



ECON 13310 1 - Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis: A Data Driven Approach - Instructor(s) - Oscar Galvez-Soriano

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2024**

Number Enrolled: **46**

Number of Responses: **23**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Friday, January 31, 2025**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Analyzing macro data.
macroeconomic policies, such as the solow growth model, inflation, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Golden Rule – Fiscal and Monetary Policy – Using Excel for chart generation – Statistics
Solow Model convergence, basics of monetary and fiscal policy, time series, how to work with FRED data
I learned about monetary policy and fiscal policy in the two–period model. I also gained analytical and technical (Excel) skills doing the flash reports.
–
Permanent income hypothesis, consumption smoothing, general fiscal policy
macroeconomic models, derivations of those models, consumption, growth, monetary/fiscal policy
I learned the theory and intuition behind the various macroeconomic models that I was already introduced to in principles of macroeconomics.
Solow Model, Consumption Model, fiscal policy and monetary policy. Also data processing and visualization.
Macroeconomic theories, using Excel to build different types of graphs (contributions to growth), applying macroeconomic models to real–world data
Ricardian Equivalence, Fisher equation, Solow growth model, overlapping generations model, a project.
Effects of fiscal policy
Various economic models (solow growth model, fisher model, OLG), other macroeconomic concepts (inflation, monetary and fiscal policy), math behind intuition
Solow model, consumption smoothing, OLG, PIH, forecasting, using data to backtest models
I learned how to build mathematic economic models
macroeconomic models for economic analysis (solow model, taylor rule, 2–period model, overlapping generations model, etc.); also how to create macroeconomic data reports in federal bank style

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Lectures and office hours are quite helpful. I like that all assignments are very practical.
attending the lectures are essential for the class, as well as going to OH/discussion sections
Lectures were helpful with conceptual topics especially when deriving certain equations.
–Lectures and office hours were good.
Lectures were the only useful part of this course. The flash reports were cruel. The data would be released at 8:30am and we had until 12:30pm to write a report based on the data. However, sometimes my partner or I had class or other commitments so we were scrambling to get the report done on time. The grading for the flash report was unnecessarily harsh. I also didn't learn anything other than some Excel skills. There should've been fewer flash reports and we should've had more time to complete them. Psets were fine.
The lectures were engaging and helped me to learn. The discussion sections also helped.
Lecture was definitely required to understand the class.
–
Lectures and psets were most helpful. You need to attend lectures to do well
lectures, office hours, psets
The lectures were extremely helpful, and they are super important to go to. You can easily get lost and fall behind if you miss a lecture.
The PSets were super helpful for further understanding of concepts and preparing for exams. I love how questions from the psets will be tested in the exams. The reports are also super helpful in facilitating understanding of real-life data, and they trained us well in transforming and visualizing real life data in a professional style.
Lectures were most helpful and would give answers to PSETs sometimes.
Lectures were more theory, assignments more application
The lectures were the main source of knowledge. He's a great lecturer, one of the best at uchicago in my opinion. He walks through the notes while writing so it's the same pace as you. He also explains stuff intuitively, and he responds well to questions both in person, in office hours, and also via email.
Lectures were ESSENTIAL as the slides did not cover the meat of the content.
The lectures and office hours were very helpful for understanding the material of this course.
must attend lectures and take notes, impossible to get it all only from lecture slides on canvas—that said, lectures were very interesting and helpful

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.61	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.89%	61.11%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.39	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	50.00%	44.44%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	5.56%	0.00%	33.33%	61.11%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.67	4.00	5.56%	22.22%	5.56%	33.33%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.78	4.00	5.56%	16.67%	5.56%	38.89%	33.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.33	4.50	5.56%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	50.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.17	4.00	5.56%	0.00%	5.56%	50.00%	38.89%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Soriano is excellent! He is passionate about economics, kind, and helpful. I always feel quite engaged during lectures.
Lot more work than I had anticipated. I also did not appreciate having 2 flash reports due the day before Thanksgiving...
there were way too many components – flash reports, midterm, final, psets, and final presentation
This course was one of the worst I've taken at UChicago. Standards for success on the assignments were arbitrary. The midterm was nothing like what the professor said it would be. It's a shame because this course could be truly great if it were modified. I would not recommend this class to anyone.
The course is very hard
This course has a lot of assignments. It's definitely not a light work load
highly recommend as a macro methods class
GO TO LECTURE
Midterm and final were hard.
Great. Highly recommend.
Great course, Prof. Galvez is a really good lecturer. Only complaint is the assignments/grading— a big chunk of your grade comes from these data reports that are due the same day economic data is released. It takes up your entire morning, and I feel like they were graded harshly. We should not be losing points on meaningless formatting errors. The feedback did not help either, because it was very case to case. In addition, the final group project (albeit graded fairly), penalizes you if someone else in your group makes a mistake. Collective punishment is unfair, especially if you do not know your group members and have no way to hold them accountable. Regardless, it isn't hard to get a good grade, though the grading of individual assignments didn't seem too fair.
course is not particularly easy; there were psets and these little data reports, plus a midterm, final, and final project. not exactly easy, but definitely doable if you put the work in
Oscar has mood swings. There were a lot of times where he would give two different people different information about psets, grp project, etc. I also feel like the class has changed A LOT from the previous quarters. I don't like the fact that we had a final project AND exam

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	5.26%	94.74%
Anyone interested in the topic	21.05%	78.95%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Lectures.
lecture slides and the problem sets
Lectures and office hours
the lectures and great office hours
His lectures were good.
The instructor used a lot of real-life examples which helped me remember the course material and also gave us a context on why we were learning such things.
The lectures were the only thing that really helped you learn from this class.
Why is he so mean? I feel like he is out to get us sometimes? Why? Both him and the TA are so nitpicky with grading!
Lectures and office hours. Office hours are extremely helpful
professor galvez-soriano's lectures were amazing, and he was always willing to go over our questions outside of class as well. one of the best professors i've had at uchicago
The most beneficial thing he has done is walk through the steps and intuition by drawing them out using his iPad.
Weekly office hours are super helpful. The professor is also very patient and responsive.
His lectures were most helpful.
The lectures. They were awesome. He was a fantastic lecturer and he was funny too.
Lecture
I think his office hours were helpful for clarifying confusing stuff from the lectures.
lectures are well done and pretty entertaining, professor well embodies classic hispanic dad joke vibes

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The first half of the course is more difficult than the second half. I would recommend the professor to move forward to applications faster and spend less time on the math foundation.
have fewer components so we can focus on the existing components at hand.
Eliminate the flash report requirement! Be nicer about grading PSETS/flash reports so they're not as stressful.
The instructor could assign less work, since this way we would feel less pressured and go through the assignment with more patience and understand it more deeply.
Have more notes on his slides. It was sometimes hard to understand him and theres so much info that extra notes would be nice to keep track of what we're going over.
Have a final practice exam!
nothing
He would post his written notes after class
Provide a practice final
Give more time for reports and helpful directions on what is wanted for the final project and psets.
Maybe better explain certain standards for success – occasionally confusing, but he ends up grading pretty easily overall. Also, maybe less assignments. We had economic reports due whenever new data came out, which would either be like 2 different excel reports in a week or nothing at all; there was one during thanksgiving, so we had an assignment due the day before thanksgiving. I didnt think I learned a ton from these reports and they were assigned kinda randomly, so this was the only part of the class i didnt benefit from.
Have more informative slides. If we make a mistake in our notes, it can completely create misconceptions when we are studying.
no huge complaints overall, just would've been nice if the course material flowed a little bit better; it seems pretty disjoint at times
Sometimes I feel like he doesn't want the students to do well. He gives very limited help and instructions.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	42.11%	52.63%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	38.89%	55.56%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	5.56%	33.33%	38.89%	11.11%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	5.56%	5.56%	38.89%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.68	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	31.58%	68.42%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	31.58%	57.89%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.39	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	27.78%	55.56%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	5.56%	5.56%	27.78%	61.11%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.44	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	44.44%	50.00%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Sania. Quite frankly, the TA has been hindering students' learning experience with unfair grading, ambiguous feedback, and insensitive comments. The TA does not seem to invest enough time to understand students' assignment submissions. Instead, the TA tends to jump to conclusions with their biased understanding and grade arbitrarily. I recall once the TA responded to a grading mistake by saying, "We will drop the lowest grade, so it's okay." On multiple occasions, the TA has voiced their judgment about individual students' incompetence by making comments like "Most people got it right though." As someone who strives to create a community that supports my peers, I find it shocking to encounter an individual who does not seem to take responsibility as part of the instructional community to help students.
Sania – she was very helpful and responsive to emails, as well as open to answering questions during discussion section
Sania. Overall was helpful during office hours and discussion sessions. But honestly, not sure if this is on the professor or the TA, but was really confused on some of the grading.
Sania
Sania Zeb. The TA hosted frequent discussion sections and office hours that were helpful. However, since the TA could not attend our class, she was unable to answer some of the questions.
Sania Zeb
Sania
Sania. honestly not even sure what to say about this TA except that she should not be TA'ing this class. Will grade something as incorrect just because it is not written exactly like it is in the answer key
Sania Zeb. She made herself very accessible to the students of this course just before and after the Discussion Section and around the midterm and final.
Sania Zeb
Sania
Sonia. She graded for the course and would hold office hours. OH were helpful but her grading was a bit wishy washy at times. Discussion sections were alright.
Sania Keb
Sania. She was a little unenthusiastic, but was very helpful overall. Answered questions nicely and would teach well. Only thing was she grades a little weirdly. She would grade the PSETs SUPER leniently like I got most of them wrong and she'd be super nice about it. Then, on the midterm, she took off many points because I derived something differently than we did in class and I lost all points for the question; I fought this and ended up getting points back, but I thought the grading was inconsistent overall.
Sanya, she was pretty helpful and held weekly discussions, but was pretty disorganized. It took a while for me to get an issue sorted, and the issue made it very hard to see feedback and submit assignments on Canvas.
very helpful over email, discussion sections were pretty mid
Sania. Her responses to emails and stuff are generally very vague and I always had to go clarify what she meant in OH which defeated the purpose of the email but otherwise she has been helpful

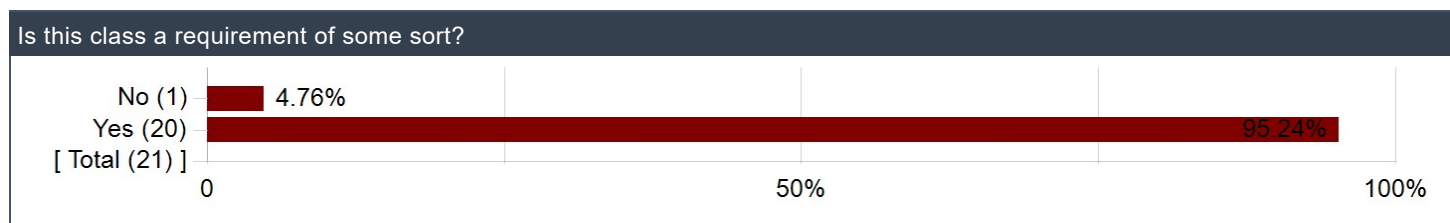
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.71	4.00	7.14%	7.14%	28.57%	21.43%	35.71%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.47	4.00	13.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	20.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.36	3.50	14.29%	7.14%	28.57%	28.57%	21.43%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.64	4.00	7.14%	0.00%	35.71%	35.71%	21.43%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.71	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	21.43%	28.57%	35.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.79	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	14.29%	35.71%	35.71%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.57	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	21.43%	42.86%	21.43%	0.00%

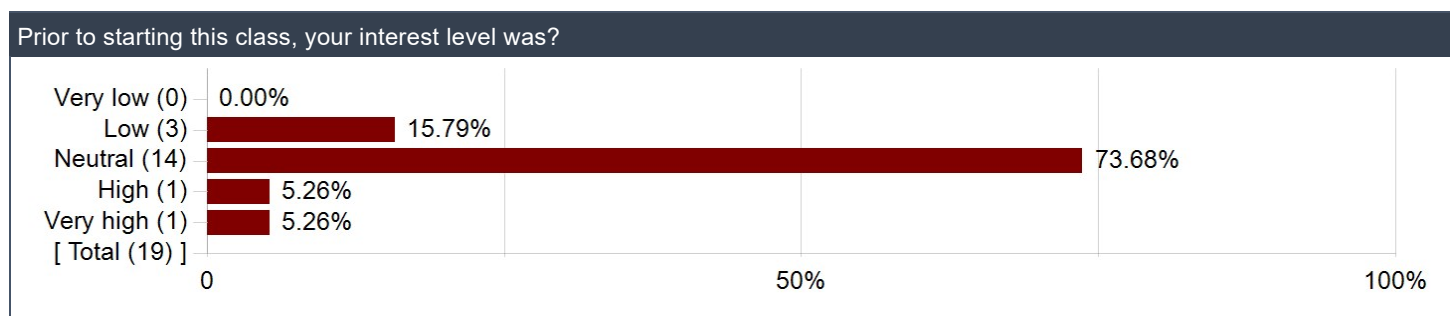
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Field Trips	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Library Sessions	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Review Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Writing Seminars	NRP	NRP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

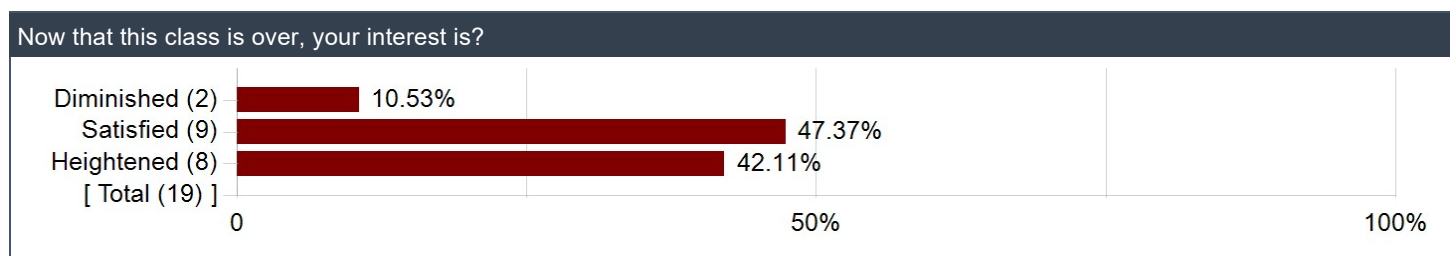
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



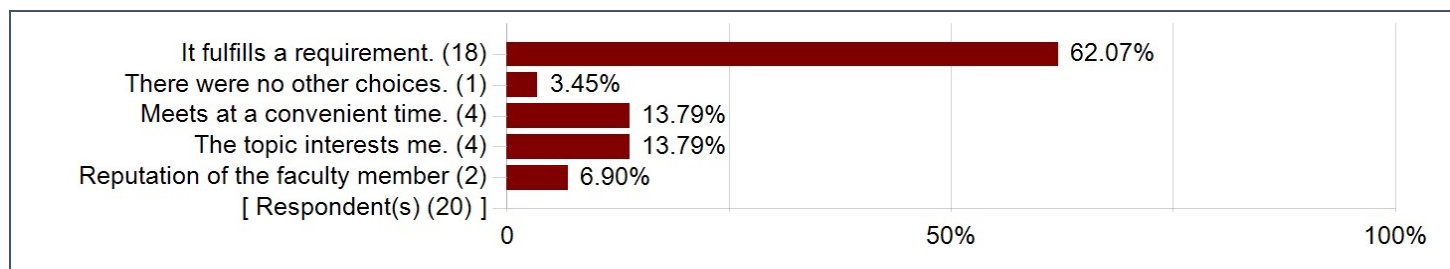
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



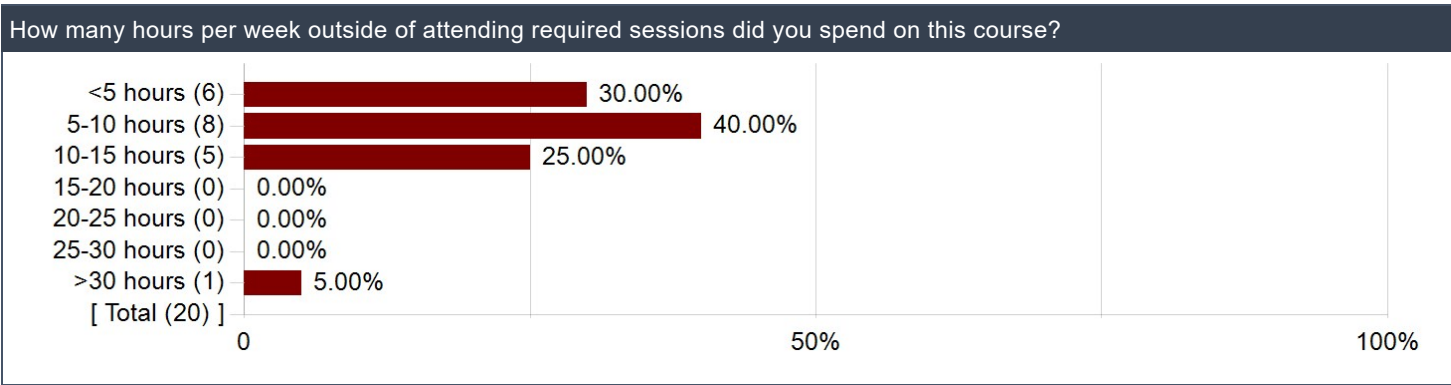
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



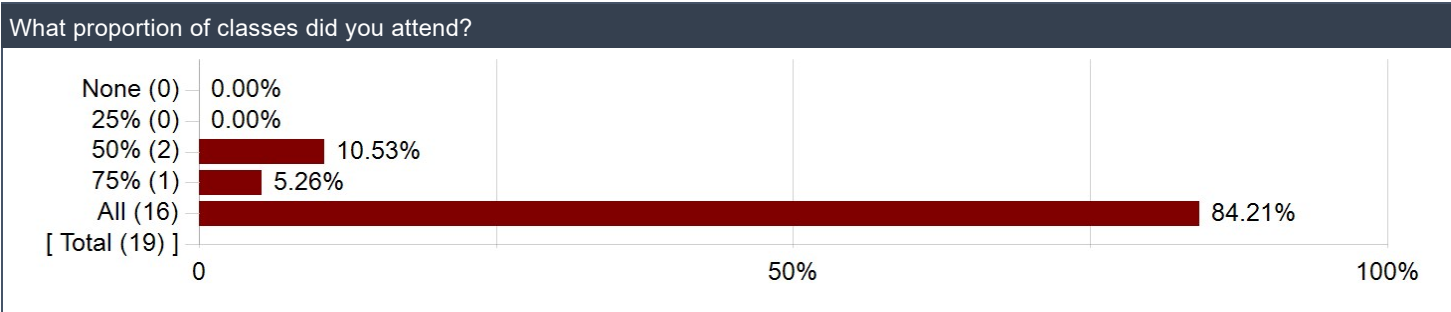
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Medium difficulty.
There was so much more work that I had initially anticipated and also more difficult than I anticipated.
Too hard
It is a very hard course, I recommend taking Econometrics before taking this course and also have a good grasp of macroeconomics in general
If you're going to take the class go to lecture. Most of what is on the tests is spoken during class and not on the slides. The midterm was not super representative of what we learned and the average was like a 70%. Not the best course and the tests/final project were like 70% of your grade.
Pretty difficult for biz econ class.
pretty easy with a background in macro/micro + calculus
The workload and grading criteria seem crazy in the first class but please don't freak out! The content are pretty manageable (a lot of them being already covered in principles of macro), and the workload was not as heavy as it seems.
The class became much more difficult compared to how it was structured in the past. We had PSETS, flash reports, a midterm, a final project, and a final exam. In the previous quarter, students did not have any flash reports or a final. The grading on the flash reports seemed arbitrary. Additionally, we had to complete them by 12:30pm on the same day when data was released at 7:30am. We even had to report 2 flash reports during Thanksgiving Break. Some of the topics required econometrics and advanced math knowledge, which was not part of the pre-requisites. This is supposed to be a Business Economics Macro class, but it felt like Standard Econ.
This class was deceptively hard. The professor had some crazy expectations for us, making two reports due during Thanksgiving (which we HAD to do during Thanksgiving because the data did not drop until the day before Thanksgiving). Final and midterm were difficult. The professor is nice and a good lecturer, but some of the expectations were a bit unreasonable.
Im a biz Econ major and I thought this class was actually fantastic. I've always wanted a little more quantitatively given that biz Econ is really easy, and I think this class was a nice transition from the easy stuff we do to some sort of actual math. Makes me wish i did the real Econ major.
Somewhat difficult, but pretty doable. 102 and metrics is super helpful, though you are not expected to know them.
not exactly easy, but still doable; only annoying piece is prof does 95%+ for A, 90–95% A–, and so on down... also having a final exam and final project was lame, especially since we had to do the final project over thanksgiving