



Learning Environment Survey (LENS) Fall 2024

LENS Full Individual Instructor Report for Global Macroeconomics (ECO 120-04) Fall 2024 (Saharnaz Babaei Balderlou)

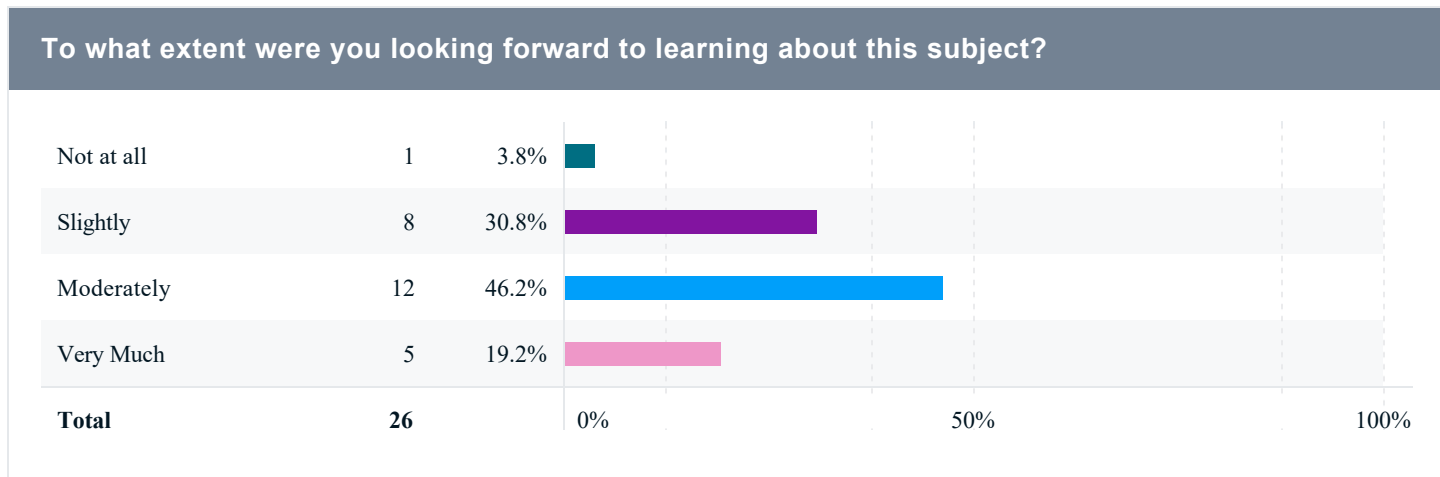


Created Thursday, January 2, 2025



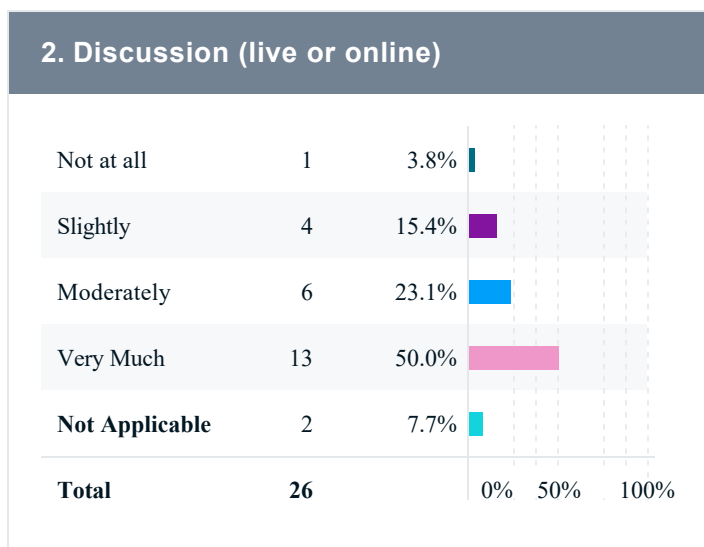
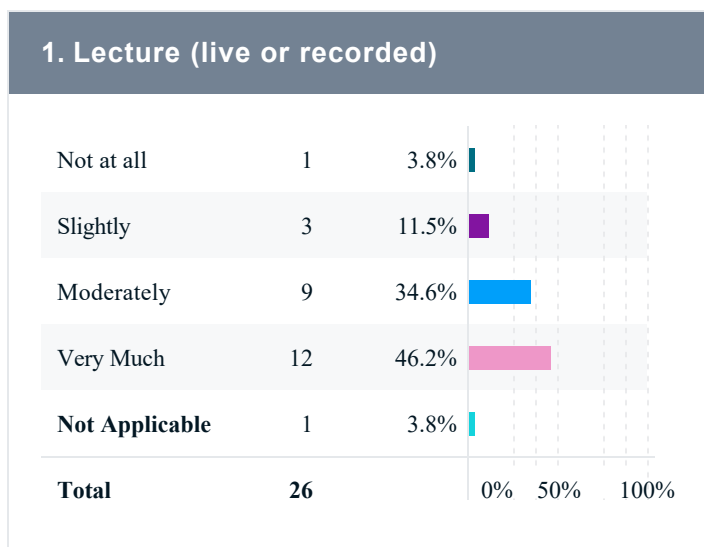
Courses Audience: 35
Responses Received: 26
Response Ratio: 74.3%

Motivation

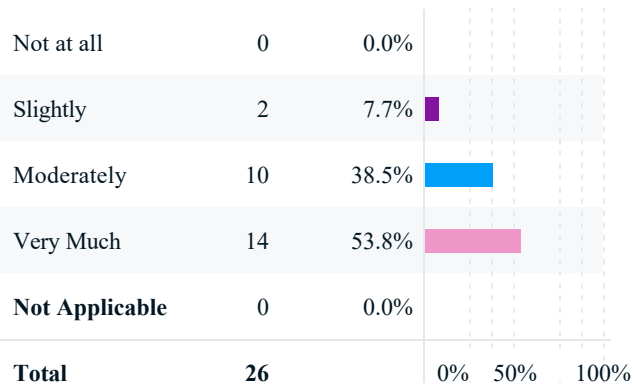


Instructional Activities

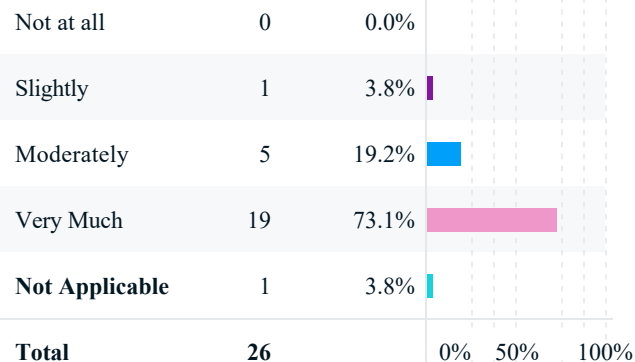
To what extent did the following course components contribute positively to your learning?



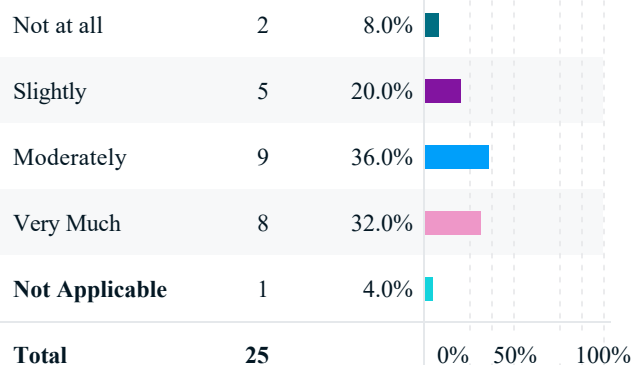
3. Guided activities (live virtual or in-person: such as solving problems, completing exercises, lab work, and/or other hands-on activities)



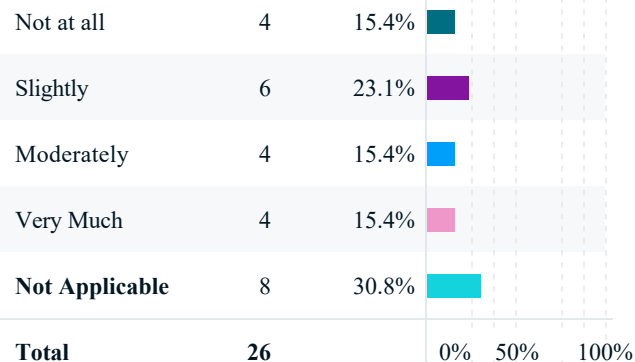
4. Independent homework activities (such as solving problems, completing exercises, lab work, or other hands-on activities)



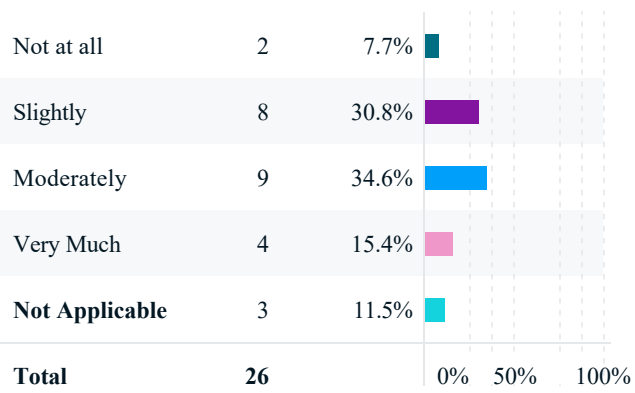
5. Major course projects (such as term papers, research projects, community engagement projects, etc.)



6. Assigned readings



7. Content videos (not lecture)



Student Learning Behaviors

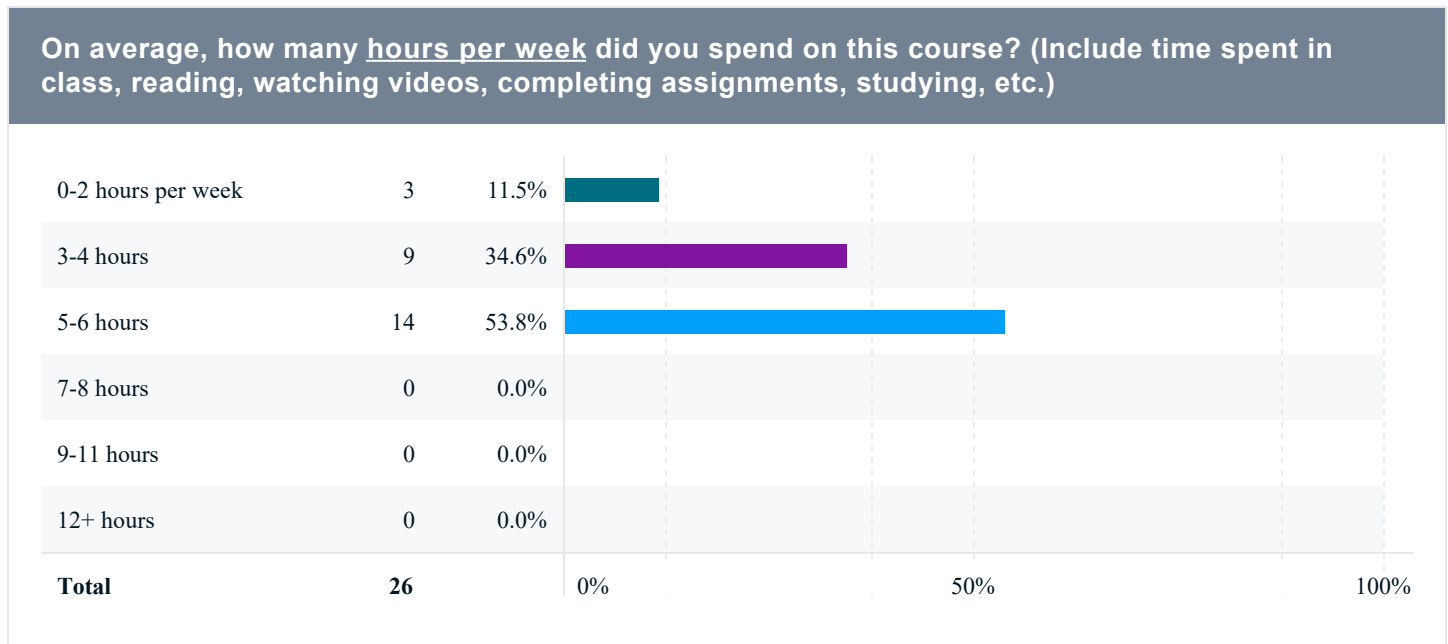
Which of the following activities/strategies did you use to enhance your own learning in this course? (Select all that apply):



Describe what else you did (or could have done) to contribute to a positive learning experience in this course.

Comments
I wish I had gone to more office hours to have questions I didn't really understand explained.
i definitely could have studied more for this course. Such as reading the text book more and possibly even making flashcards
I could've gone to office hours.
I would try and re explain the topics or given examples into something that I would understand more
HUGE thing for me was actively taking notes in the class. If you take notes and study them as you complete homework assignments and before exams, you will definitely be successful in Dr. B's class.
I played a critical role in the flow of class this semester. I felt like I was one of the only students to keep the flow of class. I felt as if I needed to help her with all of the questions when she would ask us to participate because our class was so quiet.
no

Time on Task



Workload Manageability

In my experience, the workload in this course was...

Easily manageable	11	42.3%	
Challenging, but manageable	15	57.7%	
Not manageable	0	0.0%	
Total	26		0% 50% 100%

Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments

I think we had a week to complete the homework assignments and had one homework assignment per week.

I found the course content somewhat difficult to understand and oftentimes did not even know what to study for tests/quizzes.

As long as I went to class, did my work, and studied before exams I always felt comfortable in this class

The concepts for how different changes in the market take a lot of practice to understand, but after doing enough examples it was generally easy enough to get,

There wasn't an overload amount of homework, and we did most of learning in the class.

Nothing was too hard to handle but there were some assignments turned in late because of problems not related to class

There was a good amount of work and it was appropriate for what we were learning but we were give the appropriate amount of time to finish that work

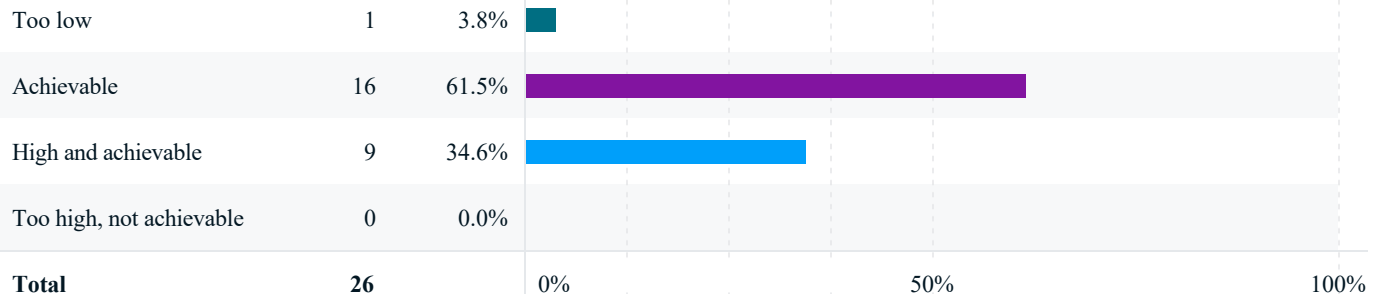
Dr. B did a nice job with her spread of assignments. Each of the concepts were introduced during her lectures, and she even included in-class discussions/activities to enhance understanding. Homework was completed through Canvas, which took very little time to complete (especially if you actively participated and took notes in class).

The concepts were sometimes difficult, but with the correct strategies it was manageable.

The teacher was very nice and understandable. Assignments and instructions were clear

Expectations

I felt that the expectations for my performance in this course were:



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments

I definitely did not reach my full potential in this course over the last semester

Professor wanted us to succeed and gave a variety of opportunities to make sure that happened.

I wanted and A and currently have an A.

there were opportunities to receive extra credit and if you payed attention you would do just fine.

It was mostly manageable

I came in with a decent understanding of economics and this course helped me learn more

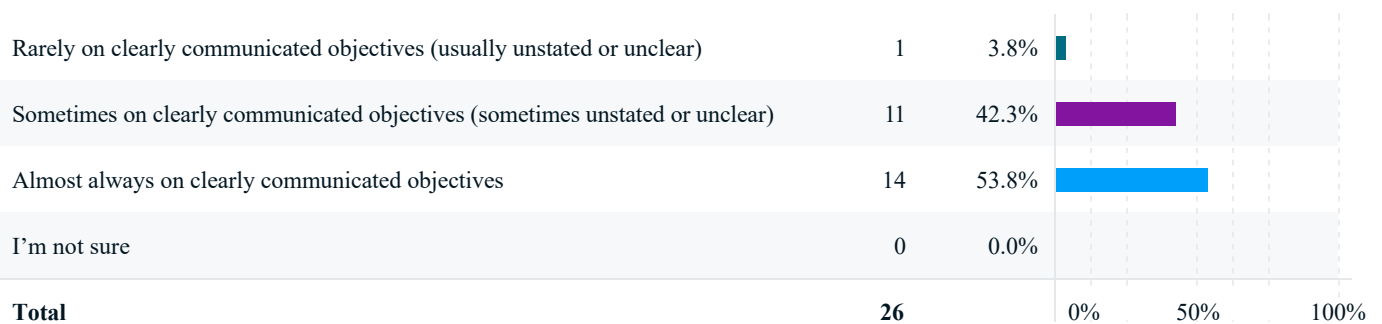
Dr. B was always optimistic. I didn't do well on the first exam... and while she didn't give us the opportunity to retake exams, she remained optimistic, offering her help on future tasks to outweigh the poor first exam grade.

I strive to do well in every class even if it doesn't spark my interest. I did well in this class.

no

Course Alignment

In my experience, I felt I was being evaluated...



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments

Sometimes the structure of the course and what was graded was quite confusing

What was going to be on exams and homework was always clearly stated

She was very clear on how much each question was worth. I like it that she did each question by exactly how much it would contribute to our grade out of 100 points instead of an arbitrary value.

I do wish there was more outreach on homework objectives especially because there were a limited number of supplies. Maybe go over a couple problems in class before it is due regardless if someone asks or not. I thought that exams also were long considering how some objectives were glossed over which made it easy to forget.

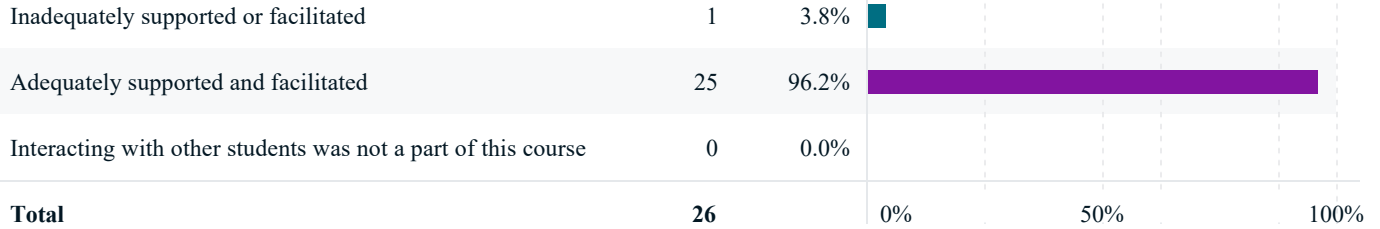
When we were given an assignment she would tell us if it was graded or not

I felt like any content that was covered, I had the chance to be tested on that. Homeworks and Test prep was harder than the test which was helpful.

–participation

Peer Interactions

In my experience, learning together with other students in this course (through discussions, activities, and/or projects) was...



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments

There was much room for group work and peer interaction, which I found helpful

We had multiple group projects that were supported by professor

This class had the most group work of any class I had.

There were few times where in class group projects were assigned. There was more communication with my classmates outside of assigned group projects. Mostly over certain homework questions that were briefly covered in class under a different context. I understand why there is a limited amount of tries but it isn't helpful to my learning rather focused more on a grade.

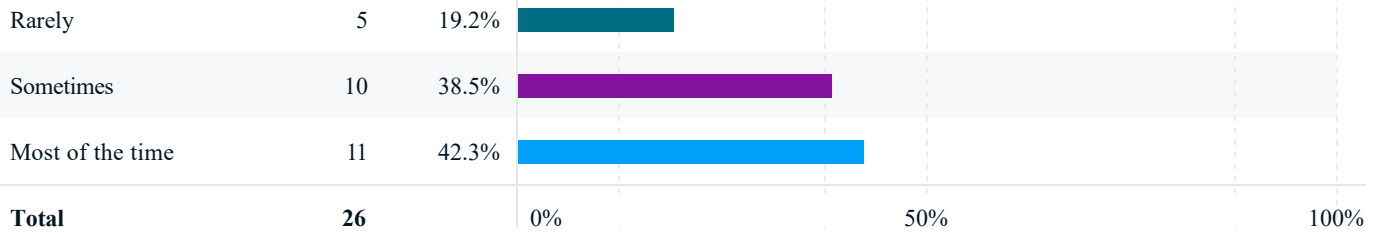
Group work

We were given many opportunities to work with others

The class wasn't super involved, which at times frustrated Dr. B (and the others in the class, to be fair). However, myself and the others in my area of the class were active participants throughout the semester, which enhanced our learning experience.

Belonging

I felt comfortable contributing to class discussions and/or activities.



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments

I generally don't like to talk during class, the professor encouraged discussion, I just wasn't really good participant.

I only felt comfortable at times, as other times I was not confident that I was right

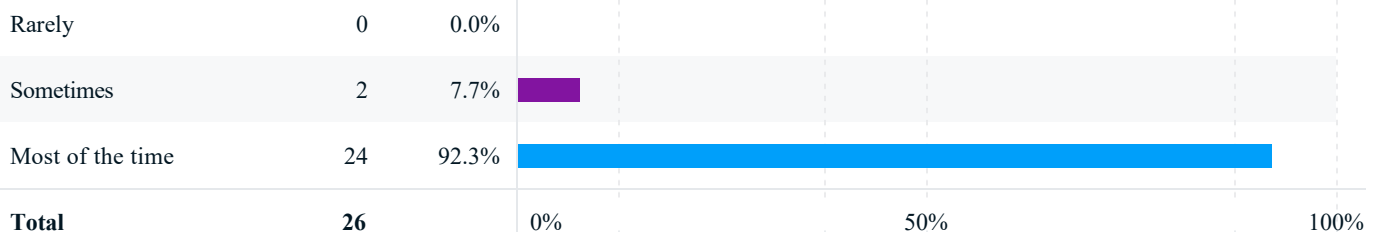
I thought, especially as the class went on, if you did participate there was some frustration if you made a mistake. Which made me want to participate less and less to the point where I found myself never raising my hand towards the end of the semester. Despite my participating in other classes not being an issue. Also going up in front of the class is especially difficult when a lot of time it was easy to make a small mistake.

I wasn't confident or didn't know the answer to questions so I never answered out loud.

The classes would be pretty quiet at most points but I would be willing to answer every now and then

Opportunities

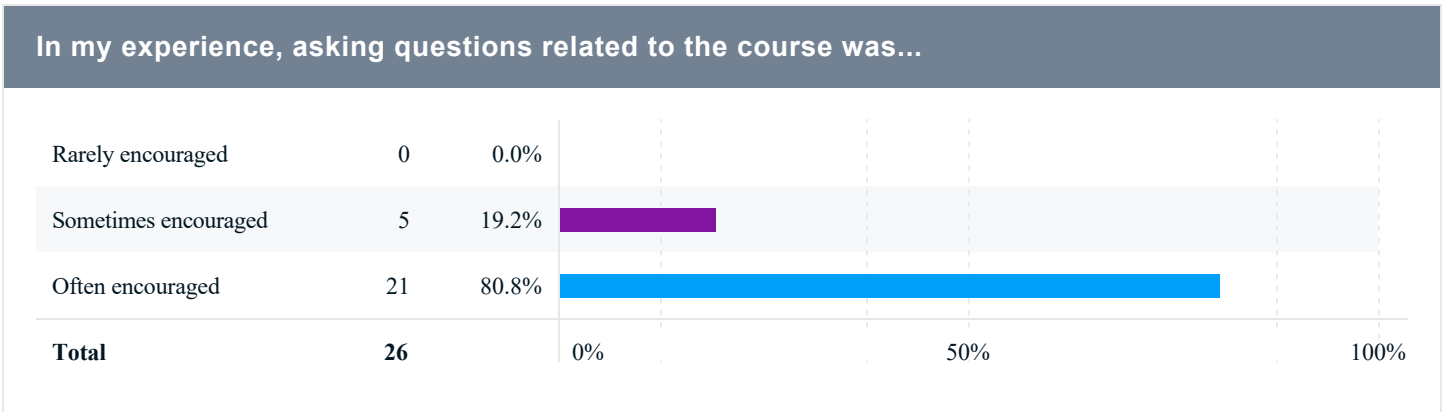
I had the same opportunities to achieve in this course as other students did.



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments
I feel that everyone had a fair chance at achieving their desired grade
It really isn't the teachers fault, but certain students would raise their hand immediately. As the semester went on and it was more and more uncomfortable to participate, it was just less stressful to let them try and answer. Maybe do a problem halfway and ask questions as you go rather than the whole problem being mandatory.
If that everyone was given a. Fair chance and given all the same resources

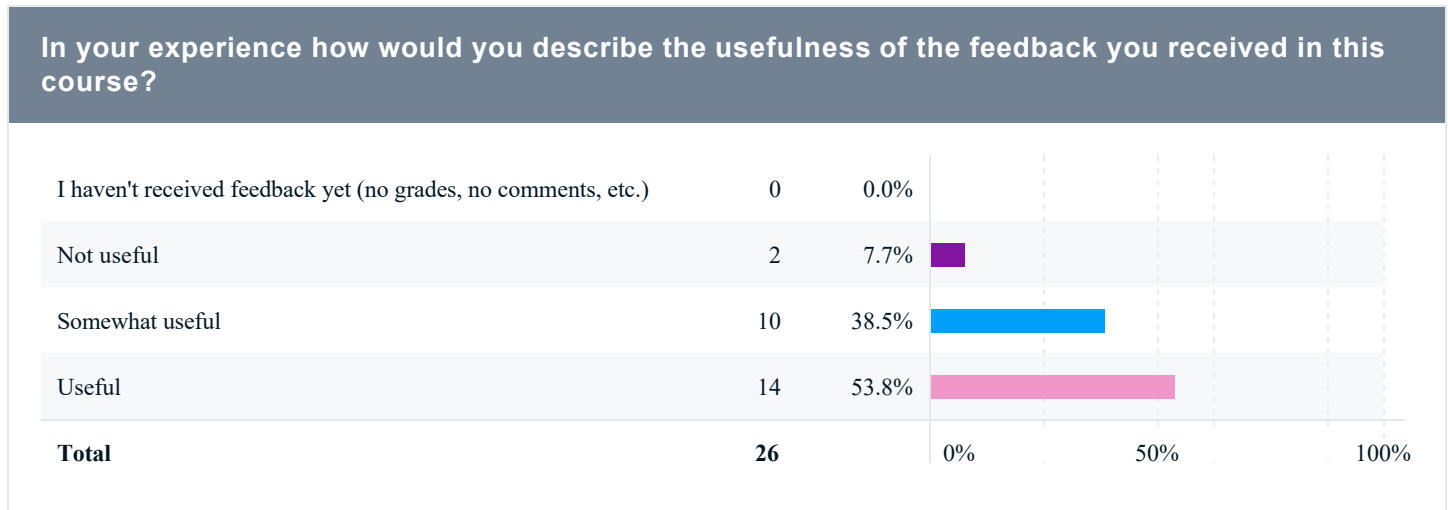
Support



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments
She really did encourage questions and actually seemed really excited when a student would ask a question. She doesn't want the students to be confused so she loves if students ask questions about things they are confused about.
She began each class asking if we had any questions, which made it very easy and encouraging to ask questions.
Professor very much encouraged to speak up in class
Like I previously mentioned only a handful of students consistently participated. There were more than a few times when a question was asked and the response was we just learned that. Which is embarrassing and definitely resulted in less questions being asked by me and my peers.
It was a positive environment in which you always wanted to know if we were confused so that you could clarify which helped.
She would be very persistent to tell people to ask questions if they were lost or confused which was good
As I mentioned before, Dr. B was very optimistic and wanted to see you succeed. She would offer her personal time to help you study, was helpful during office hours, and actively responded to email inquiries in a timely matter.
Every day at the start of class – " Do we have any questions?"

Feedback



Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments
Some assignments require no explanation, others do
There were a couple of times this semester where I would be confused about a topic, then she would explain it differently in a way that made a lot more sense to me and I wondered why she didn't explain it like that earlier. For example, explaining how monetary and fiscal policies only affect AD made a lot of sense but I didn't realize before she said that.
Homework feedback would be helpful without having to embarrass yourself by asking a question in class.
They was some stuff that I could take away from the feedback that helped me but there was also stuff the didn't help that much and just answered the question again
As a Finance major on a Risk Management track, proper education in the area of economics is crucial, and I feel like Dr. B did a great job—especially considering it was her first year!

Open Response

If you have any additional comments you would like to make about the learning environment in this course, please do so here and be specific. Please focus your comments on the learning environment and content of the course (i.e., assignments and materials) and not unrelated matters (such as the instructor's appearance).

Comments
N/A
I know there is a lot of content to cover, but sometimes it felt like we were learning too many things at once that it was hard to keep track of what applies to what. Something that helped me was the videos of you explaining topics on the days we didn't have class because you were gone. Those were slowed down and focused on one topic (Aggregate supply and aggregate demand). Creating 10 minute videos such as these to explain hard topics deeper, to watch outside of class would really be helpful to future students.
Thank you for all your help this semester. Your kindness surely goes noticed!