ECON 21031 1 - Econometrics II-Honors - Instructor(s) - Alex Torgovitsky

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **9**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
IV, IV with heterogeneity (LATE, MTE, etc), event studies, asymptotic theory (WLLN, CLT, etc), regression discontinuity, a lot of useful R knowledge as well
Very helpful tools for Econometric modeling and analysis, such as instrumental variables, ATT/LATE, Diff–on–diffs, and asymptotic theory
More causal inference techniques and advanced econometrics methods.
Learned IV, weak IV, asymptotics, Bootstrap, DiD, RDD
A lot about IV regressions – standard errors, weak instrument tests, variations. Also common trends – event studies with multiple event diff–in–diffs.
Instrumental Variables! And overall, a good extension to the content covered in honors econometrics 1
IVs, staggered event studies.

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Lectures are great in presenting material. Torgo does a great job of making sure students are following along and answering any questions presented. He adds some humor to the lectures as well now which was a change from Honors 1
The project proposal is a chance to apply these theoretical concepts in a real world setting of our choice. Problem sets, aside from auxillary derivations, are for seeing and experiencing how papers actually used the methods described.
The course consists of lectures and psets that are strongly tied together. The content on the psets are directly tied to the lectures and complement eachother well.
The lectures went over theory, and the assignments allowed us to practice both proofs and coding estimators
Lectures were a bit dry content–wise, but Prof Torgovitsky is funny and engaging. Lecture notes are invaluable and saved me through all the classes I skipped. Problem sets were shorter and more focused on programming than 21030, which was nice.
Alex's lecture notes were super comprehensive and helpful! I also found it super helpful how available Alex was to help during office hours
Lectures, problem sets, research proposal.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Fantastic course. If you are interested in graduate economics, this is a must–take. It is basically an introduction to modern econometrics and shows that the field is expanding and changing from the past. Torgovitsky does a great change of displaying real–world examples where the methodologies we learn are used.
Project proposal requirements were a little bit vague, highlighting which sections are expected from a proposal will probably be helpful.
One of the best classes I've taken, would highly recommend to anyone who enjoyed Honors Metrics 1
No midterms and finals, and very liberal late submission policy – absolute W. Take this course if you ever anticipate working with data in your career.
Course is much more chill than the first course in the sequence. You still learn just as much. Topics are much more interesting except for asymptotic.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	42.86%	57.14%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
His understanding and intuition of the material are second to none. The lecture notes are also a godsend
Specific examples are very helpful, and also detailed diving into derivations, because the deep understanding of topic needs a thorough understanding of the derivations.
The majority of the teaching came from lectures.
The lectures helped me to understand statistical theory, and the psets deepened my intuition and allowed me to see how the skills we learned in class could be applied.
Lectures, office hours! Also Alex was very transparent with answer keys to all problem sets and past exams (from metrics 1) which was very helpful

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Occasionally I felt as if the implications of a result can be more clearly stated. Also, when referencing past results, be a bit more explicit probably, sometimes a past result is cited and used in a proof that I need some time to wrap around where it came from (or maybe I was just too slow on my own to understand as well as possible).
Nothing, I thought the class was excellent
Nothing, Alex was amazing

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	85.71%	14.29%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Ian Pittman, great guy, glad I got to know interact with him, extremely knowledgable on the content
Only went to TA office hours once, but he was very helpful at providing intuition, and his grading was well done
Ian Pitman – didn't really go to any of his sessions.

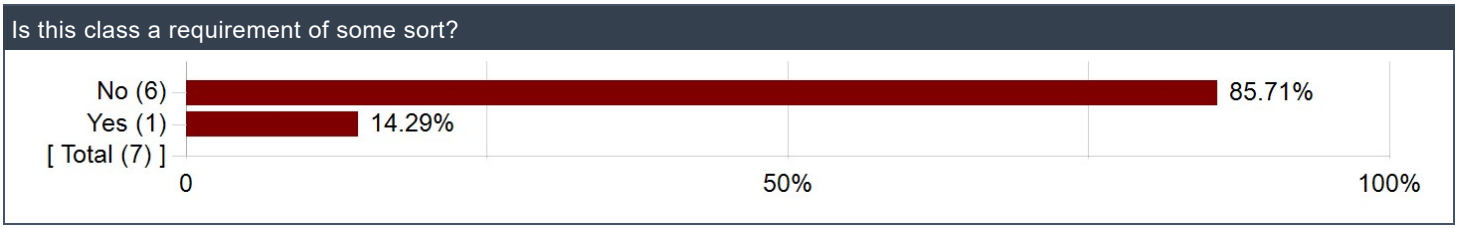
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%

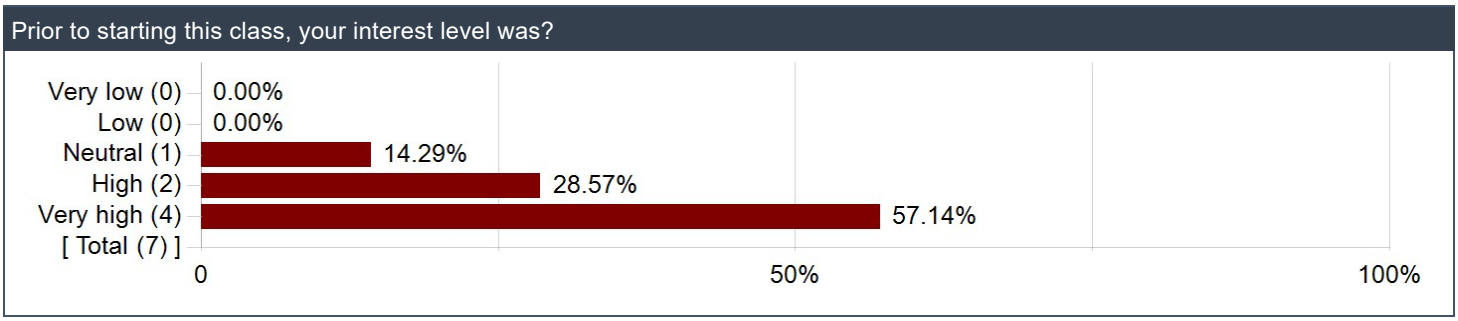
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

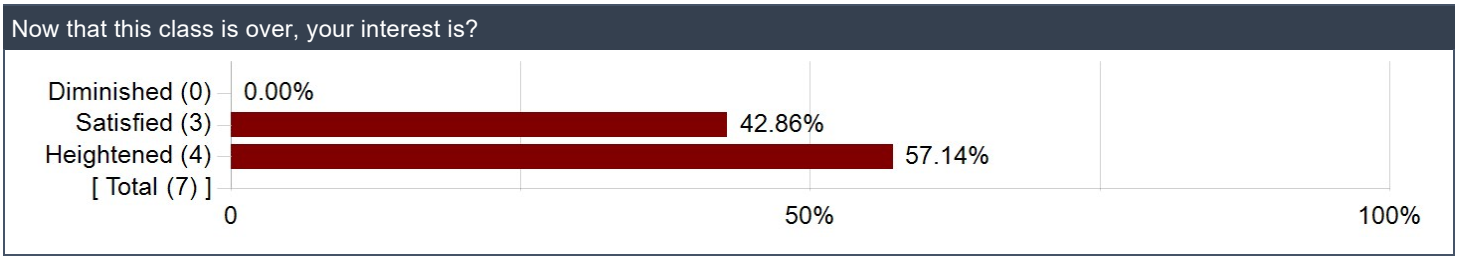
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



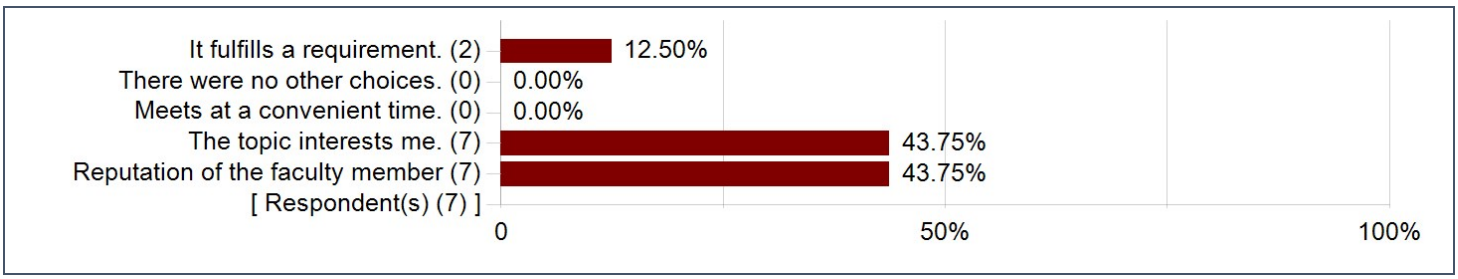
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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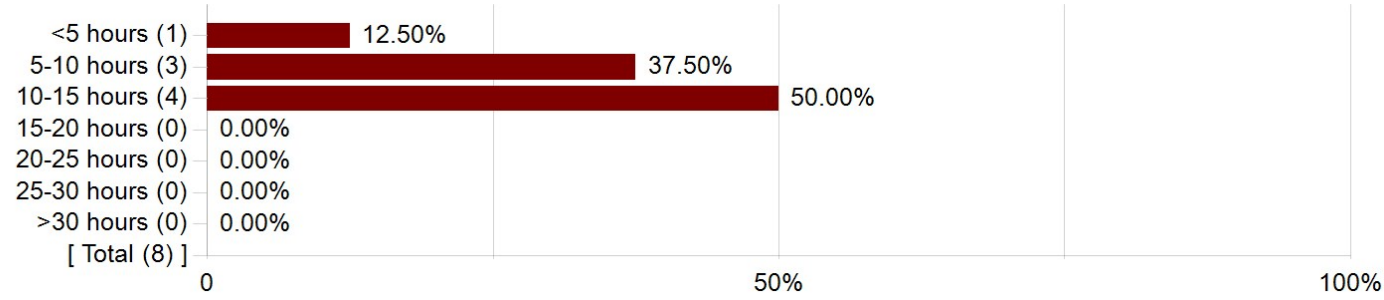

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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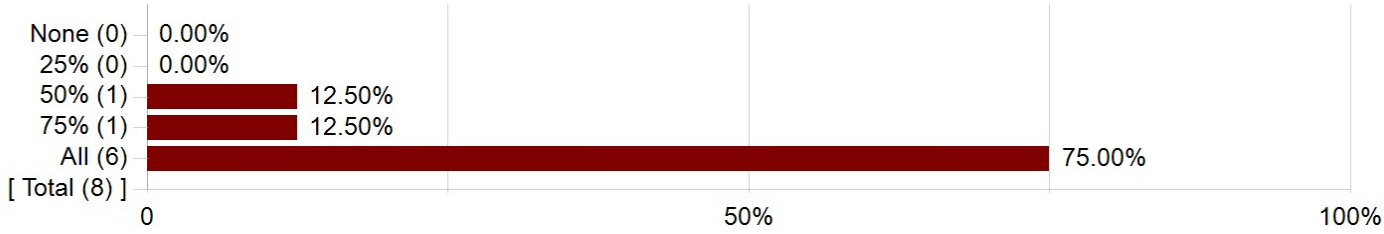

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Took Honors ECON 200s, Honors Metrics 1 with Torgo, and have a decent math background with acc analysis and a few stat courses. In terms of difficulty, it's hard and psets are always a grind but was a bit easier than Honors Metrics 1. I honestly don't think anything will match up to the pains of Honors Metrics 1
Quite difficult
Pretty good transition from Honors Econometrics 1.
Material is harder than Honors Metrics 1, but the class doesn't have tests
Very hard course, but easier than 21030.
I definitely think this course was more chill and less stressful compared to Honors Metrics 1. It was still a very challenging course and the psets are very long, but there are no exams and overall I liked the structure of it much better
Recommend taking Honors 1.