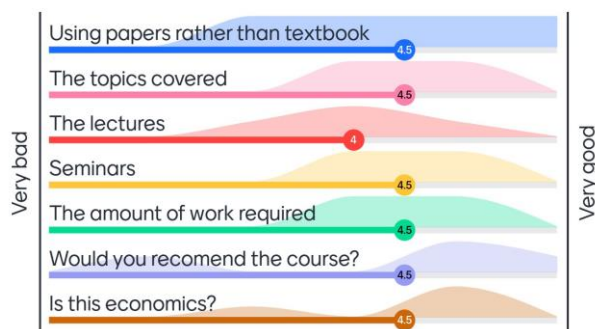


Course evaluation ECON3810 – Spring 2023

20 students registered for the and 12 students for the exam, 11 of them showed up and 9 students passed. Based on the feedback we have received, students seem very satisfied with the course, with rather little need for changes.

To evaluate the course, I asked some questions at the last lecture. Unfortunately, the attendance that day was low (3 students), but their assessment was positive on all aspects I asked about, as seen in the figure.

I also used the suggested nettskjema form, but I got no response on that form. During the seminars, students expressed that, besides the content of the course, it is a useful arena to learn more about reading papers and writing essays. Most are rather inexperienced in reading critically and writing longer texts before and find it challenging but meaningful to work on this in the course.



Potential improvement for next year.

A problem we had initially with the course was the lack of a good textbook for the introductory part where we present a standard principal agent view on incentive and induced work effort. We landed at a JEL-paper by Predergast. This paper gives an excellent discussion, but for our purpose it is too brief on the formal models. Last year we wrote a lecture note as the first lectures proceeded and used this again this year. Students seem satisfied with this solution. But there is a problem that the first three lectures are quite heavy on math, while the rest of the course use very little formal modelling. The initial lectures are thus not very representative for the content of the course. It will probably be better to start with some less formal material the first lectures, and delay the formal models a few weeks.

Conclusions

The students seem very satisfied with the course, although 3 students is a bit low response rate.

The seminar will need some fine-tuning every year, as the number of students will determine how many presentations there will be. But the basic format of the seminars seems to be working well.

The course is rather small, but if the students act on their claim that they would recommend the course, perhaps the number of students will increase over time.