



2024 Fall Individual Report FAS-ECON 970-Tutorial - Sophomore Year T07 Magdalena Larrebourg

Project Title: **2024 Fall Harvard FAS Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **12**
Responses Received: **11**
Response Ratio: **92%**

Report Comments

Note:

The order that the questions appear on this report is not the same as the way the questions were displayed to students. The order has been changed to make the report more readable.

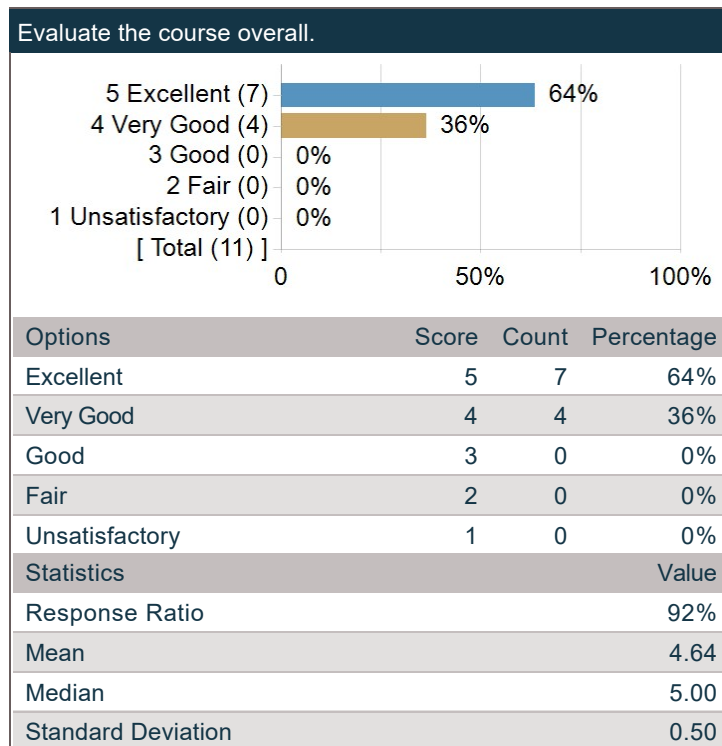
Creation Date: **Friday, June 13, 2025**

General Course Questions

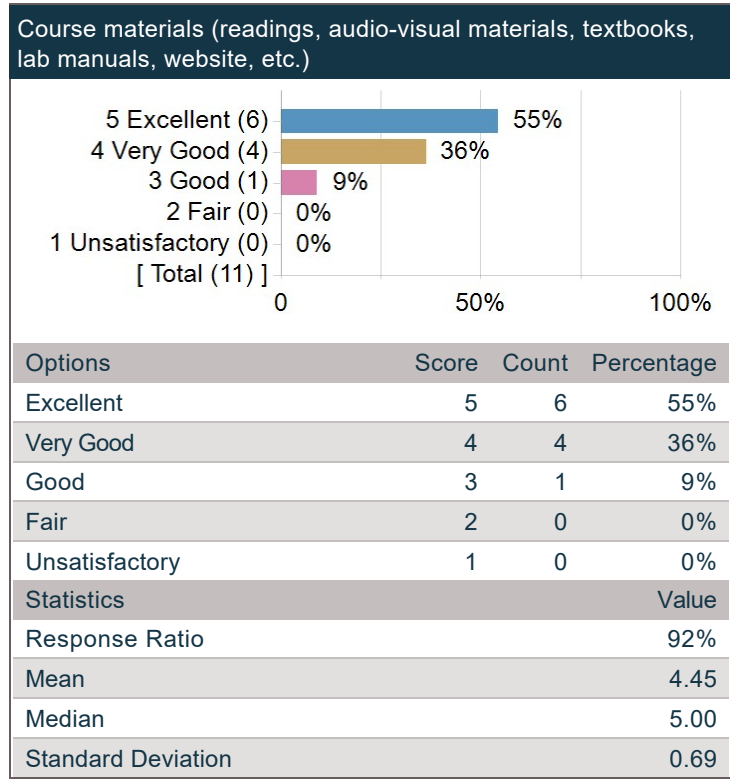
Course General Questions

	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Course Mean	Dept Mean	Division Mean
Evaluate the course overall.	11	64%	36%	0%	0%	0%	4.64	4.07	4.29
Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)	11	55%	36%	9%	0%	0%	4.45	4.03	4.25
Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)	11	45%	18%	27%	9%	0%	4.00	3.94	4.18
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course	11	64%	18%	18%	0%	0%	4.45	3.85	4.12
Section component of the course	8	88%	0%	13%	0%	0%	4.75	4.01	4.24

Evaluate the course overall.



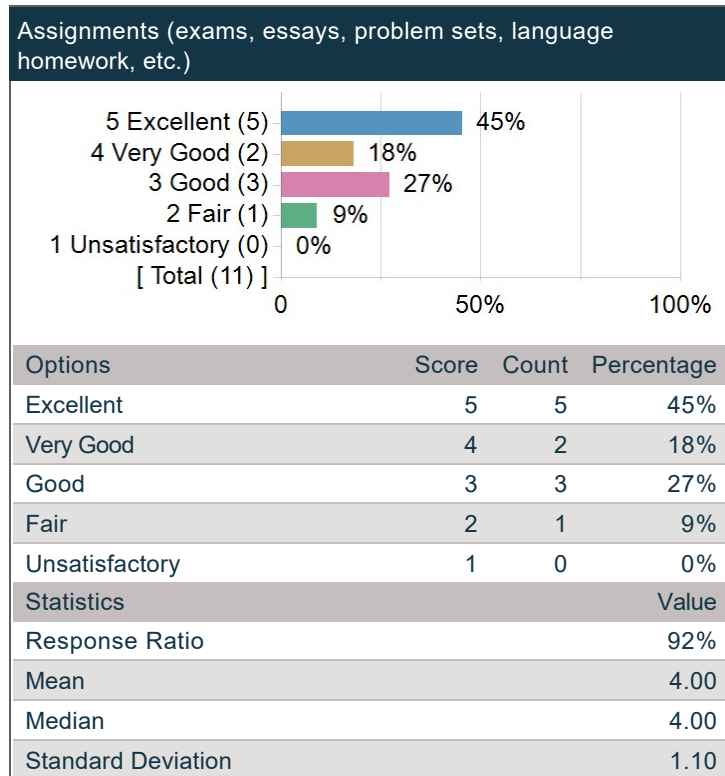
Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)



Add comments about course materials.

Comments
 Engaging readings.
 The papers were well curated. Sometimes they were a bit long but I think it was nice being able to go into detailed discussions of every paper.

Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)

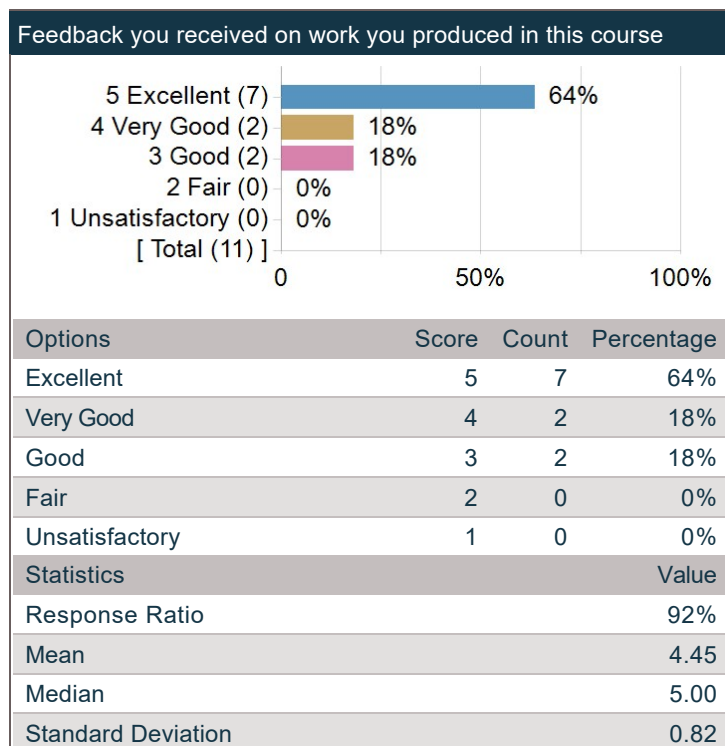


Add comments about course assignments.

Comments

I just would've preferred fewer writing assignments (even if that meant that they became longer).
 Very fair assignments.

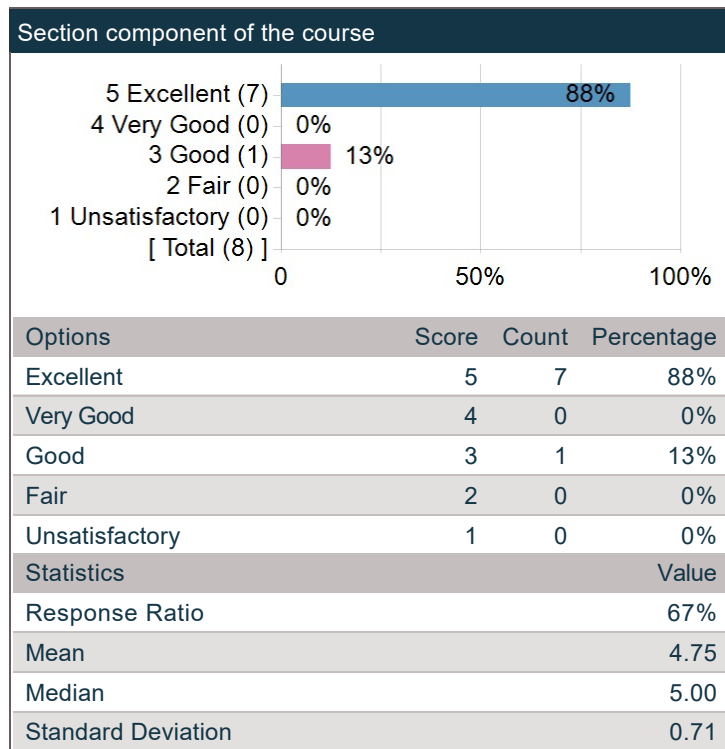
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course



Add comments about course feedback.

Comments
Feedback was always incredibly quick and helpful!!
Provided lots of detailed comments on writing and problem sets.
The feedback I received from Magdalena I think made me a better writer as the year progressed. The feedback was easy to understand and provided me with a variety of suggestions to keep improving. I was later able to apply them in the next writing assignment, so all the feedback I got felt productive.

Section component of the course



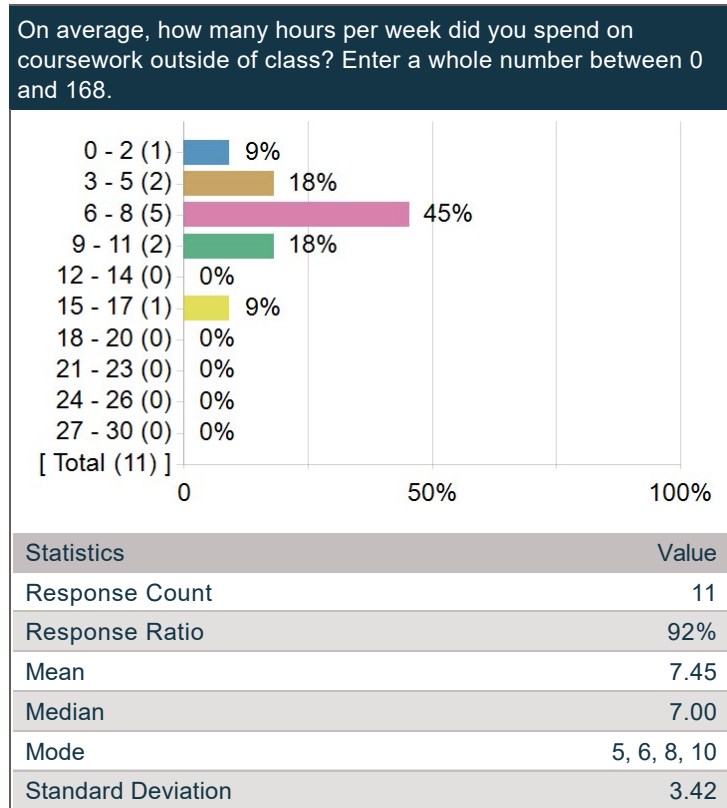
Add comments about the course section.

Comments
Course section was well structured and contributed greatly to my ability to read and analyze economic research, as well as ultimately produce my own.
Magdalena is super kind!! I think she grades harsher than other section leaders, but she is very understanding!

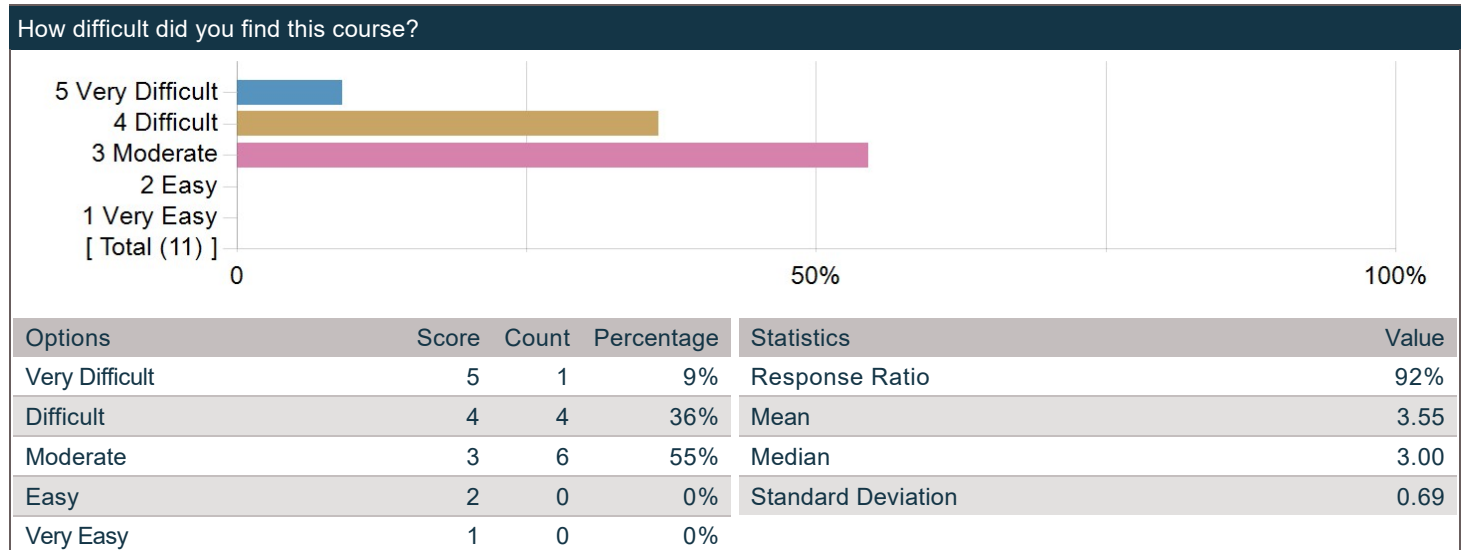
Requirements - What did this course require of you?

On average, how many hours per week did you spend on coursework outside of class? Enter a whole number between 0 and 168.

Frequency chart and mean excludes students who answered 31 or more hours.



How difficult did you find this course?

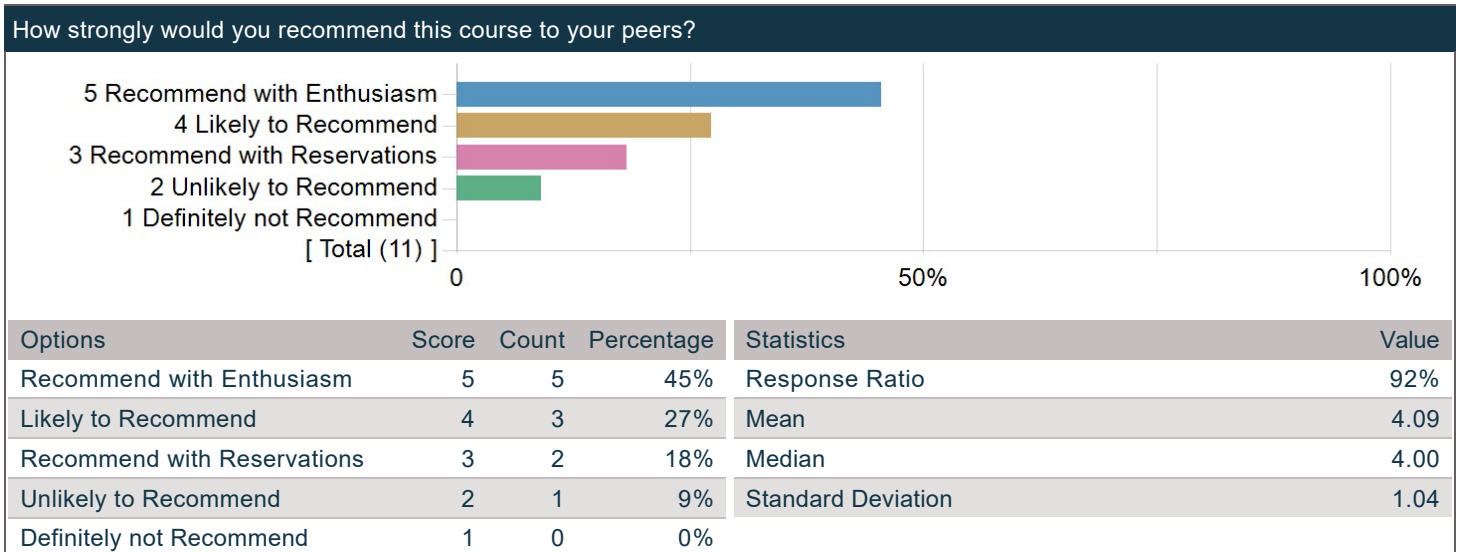


What was/were your reason(s) for enrolling in this course? (Please check all that apply)

Options	Count
Elective	0
Concentration or Department Requirement	11
Secondary Field or Language Citation Requirement	0
Undergraduate General Education Requirement	0
Expository Writing Requirement	0
Foreign Language Requirement	0
Pre-Med Requirement	0
Divisional Distribution Requirement	0
Quantitative Reasoning with Data Requirement	0

Recommendations - Would you recommend this course?

How strongly would you recommend this course to your peers?



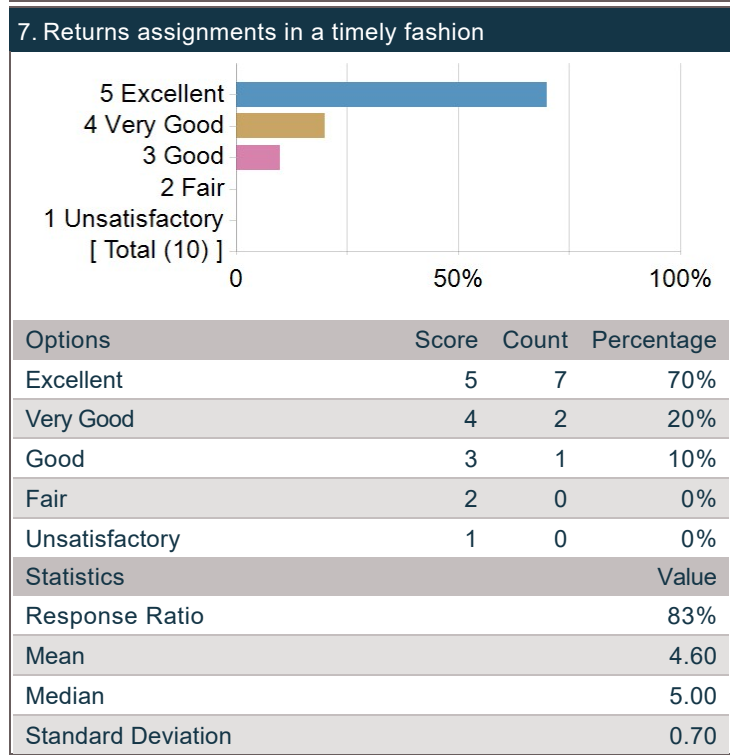
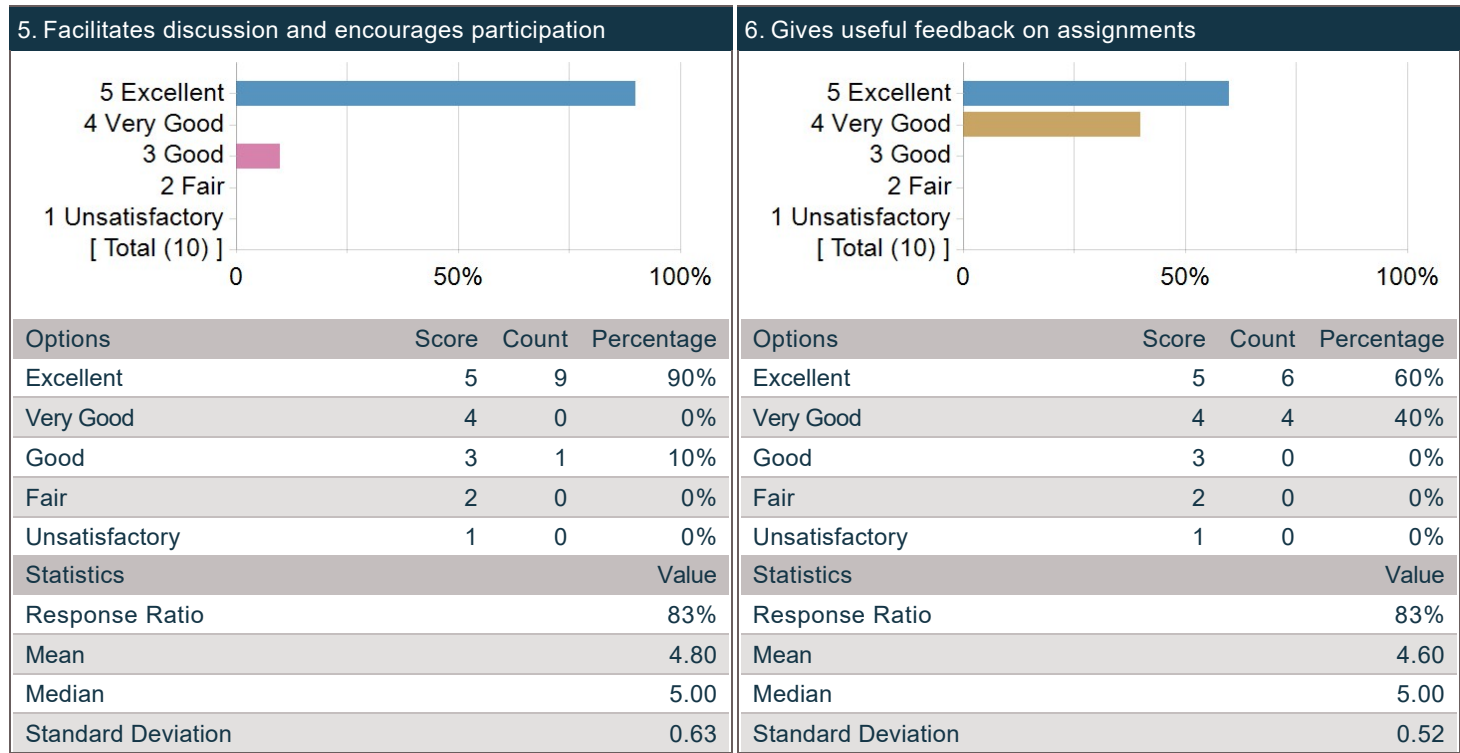
Evaluation of Instructors

General Instructor Questions

	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Instructor Mean	Dept Mean	Division Mean
Evaluate your Instructor overall.	10	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%	4.70	4.40	4.55
Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable	10	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	4.50	4.28	4.47
Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.)	10	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	4.80	4.37	4.48
Generates enthusiasm for the subject matter	10	70%	20%	10%	0%	0%	4.60	4.45	4.61
Facilitates discussion and encourages participation	10	90%	0%	10%	0%	0%	4.80	4.45	4.58
Gives useful feedback on assignments	10	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%	4.60	4.37	4.53
Returns assignments in a timely fashion	10	70%	20%	10%	0%	0%	4.60	4.40	4.54

Instructor

1. Evaluate your Instructor overall.					2. Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable				
<p>5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Unsatisfactory [Total (10)]</p>					<p>5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Unsatisfactory [Total (10)]</p>				
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	7	70%		Excellent	5	5	50%	
Very Good	4	3	30%		Very Good	4	5	50%	
Good	3	0	0%		Good	3	0	0%	
Fair	2	0	0%		Fair	2	0	0%	
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%		Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Response Ratio				83%	Response Ratio				83%
Mean				4.70	Mean				4.50
Median				5.00	Median				4.50
Standard Deviation				0.48	Standard Deviation				0.53
3. Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.)					4. Generates enthusiasm for the subject matter				
<p>5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Unsatisfactory [Total (10)]</p>					<p>5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Unsatisfactory [Total (10)]</p>				
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	8	80%		Excellent	5	7	70%	
Very Good	4	2	20%		Very Good	4	2	20%	
Good	3	0	0%		Good	3	1	10%	
Fair	2	0	0%		Fair	2	0	0%	
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%		Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Response Ratio				83%	Response Ratio				83%
Mean				4.80	Mean				4.60
Median				5.00	Median				5.00
Standard Deviation				0.42	Standard Deviation				0.70



General Course Questions - Comments

What were the strengths of this course? Please be specific and use concrete examples where possible.

Comments
The topic of the course and the readings are very interesting! As someone with a minimal background in the environment, I found this course to be accessible and engaging at the same time. The syllabus was written very well!
The course was very well taught and engaging.
I loved this class!!! It was a great way to introduce students to the intersection between political economy and the environment, and I really liked the fact that it was more theory-based, with STATA taught on the side. I was really able to learn about current and classic past literature in the field, and understand the relevance of the field as well.
I really enjoyed the dynamic structure of this course. The weekly discussions on economic papers covered a variety of topics, which kept the content engaging. Additionally, the mix of writing assignments and more technical problem sets involving coding added variety to the coursework. This alternating format made it so I didn't get burnt out of doing the same thing every week.

How could this course be improved? Please use concrete examples where possible and provide constructive suggestions.

Comments
I think this course unnecessarily force feeds research into the mouths of many students who don't want to pursue academia. I am confident that most students have already developed an analytical mind that can challenge current literature by the time they take this course.,.
I'm not sure if this is a requirement of all 970 sections, but I found 6 writing assignments, on top of 4 coding psets a little overwhelming. I would have preferred fewer writing assignments, even if that meant the assignments had to be longer to meet a page writing limit for the tutorial.
I cannot think of any improvements that could be made.
The deadlines for writing assignments and psets were very close to one another, so every other week there was a pile of work to do.
I think grading consistency across sections could be improved! I would get similar feedback to my peers, but significantly different grades.

Requirements Comments - What did this course require of you?

In your opinion, what preparation or background is necessary to take this course?

Comments
A solid background in econometrics and academic writing, though both are reviewed thoroughly.
A background in reading research papers is very helpful. Stata coding and econometrics knowledge is also needed.
Econometrics would be VERY useful
Ec10a/b, Ec1010a/b
Econometrics and some coding.

Recommendations Comments - Would you recommend this course?

What did you take away from your experience in this course? What did you learn? How did this course change you?

Comments
I learned so much about the environment and the political systems that impact it. I also learned how to write a really cool final paper and how to read economics papers!
I learned how to go about the process of creating a research question and facilitating the investigation to answer it.

What would you like to tell future students about this class? (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

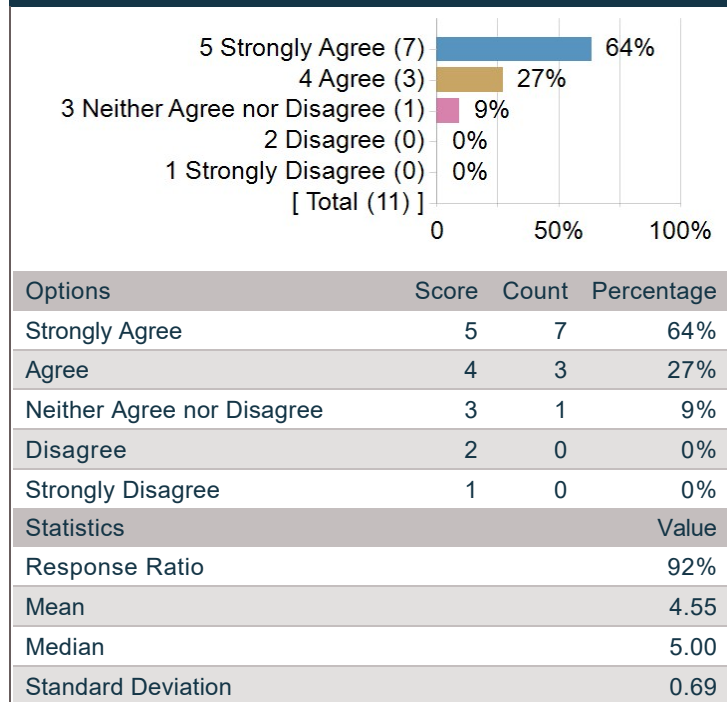
Comments
Take this section!! As someone who went into the class with very little background in the environment, this course has been an eye-opening experience. The course is organized by having one week on some aspect of the political economy with the following week focusing on how that aspect of the political economy intersects with or helps explain some aspect of the environmental crisis. Magdalena made a really cool syllabus, covering topics like media bias and colonial legacies and weaving those topics seamlessly with discussions on the environment. I would strongly recommend this section!
Make sure you stay on top of the readings and start your research project as early as possible. It may be easier to research a question that has data already easily available than to try to find data to match a very specific question. Also make sure you use the library resources – they are amazing or this class.
One of the best tutorials that I've been in so far! Definitely choose a topic that you're very interested in, because the content could go very deep into the theory and past literature of that particular topic. The course mostly consisted of paper reading and discussions, with a STATA minicourse and psets on the side that was very useful for the final research project. Other assignments were quite qualitative and were structured well in helping break down how to write a full economics paper. Overall, amazing course! (but likely dependent on who is teaching your particular section)
This tutorial was excellent! The readings were thoughtfully chosen and very interesting, and the classroom atmosphere was warm and relaxed. Magdalena is incredibly supportive and offers valuable feedback on assignments. Grading is good, and assignments are reasonable and interesting. Would highly recommend!



Open Discourse in the Classroom

In this course, most students listen attentively with an open mind and a willingness to change their point of view as they learn more about the topic.

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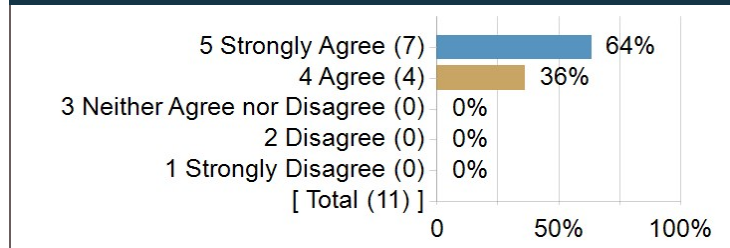


Add comments about this question.

Comments
I did not really see too many points of disagreement.

In this course (including sections), I feel comfortable expressing my views on controversial topics.

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Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	7	64%
Agree	4	4	36%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	3	0	0%
Disagree	2	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0%
Statistics	Value		
Response Ratio	92%		
Mean	4.64		
Median	5.00		
Standard Deviation	0.50		

Add comments about this question.

Comments
 Everyone was very welcoming, and the small setting made it easy to connect with my classmates.

Instructor Comments

Please comment on this person's teaching. (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

Comments

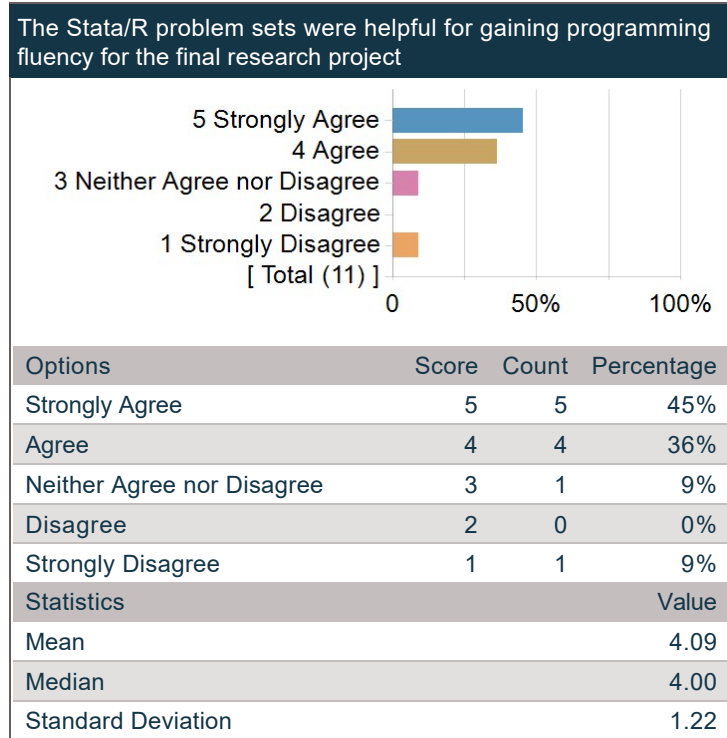
Magdalena was one of the best teachers I have had at Harvard. She made the course very interesting and created lots of engagement within the class. She also took the time to incorporate her expertise and current research into the course, giving us insight into the true process of economic writing. She is very passionate about economics, politics, and the environment and has an exceptional base of knowledge that she was willing to share with all of us inside and outside of the classroom. I genuinely enjoyed being in a class with her and would strongly suggest any student take the opportunity to learn from her if given the chance.

Magdalena was excellent at creating engaging discussions, even when we were hesitant to participate. She consistently connected course material to real-world and current events, making every paper feel relevant and timely. Her feedback was invaluable, helping me improve as a writer by being both constructive and encouraging. Magdalena was also great at assisting us when we were stuck, helping us generate ideas and challenging us to think critically and outside the box. Her teaching style created an open environment where it was easy to share thoughts, and when discussions stalled, she introduced new elements to keep the conversation alive.

Magdalena is super kind!! She is very passionate about the topic and a great person to be around. She made the 9am much better. She is also super understanding!

Custom Questions

The Stata/R problem sets were helpful for gaining programming fluency for the final research project



How, if at all, can we improve the process of helping you learn Stata/R through the problem sets?

Comments
Not giving poor grades.
Nothing, I frequently referred to my problem set Do files and resources when doing my own research problem. I really learned a lot this semester.
I think making the guiding code and processes more concise would be helpful. I sometimes would get lost trying to find functions that were actually applicable to what I wanted to do in the pset.
It would be helpful to see the solutions after the problem set due date.
Teach it during the section

How, if at all, can we improve Stata/R office hours?

Comments
N/A