

Course evaluation report for ECON 4640 HT23

By Laurence Malafry

Summary: The students were broadly satisfied with the course, giving positive evaluation on the material and presentation. Also they seemed to find it well balanced, with maybe being on the difficult side. The quality of the lectures and seminars was deemed to be high.

1. what is working?

Based on the results from the course evaluation form, it seems the course is working quite well for students who attend both the lectures and seminars regularly. The enrolment was light this term, but there was a core of 5-6 students who attended regularly and prepared well for the seminars, which made it easy to engage in discussion. Since the course is an elective, students have selected into a subject that they are interested in, which also helps me stay enthusiastic about the material.

I record the lectures and make them available through Panopto, which seems to be appreciated given that there are sometimes scheduling conflicts or unforeseen absence. It may harm attendance though, and I don't think I will ever offer to do it for the seminars, since low participation is harmful to everyone in that setting, and being recorded may harm participation.

2. what can be improved?

There aren't really any specific complaints from the students in the evaluations. I have taught the course twice now, so feel more comfortable with the flow of the material and striking a balance between needing to present a lot of theory, but still appeal to the students who are more empirically aligned. Perhaps a bit better pacing at the end of the semester, to allow some time for repetition of the earlier material. I did offer an exam booster after the last lecture, but maybe this would be better achieved within a normal lecture period.

3. what can you do to improve the course?

Based on the course evaluation results, it seems like most students found the work load and difficulty well balanced, but leaning towards difficult. Given the exam results, I would say that this is mostly true. I think the course can benefit from a bit better pacing, so that the theory section isn't concentrated in too small of a window early in the course, and maybe some more repetition of the modelling frameworks that students had some trouble absorbing. This can be achieved through additional seminar questions, for example.