All Souls College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Professor Sheilagh Ogilvie, FBA
Chichele Professor of Economic History
Convenor of the Master's Programme in Economic and Social History
University of Oxford
sheilagh.ogilvie@all-souls.ox.ac.uk

9 October 2022

Letter of Certification for Teaching Evaluations in Quantitative Methods
(instructors: Mattia Bertazzini and Hannah Zillessen)

As Convenor of the Master's Programme in Economic and Social History at the University of Oxford, I am pleased to certify the authenticity of the appended teaching evaluations for the following three courses for the MSc/MPhil in Economic and Social History in the academic year 2021-2022:

MSc/MPhil in Economic and Social History Quantitative Methods 1
Dr Mattia Bertazzini (lectures)
Ms Hannah Zillessen (classes and surgery sessions)

MSc/MPhil in Economic and Social History Quantitative Methods 2
Dr Eric Chaney (lectures)
Ms Hannah Zillessen (classes and surgery sessions)

There are a total of 13 teaching evaluations, 5 for Quantitative Methods 1 (out of 6 students taking the examination), and 8 for Quantitative Methods 2 (out of 12 students taking the exam).

I hereby certify the authenticity and accuracy of the attached teaching evaluations.
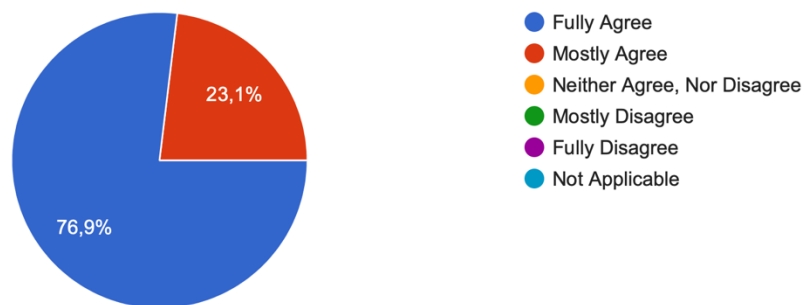
Yours sincerely,

Sheilagh Ogilvie
Chichele Professor of Economic History
Convenor of the Master's Programme in Economic and Social History
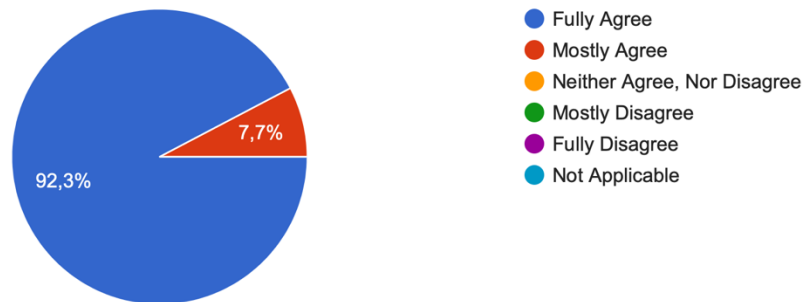*University of Oxford*

Class Evaluation

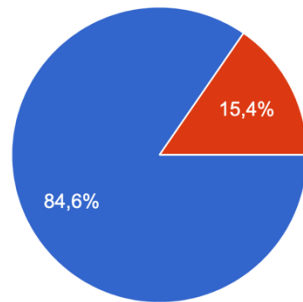The class teacher communicated ideas and concepts effectively.
13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

23,1%

76,9%

The class teacher has improved my understanding of the course content.
13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

7,7%

92,3%

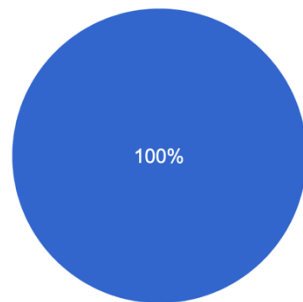## The class teacher has made the subject interesting.

13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

84,6%

15,4%

The class teacher is good at involving members of the class.
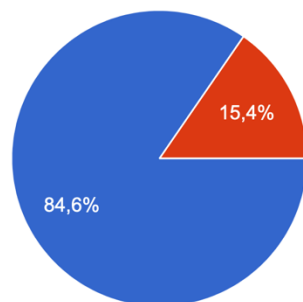
13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable
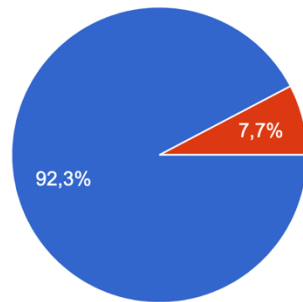
100%

Feedback on my work has been timely.

13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

84,6%

15,4%

I have received helpful comments on my work.
13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

92,3%
7,7%

I was able to seek further clarification on feedback from the class teacher where needed.
13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

84,6%
15,4%

Overall, I am satisfied with the class teaching by this teacher on this course.
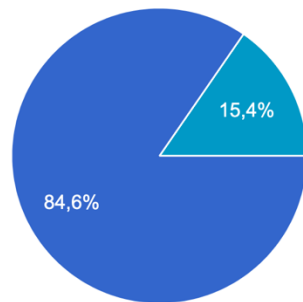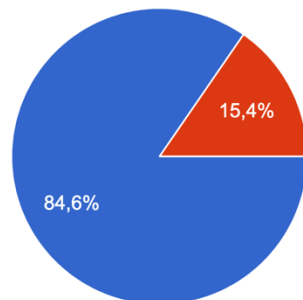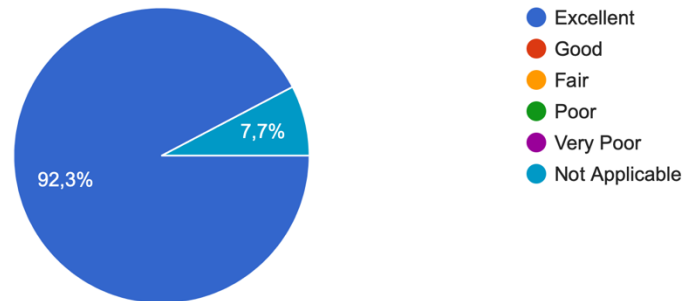13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

84,6%
15,4%

How would you rate this class teacher relative to other graduate teachers you have had at the University of Oxford?

13 Antworten

- ● Excellent
- ● Good
- ● Fair
- ● Poor
- ● Very Poor
- ● Not Applicable

92,3%

7,7%

Please comment below on aspects of this teacher's class teaching you think were particularly helpful.

7 Antworten

The classes were really enjoyable, STATA's often confusing language was broken down and described in an easy to understand manner linking up to the concepts discussed in the lecture. The atmosphere of the class was one that encouraged us to ask questions about anything we were struggling with, which is great given how fiddly some of the commands in STATA are.

Hannah's reclarification of the lecture concepts and her attempts to connect the paper theories to the practicals are helpful for me to develop a holistic approach to basic quantitative methods.

Well structed and clear classes

Discussions of the previous problem set were really good (often being "aha moments"). Overall, the approach taken in classes of first presenting us with a problem and then suggesting methods to solve them worked quite well.

Good slides. Went into good details. Also very helpful. Stayed after every class to make sure everyone's questions were answered.

Provided a different perspective on the learning material that was complimentary to the lectures.

Hannah knows the subject very well and has helped me to learn a lot.

Please comment below on aspects of this teacher's class teaching you think could be improved.

9 Antworten

I remember there being a command or two that weren't explained in the class for the problem set. But that was very rare and isolated to week 2 I think. Other than that very small problem, it was perfect.

Greater communication/coordination between the lecturer and the teacher

Further discussion of what certain commands do would have been helpful. Especially towards the end (e.g. time series data), when we were using more complex formulae and commands, one would often simply copy-paste commands from the slides, without a deeper understanding of how they work.
The slides could do with a bit more contextualisation; sometimes it was difficult to replicate the code in the problem set. Usually this was remedied by having extensive notes from class - but it was often hard to concentrate on learning/typing the code in class whilst writing expository notes. However, I don't know if there's much that can be done about this - there's a lot to fit into 8 weeks!

Could have been a bit slower at times, but I understand it is hard to find a pace that works for people with different backgrounds.
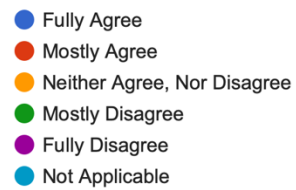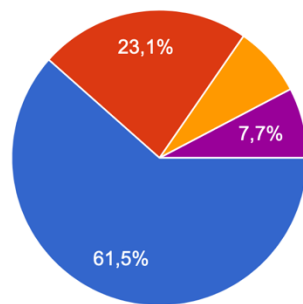
Could speak a bit slower.

N/A

Sometimes teaching is going a bit too quickly. I think I would need more in-class practice, like laboratory works, where I could make mistakes and correct them in real time.

Nothing.

Course Evaluation

This course has challenged me to achieve my best work.
13 Antworten

- ● Fully Agree
- ● Mostly Agree
- ● Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- ● Mostly Disagree
- ● Fully Disagree
- ● Not Applicable

23,1%
7,7%
61,5%

This course was intellectually stimulating.
13 Antworten

- ● Fully Agree
- ● Mostly Agree
- ● Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- ● Mostly Disagree
- ● Fully Disagree
- ● Not Applicable

15,4%
7,7%
76,9%
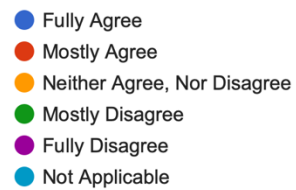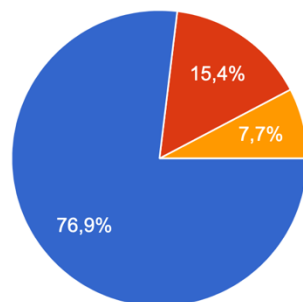
I was satisfied with the amount of contact time with lecturers and class teachers on this course.

13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

15,4%
15,4%
69,2%
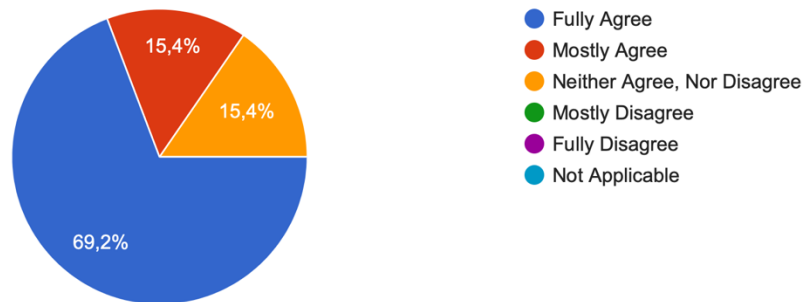
Please elaborate below if contact time with the teachers has been less than satisfactory.
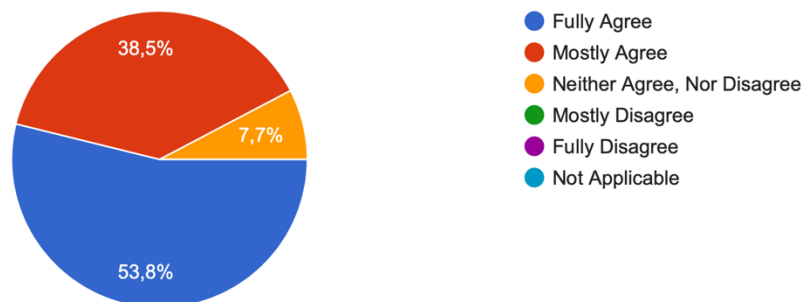
4 Antworten

N/A

Increasing the lecture and class times since we run out of time quite regularly.

The QM1 lecture could have been longer. (30 minutes to an hour longer)

We had a 1-hour surgery per week, which is 10-15 min per desirous people. We had do have ready questions for these 10-15 min, but sometimes it is even difficult to understand what the question could be. I think more training under the control of the teacher would be useful.

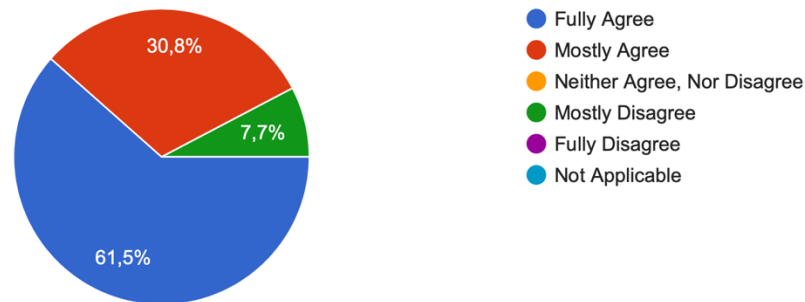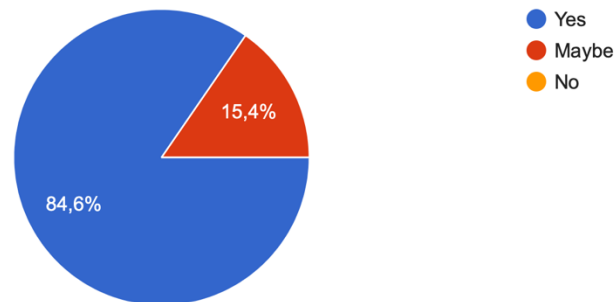**I was satisfied with the integration of classes with lectures on this course.**

13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

38,5%
7,7%
53,8%

Overall, I am satisfied with my experience on this course.
13 Antworten

- Fully Agree
- Mostly Agree
- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree
- Mostly Disagree
- Fully Disagree
- Not Applicable

30,8%
7,7%
61,5%

Would you recommend this course to other students?
13 Antworten

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

15,4%
84,6%

Please comment below on aspects of this course you think were particularly good. 10 Antworten

It has taken me from a complete beginner with no statistical training beyond GCSE maths to having a good understanding of (admittedly basic) econometric and statistical tools. Having done this in 8 weeks has felt astonishing.

Focusing on practice than theory. Recommended to those who have a bit concept of statistics but are not familiar with econometrics at all like me.

Use of intuition and historical examples and the mixture of theory and practical work were excellent. The teaching extremely good in general.

At the beginning of term I felt that I was somewhere between QM1 and QM2 and would either be bored in QM1 or just stare blankly and struggle in QM2. Yet despite this, QM2 was especially well designed, so that whilst it was challenging, it didn't become excessively demanding or plainly incomprehensible. As far as I know, this is a sentiment shared by some of the others too.

QM2 was excellent in offering us an insight into the opportunities and limits of research - it has given me guidance as to what data I could and should seek for my thesis and what I may or may not find out using such data.

Classes were very helpful both in theoretical and practical clarifications.

Really enjoyed all the classes and lectures, thank you for the opportunity!

I loved having problem sets using real Economic HIstory data from published papers

Structure of lectures were particularly clear and helpful from the beginning.
I have managed to take a confident grasp of the field that is completely new to me. Thanks a lot to all the teachers! I really enjoyed the course very much. I already see that I can use the knowledge that I acquired to understand economic historians.

Please comment below on aspects of this course you think could be improved.

8 Antworten

Increasing lecture and class time.

More coordination between classes and lectures, so that the teacher knows exactly what was learnt in the lectures. Also perhaps a more detailed syllabus, or some form of documentation that covers the whole of the course, as looking through all the lectures, classes, problem sets (both completed and uncompleted), and do-files can be quite arduous when it comes to revision.

Co-ordination between what we study in lectures and classes was not always smooth. This could involve 1) using different equations, definitions, naming (which made it more difficult to consult lecture notes when dealing with a problem set); 2) the content of lectures sometimes had limited relevance to the upcoming problem set.

Another question is why we use STATA as the programming language for the course - as far as I know, R could be equally valid (and perhaps more widely used), and it is free to use, while our 1-year STATA license expires for MPhil students' second year.

The take-home exam itself was extremely detached from the content of the course. While the course was interesting and useful in many ways, it did not really develop that which was subsequently being tested in the exam, neither on a theoretical nor practical level.

The exam did not feel like it related to the actual content of the course but rather was an additional exercise. I wasted a lot of time reviewing the content of the classes and course eventhough only 5% of it was mentioned in the exam.

N/a

I am still not sure that I was well prepared for doing the research part of the exam. We did exercises on different parts of research but never saw how a full research with regressions would look. Here I do not mean the published articles - we were given good example of those. Rather, it is about training how to use all the basic tools that we learned to make a consistent basic research. I think laboratory works in class with real-time comments would help to learn how to do it. The skills in QMI are basic, so one would not find real publications using only these tools. So, a training example is needed. Otherwise, I am very happy with the course.
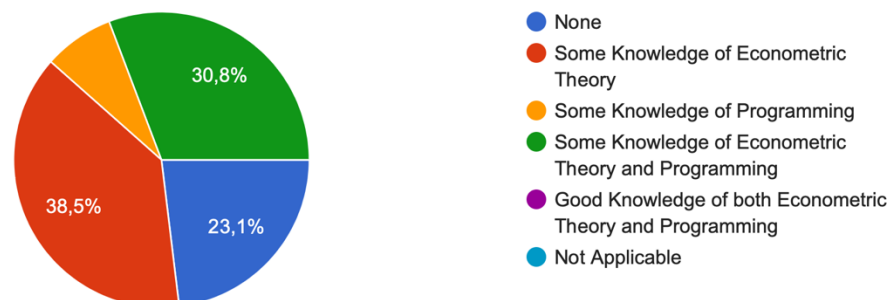
Student Information

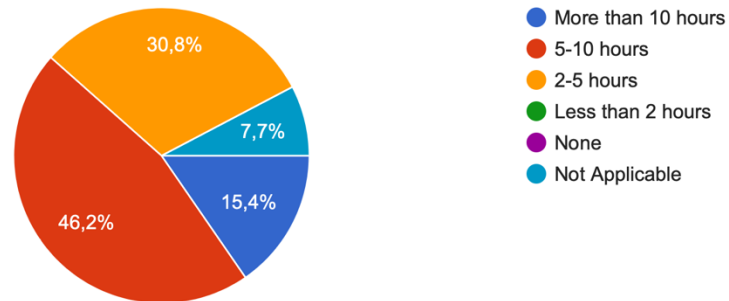### Did you attend QM1 or QM2?
13 Antworten

- QM1
- QM2

61,5%
38,5%
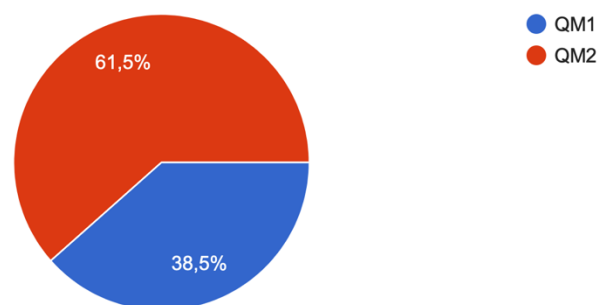
How much prior knowledge of quantitative methods did you have before taking this course?
13 Antworten

- None
- Some Knowledge of Econometric Theory
- Some Knowledge of Programming
- Some Knowledge of Econometric Theory and Programming
- Good Knowledge of both Econometric Theory and Programming
- Not Applicable

30,8%
38,5%
23,1%

How many hours of independent study did you put into this course each week outside of lectures and classes?

13 Antworten

- More than 10 hours
- 5-10 hours
- 2-5 hours
- Less than 2 hours
- None
- Not Applicable

30,8%

7,7%

15,4%

46,2%

Please rate your own contribution to the lectures and classes.

13 Antworten