Course evaluation ECON 1910 spring 2024

Halvor Mehlum

Syllabus: The syllabus consists of two textbooks: Books Banerjee, A. and Duflo, E., *Poor economics :* and Ray, Debraj, *Development economics*, . The two books are wide in scope and provide excellent background and detail to the many topics in development. In order to structure the lectures and to give all the non-econ students an introduction to economics Mehlum and Moene has prepared quite detailed lecture notes. These 90 pages of notes are the backbone of the lectures.

Teaching The teaching is done as old school auditorium lectures using chalk and blackboard. With Kalle Moene and Halvor Mehlum doing equal parts. There is a total of 13 sessions over 13 weeks, where the last is wrap up and term paper discussion. Almost all lectures were recorded on video and posted for students to recap what happened in class. In addition, there are six seminars/labs with solution of problem sets and exam essay preparations. These seminars are perhaps the most crucial part of learning for students where the bulk has never been exposed to economics before. There are posted solutions for each session (of varying level of detail) at Canvas. These are based on sketches by the lecturers supplemented with extra material from the seminar teachers.

Exam and term paper The exam is a three hour school exam with no aid. In order to sit the exam the student also has to have passed a mid-term take home essay. The mid-term essay provides valuable learning and exam preparation. Students get some written feedback while ethe main feedback is on a plenary lecture at the end of the course

Evaluation: We invited the students to submit standard evaluations before the second to last lecture. We invited the students to fill in the form before the break in last lecture. We got 10 responses from 100 + registered students. We take that to indicate that there is nothing massively wrong with the course. The students are generally vocal and active and we have gotten a number of inquiries directly from students. Of the 10 responses none are from our own econ programs. The bulk is probably from Development studies. The respondents are generally satisfied with lectures and seminars. The median response on the various questions is around 4. They were also happy with the seminar teachers.