

EC 201 Spring 2020 student feedback

Due to the unusual circumstances surrounding covid-19, the University of Oregon elected not to collect student feedback during the Spring 2020 quarter. Instead, I offered my EC 201 students an option to provide written feedback anonymously. Below is the prompt I provided.

Course feedback (replies are anonymous)

This has been my (and probably your) first experience with remote instruction. I made a number of judgment calls in preparing this class, some of which worked better than others. In particular, I chose to make lectures asynchronous video lectures rather than live zoom meetings. Looking back, would you have preferred live lectures via zoom?

Zoom office hours proved to be fairly unpopular. Is there a better format than zoom for office hours? I've heard Slack and Discord suggested, but I know very little about either of these. Would you have felt more comfortable asking questions in office hours if they were hosted on a different medium?

Finally, feel free to discuss anything else you liked or didn't like about this course. (Pacing, difficult, organization, level of communication, homework, etc.)

I received 6 responses, quoted below in full.

- I can confidently say that Joe's instruction of this course was clear, use of time was effective, and lesson plans were straightforward and simple to understand. Also, Joe is one of the most communication-oriented instructors I've had at UO, and his style of teaching made me feel relaxed and confident enough to approach economics, a foreign concept to me. I much preferred having recorded lectures, both for practicality and convenience for accessing lectures at later dates.

Office hours tend to be something I shy away from in college out of not knowing what questions to bring, etc. Regardless, it is ultimately the choice of the student, but Joe created a space every week for students to access if they needed help. In retrospect, I wish I had visited a handful of office hours to have my questions answered. With the high quality instruction I received in this course from Joe (and GE's) I am confident in carrying this terms knowledge to macroeconomics.

- I preferred the method you chose to deliver lectures to us, making them asynchronous. I have one live zoom lecture this term and it is really difficult to follow, especially for other students who have to take care of family members and work, this method was the best. I think to get people involved in discussion maybe posting a question every week and putting a certain weight on it so people are motivated to reach out and get more help. In classes where discussion is not required I barely reach out. Everything was great, very thankful for this course and your help. Thank you!
- I was very pleased with how you handled this very obtrusive adjustment we had to make. Overall, I enjoyed the class a lot. Quick to react to situations and made the right calls. I would take the course from you again under the same circumstances because you made the transition so smooth. Overall great job, difficulty, pacing, organization and communication was always effective and under control.

Personally, I did not not feel the need to attend office hours as most of the concepts were pretty straight forward (in my opinion) and that if there were any outlying questions, Youtube was an excellent resource and so were the FAQ's at the end of the week.

- I think this course went really well using Panopto. The ability to go through class and pause the video allowed me to go at my own pace. I also think the homework was reasonable. I think this class was very accessible and thorough as a whole.
- I really liked the way this class was taught. I was personally able to be disciplined enough to watch all the lectures, and do all the homework during the specified weeks, so it worked really well for me. I have never attended office hours, because I did not feel the need, but perhaps Canvas Conferences would work better than Zoom? You can call in using your phone, there is screen sharing, and a camera is not required. This was my first quarter experiencing remote instruction, and I definitely liked the classes where I could learn on my own, rather than being forced into a Zoom meeting. The lectures were great, and all the information taught was on the test. I liked this class and I felt like it had a good mix between classroom like teaching and homework. Thank you.
- Out of all of my classes that was instructed remotely, Econ 201 was easily my favorite. I enjoyed that the classes were pre-recorded, and we were given the option to then seek out real-time instruction. I live in a very old house in the middle of nowhere, with terrible wifi. For all of my classes with zoom instruction, I often missed a lot of lectures from glitching, lagging and the wifi going out.

Additionally, having the homework due at the end of the term was also great because I was able to change my pace and work around my busy home and family.