Cornell University
Course Evaluation Response Summary

Semester: Fall 2024

Course Owner: All

Courses:

- ECON 6190
  - DIS 201

Cornell University
Course Evaluation Response Summary
Semester: Fall 2024 Course Owner: All
Course: N/A CID: N/A
Title: N/A
Instructor: N/A
25 Responses, 42 Enrolled, 59.52% Response

The following questions are to be answered using a 5 point scale, where "1" and "5" will be defined and "3" always stands for the midpoint. For example, if a course is slightly below the midpoint in a given aspect, mark "2" for that item. Only one response is allowed for each question.

RATING SCALE 1= Defined extreme
2=
3= Midpoint
4=
5= Defined extreme

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
N01. Do you feel that the TA chose material that was valuable and appropriate? 1 = inappropriate, e.g., too difficult, too easy 5 = just right	5.00	0	24	0	0	0	0	24
N02. How well was the TA's presentation of material organized? 1 = congested; disorganized 5 = clear; concise	5.00	0	24	0	0	0	0	24
N03. Was there ample opportunity to ask questions in sections? 1 = no opportunity 5 = ample chance	4.96	0.19	24	0	0	0	1	23
N04. Was the TA willing to provide help for the students who needed it? 1 = seemed unwilling to help 5 = seemed interested in being helpful	4.96	0.20	23	0	0	0	1	22
N05. Was the TA able to explain difficult material clearly and concisely? 1 = not at all 5 = extremely well	4.96	0.19	24	0	0	0	1	23
N06. How much did you learn from the discussion sections? 1 = nothing 5 = a great deal	4.92	0.27	24	0	0	0	2	22
N07. Did the TA hold regular office hours and make accommodations for those students who could not come at the scheduled times? 1 = missed office hours regularly and was not accommodating to students with conflicts 5 = held regular office hours and was accommodating to students with time conflicts	4.96	0.20	23	0	0	0	1	22
N08. The TA deserves an overall rating of: 1 = a very poor TA 5 = an excellent TA	5.00	0	24	0	0	0	0	24

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C01. What do you feel was the most valued part of the sections?

4497. Yiwei was always very well prepared! She is an excellent TA.

4498. The TA came extremely well prepared with excellent notes and a very well prepared summary of the important stuff we needed to know from the past week.

40949. I appreciated that she came well prepare for the sections.

35726. Yiwei was excellent at organizing her notes and explaining everything in a very clear, approachable manner. Her experience TAing this course before was evident from her often showing common pitfalls and places to get tripped up.

35728. Yiwei is the best explainer of any TA's that I've ever had.

35735. Sections were incredibly detailed yet remained concise. They were organized and thoughtful. They provided all information one needed to have an intuitive yet rigorous understanding of complex problems.

35736. Super clear and informative answers to questions, willing and able to explain things in different ways

33596. I liked everything about Yiwei's section. I especially valued her incredibly clear notes that were very useful when I needed to come back to a difficult question later.

33597. Clear explanations of how to solve problems

35705. TA's material

25750. TA's clear handwriting and explanation during the class.

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C02. What do you feel is the least valued part of the sections?

4497. Very well organized notes and very systematic way to teaching

35726. Sometimes the homework questions she would go over would be a bit too easy - but it was still insightful. I had no problems with her section.

35735. N/A

33596. I valued every part of Yiwei's section.

33597. I have no complaints

35705. Easy sometimes

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C03. What improvements (if any) should be made to the sections?

4497. None

4498. Going over the midterm solutions is not really the best use of our time in the section. The solutions/notes could be posted and we could go through them later. It would be useful to cover more similar questions, that aren't on the problem set but more exam related. As people would have just solved the problem set, they are more/less aware of how to do it and thus it would be more useful to see more exam style problems in the section.

35726. N/A. This was a well-oiled machine

35735. I don't have any recommendations

35736. While I like going over hw problems, I think it might be better to do new problems that are similar so that we see the info in a different way (esp considering the answers are posted).

33596. I have no suggestions for improvements.

33597. Some of the homework problems were practically unsolvable, though this is not her fault

35705. NA

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C04. General critique

4497. Best TA! She comes to class very prepared and always willing to answer questions.

4498. Very very lucky to have Yiwei as our Metrics TA. She is approachable, ready to answer/help students, is kind and comes very well prepared. Her section notes is gold material.

4501. I really like Yiwei's lecture. Very nice person.

35706. People that critique Yiwei as a TA are wrong.

35726. Thank you so much for all of your patience with me during office hours. You super helpful and were probably my favorite TA this semester :)

35728. Yiwei deserves all the TA awards.

35735. Yiwei is the best TA I have ever had. Ever.

33596. If I could give Yiwei a 6 on a 5 point scale I would.

33597. Excellent TA. I hope I'll be as good at this as she is by the time I graduate.

35705. Good

19899. Thank you so much Yiwei!!!! I really appreciated your help in this semester!

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20 Responses, 50 Enrolled, 40% Response

The following questions are to be answered using a 5 point scale, where "1" and "5" will be defined and "3" always stands for the midpoint. For example, if a course is slightly below the midpoint in a given aspect, mark "2" for that item. Only one response is allowed for each question.

RATING SCALE 1= Defined extreme
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Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
N01. Do you feel that the TA chose material that was valuable and appropriate? 1 = inappropriate, e.g., too difficult, too easy 5 = just right	4.42	1.04	19	0	2	2	1	14
N02. How well was the TA's presentation of material organized? 1 = congested; disorganized 5 = clear; concise	4.58	0.87	19	0	1	2	1	15
N03. Was there ample opportunity to ask questions in sections? 1 = no opportunity 5 = ample chance	4.42	1.22	19	1	2	0	1	15
N04. Was the TA willing to provide help for the students who needed it? 1 = seemed unwilling to help 5 = seemed interested in being helpful	4.37	1.34	19	2	1	0	1	15
N05. Was the TA able to explain difficult material clearly and concisely? 1 = not at all 5 = extremely well	4.21	1.32	19	2	1	0	4	12
N06. How much did you learn from the discussion sections? 1 = nothing 5 = a great deal	4.16	1.26	19	1	2	2	2	12
N07. Did the TA hold regular office hours and make accommodations for those students who could not come at the scheduled times? 1 = missed office hours regularly and was not accommodating to students with conflicts 5 = held regular office hours and was accommodating to students with time conflicts	4.58	0.87	19	0	1	2	1	15
N08. The TA deserves an overall rating of: 1 = a very poor TA 5 = an excellent TA	4.22	1.39	18	2	1	1	1	13

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C01. What do you feel was the most valued part of the sections?

55736. The way she answered problem sets.

55753. The sections are very good as they are.

55758. Section went over applications of theory similar to, but not identical, to practice sets. These examples were a wonderful opportunity to reinforce what we learned in lecture and to understand how best to adapt it to problems in homework/exams.

79989. Problem solving

76747. She is very effective in using the board to show examples of problems that leveraged the concepts we learned in class. It helps that she has very neat hand-writing and makes her notes available online on Canvas promptly after each session.

76748. The discussion sections were a review of the problem sets, which was not unhelpful.

76766. I think the TA sections had a good review part at the beginning, especially in the end of the semester. The TA uploaded the things she wrote during the classes as a pdf and this was very helpful.

76742. The notes are very clear and helpful.

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C02. What do you feel is the least valued part of the sections?

55753. The sections are very good as they are.

76748. Yiwei is not able to explain the intuition behind core concepts. Her default response to student questions is to "review the slides" or "look at the solutions." This is a challenging course to master by rote memorization. However, that appears to be how she was successful in this course previously, and she cannot or chooses not to offer deeper explanations of the material.

76766. We could have done some more exercises, and maybe exercises outside the PS.

76744. The entire section.

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C03. What improvements (if any) should be made to the sections?

55736. When getting close to a midterm, it might be useful to ask students what we would like to review — even if it only means to redo problem set exercises.

55753. The sections are very good as they are.

76747. I think it would be helpful if she took about 10-15 minutes at the beginning of each session to review the key concepts taught during the prior week, and then continue with providing step-by-step solutions for homework questions that were assigned. It would be good to refresh everyone on where we are and to ensure we all understand the main concepts before applying them accordingly in examples.

76748. Rather than walking through each problem on our homework, more time should be dedicated to explaining the theorems and processes we learn in class. The volume of material covered and the focus on proofs means we could not cover anything in depth. The section should be a place to solidify our intuition and prepare for exams. This is especially relevant, as our final grade is determined only by our exam performance, not homework.

76765. It would have been more helpful to cover additional exercises during TA Sections rather than repeating the problem sets questions.

76766. Maybe sending before the TA section a note on what we will cover so that we can take a look at the exercises on our own.

76744. Review the material, not just do random problems. Doing problems without understanding the material is counterproductive.

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C04. General critique

55704. Very good TA, clear and precise explanations, couldn't ask for more

55736. One of the best TAs we had all semester!

55753. The sections are very good as they are.

79989. Great TA

76748. Yiwei was slow to review homework assignments, often not providing substantial or helpful feedback before exams. She was generally unwilling to support students in and out of office hours.

Yiwei often condescended to students needing help, saying we "should be able to understand everything if you just read the slides and do the homework." There is no question that students taking a PhD level course are fully committed to learning the material. To imply we are struggling because of laziness is deeply offensive. To refuse to provide actual student support is even worse.

The majority of us have already taken econometrics at a graduate level. Many of us even took econometrics at Cornell. It is unprofessional to insinuate that our educational background was "too easy" and that "in this class, we just cover much harder material." This strikes me as an easy cop-out for a TA uninterested in supporting students: after all, if we don't understand the material, we must have had a subpar education and either be unintelligent or lack commitment.

Yiwei was an exceptionally poor choice for this course. I strongly recommend she pursue additional training before serving as a TA for any other course. If she does not have the time or desire to support students effectively, it may be best for everyone if she works as a GRA and does not take classroom roles.

76766. I think the TA section is generally very good. The pdf files are great because some times in the semester I didn't have time to attend every class and these files were very helpful.

My biggest critique is that PS7 was added very late to the calendar we have, and with a deadline on the end of the semester, but I think this is a critique that may be the responsibility of the professor.

76744. The TA discounted applied students and was unhelpful when looking for suggestions to improve in the course. They just said look at the slides, rather than work through problems with students.