

Course Evaluations

University of Georgia

Table 1 presents the quantitative results of my course evaluations for ECON 2105: Principles of Macroeconomics, which I taught as instructor of record in Fall 2025. Each item in the table was assessed on a scale ranging from 1 to 5, where a score of 5 corresponds to strongly agree and 1 to strongly disagree. A higher score signifies a more favorable response.

Table 1: Quantitative Feedback for ECON 2105: Principles of Macroeconomics

Questions	Fall 2025
Course	
The course was well organized	4.26 (0.63)
The course objectives were clearly stated	4.42 (0.81)
Overall, the course was excellent*	4.19 (0.79)
Instructor	
Available outside of class to answer questions	4.68 (0.79)
Stimulated student interest in course material	4.32 (0.79)
Enthusiastic about teaching	4.74 (0.44)
Well prepared for class	4.61 (0.67)
Used class time effectively	4.58 (0.85)
Encouraged student participation	4.65 (0.71)
Presented ideas and concepts clearly	4.39 (0.76)
Effective at teaching subject matter*	4.55 (0.62)
Grading, Course Assignments, Text, and Reading Materials	
Textbook and materials were useful	3.65 (1.17)
Assignments and activities were useful	4.29 (0.86)
Homework and exams returned promptly	4.77 (0.56)
Exams were fair	4.71 (0.82)
Feedback on graded work was valuable	4.48 (0.77)
Outcomes	
Course was of value	4.10 (0.98)
Learned a lot in this course	4.10 (0.91)
Course challenged to think and learn	4.13 (0.92)
Would take another course with instructor	4.06 (0.93)
Number of Responses	31 out of 39
Response Rate	79%

Note: Standard deviations in parentheses.

* Departmental awards weight these questions more heavily during the consideration process.

Table 2 presents a selected set of student written feedback for ECON 2105: Principles of Macroeconomics, conducted in Fall 2025.

Table 2: Selected Written Feedback for ECON 2105: Principles of Macroeconomics

Course Feedback	Instructor Feedback
<i>Course as a whole: What was done well? How could it be improved?</i>	<i>Instructor: What was done well? How could the instructor improve?</i>
I like how the exams were conducted. I liked how quickly we were able to receive them and how we could make corrections on the questions we missed. I also like the quizzes as some of the questions were similar to some exam questions, so they were a helpful learning tool. However, I feel like there could be more practice/homework assignments for each individual chapter. In a course like this, more practice assignments would have helped me grasp the topics better.	I like how enthusiastic he was about the course because it helped me come prepared to learn. I also like how he posts his slides prior to class because it was easier to follow along when taking notes. As for improvements, sometimes the PowerPoints were very similar to the textbook, which made it harder to follow. The professor also wrote notes on the PowerPoint, but those written notes weren't uploaded to ELC and those are more helpful than the final PowerPoint slides. Overall I enjoyed this professor and his patience with their students throughout this course.
It was well done, I believe that there felt like a lot of information that overlapped at sometimes, which I'm not sure if Econ as a topic is redundant or if it was the organization of the course, but perhaps some more organization in that aspect would've been appreciated. Overall however, it was done very well!	Very sweet professor who knows what he is talking about. I feel sometimes if a topic got confused, he might spend too much time overexplaining it, but I appreciate his thoroughness and interest in making sure that all students fully understand what he is trying to teach. Very considerate and takes a lot of interest in the well being of his students. Maybe improve by making more interactive slideshows, however I really enjoyed this class.
The course is very structured into concepts. I think what can be improved is more examples that kind of dumbs it down.	Professor Merlo Matto was always prepared and enjoys what he is teaching. It encourages students to participate in discussions and enjoy it too. Something that can be done is connecting concepts to other scenarios to make it easier to understand.
I don't think the book is necessary, while it does serve as a really good resource I didn't use it once. I got everything from the lecture and what I didn't I would just ask the professor or Google.	He was very nice, and it was clear that he enjoyed economics. I appreciated that he provided us with current examples of economic principles that related to the topics we were discussing in class. I wish we got through the content a little faster but he was absent for a couple of days so we probably could have in normal circumstances. But overall, he was really knowledgeable and a great professor.
For the course as a whole, what was done well was lecture slides. They did a good job of trying to explain the concepts and included good examples. What could be improved is the exams. Some of the questions on the exam were a bit different from what we were learning in class.	For Gabriel, what was done well was how prepared he came to class with his notes. He always made sure we understood what each concept was and included his own examples if needed. What could be improved is having the class before the exam be a study class where we go over every topic quickly and have some examples if needed.
The class always went very smooth, we never stayed too long on one topic and we were constantly learning. I think the slideshows could be a bit more engaging or the class could have other activities aside from TopHat and homework.	The lectures were very good, I think there could be more practice material outside the homework quizzes.

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Course Feedback	Instructor Feedback
I liked this course, it's very difficult to make the material fun, but it was clear that the professor was passionate about the material and that very much stimulated my interest.	I think the in class Top-Hats dragged on a touch too long, but besides that I very much enjoyed the course.
The homework quizzes, the exams, and the in-class assignments were all very helpful and fair. Nothing was over the top difficult which made learning a lot easier.	The instructor taught the content efficiently and always tried to stimulate class participation. I appreciated that the instructor posted his notes on ELC, because during class he moved through the slides fairly quick. Because he posted them that was never an issue though.
I thought the exams were written nicely and I liked how fast they were returned back. I also like being allowed to have a cheat sheet on the final. One thing that I believe should be changed is an A should be a 93 or above. Also content felt rushed at times making it harder to grasp. The examples that were on the slides were helpful in understanding how to apply concepts.	I liked how he tried to get the class involved and that he was organized for the most part. I can't think of anything to say that would help improve the instructor though.
I liked how we followed schedule most of the time and I liked how the homeworks actively reflected the lectures and exams. For improvement, I would recommend not grading the TopHat based on accuracy, but based on participation. The questions may be tricky and it takes pressure off knowing that our grade won't be penalized for answering incorrectly.	The instructor has done an amazing job with making sure the material learned in class reflects the questions asked on the exams. However, lectures were a bit lengthy. I felt like we could've covered more material in less time. The rambling made it difficult to focus on the material at hand.
The notes, homework, and exams were all similar. More practice.	He was always available for help and to answer questions, his slides were helpful. He was amazing.
	I LOVE Gabriel Merlo! He left such insightful feedback on my assignments (especially my exam corrections) and created an awesome environment in the classroom. Lectures were kind of long, and at times I would get bored and lose focus. I think implementing more in-class activities halfway through class would help with this, as it re-engages the class as a whole! Awesome guy, awesome class, good job!!