



# ECON 17100 1 - Introduction to International Trade - Instructor(s): Jordan Rosenthal-Kay

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **49**

Number of Responses: **21**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Monday, January 8, 2024**

**What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.**

Comments
Ricardian Model, Specific Factors Model, Heckshur Ohlin Model, trade policy, the labor market, economic geography, LRAC, and the Krugman Model
Neoclassical trade theories/models, Krugman model, industrial policy, economic geography
how changes to specific variables (population, access to technologies, large/small economies, etc.) impact trade, consumption and welfare
I learned how to interpret graphs and how to properly write what was learned in them.
Different ways to model trade among a home country and foreign countries
Different models of trade theory
We learned a lot about the models of trade and theory as well as applications in the real world
Learning about all the parts that make international trade work. There was quite a bit of moving parts that I had not realized prior to this course!
I learned the basics of international trade starting from opportunity cost yielding comparative advantages for firms, and then how adding new variables like land, capital, and factor intensity affected the way countries trade with one another to maximize output. Then I learned about how countries benefit from trade unequally, how firms benefit from trade, and many case studies relaying this information.
Gains to international trade (who it benefits, winners/losers, what types of benefits)
Neoclassical models: endowment economies (Edgeworth boxes, indifference curves, budget constraints), Ricardian Model (incl. comparative advantage), Specific Factors Model, Hecksher Ohlin Model (HO & Stolper–Samuelson Theorem)
Trade policy: export subsidies, import tariffs, import quotas, industrial policy (established advantage, LRAC/SRAC curves, infant industry argument)
Other miscellaneous trade theory: economic geography, Krugman model of intra–industry competition, foreign direct investment/current account surpluses & deficits, trade costs & Gravity Equation/Armington Model
As a note: the class, at least this quarter, was primarily graphical analysis–based with minimal math
I think building economic intuition to apply to international trade scenarios was the most important thing practiced in this course.
Different models of trade: endowment, Ricardian, HO, Specific Factors Model, Krugman. How countries trade and how intra–industry trade happens. How trade affects labor, wages, prices, and how other elements like population, technology, and productivity changes can affect trade. Tarrifs, quotas, and subsidies.
Economic models to understand the flow of international trade as well as economic policies countries can implement to affect their trade.
learned about the different types of models —> ricardian, SFM, OH, krugman

## Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Lectures, office hours, and homework were the best to cement the class content. Homework was a harder version of the exam and Jordan was always available during and outside of office hours to help with any content or homework questions.
Lectures were very helpful. Psets also strengthened understanding
very clear and well taught lectures, helpful and digestible lecture notes made material accessible and effectively taught
Lectures and office hours really helped me to learn the information presented in this course.
Jordan is an awesome lecturer — really engaging and made the class and content genuinely interesting. Always felt like I was watching a really interesting YouTube video. The content was pretty hard to be honest, but Jordan still made it really engaging and elegant
Primarily used lectures supplemented by office hours. Office hours are helpful bc lectures can go at a fast pace.
Lecture was great. Jordan knows what he's talking about and is passionate about it.
The Psets in this class were very helpful even though they took time because they kept me on track with my work
Lectures were insightful, but a lot of practice was done outside of the course.
The lectures were great! I think Jordan did an amazing job of keeping students interested and engaged in the material, and he even acknowledged when things were boring and tried to speed it up. His lectures are very informative and he adds things in that are beyond the scope of the class just to engage students.
Jordan's lectures, typed/written notes, office hours, review sessions, and case studies were simply fantastic! His lectures were genuinely well-thought out, as evident by how he organized the class to really build on the material we covered the days and weeks before. The concepts were always easier to learn and understand because we understood the theory and assumptions they were building on from previous classes. I also really enjoyed the fact that he would walk us through his lectures by writing them down on his iPad as he taught — it helped us understand how to draw the graphs and follow along with him. It made fast, content-packed lectures move at a relatively reasonable pace! And if we didn't understand or follow along, he shared typed versions of the notes before class for us to review if we wanted to get exposed to the content early or if we wanted to review our notes. Those typed notes were just incredible — absolutely commend Jordan for the time and effort those took and am super grateful that we had access to those for lectures and the exams. Jordan's office hours (albeit early in the morning) were incredible resources for us to ask questions about the Psets, concepts from class we didn't understand, practice exam questions, and general trade theory stuff. He really took the time to make sure we understood class examples and would answer pretty much any and all questions we had. Those office hours + his review sessions were great review opportunities for the midterm/final exams. His review sessions would cover content in depth again to really hone in on students' conceptual understanding. His case studies, of which he had many, were great opportunities to visualize trade theory in the real world, really getting to his goal of having us be capable of understanding trade theory when it's discussed in the real world. I personally loved his case study regarding the use of trade transactions in archaeological records to find the location of lost cities — such a novel concept! Overall, just an awesome class!
The lectures are pretty well-organized.
The class notes and slides were really helpful. Lectures felt very crammed so it was hard to process in class. I even found it helpful to just look at class notes at times to learn the material and used lectures as supplementary explanation. Psets were pretty fair honestly, but putting podcasts in the Psets, 0/10. UChicago is busy enough as it is adding 30–40 minutes on top of a time intensive assignment was not an enjoyable experience nor did it feel very productive.
Lectures were very engaging and were meant to teach new content. There were also typed notes from the professor that acted as the textbook for the course. Homework was weekly problems that closely emulated the exams which was great practice. Discussion with the TA was all about reviewing the homework.
The lectures really helped understand these models, and the case studies were great in applying them to real world situations. The problem sets were good challenges to ensure we understood the material.
the lectures contributed A LOT, if you go and pay attention, he is the best lecturer ever, he explains soooo well. the psets are a bit hard so you might need to go to OH but they are graded very fairly so it all works out in the end

**Please respond to the following:**

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.74	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.32%	73.68%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	10.53%	84.21%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.68	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	21.05%	73.68%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.68	5.00	0.00%	5.26%	0.00%	15.79%	78.95%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	21.05%	68.42%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.74	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.32%	73.68%
I felt respected in this class.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.05%	78.95%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.74	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	15.79%	78.95%

**Additional comments about the course:**

Comments
Jordan is an amazing teacher. He is super flexible and provides so many materials for us to use and become fluent in the content of the class.
absolutely recommend for Macro–topic
N/A
This course was very interesting and very well organized, I highly recommend taking it with Jordan. Even though the content can be difficult and requires time to study, there are many resources to help you succeed.
Jordan is great! Super great professor that was welcoming and wanted to teach us
Jordan mentioned that the class was re–structured so that Riccardian theory was taught first– I enjoyed this method and think it should stay this way. It all flowed quite well.
Jordan's one of the best instructors I have had at UChicago! Really just someone who is so passionate about what they are teaching, eager to help students succeed, and considerate of their time/needs. He really went so above and beyond for our class that he got us coffee and snacks before our 7:30 AM final, scheduled almost 10 hours worth of review sessions and office hours during finals week (did the same for the midterm as well!), and continually asked us our thoughts on the format of the class, the Psets, and the exams. I truly felt respected and valued in this class, and that speaks to how amazing of an instructor Jordan is. His wealth of knowledge, his out–of–the–box thinking for trade theory (in terms of all the creative case studies he pulled on), and his genuine kindness make him an instructor all UChicago students would be fortunate to have. I would LOVE to take another class with him, and I HIGHLY recommend this class, especially when taught by Jordan, to anyone for their Macro Methods requirement or as an Econ Elective.
I have never had comparative advantage taught in such a convoluted, aroundabout way. Those lectures made me unlearn the material more than anything, but the rest of the class was super well structured and were easy to follow. Otherwise, no notes.
I heard the course was restructured from previous years and honestly the way it was this year was so great. The flow was amazing and it really felt like everything I learned built upon each other. It made concepts easier to think about and manage. So I am really happy it was restructured.
I really enjoyed this course! I felt Professor Rosenthal was a really great professor!
it was A REALLY good class, you should take it. you do need to put in work for sure but its rewarding

**I would recommend this course to:**

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	5.26%	94.74%
Anyone interested in the topic	10.53%	89.47%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
His clear lectures and the content summaries that he would post before class. These were super helpful when studying for the exams. He would also take time to answer all of our questions, during and after class
Jordan's lectures and lecture notes were very clear! Great professor.
very well planned lectures, helpful case studies, and lecture notes were very helpful
I believe Office Hours helped the most because the professor could break down what was discussed in lecture more in depth for me to understand.
Going over graphs
The lectures
The case studies we worked on and the quick overview we would do at the beginning of the case studies were very helpful in reinforcing many of the models we learned.
Jordan was a great professor; he was very enthusiastic about the material and made lectures very engaging. His lecture notes that he wrote were extremely helpful and explained concepts very well, and I used them after every class. On top of that, before both the midterm and final he was very helpful and gave us so much of his time after classes, during classes, and office hours that I really felt set up to succeed. He was always responsive to emails and generally a great professor who wanted us all to succeed.
Lectures definitely. Office Hours I didn't go to too much but they were welcoming everytime
Jordan was one of the best professors I have ever had at UChicago. He is incredibly smart, has complete understanding of the material, and also cares SO much about his students and our learning. Class was interesting, and he was so involved in our learning. I also enjoyed his wittiness and spunk throughout the quarter when he talked about his own research, how we can witness the theories of trade in everyday life, and his viewpoint on different industries. He made himself overly available to his students, holding multiple office hours every week and always responding very quickly to emails. He also had a 5-minute period at the beginning of each class to answer questions whether material-based or logistic. I have nothing negative to say, and really wish there were more classes to take with teachers who were as enthusiastic and involved in teaching as he was.
His drive to help his students succeed! He really went above and beyond in many ways for us. A key example of this is him offering to extend our review session for the final as long as we needed to ensure we had the opportunity to ask ALL the questions we had. In fact, we did go over time, and Jordan was still answering questions and making sure our nerves were calmed for the final. He would never shy away from helping us with the PSet or answering questions in class/office hours/review sessions — he really wanted us to understand these concepts well. He also took feedback regularly regarding how the content was flowing throughout our lectures and how the midterm exam went and what we would like to see in the final. He gave us loads of study material for the midterm and final exams and even asked us if there were any other types of material we would benefit from. I have never seen an instructor care this much about his students and their success at UChicago.
The class notes were really, really helpful. Honestly wish all of my classes had them 10/10.
Jordan is really great about connecting with students and showing that he wants to help in order to see them succeed. He was always very open to questions during class and really encouraged his office hours and review sessions. In office hours he was very helpful and never made you feel like you asked a dumb question. In class he used time productively and was able to explain concepts really clearly. He referred back to previous concepts often to try to convey how the material was connected which was really important when learning all the different models of trade and keeping track how they were all different from each other. Overall, Jordan was really passionate about what he taught which was seen in every class and office hours. This made it a fun-to-learn environment and very welcoming to ask questions.
His explanations and proofs of the trade models we created in class.
his OH, his notes he would post online (he made a whole textbook for us – he wrote a textbook for us)

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing!
nothing
I believe there could be a bit more breakdown on certain topics in the first couple of weeks so the basics could be built.
Label graphs better, as often time the instructor put graphs on and didn't explain well what each thing he put on was for.
Perhaps more little assignments
Maybe more videos? Stuff like how to do or tackle problems would have been helpful
NA – everything was great
Pretty much nothing, except for maybe making his office hours later in the day (8:45 AM office hours were a bit difficult for me as someone who isn't a morning person at all!). Otherwise, he did a fantastic job!
The midterm and final are much harder than the practice ones. It would be nice if the practices can match the difficulty of the actual ones, which would better set our expectation to prepare.
The lectures have got to be more focussed and go at a slower pace. I think it would be helpful to highlight the theory more and look at case studies if time allows, rather making it a point to cover them on Thursdays.
Nothing Jordan was great.
Nothing to be honest
honestly idek

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.84	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	84.21%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	5.26%	5.26%	10.53%	78.95%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.68	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.53%	10.53%	78.95%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	10.53%	84.21%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.84	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.79%	84.21%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.05%	78.95%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.74	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	15.79%	78.95%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	26.32%	68.42%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.74	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	5.26%	15.79%	78.95%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.05%	78.95%	0.00%

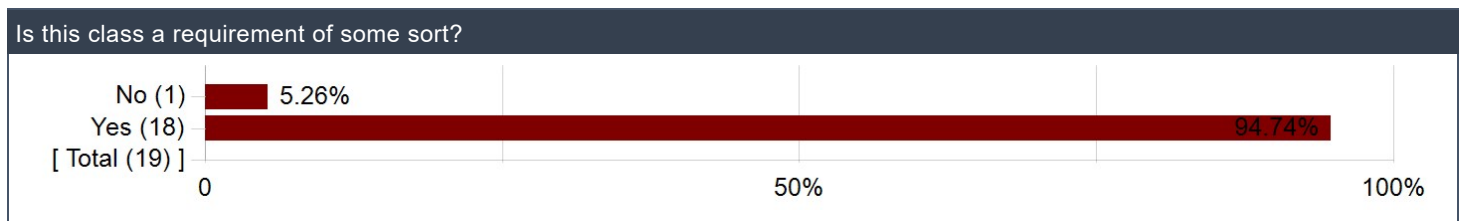
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Sasha
Sasha
Sasha
Sasha Petrov was helping in discussion because he would explain the exact answers on our assignments and help us to understand what was asked of us. I believe he could have been a bit more available so I could discuss issues easier with assignments.
I didn't go to his office hours
Sasha was very helpful during his office hours in explaining concepts, especially for the PSets. He was very open to helping us out.
Sasha Petrov. Great TA and helped a lot in discussion!
Sasha – I thought Sasha was an appropriately good TA. His office hours were helpful, but it would have been more helpful if he could have led us through the psets more. When I went and was confused, I also somewhat left confused, but with a little more guidance. He clearly understood the material and made himself available throughout the week.
Sasha! He did a great job! He was really eager to help students with PSet and exam questions. I appreciated his discussion sections when he walked through the PSet answers, really reworking the problem so we understood the conceptual logic behind each question. Overall, super nice and eager to work with students!
n/a did not interact with them tbh
Sasha. He held office hours but honestly wasn't very helpful. He made me more confused at times. Maybe I just don't align with his teaching style but he speaks very slow in a way that makes you think he is having a hard time grasping the material as well. I always just felt more lost after asking for help. However, he did always show up prepared to discussion section and made slides about the material which was helpful. It was just hard to ask him questions.

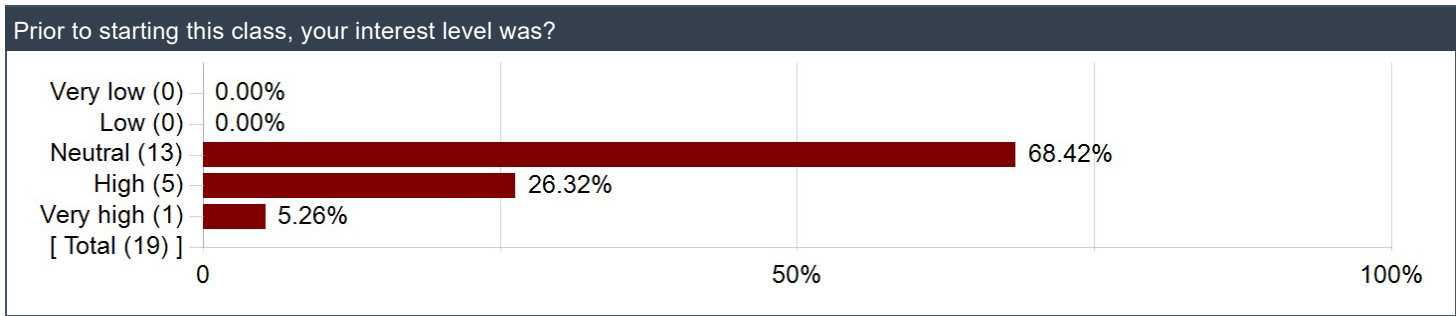
### The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	30.77%	15.38%	23.08%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	38.46%	15.38%	23.08%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.40	4.00	0.00%	30.77%	0.00%	30.77%	15.38%	23.08%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	30.77%	23.08%	23.08%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.30	3.00	0.00%	23.08%	23.08%	15.38%	15.38%	23.08%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.91	4.00	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	23.08%	30.77%	15.38%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.40	4.00	0.00%	23.08%	7.69%	38.46%	7.69%	23.08%

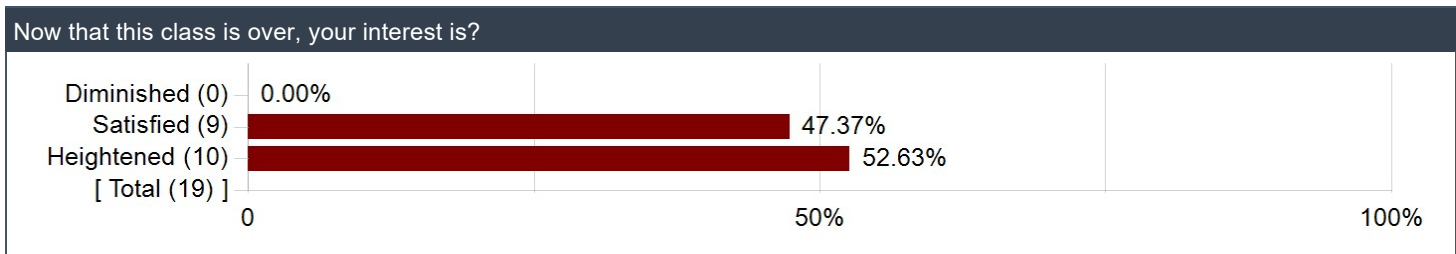
### Is this class a requirement of some sort?



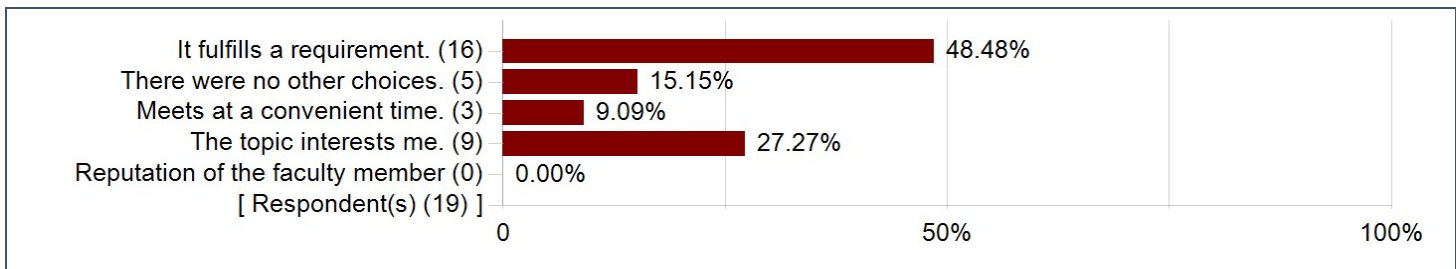
### Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



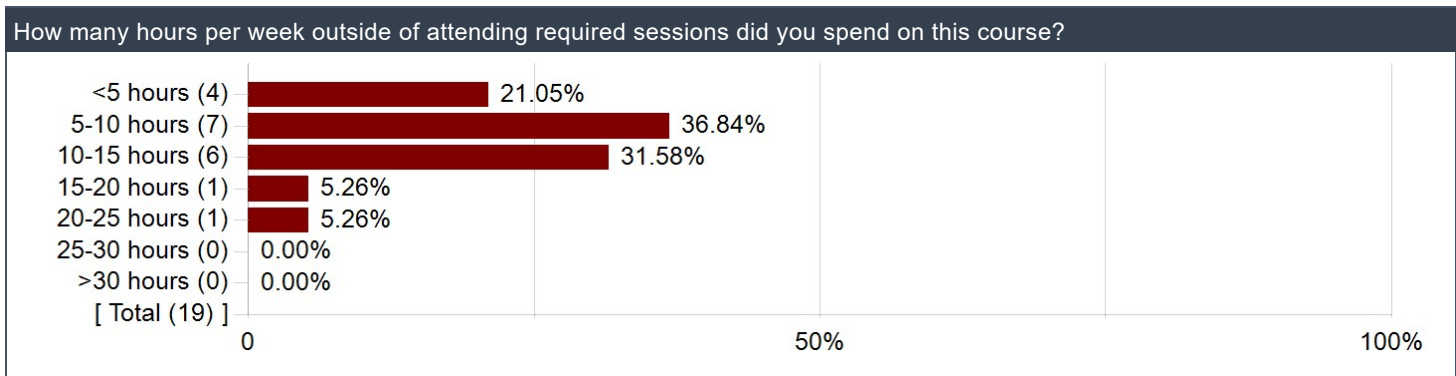
### Now that this class is over, your interest is?



### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)

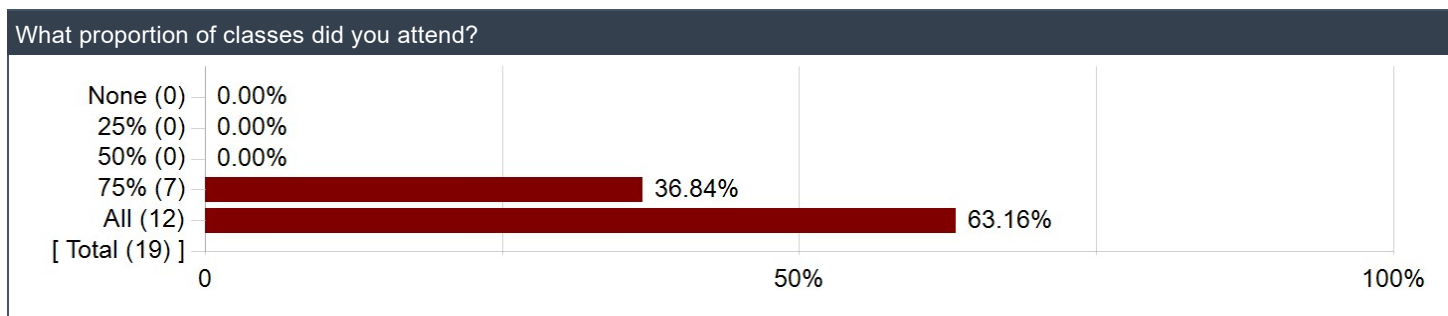


### How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?





## What proportion of classes did you attend?



## Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
The course was difficult, but it was super manageable with the resources given to my by Jordan. You don't need to have any strong math background either because this class focuses more the on the theory and the impacts in the economy rather than the numerical impact.
The content was sometimes challenging but not too bad. Jordan definitely helped make the content more accessible.
Very manageable
I would have a great understanding of macro economics before taking this course.
Some level of micro/macro understanding is very helpful
Difficult but Jordan makes it understandable
Very Hard
It was not an easy class but very doable considering all the resources we have
Difficult, but so rewarding
I think this course would be hard if you don't go to class and don't go to office hours, but the midterms and finals were both very fair and reasonable. They tested all of the knowledge learned throughout the course, so you must study.
I had never taken a class regarding international trade + I'm a business economics major, so I didn't have much experience with the math I thought I needed for this class. Fortunately, this class was tailored to focus primarily on graphical analysis, and I didn't think the content was too difficult on that front. This is definitely a difficult/challenging class, but it is certainly manageable as long as you pay attention in class and take advantage of the MANY resources you have access to.
would have been significantly more difficult if I had not taken Adao's Globalised Economics in the spring. With that established foundation, it was a little easier to understand.
Never took a trade course. Micro and macro was helpful to know before. But you'll be learning a lot of new trade jargon so just go in with an open mind and you will be fine.
As an economics major, I felt I was well prepared for all the content. The class is not math heavy so I believe anyone could take this course.
not too easy, but if you put in the work you can get an A