Individual Report for ECON-421-DL1-Financial Economics – Zachary Kessler-Spring 2023

Project Title: **Student Evaluations of Teaching - Spring 2023**

Survey Audience: **28**
Responses Received: **10**
Response Ratio: **35.71%**

Report Comments

Student evaluations of teaching provide critical feedback to instructors that can be used to adjust and improve the class experience.

This information is also evaluated as part of performance reviews.

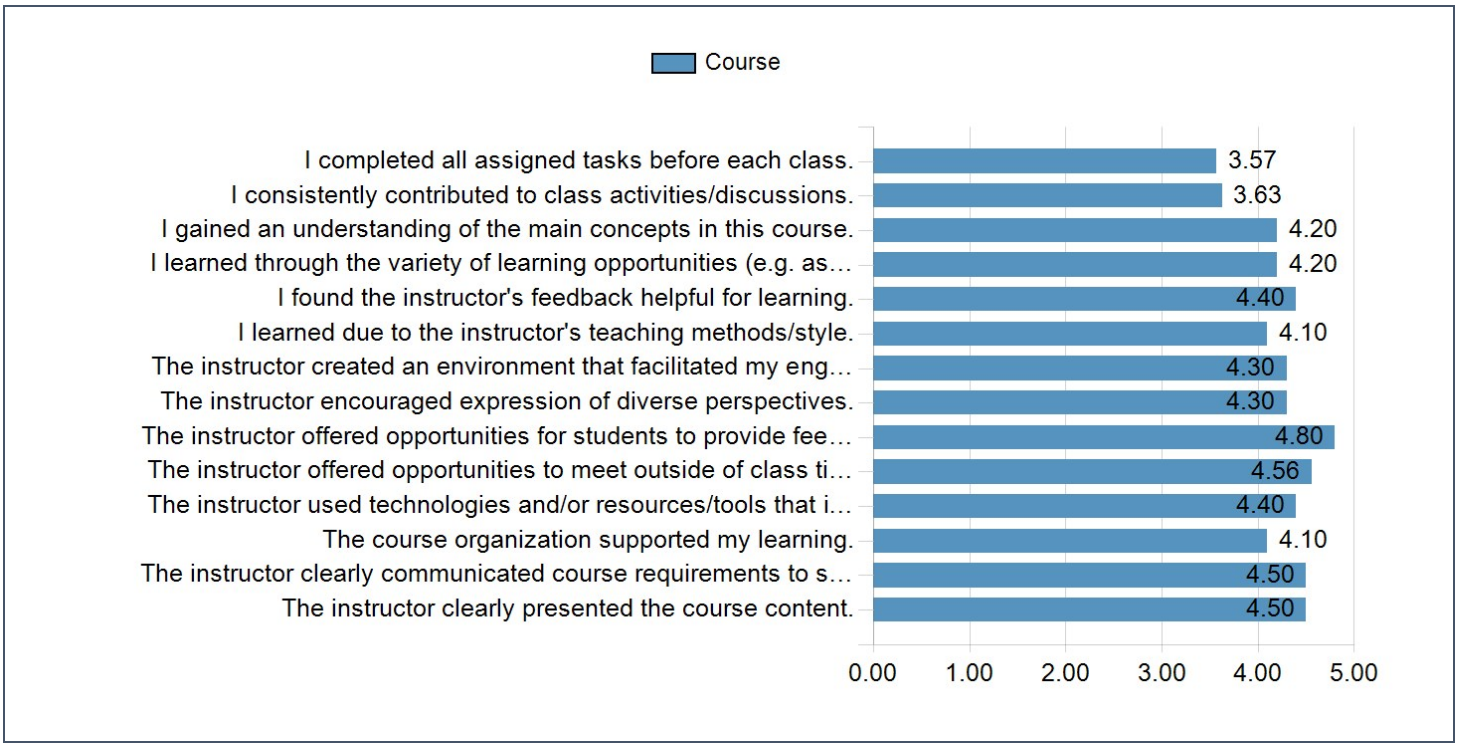
You are encouraged to review this information to learn more about the student perspective and experience.

If you have any questions about the process or how to interpret this information, please contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning at oiepset@gmu.edu.

Creation Date: **Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

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Raters	Students
Responded	10
Invited	28
Response Ratio	35.71%

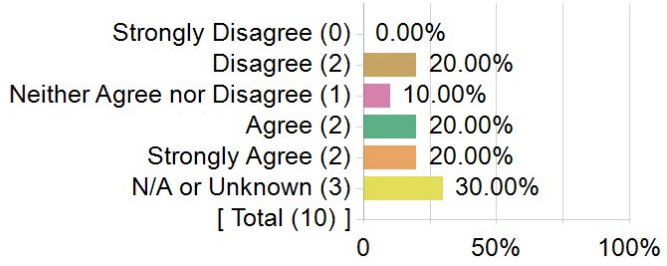


Competency	Course	Standard Deviation	Min	Max
I completed all assigned tasks before each class.	3.57	+/-1.27	2.00	5.00
I consistently contributed to class activities/discussions.	3.63	+/-0.74	3.00	5.00
I gained an understanding of the main concepts in this course.	4.20	+/-0.92	2.00	5.00
I learned through the variety of learning opportunities (e.g. assignments, projects, papers, discussions, group work, peer review, exams) provided.	4.20	+/-1.23	1.00	5.00
I found the instructor's feedback helpful for learning.	4.40	+/-1.07	2.00	5.00
I learned due to the instructor's teaching methods/style.	4.10	+/-1.29	1.00	5.00
The instructor created an environment that facilitated my engagement with course content.	4.30	+/-1.06	2.00	5.00
The instructor encouraged expression of diverse perspectives.	4.30	+/-0.95	3.00	5.00
The instructor offered opportunities for students to provide feedback on the course.	4.80	+/-0.42	4.00	5.00
The instructor offered opportunities to meet outside of class time, such as virtual or in-person office hours.	4.56	+/-0.73	3.00	5.00
The instructor used technologies and/or resources/tools that increased my engagement with course content.	4.40	+/-1.26	1.00	5.00
The course organization supported my learning.	4.10	+/-1.45	1.00	5.00
The instructor clearly communicated course requirements to students.	4.50	+/-0.97	2.00	5.00
The instructor clearly presented the course content.	4.50	+/-0.97	2.00	5.00

Student Participation Q7-Q8

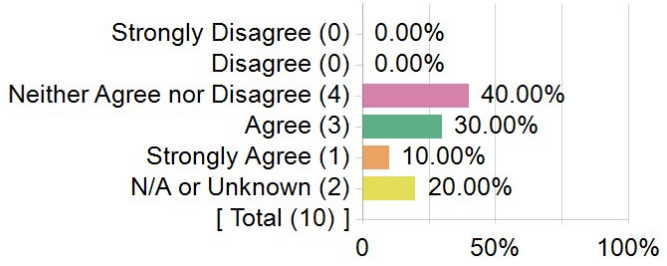
Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	3.60

1. I completed all assigned tasks before each class.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.57
Median	4.00

2. I consistently contributed to class activities/discussions.

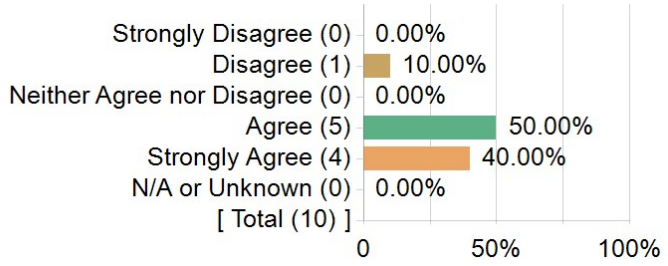


Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.63
Median	3.50

Learning Outcomes Q9-Q12

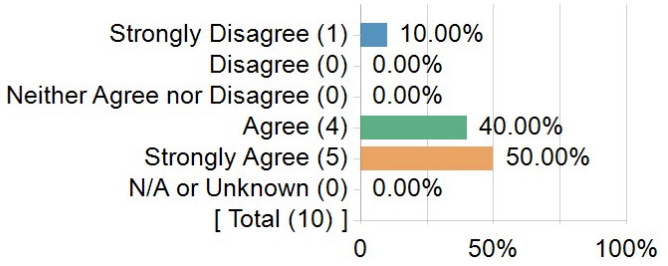
Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.23

1. I gained an understanding of the main concepts in this course.



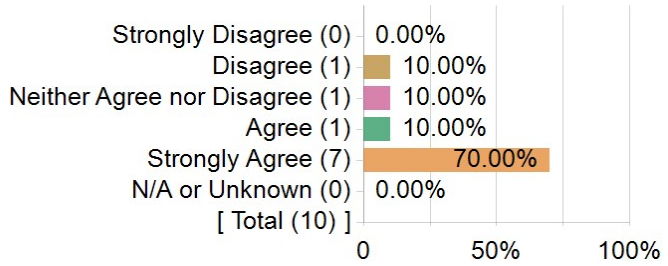
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.20
Median	4.00

2. I learned through the variety of learning opportunities (e.g. assignments, projects, papers, discussions, group work, peer review, exams) provided.



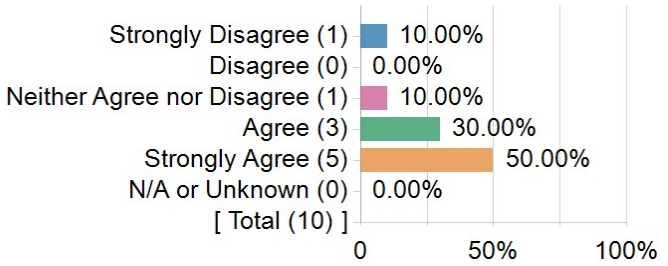
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.20
Median	4.50

3. I found the instructor's feedback helpful for learning.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.40
Median	5.00

4. I learned due to the instructor's teaching methods/style.

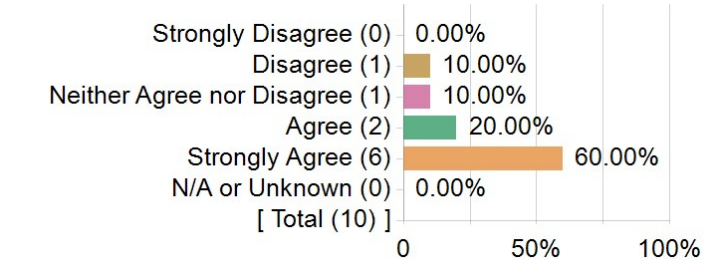


Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.10
Median	4.50

Course Environment/Experiences Q13-Q17

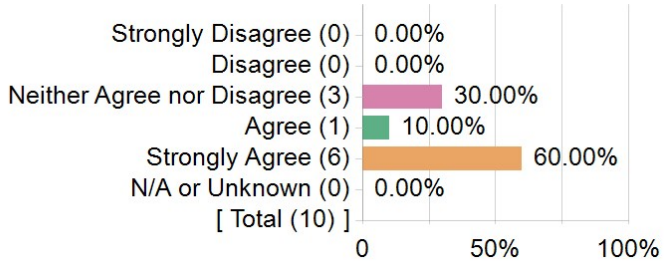
Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.47

1. The instructor created an environment that facilitated my engagement with course content.



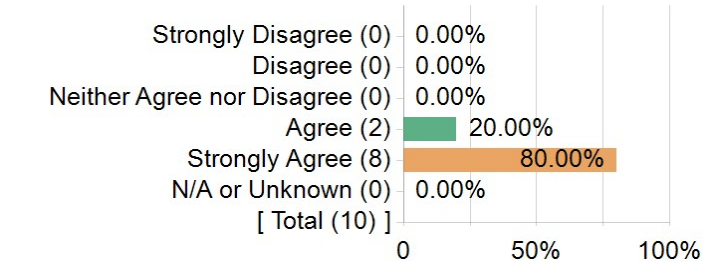
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.30
Median	5.00

2. The instructor encouraged expression of diverse perspectives.



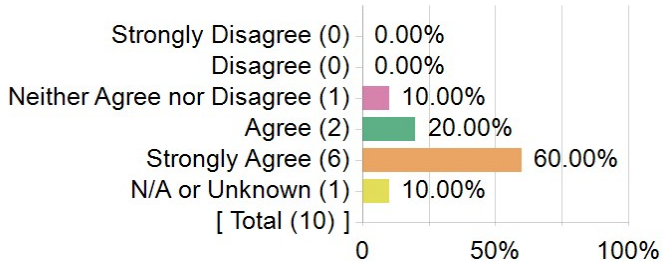
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.30
Median	5.00

3. The instructor offered opportunities for students to provide feedback on the course.



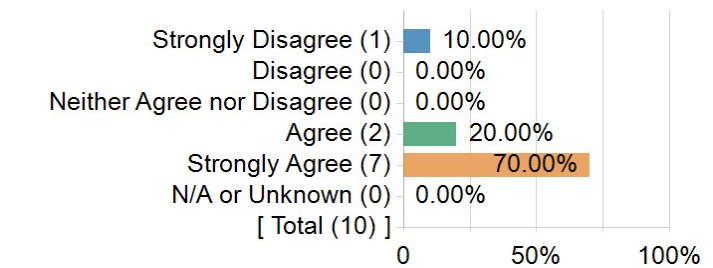
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.80
Median	5.00

4. The instructor offered opportunities to meet outside of class time, such as virtual or in-person office hours.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00

5. The instructor used technologies and/or resources/tools that increased my engagement with course content.

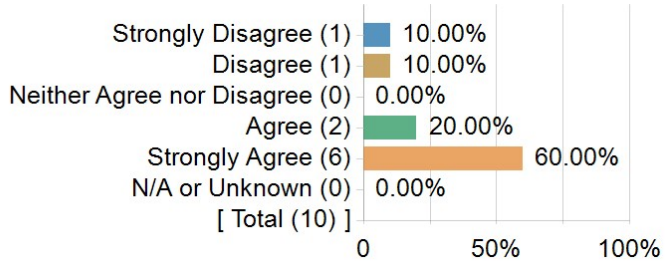


Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.40
Median	5.00

Instructor Preparation and Course Organization Q18-Q20

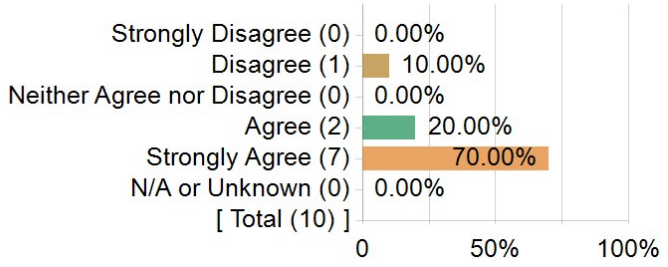
Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.37

1. The course organization supported my learning.



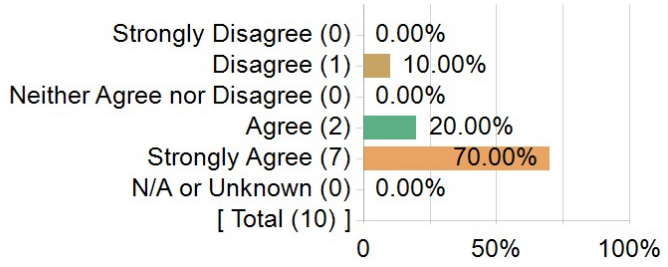
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.10
Median	5.00

2. The instructor clearly communicated course requirements to students.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00

3. The instructor clearly presented the course content.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00

Were there any significant obstacles to learning that were beyond the control of the instructor (e.g., scheduling or technology problems, university closings, limitations caused by other students or by group dynamics)? If so, please explain.

Comments
None.
None.
Occasionally the professor's lectures were too muffled in sound level.
Having the class only online was difficult to understand some of the harder topics but the professor was great with feedback and flexibility.
N/A

What 2-3 aspects of this course were most valuable to your learning experience?

Comments
Major projects and feedback from the instructor.
Tutorials for the coding assignments and recorded lectures.
The consistent feedback and office hours that Professor Kessler offered was one of the most valuable aspect to my learning experience. Professor Kessler answered every question asked and even ones that are outside the course material too. Another valuable aspect to my learning experience was the lecture videos and organized PowerPoints, which helped with understanding the material better.
A.I. and coding aspects made the course very interesting/unique compared to other econ electives. Extra readings/lecture links were useful in providing relevancy. This relevancy expands to the financial projects, which were open–ended enough to require both a solid foundation and honest thinking.
I learned how to code! This was a fantastic class for the first time I could learn economic concepts and apply them to real–life financial situations. I love the projects at the end of the week that apply to the textbook readings. The papers were very challenging but the professor was very helpful and gave great feedback! Overall, I know this isn't traditionally how an undergraduate class is taught at Mason but I think it's perfect to challenge students and get them to work. Please don't let negative feedback on the class being too hard to demotivate this style.
I enjoyed the hands–on learning experience despite being an online course. In addition, I found it valuable that the course implemented new tools, such as machine learning, that is highly applicable in the present day.
Textbook readings were difficult but formed a basis for further exploration of the underlying subject matter that enhanced total learning
1. The additional material as well as how the professor would answer the questions. 2.Weekly assignments helped me stay on top of the material as well as gauge my understanding of it.

What 2-3 aspects of this course were least valuable to your learning experience?

Comments
I can't say that there were any.
Mostly the textbook, it really overwhelmed me with information and I didn't really know what I should pay attention to or skip.
One small aspect was that some parts of the textbook were too complex/confusing, which made it hard to understand, but Professor Kessler provided an explanation to those parts to make sure the material was clear.
The textbook, not only in its delivery/organization but it's content occasionally seemed obtuse and slightly irrelevant to the chapter's topic themselves. The discussion boards, while potentially interesting, were slightly irrelevant in implementation.
none
N/A
–I learned surprisingly little about the plumbing and function of the financial system and financial markets. The class was advertised as a financial economics class but taught more data science and coding than anything else. The homework for this class took more time than that of all my other classes combined, purely due to the fact that the coding assignments were extremely difficult to complete with the given material (often incomplete or plainly wrong) and any additional resources I could find online, detracting from any actual learning. –Posting 3 hours of youtube or other videos and 4 research articles is not equivalent giving a lecture. I understand that there are research and other constraints on the professor's time, but the only interpretation I walk away with is that my money, time, and learning are not valuable –Having a coding assignment that is not tied to the reading or lecture material detracts from the learning experience
The course book was hard to understand and I relied heavily on the professor's lectures and supplemental articles.

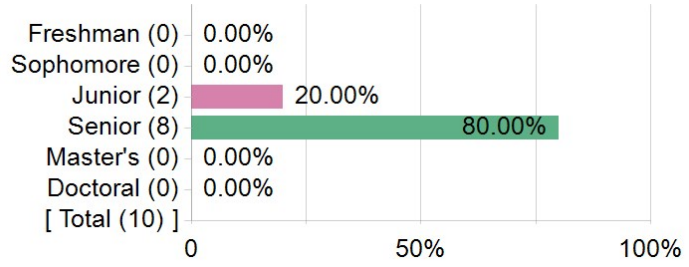
What modifications do you suggest for the next time the course is taught?

Comments
Wish this class was in person as I didn't really get to meet any of my classmates which made the papers much more time consuming to do all by myself when we could technically work in groups.
None!
Maybe have a required discussion board that would facilitate discussions about the topic to get students to demonstrate what they learned and give feedback.
Nothing, it's good as is :)
I would use a different textbook primarily. Slightly more feedback regarding projects themselves rather than the completion assignments. (Also Econ department add a computational econ elective it seems interesting.)
nothing.
The professor provided opportunities for feedback on our learning experience that allowed us to give our input on the matter. Thus, our learning was always the number one priority. If anything, I further encourage this learning experience as it felt very hands–on and impactful.

Student Information

What is your class level?

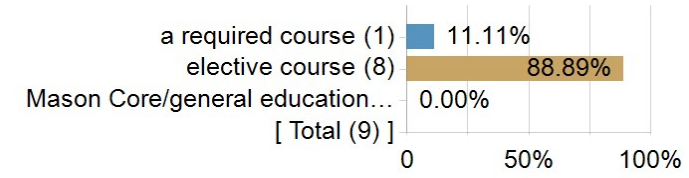
What is your class level?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10

For your plan of study, this course is:

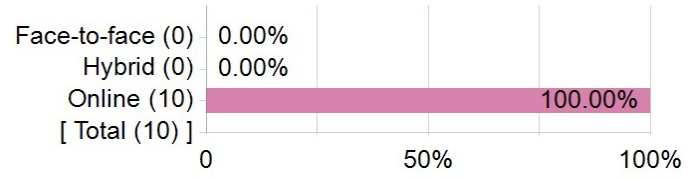
For your plan of study, this course is:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	9

What is the class format/delivery?

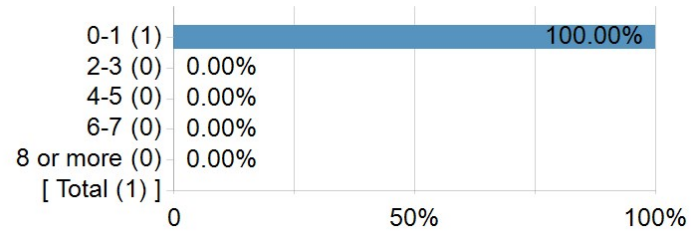
What is the class format/delivery?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10

How many times were you absent from class sessions?

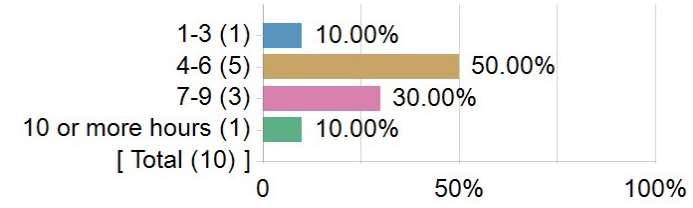
How many times were you absent from class sessions?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	1

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

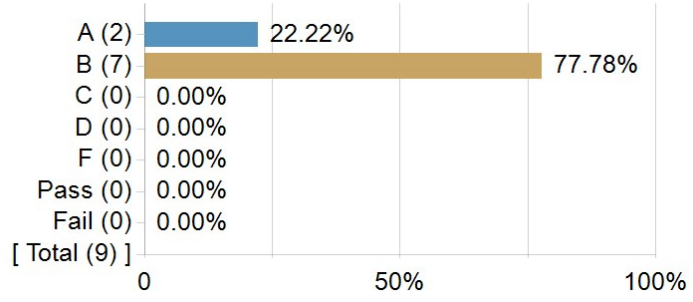
On average, how many hours per week outside of class did you spend preparing for this class?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10

What grade do you expect in this course?

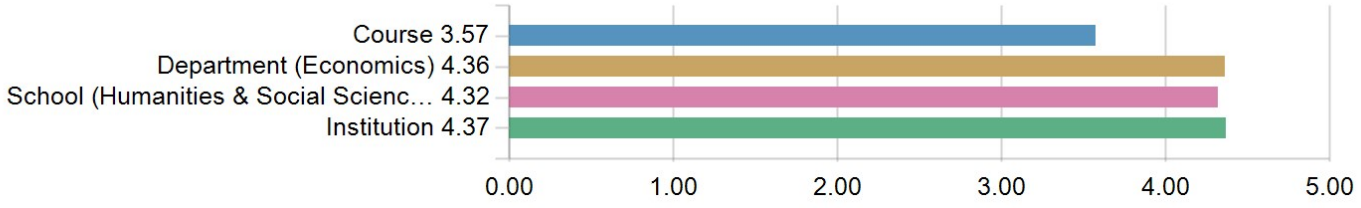
What grade do you expect in this course?



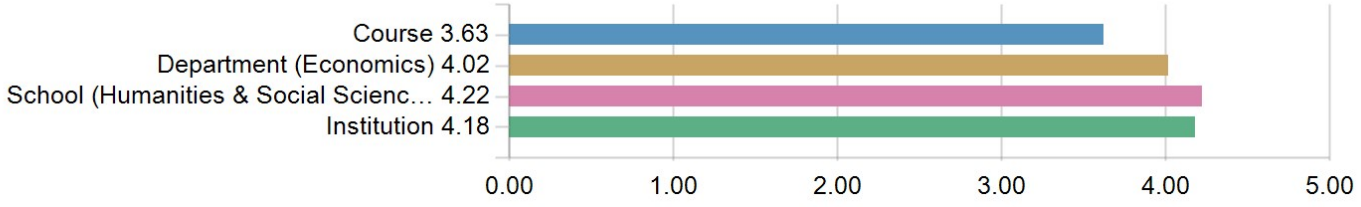
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9

Student Evaluations of Teaching (Q7-Q20) - Chart

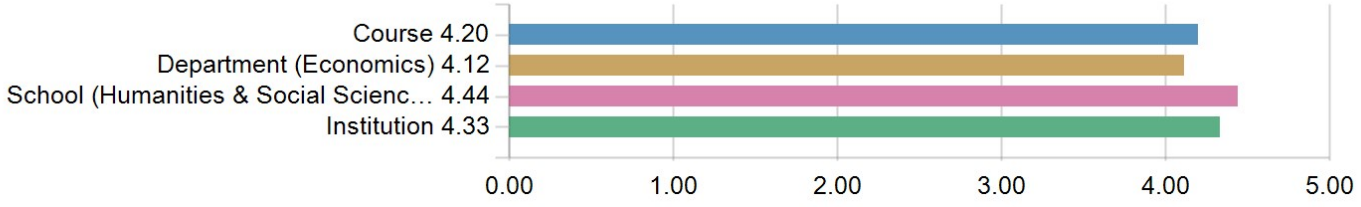
1. I completed all assigned tasks before each class.



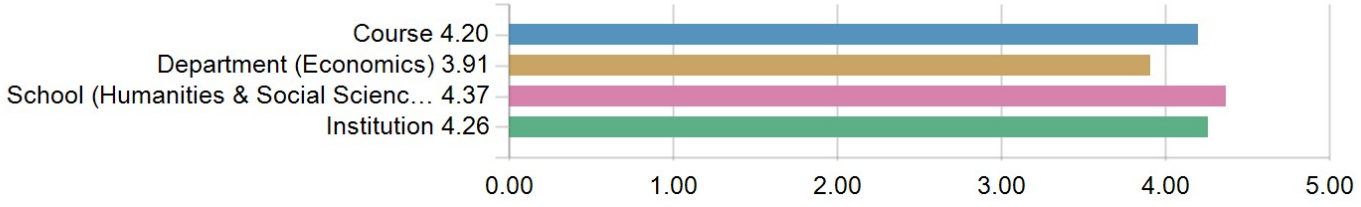
2. I consistently contributed to class activities/discussions.



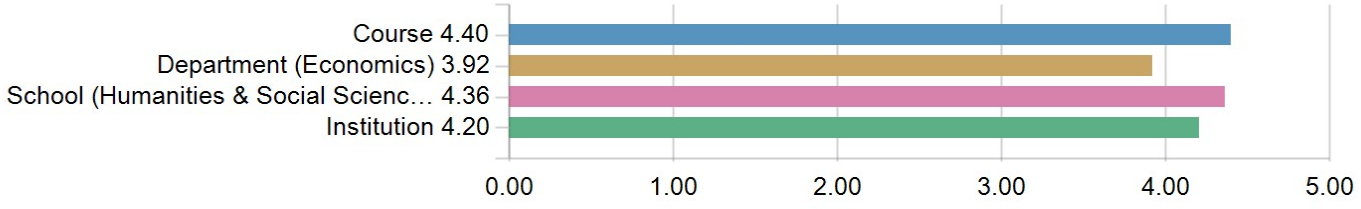
3. I gained an understanding of the main concepts in this course.



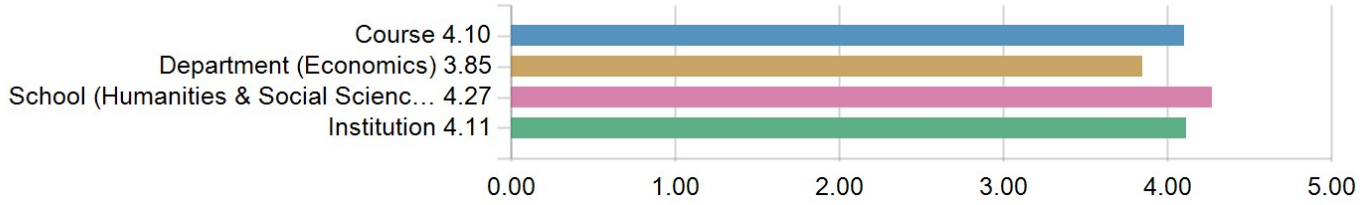
4. I learned through the variety of learning opportunities (e.g. assignments, projects, papers, discussions, group work, peer review, exams) provided.



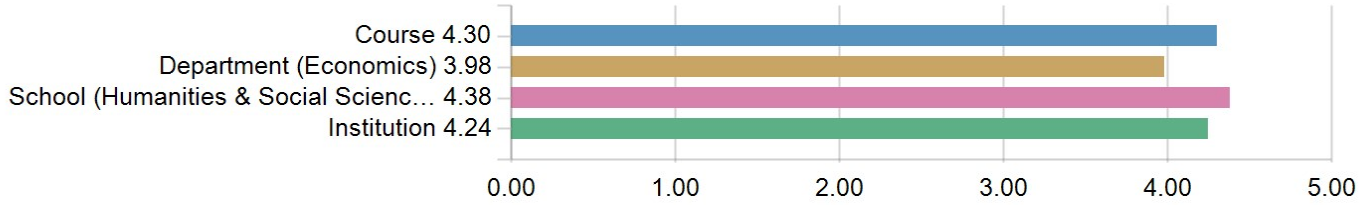
5. I found the instructor's feedback helpful for learning.



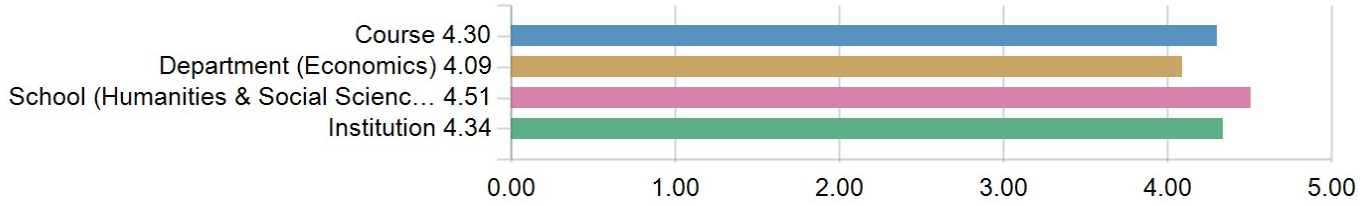
6. I learned due to the instructor's teaching methods/style.



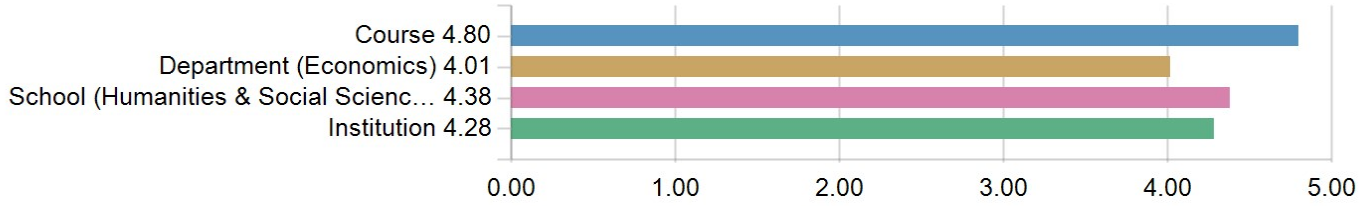
7. The instructor created an environment that facilitated my engagement with course content.



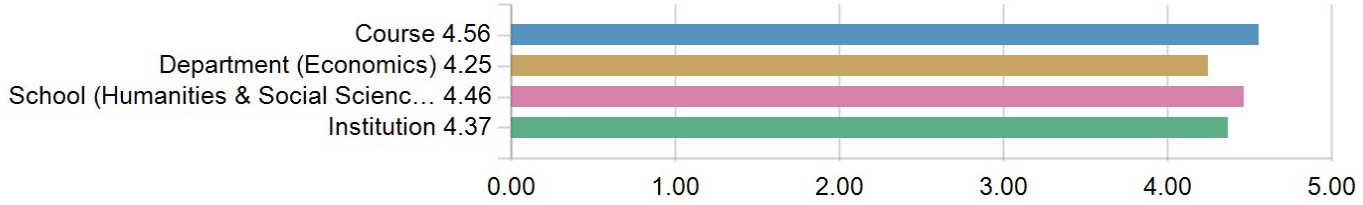
8. The instructor encouraged expression of diverse perspectives.



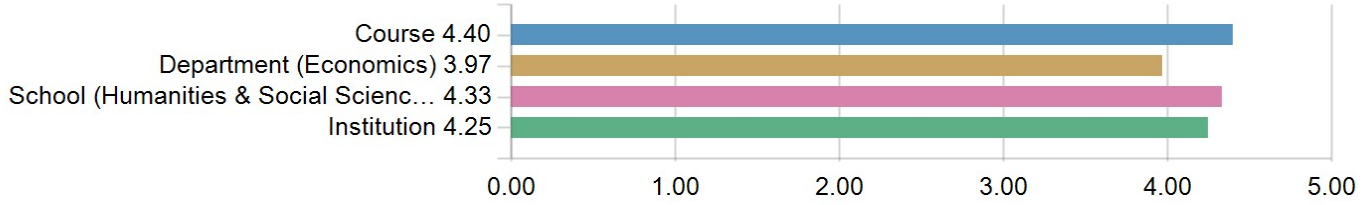
9. The instructor offered opportunities for students to provide feedback on the course.



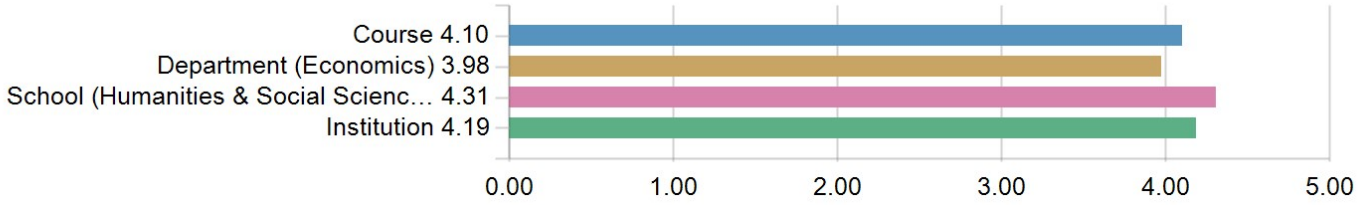
10. The instructor offered opportunities to meet outside of class time, such as virtual or in-person office hours.



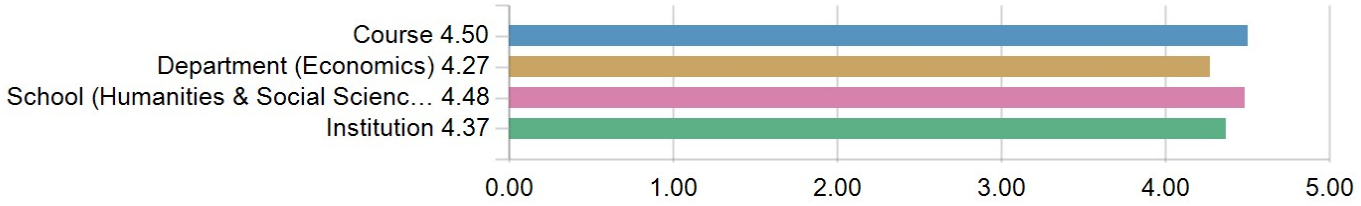
11. The instructor used technologies and/or resources/tools that increased my engagement with course content.



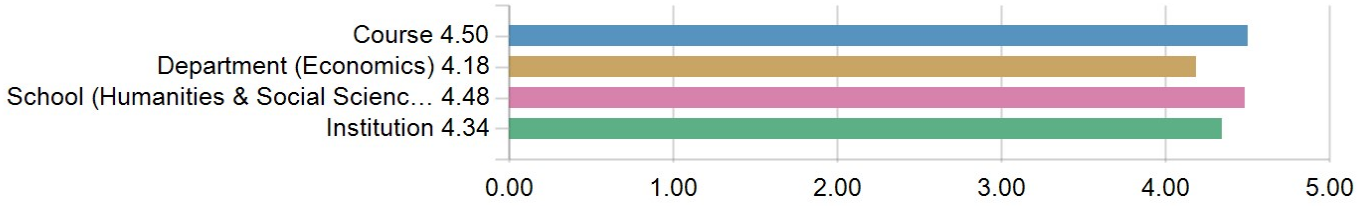
12. The course organization supported my learning.



13. The instructor clearly communicated course requirements to students.



14. The instructor clearly presented the course content.



Student Evaluations of Teaching (Q7-Q20)

	Mean	Median	Min	Max	Resp
I completed all assigned tasks before each class.	3.57	4.00	2.00	5.00	7
I consistently contributed to class activities/discussions.	3.63	3.50	3.00	5.00	8
I gained an understanding of the main concepts in this course.	4.20	4.00	2.00	5.00	10
I learned through the variety of learning opportunities (e.g. assignments, projects, papers, discussions, group work, peer review, exams) provided.	4.20	4.50	1.00	5.00	10
I found the instructor's feedback helpful for learning.	4.40	5.00	2.00	5.00	10
I learned due to the instructor's teaching methods/style.	4.10	4.50	1.00	5.00	10
The instructor created an environment that facilitated my engagement with course content.	4.30	5.00	2.00	5.00	10
The instructor encouraged expression of diverse perspectives.	4.30	5.00	3.00	5.00	10
The instructor offered opportunities for students to provide feedback on the course.	4.80	5.00	4.00	5.00	10
The instructor offered opportunities to meet outside of class time, such as virtual or in-person office hours.	4.56	5.00	3.00	5.00	9
The instructor used technologies and/or resources/tools that increased my engagement with course content.	4.40	5.00	1.00	5.00	10
The course organization supported my learning.	4.10	5.00	1.00	5.00	10
The instructor clearly communicated course requirements to students.	4.50	5.00	2.00	5.00	10
The instructor clearly presented the course content.	4.50	5.00	2.00	5.00	10