

Evaluations for ECON-240-01, Economies in Transition

(Olga Nicoara, Fall 2014)

Summary

Table 1. Summary: 11 responses

	No Answer	1 (Poor)	2	3	4	5 (Excellent)
Prior interest	0	1 (9.1%)	3 (27.3%)	5 (45.5%)	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)
Interest increased	0	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)	1 (9.1%)	5 (45.5%)	3 (27.3%)
Effort	0	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)	1 (9.1%)	6 (54.5%)	2 (18.2%)
Knowledge increased	0	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)	0 (0%)	7 (63.6%)	2 (18.2%)
Challenge	0	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	5 (45.5%)	2 (18.2%)
Overall rating	0	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)	4 (36.4%)	3 (27.3%)	3 (27.3%)
Preparedness	0	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)	2 (18.2%)	6 (54.5%)	2 (18.2%)
Clarity	0	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)	6 (54.5%)	3 (27.3%)	1 (9.1%)
Feedback	0	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)	0 (0%)	6 (54.5%)	3 (27.3%)
Effectiveness	0	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	5 (45.5%)	2 (18.2%)

All responses

Table 2. Response 1

Gender	M
Year	2016
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	2
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	4
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	3
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	4
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	3
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	Very interesting, covered the topic extensively in the Post-soviet russia area.
Ways to improve course	only talked about post soviet russian countries. could have covered more countries around the world, especially those in South America
Overall rating	3
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	She knows her stuff
Ways for instructor to improve	She only knows the stuff she got her doctorate in, can't relate this information to much else around he world
Preparedness	2

Clarity	3
Feedback	4
Effectiveness	3
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 3. Response 2

Gender	M
Year	2015
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	
Prior interest	5
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	5
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	4
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	5
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	5
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	
Ways to improve course	
Overall rating	5
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	
Ways for instructor to improve	
Preparedness	4
Clarity	3
Feedback	5
Effectiveness	4
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	She is a very intelligent economist and I have enjoyed taking her class. The reading is always interesting (except for the Thinking Economically readings). I do think that she will get better as an instructor as she continues her career. I felt like she has a lot of things she wants us to get through in a semester and we may be covering too much. Because of this, students get stressed out and lose interest. She has sprung new readings and short assignments on us without much time before. In these instances, it would have been nice with a little extra warning... The work was interesting and engaging. I have learned a lot this semester, and I think Denison needs her experience in this economics department. She would fit in well with her Eastern European background and interests in entrepreneurship. My advice would be to give a little bit less reading and fewer quizzes. When there's too much to focus on, students react by doing less.
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 4. Response 3

Gender	M
Year	2015
Major 1	Philosophy/PoliSci/Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	4
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	2
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	4
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	2
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	2
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	The strength of this course is that it allows for flexibility in terms of which case studies of transition are discussed throughout the semester. The literature chosen does a good job at supplementing class discussion, and everything we did in the course was relevant to transition economies.
Ways to improve course	This course could be improved by having a clearer distinction between lecture and discussion. Too often, this line was blurred such that class time became ineffective. Perhaps establishing a formula to have certain days of discussion and other days of lecture, or even a portion of the class, would benefit this course immensely.
Overall rating	3
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	This instructor was always prepared and punctual for class
Ways for instructor to improve	This instructor could improve her teaching by setting a better tone in the beginning of the year. By showing more passion for the course content, our small class would have been better encouraged to care about the class. Furthermore, the instructor's eagerness to depart from the scheduled assignments added an unnecessary level of unpredictability to the class that proved detrimental to all students. In all, this felt like a class taught at a large research institution rather than Denison because of the cookie-cutter teaching style employed: daily reading quizzes, weekly reflection papers with the same prompt, etc. This instructor did little to encourage the outside-of-the-box thinking that I expected, and could benefit largely by grasping how other courses at Denison/liberal arts school are taught.
Preparedness	4
Clarity	2
Feedback	2
Effectiveness	2
Effectiveness fill-in	The verbal and written feedback on graded assignments was cursory, at best. More often than not, feedback about the format/structure was given rather than feedback about the content/quality of ideas. Often, the reason for a low grade was attributed to something about the assignment rather than the submitted content itself. In turn, when students made the appropriate changes, they found that their grades fared no better. This lack of verbal and written feedback caused a general sense that any received grades were somehow arbitrary in the sense that they couldn't be improved on, no matter what.
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 5. Response 4

Gender	M
Year	2015
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	Spanish
Minor 2	Communication
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	2
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	2
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	4
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	2
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	4
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	
Ways to improve course	Less quizzes
Overall rating	2
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	
Ways for instructor to improve	More realistic expectations of what an undergrad 200 level Econ course entails
Preparedness	3
Clarity	3
Feedback	2
Effectiveness	2
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 6. Response 5

Gender	M
Year	2015
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	English (Literature)
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	
Prior interest	3
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	4
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	4
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	4
Knowledge increased fill-in	

Challenge	4
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	
Ways to improve course	
Overall rating	3
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	
Ways for instructor to improve	
Preparedness	3
Clarity	4
Feedback	4
Effectiveness	4
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 7. Response 6

Gender	M
Year	2016
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	3
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	4
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	5
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	4
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	4
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	interesting topic debate economic way of thinking
Ways to improve course	
Overall rating	5
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	Clear logic and always prepare for the class
Ways for instructor to improve	maybe we can start from some basic economic idea and dig more from each article
Preparedness	5
Clarity	4
Feedback	5
Effectiveness	5
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 8. Response 7

Gender	M
Year	2015
Major 1	Philosophy/PoliSci/Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	2
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	3
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	2
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	4
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	3
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	The readings were well-selected and they covered every major topic in the field of transition economics.
Ways to improve course	In-class time failed to tie readings together. Were this a seminar class, it would be excellent. But, to have a discussion based class requires that the in-class time be supportive and analytical of the external readings. Broader themes, stronger relationships, and more efficient in-class time would be helpful.
Overall rating	3
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	Dr. Nicoara specializes in transition and development economics and is clearly qualified as an academic.
Ways for instructor to improve	However, Dr. Nicoara did not seem to have a strong handle on effective teaching methods. Instead of tests and quizzes and essays, she assigned daily 1-2 question quizzes about the reading and assigned an weekly 1 page reflection essay on the readings. The small quizzes were too small and impromptu to realistically evaluate the student's comprehension of the readings. Similarly, with the short reflection essays, critical engagement was not required and often couldn't be included in the papers because of their length. Dr. Nicoara should overhaul her assignments to force greater critical engagement with the excellent readings. Also, having grown up in a post-Soviet country, Dr. Nicoara should include much more personal experience and connections in teaching the material.
Preparedness	4
Clarity	3
Feedback	4
Effectiveness	3
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 9. Response 8

Gender	M
Year	2015
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	Psychology

Minor 2	
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	3
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	4
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	2
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	4
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	2
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	
Ways to improve course	
Overall rating	4
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	
Ways for instructor to improve	
Preparedness	4
Clarity	3
Feedback	4
Effectiveness	4
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 10. Response 9

Gender	M
Year	2016
Major 1	Political Science
Major 2	Economics
Minor 1	Theatre
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	3
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	5
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	4
Effort fill-in	We had weekly reflection papers, which I really liked, it allowed me to really think about what we had been discussing in class and put it into a greater understanding of the subject matter.
Knowledge increased	5
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	4
Challenge fill-in	Some of the readings were very dense.
Course strengths	
Ways to improve course	
Overall rating	4
Overall rating fill-in	

Instructor strengths	
Ways for instructor to improve	
Preparedness	4
Clarity	3
Feedback	4
Effectiveness	4
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 11. Response 10

Gender	F
Year	2015
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	
Minor 1	Educational Studies
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	Major/Minor
Prior interest	3
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	4
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	5
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	4
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	5
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	
Ways to improve course	
Overall rating	5
Overall rating fill-in	
Instructor strengths	Always prepared and was able to explained everything clearly. During the midterms evaluation, she was able to adjust to the students way of learning.
Ways for instructor to improve	
Preparedness	5
Clarity	5
Feedback	5
Effectiveness	5
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	

Table 12. Response 11

Gender	M
Year	2015
Major 1	Economics
Major 2	

Evaluations for ECON-240-01, Economies in Transition

Minor 1	
Minor 2	
Reason to take course	
Prior interest	1
Prior interest fill-in	
Interest increased	5
Interest increased fill-in	
Effort	4
Effort fill-in	
Knowledge increased	4
Knowledge increased fill-in	
Challenge	4
Challenge fill-in	
Course strengths	Honestly, this was one of the more interesting economic courses I attended at Denison. The subject matter was unique and it was great to have it taught by a professor that had close and personal ties to Russia (the topic of our class). I especially enjoyed the articles that were assigned for class discussions. The articles were engaging, on point with the material we were expected to learn for day, and recent.
Ways to improve course	The only thing I would recommend is, less discussion and more lecture. The discussion was engaging for all classmates, but sometimes I felt as though I truly could not participate in it because I did not understand the subject material. If you could incorporate more lectures in your class that would improve it dramatically.
Overall rating	4
Overall rating fill-in	Quality was good. It was especially interesting in comparison to other economic courses I took at Denison.
Instructor strengths	Olga got increasingly better at leading class discussions as the year went on. Also playing interactive games like Queue. Very nice, available to meet, responds to emails in timely fashion, eager to answer questions, and clearly has a passion for the material she is teaching.
Ways for instructor to improve	Again, I would have liked to experience more lectures. Other than that, I had an enjoyable experience as an active participant of this class.
Preparedness	4
Clarity	4
Feedback	4
Effectiveness	4
Effectiveness fill-in	
Other comments	
Identify by name?	N
Student name and email	
