University of Connecticut

Student Evaluation of Teaching
Spring 2017

Individual Report for ECON-2301-003-STORR-Mathematical Economics

Instructor: **Xin Liang** (SET Primary Instructor)

Response Table

2017 Spring Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET)	
Raters	**students**
Responded	13
Invited	31
Response Ratio	42%

Section 1. Summary

Please respond to the following question about instructor Xin Liang.

Question	Course	Department (ECON-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	University (Course Level 2000-FEIN)
	Median	Median	Median	Median
The instructor presented the course material clearly.	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.4
The instructor was well prepared for class.	4.0	4.2	4.6	4.6
The instructor responded to questions adequately.	4.0	4.1	4.5	4.5
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	4.0	4.1	4.5	4.5
The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.	4.0	4.2	4.6	4.6
The instructor gave clear assignments.	5.0	4.4	4.5	4.5
The instructor was accessible to students.	5.0	4.3	4.6	4.5
The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.3
The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.5
The instructor used class time effectively.	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.5
The instructor treated all students with respect.	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.7
The instructor graded fairly.	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.6
The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.4

What is your overall rating of Xin Liang's teaching?

Question	Course	Department (ECON-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	University (Course Level 2000-FEIN)
	Median	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	4.0	3.6	4.1	4.0

Please respond to the following question about the course.

Question	Course	Department (ECON-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	University (Course Level 2000-FEIN)
	Median	Median	Median	Median
The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.3
The course content was well organized.	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.4
The course objectives were clear.	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.4
The course objectives were met.	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.4
The textbook made a valuable contribution.	5.0	3.7	4.1	4.1

The other course materials made a valuable contribution.	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.3
The pace of the course seemed appropriate.	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.3

What is your overall rating of the course?

Question	Course	Department (ECON-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FEIN)	University (Course Level 2000-FEIN)
	Median	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the course?	4.0	3.2	3.8	3.8

Section 2. Student Information

What is your Academic Level?

Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0%
Sophomore	4	31%
Junior	6	46%
Senior	2	15%
Graduate	0	0%
Other	1	8%

What is your expected grade in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
A	7	54%
B	3	23%
C	2	15%
D	0	0%
F	0	0%
Pass	0	0%
Fail	0	0%
Other	1	8%

What is your cumulative average (GPA)?

Options	Count	Percentage
3.5 and above	5	42%
3.0-3.4	4	33%
2.5-2.9	2	17%
2.0-2.4	1	8%
< 2.0	0	0%

How many times did you miss this class?

Options	Count	Percentage
0-2	7	58%
3-4	4	33%
5-6	0	0%
> 6	1	8%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

On average, how many hours a week did you spend outside of class preparing for this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
0	0	0%
1-3	4	33%
4-6	6	50%
7-9	0	0%
10-14	2	17%
15+	0	0%

Which best describes this course for you?

Options	Count	Percentage
Requirement for my major	9	69%
General Education Requirement	0	0%
Other Requirement	2	15%
Elective	0	0%
Elective for major	2	15%

My desire to take this course was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	5	38%
More than most courses	3	23%
About the same as most courses	4	31%
Less than most courses	1	8%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

For me, the level of difficulty of the course content was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	3	23%
More than most courses	3	23%
About the same as most courses	4	31%
Less than most courses	1	8%
Much less than most courses	2	15%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

Overall, how much do you feel you've learned in this course?

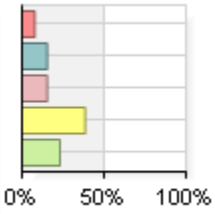
Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	3	23%
More than most courses	3	23%
About the same as most courses	5	38%
Less than most courses	2	15%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

Section 3. Questions About the Instructor

Please respond to the following question about instructor Xin Liang.

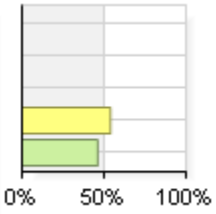
1. The instructor presented the course material clearly.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	8%
2 Disagree	2	15%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	2	15%
4 Agree	5	38%
5 Strongly Agree	3	23%
Total	13	



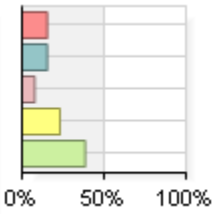
2. The instructor was well prepared for class.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	7	54%
5 Strongly Agree	6	46%
Total	13	



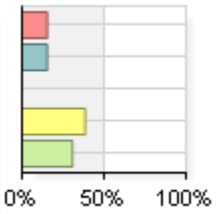
3. The instructor responded to questions adequately.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	15%
2 Disagree	2	15%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	3	23%
5 Strongly Agree	5	38%
Total	13	



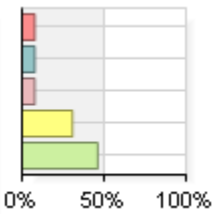
4. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.

1 Strongly Disagree	2	15%
2 Disagree	2	15%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	5	38%
5 Strongly Agree	4	31%
Total	13	



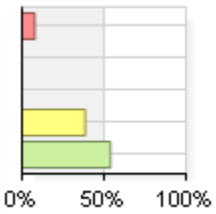
5. The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	8%
2 Disagree	1	8%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	4	31%
5 Strongly Agree	6	46%
Total	13	



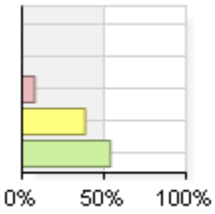
6. The instructor gave clear assignments.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	8%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	5	38%
5 Strongly Agree	7	54%
Total	13	



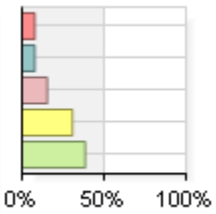
7. The instructor was accessible to students.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	5	38%
5 Strongly Agree	7	54%
Total	13	



8. The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.

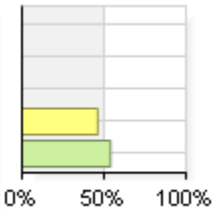
1 Strongly Disagree	1	8%
2 Disagree	1	8%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	2	15%
4 Agree	4	31%
5 Strongly Agree	5	38%
Total	13	



Please respond to the following question about instructor Xin Liang. (continued)

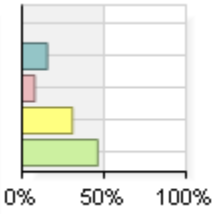
9. The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	6	46%
5 Strongly Agree	7	54%
Total	13	



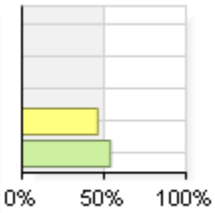
10. The instructor used class time effectively.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	2	15%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	4	31%
5 Strongly Agree	6	46%
Total	13	



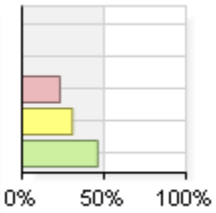
11. The instructor treated all students with respect.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	6	46%
5 Strongly Agree	7	54%
Total	13	



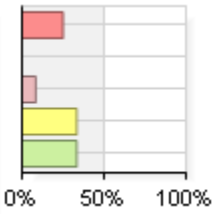
12. The instructor graded fairly.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	3	23%
4 Agree	4	31%
5 Strongly Agree	6	46%
Total	13	



13. The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.

1 Strongly Disagree	3	25%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	4	33%
5 Strongly Agree	4	33%
Total	12	

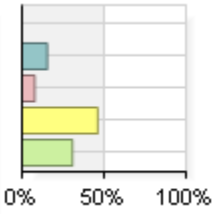


Section 4. Questions About the Course

Please respond to the following question about the course.

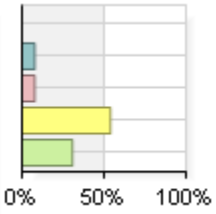
1. The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	2	15%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	6	46%
5 Strongly Agree	4	31%
Total	13	



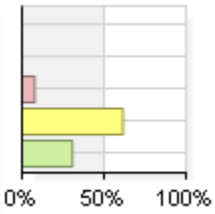
2. The course content was well organized.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	1	8%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	7	54%
5 Strongly Agree	4	31%
Total	13	



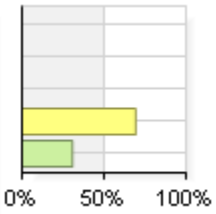
3. The course objectives were clear.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	8	62%
5 Strongly Agree	4	31%
Total	13	



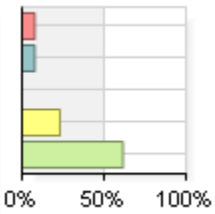
4. The course objectives were met.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	9	69%
5 Strongly Agree	4	31%
Total	13	



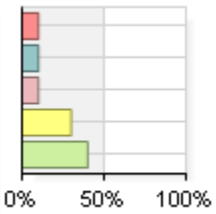
5. The textbook made a valuable contribution.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	8%
2 Disagree	1	8%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	3	23%
5 Strongly Agree	8	62%
Total	13	



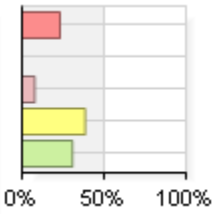
6. The other course materials made a valuable contribution.

1 Strongly Disagree	1	10%
2 Disagree	1	10%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	10%
4 Agree	3	30%
5 Strongly Agree	4	40%
Total	10	



7. The pace of the course seemed appropriate.

1 Strongly Disagree	3	23%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	5	38%
5 Strongly Agree	4	31%
Total	13	

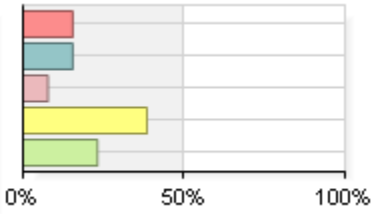


Section 5. Aggregate Report on "Overall Questions"

Overall Rating

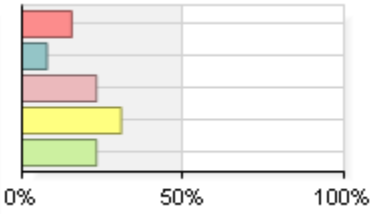
1. What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?

1 Poor	2	15%
2 Fair	2	15%
3 Good	1	8%
4 Very Good	5	38%
5 Excellent	3	23%
Total	13	



2. What is your overall rating of the course?

1 Poor	2	15%
2 Fair	1	8%
3 Good	3	23%
4 Very Good	4	31%
5 Excellent	3	23%
Total	13	



Overall Rating

Question	Good, Very Good & Excellent	Very Good & Excellent	Excellent
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	69%	62%	23%
What is your overall rating of the course?	77%	54%	23%

Section 6. Comments

What was the most positive aspect of the way in which this instructor taught this course?

Comment
Liang is a talent instructor and he is really helpful.
Patient
Mr.Liang is a good professor. I can see that he is trying hard to be a good teacher.
Everything is laid out clearly and if you put in the work it is easy to do well.
He was very helpful and patient and comitted to the max to help you with whatever issue you came with to him. He was also very knowledgeable on his subject.
Instructor followed the book very closely which was helpful to refer to along the way. Class notes were very detailed which was helpful! What was expected of us was very straight-forward and fair. Very good instructor!
He usually was able to prove that concepts he used worked as stated mathematically.
He broke everything down and provided the background and general equations.
He taught clearly and patiently.
Professor can be difficult to understand but teaches directly from textbook, word for word. He would slow down for questions but could not always answer in the best way.

What can this instructor do to improve teaching effectiveness in the classroom?

Comment
be more lenient on deducting points on exams
If he could make PPT during the lecture it will be more helpful to understand the material.
More passion
He could go over exam material more before the exam.
He somtimes talks very technical. It would be better for me if he could explain just more down to earth how to effectively solve for certain questions, more than creating very technical and confusing underlying mathematical theory. Because if you're not very familiar with the jargon, it gets hard sometimes to follow the instructions.
Maybe condense the notes a little to differentiate what is really important to know.
First off, he could be factually correct. As a particular example, when Hessian matrices are neither positive-definite nor negative-definite, it merely means that the test fails and is inconclusive, not that it is neither a maximum or minimum. Secondly, he could teach methods that are better appropriate for the required processes. Row reduction is the gold standard for solving simultaneous linear equations, finding inverses, etc, but was not taught in the course. Instead, a method only useful for square matrices was taught, which has more limited applications given that real systems are very likely potentially linearly dependent and therefore not always square or invertible. Also, his pacing was pretty ridiculous. Spending several weeks on basic derivatives, and almost no time on more complex applications was just silly, especially given that Calculus is a prerequisite for the course.
The instructor could slow down because they went way too fast. They tried to fit as much material into every class and the pace was way too fast and advanced for me personally. The instructor did everything in general form and this was the biggest difficulty for me. I wish there were a lot more examples with numbers to better understand the methods. The instructor was very messy in terms of making mistakes and their writing on the board.
Being more clear about what is going on. Using the simple methods to solve examples done in class as well as answering questions clearly.
He could slow down a little bit.
Stop teaching directly from textbook. Use more examples. Make exams easier, many students did very poorly on them. Not grading so harshly on homework.

Please write any comments you have about the course or course materials.

Comment
Good content
It was an interesting course
N/A
Grading layout was very fair! Homework was helpful each week and exams were very fair. No unnecessary projects, quizzes, or participation which I liked a lot.
The textbook was dense, overpriced, and generally useless. As far as the course goes, it's seemingly devoid of content. Seriously, there's basically no content in the course syllabus that isn't contained (in more detail) in either Math 2110 or 2210. As a result, this course seems superfluous, and could be better designed by making those prerequisites, then covering more advanced material.
This course could have been a really cool and interesting course but it was the most stressful and difficult course for me by far. This was due to the instructors teaching style and the pace at which they went.
It's excellent.
I did not really feel comfortable asking questions, as when other students seemed lost, he'd almost laugh alittle. The subject is not very easy to understand and I did not find the professor's teaching style student-friendly and spent most of the class trying to teach myself.

For courses with laboratory and/or discussion sections: were the laboratory/discussion sections helpful to your learning?

Comment
Yes
NA
N/A
n/a