College Course Evaluations

ECON 25000: Introduction To Finance

Section 1 - Spring 2018

Instructor(s): Khorrami, Paymon; Wei, Hongcen
Number Enrolled: 15
Number of Responses: 8

The Course

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

- The fundamental concepts in finance and how they work in reality.

- Theoretical underpinnings (microfoundations) of asset pricing. Various simple models that explain real-world occurrences like price bubbles in intuitive terms.

- Overview of some key results from academic finance.

- The intuition for asset pricing and where the models come from.

- Pricing of derivatives, corporate finance, mean-variance investing, models of returns

- The basics of asset pricing. Price as the discounted value of future cash flows. The CAPM and FF3F models. Mean-variance investment. Options pricing.

- The theories, models, calculations behind "finance", basically a collection of processes involving money moving back and force but having the same value.

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

- Paymon posts great lecture notes. Very easygoing, stimulates discussion, accessible via email and outside class.

- I learned about some foundational results from finance, which is interesting to know. Fairly useful for anyone going into finance.

- The lectures and assignments both helped.

- Lectures went over all relevant material

- Paymon's lectures were great. He has a natural way of presenting topics. He answered questions thoroughly and approachably. His lecture notes were also really comprehensive. PSets made you learn the topic, but weren't overly difficult.

- The lectures were incredibly insightful and well structured. Paymon's notes give an awesome and, importantly, readable treatment of all the concepts, and then some. The problem sets were really well designed to lead us to interesting insights

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	**63%**
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	0%	0%	0%	13%	38%	**50%**
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	0%	0%	13%	13%	25%	**50%**
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	0%	0%	13%	0%	13%	**75%**
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve subsequent work.	0%	13%	13%	25%	**50%**	0%
My work was evaluated fairly.	0%	0%	0%	13%	**50%**	38%

I felt respected in this class.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	**75%**
Overall, this was an excellent course.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	**75%**

Additional Comments about this course:

- Paymon is a great prof

I would recommend this course to:

highly motivated and well-prepared students

Yes	8 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

anyone interested in the topic

Yes	6 / 75%
No	2 / 25%

The Instructor

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

- Paymon talked us through all the financial concepts in detail, and also showed us how these concepts work in reality using historical data from the capital market.
- He made the material an appropriate level of difficulty without dumbing things down. I've had a couple internships in finance and classes doing similar things as in this course but I still learned a decent amount.
- Paymon did a great job of delivering the material in a clear and concise manner.
- Lectures were clear, made himself very available outside class, made sure to incorporate class feedback
- Paymon is great. His lectures made sense, and usually hit just the right amount of technical. Good balance of presenting prominent theories so we could understand them, contextualizing them in data, and presenting relevant criticisms. He also wrote good lecture notes and PSets.
- Paymon really connects with how we think. He is the most self-aware lecturer I've ever had and as a result is one of the best lecturers I've ever had. He knows how to break concepts down into understandable explanations, whereas a lot of other lecturers just explain complex ideas with other unfamiliar ideas.

What could she/he modify to help you learn more?

- Nothing
- Psets would occasionally be a little lengthy
- Maybe an additional office hour every week?

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	13%	0%	13%	**75%**
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	**75%**
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	**75%**
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	**75%**

Challenged you to learn.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	**75%**
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	**75%**
Was available and helpful outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	**75%**
Motivated you to think independently.	0%	0%	0%	0%	**50%**	50%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming environment.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	**75%**
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	**88%**

The Teaching Assistant, Course Assistant, Intern

Did this class include instruction by a TA, CA or Intern?

Yes	4 / 50%
No	2 / 25%

What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning?
- The TA sessions.
- He was available and knew the material well.

What could she/he modify to help you learn more?
- He could sometimes be more organized in his explanations.
- Maybe more comments on psets?

The TA/CA or Intern...

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	**25%**	0%	0%	0%	**25%**	0%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	13%	0%	0%	**25%**	13%	0%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	**13%**	0%	0%	**13%**	**13%**	**13%**
Challenged you to learn.	**13%**	0%	0%	**13%**	**13%**	**13%**
Helped you succeed in the class.	13%	0%	0%	0%	**25%**	13%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	**25%**	0%	0%	0%	**25%**	0%
Overall, the TA/CA made a significant contribution to your learning.	13%	0%	0%	0%	**38%**	0%

Additional feedback to the TA/CA/Intern:

Additional Course Elements

Did this course include special design elements (labs, field trips, extra sessions, writing seminars)?

Yes	1 / 13%
No	7 / 88%

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

	NA	No Gains	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain
Laboratory Experience	**63%**	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Field Trips	**63%**	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Library Sessions	**63%**	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Review sessions	**50%**	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%
Writing Seminars	**50%**	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Student Information

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Yes	4 / 50%
No	4 / 50%

Prior to starting the class, my interest level was?

Very Low	1 / 13%
Low	1 / 13%
Neutral	1 / 13%
High	3 / 38%
Very High	2 / 25%

Now that the course is over, my interest is?

Diminished	0 / 0%
Satisfied	4 / 50%
Heightened	4 / 50%

Why, primarily, did you take this course over others?

It fulfills a requirement	3 / 38%
There were no other choices	1 / 13%
Meets at a convenient time	3 / 38%
The topic interests me	6 / 75%
Reputation of the faculty member	1 / 13%

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

< 5 Hours	0 / 0%
5-10 Hours	5 / 63%
10-15	2 / 25%
15-20	1 / 13%
20-25	0 / 0%
25-30	0 / 0%
> 30	0 / 0%

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
50%	0 / 0%
75%	2 / 25%
All	6 / 75%

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

- The course was not as difficult as its reputation suggests.

- I had no background in finance, and a lot of the other students in the class did! I really felt behind everyone else in terms of vocabulary and a more intuitive understanding of what was going on. However, the actual work of the class was pretty similar to the way we did things in the ECON core classes, so I was well prepared to do what was required.

- I'm a fourth year Econ and CS major, so I've had a decent amount of exposure to rigorous math concepts, and the class was still challenging at times, but definitely doable with time.

Problem sets probably took me ~15 hours to do to perfect understanding. I think the class was more technical (in terms of math) than a lot of people were expecting.