

Course evaluation report

ECON 5106

Fall 2023

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What is working?

Overall, students seem pleased with the lectures and seminars. Of 19 students, 11 responded to the evaluation survey. Six students gave the course an overall satisfaction rating of 5/5, four gave it a rating of 4/5, and one gave it a 3/5. All respondents gave the lectures a 4/5 rating or 5/5 rating in terms of quality. Interest in the course was high: 9 gave it an interest rating of 5/5 and the remaining 2 gave a score of 4/5. Most students (6) found that the level of formality in the lectures was just right, though most of the remaining students (4) would have preferred less formality.

What can be improved?

Students were not as actively engaged in lectures (i.e., asking questions) as I would have liked. This is reflected in the fact that only 3 of 11 answered “yes” when asked if they participate in lectures, with another 5 answering “to some degree.” I think this is related to the pace of lectures, which students felt were quite fast. When asked about pacing, 3 felt the pacing was correct, while the remaining 8 felt it was too fast.

What can you do to improve the course?

I think the issues with pacing and engagement are closely related. I intend to streamline the course a bit more, so that I can slow down the pacing. My hope is that this will give students more time to process the lecture content as we review it, which will give them more opportunities to engage. To accomplish this, I plan to set aside some material from lectures in a series of “appendices.” The appendices will be available as a resource for students to reference, but will not be discussed in detail during lectures.