



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

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

Number Enrolled: **46**

Number of Responses: **16**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

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

Comments
Looked at macroeconomics from a new perspective (math)
the neoclassical macro models from a fundamental standpoint
Principles of macroeconomic analysis from a mathematical and data viewpoint
Economic models and intuition in macroeconomics
Different macroeconomic models that the Professor actually used in his line of work
Econ intuition
How to model and mathematically show personal consumption behavior, economic growth, and shifts in the economy due to fiscal policy.
I strengthened my Excel skills and understanding of fiscal policy.
Solow model, intertemporal model, how to apply economic reasoning to macroeconomic situations
You go in–depth into macro economic topics and how to use them to analyze overall economies.
We learned a bunch of macroeconomic models to explain how consumers make decisions in an economy, how the government maintains a budget constraint, how to spur the economy through monetary policy and making forecasts
More concrete understanding of macroeconomic principles and how to apply them in the real world

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

Comments
This class is a bit difficult to evaluate. On one hand, the professor is very understand and nice; very reasonable with pset question regrades. He provided clear signalling that the midterm was going to be easy, and the midterm was consistent with that messaging. Also the class is structured such that there is only one midterm, which is beneficial for people with lots of finals.
However, conceptually, I found that 1) although this course is called a data–driven approach, we rarely actually used data except for a couple of homework questions and 2) teaching macroeconomics to a bunch of bizecon majors using math/calculus hinders understanding of the actual economics concepts. There weren't that many real world applications. A lot of theory.
lectures were very helpful, especially with the derivations and homework
Lecture was extremely helpful and informative
lectures are important, discussions are not
Assignments were great, as they went off of what we learned in class and real world examples
amazing professor
The lectures are crucial to understanding the content for the midterm, and the slides provided by the Professor were very useful.
The OHs were extremely helpful for pset materials.
OH really helped with the psets
Lecture was the main place you learn everything.
Lectures were useful
Lectures were great for first introducing the material — immediately useful for psets. Psets were helpful for ensuring that I could understand the material on my own and for preparing for the midterm!

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	53.33%	33.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	6.67%	26.67%	46.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.87	4.00	6.67%	6.67%	20.00%	26.67%	40.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.07	4.00	0.00%	13.33%	13.33%	26.67%	46.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	6.67%	13.33%	33.33%	46.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Soriano was great!! He was very passionate about his work and useful outside of the classroom.
I thought the course material was interesting but the class wasn't very engaging.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	7.14%	92.86%
Anyone interested in the topic	28.57%	71.43%

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

Comments
He is very generous with giving pset answers during class lectures. Just show up and pay attention
He was very patient in explaining concepts that people were confused on and answering questions. He also did a great job in emphasizing what concepts were important and which were less important.
Lectures and hw was the most important
Lectures, and Problem sets
Super kind and helpful with answering anything. Always made time to make sure we were understanding everything.
very passionate, and an excellent teacher who cares about his students
The instructor is very passionate and knowledgeable about what he is teaching, especially because he has first-hand experience working on macroeconomic policy in a central bank. Although, the topic is very math intense at times, the professor tried to be as enthusiastic as possible.
The lectures were a lot of material so it was really important to be there for the pets.
Office hours
Lecture, he has a lot of personal experience with the topics and is able to draw from that. He also just theoretically understands everything that is being taught so he is able to answer most if not all questions. I enjoyed his lectures quite a lot.
His patience, the fact that he would go over concepts over and over again, the fact that he would connect the theory to real life examples
Prof was very dedicated to ensuring we understood the essentials of the material, willing to answer and encouraged us to ask clarifying questions until we understood.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
most lectures after the midterm become quite useless since the content is not tested. Consider making the final project most closely tied to the content after the midterm so people still show up and learn.
nothing! everything was very helpful
Nothing, Oscar is lovely
add more math, the models became confusing when it was just using intuition
Nothing. Super helpful.
nothing
I think that the Professor did a good job at lecturing and was very available to help with any questions. Perhaps, he could find a way to bring up more real-life applications of the model to make the lectures more interesting. Lastly, I think he should communicate more clearly the expectations for the final project.
N/A
Make the class more engaging, create a better sense of the overall picture we're trying to get at, less derivation of equations and memorizing stuff, and more understanding of the theoretical concepts

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	13.33%	80.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.13	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	13.33%	53.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	40.00%	53.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	26.67%	60.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	20.00%	73.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%	0.00%

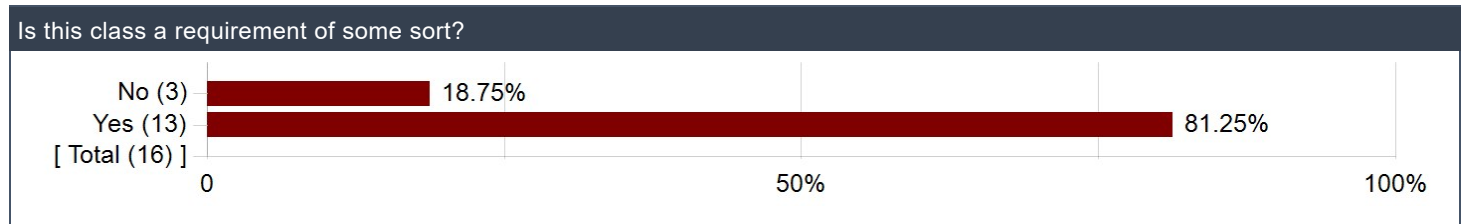
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Sonia was not a good TA. I felt she was unapproachable and gave snide, almost passive–agressive remarks to questions asked on Ed Discussion. I ended up going to the other section's TA for help to avoid Sonia's condescending gaze. She also graded unreasonably harshly initially, and many people had to go over her head to ask the professor to regrade. Her grading improved after that.
Diego (other section's TA) was great. His office hours were very helpful to understanding how to approach pset problems.
Sania
Sania. She took off points for anything possible, such as penmanship and whenever she misread something.
Sania
Sania Zeb, not very helpful and very harsh grading with little feedback.
Sania is super knowledgeable about the topics covered in the course. Her explanations of the lectures were very clear, at times better than the professors. She was very helpful to me when I had any concerns or questions, and suggested good tips for understanding the expectations on the psets and final project. She was not very available outside her TA sessions and office hours.
Sania Zeb
Sania Zeb
Sania
The assistance provided by the TA (Sania) was often overshadowed by the condescending tone she took with students. For example asked about a pset question that was written in a confusing way, she tell the student that they should stop overcomplicating it and that if they understood basic economics they should understand the question... even when multiple students had the same issue regarding how a specific question was written. Many questions asked of her were responded to in this way. This is just one example, I'm sure other students will have others. People stopped attending her TA sessions and opted to go to the other TA's discussion section because trying to work with her was more trouble than it was worth.

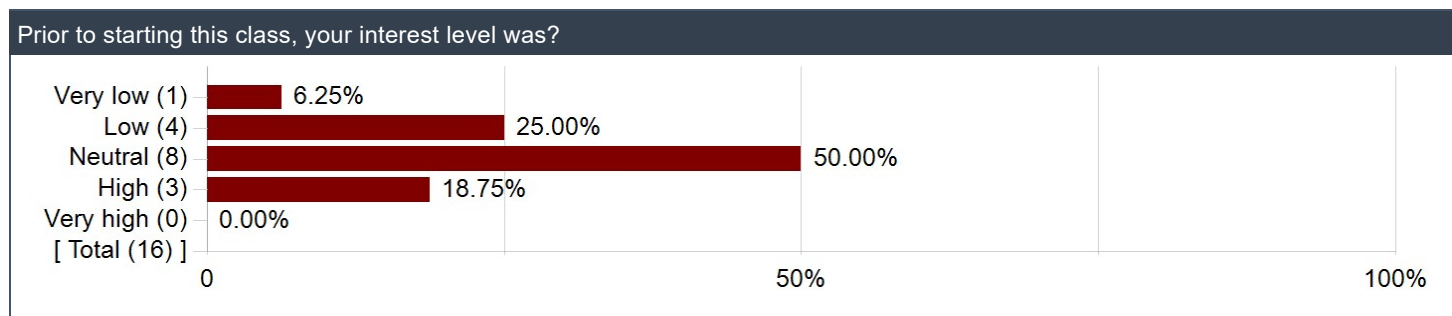
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	2.80	2.50	9.09%	36.36%	9.09%	36.36%	0.00%	9.09%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.42	4.00	8.33%	25.00%	8.33%	33.33%	25.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	2.64	2.00	9.09%	45.45%	18.18%	27.27%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.17	3.00	8.33%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%	16.67%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.25	3.50	8.33%	33.33%	8.33%	25.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.08	3.00	8.33%	33.33%	16.67%	25.00%	16.67%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	2.92	2.50	8.33%	41.67%	8.33%	33.33%	8.33%	0.00%

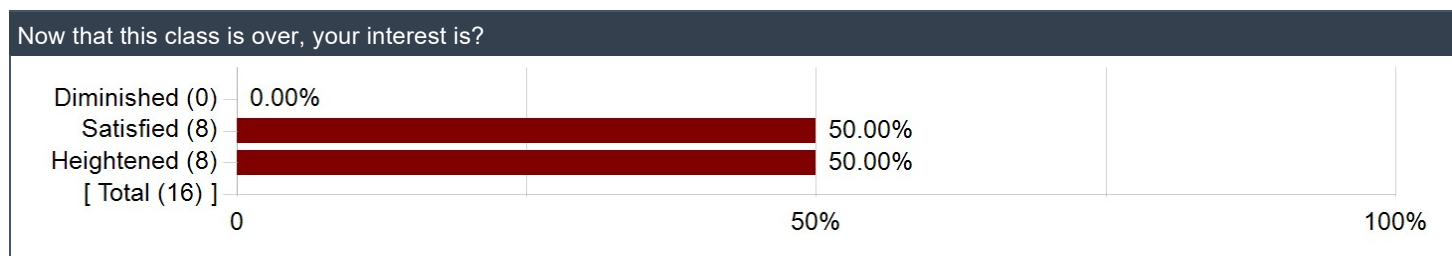
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



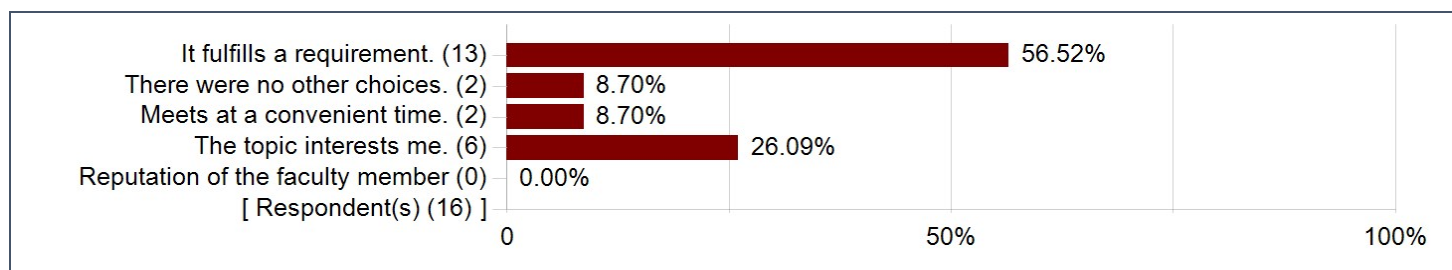
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



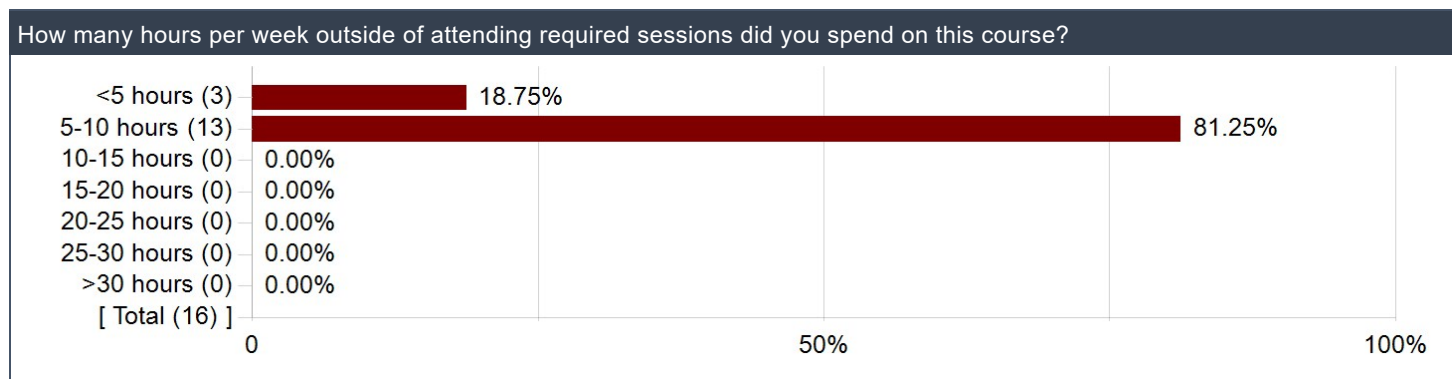
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



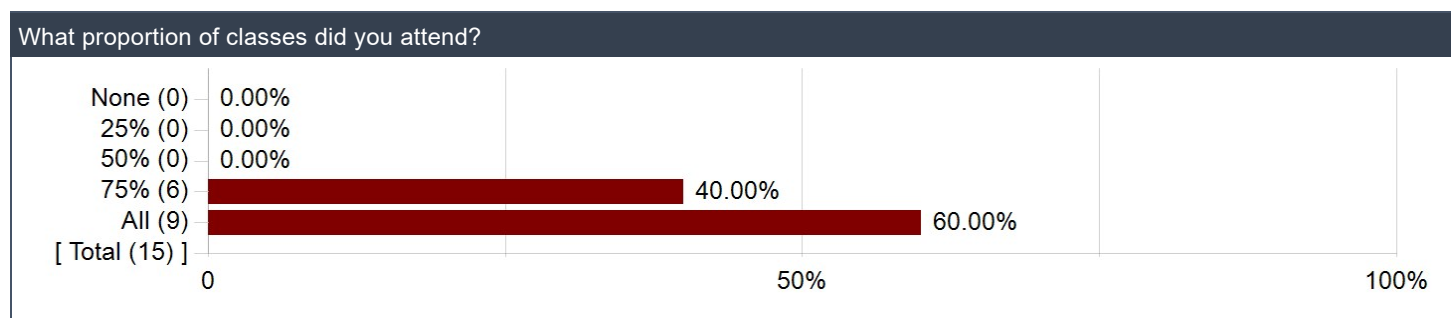
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
some of the concepts were a little advanced from what I was used to, but the professor was great with giving me all I needed to do well and learn everything in the course.
Easy having basically completed the econ major
Medium
This class seemed very challenging the first weeks but it's not actually that difficult if you put in the work every week. You cannot stay behind in this class.
Not very difficult!
It is slightly difficult, but all the assignments are doable and the professor is very, very willing to help. He will meet with you whenever you need and is able to fully explain topics in understandable ways. I definitely enjoyed the lectures and would recommend the professor.
Not too difficult
I've taken stat 220, intro to metrics, math 153. This was not bad at all.