

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION	MONEY AND BANKING	
	FALL 2005	SPRING 2009
	Econ 121.13	Econ 121.10
1) Difficulty of the subject matter [1] = very easy - [5] = very difficult	3.94	3.52
2) Amount you learned in the course [1] = almost nothing - [5] = a great deal	3.12	3.78
3) The overall rating of the instruction was [1] = not at all effective - [5] = very effective	2.41	3.44
4) The overall quality of the course was [1] = poor - [5] = excellent	2.53	3.15
5) Overall, how would you rate the level of intellectual challenge in the course? [1] = not at all challenged - [5] = very challenged	3.88	3.41
6) Overall how would you rate your overall engagement in the subject matter? [1] = not at all engaged - [5] = very engaged	3.12	3.37
7) The course objectives were clear [1] = not at all clear- [5] = very clear	3.73	4.17
8) Course objectives were achieved [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	3.43	4.21
9) Level of class participation or discussion was appropriate to the size and objectives of the course [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	2.79	3.17
10) Course content was organized in a manner that facilitated learning [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	3.38	3.50
11) Amount of effort or work required was [1] = very little - [5] = a great deal	4.31	4.32
12) Effectiveness of assignments in reinforcing or solidifying learning [1] = not at all - [5] = very effective	3.25	3.75
13) Effectiveness of exams in reinforcing or solidifying learning [1] = not at all - [5] = very effective	2.69	3.32
14) Gained factual knowledge [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	3.69	3.96
15) Enhanced Quantitative and Analytical Skills [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	3.20	3.32
16) Increased conceptual understanding and/or critical thinking [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	3.31	3.44
17) Demonstrated concern whether students were learning [1] = not at all concerned - [5] = very concerned	2.75	3.58
18) Clarity of lectures [1] = not at all clear - [5] = very clear	2.94	3.62
19) Was knowledgeable about the subject and course material [1] = not at all knowledgeable - [5] = very knowledgeable	3.73	3.87
20) Enthusiasm for topic/subject [1] = not at all enthusiastic - [5] = very enthusiastic	3.13	3.79
21) Accessibility outside of class [1] = not at all accessible - [5] = very accessible	3.75	3.90
22) Designed and used fair grading procedures [1] = not at all fair - [5] = very fair	2.73	3.87
23) Provided adequate feedback on exams, papers or performance [1] = not at all fair - [5] = very fair	2.73	3.71
24) Instructor's use of technology in the classroom contributed to learning [1] = not at all fair - [5] = a great deal	3.65	4.00

## **STUDENT COMMENTS: Econ 121.13 Money and Banking**

- It was a pleasure to take this class. She was very precise and class lecture was filled with insightful material.
- Very well organized course. And she got through the entire book. Amazing.
- Ms. Akin is a very smart woman. She was always able to answer my questions.
- She was a good instructor and was really helpful in explaining things.
- Overall an interesting class. Prof. Akin seems to be a bit new to teaching, but her enthusiasm is there and she certainly is an immensely intelligent person.
- The class was very interesting. Many interesting topics. The notes on the blackboard were very helpful. Pace of the class was also good.
- I was surprised that I liked this class, considering I thought it was going to be a very boring requirement. I ended up learning the most about Central Banks. I guess I never really understood what they did. I just wish I would have taken this class before Econ 102 and 182 because I think I would have done better in them. I also became less confused about exchange rates in this class since they were explained better than any of my previous professors.
- What I enjoyed about this class were the real life examples talked about from current events or actual events in the past. Using real life examples makes them more interesting and overall easier to understand like 9/11 terrorist attacks, Iranian blockade, Venezuelan oil crisis, 70's OPEC examples, Great Depression, technology boom. Also newspaper clips from Financial Times and the Economists are always informative.
- This course was very good at tying in a lot of concepts from other economics and finance course and how they all are inter-related. The hand-outs were very helpful in studying for exams and doing homework sets. The problem sets were also helpful in preparing for the exams. You were very good at returning assignments in a timely manner. Overall this was a good course. Thank you Professor Akin.
- The thing I enjoyed the most learning about was creation and operation of the modern international financial systems. I found in particular the IMF and World Bank very interesting. I also enjoyed learning about how policies in one country affect another and how to combat various financial problems within a country. I found this interesting because I feel that it explains a lot about how the world works.
- I enjoyed learning most about the FED's structure and its working. In particular, it is great applying what we learned in class to current events. In particular regards to nomination of Ben Bernanke as the new FED chairman.
- My favorite part of the class was learning about exchange rate fluctuations and speculative attacks. I also enjoyed learning more about how the FED enters the market to control interest rate through open market operations. I liked looking at real life examples of China and the Fed articles help to make the subject more understandable.
- I really enjoyed the class. I think it is going to help me a lot in the future.

## **STUDENT COMMENTS: Econ 121.10 Money and Banking**

- The homework assignments were very useful with encouraging the student to turn to the text to locate the answer, which in turn facilitated learning.
- The assignments made me read the entire chapter so it was very useful because I got a general idea of each chapter.
- Homeworks helped a lot in learning process.
- Homework was helpful in building a solid foundation in the material.
- It was very good to have the homeworks because it made you stay on track with the readings and do them very closely.
- Homeworks were long and definitely reinforcing. And she tries to tell what she expects although sometimes she is not clear. She is very detail oriented.
- It was a boring subject but she makes the course as interesting as it can be using documentaries and giving actual and recent examples on other countries and the USA.
- She was great- went above and beyond to meet with me, very approachable.
- Reviews of material at the beginning of each class was helpful in reinforcing what we had learned from last lecture. It made it easier to learn the new material.
- She is very knowledgeable and ready to help a lot if you ask for help.
- Professor Akin cared for the well-being of her students, but she was not an engaging lecturer.
- Homeworks were returned promptly and reviewed if there was any problems-this was helpful. The use of outside resources such as videos and news articles helped to make the material more accessible and applicable to everyday life. Instructor showed concern that students were understanding the material and answered questions when asked.
- Very good cases and visual examples.
- The use of powerpoint slides and availability of notes made this course somewhat manageable. Without these notes, I probably would have switched to another course.
- She is a great teacher. The only criticism is that she is not very engaging. You have to be self-engaged in the course and the material.
- Appreciated the e-mail reminders about homework rather than constantly having to check blackboard. Made the material very accessible by explaining in different ways and reviewing the material a lot.
- What I liked most about the class was that the information covered was explained and discussed in a way that made sense. It was all very fair and I liked how everything was structured with the problem sets and everything. I learned a lot and unfortunately there are actually classes that I have take here where I did not learn anything. I am happy that this was not one of them. Thank you for a great semester.

- The part of the economics and banking course I most enjoyed this semester were the videos on sub-prime mortgage crisis and the explanation/discussion we had in class regarding them. I found these videos insightful and extremely helpful towards understanding what happened. As a result, I am now able to explain to someone with relative detail the build-up to the crisis and what happened. It was also interesting to learn about the history of recessions in the United States and what led up to them (i.e. Savings and Loan crisis, the stock market crash of 1929, etc.) and what measures have been put into place to combat/smooth future recession shocks. I truly believe this is the part of the class everyone was most looking forward to and the videos and discussion in class really helped in getting everyone on the same page and able to understand what happened.
- Learning about government regulation of the financial industry was by far the most interesting aspect of this course. As a political science major I have a keen interest in examining government policies and learning about various legislation aimed to regulate banks (McFadden , Glass-Steagall, etc.) made this class very worthwhile, aside from the larger wealth of information I acquired from the course. Learning about government regulation of the financial industry in the midst of a major financial crisis made it especially interesting. The information I learned in this class enhanced my understanding of the current dialogue concerning banking regulation. Because of the information I learned about regulation, I was able to ask Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, a poignant and substantive question about the future of financial regulation (for which I received an equally substantive response !) Thanks for a great semester !
- The most interesting topic I learned was the Bernard Madoff Scandal. I thought this was interesting for a number of reasons: 1) It is current and making headlines 2) I am a finance major and this is relevant to my major 3) It is historical and the largest investor fraud ever committed by a single person 4) I personally have met him before, so I had immediate interest in the issue. For these reasons, I think Madoff scandal was the most interesting topic covered.
- I found the most interesting topic in the class to be the current financial crises. While not a section unto itself (though certainly in the future, it will be) we related to it in nearly every topic we discussed and watched videos related to it, all of which I found to be very interesting. I think I enjoyed this the most because it allows us to apply theory and concepts to an example we are living through. It touches close to home when when say we discussed the inherent moral hazards of large banking institutions and you turn on the television and see another 10 billion dollars of TARP money is being used to rescue financially irresponsible banks. I believe now I have a more rounded view of the crisis and am glad I was able to understand how and why things were happening the way they were. I learned the incentives behind securitization and inherent risks in packaging risky loans together as a plan set to fail. Perhaps if a an entire section were devoted to the crisis, it could be improved on, however considering it is literally current events, I was very satisfied with the way that it was taught.
- To be honest, I learned a tremendous amount in this class. As long and as tedious the problem sets were they were very helpful in preparing me for test and more importantly understanding the information. The best part of the course was the section on the current crisis, to be able to go through the problems from such a view was wonderful. The videos, the class instruction and the theory allowed me to truly grasp the sub-prime mortgage crisis. These classes are difficult to teach because the material is so dry and unrelatable but this segment was not only informative but interesting. Thank you professor.
- The most interesting thing I learned this semester would have been different causes of the sub-prime crisis and the effect of it. Most classes I take never touch on current events and I was happy that you did so in this class. I believe it is very important for students to understand what took place in these times of financial crisis as it is one of the worst depressions in U.S. history. Thank you for a great semester, I thoroughly enjoyed your class and learned a great deal.

- The most interesting topic of our class was perhaps the role of Federal Reserve in the US economy. I think this is important to understand how certain monetary and fiscal policies can change the status of the economy. Another important topic would be the causes of inflation. I feel as if many US citizens do not even understand the definition of inflation nor do they know how the Federal Reserve uses monetary policy in an effort to stabilize prices. Finally it was interesting to learn about the economic crisis and how we are supposed to make adjustments to avoid future problems. Economics should become normal high school course and then eventually US citizens would be more informed and have a better idea of what Federal Reserve is trying to accomplish.
- What I liked the most in Econ 121 was to learn more about the Great Depression, the role of the Fed and the sub-prime mortgage crisis. I think it is good to use powerpoint slides because they are more direct than the book. I would suggest include more videos about other topics and also get to know about other economies around the world.
- By far the best part of the Econ 121 was the relation to real life, especially when we spoke about how this current crisis came about and how the government can potentially solve the problem. The class was most informative when there was a real life example to back up the theoretical framework as in the examples of Israel's inflation fighting efforts, or the build-up of Vietnam War. In the future, instead of introducing a theory and then providing an example it may be more informative for future students to see exactly what happened first and then to provide the theory that made the historical event happen. Nonetheless this course's relation to the reality of economics, money and inflation, especially in the current economic climate, made it interesting and poignant. Thank you for an excellent semester.
- Overall I felt that this class provided a great amount of information on a sector of the economy that is currently playing a role in the spotlight. Being able to understand the actions of the Fed and other areas of the banking system have allowed me to understand what is going on in the world around me. I have found these aspects of the course very interesting and helpful.
- The most interesting thing I learned in this class was the topic of the Federal Reserve system and the more final details into how it operated within the economy and how it conducted monetary policy. It was also interesting to learn about the evolution of the Federal Reserve System.
- Learning about the system of the Federal Reserve System and its philosophy was interesting. Consider how: 1) decentralized 2) not as independent as ECB which is surprising 3) depends on the man on top (like Alan Greenspan) Also learning about the rational of the financial historical events.
- The most interesting thing I learned this semester was the role of Feds in the U.S. economy. Without this knowledge, part the Feds take is often underplayed or not transparent at all to the public or through the media. It was interesting to learn more about the government's role in controlling or stabilizing the economy, and the many powers that it has.
- The most interesting subject that I have learned in this course is how rational expectations of people affect economic behaviour.
- The most interesting thing I learned about was hyperinflation and its effect on economies. It is amazing that when a government issues so much currency, consumers in these countries have to carry bags of currency with them to purchase goods and commodities. It is amazing how contractionary and dis-inflationary policies can reign in such hyperinflated economies.
- I enjoyed the life-cycle theory. I wish we spent more time discussing consumption/spending habits, since this is such a mysterious part of economics and since thinking about it may help us change our spending habits. The theory interests me much more than empirical case-studies like the Great Depression.

- The last chapters we received I found to be the most interesting. Specifically the chapters on inflation, the transmission mechanisms. The other initial chapters were just descriptive without much analytical aspects. The other initial chapters were just descriptive without much analytical aspects. The videos and outside resources used in class were helpful in relating what we were learning in class to real world events and situations. It would have been nice to spend more time on these technical chapters and less on the beginning descriptive chapters.
- The most interesting topic covered was the Money supply. The idea of multiple deposit creation is very interesting how money expands. Also how the Fed maintains the federal funds rate and supply of money was also very interesting.