



ECON 21030 1 - Econometrics - Honors - Instructor(s): Francesco Ruggieri

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2022**

Number Enrolled: **20**

Number of Responses: **15**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Monday, April 4, 2022**

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

Comments
Basic econometric theory, from the statistical underpinnings, to linear regression, to causal inference
Statistical inference, linear regression, causal inference
Ordinary least squares, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity designs.
Linear Regression, Causal Inference, Instrumental Variables, Statistical Properties of Estimators
Linear regression, causal inference
Tools for statistical analysis + regression analysis + causal inference methods
Mathematical statistics, linear regression, causal inference (random assignment, selection on observables, instrumental variables)
We learned about the theory of linear regression, random assignment, selection on observables, instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity designs. More broadly, we learned about estimation and identification and their difference. This course covered the assumptions and intuition behind particular methods of identifying causal parameters in the economic framework.
Foundamental ideas in econometrics. The first half was a review about Stat 244/245, where we covered hypothesis tests, asymptotic behaviors of estimators, and linear regression. The second half featured rigorous discussions on instrumental variables, and a bit regression discontinuity design.
mathematical statistics, IV, OLS, causal inference, RDD
I learned about statistical inference, the theory behind regressions, and causal inference.
Estimation and identification problems! The foundations of econometrics
Tools of statistical inference – OLS regression, instrumental variable, regression discontinuity designs, etc. from a very fundamental and theoretical level

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

Comments
Francesco clearly cared about teaching the material and the well-being of his students. The lectures were thorough and he essentially wrote a whole textbook for the class. Exceptional teacher and person.
Lectures were very helpful. Francesco is an amazing lecturer.
Francesco might be the best lecturer I've ever had. He's fantastic. Amazing attention to detail with his mathematical notation, thorough lecture notes posted after every class, a great demeanor and sense of humor in the classroom. His problem sets were hard but fair, and I learned so much from them.
Francesco's PSETs are expertly designed to teach and apply the knowledge we learned in class. Every PSET question was designed to teach an important concept or provide new intuitive insight on what we learned in class. The PSETs were also designed so that past PSETs simultaneously covered material covered in class while also previewing future material such that redoing the PSET revealed new insights of later material in the course. PSETs were long and challenging, but always doable and more than adequately prepared you for exams.
Lectures were engaging and interesting as well. Francesco always paired theory with practical examples and provided insight into how the concepts we were learning were applicable to research in the field currently. He was articulate, witty, and thorough. Not only was Francesco an expert in the subject matter, but he was an incredible teacher who knew exactly how to present the material in an understandable manner. If you needed help, he was always there. By far the best professor I have ever had.
Professor Ruggieri was very clear on the subject material in his lectures and took time to answer questions. Problem sets were difficult but often very rewarding and helped make the material more clear.
Lectures were incredible. Francesco was one of, if not the best instructor I've ever had and he made lectures very clear to follow. Assignments were challenging but very informative. TA sections were optional and explored topics further.
This course was by far the best I have taken at UChicago. The lectures were informative, interesting, and made difficult concepts easy to grasp. Francesco also posted accompanying notes that were extremely helpful in grasping the material and he often tied what we were learning to papers in the literature, which made everything more exciting! The psets were extremely well-designed — each problem had a purpose and I felt that I really learned a lot by doing them. There was no busy work — everything was motivated and genuinely quite fun!
We had five long psets and two "deliberately challenging" exams.
Francesco's lectures were the best – he explained the content in a clear manner, asked good questions to the class and always reviewed content from the last class in a clear manner
Francesco is the best lecturer I have had at UChicago and has the most comprehensive notes. Both show that he has put a lot of thought into them and the material is presented assuming you are learning it for the first time. The problem sets were challenging but incredibly useful. Every problem felt useful and was meant to force you to learn class material on a deeper level.
Lectures were excellent, and the lecture notes were invaluable resources. I though the problem sets were on par with most other econ honors classes (so quite a bit of work, but still doable).
Discussions after week 2/3 were indecipherable.
The lectures were among the best I have ever been in. Francesco explains complex concepts in an intuitive and methodical way, answers questions extremely clearly, and provides useful and relevant real-world examples for virtually everything. The problem sets are well-designed, map very well to the material in the exams, and have extremely detailed solution guides.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
One of the hardest courses I have taken at UChicago but also one of the most fulfilling, 10/10 would recommend even to econ majors with no intention of going to grad school
It is a shame Francesco will not be teaching beyond this quarter. He's the best!
For anyone considering this class, just know that it is a difficult course.
Francesco was more than just a lecturer for this class. Francesco was a teacher, mentor, and colleague.
This course is very engaging and interesting but is also very difficult. Expect to be challenged by tests and problem sets.
Easily the best course I've taken as an undergraduate.
I could not recommend this course or Francesco as a professor more.
this was an amazing course
Best course I have ever taken in any department here.
Extremely organized and well-run. Turnarounds on assignments were rapid, the syllabus was clearly structured and justified.
This is among the best courses I have ever taken at UChicago. Francesco is absolutely stellar. I'm honored to have been a part of this group!
Very challenging but rewarding

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	21.43%	78.57%

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

Comments
His lectures were well planned out and followed his posted lecture notes to a T, and his office hours were exceedingly helpful
Office hours clarified this problem sets a lot.
Francesco is very clear in lecture and goes at a very good pace such that we are covering a lot of material and still going slow enough that we can understand. At the beginning of each lecture, he does a recap of the previous lecture, which is very helpful for our understanding.
Everything. He's the best.
Lectures and PSETs were extremely helpful. Francesco did a great job in creating an inclusive atmosphere during lectures so that everyone was actively participating.
Lectures and office hours
Francesco was excellent at explaining the material and he really cared about his students. He took time to present to us outside of class hours about advice on graduate school. Everything was graded very promptly and clearly. He really went above and beyond for his students.
Lectures are extremely well organized, lecture notes are amazing. Office hours were super helpful for problem sets and understanding concepts from lecture. Francesco is amazing!!!!
Francesco obviously cared deeply about us learning the material and developing good intuition. His lectures were fantastic and the accompanying notes were invaluable. His pset solutions were extremely comprehensive, so it was easy to pick up how to approach complicated questions using the tools we had. His office hours were also extremely useful — he knows how to explain difficult topics in ways that are intuitive. Francesco is a truly exceptional professor.
Francesco is one of the most passionate and caring instructor I have ever met at UChicago. His lectures were clear and excellently organized, and he wrote so detailed pset and exam solutions that I have never seen before. He is erudite and has incorporated materials from many advanced papers to our exercises. Besides, he cared much about over mental development outside the course, and even organized sessions on phd application. I feel very lucky to meet him as my metrics instructor.
hsis lecture notes wer amazing and posting them before hand really allowed me to prepare for class well.
Francesco did not present the material from the point of view of a genius who understood everything the first time they saw it. Ratherm, he presented material in such a way that a motivated student who had been paying attention in class could pick up on it in class.
I'd have a hard time thinking of a better instructor I've had than Francesco, and within the econ department there has been no competition. Francesco is incredibly engaging, genuinely cares about students, and terrifyingly organized. He did a great job making connecting class content to recent research, and I was pushed both with rigorous theoretical and empirical work. He was quite accessible outside of class, and overall made this class a great (if very challenging) experience. He was incredibly devoted this to class, and it really showed: we had beautiful and thorough lecture notes that were more useful than any textbook, gave very thoughtfully–constructed psets, and graded exams almost jarringly fast.
Something specific that I also appreciated was that he took some time to discuss economics grad school.
Lectures and office hours. Both were exceptionally well done. Office hours in particular helped me think about the problem sets clearly, and Francesco did a great job prompting us to ask the right questions without giving away the solution.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Not much. Francesco is great.
N/A
Nothing. Like I said, he's the best.
Nothing.
Nothing. The one-example-per-concept format was very intuitive and clear.
Nothing
I can think of nothing that Francesco could do to make this class or his teaching better than it already is. I have never taken a course with a professor as passionate, hardworking, or adept at teaching as Francesco.
Nothing. He is excellent!
It would have been nice to cover topics like diff-in-diff, but i dont know how this would fit in
Nothing, everything he could have done he did.
Not much? The tests were hard, but not completely unfair, so maybe that was fine.
Nothing!

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	86.67%	6.67%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%

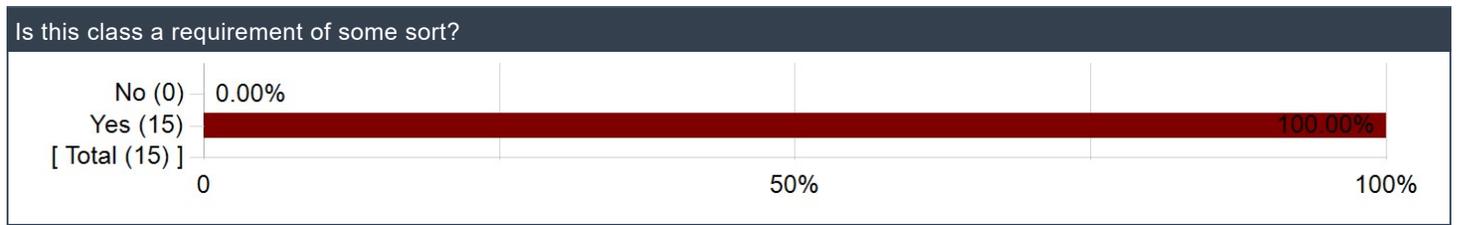
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Ed Jee
Ed Jee
Ed Jee. His discussion sections were very interesting and very helpful.
Ed was really thorough in discussion sections, but I wish he went through the material more slowly. I would've gotten more out of discussion if we had covered 30% less content in the same amount of time (and actually, sometimes we had 10 minutes left over because we went so quickly).
Ed Jee
Ed Jee was very helpful in office hours and the topics he discussed in the discussion section were very interesting.
Ed "Sheeran" Jee
Ed
Ed Jee was our TA for the course. Ed led office hours and discussion sections — the office hours were quite helpful. The discussion sections were also pretty enjoyable. Sometimes we covered complicated topics very quickly and jumped immediately into derivations, so it was occasionally difficult to get the bigger picture. Possibly, it would be nice to get a bit more explanation about the motivation behind a particular method prior to jumping into the math.
Ed Jee
Ed Jee it would be nice to have slides or notes from the discussion because it's really hard to follow sometimes given the pace. Also posting them beforehand would be helpful.
Ed Jee, his discussion sections were interesting but he talked too fast and skimmed over dense math quite often.
Ed Jee. He was very helpful, easy to understand, and accessible in office hours, which I really appreciated.
He also ran discussion sections. After about 3rd week, the discussion sections went almost entirely over the class's head, where more or less everything after this point was lost on us. I think this was partly intentional since it was supposed to be modern/more complicated applications of what we were learning, but when in discussion, I would sit for 50 minutes and understand the first 2 minutes and maybe the last minute.
Ed Jee was a good TA. Sometimes, I felt that his sections were a little disorganized, and it would have been helpful to have a concise set of notes encompassing the material and proofs in his sections, so that I could review them after section. But it was clear he was very knowledgeable, and I do believe his sections contributed to my learning.
Ed Jee

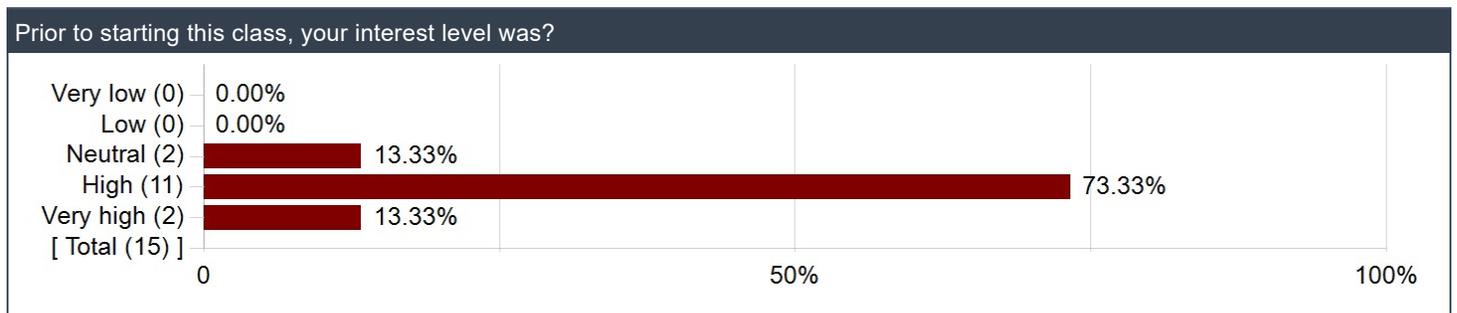
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	46.67%	46.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	46.67%	46.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	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%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%	0.00%

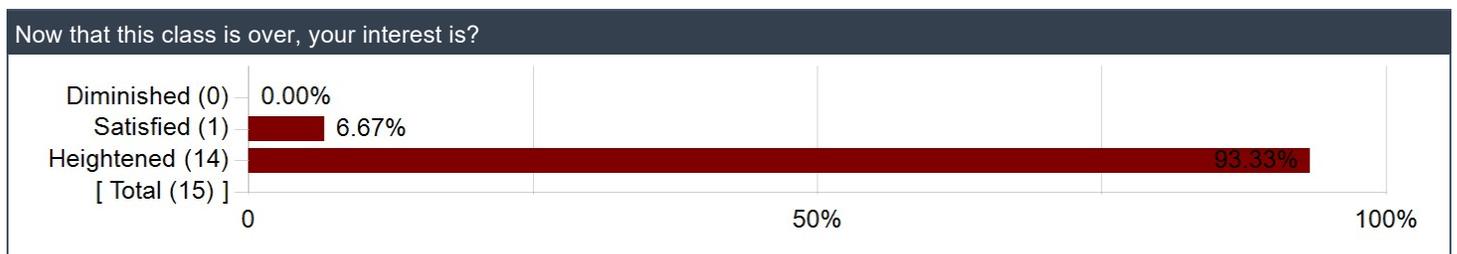
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



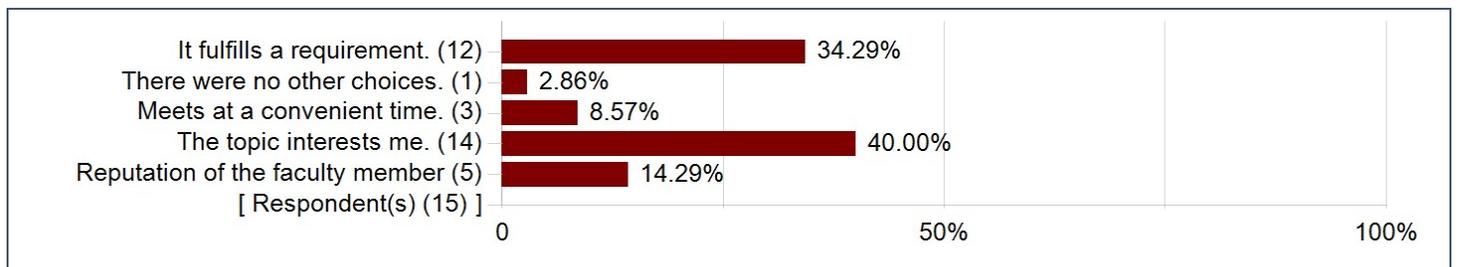
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



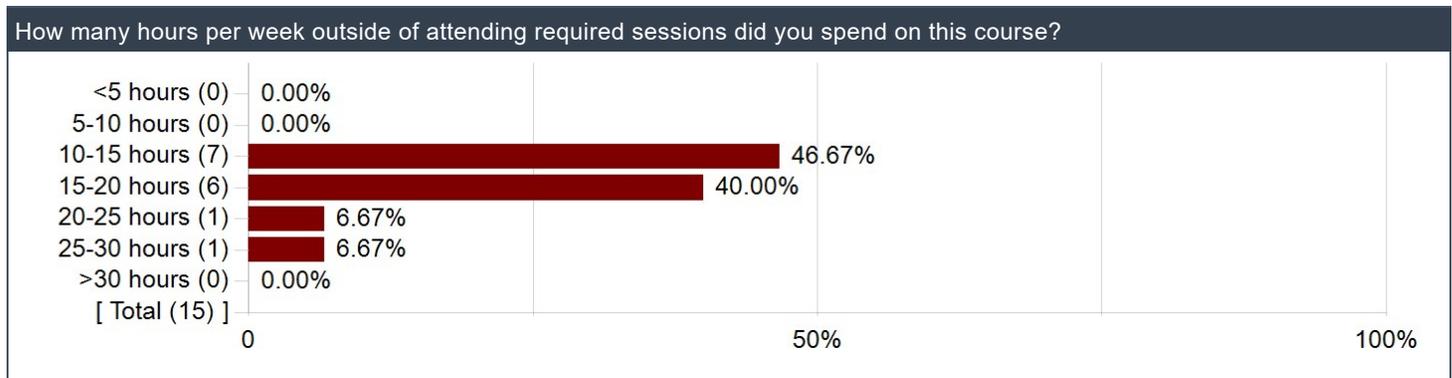
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



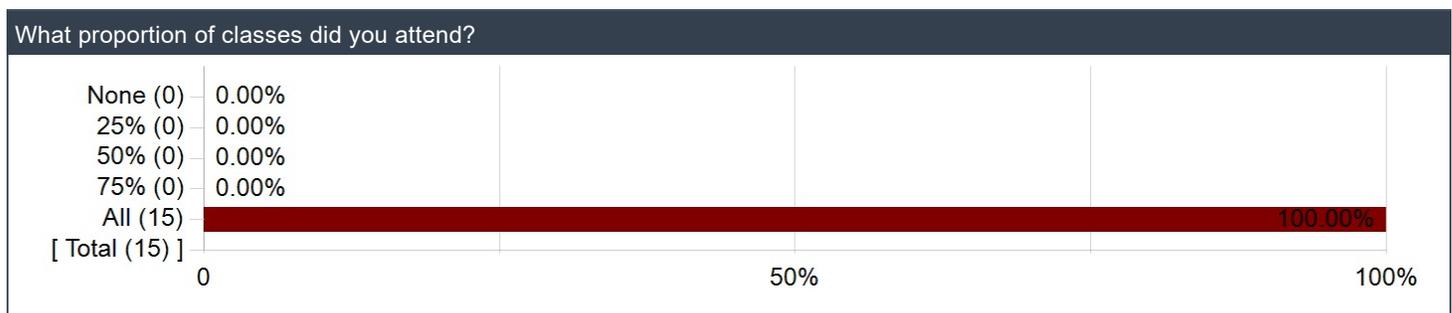
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
Math/econ major with heavy proof-based background – this course was one of the hardest I've taken at UChicago but was well worth it
Hard, but rewarding
This is a very challenging course.
This course is a LOT of work but well worth it. Much harder than the honors 200s sequence in my opinion.
I would say this was the level of a ECMA class.
As someone with no econometrics background but a pretty extensive statistics background, this course was pretty challenging.
This is definitely a difficult course. Prior knowledge of statistics and linear algebra is very important.
This course is certainly not easy. You should be very comfortable with statistics and linear algebra.
It was hard. Francesco commented the following after the final: "this was a deliberately challenging exam. My goal throughout the quarter has been to give you a sense of how first-year exams in an Economics Ph.D. program are structured. You will never be required to memorize and regurgitate knowledge. Instead, you will be tested on your ability to apply what you learnt to new contexts, models, and situations."
it was pretty hard, but not impossible
You need an intuitive understanding of statistics and (to a lesser extent) linear algebra to succeed in the course
This is a very hard course, but not impossible. A background in stat and comfort with linear algebra is important
This was definitely a challenging course. However, I felt prepared given Francesco's absolutely outstanding statistics review during the first four lectures, which helped me catch up on the core concepts needed to succeed in the class and added an additional degree of theoretical understanding that even surpassed that of STAT 24400.
Very challenging but if you having done well on stats and econ classes I was reasonably well prepared.