

Summary of student evaluations of ECON4325

This summary is based on 14 respondents to the student evaluation of ECON4325, Spring 2023.

Overall assessment of course. The students are overall fairly satisfied with the course. 50% of the students fully agree with the statement “all in all, I am satisfied with the course.” The average score is 4.35. The students also find the course to be interesting. More than half (64.3%) agree fully with the statement “I find the course interesting,” and the average score is 4.57. The students also find the syllabus adequate (neither small nor large, 71.4%; average 3.14). And they think the difficulty of the course is adequate (adequate: 50%; average 3.36). Regarding the learning outcome of the course, the students give an average score of 4.14.

Lectures. The course had two lectures: Martin Blomhoff Holm and Birger Vikøren. Overall, the students are happy with the quality of both lecturers. Martin B. Holm has an average score of 4.57 on the question “What is your assessment of the quality of Martin B. Holm’s lectures” while Birger Vikøren has an average score of 4.43 on the same question. The main comments regarding Holm’s lectures are that we should spend more time on the intuition of the model and less time on the technicalities. Regarding Birger’s lectures, the main comments were about how exciting they were while one student mentioned that the handwriting sometimes was hard to read.

Seminars. There were seven seminars in the course. In collaboration with Knut Ward Heimdal, we tested a new system in which less time was spent reviewing the seminar answers. Instead, the point was to allow the students to spend time solving the problems and simultaneously be able to ask questions. The students’ responses about the quality of Knut’s seminars reflect that some students liked this, while others hated it. The average score was 3.14 on the answer about the “quality of Knut’s seminars,” where 29% liked it very much (5) while 14% hated it (1). The comments generally say they want the seminar teacher to go through the problem set.

Way forward. I think the course is generally working well. There are two changes I want to make for next semester. First, I will refocus my lectures toward even more intuition. Second, I want to adjust the way we do seminars. I think it would help if we prepared the students for how we are doing seminars. In addition, I think some problem sets should be adjusted to the new format.