

## INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

SURVEY OF  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS  
FALL 2008

	Econ 180.10	Econ 180.13
1) Difficulty of the subject matter [1] = very easy - [5] = very difficult	4.41	4.08
2) Amount you learned in the course [1] = almost nothing - [5] = a great deal	3.24	3.35
3) The overall rating of the instruction was [1] = not at all effective - [5] = very effective	2.94	3.27
4) The overall quality of the course was [1] = poor - [5] = excellent	2.88	3.00
5) Overall, how would you rate the level of intellectual challenge in the course? [1] = not at all challenged - [5] = very challenged	4.06	4.00
6) Overall how would you rate your overall engagement in the subject matter? [1] = not at all engaged - [5] = very engaged	2.12	2.77
7) The course objectives were clear [1] = not at all clear - [5] = very clear	3.88	4.15
8) Course objectives were achieved [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	3.63	3.80
9) Level of class participation or discussion was appropriate to the size and objectives of the course [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	3.19	3.17
10) Course content was organized in a manner that facilitated learning [1] = not at all - [5] = completely	3.24	3.52
11) Amount of effort or work required was [1] = very little - [5] = a great deal	4.00	3.92
12) Effectiveness of assignments in reinforcing or solidifying learning [1] = not at all - [5] = very effective	3.12	3.62
13) Effectiveness of exams in reinforcing or solidifying learning [1] = not at all - [5] = very effective	2.88	3.48
14) Gained factual knowledge [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	3.44	3.56
15) Enhanced Quantitative and Analytical Skills [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	2.80	3.13
16) Increased conceptual understanding and/or critical thinking [1] = not at all - [5] = a great deal	3.13	3.22
17) Demonstrated concern whether students were learning [1] = not at all concerned - [5] = very concerned	3.29	3.69
18) Clarity of lectures [1] = not at all clear - [5] = very clear	2.88	3.16
19) Was knowledgeable about the subject and course material [1] = not at all knowledgeable - [5] = very knowledgeable	4.35	4.58
20) Enthusiasm for topic/subject [1] = not at all enthusiastic - [5] = very enthusiastic	4.41	4.54
21) Accessibility outside of class [1] = not at all accessible - [5] = very accessible	4.31	4.32
22) Designed and used fair grading procedures [1] = not at all fair - [5] = very fair	4.20	4.08
23) Provided adequate feedback on exams, papers or performance [1] = not at all fair - [5] = very fair	3.82	4.00
24) Instructor's use of technology in the classroom contributed to learning [1] = not at all fair - [5] = a great deal	3.85	4.02

## **STUDENT COMMENTS: Econ 180.10 and Econ 180.13 Survey of International Economics**

- I definitely learned a lot, but I really don't enjoy economics so that probably made the subject matter harder. The instructor was very helpful in giving us lecture notes online and problem sets similar to exam questions for extra practice.
- Overall I thought she was very reasonable and dedicated to being helpful. The professor was very well organized and clearly very knowledgeable about the subject.
- The professor knows what she is talking about, very knowledgeable about the subject.
- The professor really made it clear what was expected and the problem sets really helped to prepare for the exam.
- The actual organization of the course was really good, the power points were a great help, especially the graphs.
- I thought there was a lot of material covered, which made the course challenging but I thought the way in which we were tested was fair for the amount of material that was presented. I thought the review questions and problem sets were helpful for the exams.
- I was challenged by this course, and though I grasped some basic ideas, I don't think I have a natural understanding of economics, so it's harder for me to hold all of the intermingling concepts that are at work in the global market in my brain at once.
- The professor was one of the best parts about the course. Anytime we had an assignment due she made herself overly accessible to answer any questions or to clarify any problems that I had.
- Prof. Akin is very approachable and patient which is exactly what she needs to be in order to help students who don't have a natural knack for economics.
- Even though I thought that sometimes her lectures progressed too quickly and left some students lost, I think she was very accessible outside of class and held extra office hours around exams which was helpful. I also thought she provided good feedback on problem sets. Perhaps she should ask more frequently during lectures to make sure that everyone is on the same page. There is a lot of material so that is needed.
- The professor always posted her slideshows which was awesome. She also posted additional resources to study for the exams.
- The best part of the class was the availability of the professor. She was always in her office and encouraged students to come with questions and concerns. She was also very flexible.
- I thought that her use of blackboard was good. She posted her slides and made sure that answers to the problem sets were posted to study for the exam.
- The power points were the most helpful part of this class. Having them available before lecture so that notes could be taken on the margins saved a lot of time copying information down and allowed for greater analysis.
- I am not an economics major and it is definitely not my strong point, but the professor was awesome and it was clear that she was willing to work with the students to help improve their understanding of the material.

- The class was good, the problem sets helped reinforce the materials and the problem sets given to practice for final and midterm were helpful. The extra credit assignments helped do more! Also office hours were helpful, but I still felt that I lacked a good understanding although ECON has always been hard for me. Allowing us to work in groups for the problem sets were good because is a good way to boost your grade.
- I enjoyed the political cartoons and adages used during the lectures to help make economics more interesting. I also appreciated the amount of time she was able to dedicate to us during office hours. I learned a lot from this course and received a lot of encouragement. Thank you.
- I really enjoyed our discussions on the real life impacts of the economic models and policies. It was great how you made yourself so available to students through office hours. The slides were very helpful. And I really enjoyed the class. Thanks for a great semester!
- Prof. Akin: Best of luck to you as well. I thoroughly enjoyed your classes, and appreciate the hard work and professionalism you put forth every day. Keep making the world a better place, and when he gives you a call to ask for your help, tell Paul Krugman that I said hello.
- Thank you professor Cigdem! I really enjoyed your class. I was not very interested in the subject prior to this semester, but your expertise as well as passion for economics has sparked my interest.
- Dear Professor: Thank you for your wonderful efforts this semester. This was especially challenging subject for me, but I learned a lot from you and have a much better understanding of international economics.
- I really liked your lecture. There were a lot more recent data of international economy and it was fun! Thank you for everything this semester. I really liked to go to your lectures !
- I enjoyed the general topic of learning about the international economic system. I have always wanted to learn more but it has always a very difficult concept to grasp. While it was still very hard, I really enjoyed the challenge. I know a lot more now than when I walked in.
- I really enjoyed this class because I learnt so much about trade policies. I like the examples about different crisis happened in the past, which make the theories more practical.
- The part that I enjoyed most was on trade. Trade policy is very important in our world today and very applicable while studying international relations or domestic trade policy.
- I really enjoyed the discussion on pros and cons for having free trade and outsourcing. Good to know both sides.
- I enjoyed the topic of labor outsourcing and found the model to be very interesting.
- I thought the section on trade was most interesting I learned in this course. It was the topic most relevant I think to my interest and my studies in International Affairs and of Latin America. The lectures however were often very dense and I found it very difficult to grasp a lot of concepts. The one-on-one time in your office hours were the most effective for me.
- The most interesting thing I learned about in Econ 180 was the different models for explaining and predicting international trade. I found it very enlightening to discover the theory behind trade and now enjoy reading current news on trade much more. Prof. Akin's international perspective really contributed to my understanding as well.
- This class was timely for me as we were discussing many of the economic issues facing the U.S. in class. Aside from that though, I most enjoyed learning about how free trade and open market affects different sectors of the economy as this is important in the current debate over free trade.

- I learned a great deal about trade in this course. I really enjoyed the first half of the class and benefited learning about specific cases (NAFTA, (Multi-fiber Agreement) MFA, etc.) The MFA was a topic of interest so much so that I wrote a 12 page paper on the impact of the MFA had on developing countries. In terms of second half of the class, I learned a lot of important terminology about currency exchange, etc. so that now I can have a grasp on articles I read that focus heavily on such topics.
- In international economics I thought the exchange rate regimes, crises were the most interesting because it could be applied to the real-world and describe why economies went into crises and what the central bank could do. I also liked learning about tariffs and quotas, like the material about retaliation against the US steel tariffs. Overall the material was about the stuff that affected international economics today/real life, it was interesting.
- I liked learning about the individual case studies i.e. Tequila crisis, Japanese car imports to U.S. because it was interesting and helped me apply the material were learning. It was helpful and took my mind off focusing on all the graphs!
- I found it especially interesting/helpful to learn about the various options available to governments in terms of fiscal/monetary policy under fixed and floating exchange rates and thus the considerations for adopting a specific exchange rate regime.
- The most interesting thing I learned in this class was the integration of the IS-LM-FX curves. It was exciting to hear about real world examples which could be seen with this model.
- The most interesting thing I learned in this class was the real effect of the interest rate on a domestic economy and that a shock in one country may affect another in a large way. The ERM crisis I found interesting...how political pressure decided the peg currency to the German mark.
- Learning with real life examples (Britain and Sweden in 1992 recession) was interesting and good way to understand the concepts.
- I am most interested in finance, so I really enjoyed learning about the FX markets. I would be interested to know if Wall Street traders use indicators like interest rate parity and how much of an effect it has on the spot rates. This is also why I enjoyed learning about the effects of overshooting. Therefore I most enjoyed learning short-run vs. long-run effect of the FX market and overshooting.
- This course enhanced my understanding of the true forces behind international economic issues in our World. Trade between nations and the nature of economic crises (exchange rate, etc.). Now make much more sense to me and as a student of international affairs, this is very important. This course helped to “de-mystify” some of the larger than life issues and factors that are prevalent in economics. The course also helped me to recall some of what I learned in micro and macro economics earlier in my college and high school classes.
- The most interesting thing I learned in the course was involving policy responses to (exchange rate) ER crises and banking crises. I had no idea about policies like dollarization or (currency board arrangements) CBAs which are highly interesting to someone interested in development issues.
- My concentration in international affairs is Europe and Eurasia so I really enjoyed the chapter about the European Union. I enjoyed learning about how Europe was/is going about integrating their economies and how this compared to US integration. It was interesting to learn what the European Union or the Euro zone was doing well with and what it was struggling with as well.
- I found the discussion on the Euro zone vs US in respect to optimum currency areas was the most interesting.

- The most interesting thing I learned was the complications of the Euro. Even though common currency can bring efficiency benefits, there are many drawbacks. I had always thought that the Euro was accepted as a good thing. Now I know that there are potential problems that arise due to asymmetrical shocks affecting countries of the European Union. I also thought exchange rate crises were very interesting in how they relate to other crises in developing nations.
- The most interesting thing learned this semester was about policy options taken to avoid currency crises and banking crises. Didn't know before this class how they occurred or they could be fixed. Also enjoyed learning specifically about the EU, Euro zone and (optimum currency area) criteria for membership as well as countries' reasons for not adopting the Euro.
- I most enjoyed learning about the Euro because I had no knowledge on what countries have to do to join the currency union. Since I am Lithuanian, I want to know how Lithuania will adopt the Euro and when it will start to use it.
- The most interesting part of this course for me was the Euro and exchange rate information. This is extremely applicable and it cleared up a lot of confusion I have had concerning the EU and Euro zone. I hope that what I have learned will help me when I travel across Europe over Spring Break. You are a great professor!