



ECON 13310 2 - Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis: A Data Driven Approach - Instructor(s) - Oscar Galvez-Soriano

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

Number Enrolled: **51**

Number of Responses: **27**

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 |
|---|
| We learned some of the most important macroeconomic concepts, like Douglas Cobb function, Solow model, Ricardian equivalence, etc. The class involved doing quite a lot of math, mostly proving these aforementioned concepts, but also had a practical component since we analyzed real-world macroeconomic data. At the end of the class, we will also be doing a project which involves real-world data. |
| Economic models, monetary policy, fiscal policy |
| understanding of basic econ models |
| time series and how to do data analysis for macro economic trends |
| Developing a range of basic techniques for analyzing the impacts of fiscal and monetary policy. |
| solow growth model, two period model, ricardian equivalence, fiscal policy |
| I learned about the Solow Growth Model, Lagrangians, the Cobb–Douglas production function, the two period intertemporal model, and the consumer's lifetime budget constraint. |
| How to analyze Macroeconomic data in very practical ways. |
| How fiscal policy affects labor market. Intertemporal model. |
| Macroeconomic concepts that are applicable in the real world |
| Understanding classical macroeconomic models within a practical framework! Pretty interesting, and the professor made sure not to make it too rigorous while still challenging us. |
| Consumption theory, Production in the economy, monetary policy, fiscal policy etc. |
| Solow model, intertemporal model, consumer choice, investigating economic questions through a quantitative lens |
| Taylor Rule |
| in depth understanding of macro |
| macro models |
| applications of different macroeconomic principles, especially to a variety of real life countries |
| I learned about monetary policy. However, for actual take aways that I think will be useful for me is through the data analysis tools in excel. We had to use it for most p-sets and the final so I thought that gave me a lot of practice. |

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

| Comments |
|--|
| The lectures were helpful because they covered the concepts and introduced the mathematical proofs. The homework assignments closely mirrored the class notes, so they weren't too hard. The discussion sections focused more on how to analyze real-world data with Excel. |
| The midterm exam was fully composed from the assignment questions, and instead of the final exam we will be doing a project. |
| Two lectures per week with a discussion section that would go over answers to the problem sets. |
| psets expanded on things learned in lecture. The prof has a real understanding of what we knew and didn't know and was effective in teaching us everything we needed to understand the concepts. |
| the psets were very helpful for learning |
| Lectures helped to introduce the content and discussion sections / problem sets / final project allowed us to practice it. |
| lectures |
| Lectures were helpful for completing the PSETS |
| Professor Galvez-Soriano's office hours were instrumental to my learning. He made himself very available, and was very good at explaining concepts clearly and slowly in office hours. |
| Lectures were very helpful, PSETS were actually quite useful. |
| Lectures were very useful. Oscar is a very engaging lecturer and he is also very funny. You can tell he is incredibly passionate about what he teaches and wants you to learn for the sake of learning and not for fulfilling a requirement. He is always willing to meet outside of class even when he doesn't have scheduled office hours. I would recommend going to every lecture as not all the information is on the slides. Also, do all the p-sets several times to prepare for the midterm. |
| The lectures were great, and the PSets very well connected to class material. Professor Galvez-Soriano is a great lecturer; I appreciate how he walks around the class and engages with you instead of just standing at the blackboard for 80 minutes like with most other professors. Plus, he's funny and friendly. All around great experience showing up to class, and the lectures were definitely enough to understand course material. |
| Lectures/slides were helpful in learning the material |
| Lectures were amazing! Professor Oscar explained everything really clearly and used real data in addition to the theory. |
| Lectures were clear and very pertinent to the homework material. The assignments were not too difficult and drew on knowledge gained in class. |
| Professor GS was very passionate about the material he taught, which really helped me to learn. |
| lecture was good |
| lectures |
| The four problem sets were graded toughly but fairly, and doing them significantly helped on the midterm The final project was okay, but some more time to do it and receive feedback on it would have been nice |
| lectures, extra help from the professor, office hours, group study |
| Discussions were not too helpful, mostly just review of class. Helpful for midterm review. |

Please respond to the following:

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| This course challenged me intellectually. | 4.63 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 37.50% | 62.50% |
| I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it. | 4.58 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 8.33% | 25.00% | 66.67% |
| I understood the standards for success on assignments. | 4.54 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 4.17% | 4.17% | 25.00% | 66.67% |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments. | 4.63 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 8.33% | 20.83% | 70.83% |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work. | 4.54 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 8.33% | 29.17% | 62.50% |
| My work was evaluated fairly. | 4.67 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 33.33% | 66.67% |
| I felt respected in this class. | 4.71 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 29.17% | 70.83% |
| Overall, this was an excellent course. | 4.68 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 4.00% | 24.00% | 72.00% |

Additional comments about the course:

| Comments |
|--|
| Take this class if you want to learn macro theory and be prepared to be doing lots of math proofs. |
| not terribly confusing, especially if you have already taken any sort of metrics class |
| The class slides are very confusing. While the Professor is very clear about what you need to know on the PSETs and midterm, and those concepts are not exceedingly complex, some of the math covered in class that we were not tested on was difficult to follow. I would have benefitted spending more time on the applications of the models we were being tested on instead of learning this math that was hard to understand that we wouldn't be tested on. The Professor also talked about different options for the final project throughout the quarter, but many of those projects required skills like Stata that we weren't taught in the course — as a result, most people chose a final project that only required Excel. I think designing more final projects that only require excel would be helpful. |
| Wonderful professor and interesting course even for people who don't have the best math skills. |
| Super interesting class for all Econ majors! I would definitely recommend it. |
| Great course |
| Oscar is a fantastic professor – definitely one of my favorites in the econ department. This class is somewhat new but I would really recommend it as a Macro Methods course!! |
| Graders were sometimes super nitpicky. PSET grading was reasonable for the most part, as was the midterm. My group lost 5 whole points on our final project because two tables were labeled as "figures" and put a screenshot of our regression outputs instead of putting them into a table. That was crazy. But as long as you factor in the fact that sometimes the graders are out to get you, you can probably get a 100 on most things. |
| N/A |
| good, hard material but manageable |

I would recommend this course to:

| | No | Yes |
|---|-------|---------|
| Highly-motivated and well-prepared students | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| Anyone interested in the topic | 0.00% | 100.00% |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| Definitely going over the slides in class and doing mathematical proofs. Office hours were also helpful, and professor Galvez–Soriano is always readily available, even on the weekends. |
| Oscar is an enthusiastic lecturer that clearly cares about the material he is teaching. |
| step by step answers and effective answering of questions |
| Oscar is awesome. he's an incredible professor and makes a super boring topic very interesting. one of the few econ professors that make a class like that interesting. |
| Prof. Galvez is the best! It's clear how passionate he is about the topic and it makes the class a great deal more engaging. He's great at inviting and answering our questions and making sure we get as much help as possible. |
| lecture |
| His evident passion for everything that he was teaching us |
| Availability in office hours and willingness to slow down and let students ask questions during the class. He was very approachable and never made you feel like any question was insignificant. |
| He was very helpful, especially in office hours. |
| His willingness to explain things slowly and with kindness and his disposition to meet outside of class |
| I liked the class structure. One late midterm and a final project was a godsend as a graduating senior. Additionally, Prof Galvez–Soriano is very clear about what to expect on the midterm and is very helpful on the PSets. Love not wasting time on exam after exam. |
| Lectures were very helpful |
| Prof. Galvez–Soriano is great. Really kind and honestly incredibly passionate about what he studies. Even for PSETS and the final exam, expectations were clearly outlined and fair. |
| Professor Oscar is one of the best teachers I have had during my time at UChicago. The Economics department is very lucky to have him and I hope that he stays there for a long time. He always quickly responded to emails and was always available outside of class if we had questions. The class is also really well structured and the content could be helpful for any major! |
| In–class notes from lectures and discussion sections |
| Clarity and humor in lectures, which made the material more engaging |
| His passion for what he taught. |
| walking through concepts in class and answering questions |
| lectures |
| He was fun but also very educational, both of which are things that I think are quite crucial in a modern learning environment. |
| examples and relevant applications |
| He was really nice, and offered help a lot. However, the topic is just not the most interesting for me so it was difficult. |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

| Comments |
|--|
| The engagement in class was quite low, so maybe doing something a bit more interactive. |
| nothing much. you're a beast oscar |
| Not much... I had Prof. Galvez for Econometrics and wanted to take this course because of him. |
| n/a |
| Less math that we are not tested on, more time explaining intuition and applications of the models; realistically I'm going to forget how to derive the solow growth model after graduation. |
| Maybe add more content to the lecture slides. |
| Nothing! Oscar is great! |
| N/A |
| A bit less focus on formatting on the homework assignments. Nothing else, really. |
| N/A |
| more examples? |
| none |
| More descriptive feedback would have been nice |
| extra help time |

The Instructor . . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Organized the course clearly. | 4.63 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 37.50% | 62.50% | 0.00% |
| Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding. | 4.67 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 33.33% | 66.67% | 0.00% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful. | 4.62 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 4.17% | 0.00% | 20.83% | 62.50% | 12.50% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course. | 4.50 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 12.50% | 25.00% | 62.50% | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 4.71 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 29.17% | 70.83% | 0.00% |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content. | 4.67 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 33.33% | 66.67% | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.61 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 8.70% | 21.74% | 69.57% | 0.00% |
| Motivated you to think independently. | 4.52 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 12.50% | 20.83% | 62.50% | 4.17% |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. | 4.75 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 25.00% | 75.00% | 0.00% |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.67 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 33.33% | 66.67% | 0.00% |

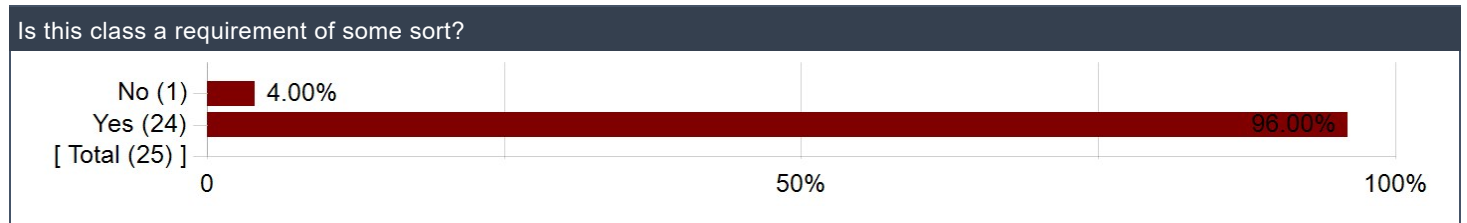
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

| Comments |
|--|
| Diego Gonzalez held the discussion sections, was helpful and taught us some basic excel. We also went over some questions. The office hours were always during my other classes, so can't speak to the quality of those. |
| Diego. he was awesome. happy to help out during office hours and very kind. it's a shame he's a barca fan tho. |
| Diego Almau. Diego ran discussion sections and graded our work. Overall, I think he did a great job! |
| diego |
| Diego was a great TA. He was extremely kind during office hours and was always very helpful with explaining PSET questions. He was patient and thoughtful and with the Professor, made this class a great learning experience. |
| Diego. Diego was really nice and explained things very clearly. He also understood that the topic was difficult for a lot fo students who don't come from a math background ad was generous with giving credit if we had good economic intuition. Amazing TA! |
| Diego's TA sessions seemed fine but he was very slow in getting feedback back to students |
| Diego Almau Gonzalez |
| Diego Almau Gonzalez |
| Diego |
| Diego |
| Terrible with names They could've given better feedback on course assignments (I know they graded them) They also told us verbatim that they grade us harsher because they "expect us to cheat," which is a) demoralizing and b) incentivizing students to cheat |
| Diego Almau Gonzalez |
| Diego, he ran discussions well and what helped me a lot was that he scheduled a midterm review session for a time when the people at discussion were available. |

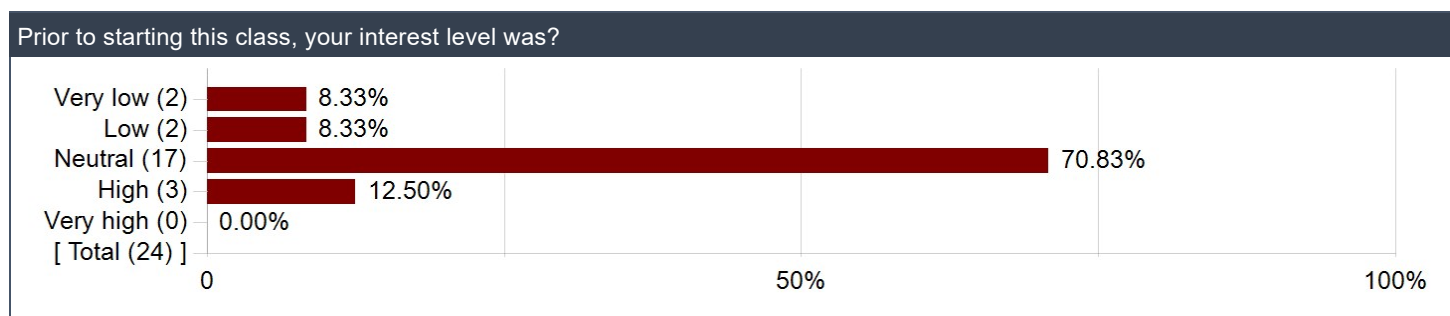
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Facilitated discussions that supported your learning. | 4.71 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 26.32% | 63.16% | 10.53% |
| Gave you useful feedback on your work. | 4.42 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 5.00% | 5.00% | 30.00% | 55.00% | 5.00% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class. | 4.42 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 15.79% | 26.32% | 57.89% | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 4.42 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 21.05% | 15.79% | 63.16% | 0.00% |
| Helped you succeed in the class. | 4.53 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 10.53% | 26.32% | 63.16% | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.63 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 5.00% | 25.00% | 65.00% | 5.00% |
| Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.53 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 10.53% | 26.32% | 63.16% | 0.00% |

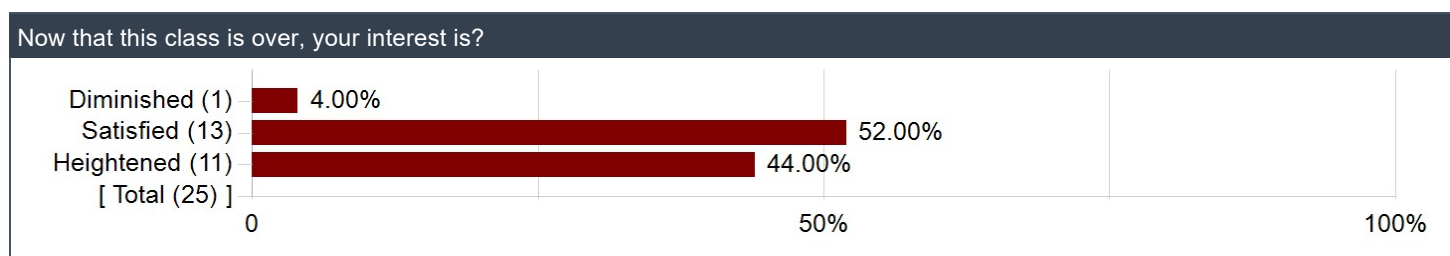
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



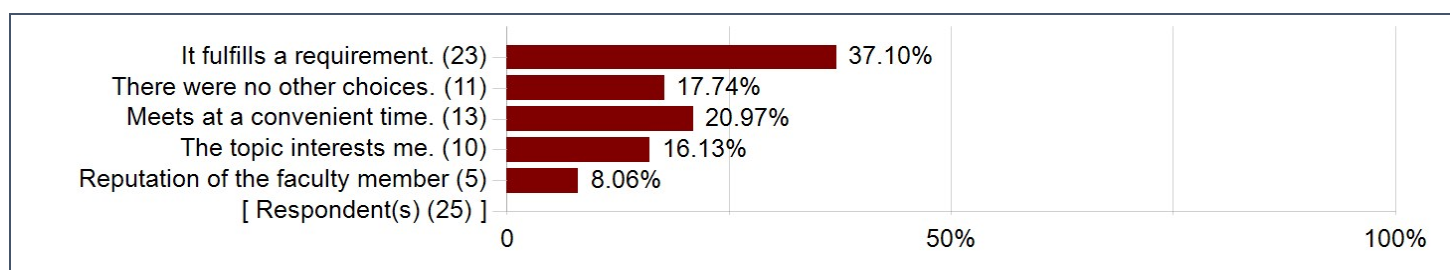
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



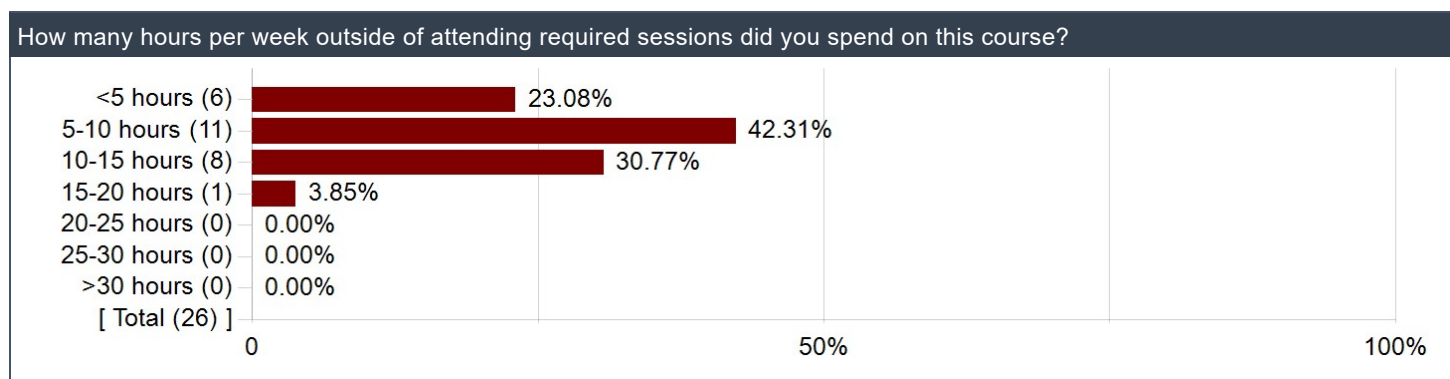
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



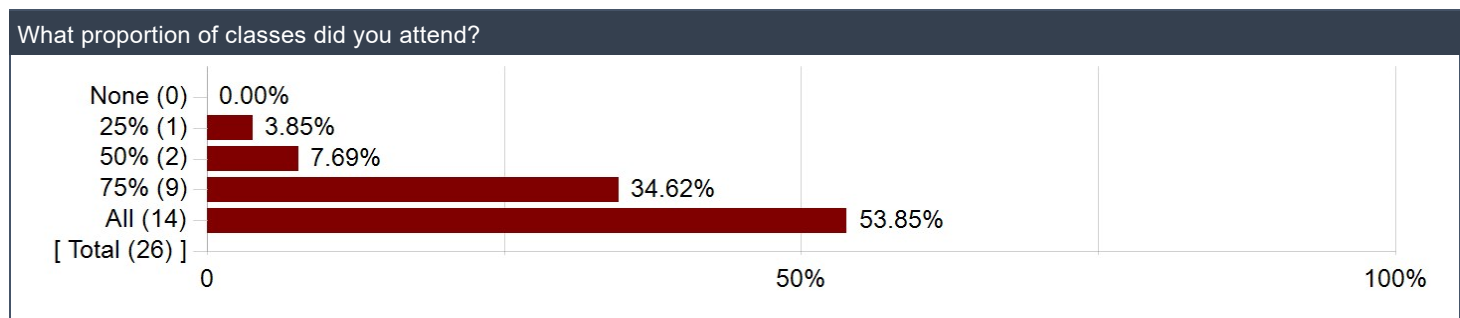
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 |
|---|
| Not super easy but manageable |
| Similar/slightly easier than Intro to Metrics |
| Not tough at all! |
| Moderately difficult. Some of the content was a lot to remember but definitely doable |
| For most business econ majors, I would say that this class will initially appear harder than any class you have previously taken (as a fourth year). However, the class is actually very manageable — while the PSET content is difficult, the instructor is very transparent about what you need to know for exams. I took the calc 130s sequence and did not find the math challenging after being reminded how to take a partial derivative. |
| It is challenging, but there are many resources to help you. |
| I am a bizecon major with poor math abilities and although the beginning of the course seems daunting it all becomes clear after a few classes with Oscar and you realize there's not that much math involved. Everything we claculated was in excel so no coding experience is needed. Exam was very fair and generous – exactly mirrors p-sets. The final project was fun and the professor provides a lot of help if you ask for it. Overall, I would recommend this class over something like game theory, money and banking or investments. It is well paced and has a lot of practical applications |
| Previous econometrics experience makes this class very easy. Still very manageable without a background in econometrics or statistics. |
| Course was reasonable based on my background (business econ/stats) |
| Easy if you put in the effort to try to understand the content |
| A bit difficult but office hours helped significantly |
| I'm a fourth-year econ major with some background in Stata (no other coding experience). The material was interesting and sometimes challenging, but not difficult enough to be unmanageable or cause a ton of stress. |
| Very fair as a 3rd year cs + bizcon student. 7/8 questions on the midterm were straight from the PSETs, so if you study you automatically do well. And 90% of the PSET problems are explained/solved in class on the blackboard. |
| I love economics, and this class helped broaden my knowledge |
| not hard but need micro and macro, preferably not sanderson because he is easier relatively. Need decent math background |
| It was a fair challenge |
| Its fine for the requirement but its not the most interesting if you don't like macro econ in general. However the prof was great and so I think it was the best of the options for me. |