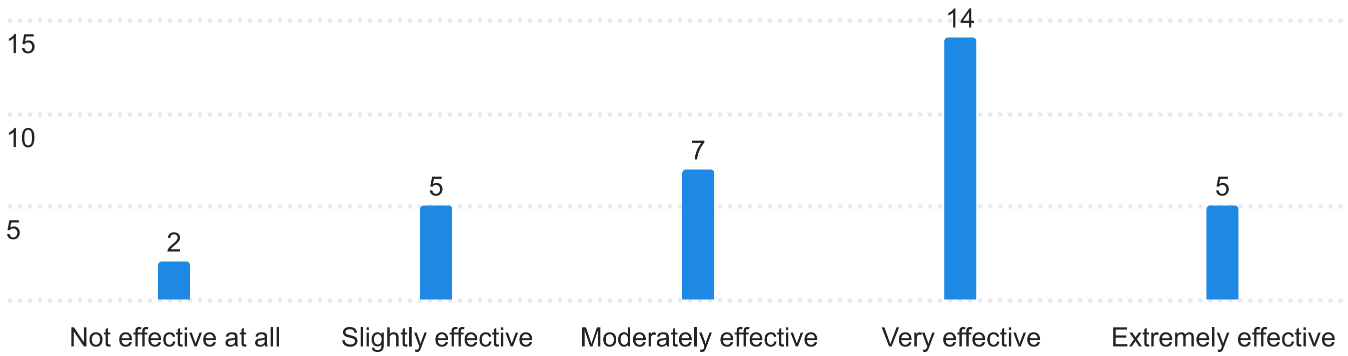
Economics for Policy I

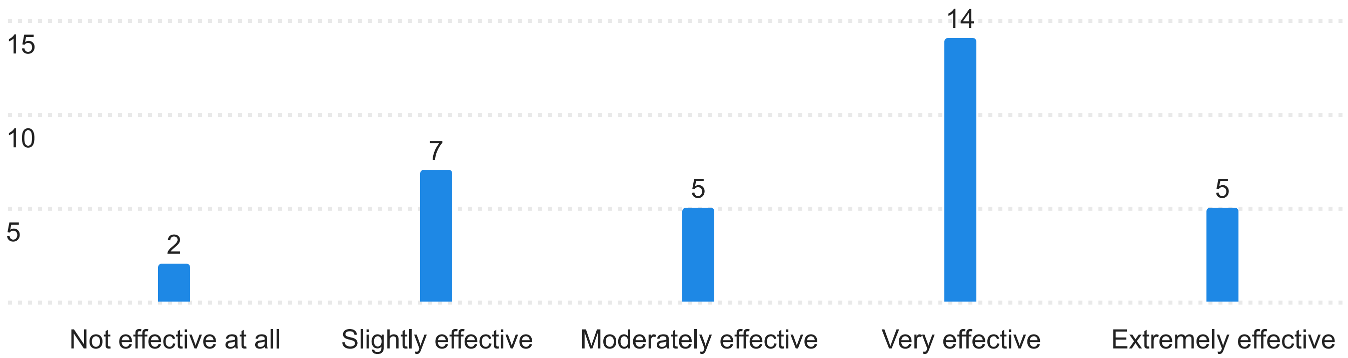
Course Code: STG-MA-FCR-ECP1
Faculty: Daniela Iorio & Tommaso Nannicini
Teaching Assistant: Damiano Paoli

Participants: 47 **Responses:** 33 **Response Rate:** 70%

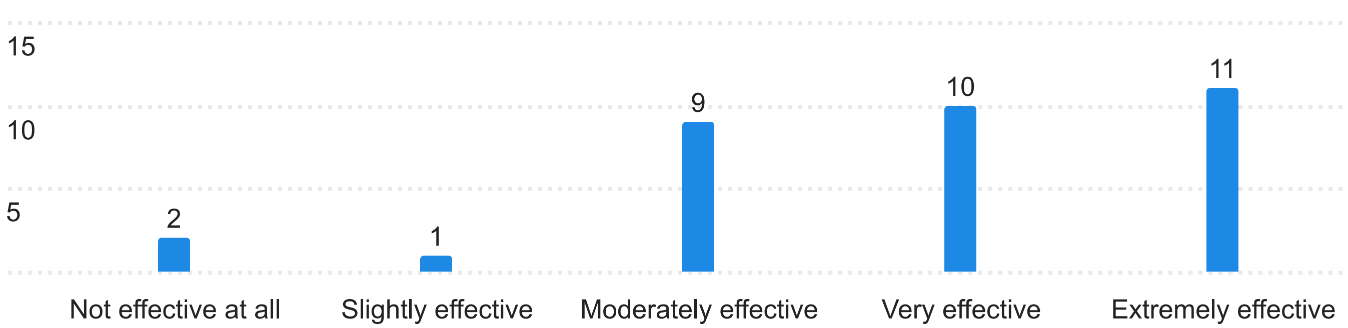
Q1 - How **effective** do you think the course was in helping you learn?



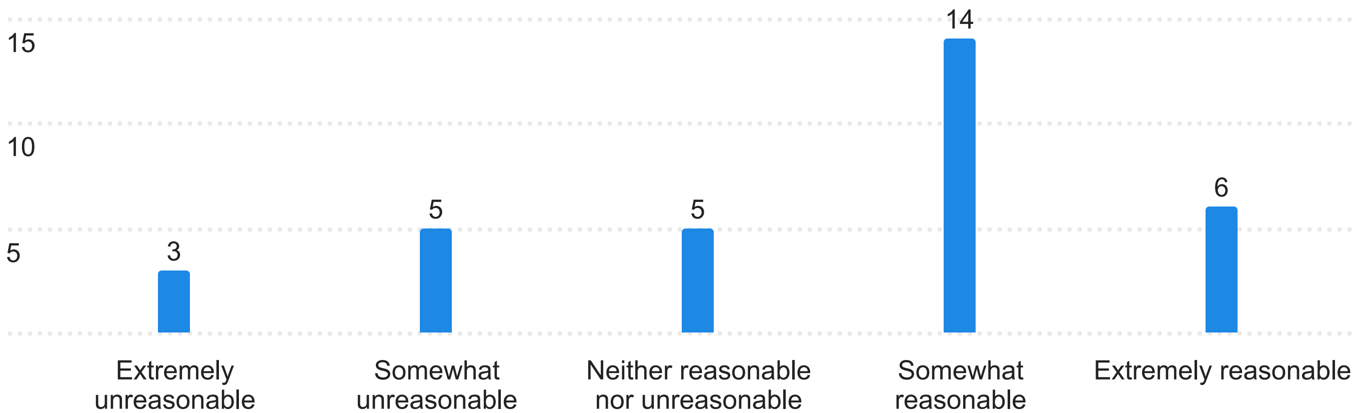
Q2 - How **effective** do you think the course was in providing you with an appropriate balance between theory and practice?



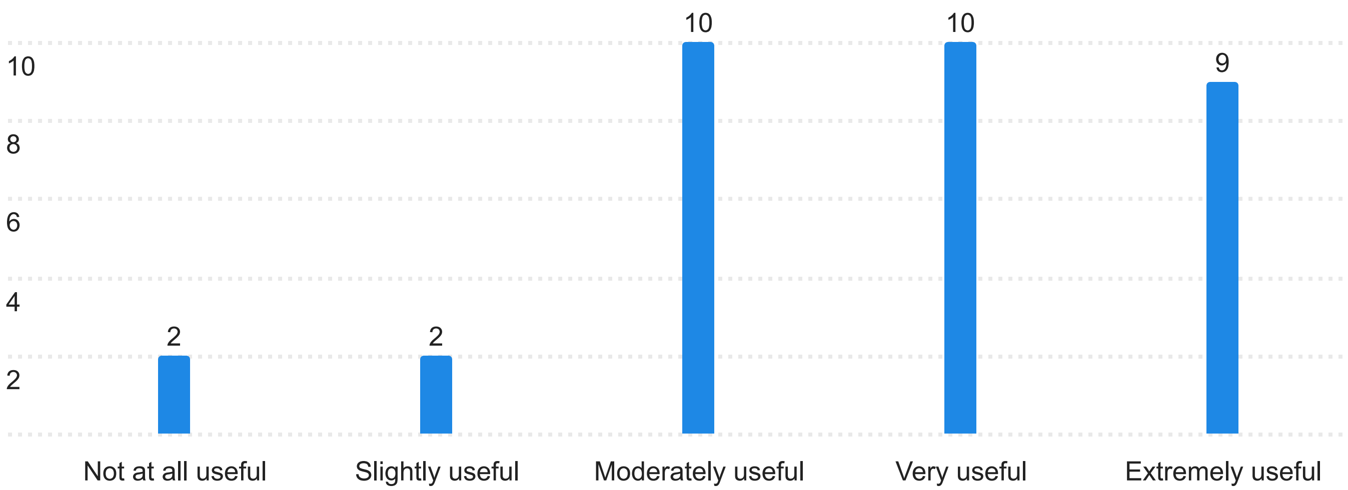
Q3 - Do you think that the course assignments and lectures for each module were **effectively complementing** each other?



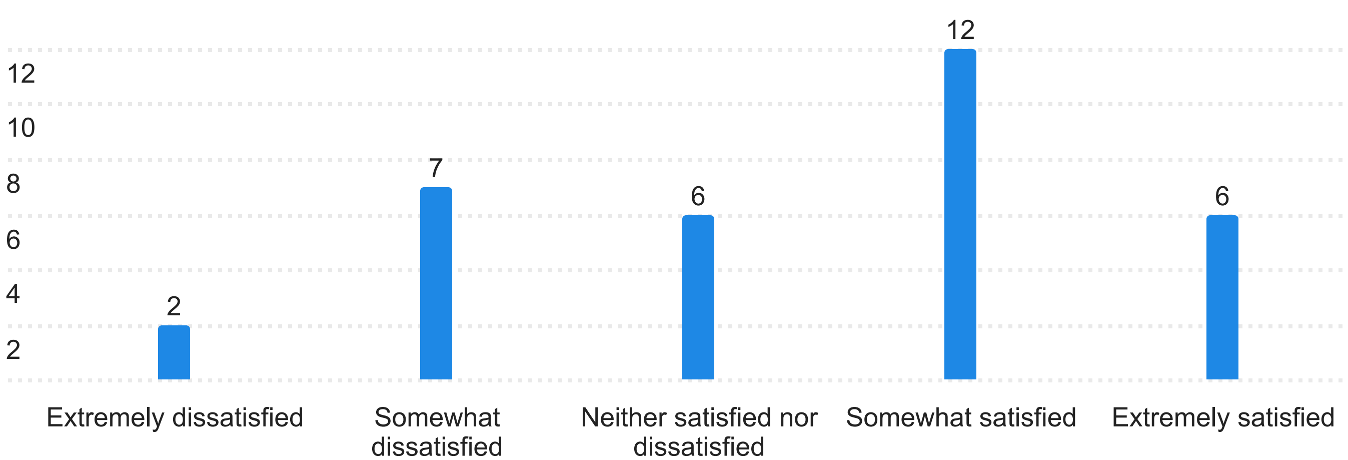
Q4 - Do you think the course workload and requirements were **reasonable** for the course level?



Q5 - Do you feel that the course content was **useful** to you?



Q6 - How **satisfied** are you with the course instructor in providing clear **constructive feedback**? | Daniela Iorio



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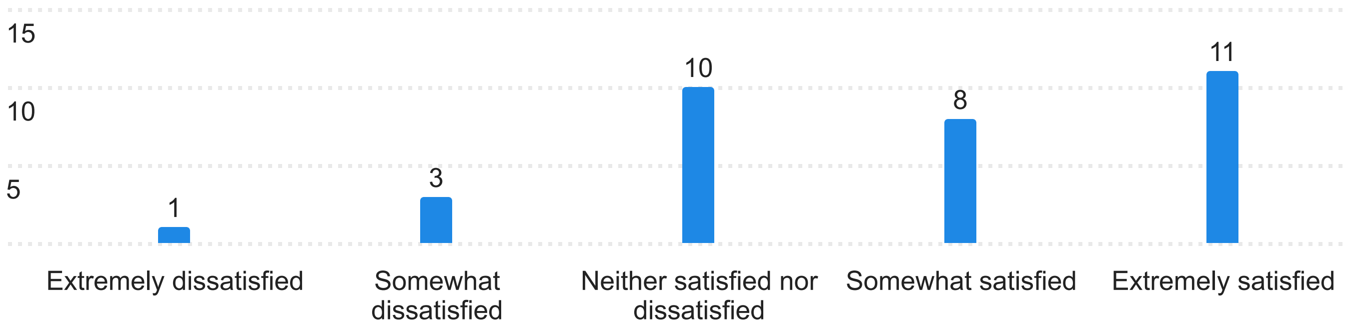
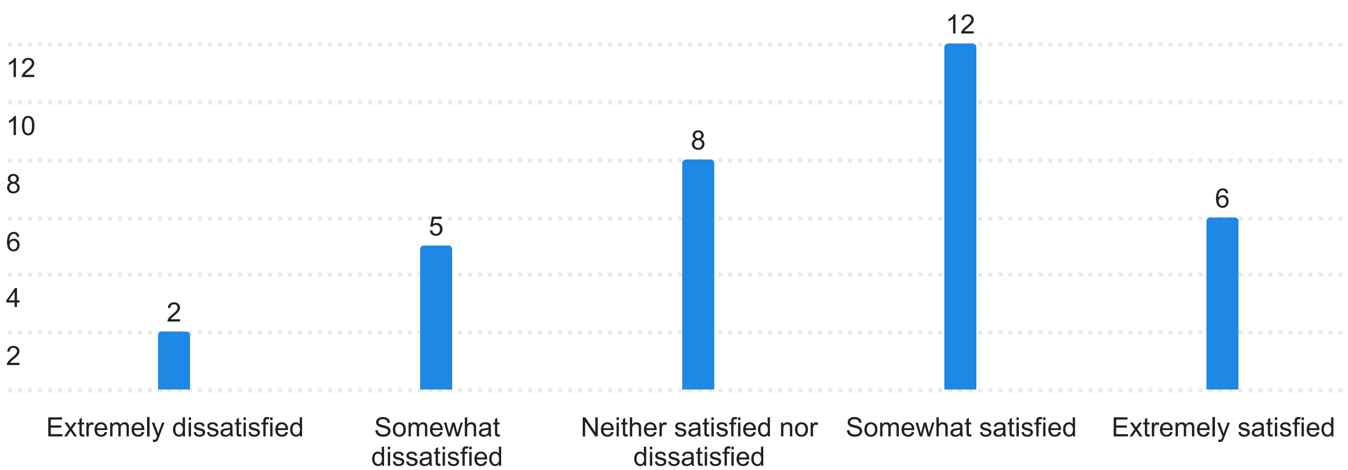


Q7 - How **satisfied** are you with the course instructor in encouraging student **questions and participation**? | Daniela Iorio



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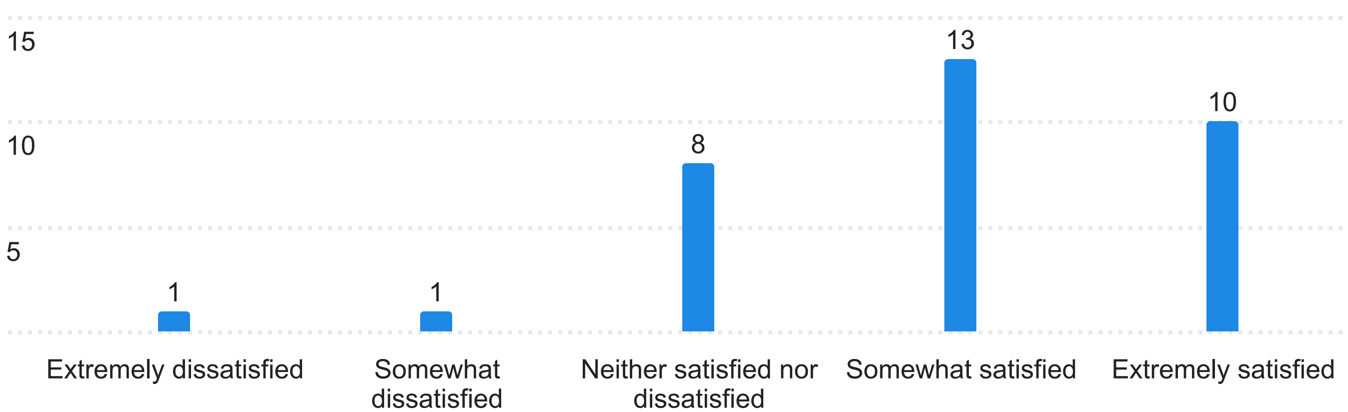
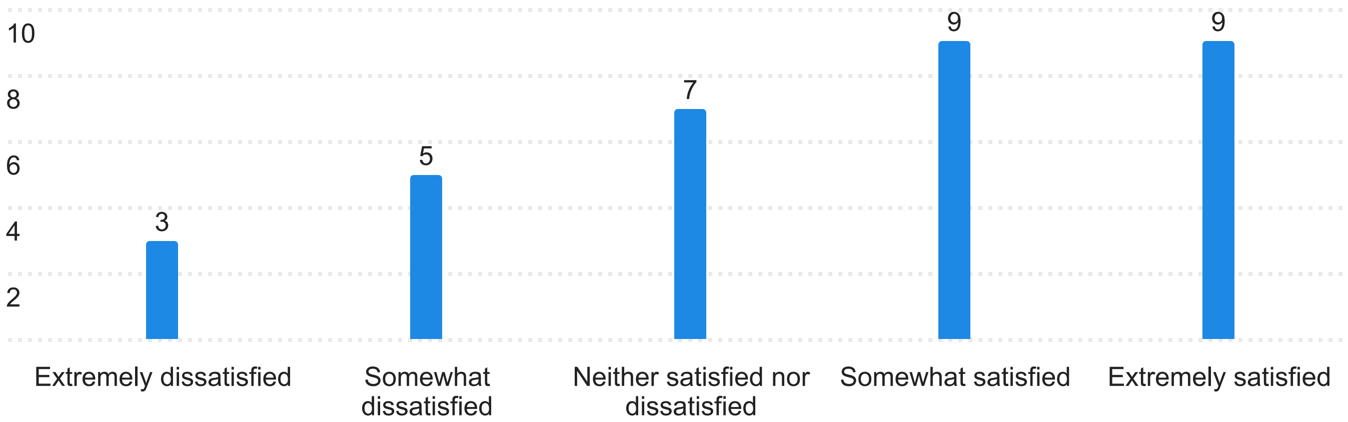


Q8 - How **satisfied** are you with the course instructor in creating an environment that was **conducive to learning**? | Daniela Iorio



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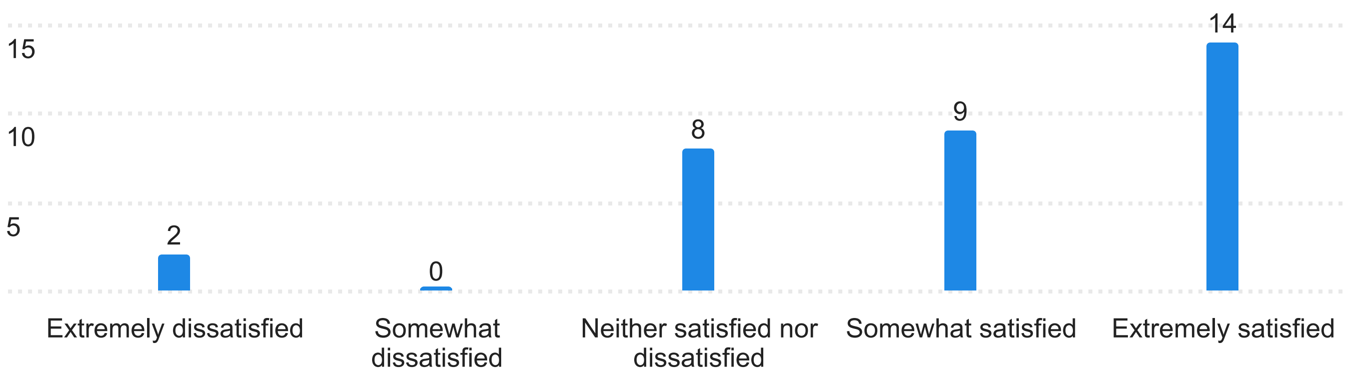
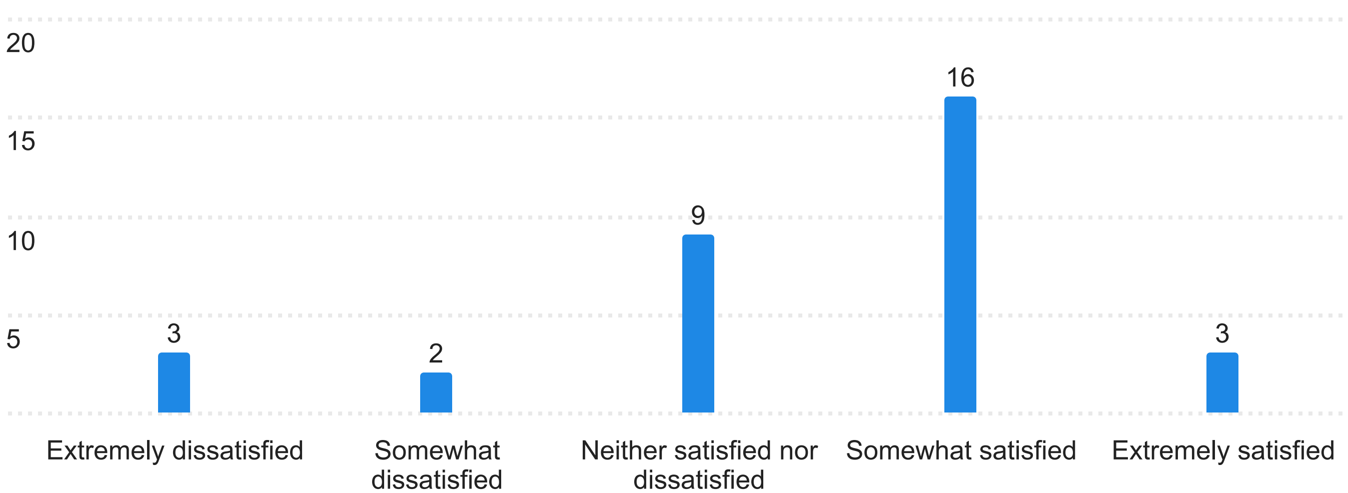


Q9 - How **satisfied** are you with the instructor's guidance in view of **becoming a competent professional**? | Daniela Iorio



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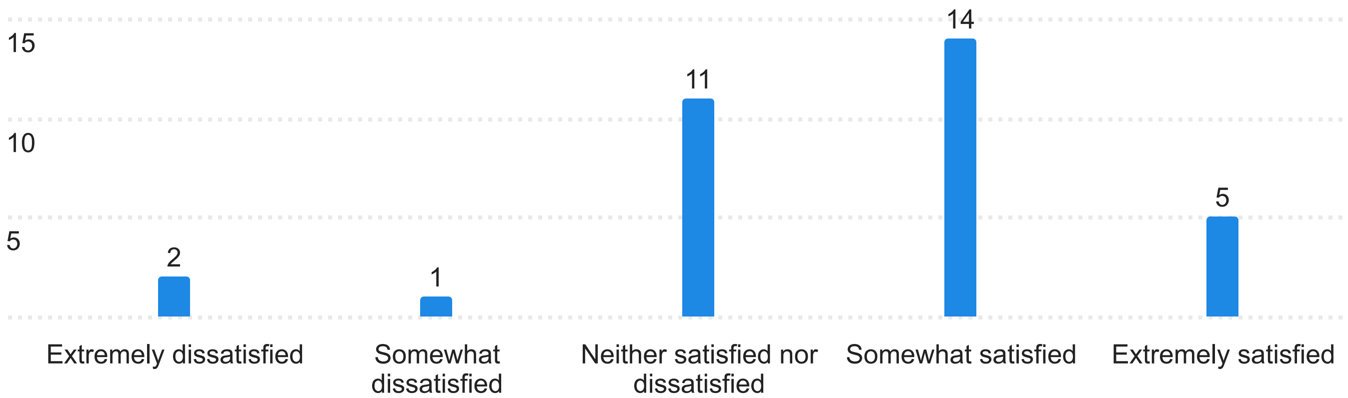
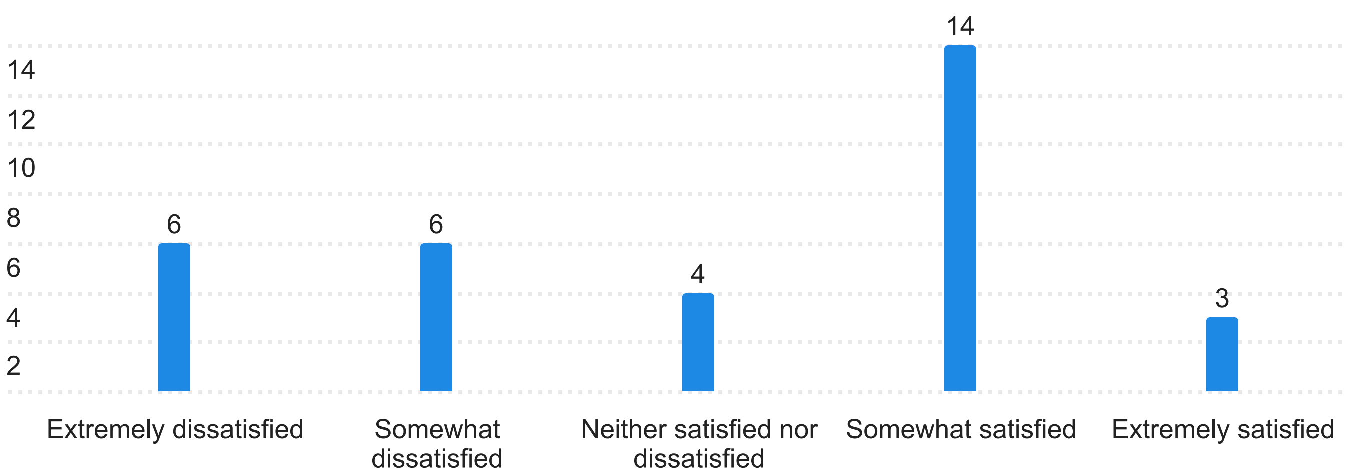


Q10 - How **satisfied** are you with the **overall effectiveness** of the instructor's **teaching**? | Daniela Iorio



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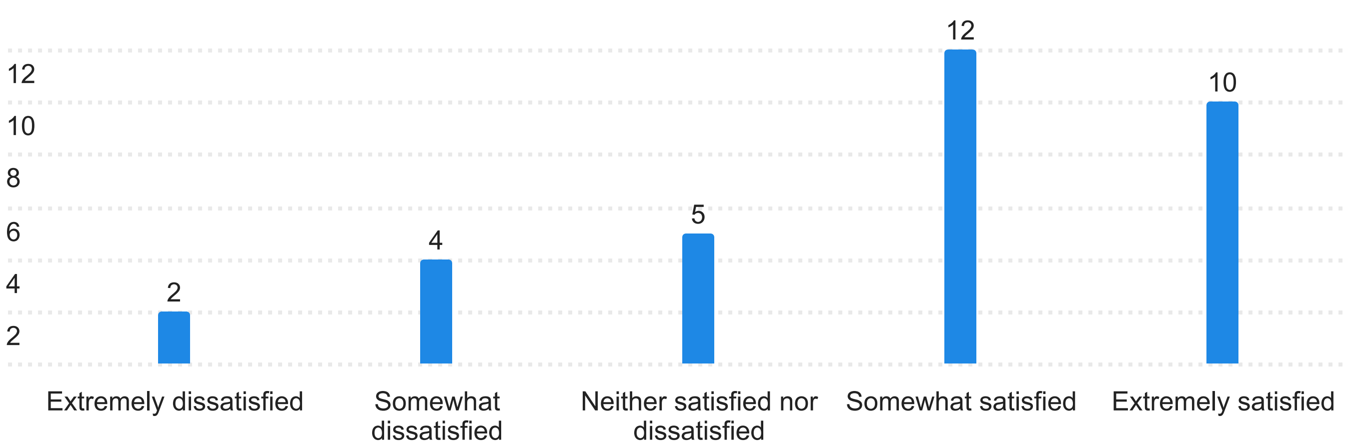
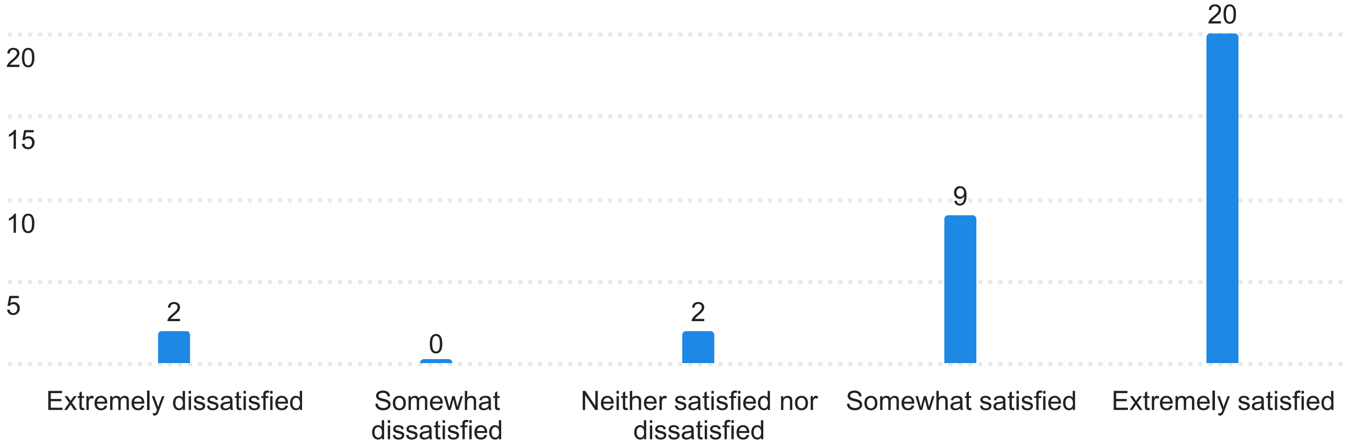
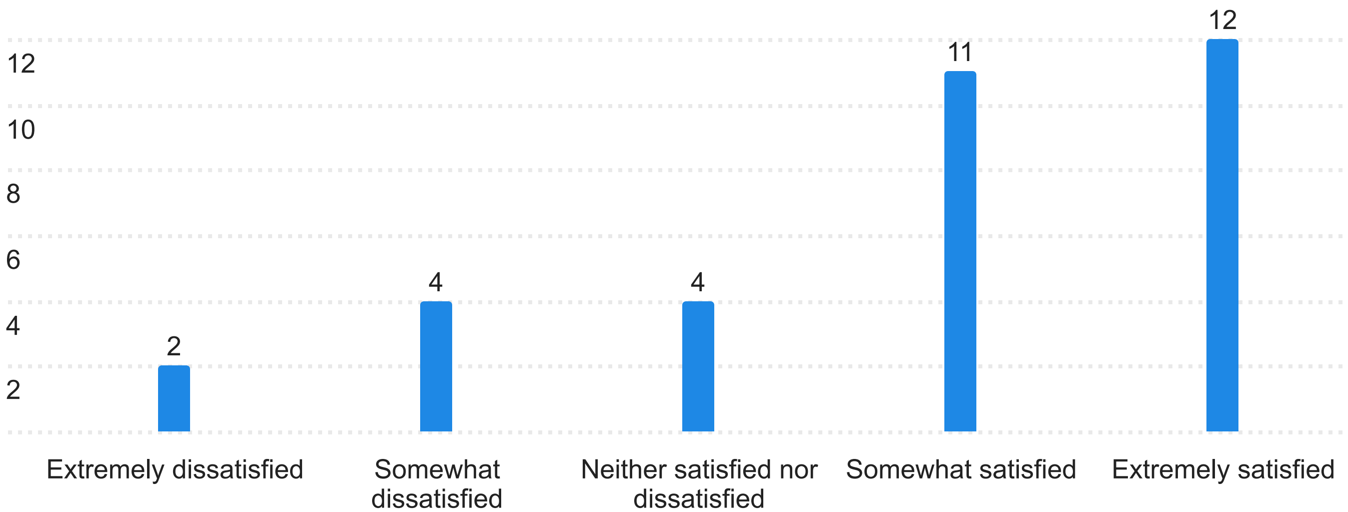


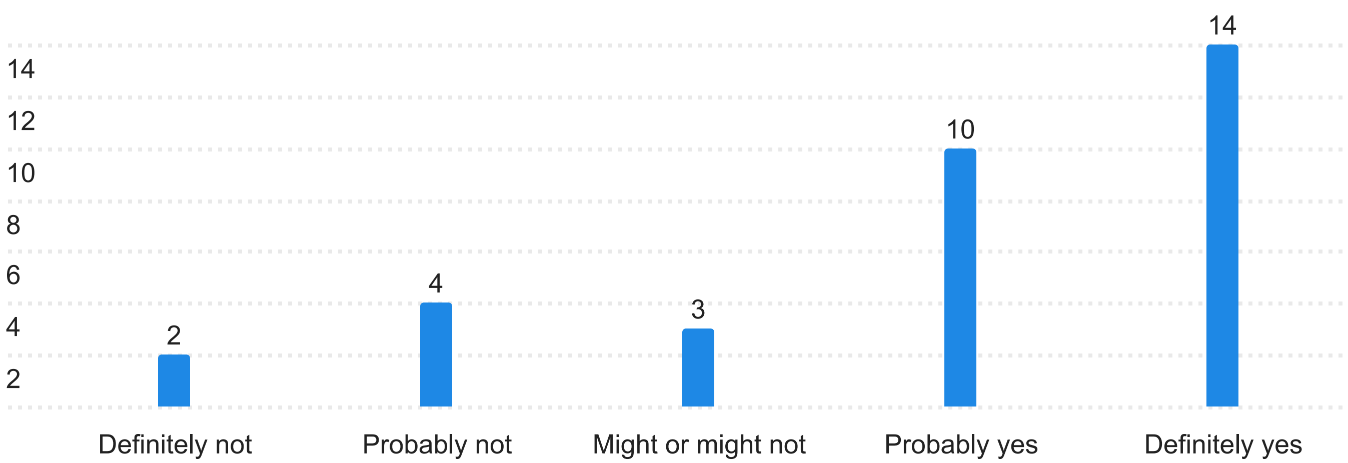
Q11 - How **satisfied** are you with the overall effectiveness of the **teaching assistants' support**? | Damiano Paoli



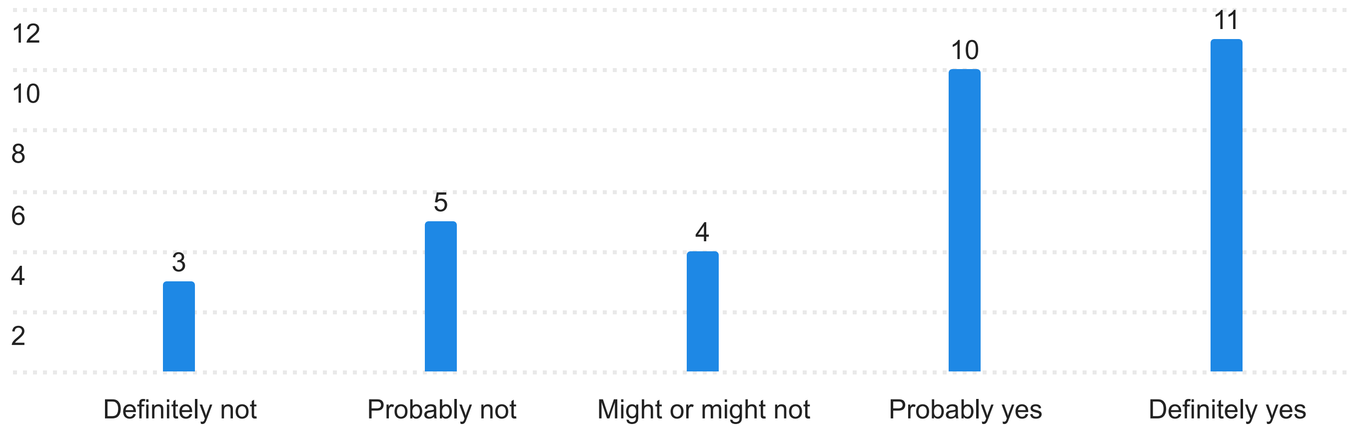
Q12 - How **satisfied** are you with the academic quality of the course?



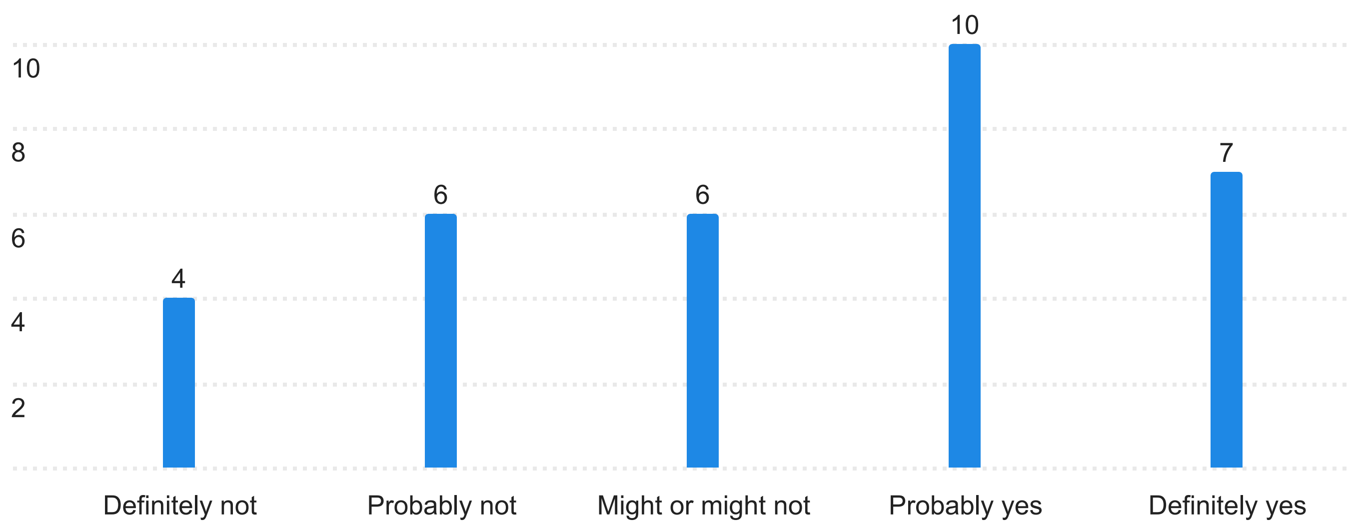
Q13 - Do you **feel** that you had to put a great deal of effort into advancing your learning in this course?



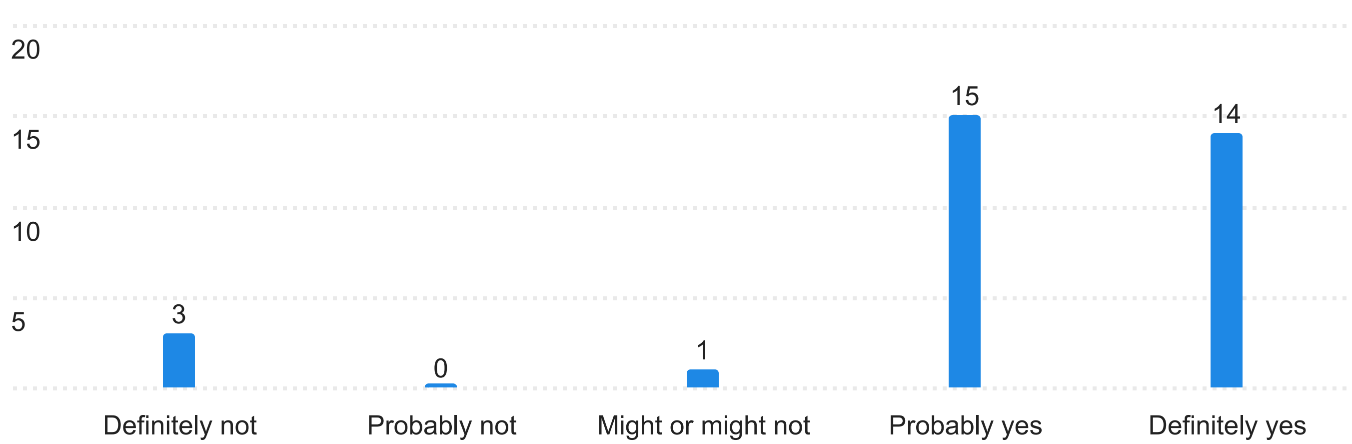
Q14 - Do you **feel** that the course challenged you to learn more than you (initially) expected?



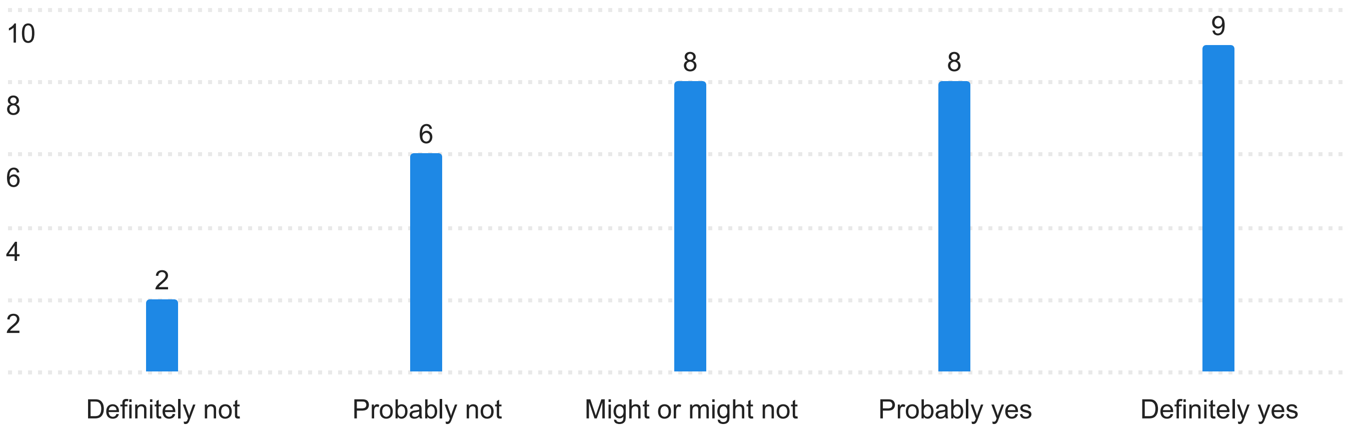
Q15 - Do you **feel** that enough time was provided for you to prepare for this course?



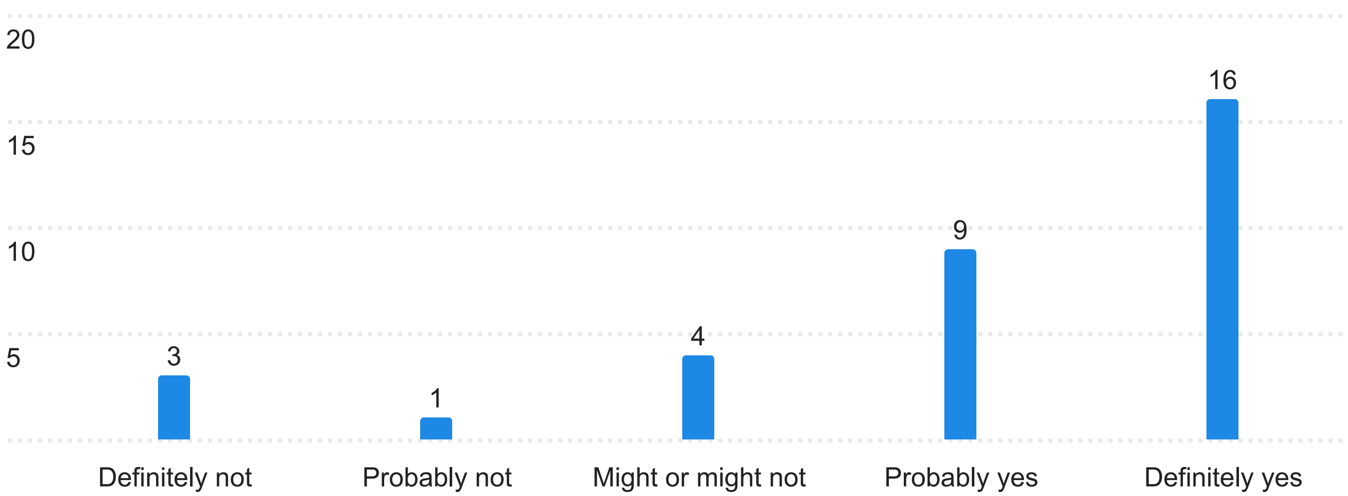
Q16 - Do you **feel** that the tests, assignments, tasks or projects of the course fairly assessed your mastery of the material?



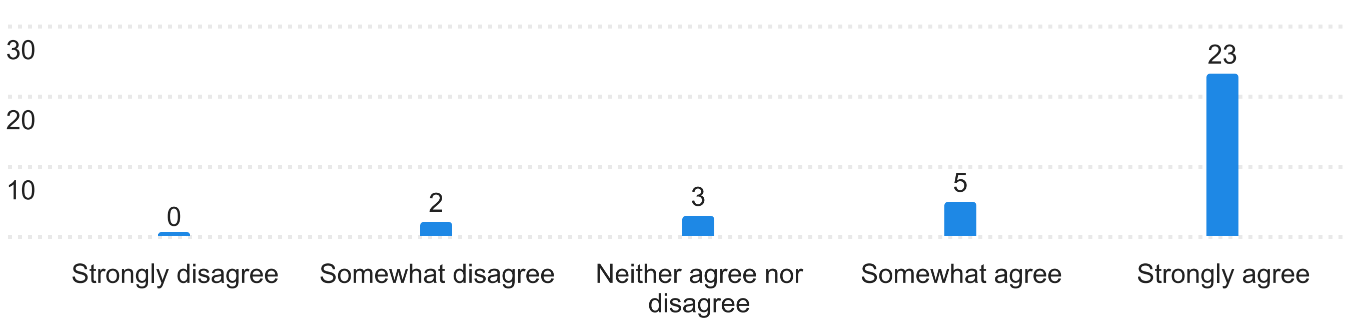
Q17 - Do you **feel** that the course developed your abilities in thinking critically about the subject?



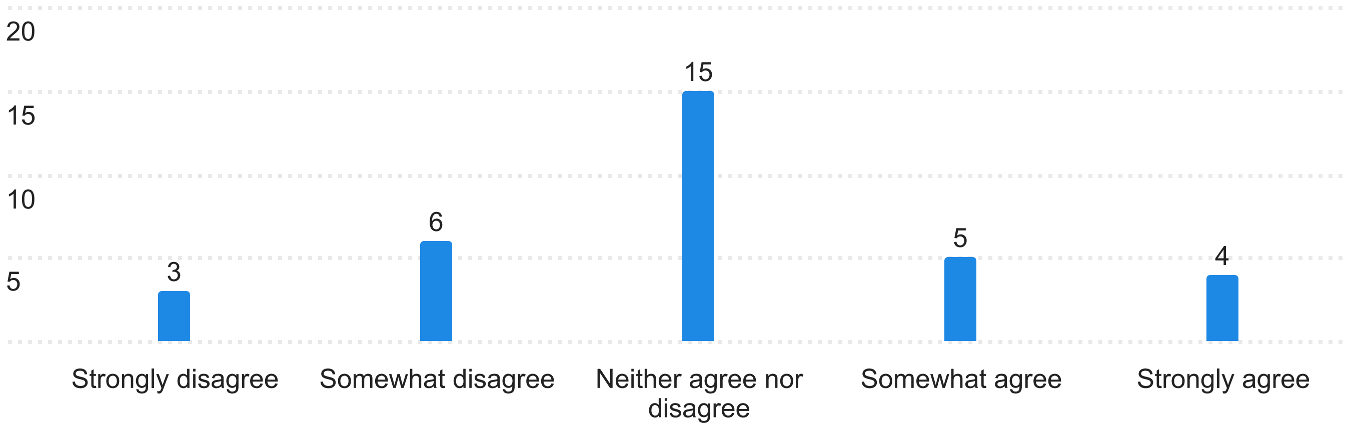
Q18 - Do you **feel** that the course objectives/outcomes were clear to you?



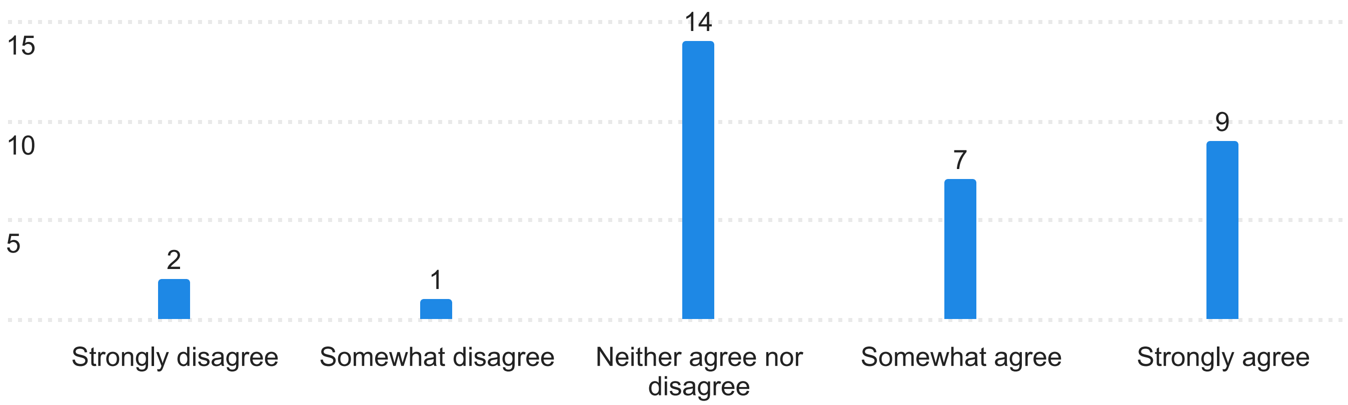
Q19 - Please rate your level of agreement-disagreement with the following statement: "The course provided an inclusive and respectful environment where everyone of all backgrounds (gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, political leanings etc) could meaningfully contribute to discussions."



Q20 - Please rate your level of agreement-disagreement with the following statement: "The bibliographical sources included the work of underrepresented voices in the academia."



Q21 - Please rate your level of agreement-disagreement with the following statement: "Course instructors encouraged the use of inclusive language."



Economics for Policy I

Q22 - Please explain which course materials and teaching approaches you found the most & least useful - for example, the standard micro approach and the policy discussion. Please indicate each point clearly and separately

- Graph models
- Analytical reasoning with demand and supply

game theory extremely useful, TPI i was lost we did many things, not well organized

The corse materials covered the basics, which was exactly what was expected and of course useful
The teaching approach was clear, even tho I had difficulties understanding some concepts, it could be just because I not have a lot of prior experience on the subject

Assuming everyone had a strong background in math was highly off-putting. The teaching style was not congruent with most of the class and lots of us had to learn the content on our own.

Least - Textbook
Most - Examples

combination of lectures and TA sessions; price differentiation, revision of Econ basics, externalities, government intervention

The TA classes didn't make me learn, and they were not well connected to the lectures. I liked the policy discussion.

Mathematical part didn't feel super useful to me in the long-run. The theory and ability to read and understand graphs felt useful.

- Most useful: TA sessions

Extra Math courses- n/a

- I think the apporach of teaching micro without teaching micro didn't really work, e.g. telling students this is where the derivative comes in but then not explaining what a derivative is.

- Two leveles of the course (for people have have studied econ before, and those that havn't done math since highschool) would have been much more effective

- also at no point did either of the instructers mention that they are teching neoclassical economics to us and that there are also other more heterodox schools of thought, I think this would have been important context

I found the concrete cases (policy discussions) quite useful, even if maybe I would have liked to find them linked to the class subjects more clearly. I did not particularly like the Intro to Econ part, since I thought it was a bit messy, but overall I feel like this is the course with the best course material.

The TA sessions explaining the maths behind the theory were the most useful

The abstract “intuition” theoretical classes provided by Daniela were very difficult to then apply it to the assessments. The people, like me, with no economics or maths background, and with many years apart from the last time doing math problems struggled a lot at the beginning.

most useful: Active participation in middle-sized group work for a specific task
leas useful: debates with unclear outcomes

Most useful: Very organised continuation from course to course
Least useful: Assuming a basic knowledge of some economics definitions (eg., 'law of demand')

micro approach

policy discussion

the most useful way is practice and assignments

I fould the TA slides useful in regards to the assessments, i found a lot of the

assignments were very instructive and fair to get prepared for in class exam, at the same time exercise sets have provided us with the basic stuff to comprehend more complex analysis

however, ta sessions would have been longer and more structured

Q23 - Please explain how this course benefited you. It can be via professional/personal skills, knowledge, attitude, way of thinking etc.

Economic knowledge, analytical tools about economic thinking

game theory made me think very strategically

The course provided me with a recap of basics I think I actually needed form the subject

It did give me a good background on microeconomics

Taught baseline econ information necessary for the course

basic understanding of economic problems

It reminded me what I studied in my Bachelors

Understanding economic dynamics within a society

Clear learning of microeconomics, dedication

Understood econ practically

- very little because I've studies Economics, I would have really liked the possibility of beeing able to waive this course/beeing able to take a different course instead

The largest benefit was the application of microeconomics concepts (which I was already familiar with) to policy cases. Shoutout to Damiano, by far the best TA I have ever had.

It was professionally challenging, but it was very rewarding to acquire the theoretical and practical concepts to understand economics a bit better and be able to analyze real life economical problems and their possible explanations or solutions.

Critical thinking / Verbal speaking / Analysis

Re-learning the economic foundations

academic skills

Reminders of materials that I had already studies

knowledge

It has given me the knowledge of microeconomics that I didnt have before

made me rethink the economic concepts, more in a way I can connect them to policy discussions, but also the theoretical frameworks

Q24 - Please provide your open comments and feedback in relation to individual instructors teaching the course, namely: Daniela Iorio & Tommaso Nannicini

I personally think other instructors should teach this course. Daniela and Tommaso are probably great scholars but their pedagogy needs improvement, especially for those that do not possess an economic background. Having English native or quasi-native instructor could also help.

Danile Iorio: very good, very communicative and positive. She was going too fast in the lectures

Professor Iorio was clear and competent, very patient with our ignorance

Tommaso was great but I felt fully lost with Daniela.

N/A

Way too much material covered in Daniela's section of the course; no new material should be covered in the TA sessions

I liked the pedagogy of Daniela and really enjoyed Tommaso's pragmatic approach

It felt like 90% of what we were graded on in homeworks and exams was taught to us by the TA. So Daniela did a good job in explaining the theory, but for completing the course it felt marginally important.

very good teachers

Daniela was rather disorganised, Tommaso explained the content well

-

Daniela Iorio: sometimes too fast in teaching, sometimes she might seem confusing. But in the complex I am satisfied with her way of teaching.
Tommaso Nannicini: I loved his way of teaching, I wish we could have him for more, especially for labour market lectures, maybe as a suggestion for Econ for Policy II

Daniela is hard to follow when explaining concepts. It is not clear at the beginning how to connect the maths with the intuition she intends to teach. Overall, at the end it was easier to understand her style, but at the beginning some of us were either completely lost or super bored, depending on the background.

Tommaso is very interesting, although the teaching method could be improved. It was some times hard to follow but more because of the monotone than the content itself. I feel this part of the class could have been more “real case scenarios” for policy making which we didn’t have.

Daniela was very good - tommaso was a bit too much on the surface and mainly repeated things already done

Tommaso is a great teaching assistant and very attentive

very good i enjoyed the course

Daniela overcomplicates the basics sometimes, which leads the class to get confused. Tommaso is good at having policy discussions. Sometimes the connection with the microeconomic concepts taught before was a bit rushed.

BEST

I think Daniela could have been more relaxed on timings, I did not think having the assessment due two days before the exam was very kind, as this was a very intense week for us assessment-wise, not just in this class. I think Tommaso did a good job at making the lectures engaging, and interesting to look at.

both were very helpful and provided what is exactly required for the assignments and exams

Q25 - Do you have any suggestions on how the course can be improved?

- Have instructors that are native English speakers and mastery of pedagogical methods (not only economic knowledge) teaching the course
- Build the economic knowledge more gradually, particularly for those that do not possess any economic background.

we should do the introduction more relaxed, we did it in not many sessions

no

Do not put material on the exam that was taught two days prior!

N/A

spread material from the first half of the course to the second one

More useful TA classes, longer Tommaso classes

Reduce slightly the density of the work throughout the semester and make TA sessions not be the most important part of our course.

more coordination between material covered with lecturer and the one covered with TA

Better organisation

- I think less lectures and more discussions of cases/papers we all read before hand would have made this course a lot more applicable and practical

Linking the policy cases more concretely to classes, but in general, being an introductory course, I am pretty satisfied

Mix theory with practice. Give the chance to students with less econ or maths background to have extra consultations to revise functions and basic math solutions, it can be optional, but it can be super useful for people who struggle at the beginning with that. The theoretical part can be improved by taking a couple of minutes to explain the math behind and how to connect the dots.

work on repetitions

More TA courses, specifically to have more questions answered

Incorporate more critical approaches. It would hae been interesting to have more policy discussions where different trade-offs, perspectives were carefully analysed using microeconomic concepts

NO

I think the assessments are a good way of making sure people study the material and actually prepare, however, I think the TA sessions shouldve been longer, so that people without an economics background have the chance to catch up.

course content and exams should be spread over a wider period of time

More coordination between the TA and the Professor please.