

Instructor: Stein, Luke
 Subject: ECON
 Catalog & Section: 202N, 1

Course Title: 202 FOR NON-ECON PHD STUDENTS
 Enrollment: 20 Responses: 20
 (Declined: 0)

1. Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

Strengths

- He is passionate and energetic about teaching! He is the best instructor I've ever had at Stanford.
- Friendly Humorous
- I was very impressed by Luke's overall teaching style- he was able to present the material in a coherent, understandable manner that made the course interesting and enjoyable. Probably one of the better instructors I have taken a course from.
- Luke has exceptional enthusiasm for what he teaches and conducts class with exceptional energy. He explains things very clearly and is able to express the intuition of complex topics in a particularly insightful way.
- The instructor did a great job!
- Excellent energy! Lectures were very well organized. Material and handout were very useful. In a word, an exceptionally good class!
- I love this course very much--most likely even more than Luke likes my red helmet. Luke's course is so far the most rewarding course for me ever, and his classes have undoubtedly been the very best I have ever had. At the beginning of this quarter, I had a choice among 3 PhD level microeconomics courses: David Kreps' MGTECON600, ECON202 for majors, and ECON 202N. After several lectures in all 3 courses, I decided to take Luke's class without any hesitation. I did so because I really feel I am learning in Luke's classes. Luke is highly knowledgeable. Participating in his erudite lectures is an adventurous intellectual journey of economics, where I can learn just about any microeconomics knowledge use useful for my future research in finance. In particular, I am very grateful for Luke's extremely well designed, high-quality-latexed lecture slides which are strictly preferred over lecture notes by most students as the primary source of learning. His slides are very elegant, concise, and yet contain all the useful material. I would strongly advise all Stanford professors to take a look at Luke's slides and learn from them.
- Luke is one of the best teachers I have ever had. He explains challenging concepts well, is very approachable, and is aware of which areas students need additional help with.

Suggestions for Improvement

- None.
- None.

2. Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses, if any, of the textbook(s) and reading(s). What materials were most and least valuable? Why?

Strengths

- I primarily used the slides, though I did read through the lecture notes and did garner a better understanding of the material by reading the notes.
- The material is extensive, which helps us develop the main ideas of Microeconomics. And with the help of section, I can thus learn well in this course. I like all the materials of this class.
- Prepared course notes and lecture slides contained ample detail and were reasonably well organized. Books named as "optional" really were optional.

Suggestions for Improvement

- I found the assigned textbook to be minimally useful in this course when compared to the lecture notes and slides.
- None.
- None.
- It should have been made clear that for most people, the notes were not the most important text to use. The lecture slides had most of what mere mortals needed to perform well in the class, and the notes were basically just enrichment.

3. Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

Strengths

- I liked the midterm exam as a means of reinforcing the first portion of the course's material- I would recommend continuing for future classes.
- Both the midterm and final exam were well and fairly written, which seems to have been a challenge in past years.
- The assignments were very long but after them the final exam didn't seem that bad.
- Assignments are useful, covering most important aspects of the course. The midterm is OK, but the final seemed very tough for most people.
- Luke make a special effort to design assignment questions and exams that are extremely intellectually stimulating. By doing the questions I feel I really get what there is for me to get.
- Questions given in homeworks often provided additional insight into concepts not immediately apparent from lecture

Suggestions for Improvement

- Very Very difficult give some more exercise problems
- I found the assignments to be too time intensive for the amount of benefit they provided. I would highly recommend some additional focus (maybe problem session...) on covering small examples of the types of problems to at least get the students started on how to think about the types of problems assigned- this would allow emphasis on the concepts while avoiding unnecessary time spent trying to understand the questions, especially for those taking the course who may have less economics background than others.
- I think the problem sets are well constructed, and worthwhile if, in the occasional case, excessively long. It would be good if the tools developed on the problem sets aligned more closely with the tools necessary for exams (this doesn't preclude the usual exam theme of applying old ideas to no areas).
- None.
- Homework assignments demanded 15 hour of work per week. They were way too long, and sometimes contained needless derivations. Exams were impossible to complete in time allotted. Not enough time was spent going over concepts learned through HW.
- open book for both midterm and final

4. Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all?

Strengths

- I very much enjoyed this course and have to admit that I am now much more interested in the material than I was prior to taking it. Overall it was a well organized/executed course with difficult material presented in a coherent and interesting manner.
- Thanks for making what could have been a very painful course completely bearable. Thank you also for giving a fair final.
- The course is really interesting and useful but the amount of material is huge.
- The best course that I have seen.
- Luke comes up with really arousing, interesting explanation and examples in class that always arrest my full attention. He spares no effort in satisfying student needs and enabling them to achieve their learning goals. E.g., for students with weak math background, Luke has provided many additional hours of after-class tutoring (outside office hours) and made sure everyone understood all the necessary math. His explanation for many analysis theorems and optimization methods is amazingly clear and cool, though math is strictly speaking outside of his teaching obligations. In the classroom, he prompts for answers, encourages students to think, to make connections, to practice and reinforce, to learn from other students and to feel free to ask any stupid question. He answers all my questions on the spot, very clearly and is ready to answer questions anywhere, anytime. I have sent tons of email questions to Luke and I get excellent email replies very timely. Luke is very easy-going and approachable, which brings a relaxed and harmonious atmosphere to the classroom. And his office hours are just as outstanding as his lectures because every time he is so well prepared for every minute of his time with students.
- Amazing instruction

Suggestions for Improvement

- Help to shrink amount of time required to do the homework
- Don't let Luke stop teaching this course.

- None.
- Level of effort required for this course relative to other courses is too high

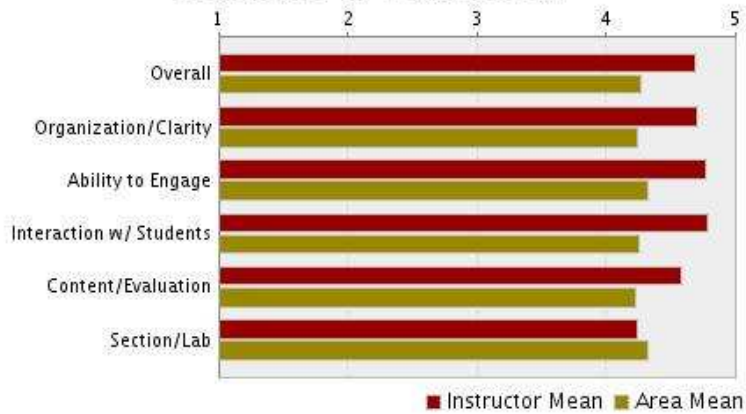
Teaching Evaluation Summary (2008-2009 Autumn)

Ratings Summary

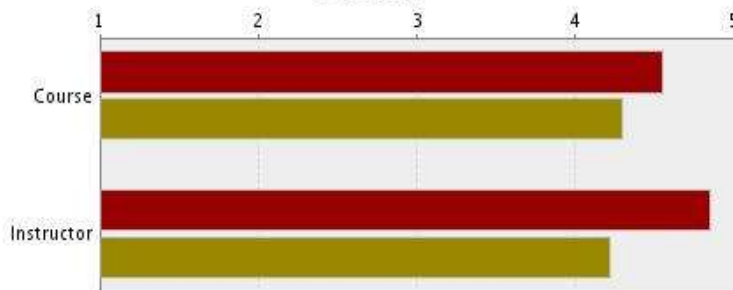
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Elements of Instruction

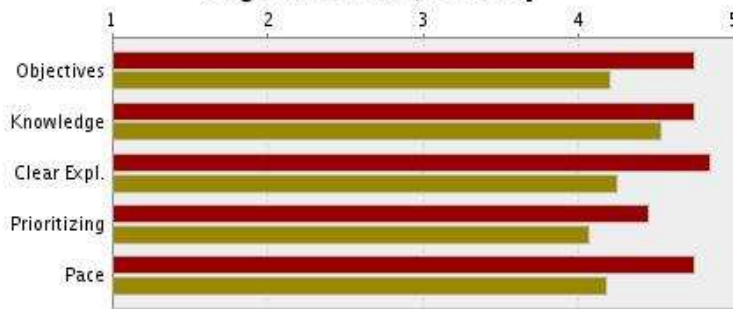


Overall



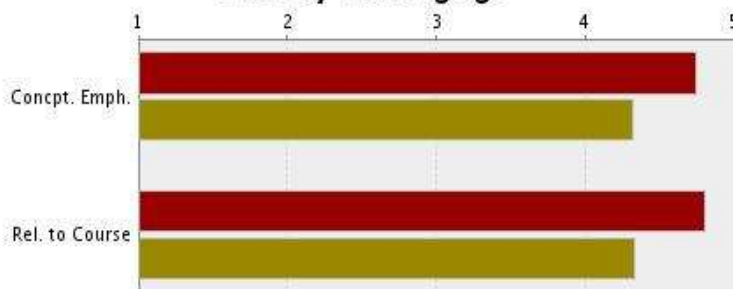
	Mean	Std Dev	Ex	Vg	G	F	P	N/A
Course	4.55	0.59	12	7	1	0	0	0
Instructor	4.85	0.36	17	3	0	0	0	0

Organization/Clarity



	Mean	Std Dev	Ex	Vg	G	F	P	N/A
Objectives	4.75	0.43	15	5	0	0	0	0
Knowledge	4.75	0.43	15	5	0	0	0	0
Clear Expl.	4.85	0.36	17	3	0	0	0	0
Prioritizing	4.45	0.74	12	5	3	0	0	0
Pace	4.75	0.43	15	5	0	0	0	0

Ability to Engage



	Mean	Std Dev	Ex	Vg	G	F	P	N/A
Concept. Emph.	4.75	0.54	16	3	1	0	0	0
Rel. to Course	4.85	0.40	16	4	0	0	0	0

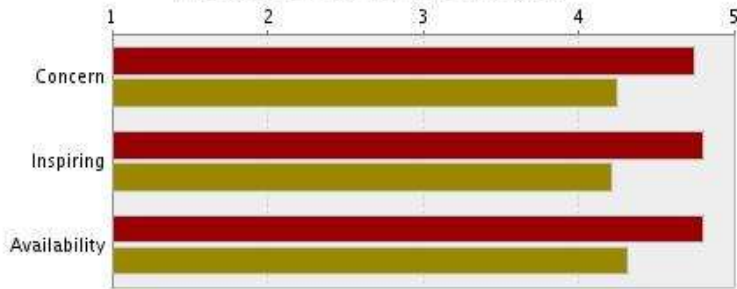
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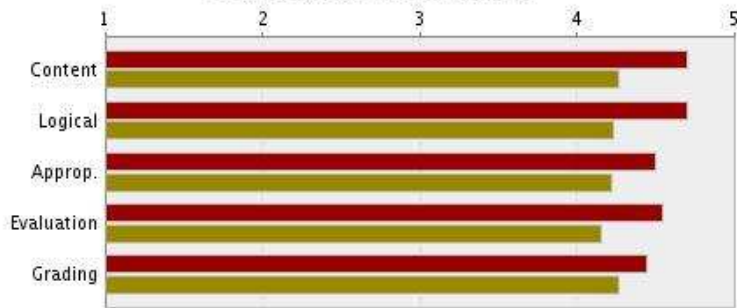
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Interaction w/ Students



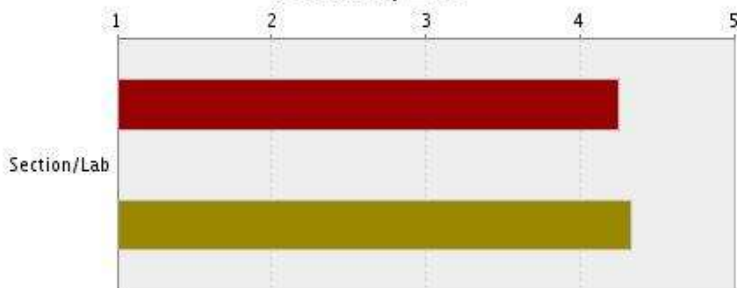
	Mean	Std Dev	Ex	Vg	G	F	P	N/A
Concern	4.75	0.43	15	5	0	0	0	0
Inspiring	4.80	0.40	16	4	0	0	0	0
Availability	4.80	0.40	16	4	0	0	0	0

Content/Evaluation



	Mean	Std Dev	Ex	Vg	G	F	P	N/A
Content	4.70	0.46	14	6	0	0	0	0
Logical	4.70	0.56	15	4	1	0	0	0
Approp.	4.50	0.67	12	6	2	0	0	0
Evaluation	4.55	0.67	13	5	2	0	0	0
Grading	4.45	0.74	12	5	3	0	0	0

Section/Lab



	Mean	Std Dev	Ex	Vg	G	F	P	N/A
Section/Lab	4.25	1.15	10	2	3	0	1	3