2. This exam permits the use of notes and books, but it is strictly a solo endeavor; collaboration with others is prohibited.
3. The exam consists of 25 points, encompassing multiple-choice questions and fill-in-the-blank items.
4. You must complete the exam within a time limit of **90 minutes**.
5. The exam will take place between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm ET. To ensure you have the full 90 minutes to complete the exam, you must begin no later than 3:30 pm ET. If you happen to start after 3:30 pm ET, you may still initiate your exam anytime during the scheduled duration but must submit it before the 5:00 pm ET deadline. (*Please note that if you begin your exam late, the system may incorrectly display a 90-minute countdown. Be aware that this is not the accurate time limit in this scenario. Ensure submission before the 5:00 pm ET deadline.*) We strongly advise allocating ample time for submission. Submitting your exam

on time is your responsibility, as **late submissions will NOT be accepted** under any circumstances.

- **Make-up Exam 02(or Retake Exam 02) Terms and Conditions**

1. By agreeing to the terms of the make-up exam 02, students commit to replacing their original exam 02 grade with the make-up exam 02 grade. In other words, if the make-up exam 02 results in a lower grade than the original exam 02, the make-up exam 02 grade will be used.
2. Students who opt for the make-up exam 02 agreement are required to participate in the make-up exam 02.
3. Students who enter into the make-up exam 02 agreement but fail to take the make-up exam 02 for any reason will receive a score of zero for both exam 02 and make-up exam 02.
4. The make-up exam will not be subject to any grading curve as it is only available to select students.
5. Students who choose to sign the make-up exam 02 agreement confirm that they have reviewed their schedule for Sunday, July 10th, 2022, and have ensured there are no scheduling conflicts.
6. Students agreeing to the make-up exam 02 terms understand that the instructor (and TA) will not respond to any inquiries or arguments via email if students violate the terms outlined in clauses 1-5 of the make-up exam 02 agreement.

**I have read, understood, and accepted the student make-up exam 02 agreement.**

Student Signature:

Date: