



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

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2025**

Number Enrolled: **56**

Number of Responses: **19**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

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

Comments
We learned about different macroeconomic models and looked at real data to analyze and better understand business cycles, economic growth, production, and more. There's also quite a bit of Excel that you're expected to be able to use.
I learned so much about macroeconomic analysis and just general core econ skills in an extremely helpful and engaging way.
macro models
I learned about a lot of economic theories like Friedman, Keynes, Robert Lucas, Robert Solow
how to create graphs using FRED data
Various models that quantify or measures economic growth, consumption behavior, monetary policy and fiscal policy. I learned to better construct tables and graphs.
solow model, federal reserve policy, etc.
Delved DEEP into macroeconomic theory and analysis, way more than ECON 10200. Rewarding stuff.
macro models in excel and proofs
Through this course, I learned about how to analyze the economy and various macroeconomic models. This class focused on building up from models learned in Principles to Macroeconomics while emphasizing the interactions of newly learned models and presenting concepts in a more complex manner.
Practical skills when it comes to evaluating macroeconomics
Learned about times series and how that related to macroeconomics.
How to correctly interpret data and theories in macroeconomics.
Introducing various economic models
Data

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

Comments
Lectures were good though I wish notes were posted because it was very difficult to keep up with material, especially if you had to miss a class. I also think we were given far too many assignments and in a 9 week quarter, it is so challenging to finish everything. The monthly reports in particular were unreasonable because students have classes and it gives students with more classes on a certain day a disadvantage with the report.
TA + discussion was very helpful and always super informative and email response rate/time was superb.
The lectures were the best
i was so lost every single lecture. the slides did not capture all the material we needed to know, so it felt unfair to people who are not auditory learners. i went to every single lecture but really struggled.
Lectures are very useful – the professor often only states what will be important for the Midterm / Final during lectures.
The lectures slides are very informative, and the teachers gave detailed instructions on the mathematical deductions on the equations and formula of the covered materials
Lectures are good, but tbh Oscar is one of the most receptive professors re: responding to emails and in office hours. His care for your learning as an individual shines. One of the reasons I took this class was because of a course eval saying Oscar is a beast; I can confirm that Oscar is indeed a beast.
good lectures really need to attend them
Lectures were very helpful and I think instrumental to learning in this class. The discussion did not feel very helpful, though it did sometimes teach about the more technical aspects of parts of the problem sets or go over review questions. I did not really go to TA office hours but the professor made sure that he was available to help with any questions we had during his own office hours.
Lectures were most helpful
The slides were very extensive.
Lectures and assignments were helpful
good content

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This class challenged me intellectually.	4.31	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	43.75%	43.75%
I understood the purpose of this class and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.81	4.00	0.00%	18.75%	6.25%	50.00%	25.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.81	4.00	0.00%	18.75%	6.25%	50.00%	25.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.94	4.50	6.25%	18.75%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.81	4.00	0.00%	18.75%	12.50%	37.50%	31.25%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	12.50%	43.75%	37.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.31	4.50	0.00%	6.25%	6.25%	37.50%	50.00%
I felt comfortable expressing my ideas freely in this class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	31.25%	37.50%
Overall, this was an excellent class.	3.94	4.00	6.25%	12.50%	6.25%	31.25%	43.75%

Additional comments about the class:

Comments
I 10000% recommend this class to any uchicago econ student, Oscar Galvez–Soriano is an SSS+ tier god level professor, he's super charismatic and approachable and you will have a good time in the class and will learn effectively. It's not too hard just pay attention and you will do well and learn a lot.
Dr. Soriano is great
I think this course has changed a lot. people used to recommend it, but it has become way too hard. i do not recommend with its current structure. Also, this course is marketed as extremely valuable for career preparation, but I think the prof assumes we all want to work for the central bank. It would have been more helpful if he actually taught us Excel graph formatting stuff instead of expecting us to figure it out.
Assignments were not really helpful as they covered a lot of the math but not a lot of the intuition – exams were both multiple choice and all intuition based. Lecture notes are also not posted after class, so unless you go to every lecture it is very hard to keep up with the course content.
don't take if you don't enjoy math (it's not difficult math, but it's more than most biz–con)
This class was difficult, but Professor Galvez–Soriano made it very entertaining. He made sure that our concerns were addressed and was always ready to go over confusing concepts multiple times.
The final exam significantly diverged from the material and formats emphasized during the quarter. Additionally, the midterm was unexpectedly administered in a multiple–choice format, despite no practice materials or prior exams reflecting that structure. These decisions, made without adequate communication or preparation, created an environment that felt misaligned with the instructional content and student expectations. Overall I wouldn't recommend the class.
I did not like the exam structures

I would recommend this class to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	18.75%	81.25%
Anyone interested in the topic	18.75%	81.25%

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

Comments
Lectures!
His ability to make concepts engaging, funny, or relatable (to his/our experiences or real world).
Great class, Soriano uses theory and real world data at the perfect balance
not sure
Prof. Soriano hold many office hours that is so helpful to both homework, final project, and exam. He is a very kind and approachable instructor.
Oscar is EXCEPTIONALLY helpful and available outside of class, and even outside of office hours if you ask for extra help!
engaging lecturer
Honestly when I was confused, I think his office hours were the most helpful for learning. Lectures also were helpful because they expanded on concepts and often provided additional insight last what the lecture slides included.
Prof Galvez–Soriano is really committed to teaching this class well, and that's something that I really appreciated. He was also helpful in building our intuitions when it came to most models.
The group project.
Lots of examples to go over
the course

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Please post lecture notes! I understand that not posting is to incentivize students to come to class, but ultimately the final and midterm can test for students' knowledge of material and sometimes it is hard to make it to class when other things come up.
Maybe make the notes more intuitive with regards to exam content, I feel like the posted notes weren't super helpful on the midterm for a large chunk of it. I'm a very academically dedicated student and I learn a lot in this class but I did meh on the midterm, but the midterm average was really really low and I did better than the average but still I think it's not that the midterm was <i>*too*</i> hard it's that the notes weren't informative for a lot of its content.
Nothing
slides need to capture all exam material to be accessible for students of all learning backgrounds. also, hold office hours at a time more students are awake.
Towards the end of the quarter, there was a group project, including a presentation and the final exam itself. As the presentations were not graded, they did not really add much value and came at an already busy time for most people. Might be more beneficial to submit a draft of the paper to get feedback instead of presenting them in class.
I think the professor should maintain a clear standard for the order of the presentation. He said that the order of presentation is random decided from the beginning, but some students got to present first by simply asking him during the class. This is kinda unfair because some students might simply want to present first so that they do not need to come to the class, while some students prefer to present first because they have a busy week and want to receive feedback early in order to revise their project. Indeed, less than half of the students came to the class after the first presentation. Therefore, I think the professor should maintain a consistent standard on the order of the presentation. Moreover, I think the professor should develop some better mechanisms to keep track of each individual student's contribution to the group project. This is probably an inevitable problem of group project, but the professor did mention that students will get penalized if they are found to be free-riding. Clearly, some students simply did not contribute enough, and they don't deserve a grade that was hard earned by the other members of the group. Therefore, I wish the instructor can improve the final project procedures in order to hold students more accountable, which thus incentivizes students to contribute more equitably toward the final project.
Not much tbh, loved the class
better grading on mid term, mc format for wrong options and missed options was brutal
Maybe more interactive lectures
I think that more examples would be helpful when it came to some of the math heavy portions of the course, especially at the start of the quarter.
It is as good as it is.
More practice with various situations
better slides

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the class clearly.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	6.67%	20.00%	6.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.93	4.00	0.00%	13.33%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	6.67%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.20	5.00	0.00%	20.00%	6.67%	6.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	26.67%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the class content.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	13.33%	0.00%	40.00%	46.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.07	5.00	0.00%	20.00%	13.33%	6.67%	60.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	21.43%	57.14%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.27	5.00	6.67%	0.00%	13.33%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.27	5.00	6.67%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	53.33%	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 Zeb
Saskia and Sania are both awesome, great exam prep and great email responses and in a timely manner! 10/10 TA's
minimal interaction.
Discussion sections were not that helpful as they just went over what was done in class / the assignments. TAs were helpful but were not the best at explaining concepts covered in class.
Sania Zeb. I think the TA should have a more solid understanding of the materials. Sometimes, she could not explain a concept or a formula clearly and have to resorted to intuition.
Saskia Wright, Sania Zeb

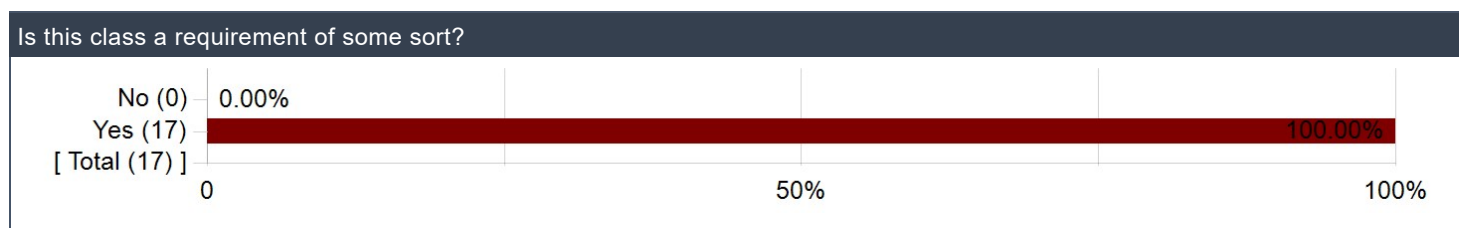
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	22.22%	11.11%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	22.22%	11.11%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.50	3.00	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	11.11%	22.22%	11.11%
Challenged you to learn.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	22.22%	33.33%	11.11%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	22.22%	11.11%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	22.22%	11.11%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.63	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	33.33%	22.22%	11.11%

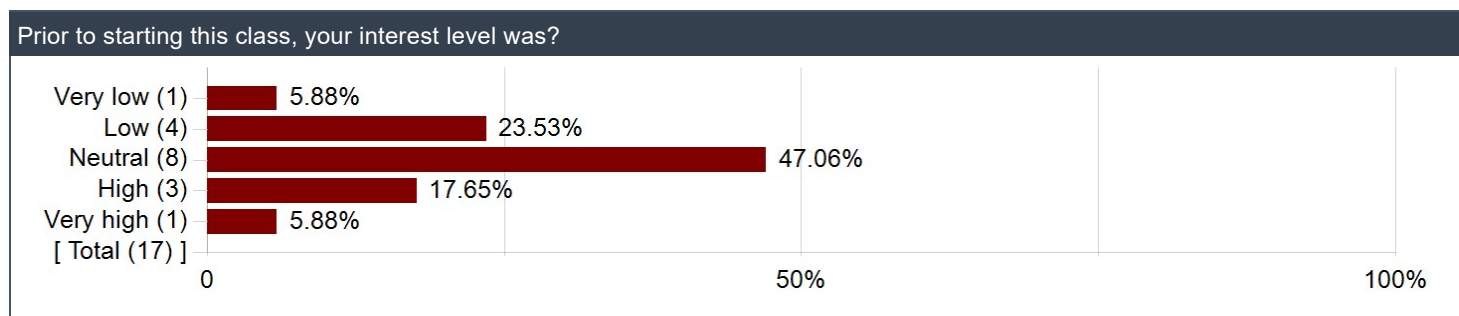
How much did the following elements of the class contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	2.00	2.00	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

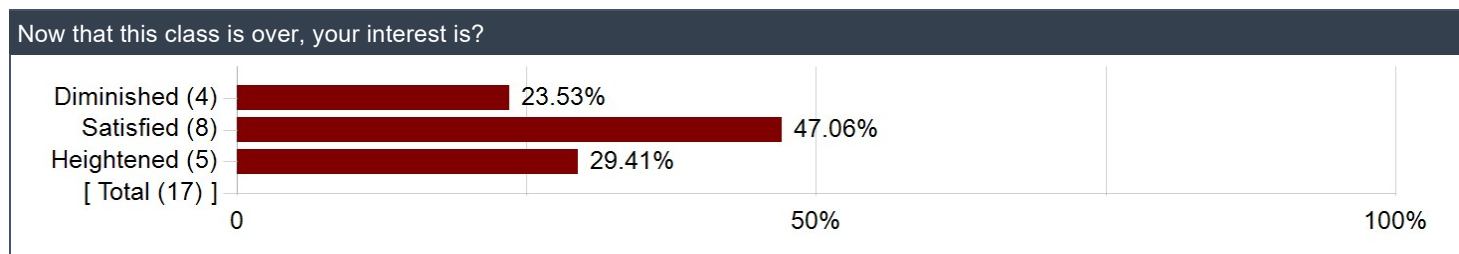
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



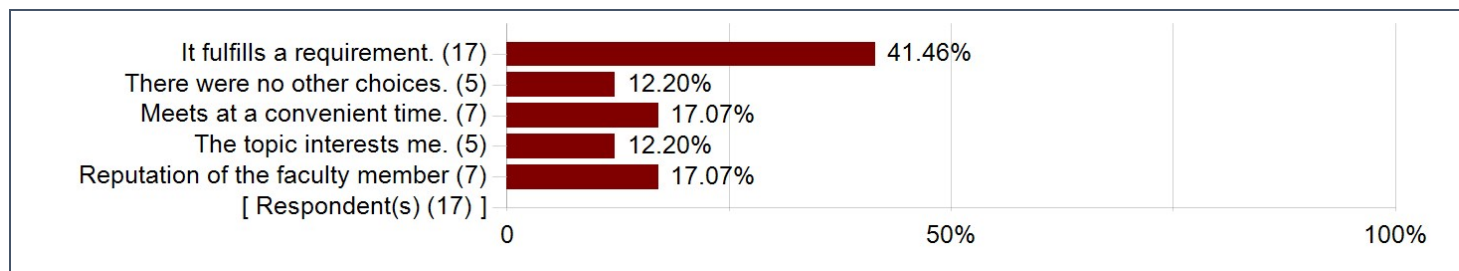
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



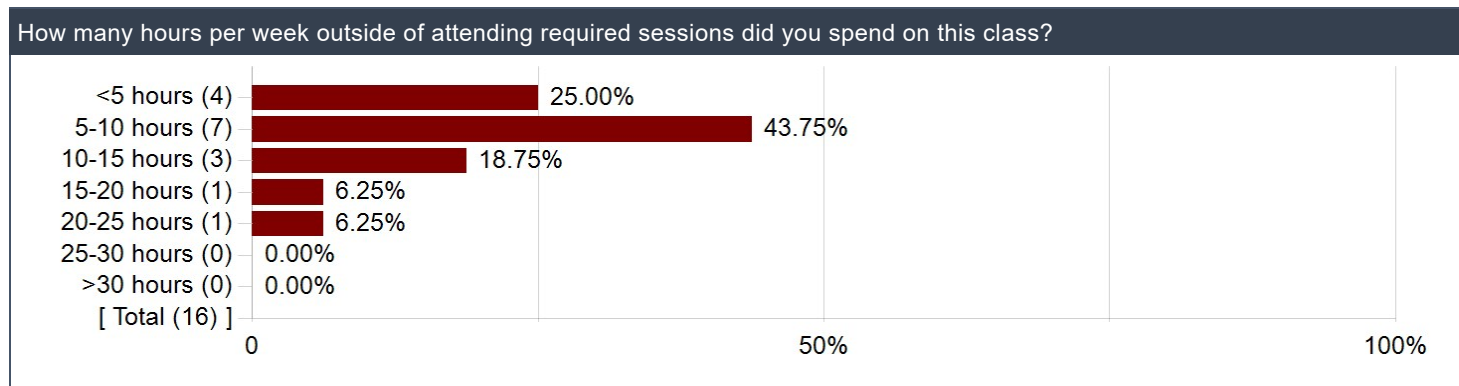
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



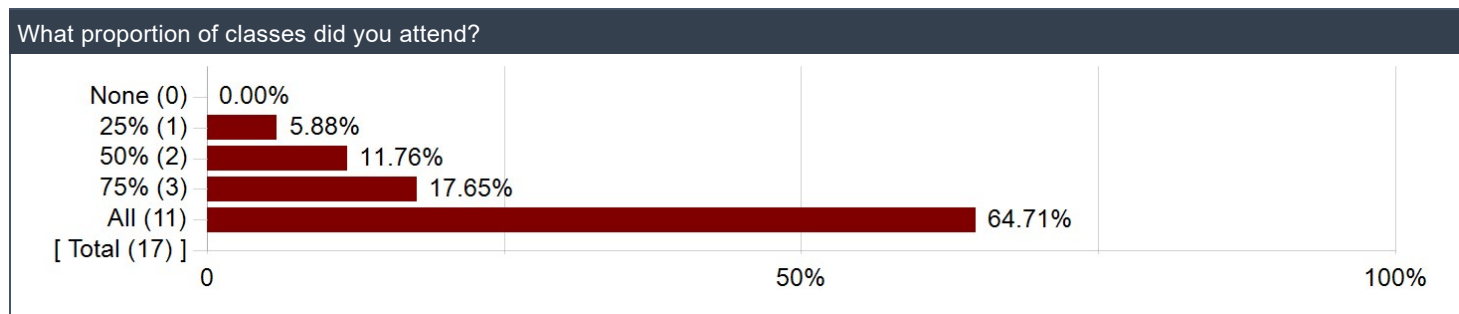
Why did you choose to take this class? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
I found it to be pretty difficult but that is mostly because macro is just hard to grasp
I feel like anyone can do this class, just don't be lazy or dumb and you will do just fine lol
moderately difficult midterm
One of the harder macro methods
very difficult for no reason. i don't even feel like i learned anything useful
If you have limited math background, can be a little difficult. Easier if you have taken stats or econometrics recently before this class.
The course is not hard at all because a lot of concepts are built upon ECON 100 and 102. If you read some other feedbacks on the difficulty of the class or poor grades, it is probably because of the structure of the midterm and the final. The midterm and finals are all MCQs in this quarter. However, I think the course materials are very manageable; professor didn't quiz us on the hard core math. The final exams and midterms are also very doable if you simply memorize the contents in the slides and come to the class and learn actively. Most of the time, only about half of the students came to class.
It was harder than the course evals led me to believe, but I was able to succeed and do well. It is NOT easy, but it's not un-doable, and I enjoyed taking it.
It was difficult for me but the professor's teaching and assistance made it more achievable to understand the concepts. For me, it was a bit more mathematical/theoretical than I expected but I did end up with an understanding of the economy. The exams were very difficult though and I am not sure they allowed me to show my full understanding of the class content (class will be curved).
PESTs start out pretty math heavy, but the midterm and final were all multiple choice and were less about math and more about intuition
Neutral