PPHA 36930 1, PBPL 26930 1 - Environmental Economics: Theory and Applications - Instructor(s) Shaoda Wang

Project Title: **Graduate Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **41**
Number of Responses: **30**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

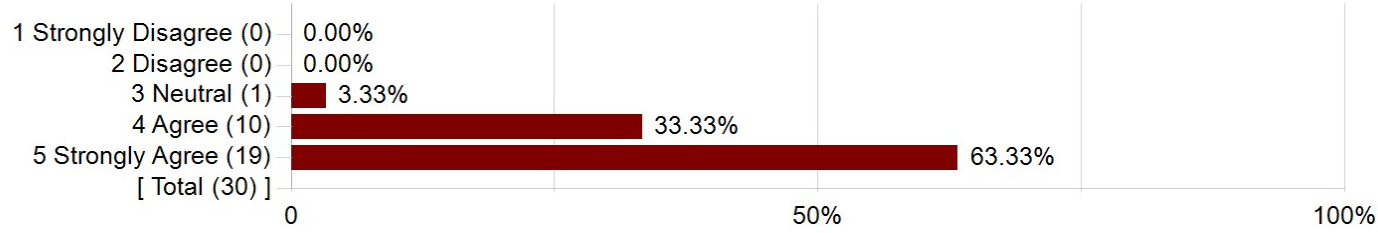
Creation Date: **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

Please review and evaluate your work in this course overall.

Comments
good methodology
Pretty difficult. I don't have a strong economics background (im a bizecon major lol) so my math didn't feel particularly strong enough for the work that we were applying. a lot of the topics are from the ECON 200s so I recommend you take that before this course. but, its interesting, but feels very bureaucratic and maybe more economics heavy than environmental
I have to say it is my favourite one.
Prof Wang is just awesome. Though the course is not technical and meant for introductory environmental economics but the content is very good. If you are not taking this, you are missing something.
I performed well in this course.
I've learned so much in this course!
The course was good. It started slow but got more interesting as it went along. The Weitzman/uncertainly lecture, the internalities lecture, and the contingent valuation lecture were all highlights for me.
Best course I took at Harris, The prof really knows how to teach, Loved learning all new things. Wish I get a chance to work with the professor
I tried my best.
informative class, interesting topic matter.
learned some useful models and can think more like in a policy maker perspective
Great course. Focused on using economic concepts to understand the scope of environmental challenges, and the flaws in how we try address them. A lot of food for thought.
I learned a lot, tried my best, attended office hours regularly, and worked much harder than other classes.

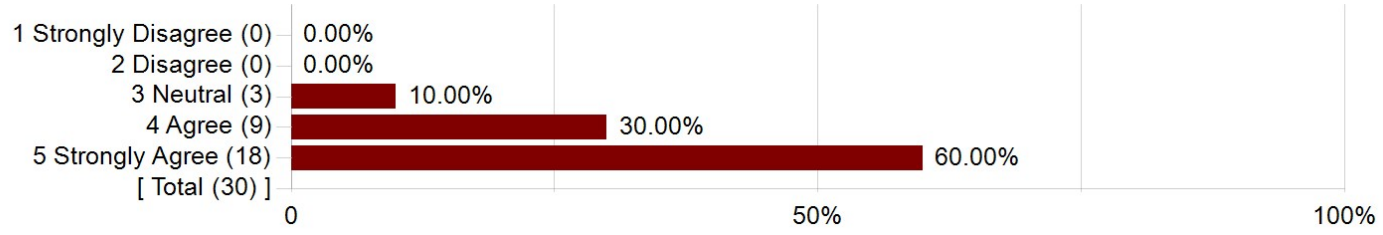
Please review and evaluate the course on the following:

1. I took away useful tools, concepts, knowledge, or insights from this course.



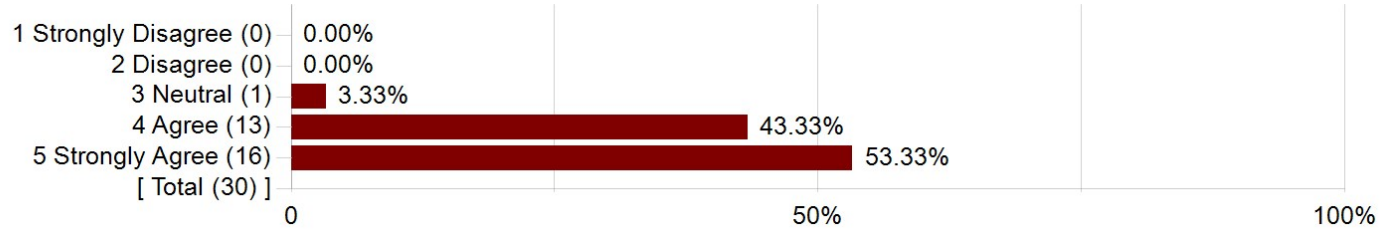
Statistics	Value
Response Count	30
Mean	4.60
Standard Deviation	0.56
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.10

2. I received regular, effective feedback to help me understand where I was in the learning process.



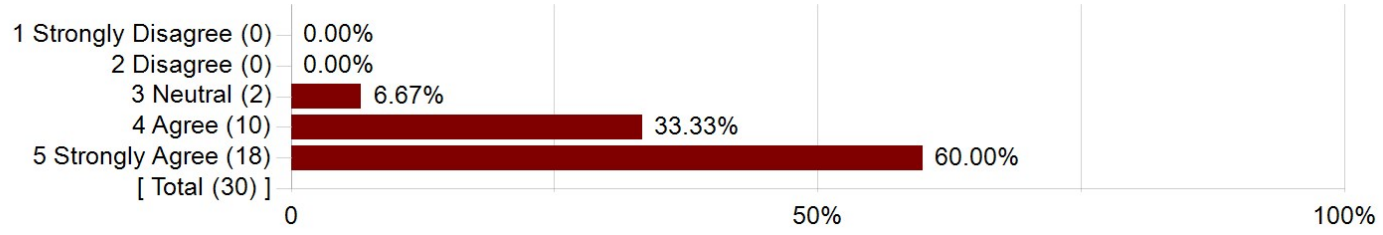
Statistics	Value
Response Count	30
Mean	4.50
Standard Deviation	0.68
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.12

3. I would recommend this course to other students.



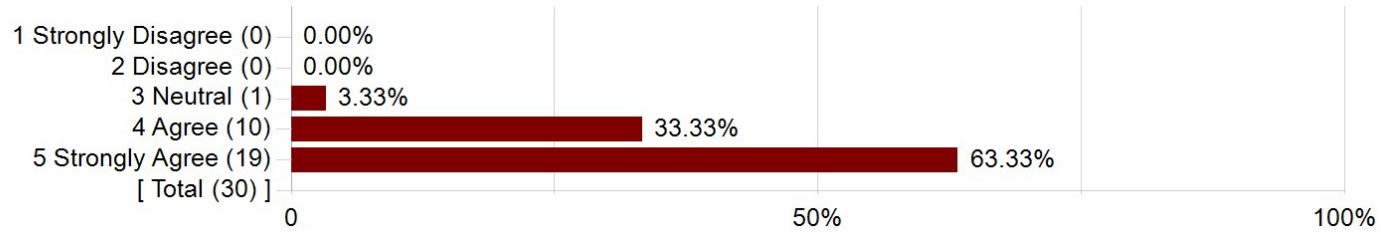
Statistics	Value
Response Count	30
Mean	4.50
Standard Deviation	0.57
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.10

4. The material in this course was constructively challenging.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	30
Mean	4.53
Standard Deviation	0.63
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.11

5. I felt that the classroom was an inclusive learning environment for me.



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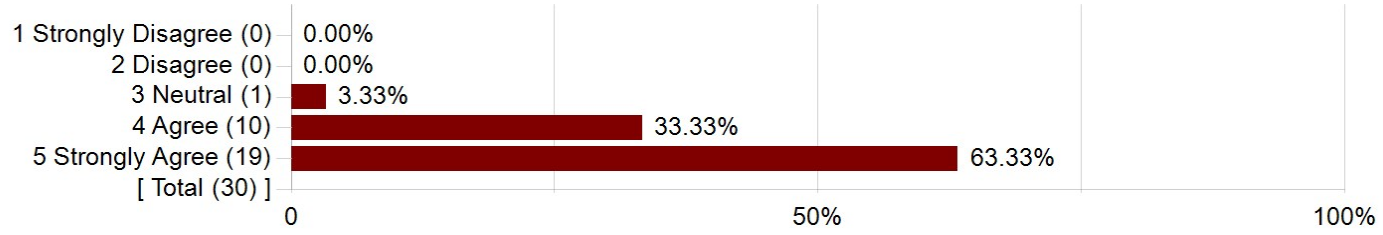

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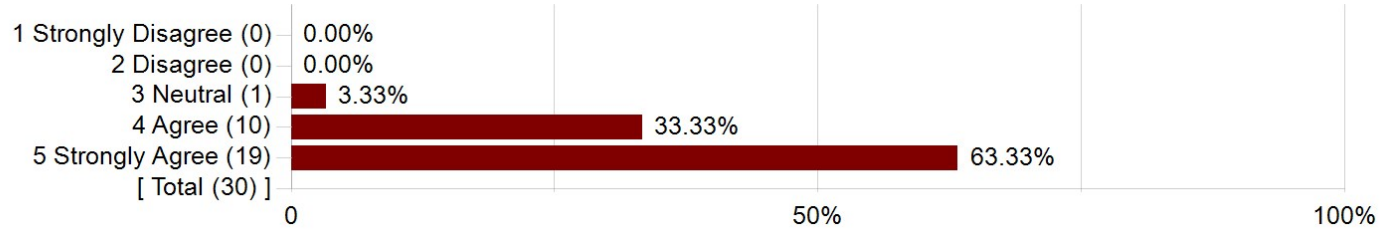
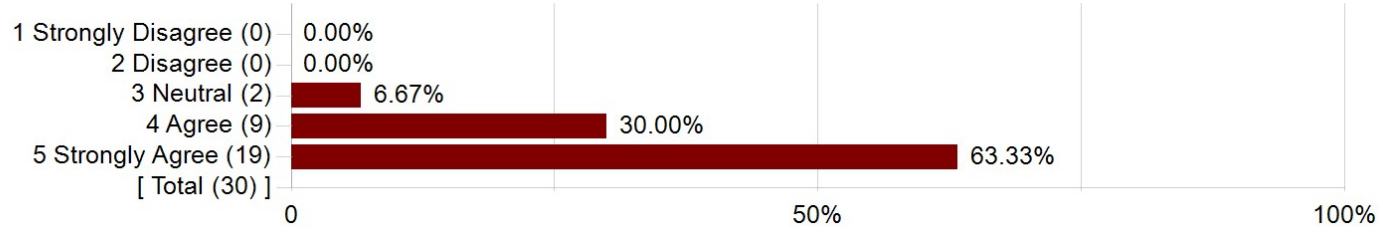
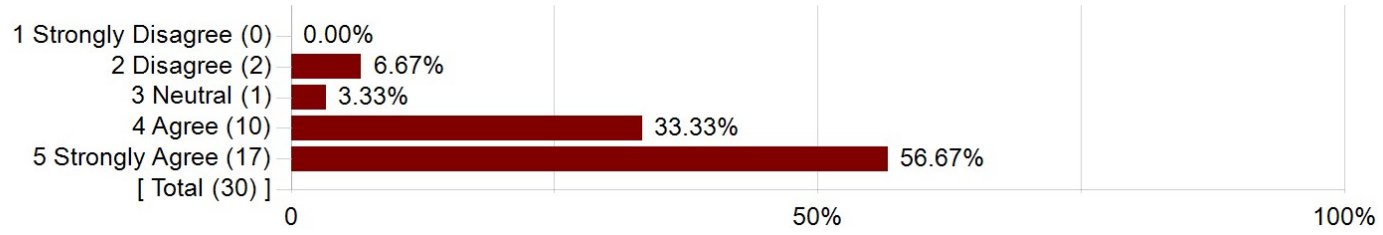


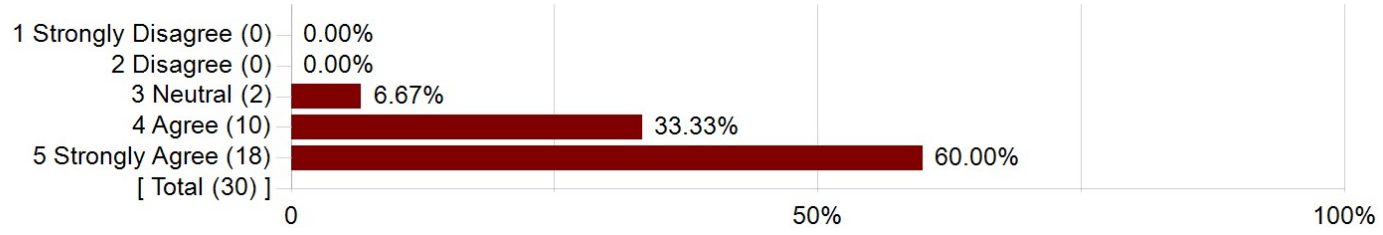
3. Made effective use of class time, remote learning resources, and/or supplemental materials that enhanced learning.



4. Successfully generated and sustained productive participation as appropriate.



5. Responsive and available via office hours, email, discussion boards, and other tools.



Please elaborate on any of your responses above.

Comments
he's a FAST talker. its hard to keep up during lectures because he crams a lot of material into an hour and 20 min
I have to say it is my favourite one.
The professor is excellent; he explains very nicely. The problem sets are not too technical but it is intended to reinforce understanding of the concepts. Excellent delivery of content.
The course covers many similar contents to CBA.
Professor Wang was very clear about learning objectives since the beginning of the course, and had helpful slides at the beginning and end of each lecture to preview and summarize the main takeaways. We were able to cover a lot of material in the quarter because he was so well–organized.
This class at Harris ranks among my top favorites. I strongly encourage anyone interested in this topic to enroll, though be ready for substantial content. It's a decision you won't regret! The office hours were particularly beneficial. Professor Wang's expertise and support enhance the learning experience significantly. While I find this class to be challenging, it's super desirable to take it.

What aspects of the instructor’s teaching contributed most and least to your learning?

Comments
his lectures are very helpful, but hard to understand because they are extremely dense.
Everything.
The material on the slides and manner of explanation, the choice of problem sets is also very good.
Everything
The lectures were generally excellent, and the professor was very good at answering student questions.
Professor provide a landscape view of the environment economics and provide us with basic tools and theories.
The Prof was very thorough. The lectures were small, allowed us to learn and absorb new concepts daily
Real–life examples were most helpful to better understand theories. I'd suggest providing more space for questions / waiting longer for people to respond when asking "are there any questions" since some people take more time to process and formulate questions.
PSETS. They were SUPER helpful, by far more than any other part of the course. They walked you through the intuition and made you understand the content significantly better. Lectures were not great, pretty dry but got the information across.
The professor was friendly and really engaged with student questions and ideas. The instruction was great for this course.
I appreciate the instructor's logical and analytical teaching approach. He begins by explaining phenomena, then develops theories and diagrams, ultimately illustrating why they are significant and how they apply in real–life scenarios. The class introduced numerous new models and information that were previously unfamiliar to me.

Please suggest any changes that could improve this course (e.g., class material, class structure, assignments, inclusive pedagogy).

Comments
the math was not clearly laid out in slides before the assignments were due. maybe matching the examples in class to some of the material we are tested on would be more helpful.
Nothing.
a little more technical may be good.
Everything was perfect. Do not change it
n/a
None
It's all great.

Please comment on how respected, valued, and included you felt as a participant in the course.

Comments
i felt respected and valued.
I have to say it is my favourite one.
The prof welcomes any and every question and explained it well.
Professor Wang always encourages discussion and questions.
I felt included and valued.
I felt great
Very respected.
it's a great experience
I felt respected, valued and encouraged to participate.
It was such a valuable and inclusive experience taking this class.

Please include the name of the TA you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA.

Comments
Marsya is a blessing. she is so lovely and helpful in the psets its not even funny. the only reason I'm going to get through this course is because of her<3
Marsya. I am not very familiar with her.
Marsya was good and friendly. Explains well.
TA sessions are really helpful.
Marsya was awesome as always
Marsya was very generous with her time and help during TA sessions and office hours. Thanks Marsya!
marsya
Marysa
very responsible
Marsya was great, she was very accessible and detailed with her explanations and grading feedback.
TA is super nice and helpful!

PPHA 36930 1, PBPL 26930 1 - Environmental Economics: Theory and Applications - Instructor(s) Shaoda Wang

Project Title: **Graduate Course Feedback - Winter 2023**

Number Enrolled: **40**
Number of Responses: **29**

Report Comments

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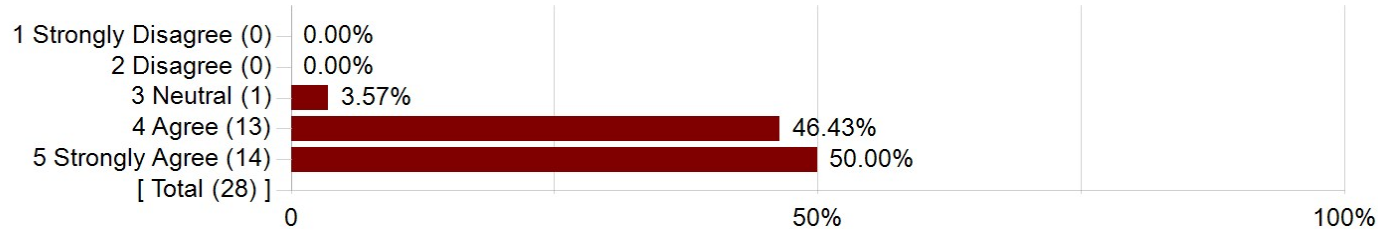
Creation Date: **Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

Please review and evaluate your work in this course overall.

Comments
It's a good introductory class. Workload and assignments should be modified tho. There are some repetition.
The course has covered various topics of environmental economics and helped me develop my idea of how we integrate knowledge of microecon into practical application.
This was an excellent class and provided a fantastic introduction into environmental economics. The concepts were great and he had a clear method and approach to the theory and its applications.
The course material is easy to understand—at some point, I think it is really easy though.
The course did a good job giving an overview of how economic theory helps explain environmental policy.
I still struggle with some of the economic subject matter contained within this course because of my lack of a strong quantitative background. Nonetheless, the course was extremely useful both for its subject matter and the way it was taught. While I wish I could do better, I am happy to have taken the course.
We covered many tools and real world examples or at least more concrete examples of problems in environmental economics.
My work in this course is reasonably challenging. Assignments and final exam are great to further the learning experience.
Overall I thought this course provided a good survey of the topics in economics that are most pertinent to the environment.
I put a lot of effort on this course.
I learnt a lot of useful concepts in this course, although my efforts were average.
Great! I like this course. A lot of public economics theory, but hope to increase more environmental applications in the next quarter
The instructor presents everything clearly, so does the TA. The only issue is that I kind of feel it hard to transit from the lecture slides to the practical questions. There seems to be some gaps. I don't know whether it is because my Econ does not have a solid foundation. I seems like the teacher assumes us to jump to some place high after going through the basic lecture concepts

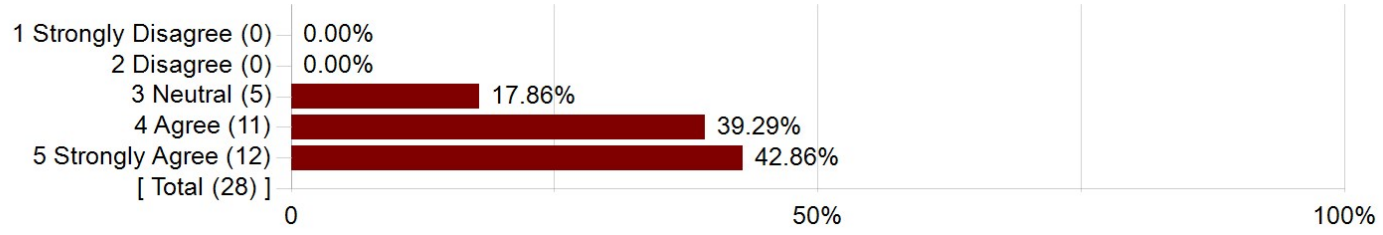
Please review and evaluate the course on the following:

1. I took away useful tools, concepts, knowledge, or insights from this course.



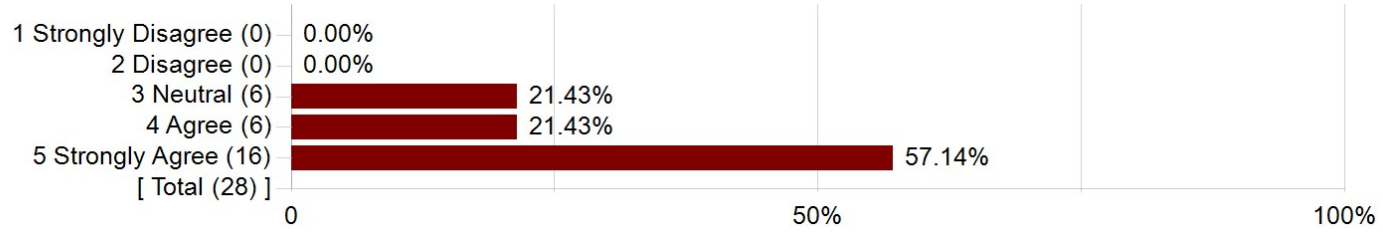
Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.46
Standard Deviation	0.58
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.11

2. I received regular, effective feedback to help me understand where I was in the learning process.



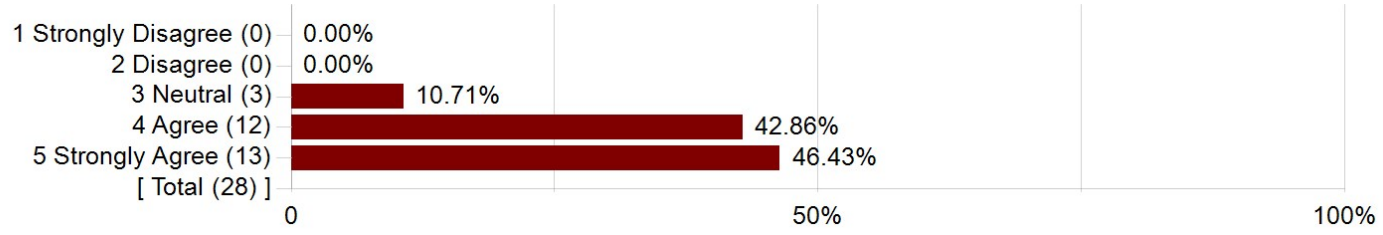
Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.25
Standard Deviation	0.75
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.14

3. I would recommend this course to other students.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.36
Standard Deviation	0.83
Standard Error (base on SD)	0.16

4. The material in this course was constructively challenging.



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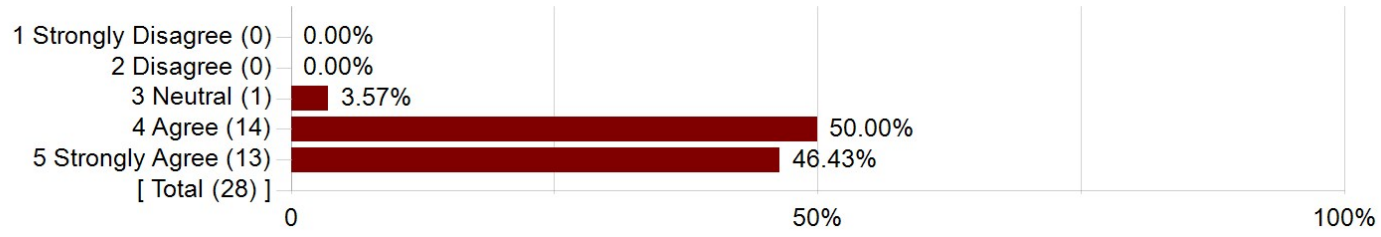

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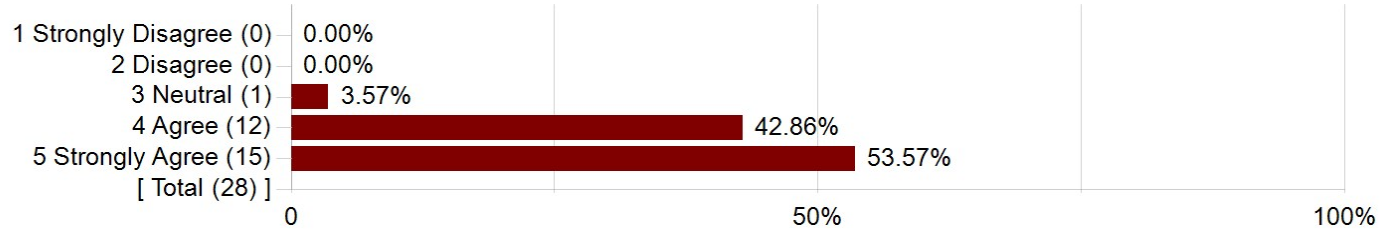
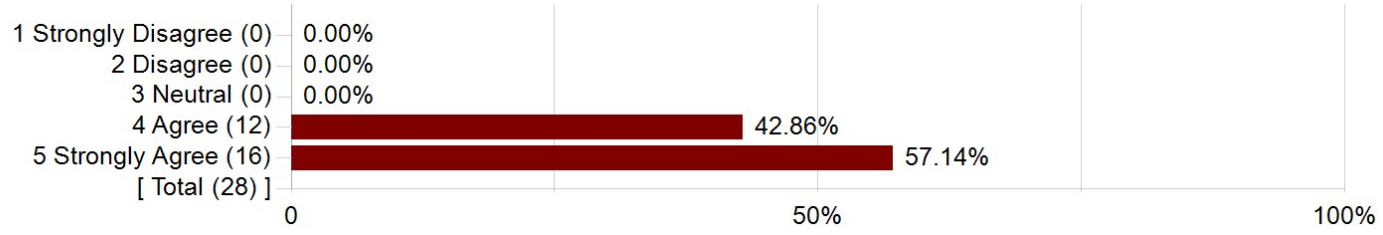
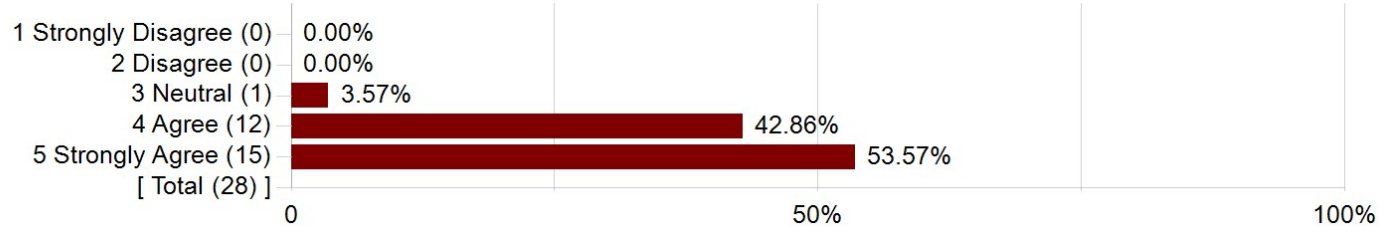


2. Communicated learning objectives effectively, including on the syllabus.



3. Made effective use of class time, remote learning resources, and/or supplemental materials that enhanced learning.



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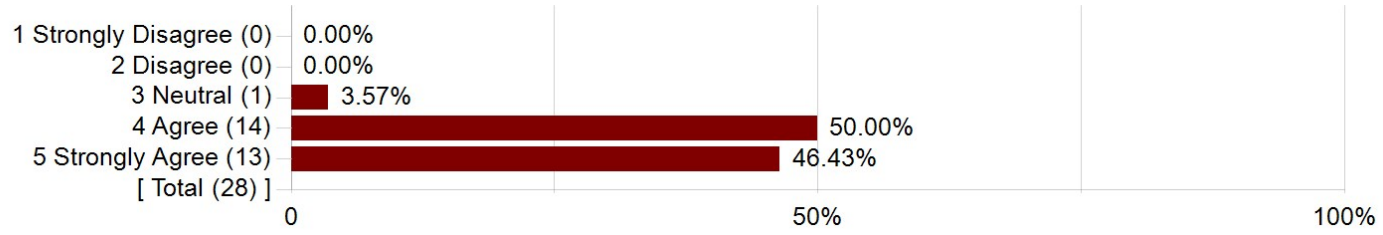
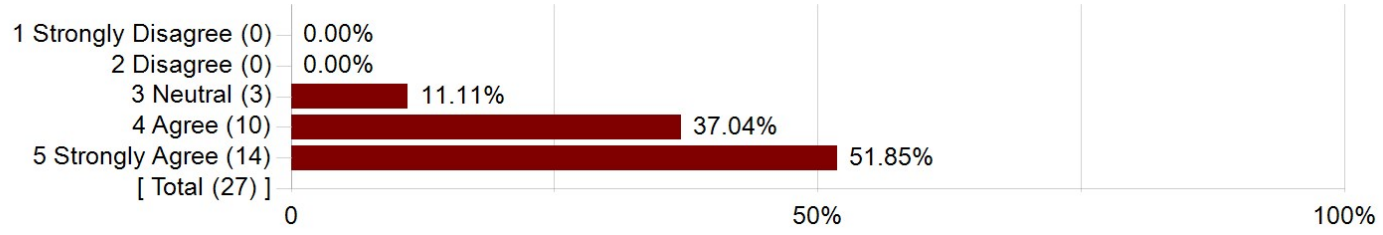


5. Responsive and available via office hours, email, discussion boards, and other tools.



Please elaborate on any of your responses above.

Comments
Problem Set well covered topics that an instructor explained in the class.
TA sessions were not helpful and I feel was disconnected from the class lectures.
Very organized and well time–managed lectures –– very good at answering questions and relating them to course material.
useful
I felt that there was some redundancy with basic economics topics in this course, especially from Microeconomics 2 and Analytical Politics. I understand that some portion of the class was undergraduates, so I am not sure if they have necessarily covered that material, but for Harris students we all would hav seen these topics before.
The discussion in the class is not very extensive. While it makes the lecture covers a lot of topic, a little more discussion could be beneficial.

What aspects of the instructor's teaching contributed most and least to your learning?

Comments
The instructor tried to connect the theory to real world issues.
Structure, approach and clarity.
Prof Wang explains slowly and in details, but somehow I felt his teachings really follow the presentations without much elaborations.
very clear stand–alone slides, summaries, concepts clearly explained
in–depth economic analysis
The lectures were clear and the professor engaged questions in a constructive way.
Lecture
Prof. Wang make sure that we understand the connection between lectures.
The lectures provided a good overview of the materials, and I found the slides to be a really helpful resource to refer to.
Prof. Wang was extremely knowledgable and passionate about the subject. I particularly liked that he used a variety of tools to explain a concept – algebra, graphical, and conceptual examples helped solidify ideas in environmental economics. He was also very approachable and always answered student questions in great detail.
Great!
The structure and logic of the course was good.

Please suggest any changes that could improve this course (e.g., class material, class structure, assignments, inclusive pedagogy).

Comments
The instructor should encourage us to read articles and academic papers about what they introduced in the class.
Class materials were great. PS can be changed and I think a paper instead of a final exam would be more appropriate.
Problem sets could be longer.
Assignment can be made more challenging
the problem sets were very challenging compared to the lecture, and the lecture was not sufficient to solve them.
more challenging
As someone who struggles with the math, it was difficult, but I do not think that it should be made easier at the expense of learning goals.
Include a little bit more discussion could be interesting.
I found that the class moved very quickly, and sometimes I think there was too much material for me to absorb in one lecture. In particular, I think more in–class examples applying the concepts would have been helpful.
I found the presentations with full sentences written out distracting – my attention switched between Prof. Wang and the sentences, and sometimes lost track of the lecture. I did find the full presentation useful while reviewing the lectures/preparing for exams.
Make more assignments instead of four, include less questions inside. Make questions in TA session related to the assignments and final.

Please comment on how respected, valued, and included you felt as a participant in the course.

Comments
The instructor should introduce a bit discussion time.
I felt respected.
Felt very respected, valued, and included at all times.
concentrated
I felt respected throughout the course.
Very
I felt respected, valued, and included in class.
I always felt respected, valued, and included in the course.
I felt very respected, valued and included in the course.

Please include the name of the TA you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA.

Comments
Not well–prepared for TA session.
Alex. She well understood the class content, so she was able to explain so that every participant can understand.
Alex. She was very helpful, but the TA sessions were inconsistent with the class lectures. And at points they were quite complicated. And in some instances she would say that this is not going to be covered.
Alex was very helpful as our TA — she communicated well and quickly resolved questions that I had.
Alex Lan is a helpful TA. She is easy to reach and responsive
Alex Lan. answering our questions, including on the problem sets. She was always very available. It is very useful to upload the material ahead of the TA session Please don't say "it's really easy", it doesn't actually help:)
good
Using slides in TA sessions will be better.
Alex Lan was excellent at providing additional instruction and helping to explain difficult topics. She was prompt in her responses and made sure that she was available.
Alex Lan She led good TA sessions and went through the problems clearly.
Alex Lan. She conducted TA session regularly and created TA session notes that are very easy to follow.
Alex Lan: I found that Alex made herself very available and was always willing to help on the problem sets, which was great!
alex. great TA!
Alex Lan. I did not attend TA sessions, but was impressed at how quickly she got back assignment grades! I also studied from her TA notes, and found them useful to convert the mathematical constructs from class into solutions.
Alex is great!
She is knowledgeable, talks in a logical way. Learned a lot from her.
Alex Lan. Alex was so timely in grading and returning assignments to students.

PPHA 36930 1 - Environmental Economics: Theory and Applications - Instructor(s) Shaoda Wang

Project Title: **Graduate Course Feedback - Winter 2022**

Number Enrolled: **37**
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Report Comments

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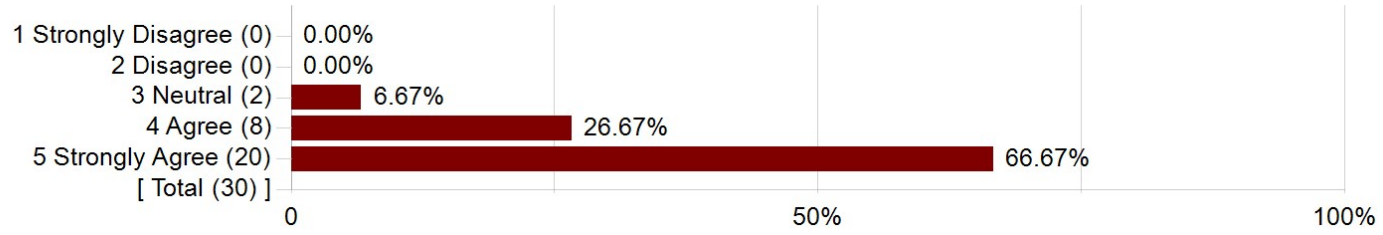
Creation Date: **Thursday, March 31, 2022**

Please review and evaluate your work in this course overall.

Comments
GREAT COURSE
I thought I did relatively well — better than average.
Great course
Overall good.
Proud of the work I did – good job by me.
I feel good with the course. I learn various theory that very helpful in developing my analytical thinking and very relevant and applicable in policy making. After this course, I gain perspective on how to theoretically design/evaluate environmental decision–making policy.

Please review and evaluate the course on the following:

1. I took away useful tools, concepts, knowledge, or insights from this course.



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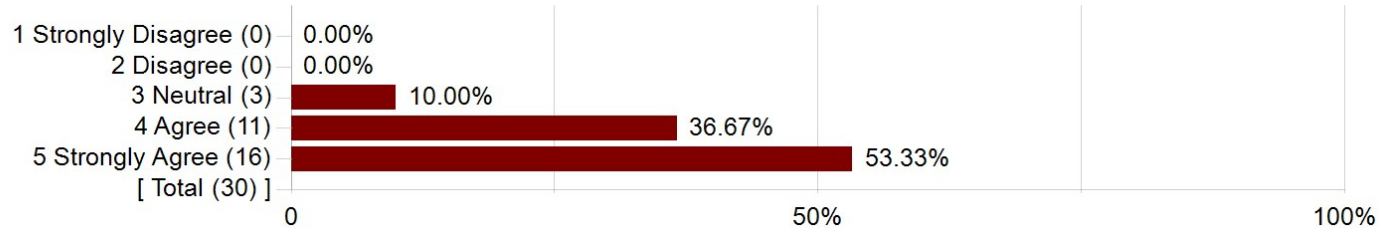

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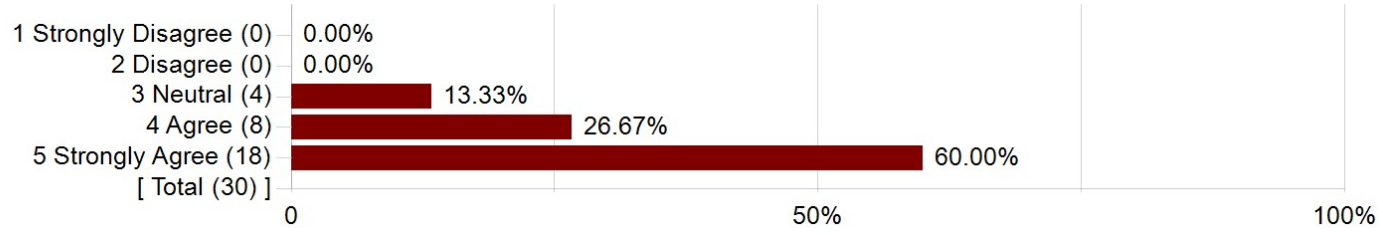

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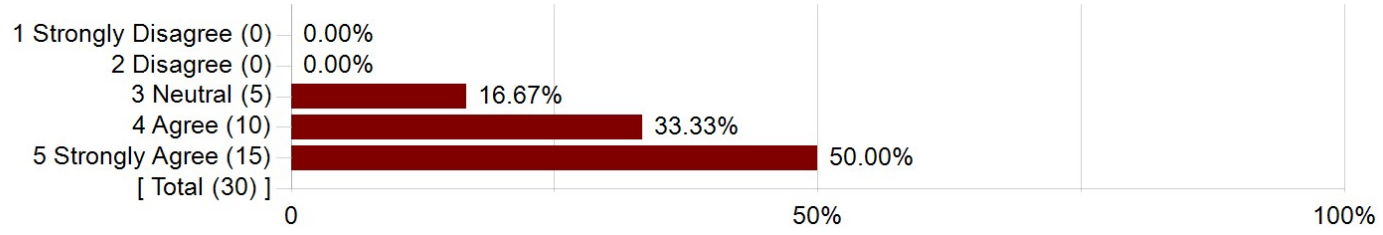
4. The material in this course was constructively challenging.



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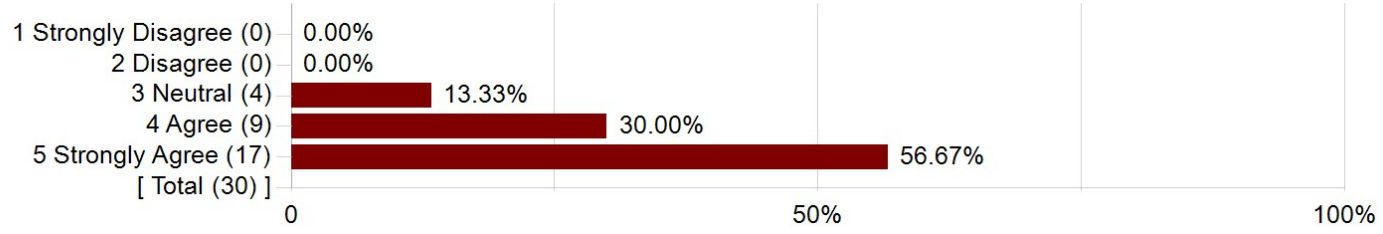
5. I felt that the classroom was an inclusive learning environment for me.



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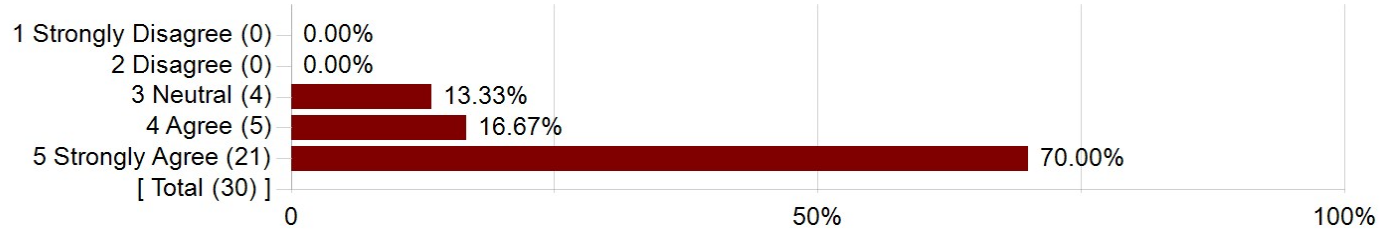
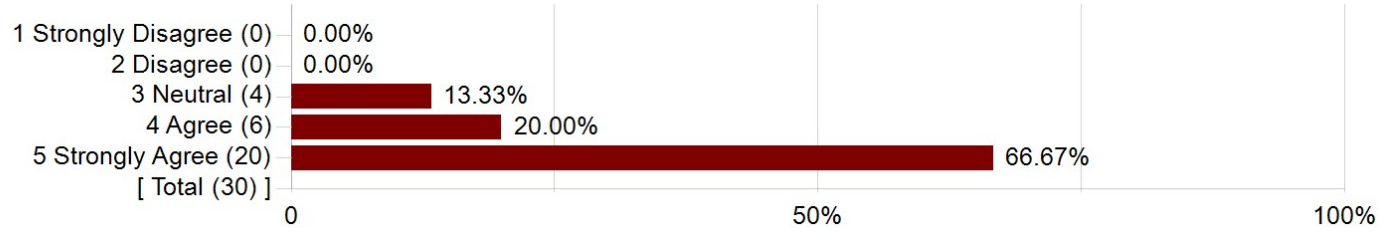
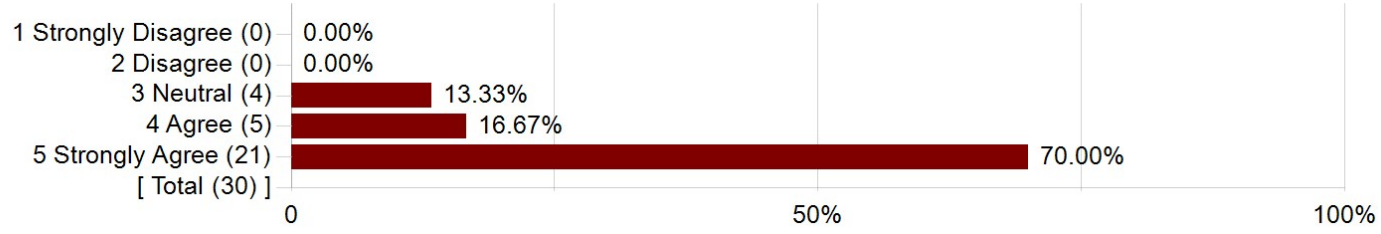


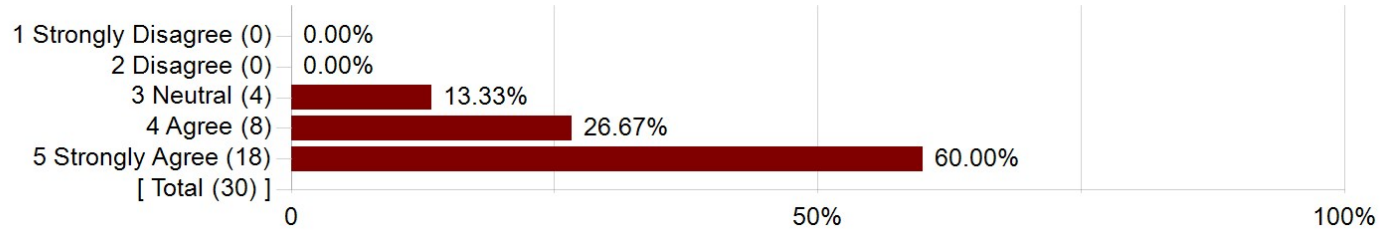
2. Communicated learning objectives effectively, including on the syllabus.



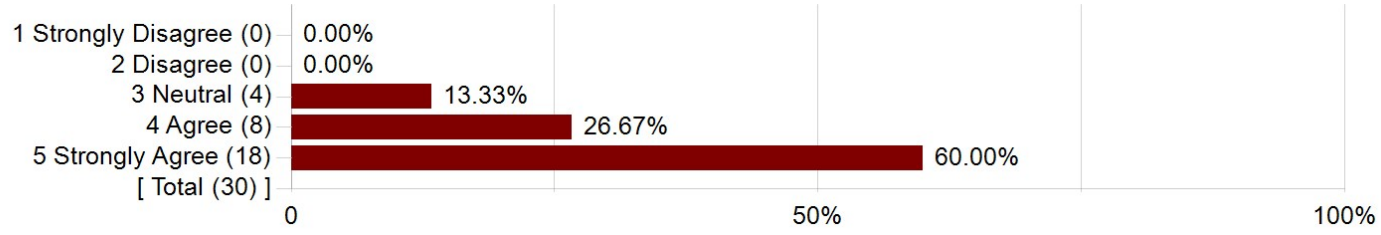
3. Made effective use of class time, remote learning resources, and/or supplemental materials that enhanced learning.



4. Successfully generated and sustained productive participation as appropriate.



5. Responsive and available via office hours, email, discussion boards, and other tools.



Please elaborate on any of your responses above.

Comments
A difficulty I had in this class was the disconnect between theory, which we spent the majority of our time on, and practice, which was what we were tested on. Sometimes problem sets were the first time we were introduced to the practical concepts we learned in class, which occasionally made it difficult to connect lecture content to homework content.
The course is good and Professor Wang is a very wise person.
Professor Wang did a great job.
Professor Shaoda explain the material clearly and easy to understand. The concept and example are very relevant with current policy issues in environment. He answered question in a simple way that make student understand the concept more.
The course was very well organized, the professor did really well to connect individual economic concepts to bigger ideas and broader picture.

What aspects of the instructor's teaching contributed most and least to your learning?

Comments
The slides are really detailed
ECONOMICS MODEL IN EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
how to use the Coase model
Clear logic, latest knowledge, and kind attitude.
His lectures were clear and he did a great job answering questions.
In class lecture is so helpful in developing my understanding. His teaching style is making the subject is more understandable. The purpose of the question that always mentioned in the beginning of assignments also helpful to note which aspect to address.
Lectures

Please suggest any changes that could improve this course (e.g., class material, class structure, assignments, inclusive pedagogy).

Comments
It would be beneficial to go over the materials slower since there is usually some time left after each class.
PRESENT THE CLASS MATERIALS MORE SLOWLY
less homework
i suggest to slower the pace of the course. it's kind of hard to absorb so many materials with in one class session.
All the models we studied start from the assumption that we want to mitigate environmental problems with the least possible impact on economic growth. There is an emerging branch of economics called "Ecological Econoimcs" that starts from the assumption that we have to get to a steady state in terms of growth – we cannot grow forever. I think it would be valuable to at least have one lecture about this perspective, since the University doesn't (yet) offer a separate course on it. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_economics
I strongly expected that the assignment/quiz/exam for each quarter to be changed (not the same with previous quarter) to give fairness and objective grading on student academic performance.
More challenging problem sets.

Please comment on how respected, valued, and included you felt as a participant in the course.

Comments
GREAT COURSE OVERALL
professor shaoda is a really patient instructor
All good.
The class is developed a constructive discussion and open to accept heterogeneity in thoughts.
Very respected and valued.

Please include the name of the TA you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA.

Comments
Yuqi Song
YUQI SONG
Yuqi Song. Yuqi was quite comprehensive, and particularly helpful in going over the mathematical underpinnings to some of the more theoretical lecture content.
Yuqi. Answering questions. Nothing more need to improve
Yuqi Song I think Song's TA session helps me a lot
Yuqi did a great job. Responded immediately the one time I emailed her.
Yuqi
Yuqi Song She is very helpful and help us a lot to understand the problem sets. She explained the concept clearly and detailly.
Yuqi Song