

Sam Gifford

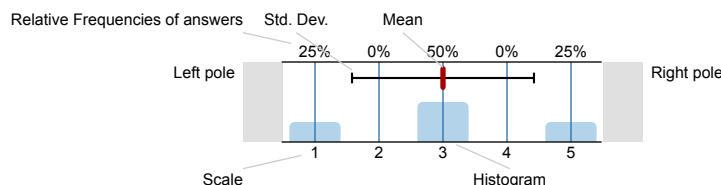
Principles of Macroeconomics
Semester = Summer 2023
ECON-121
17902-220235



No. of responses = 29
No. of students enrolled = 38

Legend

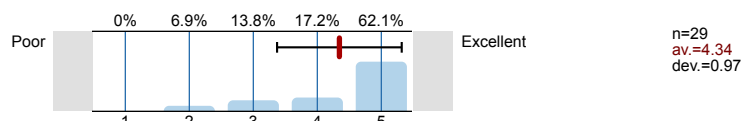
Question text



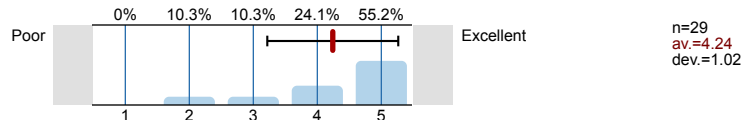
n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
dev.=Std. Dev.
ab.=Abstention

1. INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

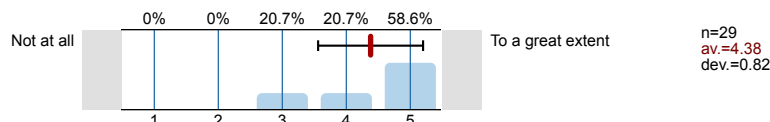
1.1) Rate the instructor's overall teaching effectiveness.



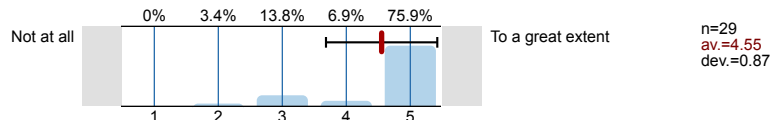
1.2) Rate the overall quality of the course.



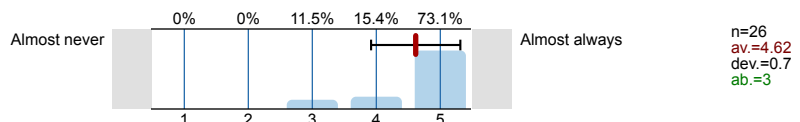
1.3) How well did the course assignments/quizzes/examinations reflect the content and emphasis of the course?



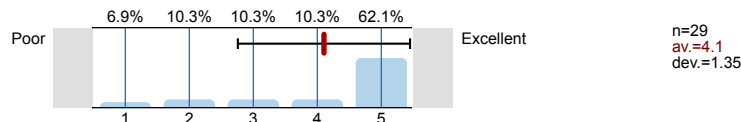
1.4) Was the instructor's use of technology (e.g., email, Blackboard, Powerpoint, other electronic and/or web-based methods) effective?



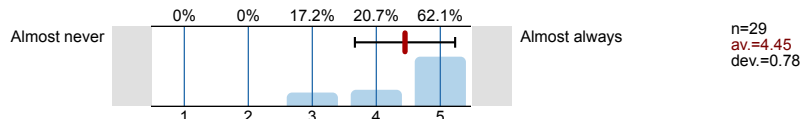
1.5) The instructor was sensitive to the cultural/human diversity, diverse worldviews, learning disability, and/or physical disability of the students.



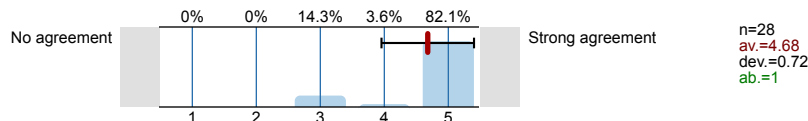
1.6) How would you rate the physical environment in which you take **this class**, especially the classroom facilities, including your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?



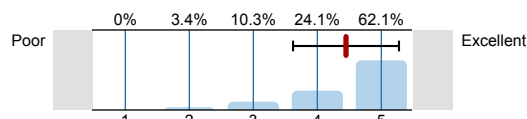
1.7) Methods of evaluating student's work were fair and appropriate



1.8) The instructor demonstrated an understanding of issues related to cultural/human diversity.

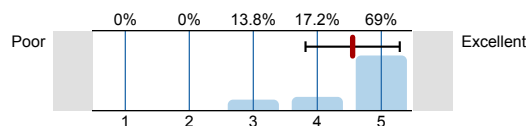


1.9) You found the course intellectually challenging and stimulating.



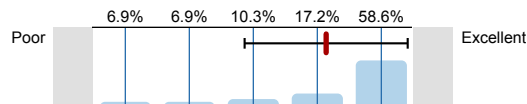
n=29
av.=4.45
dev.=0.83

1.10) You have learned something which you consider valuable.



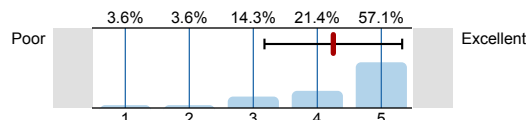
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av.=4.55
dev.=0.74

1.11) Your interest in the subject has increased as a result of this course.



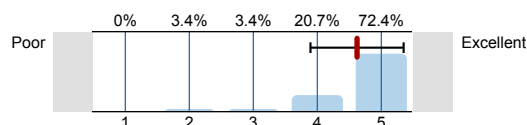
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av.=4.14
dev.=1.27

1.12) You have learned and understood the subject materials in this course.



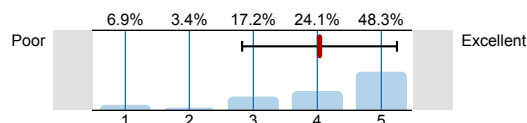
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av.=4.25
dev.=1.08

1.13) Instructor was enthusiastic about conducting the course.



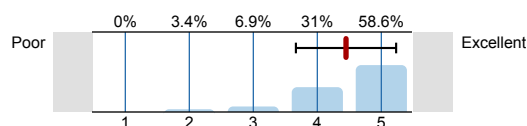
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av.=4.62
dev.=0.73

1.14) Instructor's style of presentation held your interest during the class.



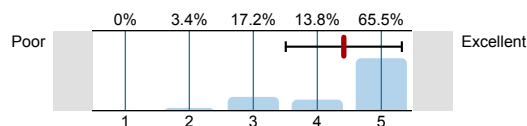
n=29
av.=4.03
dev.=1.21

1.15) Instructor's explanations were clear.



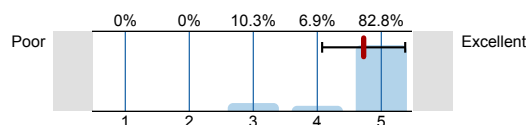
n=29
av.=4.45
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1.16) Course materials were well prepared.



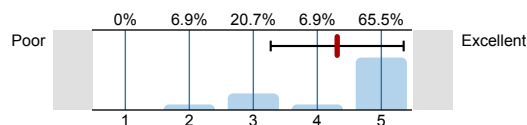
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av.=4.41
dev.=0.91

1.17) The course adequately followed stated course objectives (i.e., course syllabus)



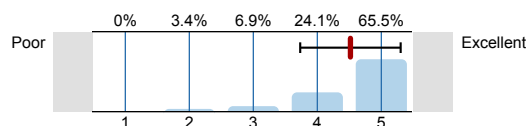
n=29
av.=4.72
dev.=0.65

1.18) Instructor gave lectures that facilitated note taking.



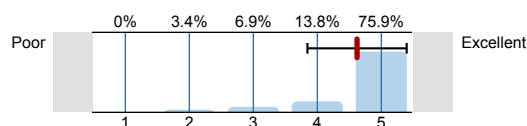
n=29
av.=4.31
dev.=1.04

1.19) Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.



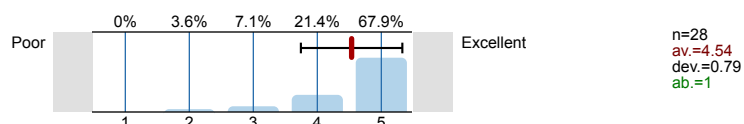
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1.20) Students were encouraged to ask questions and were given meaningful answers.

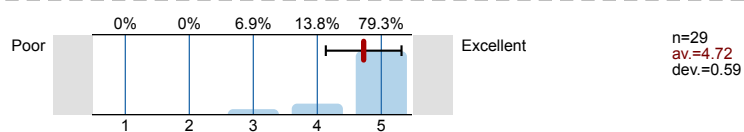


n=29
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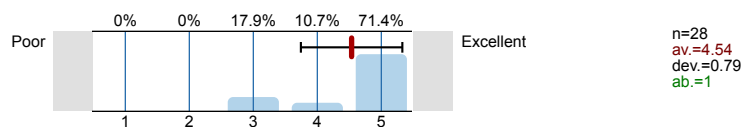
1.21) Students were encouraged to question/challenge the course material.



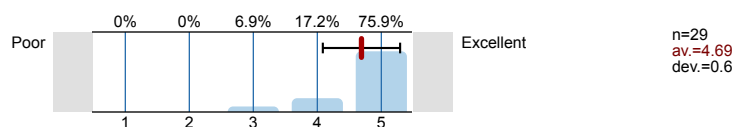
1.22) Instructor made students feel welcome in seeking help/advise in or outside of class.



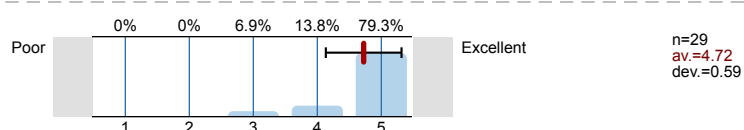
1.23) Instructor had a genuine interest in individual students.



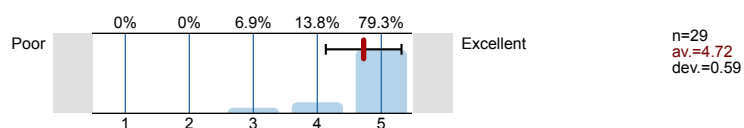
1.24) Instructor presented background of ideas/concepts covered in class.



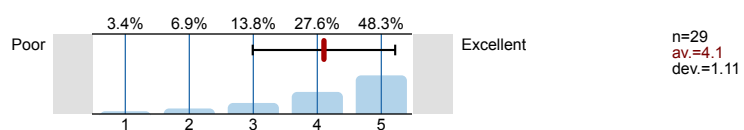
1.25) Instructor presented points of view other than his/her own when appropriate.



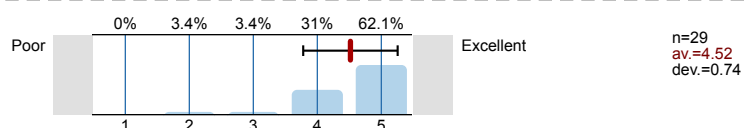
1.26) Instructor adequately discussed current developments in the field.



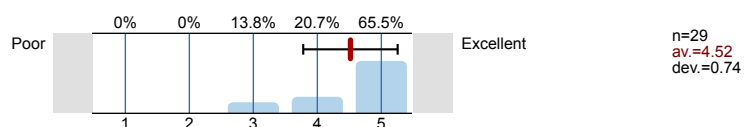
1.27) Feedback on examinations/graded material was valuable.



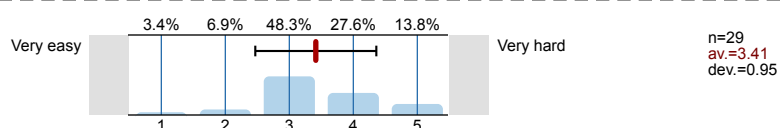
1.28) Examinations/graded materials were returned on a timely basis.



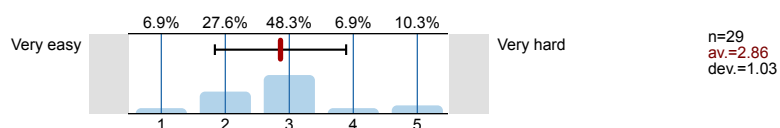
1.29) Readings, homework, etc. contributed to appreciation and understanding of subject.



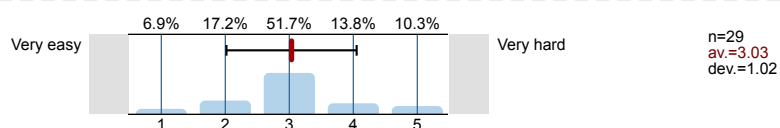
1.30) Course difficulty, relative to other courses was...



1.31) Course workload, relative to other courses was...

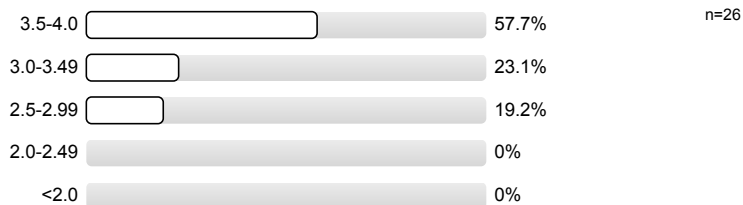


1.32) Course pace was...

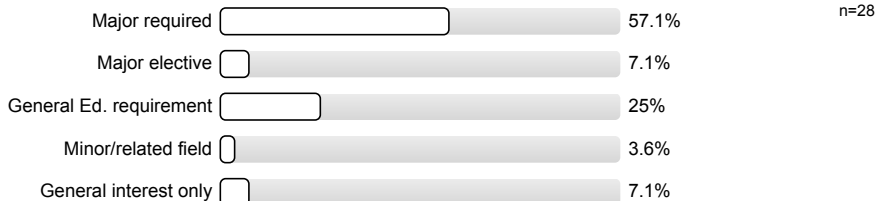


2. STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

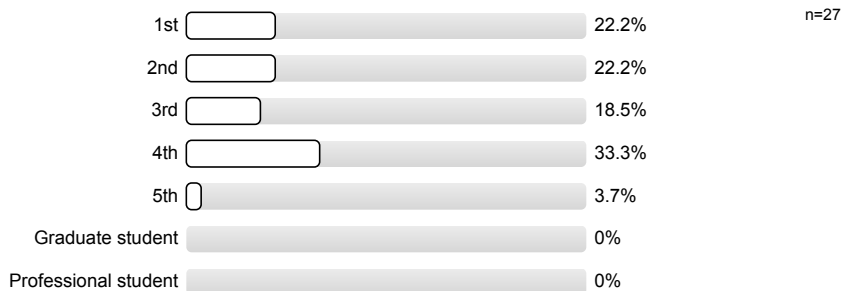
2.1) Overall GPA at UIC



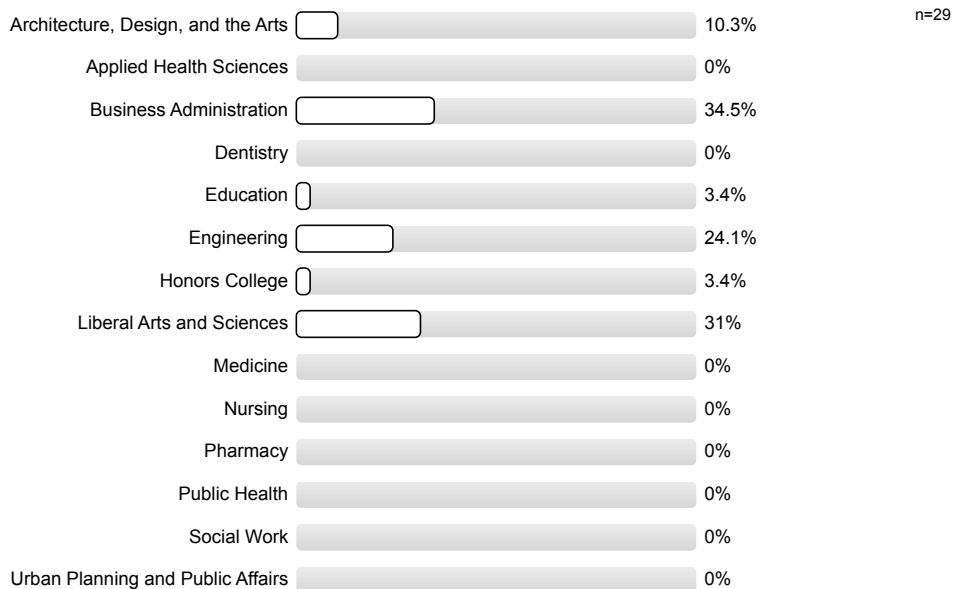
2.2) Primary Reason for taking the course



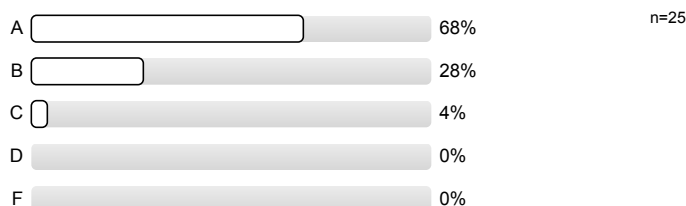
2.3) Year in school



2.4) Major College



2.5) Expected Grade in this Course

3. OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS
(INSTRUCTOR)

3.1) Please comment on specific characteristics of the course that were most beneficial to you:

- - Explaining and discussing about a broad starter list of economics topics (demand and supply, policies, GDP, trade, macroeconomics vs. microeconomics, etc.)
- Hosting mini quizzes and polls during the lecture classes via iClicker as a way to check if the students are understanding the topics and can apply their knowledge to example situations.
- Structuring the homework assignments and quizzes around the topics covered in class.
- - The professor was very passionate about what he was teaching
- He went out of his way to answer our questions and do research for us to have a better understanding
- He created a safe environment for us
- He was very knowledgeable and explained topics in a variety of ways
- Showed interest in our success and understanding in the class
- Detailed presentation for note taking
- Everything, all basic concepts
- First of all Prof. Sam was very helpful, most of the time I preferred to email questions and he responded to me not only in great detail but also with a lot of details! Thank you.
- Good explanation
- I benefitted that the presentations were easy to understand.
- I really liked that all of the lectures were provided before class, that way it was easy for my to look over what we were going to go over during class and while taking notes it was good go back to certain slides if I missed something and not having to ask the professor to go back since I had the slides as well.
- I think that everything that I learned in this course was very beneficial as supply and demand was probably very difficult for many students to understand where it moves or shifts within the graph, which I have major trouble with it, international trade opportunity cost, sunk costs, price levels and inflation rate, financial markets, etc. It was a fascinating subject, and I learned a lot.
- Interesting course, found some of the topic useful even though I'm not an Econ major.
- Loved the teaching where Professor Gifford taught way outside of the box and explained a variety of information apart from the textbook that made us understand more on the macroeconomics and more on how our country's economy works and other countries' economy as well.
- My academic major is Latin American Studies and it leans a lot towards history, sociology, and political science. Sometimes, however, references are made to economic data. Some data and concepts are intuitive, but there are others that I believed warranted a better economics background. The material for the second half of the class were especially helpful in building a solid economics foundation for further study.
- Professor Gifford is an amazing teacher, who connected material in this course to so many different aspects of real world applications as well as history. Every class session was so interesting. professor Gifford always welcomed my questions and gave me very thoughtful and well presented answers. he even gave us advice on how to seek out raises in our future career when we covered leverage. I loved all of the historical contexts that he drew upon as well as his ability to present information in such an informative and easy to grasp way. His teaching style is amazing and he always gives meaningful responses to questions, and will even take notes on his students questions to look into concepts further and circle back to them again next class. Professor Gifford is very diligent in his communications and always makes himself available to students when they seek help or extra support outside of class. He's quick to remind students to come to his office hours and always presents a very welcoming atmosphere in the course. Aside from his awesome historical and contemporary connections of subject matter, anyone can tell that he truly is very interested in the subject, and that intern encourages his students to pay closer attention as well. He also makes very good points and every now and then adds a clever joke or clever comparison relating to the topic at hand that are actually very entertaining and funny and keep the class focused on the material. While the material may be challenging at times, he is always willing to walk students through the concepts and presented in a way that is easier to grasp. I learned so much from this course and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am very glad that I had Professor Gifford and I would like to recommend him for every single award there is in the category of excellence in teaching. Professor Gifford is a model professor who is so interested in

his field that it inspires is own students. Awesome and amazing are understatement regarding his abilities to conduct a course. He is also very accommodating to students when they have to balance their work life with academics. Aside from schoolwork He also offers great mentorship and quality life guidance when asked questions about aspects of life outside the realm of economics. I now make so many more decisions taking opportunity cost in mind, and because of this I cook more at home to minimize expenses and maximize deliciousness in my life.

The next goal of mine is to nap less and study more.

- Professor is very helpful, understanding and seeks feedback from students. The course is made very comprehensive by the professor.
- Teaching style was very good
- The Friday review sessions were fairly helpful.
- The material was on point. I enjoyed this course alot. The professor is very knowledgeable about the course.

3.2) Please comment on specific aspects of the course that need improvement:

- - Better communications with the TAs would be helpful to have clarity on where we stand in class
 - - Couldn't find references or reinforcements to use for the homework. Wording on assignments was more challenging and very different from the slides and textbook, so there was a lot of confusion on the homeworks.
 - Find ways to make the class a bit more engaged
 - Good TAs
 - I really enjoyed Prof Sam's class, and I hope I can take his class on the fall.
 - I would advise the instructor to have homework through the company from the book rather than his own questions because the material in the beginning of the course was so easy I didnt feel the need to buy the book. Then, towards the end where the material became more complicated I wish I had it but by that point there was only 2 weeks left of the end of class and I did well enough to get a good grade so I didnt want to spend the money for it.
- He asked for very little feedback or if anyone had questions.
- Iclicker answers being in the slides that students could see ahead of time made for little incentive to actually think through the problem.
- I would truly say that nothing needed improvement because there was great communication between my professor and me, and even he informed the t.a. about any situation that occurred. I would say just the i-clicker doesn't sometimes work when answering questions and taking attendance. Still, our professor was very understanding and lenient with attendance problems and i-clicker issues. Also, the course runs a little more time which is understandable since it is summer course, but it can get tiresome. It is a very fascinating subject to learn about within the business world.
 - Lectures were abit too long to stay concentrated and focused throughout.
 - Maybe no quiz in the exam week.
 - More interactive work
 - N/A (2 Counts)
 - Nothing, it's a truly interesting course and I learned so much.
 - Perhaps, to increase student engagement in the material the iClicker can be used to ask economics trivia related to that days material. It probably shouldn't be graded so that it doesn't penalize students unfamiliar to the trivia. The purpose of these types of questions would be to remind students that the concepts we're studying are important in the real world.
 - Something that I would have appreciated was that the lectures from the discussion sections to have had a seperate documants for the answeres because when going back I could only hope I got the explanation well enough from class.
 - Sometimes the class would drag, making it difficult to concentrate.
 - The course is perfect.
 - The homework assignments had way too much variability in difficulty. It would be fairly easy one week, then much more complicated the next. For example, the last two assignments for this semester are both twice as many questions as all the prior ones. Some questions also ask about course material in a much more complicated way than is approached in the lecture slides.
 - The initial quizzes and homework difficulty was far greater than it should have been with almost all of the questions being abstract and requiring knowledge learned in later economics classes. Professor did quickly realize that and changed the difficulty and offered extra credit to help make up for the lost points.
 - speak a little bit too fast, and uses technical terms that's hard to understand for the principle class.

3.3) If necessary, clarify any of your previous responses or make additional comments:

- Best professor
- I don't think I need make some comments.
- I really liked how the instructor emphasized the big picture for all of the course concepts. There was never an instance where it felt like the questions on the homeworks, quizzes, or exam were "gotcha-questions."
- I would just like to mention our professor is a very kind, understanding, helpful, caring, and compassionate person who definitely works with you in every situation. I have a difficult commute problem since I work part-time and commute to UIC, which is 2 hrs far. I explained the situation to him, and he was so happy to help me and definitely worked with me to make it less stressful and difficult for me while taking 3 full-time classes during the summer session. He also gives students chances with extra-credit homework, surveys, etc and I am taking that opportunity so my grade will reflect on it. He gives us homework that is clear and concise and relates to the lectures and even quizzes which its not so workload-heavy compared to other summer classes. I think we honestly need more economics professors like him which so passionate, understanding, caring, etc. Thanks!
- Making the students get the book and have homework from it would help us understand the information better for the class. It was easy enough to get by without buying it but I was actually interested in the material and really wish I got the book for a deeper understanding
- N/A (3 Counts)
- Professor Gifford is the gold standard of academic excellence. I could not have asked for a better teacher, or a better learning experience.
- The slides weren't very good and they, along with many of the homework and quiz questions, seemed like the creators expected the students to have as much expertise on the subject matter as themselves.
- nothing more