

Satyaki Chakravarty MSFG – Spring 2024

Course name: Principles of Economics

Focus Group Date: 4/5/24

25 students present – Comments in green are my annotations based on my debrief with students.

What aspects of this course are most helping you learn?

- assigned smartbook and hw **x5**
- taking notes/ guided note sheets **x4**
- being able to check work on the homework **x2**
- going over homework problems
- exams being open note **x2**
- the handouts and lecture
- posts the key
- the end of unit study guide prior to our exam was very helpful
- actively wants you to ask questions
- gives us time to do homework

The students really appreciate your guided note sheets, the homework and smartbook, your open note tests and the way you go over assigned material.

What aspects of this course would you recommend be changed to enhance your learning?

- Homeworks/smartbooks are more complicated than what we learn or are tested on
- Some of the homework questions are more in depth than what is demonstrated in class. Having classwork that goes over the more complicated homework would be helpful.
- homework problems are very long (maybe have some questions be optional/for practice)
- Could be more clear on where he is in the notes while teaching
- Maybe some more group work occasionally **x3**
- Possibly more practice days (ex. 1 day notes → 1 day practice)
- Individual practice time in class
- Make course more engaging (visuals)
- more real world examples in lecture (videos, pictures, notes)
- less lecture based
- maybe kahoots rather than the poll questions
- write bigger, please
- less than 3 checks on the homework (One group mentioned that they thought the fact that there were 3 chances on the homework made them make less of an effort to complete it themselves before checking the answer—but this was *not* a widespread view. Most students appreciated the self-check function, and particularly when the answer is explained.)

There were several comments about how certain homework problems are more complicated than what you assign in class or on tests. They thought it might be helpful to go over some of those longer problems in class, or for you to explain *why* the more complicated ones are relevant for their learning.

They expressed an interest in increased exchanges or active learning in the classroom. They appreciate your willingness to answer questions, but expressed wanting more opportunities for interacting with you and each other beyond Q&A. You could potentially think about adding in some group work to practice

problem sets and/or adding in some more interactive activities like the polls that you sometimes use (which they like). This might be an opportunity to help them see some real world examples (which they also mentioned) and include some other media in the classroom.

What could you be doing as a student in this course that would enhance your learning and/or that of your peers?

- attend office hours. **x2**
- zone out less, try to focus as much as possible
- being more present in class and not being distracted by our technology
- more student engagement in class. **x2**
- more attention being paid **x2**
- ask more questions **x2**
- read textbook more
- answering questions **x2**
- do the smartbook/homework earlier

They were all aware that there are things they could be doing to learn the material more deeply. 😊

What else would you like to tell the professor about this course?

- good pacing of the units/lessons
- very friendly environment
- it seems like he cares about the content and us
- it's nice to be able to email about corrections
- could be a little more engaging
- course is good and professor is very helpful and willing to help whenever
- he's a great professor and wants the best for his students
- always wants us engaged and makes us laugh
- understanding

Overall, they feel like the class has a very positive atmosphere and that you sincerely care about their learning. They feel comfortable asking questions, coming to office hours, etc. The one area to work on might be helping them engage more actively with the material and helping them practice some real-world application.