Course Evaluation Report: ECON3820/4820 Spring 2024

The task

Write 300-700 words based on the evaluations, and feedback from seminar teachers and contact students. The report should answer the following questions:

1. What is working?
2. What can be improved?
3. What can you do to improve the course?

How we run the course

Each lecture is centered around a new theoretical concept, where the lecture tries to motivate it by way of real-world examples and present the intuition of the main theory but doesn't solve everything in detail. The problem sets expect students to solve theoretical models well beyond what we have time for in the lectures, but the problems correspond to the difficulty of the textbook, as many of them are from the book.

The survey

Throughout the semester, there has been 13-14 students in each lecture. We got 14 responses to the survey, indicating a 100% response rate.

What is working well?

1. **Students are satisfied**: A majority of students (86%) expressed satisfaction with the course, with 57% rating their satisfaction at 4 out of 5 and 29% giving a perfect score. This indicates a strong positive reception overall.
2. **They find the course interesting**: The course was found to be interesting by a significant majority of students, with 57% fully agreeing that the course was engaging.
3. **They really like the lectures**: The quality of lectures was highly rated, with a majority (64%) rating them at 5/5. The teaching materials, including curriculum and slides, were also well-received.
4. **They feel that they are learning**: Students felt that the course effectively contributed to their learning outcomes, with a majority rating the learning outcome from the course positively.

What isn't working that well?

1. **They find the course adequately difficult, but the workload to be easy:** 43% of students find the course adequately demanding, with equally many finding it a little too easy and a little too hard. At the same time, no student finds the workload very hard, and 43% put it at adequate and 43% at a little easy.
2. **They study few hours**: A significant portion of the students (57%) reported studying less than 5 hours per week for this course, suggesting that the course might not be challenging enough or fails to encourage deeper engagement.
3. **Student Community**: The student community aspect received mixed reviews, indicating a potential area for fostering a more vibrant and supportive learning environment.

4. **Some would like more examples and even less math in the lectures, while some want the lectures to be more complicated to increase engagement.**
5. **Seminars are generally well-liked, but hard and too fast-paced**: 9/14 students put the quality of the seminars at 4/5 or better, suggesting that they work well. They probably overstate the level of their own participation, and some complain that the seminars aren't interactive enough and are too fast-paced.

Possible improvements

There are some mixed messages here that are hard to address. On the one hand, the course is found to be interesting and the lectures well-received. Some would like them to be more complicated, while others would like me to slow down. My take home is that the lectures are structured about right.

But the course requires the students to put in a lot of work with the problem sets and the overall curriculum. And they don't seem to do that. Less than five hours is way too little for a 10-credit master's course. At the same time, they find the seminars too fast-paced, and the problem sets a bit too hard. This suggests to me that we haven't been able to motivate them to put in the effort.

Together with this year's seminar teacher, we will revise some of the problem sets to see if we can increase the student engagement and reduce the time required to solve the problems in the actual seminar.

An alternative that both makes the lectures more complicated and motivates the students to put in more effort, is to presume that they read the curriculum before the lecture, so that we can spend less time in the lectures covering basic theory. My experience from other courses, however, indicates that this is too ambitious.

Nettskjema

Course evaluation ECON3820/4820 spring 2024

Oppdatert: 5. mai 2024 kl. 22:28

The Department of Economics evaluates courses each time the courses are taught.

We ask that you spend 5-10 minutes to answer this course evaluation.

The feedback is very useful for teachers, the study administration and the Department leadership.

Background data

Which study programme do you attend?

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
One year unit Economics	0	0%	0%
Bachelor degree Economics	2	14.3%	14.3%
Economic Theory and Econometrics (5-year programme)	3	21.4%	21.4%
Economics	5	35.7%	35.7%
Another study programme at UiO	0	0%	0%
Study programme outside UiO	0	0%	0%
Singel course student	0	0%	0%
Exchange student	4	28.6%	28.6%
Other	0	0%	0%

Which study programme do you attend?

Antall svar: **0**

Dette spørsmålet har ingen svar

How many hours per week do you study in this course?

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
Less than 5 hours	8	57.1%	57.1%
5-10 hours	6	42.9%	42.9%
10-15 hours	0	0%	0%
More than 15 hours	0	0%	0%

Overall evaluation of the course

All in all, I am satisfied with the course. From do not agree (1) to fully agree (5)

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
1	0	0%	0%
2	0	0%	0%
3	2	14.3%	14.3%
4	8	57.1%	57.1%
5	4	28.6%	28.6%

I find the course to be interesting. From do not agree (1) to fully agree (5)

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
1	0	0%	0%
2	0	0%	0%
3	3	21.4%	21.4%
4	3	21.4%	21.4%
5	8	57.1%	57.1%

How difficult / demanding do you find the course to be? From very easy (1) to adequate (3) to very hard (5).

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
1	0	0%	0%
2	4	28.6%	28.6%
3	6	42.9%	42.9%
4	4	28.6%	28.6%
5	0	0%	0%

How is the work load in the course? From very easy (1) to adequate (3) to very hard (5).

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
1	1	7.1%	7.1%
2	6	42.9%	42.9%
3	6	42.9%	42.9%
4	1	7.1%	7.1%
5	0	0%	0%

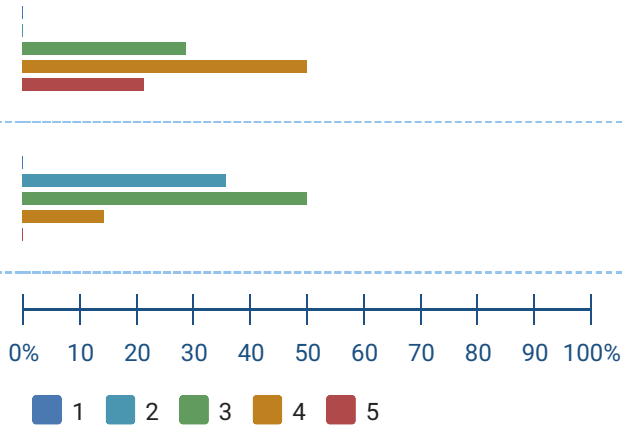
Did you learn about how the theory can be applied?

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
Yes	6	42.9%	42.9%
To some degree	8	57.1%	57.1%
No	0	0%	0%
Not applicable	0	0%	0%

Learning outcome and student community. Rate from very bad (1) to very good (5).

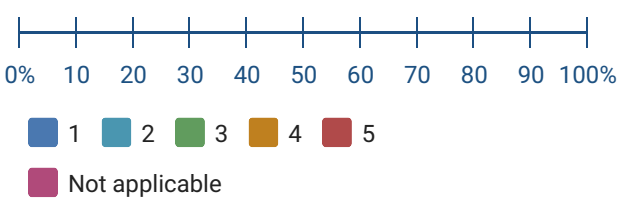
Svar	1	2	3	4	5	Diagram
Learning outcome from the course	0	0	4	7	3	
Student community	0	5	7	2	0	



Lectures

We will ask some questions about the lectures. Rate from very bad (1) to very good (5)

Svar	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable	Diagram
What do you think about the quality of the lectures?	0	1	2	1	9	1	
What do you think about the teaching material ? (curriculum , slides, videos etc)	0	0	1	6	7	0	



I show up well prepared for lectures

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
Yes	0	0%	0%
To some degree	9	64.3%	64.3%
No	4	28.6%	28.6%
Not applicable	1	7.1%	7.1%

Any tips as to how the lectures can be improved for future semesters?

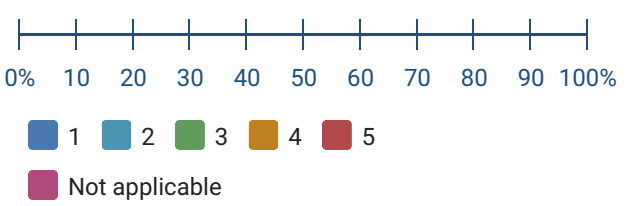
Antall svar: **3**

- Slower writing
- I learned a lot when he takes examples from the real world, and just don’t look at the Greek letters
- We could study more real life examples to understand more how what we learn can be applied. The lectures could also be more complicated, so that they are more engaging for students

Seminar teaching

We will ask some questions about the seminars. Rate from very bad (1) to very good (5)

Svar	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable	Diagram
What do you think about the quality of the seminars ?	1	2	2	8	1	0	
What do you think about the tuition activites ?	0	1	2	5	0	6	



Do you actively participate in seminars?

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
Yes	4	28.6%	28.6%
To some degree	5	35.7%	35.7%
No	5	35.7%	35.7%
Not applicable	0	0%	0%

I show up well prepared for seminars

Antall svar: **14**

Svar	Antall	% av svar	
Yes	3	21.4%	21.4%
To some degree	8	57.1%	57.1%
No	3	21.4%	21.4%
Not applicable	0	0%	0%

Any tips as to how the seminars can be improved for future semesters?

Antall svar: **2**

- More interactive. Some seminar questions are hard to prepare for before seminars. So maybe TA could walk through questions slower.
- Switch seminar leder, the guy goes too fast and gives us only 5 minste break

Do you have any other comments on the teaching in the course?

Antall svar: **2**

- Love Kristoffer
- Put the task out earlier