UCLA | EIP

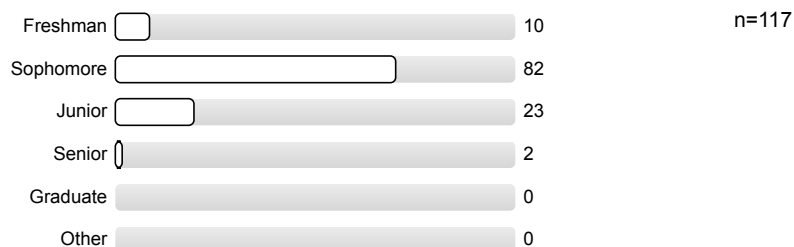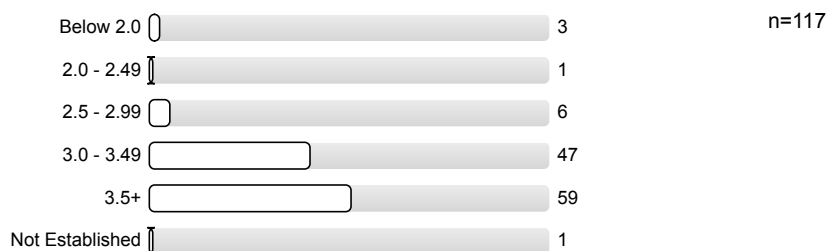## VAN PATTEN RIVERA
Evaluation of Instruction Program Report
18S: ECON 101 LEC 1: MICROECONOMC THEORY
No. of responses = 117
Enrollment = 315
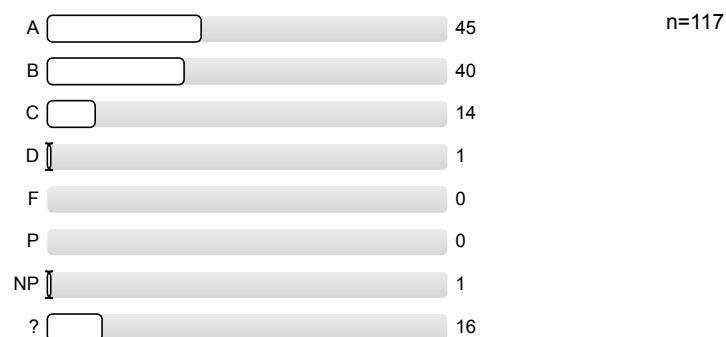Response Rate = 37.14%
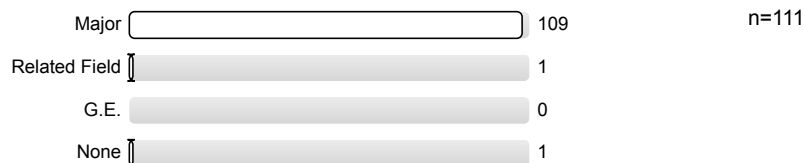
1. Background Information:

1.1) Year in School:

		n=117
Freshman	10	
Sophomore	82	
Junior	23	
Senior	2	
Graduate	0	
Other	0	

1.2) UCLA GPA:

		n=117
Below 2.0	3	
2.0 - 2.49	1	
2.5 - 2.99	6	
3.0 - 3.49	47	
3.5+	59	
Not Established	1	

1.3) Expected Grade:

		n=117
A	45	
B	40	
C	14	
D	1	
F	0	
P	0	
NP	1	
?	16	

1.4) What requirements does this course fulfill?

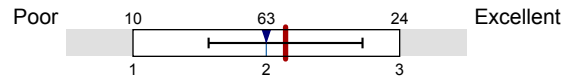|		n=111
Major	109	
Related Field	1	
G.E.	0	
None	1	

2. To What Extent Do You Feel That:

2.1) Instructor Concern - The instructor was concerned about student learning.

Very Low or Never — | 2 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 18 | 29 | 36 | — Very High or Always
Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

n=117
av.=7.13
md=8
dev.=2.04

2.2) Organization - Class presentations were well prepared and organized.

Very Low or Never — | 13 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 22 | 20 | 14 | — Very High or Always
Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

n=115
av.=6.33
md=6
dev.=2.6

2.3) Interaction - Students felt welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class.

Very Low or Never — | 7 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 20 | 22 | 28 | — Very High or Always
Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

n=112
av.=6.63
md=7
dev.=2.32
ab.=4

2.4) Communication Skills - The instructor had good communication skills.

Very Low or Never — | 8 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 16 | 24 | 18 | 18 | — Very High or Always
Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

n=117
av.=7.37
md=7
dev.=2.43

2.5) Value - You have learned something you consider valuable.

Very Low or Never — | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 10 | 23 | 23 | 21 | — Very High or Always
Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

n=115
av.=6.35
md=7
dev.=2.27
ab.=1

2.6) Overall - Your overall rating of the instructor.

Very Low or Never — | 9 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 24 | 20 | 16 | — Very High or Always
Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

n=117
av.=7.19
md=7.5
dev.=2.46

2.7) Overall - Your overall rating of the course.

Very Low or Never — | 8 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 12 | 28 | 12 | 20 | — Very High or Always
Scale: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

n=117
av.=6.03
md=7
dev.=2.3

3. Your View of Course Characteristics:

3.1) Subject interest before course

Low — | 15 | 72 | 30 | — High
Scale: 1 2 3

n=117
av.=2.13
md=2
dev.=0.61

3.2) Subject interest after course

Low — | 17 | 63 | 37 | — High
Scale: 1 2 3

n=117
av.=2.17
md=2
dev.=0.66

3.3) Mastery of course material

Low — | 12 | 74 | 31 | — High
Scale: 1 2 3

n=117
av.=2.16
md=2
dev.=0.59

3.4) Difficulty (relative to other courses)

Low — | 2 | 70 | 45 | — High
Scale: 1 2 3

n=117
av.=2.37
md=2
dev.=0.52

3.5) Workload/pace was

Too Slow — | 2 | 104 | 10 | — Too Much
Scale: 1 2 3

n=116
av.=2.07
md=2
dev.=0.32

3.6) Texts, required readings

Poor — | 12 | 59 | 10 | — Excellent
Scale: 1 2 3

n=81
av.=1.98
md=2
dev.=0.52
ab.=36

| 3.7) | Homework assignments | Poor | 10 / 63 / 24 | Excellent | n=97 av.=2.14 md=2 dev.=0.58 ab.=20 |

| 3.8) | Graded materials, examinations | Poor | 14 / 77 / 24 | Excellent | n=115 av.=2.09 md=2 dev.=0.57 ab.=1 |

| 3.9) | Lecture presentations | Poor | 33 / 63 / 19 | Excellent | n=115 av.=2.15 md=2 dev.=0.66 ab.=2 |

| 3.10) | Class discussions | Poor | 11 / 61 / 22 | Excellent | n=94 av.=2.12 md=2 dev.=0.58 ab.=23 |
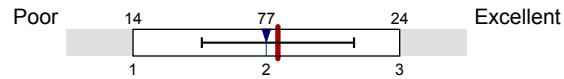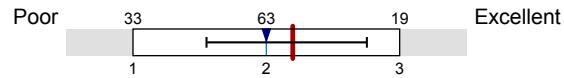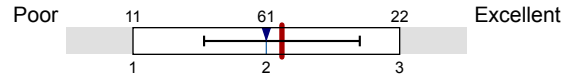
4. Comments:

4.1) Please identify what you perceive to be the real strengths and weaknesses of this instructor and course.

■ *Strengths
-Knowledgeable of the course material

*Weaknesses
-Makes some mistake during lectures, which is understandable

■ Considering it was her first time, she was good. However, I felt that this class was based only on Game theory. While talking to other friends who took it previously, I found out that they did not focus this much on game theory. Game theory is insanely hard to understand. The midterm was pretty difficult for me as the answers were set in a way I did not learn and recognize. While she is a great professor, I cannot wait for this class to end as I do not like the material at all.

■ Dear Professor, you are very sweet and extremely helpful during office hours. I think you really try to do as much for your students as possible and it's obvious that you care about your students. I found your class notes more useful than the lecture notes you uploaded over the course of the quarter. I have a lot of respect for you and I hope you continue teaching classes at UCLA. Have a great summer.

■ Diana knows the students well and knows what we struggle with. She is pretty good at simplifying topics so that we understand them better, and it really seems like she cares about our learning. Another frustrating thing is that she sometimes erases a board that she just wrote on instead of going to the oldest one and erasing that one. I guess with more practice teaching she will improve this. I also suggest not using markers that are dying because we can barley read what is on the board. I liked when she wrote with chalk those two lectures because that was much easier to see. Finally, her notes online are riddled with so many mistakes and typos. She asks that we let her know if we find mistakes, but they are everywhere and would take too much time to point out. I suggest proofreading them before uploading. Besides all of this, I still believe I learned a lot in the course and believe Diana has the makings to be a great professor.

■ Diana was successful in simplifying difficult material and make it understandable. However, she would often make mistakes on the board, so it was sometimes difficult to follow her.
Excellent professor! Teaches exactly what you need to know, step by step, emphasizing the key elements. Very clear lectures.

■ Good communicator and lecturer, always correcting errors in lecture. A game theory class should not have 400 students, she is explaining on the board while speaking on the mic to a huge auditorium for hours...makes it easy to make a mistake.

■ Very knowledgeable and easy to communicate with.

- I liked that the concepts were presented very thoroughly, and that the homeworks did well to prepare us for the exam.

- I really enjoyed the course. I think my biggest concern were the small errors that were made throughout the course. I feel like your notes could have been better prepared during lecture to avoid this. That being said, the online notes were excellent, you explained everything very thoroughly. You were approachable and always very helpful when a student asked a question.

- I think she really cares about all her students but at the same time it was all too obvious that it was her first time teaching a class of this size. She made errors throughout that had needed to be corrected time and again, but I appreciate her ability to bounce back from her mistakes and not take the students criticizing her all too personally.

- I think the instructor was extremely clear and concise in the material she intended to deliver, in addition to being understanding of student needs. I would take a course with her again. However, she was extremely disorganized and made several mistakes/changes every lecture which was difficult to keep track of.

- I'm guessing she was a new professor, but I think she did an okay job. She made mistakes during class and students tried to make her feel like she didn't know what she was doing, but I know she did.

- Stengths:

  Notes were done in a way that was easy to follow, if not in class. Besides that, no strenghts and the greatest weakness is extremely hard exams and a lot of weight on them

- It was nice to see a professor be energetic about the topic. Was not discouraged from making a mistake.

- Was very interesting to see how actual economics is used in the world, instead of just in controlled situations.

- Always looking for ways to involve students in test making was engaging, even though most of us did not participate (sorry).

- Hope things continue to improve for the professor. C

- Professor Rivera tries her best to make the lecture flow as smoothly as possible, and I really like how she presents her lecture in a step-by-step method. This makes it clearer to understand the concepts. Please do decrease the number of mistakes on the board though (why was game theory taught in such a large class with one board?) Overall, I really enjoyed this quarter with Professor Rivera.

- Professor Rivera was able to teach clearly on the subjects at hand. However, one large detractor was the fact that she made many mathematical errors during lecture which led to students either being confused or correcting Prof. Rivera. It is understandable to make such mistakes, I will qualify this by saying that it must be difficult to teach in front of 100+ students and since her errors usually did not affect our understanding of concepts, they were acceptable. I think she has a lot of potential to become a great professor in terms of lecturing, but there is some work needed.

- She was enthusiastic and cared about her subject she just needed more confidence in her lectures. Silly mistakes would impede the flow of the lecture and cause unneeded confusion. Taking a little more time when writing on the board would help this, I think.

- Strength: Approachable, knowledgeable

  Weakness: Errors while writing on the board

- She has great communication skills and her lectures are organized. She posts her slides after ever class and her problem sets were incredibly helpful in preparing for the midterm and final exams.

- Strengths: I thought Diana did a very good job explaining course material throughout the quarter. I felt that she was very articulate and deliberate in her explanations of the concepts, and this certainly helped me learn the material. We haven't taken the final exam yet, but I thought the midterm was very fair and closely related to the problem sets, a point she made several times leading up to the exam. Her presentations were always organized, effectively moving from one lesson to the next. She was also really helpful in office hours. Overall, I am very happy to have had her as my instructor for this course.

  Weaknesses: One of the main weaknesses I noticed was that she continually made small arithmetic errors in her work on the board, and students seemed to feel they needed to act as watchdogs to correct her mistakes. This became fairly evident in class at the beginning of the quarter, and students were constantly interrupting lectures to correct her mistakes, or merely interrupting to try to correct things they thought were mistakes, which really slowed lectures as Diana had to figure out if her work actually included any errors.

- Strengths: knowledge of content, somewhat was aware of students. Weaknesses: unaccommodating, extremely inexperienced

- Made the material very clear during lecture. Easy to follow along and made going to class worth it.

- Organized and helpful lecture notes and problem sets! Hope less writing errors in the future.

- Professor teaches the material well, I have learned a lot in solving the problem sets. I really like that she tests on what she teaches, and the tests are very doable. But, I wish there were no numerical and formula mistakes during lecture.

- Professor van Patten Rivera consistently made at least 2 mistakes that needed to be corrected by students every lecture. This made her lose a lot of credibility. I found myself doubting her notes due to the possibility of her making a calculation error.

- Professor was really good at explaining things, sometimes mistakes would occur, but she quickly corrected them.

- She is nice and very knowledgeable. She sometimes messes up on examples and the students correct her occasionally, but she is good.

- She is really caring and considerate towards her students by giving very comprehensible lecture notes in class and on CCLE, as well as problem sets that are fair reflections of the exam. She answers questions and emails well, and she really wants to create the easiest way for her students to learn. Keep up the great work!

- She is very intelligent and well spoken, so her lectures were clear and informative. The problem sets and lecture notes she provided were incredibly helpful for the exams, although I really wish the exams were out of more points (not longer, but just graded differently). I think 25 points isnt enough, because it makes the differences between an A, B, and C very small. I wish the problem sets had due dates and contributed to our overall grade, although I know many other econ classes also dont have hw due.

- She is very nice, provide great review session. She makes quite a lot of mistakes which makes it hard to follow

- She made so many mistakes EVERY lecture it was unbelievable. She wouldn't even realize her mistakes. If we went and did the same thing on the exams we would lose out. Please try not to copy from your notes and show us that you understand what you're teaching rather than just copying.

- She posted very good notes and went over example problems in class very well. Would have been way better if the class was not at 8:00 in the morning.

- She seems as though she wants to do her best and learn from her mistakes. Given that she is a new professor, she does lack the necessary knowledge to make her lectures interesting. I felt as though she

know the material, but was unable to properly convey the concepts to the class. It's sad that the class weighted 3x towards our major GPA and at a crucial time in our college journey was taught in this manner. Hoping she will get better as she gains more experience.

- The course is very well structured and organized, the posting of lecture notes, problem set and problem set solution is very effective.

- Some time the lecture notes can be a little confusing and lack certain detail.

- The grading scheme was undoubtedly the worst I have ever seen in my life. It provides ample opportunity to succeed, but a small mishap can lead to disastrous results.

- The instructor had very good slides and taught well, however, there were some typos. Also, the class was too early.

- The instructor was really concerned about student learning and the review sessions were really helpful! Good job for a first class!

- The problem sets and posted online lecture notes were very helpful. Her lecture presentations were also pretty solid.

- She cares about student learning and the structure of the class shows that.

- The professor has low intelligence and repeatedly fails to explain extremely simple concepts.

- The professor seemed rather nervous and made quite a few small mistakes despite obviously understanding the concept clearly. Did not affect the overall understanding of the material though

- The professor seems to be a nice person but she did not seem to have enough tome/preparation to teach such a large class. Someone else should guide new professors before throwing them to teach their first large classes. She will be a great professor but after some more practice, that's why I do not understand why she is teaching such a big class now.

- The class is a very tough class, and I believe she did well making it easier than it could have been.

- The professor was always clear of what she expected from her students. Did not throw any curve balls which was great. Also, the professor was open to questions and really cared about whether we knew the material or not. The practice problems were really helpful and enhanced the concepts.

- The professor's strengths were that she was organized with lecture, but a weakness would be that she should have assigned homework to be considered in our grade or something else to help boost our grade if we didn't do well on the first midterm. Personally because I didn't do well on the first midterm, I am basically screwed if I want a good grade—which is very upsetting because I did not feel the material was that difficult.

- The real strength is that the professor sticks to the lecture notes so that it's easy to review. The weakness is that the professor's teaching skill needs to be improved

- This instructor is really passionate about what she does and she tries to explain to us in the simplest way as possible. I think it is her first time teaching so she makes a lot of mistakes on the board which a lot of students find annoying, but honestly its fine she just needs more experience. Overall she is a good teacher and she is very nice.

- The weekly posted class notes are excellent sources, which I would argue as more effective than the lecture itself. Problem sets are also helpful.

- Very nice person but not yet experienced enough at teaching. Makes simple mistakes in her lectures but then fixes them. This will go away with time.

- The strengths are that Diana is a great TA. I have had her for several classes before Econ 101. She is great in a smaller setting. My main critique is that in a large lecture hall, a lot of the problems are confusing and th size of the class/professor being on a stage with a mic makes it really hard to ask questions.

4.2) What topic(s) did you find most interesting and/or useful? What topic(s) did you find least interesting and/or useful? Why?

- *Useful and Interesting
  -Insurance problems

- All of the different types of firm competitions was most useful.

- All topics are useful because they are applicable in real world problems. I find game theory most interesting.

- Game theory (2 Counts)

- Game theory and insurance policies seem useful for my future careers, but other graphical and numerical analysis of economic models are less so.

- Game theory is extremely interesting I like thebpsychologica side of it
  Risk and uncertainty was useless and felt completely unrelated to the class just shoved in at the end

- Game theory is very interesting as it is the thinking behind most decisions.

- Game theory is very interesting but doesn't seem to be very useful in real life as no person or company is as rational as the examples we use.

- Game theory was interesting but second degree price discrimination was not very interesting.

- Game theory was interesting.

- Game theory was the most interesting topic.

- How Game Theory is related to Imperfect Comp

- I believe Game theory was the most interesting, and probability and risk was the least interesting.

- I enjoyed learning about imperfect competition. The game theory was kind of boring but I can see now why it was necessary to build off from for the following topics.

- I feel that monopolistic competition is the most useful.

- I found game theory and actuarial calculations the most interesting. What I found most useful was learning about imperfect competition.

- I found game theory interesting even though it was a difficult concept to master

- I found game theory to be very interesting. Diana did a great job of showing her enthusiasm.

- I found game theory was the most interesting aspect of the course. It was fun seeing how some decisions were made. My least favorite was risk and uncertainty because it did not seem connected to anything else in the course.

- I found the initial lessons about game theory and Nash Equilibrium to be incredibly interesting and relevant, and I felt Diana did a great job explaining these concepts. I didn't really find any topic to be uninteresting or useless.

- I found the monopoly stuff interesting and the basic game theory stuff. Least interesting is the other game theory strategies, insurance examples,and the hotelling model. I do not plan on finding a career in economics so a lot of this material is not too useful. It is like learning math in school, only 10% is useful in later on life. Please note that my dislike for the course is not based on the professor, it was her first quarter and she did as expected.

- I liked Game theory

- I liked learning about game theory, moving into price competition.

- I loved learning about game theory! I wish the monopolistic competition and oligopolic competition were better explained.

- I personally very much enjoyed the trigger strategies in the Bertrand and Cournot models, they just had such obvious real life applications I felt like I was learning some useful to my future. I found the probability part the least interesting.

- I think it is interesting. I like how everything links back to the basics we started off with. Great planning and flow of the course!

- I thought the course topics were interesting, especially game theory.

- Insurance/risk was very interesting. Game theory as well. These seem useful in the real world.

- Interesting class, but it is graded in an absurd way that gave me no incentive to show up to class nor make a consistent effort to do well. Some extra credit or some arrangement should be made so that future students are better prepared.

- Least useful: game theory . I guess this topic does not interest me is because the lecture was not clear enough for me to understand
Most useful: insurance, Bertrand and cornout competition

- Most useful: Grim strategy and other strategies for sustaining cooperation without a third-party enforcer.

- N/A

- N/a

- The Problem sets were every helpful.

- The course as a whole was extremely interesting as it combined everything I have learned in previous Economics courses. Loved it!

- The evolving game theory topics were fairly enjoyable.

- The most interesting topic was sequential games because it was applicable to the more difficult material later on. The least interesting topic was the review on probability because I already knew the material.

- The most useful topics were those on game theory because I felt they were somewhat applicable and useful. The least interesting/useful were those that included a lot of math.

- The professor made the most interesting topics horribly boring.

- The topic I found most useful is about monopoly and also game theory because I think that it is really helpful in understanding how companies work. I do not like the topic about expected value and risk

- The topics were interesting and useful. I just struggled to understand them.

- This instructor has made me hate this course so much. I miss Professor McDevitt who students could trust we were learning from someone who knew his material, always took the time to hear out what his students needed to succeed in his course, and epitomized how being an instructor SHOULD be.

I feel like a class with so much weight in terms of GPA should be something more useful in real life. I cannot believe people in real life are anywhere close to making strategies like the ones we learned in the course. In my opinion, more weight should be given to classes that are more applied and that are actually useful when getting a job. This class was mostly theory with a ridiculous amount of notation that made things even more confusing. I understand math is an important skill, but last time I checked we were trying to learn economics. At least econ 1 and 2 had more sensible narratives that one could relate to.

- This whole class was very interesting and very relatable to real life, I'd say most topics were useful.

- eh.... its a major class

- game theory

- game theory is interesting

- grim strategy was very interesting

- microeconomics as a whole pertains to the major and is important in general