



Learning Environment Survey (LENS) Spring 2025

LENS Full Individual Instructor Report, Spring 2025 for Global Macroeconomics (ECO 120-05) Spring 2025 (Saharnaz Babaei Balderlou)



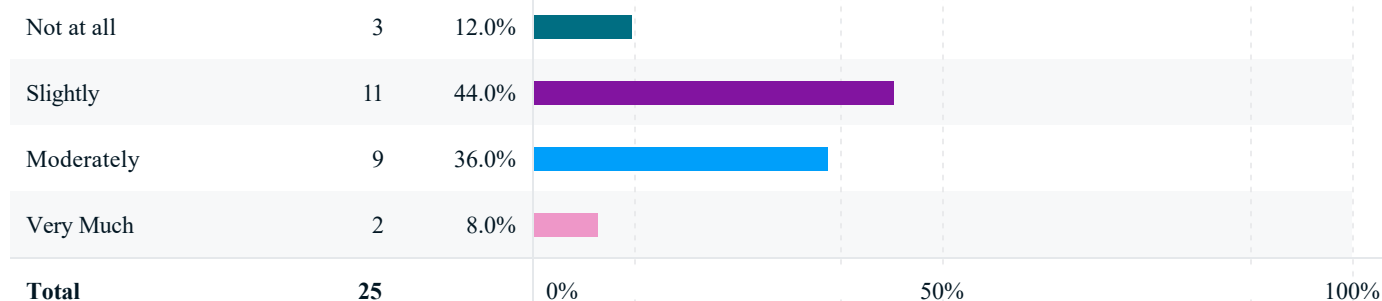
Created **Tuesday, May 27, 2025**



Courses Audience: 35
Responses Received: 25
Response Ratio: 71.4%

Motivation

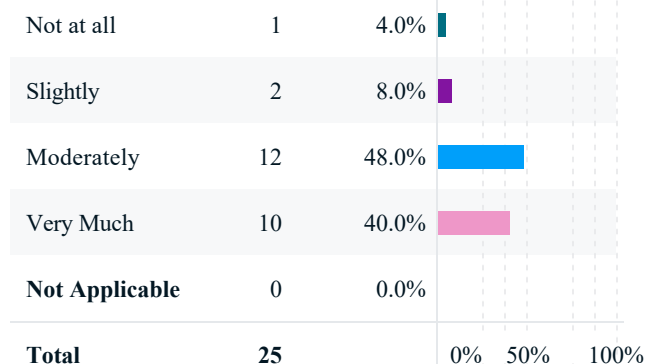
To what extent were you looking forward to learning about this subject?



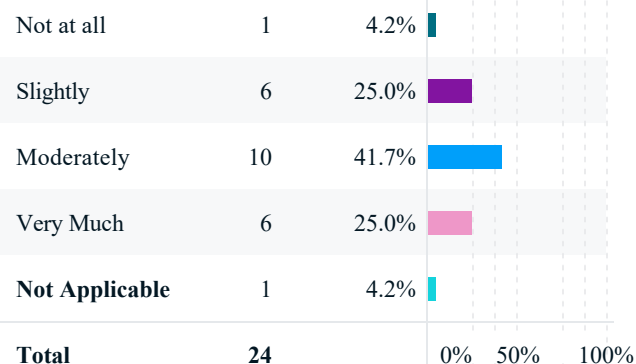
Instructional Activities

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

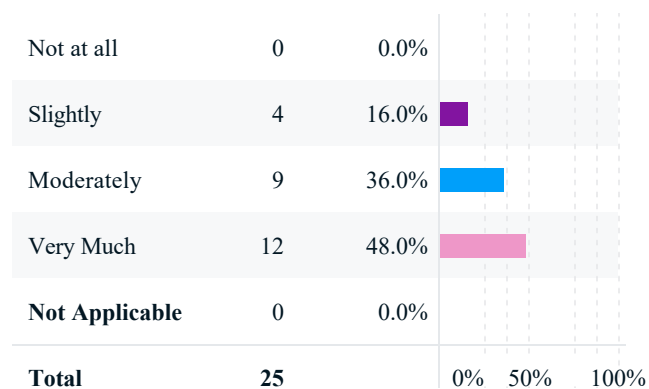
1. Lecture (live or recorded)



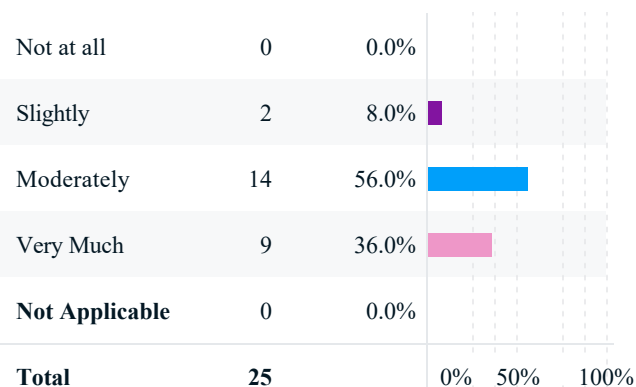
2. Discussion (live or online)



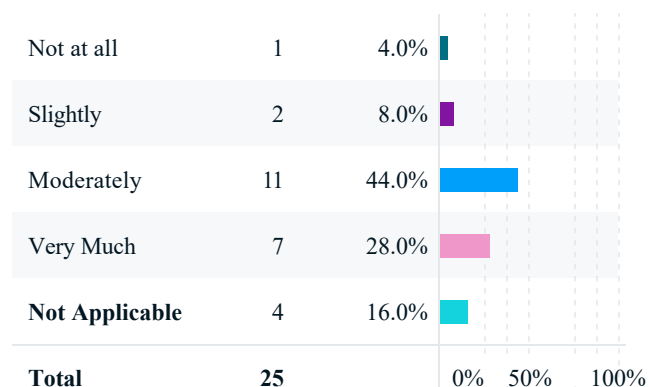
3. Guided activities (live virtual or in-person: such as solving problems, completing exercises, lab work, and/or other hands-on activities)



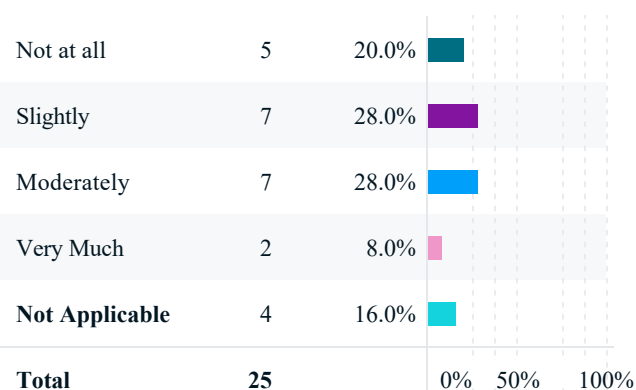
4. Independent homework activities (such as solving problems, completing exercises, lab work, or other hands-on activities)

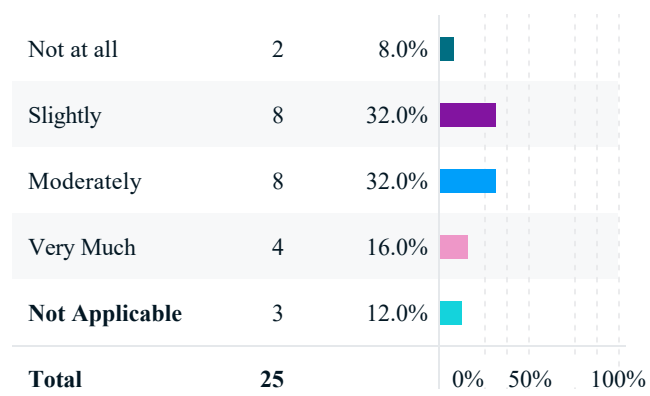


5. Major course projects (such as term papers, research projects, community engagement projects, etc.)



6. Assigned readings



7. Content videos (not lecture)

Student Learning Behaviors

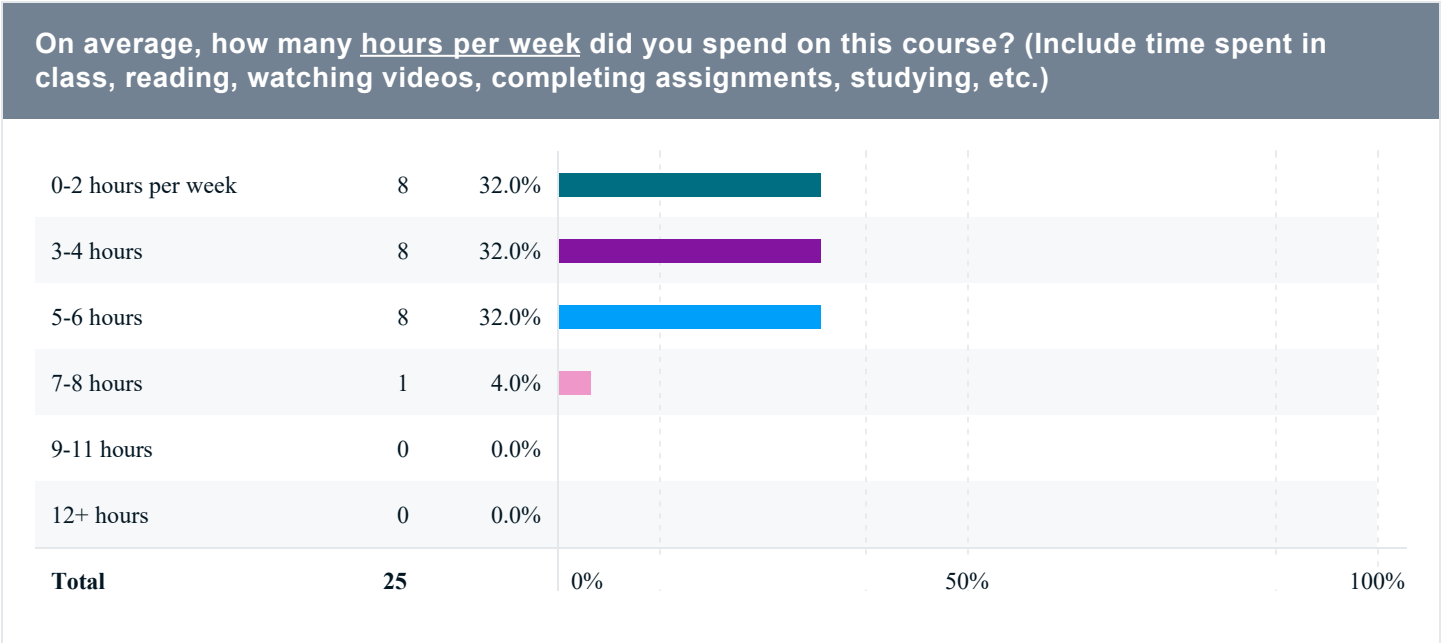
Which of the following activities/strategies did you use to enhance your own learning in this course? (Select all that apply):



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

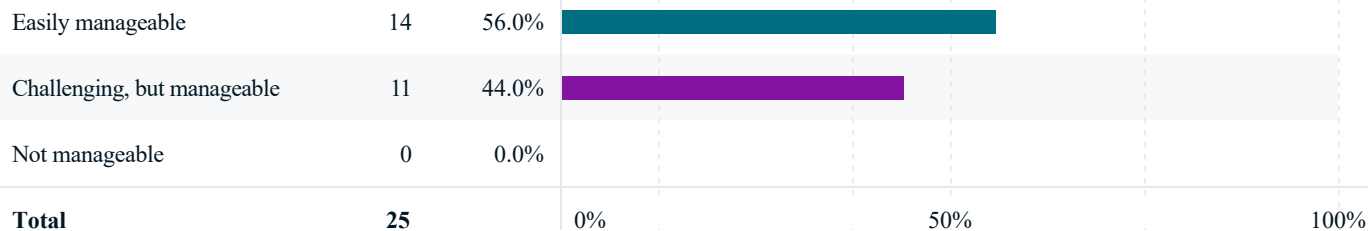
Comments
Utilized AI provided by the instructor to learn course concepts.
I created practice exams with homework questions.
I could have participated in class discussions more
I could've participated more
I would meet up with kids specifically in my class to help each other learn more content

Time on Task



Workload Manageability

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



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

Comments

There wasn't much homework

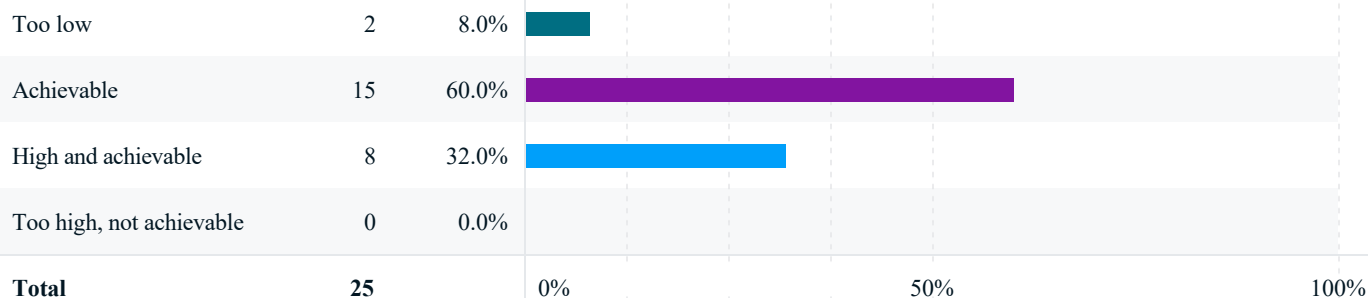
There wasn't much homework which was nice because it gave me more time to focus on the exams

The outside class work we had was very easily manageable. It normally took me about 30/40 minutes to complete the homework questions diligently.

The task load was manageable, but there were many concepts to learn in a short period of time.

Expectations

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



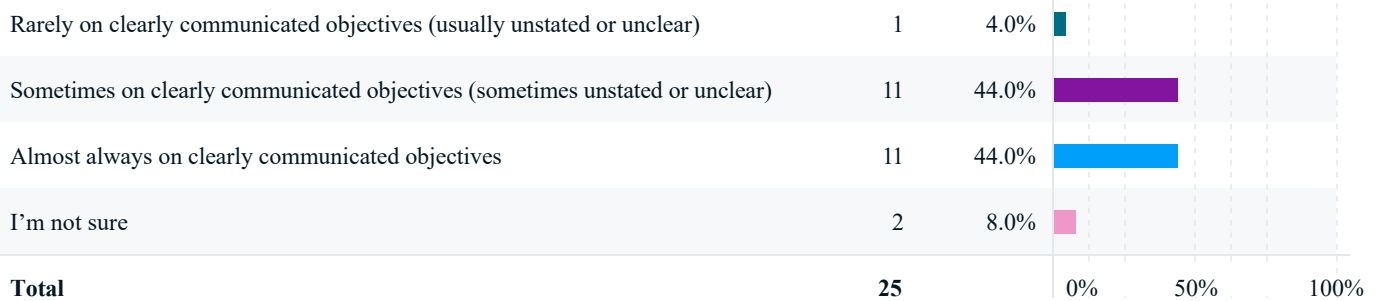
Explain your answer to the above question. If possible, please include specific examples.

Comments

I didn't try as hard as I know I could have

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

Some of the short answer questions required very in-depth answers that I feel wouldn't be found by someone without an economics degree (we don't share the same line of thinking as the professor).

Sometimes questions felt like they lacked context. But I was unsure if it was just me not understanding it.

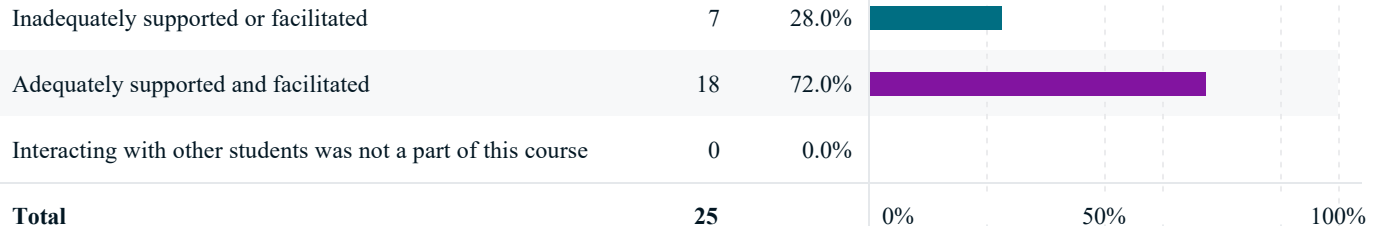
I felt like the content was alot like what was on the exams and homeworks

Most of the time we had clear objectives to complete there were a couple of times that I wasn't completely sure, but after asking questions the expectations became clear.

Some collab assignments were hard to understand and follow, even though there were directions, many problems came up when following them.

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

We were assigned a Zoom meeting with our group members that didn't work, which the instructor blamed on us, but everyone I've talked to doesn't agree that it was our fault. In the Canvas announcement addressing the issue, I found her attitude towards the situation pretty rude. Additionally, when we held in-person group meetings, we weren't able to meet in class first and instead had to reach out outside of class to obtain contact information. It would be much more helpful to have the groups meet in class so we can share contact information in person.

Our collabs were a mess

Every week before an exam, our professor allowed us group work called "collabs" this was very helpful for me and made work less intimidating and manageable.

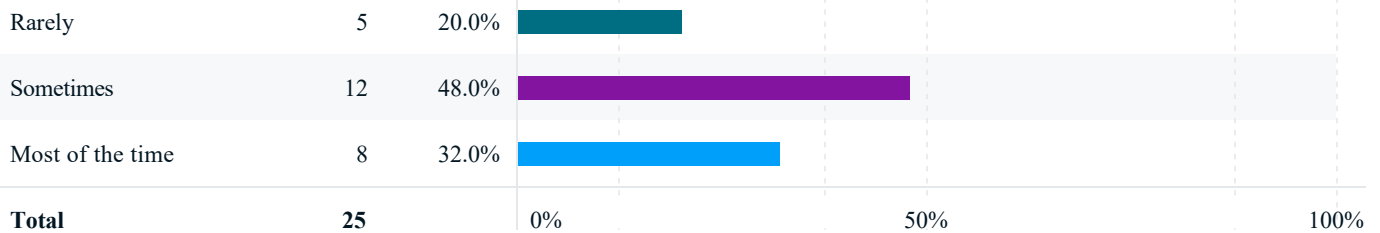
Some of my groups it was helpful but other times with different groups it wasn't. It just depend on the people within the group.

Collabs were a great way for me to work with others and understand the content.

Collab 2 was a struggle, but Collab 3 was better. The hardest part was getting all group members to contribute because we were not familiar with each other/never have seen each other in person.

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

The professor did a great job of making kids feel welcome in answering questions, and never made students feel less if they got a question wrong. I just didn't answer much because I'm a little coward.

I felt I wasn't given enough time to think about in class questions properly so I wasn't able to participate

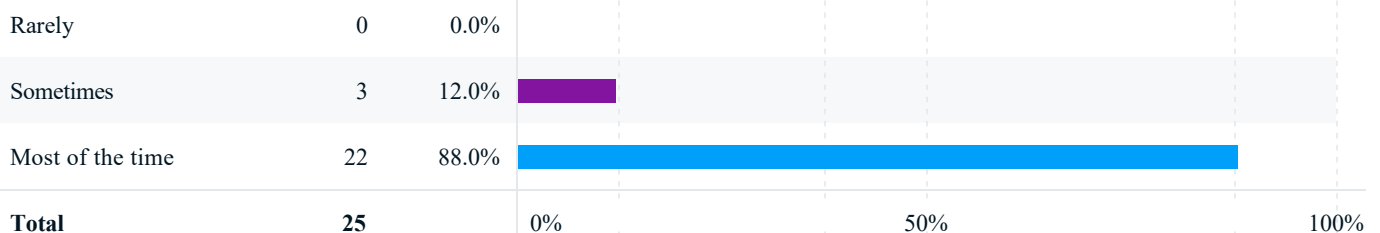
I didnt go to class much so thats why I didnt participate

She encouraged questions and wanted us to answer and help teach the class as well.

Randomly picking students to answer questions made me hesitant to come to class.

Opportunities

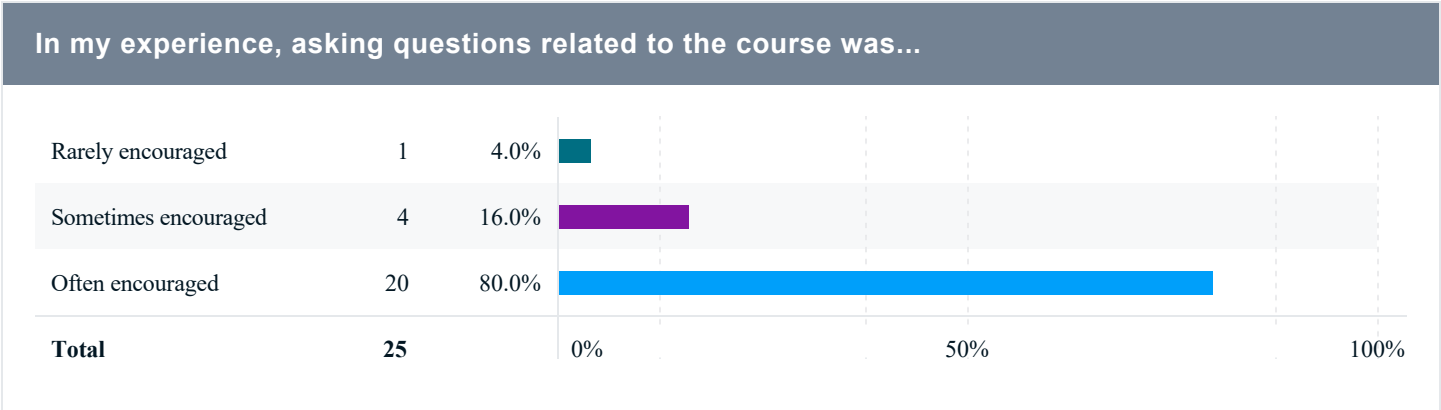
I had the same opportunities to achieve in this course as other students did.



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

Comments
It was very equal to everyone in this course
It was really what we put into it is what we got out of it.

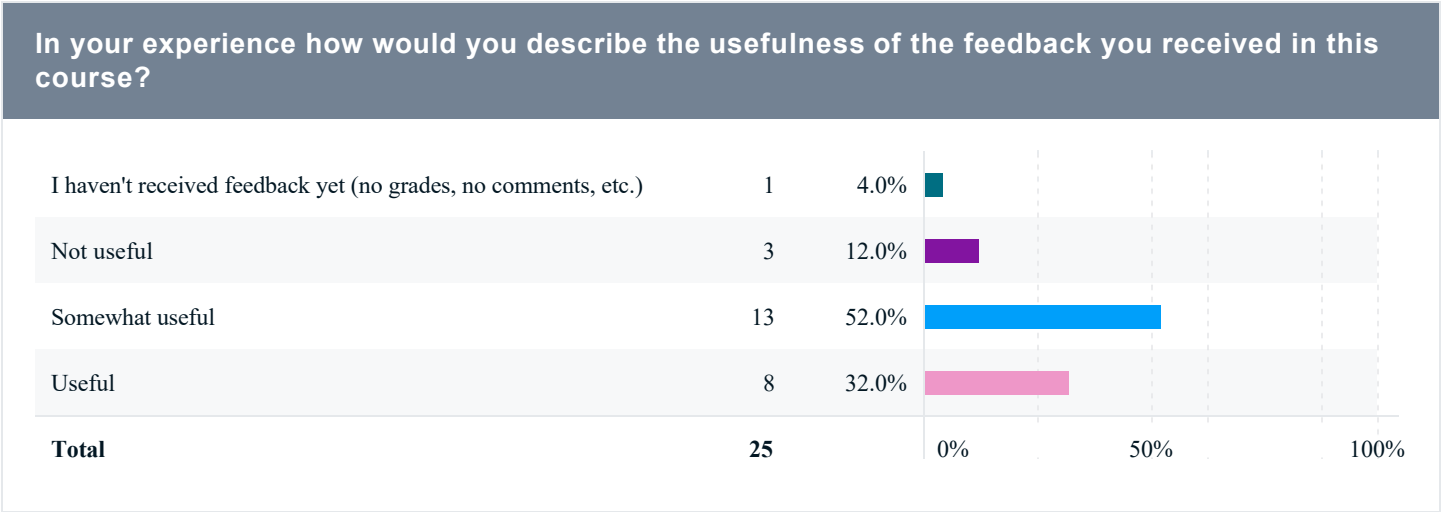
Support



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

Comments
She always wanted us to engage and tried to get us to discuss
She wanted us to understand what was going on.

Feedback



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

Comments

The only feedback I really got was my grades, but an econ class is pretty black and white in terms of what's right and wrong so that was to be expected.

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

Professor Balderlou was very sweet to all her students, gave us a large amount of material related to the course, recorded lectures when we didn't have class, gave us manageable assignments, a lot of extra credit, and plenty of practice and extra credit opportunities. 10/10

Using real world examples and more homework would help us to understand what you're expecting from us and to help us understand the material better

NA