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STUDENT RESPONSE SUMMARY

Each semester, the University of Michigan solicits feedback from students regarding their opinion on a range of topics related to their course. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback. It excludes teaching in Winter semester 2008 and at Albion College, as I do not have those evaluation reports. I have combined student commentary across all of the other semesters. I have removed commentary that was derogatory towards other people, but not myself (these are marked with an asterisk).

Fall 2008 (Introductory Microeconomics)

- If it weren't for you I would understand nothing at all about econ. As it is, I still understand little, but please consider that an achievement. Your clear, Paul Finch-esque explanations of the material were easy to follow.*
- To be honest, I was rather bored with this class. The material was near identical to what we learned in lecture and it only aided my understanding a little bit. The random quizzed, I must say, are quite a good way of getting people to go to class.
- quizzes and concepts were well-explained
- The instructor clearly knew the material of the course. He had prepared notes for each class and tried to cover as much as possible. He was somewhat condescending to students in class however. He was very abrupt which inhibited a full learning potential.
- The discussion helped and was more helpful then I thought it would have been but I think that without the quiz scores my overall grade would have been better.
- It was very good
- Dave Knapp's affiliation to Ohio State University aside, he was a very knowledgeable GSI. Great at responding to e-mails and always provided helpful and detailed answers. Go Blue!!!!
- Dave Knapp was, in my opinion, the best econ GSI I feel very fortunate to have had him
- Overall, very good quality and fair.
- I thought the class was difficult and the instruction gave you the framework to do well.
- I thought that Dave was a great GSI. Our class learned a lot and Dave was always available and willing to answer questions for us. His class notes and review sessions were great. He was also a pretty fun guy and made learning Econ much less painful.
- Dave is a great GSI, and the notes that he posts weekly are extremely helpful. I really appreciate the review sessions that he prepares for and he always comes to class well prepared.
- David Knapp provided a comfortable learning environment and knew the material well. He was willing to accommodate the students and explain things in different ways.

- Going to my GSI's office hours was extremely helpful. He explained everything until I was able to grasp the concepts well even if it took a while. My GSI also made lots of extra notes for us to read and this really helped me understand the confusing material better.
- Dave was not very personable, but a good teacher. Explained things clearly and always answered questions adequately. He lacked enthusiasm at times, and his humor was hard to pick up on (but was still there), which made it more enjoyable than other's discussions. If he couldn't answer a question at the moment, he would send an email to clarify. He was the only GSI to make section notes, which helped very much, especially as material got harder. This was one of his strong points, and I think more GSI's should be required to follow his precedent.
- Dave is awesome.
- Dave Knapp is an excellent GSI who actually cares about how his students do. He is quick to respond to e-mail, willing to stay as long as he can at office hours, and is mostly excited about the material. I enjoyed his humor, as much as I sometimes felt like the only person laughing other than him. He could lay off the Sunkist unless he wants to end up like Andres and Chile. Also, he could not bring up the fact he is from OSU, that would save him some credit. But no, he is an excellent GSI who does a great job.
- Dave was much better in office hours than in regular class
- Dave's handouts are very helpful.
- Dave Knapp is one of the most committed GSI's I have ever encountered. The use of simple yet profound examples enabled me to understand the material in depth and relay it outside class.
- Dave is a good teacher. I would definitely recommend him to other students
- I sometimes felt like discussion did not help me understand the material better. I think it would have been helpful to work through more practice problems together. Sometimes Dave would tell people it was okay to leave, but after they left he would seem a little bitter. I think he should have been more direct about whether it was really okay to leave or not.
- Great job with this course. You used your time well and were available to help out whenever possible.
- Dave did a great job making us feel comfortable and ask questions. I understood things in section that I had a hard time getting in lecture.
- He was one of the best teachers I've had so far. He is very good at clearly explaining concepts and ideas. I attribute much of my success in the class to his in class and office hour instruction. I hope to have him as a GSI in the future.
- Great class, with clear and concise instruction.
- I really liked the instructor because he was very enthusiastic. He seemed to enjoy being there even though he had another class right before mine. I liked the extra homework problems that were handed out at the beginning of class. They were very helpful. I have no idea how long he has been teaching ECON 101, but he did not know all the questions in class. He was thrown off by some questions about special cases, which is not a big deal, but it makes him seem as though he is not prepared. Overall, I learned more from the discussion than the lecture, which I attended everyday and took notes.
- The discussion was relevant to what we learned in class and helped me to better understand the material.

Winter 2009 (Intermediate Microeconomics)

- The Discussions were great supplements to the lectures.
- Dave is a very conscientious teacher and always willing to offer help in and out of class and good at responding emails. I am particularly grateful for his extra office hours and review sessions before exams which are all very helpful. A little suggestion would be probably he could use the section time better. But I would definitely recommend people take 401 with Dave
- It was great. Always very helpful and always answering questions.
- He definitely tried to help students as much as he could. I liked that we focused on the section problems, which were very helpful in solving the homework problems. I feel like focusing on sections problems was effective because if we ever had any questions we were always free to go to office hours or send him an email.
- Dave was a GREAT gsi. Always prepared, went the extra mile, and maintained a positive classroom environment, even though no one wanted to talk or answer any of his questions. Very helpful.
- Colored chalk makes the difference.
- Kind of confusing at times
- Dave was a great GSI, he could be a professor of this class! He was so good at explaining things clearly and really willing to help everyone understand despite how difficult the material was. I have to say I was skeptical of him at first just because of how fast he moved in the first couple classes, but after being in the class for a while, I realized that it was how fast he HAD to go to get through everything. Even though it was quick paced he did a great job explaining everything and was very willing to slow down if need be, which I think was a good way to run the class. Would definitely recommend him as a GSI! Very helpful over email also, always quick to respond and great, helpful answers.
- Dave was an excellent GSI. From talking to other students, I truly feel he was one of the best GSIs available. He really cared about how well we did and provided us with extra review sessions. He did a great job of managing our limited allotted time and teaching us the important points of this course. He was always well prepared and is extremely intelligent. Dave could definitely have a career in education if he so chooses.
- Dave Knapp is probably one of the best GSI's I've had at the university. He taught in a way that was easy to understand, making sure that we understood the concepts but not going so slowly that we were bored with the material. He could usually answer the questions students asked, and if he couldn't, he would find an answer at a later time. He kept a comfortable, yet semi-professional atmosphere in class, and I always felt like I could ask questions at any time. One thing I especially appreciated was the notes he posted on CTools, which supplemented material covered in discussion. I found that very helpful for completing the homework. Dave also made sure that office hours were at times that were convenient for everyone, and he frequently stressed that he was always available via e-mail.

Spring 2009 (Intermediate Microeconomics)

- Very helpful with homework questions and conceptual questions as well

- I'm amazed by the level of commitment Dave put into this class. He made himself absolutely available for our success in learning the material. He maintained this heightened level throughout the course, which greatly aided us in garnering a thorough understanding of the concepts underlying micro-economic theory. It was a tremendous privilege to have Dave as a section instructor - no one has tried harder to ease the daunting realities of the 400-level economics course workload.
- By far the best GSI I've had at the University of Michigan. He was always prepared, explained things very well and was willing to help students at any hour of the day. It was great and helpful to have a GSI like Dave, they are hard to come by.
- this teacher was very good.
- The discussion was incredibly helpful in learning and understanding the material taught in the course. Dave was an absolutely fantastic GSI who did an incredible job explaining both mathematical and intuitive concepts. Although I did not have a particularly strong background in math (especially calculus), I was amazed at how easily I was still able to following Dave's clear explanations. Not only was my experience with the instruction during class extremely positive, but office hours were equally as helpful.

Fall 2009 (Economics I - Microeconomics for Public Health Masters Students)

- Poor Dave...He ended up with the brunt of student frustration with the material. He was a very patient teacher, which is remarkable considering the level of unprofessionalism that some of my classmates exhibited on a regular basis. The notes that he provided in section are the only reason I passed any of the exams and provided me with the only "light-bulb" moments I had with the material. Great teacher! Hopefully when he's a full professor the students will show him the respect he deserves.
- Dave did a phenomenal job, many of the students had no experience with economics so Dave went out of his way to have more office hours, and review sessions. I think this was very helpful. Of course, part of the reason for this was that many found the course way to difficult, and I think after a while people were more concerned about their grades then learning the material. I think this defeats the purpose of graduate school all together. The point should be to make sure to learn the material, not stressing out about grades. I think the single biggest cause for this was unnecessarily lengthy exams. The exam material was difficult to begin with, but to then have the added pressure of trying to finish in the allocated time (which very few people did), seriously affected how people approached the course. People just wanted to "beat the system" not learn what was being taught to them. I also thought the problem sets were kind of random, and were nothing like the exams at all. I'm not sure what purpose they served other then to make up the numbers in your grade.
- I think Dave did an excellent job with the little time that he had per week. I always felt rushed in section, and think that section should either meet twice a week or for longer each week. Dave was always willing to help and meet with students though.
- Dave was a true asset to the course, dedicating so much time to his students to answer questions.
- Dave did a great job teaching. He really brought it down to our level. Did a great job providing us with more examples when needed.
- Dave did an excellent job in recognizing student's difficulty with the subject. I appreciated the fact that he was very patient and was willing and able to explain things in different ways to different students. I feel he was a very strong instructor.

- Dave did a great job this summer. He always did a great job of explaining difficult material and answering students questions very clearly. Dave was very prompt in returning graded work and provided detailed feedback. Also exams had relatively fair questions, were often too long to complete in the given time period. On both exams I felt very well prepared to take the exam, however did not have enough time to complete all the questions sufficiently, and I do not consider myself a slow test taker.
- Dave is a wonderful GSI. He is well versed in the concepts and helpful for other's who have difficulty with the material. He stays late, grades all our assignments, adds an exceptional amount of additional OH to meet the demand for the help needed in this course and all of that has the making of a great teacher. He shows he cares through our successes and failures and I believe this effort made the class much more bearable for many of us.
- Dave was very committed to our class by giving so much of his time to each student and section (apparent by his many office hours and example problem sets). Was approachable so made it easy to ask for help. Definitely had a great sense of humor and personality so was able to connect with students which helped facilitate open environment in section. Was glad he gave practical approaches to the dense theories learned in class. However, for those students who were lost, he had difficulty in giving precise directions on how to improve or study for exams.
- Dave is an excellent GSI - he is very good at simplifying complex concepts. Also, he really went above and beyond to try to help us understand the material - he schedule review sessions and extra office hours that undoubtedly must have cut into his personal time. We are very lucky to have had him.
- Dave, you're a great GSI. You explain things clearly and patiently. It's evident you put an enormous amount of time into helping us succeed. Thanks for your efforts.
- I think the GSI need to understand that the majority of us come from non econ backgrounds. He seemed to lack the intuition to be able to simplify things on our level. WE often commented about how he talked over our heads. the things that were covered in lec and the things covered in dis seemed to be like 2 totally different classes at times..... this class really shattered my confidence as an HMP student. SERIOUSLY.
- Dave taught the section very well. He always made time for us and offered many office hours. He was very good at explaining the material and was very patient. I hope that he has another GSI position in the future.
- Only complaint about course was the length of the exams, but I think overall the grades were weighted to reflect the fact that many could not complete them. Overall, I think the exams would be more reflective of the knowledge of students if they were an appropriate length, because time pressure can lead to errors, even for those who understand the material.
- At first Dave taught way above our level, but this definitely improved as the semester went on. Dave is always willing to help with extra office hours and responded to e-mails immediately. The extra problems and solutions that Dave provided were very helpful for exams. I just wish that there was a better connection between what we learned in lecture and what we did in discussion.
- Dave made himself very available to our class, and he should be commended for this. I think the material up
- I think there is no question that Dave was committed to this course. He made himself more than available to much of a life outside of SPH this semester. Dave could work on editing his section

material down to an amount that we can reasonably finish in a time period, as I don't think we ever fully got through what he had prepared for us.

- Discussion should be longer if lectures do not help enough with quantitative material. Dave did a great job trying his best to answer his questions. At times people were rude in class and I felt really bad for him. He went above and beyond to make himself available for office hours and never let a question go by without getting back to people. He was really easy to ask questions to and never made you feel stupid. He did however write exam questions that did not reflect discussion all the time and his exams were really too long.
- Dave's section notes were great, well-organized and helpful. Students had a lot of opportunities to ask questions and seek help, and Dave spent a lot of time answering our questions and holding extra office hours. However, I don't think he realized how elementary (or non-existent) most people's economics backgrounds were.
- Dave is GREAT!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Dave was very thorough and extremely knowledgeable about the material. Although he sometimes went very fast in discussion and there was not enough time for everything, he was extremely helpful during office hours and always patient with people to help them understand concepts (even if it meant going over something 5 times!) For some people the material was overwhelming and the discussion sections catered more towards people with a strong handle on the material already. Maybe post the discussion notes ahead of time so people can review before attending section? This would have been helpful
- Dave is extremely helpful and well prepared for his classes. He certainly puts in a lot of effort. His notes are also extremely well organized. Good job!
- Dave was very helpful and always willing to answer questions.
- Dave clearly cared about our wellbeing and wanted us to excel but the tests simply did not reflect the material covered. And an 18 page test for a 90 minute period is non feasible. Dave always made himself available for extra help, which was needed by many- not because he was a bad instructor (he was great), but the tests seemed like they were written for another course. It scared students away from economics
- Dave made himself very available to help us with assignments and preparation for exam. His posted solutions were incredibly helpful and he was always available via email and wrote solutions out clearly. Sometimes he would review problems too quickly during discussion and it would have been helpful if he had posted the notes and solutions before hand so we could be better prepared to review with him.
- As mentioned before, this class/exams did not reflect what we learned in lecture and I felt like it was two completely separate classes. I have never been more frustrated and the instructor went incredibly fast. Furthermore, the people with economics backgrounds were always the ones asking questions, because the ones who were clueless were so confused we couldn't even form a question if we wanted to. I know Dave tried and this is not a personal attack on him, but the exams were ridiculous in terms of relating to the course.
- Great discussion sections. The materials was covered in a lot of detail, the only problem was taking all of that detail with me after the discussion. Other than that, the discussion was very helpful in remembering and applying the information from lecture.
- Dave Knapp was helpful in highlighting key concepts and going through a few example problems.

- Dave was amazing. He was always willing to meet with students outside of class and set up extra office hours during exam times. If section had been longer, this class as a whole would have been greatly improved.
- Dave was very good at communicating the material and keeping up with the lecture. Very knowledgeable, occasionally threw in interesting related or advanced material.
- I like Dave personally; he's a nice guy. As an instructor, he was pretty good, though there are some things he can improve on. Sometimes he explained concepts clearly, other times he was confusing. I, unfortunately, got the vibe of, "I don't understand why you guys think this is so hard" from him, which struck me as elitist, but he was available to answer questions and help us figure out the problems. He also could have realized that it has been a long time since many of us have taken math and many of us have never taken an economics course before. I also think there was too much of a focus on doing the math right (and I haven't had to do algebra in a very long time) as opposed to understanding the concepts. The exams were too long.
- Dave is a genius.
- Dave you are a great teacher but I feel that the material that was covered in lecture did not always reflect what you talked about. Hirth seemed to talk about health economics and you seem more focused on just the micro aspects and lots of equations and math. I feel that the class focused too much on math and not as much on actually what the equation and graph are showing. It was very easy to not understand a problem because of math or calc. Best of wishes to you as you continue to study economics.
- Dave should win a GSI of the year award because he is amazing. He is great at explaining material and spends an incredible amount of time preparing practice material and meeting with students. If awards aren't available, I would suggest a raise!
- There was a major disconnect b/w lecture and discussion. Even if you understand class or lecture material - the tests and homework are unfairly difficult and beyond the scope of an introductory course.
- If could provide section material along the lectures progression would be great. Since for the students having no background in econ, it is hard to imagine what the theory talked in class is related to problem sets. Also, if could increase the load of homework would be more helpful in learning the materials.
- Dave was surprisingly dedicated and available; I don't know how he managed to spend so much time teaching us outside of office hours. He really deserves credit for that. However, I don't think he should have had to do this much work; when EVERYBODY is coming to office hours and scheduling multiple individual meetings to understand the material, it seems it's too much material, or too hard. I hated the amount of work I had to put into this class just to scrape by, and I am not looking forward to another semester of god-awful economics. I just hope we get away from the abstract graphs, equations, and calculus, because it was killing me this semester. I will be overjoyed when this travail is over.

Winter 2010 (Introductory Microeconomics)

- You are great at keeping my attention. When you go over material in discussion that was presented in class before going over the problem set it is helpful.
- 1 discussion is not enough

- I thought it was good, but the quizzes were too hard and need to be more like the exams (i.e. multiple choice).
- I learned more in discussion than I did in the actual lecture because my GSI was excellent and explained topics very well.
- Dave was boing and lacked personality. Just playing. He was able to explain things well and I like how he utilized examples when he was explaining things. He was always willing to help students outside of class and set up special appointments if they couldn't make it to regular office hours. Gonig to office hours was a major help because I didn't find learning the material from the lecture slides all that beneficial. I feel like if we were provided more of a hands-on way to learn we would all grasp the material quicker and have a better understanding of it. I would like to be able to attempt more sample problems before the exams because this way we are applying how well we know the concepts by being able to answer the questions.
- The discussion section of the course was very valuable for learning the topics discussed in lecture. I enjoyed David as a GSI and I thought he was extremely knowledgeable about the subjects. He definitely helped me understand a lot of the difficult material and he made sure his students were prepared for exams and test material
- Lecture were not inviting and the exam's were extremely confusing and misleading in their questions, but my gsi was very good at explaining what the professor seemed to lack in.

Spring 2010 (Intermediate Microeconomics)

- David Knapp is the BEST GSI I ever have. He is very dedicated and he is willing to spend whole lot of time to prepare us for the midterm and final. He's pretty witty, too. I would love to have him in discussion sections for other Econs courses! I switched from another section to David's section but I never regret for making that switch! David deserves a raise!!! (if that's possible) :)
- David was a great section leader. I learned a lot from his class.
- avid explains all the questions logically and organizationally.
- David Knapp was a great GSI. He clearly and concisely explained information. He also took the time to post additional notes pertaining to each topic on ctools.
- Discussion was very interesting and the homework was relevant to the course. Office hours were very useful.
- great
- I think too much of the class time was spent trying to get through all the homework problems that there wasn't enough time for students to absorb all the information and ask questions.

Fall 2010 (Introductory Microeconomics)

- this discussion was good for filling in the gaps of things that were hard to fully understand in lecture
- The instruction was phenomenal. Dave knew everything and could always answer a question in the most education way. He met me with me several times outside of class and it was very beneficial.
- Good instruction, but hard to prepare for the difficulty of the tests.

- Dave is the best. Great teacher and can talk on a personal level with students. Wish he taught my other classes. Really easy and open to talk to.
- The instructor has been always well-prepared and helped students' understandings.
- David Knapp was open to answering any questions that students had, was willing to help outside of class and always stayed behind to clarify anything that students were having trouble with. He did a great job of teaching and I enjoyed his humor as well.
- GSI knew his information very well. Explained things clearly.
- Very useful, and this GSI (Knapp) was really good and knowledgeable, someone who really understood all the concepts and could teach them.
- A good deal of what Dave said was over my head.

Winter 2011 (Introductory Microeconomics)

- Although I really enjoyed lecture, I felt that I learned more in discussion than I did in lecture. Dave explained concepts clearly and emphasized the points that we needed to know. He was always willing to meet for office hours and was always extremely helpful.
- not great
- Dave is a good guy. He is really smart, however, he doesn't always know how to communicate the information best to the students. Sometimes he would go over our heads. There was only a few instances of that, though. Overall, he did a great job with the course. Always willing to help the students if they need it outside of class / discussion.
- David was an excellent GSI. He clearly explained the material from lecture and even went further to show up how others things related to one another. I found his discussion very valuable and I believe his way of teaching definitely helped me on the tests.

Spring 2011 (Intermediate Microeconomics)

- Great!
- Dave had an excellent personality, even though he attended OSU. He clearly explained the material and his pace was appropriate. He made students comfortable. I can't really think of anything to improve upon, good job!
- First, this is something that would probably be more relevant for Professor Morgan, however, I believe the tests were exceedingly difficult. As a student, I believe I had a good overall understanding of each topic, but the test questions expanded the questions in a way that I do not believe we were completely prepared for. I agree the questions should be difficult and test your intuitive understanding of the material, however, I think it would be valuable to present more challenging questions such as these in class prior to the exam. As for Dave as an instructor, through the 67 credits that I have now taken at this university, I do not know if I have had a better teacher. This is a class I took understanding it would move quickly and be extremely difficult for myself. Dave understood this and presented me with every available opportunity to improve my comprehension of the material. Dave had a tremendous understanding of the material and was able to articulate his knowledge in a way that was incredibly helpful. Additionally, he went beyond his required responsibilities and was available for questions via any form of communication, never have I witnessed that from a GSI. Finally, Dave challenged students to explore many different variations of the problems to ensure that students could think outside the box for the course. Thank you.

- David Knapp not only explained concepts in a clear and thorough way but was more than willing to meet outside of class and seemed to genuinely care about students' success in the course.