

Course evaluation ECON3170/4170 Data Science for Economists fall 2023

The course had 88 registered students, 26 from the BA level and 62 from the MA level. Of these, 75 attempted the exam and 72 passed the course. An evaluation was administered as a nettskjema, and some time in one of the last lectures was allocated to answering the evaluation. A total of 33 respondents answered the evaluation form.

A large majority (26/33) are satisfied (level 4 or 5 out of 5) with the course and find it interesting (29/33). The students find it fairly challenging – 36% adequate and 55% hard to very hard. Most of the students find the workload adequate, but some find it somewhat high.

In general, the students find the lectures and the teaching material good. They also rank the seminars as mostly good. There is variation in how well prepared the students are for teaching and how much they participate.

Among the unstructured answers, there were few common topics that were recommended to improve. There were some comments on the seminars, though. It seems many students come fairly unprepared for seminars, either because they have not prepared or have given up on solving problems. These students report the teaching to be less useful. As a consequence, it can be useful to try to split seminars into sessions where students work on problems with the possibility to ask for help and sessions where the TA shows the solution to the problems. This will be attempted next semester.

Among topics covered in the course, there are not clear guidelines. But it could be useful to try to move machine learning to an earlier stage in the course if possible as many students want to use it for the term paper. This can also partially be solved by front-loading teaching in the course.