

Project Title: **University of Florida GatorEvals – Spring 2026 Main Project**Courses Audience: **40**
Responses Received: **25**
Response Ratio: **62.5 %**Instructors Audience: **40**
Responses Received: **25**
Response Ratio: **62.5 %**

Report Comments

INTRODUCTION

Teaching is a fundamental purpose of the University of Florida and the dissemination of new knowledge in our classrooms, studios, and clinics enables our students and trainees to fully explore their intellectual boundaries. Assessment and evaluation of our courses are designed to enhance instruction and maximize learning to meet the mission of the university. This report contains the results gathered through the GatorEvals system. Students were invited to share their feedback on the teaching and course material. We invite every faculty member to examine the analysis in the report and utilize the resources provided in the report. Thank you for your continued great work!

Chris Hass, Ph.D.

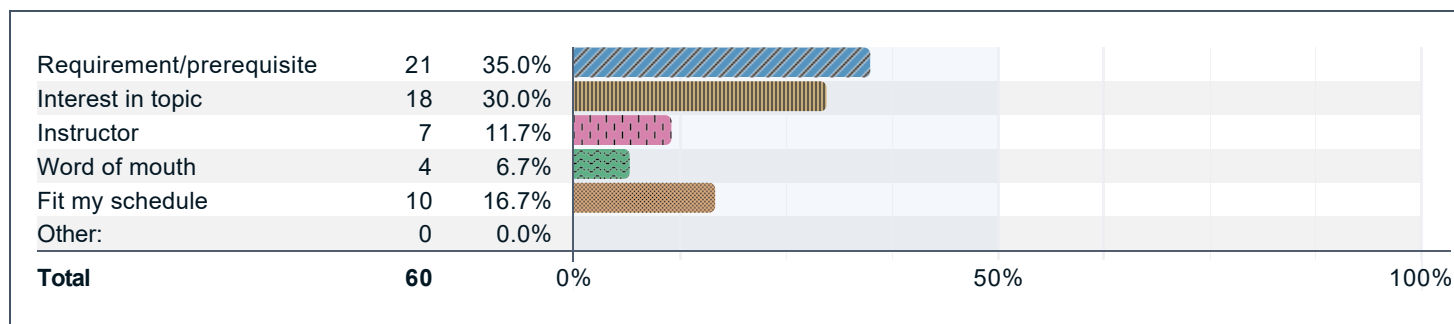
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs

Resources to help you with this report:

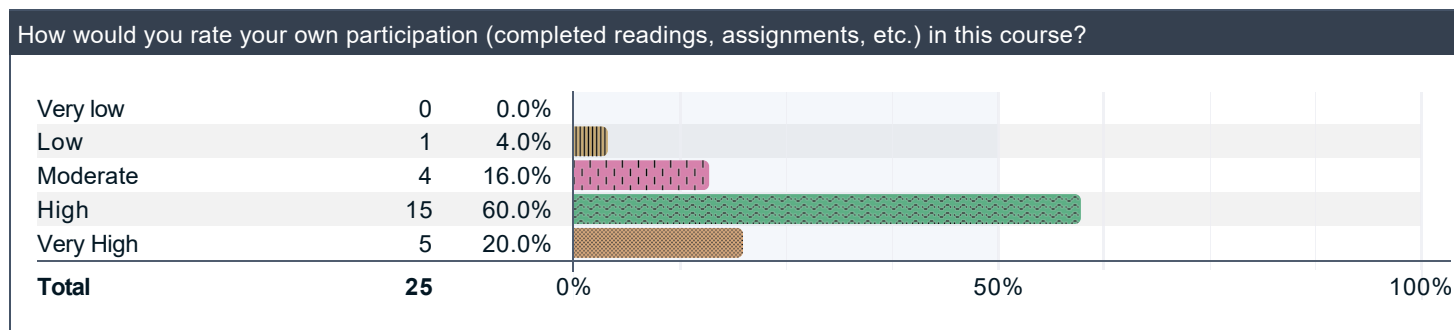
1. Consult our [GatorEvals Guide](#) for interpreting and using teaching survey results.
2. [Register for Elevate](#), a new Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) initiative to help you create a customized trajectory for professional development, focusing on growth in areas you have identified through self-reflection.
3. GatorEvals offers the ability to [opt-in to a midterm](#) evaluation. This formative feedback offers you a chance to address student insights and adjust the course before the term concludes. Reports are only available to you and are not considered part of the T&P process.
4. Register and attend a [CTE workshop](#).
5. Schedule a [consultation](#) with a CTE staff member or your internal unit to help you interpret your results and develop a course of action.
6. Visit the [CTE Resource Library](#) for additional support.

Student Self-Evaluation Questions

Why did you take this course?



How would you rate your own participation (completed readings, assignments, etc.) in this course?



How would you rate your own participation (completed readings, assignments, etc.) in this course?

Response Count	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
25	62.5%	3.96	4.00	4.02	4.08	4.11	4.19

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	SD	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	62.5%	4.96	4.98	0.20	4.77	4.89	4.54	4.77
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	62.5%	4.60	4.81	0.76	4.52	4.76	4.30	4.64
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	62.5%	4.96	4.98	0.20	4.72	4.86	4.46	4.71
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	62.5%	4.92	4.96	0.28	4.65	4.83	4.42	4.71
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	62.5%	4.92	4.96	0.28	4.45	4.73	4.24	4.61
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	62.5%	4.88	4.93	0.33	4.48	4.77	4.19	4.61
Overall	62.5%	4.87	-	0.39	4.60	-	4.36	-

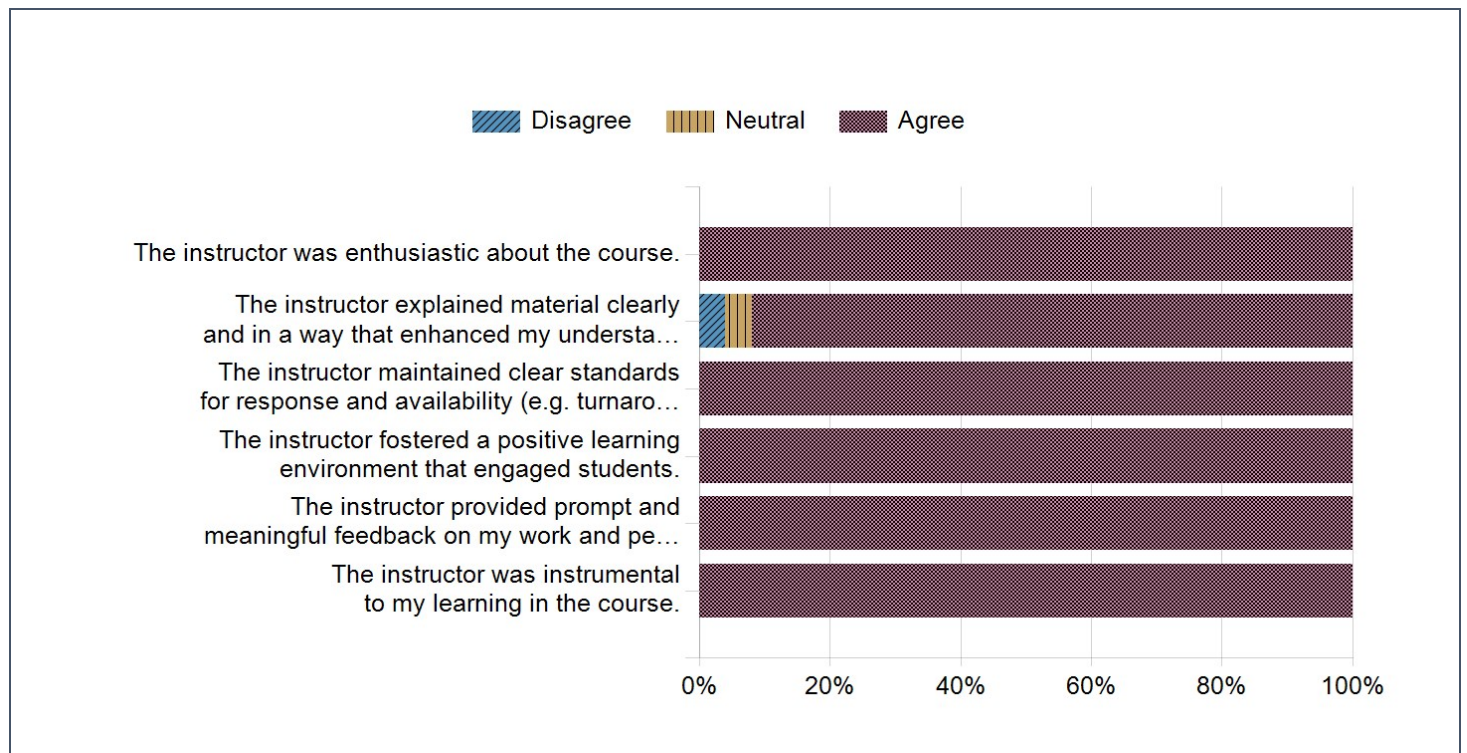
University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	SD	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	62.5%	4.52	4.61	0.59	4.37	4.48	4.26	4.38
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	62.5%	4.56	4.67	0.58	4.12	4.32	4.03	4.25
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	62.5%	4.48	4.67	0.71	4.32	4.47	4.23	4.39
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	62.5%	4.68	4.84	0.63	4.41	4.57	4.26	4.45
Overall	62.5%	4.56	-	0.63	4.30	-	4.20	-

Aggregate Evaluation Results

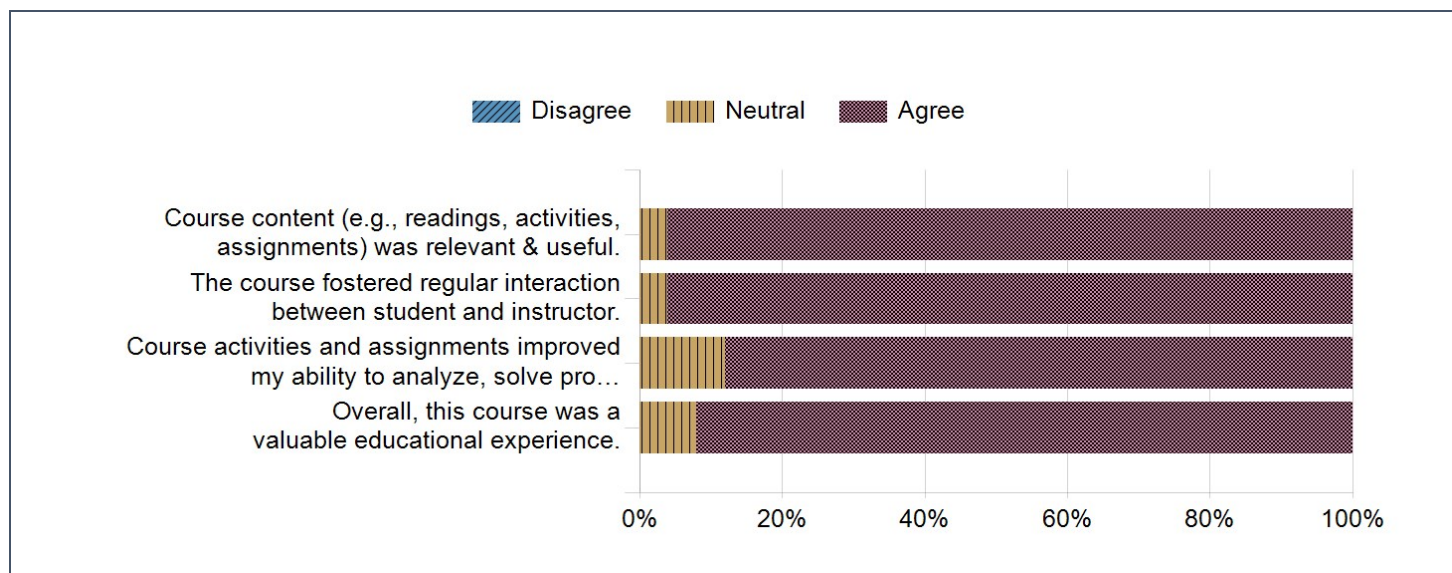
University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



University Core Course Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



Percentages Evaluation Results

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	Count	Mean	Median	SD
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	96.0%	25	4.96	5.00	0.20
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	20.0%	72.0%	25	4.60	5.00	0.76
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	96.0%	25	4.96	5.00	0.20
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	92.0%	25	4.92	5.00	0.28
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	92.0%	25	4.92	5.00	0.28
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	88.0%	25	4.88	5.00	0.33

University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	Count	Mean	Median	SD
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	40.0%	56.0%	25	4.52	5.00	0.59
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	36.0%	60.0%	25	4.56	5.00	0.58
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	28.0%	60.0%	25	4.48	5.00	0.71
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	16.0%	76.0%	25	4.68	5.00	0.63

For additional information and resources in each of these question areas, please visit the GatorEvals Website at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/resources--policies/question-set/>

Free Response Section

Please identify the instructor's strengths that contributed to your learning in the course.

Comment
Very knowledgeable about the topic, very good at taking continuous feedback and improving the course and very good at breaking down topics in a digestible manner.
His incredible knowledge of the material in the course and additional research that he has completed relevant to the course,
Garrison is really good at explaining the papers we read in class and make it fun for us to understand in real life time situations
Genuinely a great professor. Everything was always well explained in an engaging way.
This instructor was very knowledgable and very enthusiastic about the course. This made the class a lot more enjoyable and interesting.
Funny, accommodating, good lecturer. Explicitly clear on expectations.
Prof. Pollard genuinely cares about the students not only in our Tue Thu 11:45 AM cohort, but the students all over the country and the world that we study in class (Econ of *Education*). It is touching that despite all of society's problems and reasons that we "can't" do something that there are still people who want to do the right thing. Being a lecturer at a single university, even if it is as good as UF, is not where Prof. Pollard's future should end, in my humble opinion.
Answers questions clearly, explains material well, and the presentations/class materials are very functional and applicable to the exams.
Garrison was extremely honest and open about expectations from the beginning and he was also very passionate about the topics he was teaching. The lectures were interactive and engaging and it was easy to follow along/pay attention to the course content. Overall, Garrison was my favorite professor I have had my entire college career and this class was very interesting and I felt like I gained a lot of knowledge throughout the semester.
Very enthusiastic, very well spoken, content was engaging
Garrison is great!! He goes above and beyond to make sure his students are engaged in the Economics field. His passion makes this class what it is.
Garrison Pollard is very prepared and organized from the lectures to the Canvas page. He has both an understanding and enthusiasm for the content in the course that makes it enjoyable to learn in his classes. While one of the most strict attendance policies I've encountered in upper-level courses, I found it fair and clear (especially considering the content of the course)! I also appreciated the graded presentations, it's a skill I need more practice in so I found it both helpful & constructive. I am graduating with an econ degree this semester and didn't know how to read an economic paper before this course.
Passion for course, very clear about expectations , I liked the structure of the notes
Garrison was extremely knowledgable in this course material and always came to class very, very well prepared. He is super organized, which is something I appreciated tremendously. Even the canvas page was super easy to navigate. He made the course more interesting and pertinent. I also appreciate that he added the lecture recordings to the canvas page to refer to in the future.
enthusiasm
Garrison Pollard was an exceptional instructor who combined deep expertise with a teaching style that prioritized student clarity and engagement. His ability to simplify even the most difficult concepts made the material accessible, while his genuine passion for the subject created an environment where curiosity was encouraged, especially through his willingness to discuss information beyond the standard curriculum. Furthermore, his dedication to student growth was evident in his thorough feedback on homework and his impressive speed in grading exams, ensuring that students always understood their progress and felt supported in their learning journey. He is a great instuctor!
Garrison's depth of knowledge on the topics at hand consistently impressed me and led me to take a greater interest in our course material. His clear enthusiasm for economics within education was very clear and made him an outstanding instructor. I am leaving this course not only with a firm grasp on the course content, but also with a newfound passion for our education system, thanks to Garrison.
Definitely can tell he cares deeply about the course content. He made the lectures engaging, and everything we learned was very relevant to the course. He is also very responsive on email and easy to approach.
He was very enthusiastic about the material and presented in a good manner. He was very knowledgeable about the ins and outs of the research on a really interesting set of topics. so he as able to teach it very well.

What additional constructive feedback can you offer the instructor that might help improve the course?

Comment
–
Some of the math was a little difficult. If you could break it down to make it easier to understand and apply to real world scenarios.
More class work or projects
I think this might be a me problem in all honesty but sometimes the material seemed a bit over explained. Not that it wasn't understandable because it was I just think I'm a person that needs a little bit more of a simple definition or understanding of material.
Prof. Pollard may be too excited about the topics some times and may skip over some PowerPoint slides or other classroom materials too quickly in my opinion. I loved the policy implications aspect of the course and would love to see formal debates in a structured format as a final project instead of an exam. Or maybe we can write a policy proposal for 3,000 words (or whatever the department wants) and have this be an upper division Economic writing Gordon Rule elective in place of an exam. Or maybe split the class up into two sections with different testing methods and goals. In any case, I would appreciate more focus on policy and change, and more interaction between students. There is no incentive to engage with other classmates aside from the group PowerPoint presentation. If we are to create meaningful societal change, constructive dialogue with our peers and in public forums is absolutely necessary and is a skill we must develop as students in this class.
Putting the completed slides that get filled in during class on the canvas.
The homework's were sometimes a little lengthy but helped with the exams. The student presentations were a little hard to pay attention to all the time. Exam 1 was a good level of difficulty i thought and was not suuuper challenging to pass as long as you had been paying attention and taking notes.
Less math.
N/A, shared during class
Maybe make homework due Friday with 1–2 “free late passes” to Sunday night, and you could always quietly allow a third if needed. I know I was one of the people turning things in last–minute on Sundays, and having an earlier deadline would probably help students like me stay on track while still keeping some flexibility. Just an idea!
incentivize listening to the presentations
Sometimes Garrison knew the material so well that I was a little bit confused.
Some students aren't as comfortable with the calculus as others, and may need to see each step (simplification, factoring, etc. step–by–step).
Garrison Pollard is great at the math, but it would be even better if he started with a simple, real–world example first. Sometimes the technical stats get a bit heavy, so focusing on the "why" in plain English before jumping into the formulas would make the hard stuff much easier to follow.
I thought the organization of this class was excellent.
The course was a lot harder than I expected. The only prereq was either macro or micro, I can't remember, and this seemed to need a calc prereq along with some econometrics, maybe/other statistics. The first exam was really long and hard to complete within the time frame, but it had fair questions besides the confusing inequality.
Maybe some more interactive times in class a 2 hour block can get really tedious at times. Iclicker was good but the question only helped so much

What constructive suggestion(s) do you have for improving the course materials, organization, and assignments?

Comment
lecture slides posted to canvas could be more useful
Maybe have examples of any math be shown more frequently (like iClicker warmups before class, just to get some spaced repetition naturally built into the course for what it seems most students struggle with)
Structure is good. Maybe add a few quizzes to help reinforce content. A quiz for every 3 lectures will keep students up to date. 5% weight for a quiz is good enough not to ruin a grade, but keep students engaged and up to date with course content without getting too far behind.
Maybe adding classwork to get prep for the exam as homework doesnt help as much
I really appreciate how our grade is not just exams as it gives us a buffer. I also liked preparing for my presentation as I found the topic interesting, so I feel like it's a good assignment to have.
Maybe change some of the wording to make it more understandable.
I understand that time constraints may make this challenging, but providing brief summaries of the optional papers on Canvas would be very helpful. While the topics are engaging, reviewing multiple articles that exceed 20 pages each can make it difficult to fully grasp the key concepts. I had my hands full with fully comprehending a single full-length paper for my group project, but I wanted to do more. Having concise summaries would allow students to better understand the material on their own time to gauge interest in other topics while still engaging meaningfully with one paper in depth. This approach would support students who are balancing As in coursework with internships, job searches, graduate school preparation, research commitments, and personal and family responsibilities.
N/A
Organization was great. Materials were fine i guess idk i didnt read the book or anything. The homework's were good and helped build on what we learned in lecture.
I think a lot of students came in expecting this to be an "easy" course. I don't think the content itself needs to change, but it might help to more clearly signal upfront that it requires consistent effort and time.
I think this course has some pretty dense material, and I kind of felt like I did not have a solid foundation of knowledge to build off of.
give students a task during presentations
During those first few weeks, the assignments felt a bit disconnected from what we covered in class, which made the transition into the material tougher than it needed to be.
NA
Extra credit could be super helpful for some students, since I felt Exam 1 was difficult. Some of the homework was a bit lengthy, but in the end it helped as an aid for the exam. I really liked the canvas course update he made, though. It became very organized.
again more interactivity

Please identify the topics and/or skills you learned in the course that you believe will have the highest application for future courses or professional growth.

Comment
Critical Thinking, Analyzing the Causal Effect of Policy Decisions.
Educational payoffs to career earnings.
I think almost everything can be used in the future. I didn't think I would be too interested in the topic but it was. I now know that I can't just pick a school based off rating or housing price and that I have to have more of a hands on approach for my future kids education.
Knowing how much we don't know and relying on the fundamentals, staying open to new possibilities.
Learning about different types of grants, the history of educational spending, and the readings.
Thinking critically
I learned a lot about what is happening in the field of education which is something im trying to get into
I wasn't expecting to take away as much as I did from this course. The applications of statistics to economic theory were especially valuable, along with learning how to read and interpret economic policy and understand more complex experiments and models. I feel like these skills will be really useful moving forward, especially in a professional setting.
Future student achievement given their schooling, the importance and value of qualified teachers, future earnings, inputs and outputs of education, many case studies
policy analysis, econometrics, curiosity
Returns to education, does education cause a higher increase in earnings or is it naturally gifted people who choose to go to college, the signaling model
There were units in this course that will have a tangible impact on my own decisions pertaining to both my education and professional career. We discussed returns to education, if private school is worth it, and the effectiveness of differing educational systems, all of which I will take with me later on throughout my life as I have kids.
Learning about how housing prices correlate with education quality in the district was informative.
learning ho to read stats models. even though I already took econometrics doing so through research papers in this class was really helpful