

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

Strengths

- Ran has an infectious enthusiasm for his subject which transmits itself to his students. His foremost concern is always the experience the students get from his classes. We couldn't ask for anything more.
- The very different styles of the instructors are complementary; I'm not sure to describe it, but Ran and Petra teaching a class together works out well.
- Very organized, always prepared for lecturing.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Ran liked to focus on "convincing" us of things he thought were true or interesting, rather than inspiring us to think independently about the subject matter. His teaching was often rather coarse and quite technical for a history class. It was also difficult to have productive meetings with Ran, because he seemed interested only in sharing his personal viewpoint rather than discussing any points of debate. This was frustrating.

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

- Readings were well chosen, though there tended to be a lot of them. I always got more out of the classes for which I did the readings.
- Readings were very good; I liked the focus on methodology.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Many of the readings seemed to focus on the particular interests of this teacher, rather than covering a more broad section of economic history. I wish there had been more scope in Ran's half of the course.

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

Strengths

- assignments were well chosen to introduce students in depth to a few specific areas; great as a stepping stone from coursework to research
- The referee reports were a very good idea in theory...

Suggestions for Improvement

- ...but in practice I wish that there had been some sample referee reports posted online so I had a better idea of how it was supposed to go.

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

Strengths

- Fantastic course. A pity I can only do it once.
- I loved this course!
- Very good class in general. Should be offered every year!