

Periodic evaluation of ECON4330, Spring 2015
Course responsible: Marcus Hagedorn

This was the first time I taught this course (together with Nicolai Ellingsen)

The years before this course had been taught in the spring semesters by Asbjørn Rødseth.

The composition of students (46 registered, 33 took the exam) this semester was

22 (SVM2-ECON)

13 (SVM5-ECON)

11 (Andre)

For this evaluation the following data has been collected:

- Questionnaire answered by the students who took the course this semester. Of 46 students that signed up for the course, 10 answered the questionnaire, this equals a response rate of 22%
- Feedback from Nicolai Ellingsen , who taught half the course and all seminars, was obtained.
- Statistics provided by the study administration (students signed up, how many sat for the exam, grade distribution...)

The course has met the learning outcomes as described on:

<http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/oekonomi/ECON4330/>

The curriculum and teaching plan is described on:

<http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/oekonomi/ECON4330/v15/pensumliste/index.html>

Other comments:

In my view, a key learning outcome of an elective class is to acquire the competence to be able to make use of the concepts and methods that are introduced in the course and apply to new questions that the student may encounter in his/her own academic work or for example when working for the government.

The exam, at least one question, was designed to test this competence, which is arguably difficult. But once one applies the methods learned in the course, one can see that studying

transfers between two countries (the exam question) is very similar to studying a simultaneous productivity gain for one country and a loss for the other one.

As expected some of the students understood this, some did not. There was a concern among students that we were not aware that this question was difficult. But we were and graded accordingly. There were no complaints by students.

More specific comments on learning outcomes
(<http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/oekonomi/ECON4330/>):

The first four bullet points on the list was well covered in the second part of the course. We spent one lecture exclusively on international financial markets, with capital movements and exchange rates. This was also an important part of the rest of the lectures in different settings and under different policy regimes.

We also discussed how internal and external shocks affected the domestic economy and the flow of capital.

The next two bullet points was covered to a lesser extent in the last part of the course, we did not discuss traded and non-traded goods and was not explicit about competitiveness.

The last two points were covered, but perhaps to a lesser degree than indicated by the course web page. How policy actions and shocks are transmitted was not discussed to a large degree explicitly, but was an implicit part of almost all lectures.

I would strongly recommend to take ECON 4310 before ECON 4330 since the latter course builds on the concepts introduced in the first one.