



**United States in the World 17
Economics: A Critical Approach**

Comments

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL FUTURE STUDENTS ABOUT THIS CLASS?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Take this class. It's an easy class, and it will make you a much more informed citizen. The lectures can occasionally be a bit slow, but it's clear that the professor is passionate about the subject matter and I found the ideas we learned about to be very interesting. If your goal is to learn, on a basic level, how to think about the economy, I think this class is better than Ec 10 (though I have not taken Ec 10) because it helps you see economics from more than one perspective and think more critically about the things you read and hear.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Very interesting way to learn a little about economics and the faults of the field. Incredibly low workload and a really good overview. Has its faults, but it's a good class overall

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

for an economics class, it's a great one. Surprisingly interesting, especially for Social Studies students, because it's more real world applicable than Ec 10. I just wish I had given it more of my time and attention, because I would have gotten more out of it. Marglin makes everything accesible and understandable, even for someone with no previous knowledge of or experience with Economics. The exams were not tricky, you just need to study and keep up!

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

never went to a single lecture. i don't think it's that hard. just make sure you try to reason through the somewhat bizarre logic that's presented in the critiques...

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Unless you want to be an economics concentrator, take this class instead of Ec10. You get the same material (or at least the important material for understanding on a basic level how economics works--with much less math) in only one semester, and you also learn CRUCIAL critiques of the economic framework as a whole. From Ec10 you do NOT get a good understanding of how flawed economics is. Take this class.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

This is a very good, interesting alternative to Ec10 if you do not want to be an econ concentrator. The critiques were very enlightening and showed how much of the story is "missing" from mainstream economics. The exams weren't difficult, but make sure you go to lecture, even though class can be a little boring.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Absolutely take this course! I'd already had a thorough economic training, but Marglin's opinions are incredibly interesting and valuable. Also, he brings fresh apples from his orchard to class! Also, if you're looking for an easy gen-ed, this is a pretty low time commitment.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Though lectures may be a bit confusing what you will get out of this course is absolutely worth it!



<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 3 (good)</p> <p>If you have to take economics for Social Studies, take this one.</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 4 (very good)</p> <p>keep on top of what is going on (ie go to lecture and at least glance at the readings). Don't bother with optional readings though</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 1 (unsatisfactory)</p> <p>don't take it if you want to understand economics before you criticize it</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 3 (good)</p> <p>I took USW17 because I wanted exposure to micro AND macro economics from a critical perspective, but I only had one term to dedicate to this endeavor. Well, I was exposed to all of these topics, so I do not regret taking the course. At the end, I had a basic understanding of how to think about microeconomics, the rudiments of the reasoning behind macroeconomic policy, and some very interesting (if not all very scientific, rigorous, or "economic") critiques. However, this course is a little frustrating. Lecture is interrupted by student questions of little relevance, rarely covers the day's allocated amount of material, and doesn't spend more time on more important topics. Furthermore, tests and midterms are much harder than psets; the psets aren't very extensive or challenging, and they don't require mastery of the material. You probably won't leave this course with a good idea of what the "mainstream" actually believes, since the "mainstream" isn't very well defined. You will probably leave the course with a pretty good handle on some interesting critiques (Keynesian, distributional, ecological, and foundational). A good TF is essential to the experience of this course; you need to meet weekly with someone with a talent for distilling the important points from lecture. I found the textbook readings necessary for understanding, but all tested material comes from the lecture slides. Anything marked "supplementary" is apparently optional, but probably interesting.</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 2 (fair)</p> <p>If you take this class seriously and keep up with the reading, you should be fine. Doing nothing at all until a day before the midterm, and then trying to read the entire textbook, is not the way to go.</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 4 (very good)</p> <p>It's great</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 5 (excellent)</p> <p>This class is very straightforward. If you're looking to learn hard economics, you will be disappointed -- there isn't time to go into all the mechanisms of neoclassical theory in depth. But if you just want a familiarity with the language and general applications of economics, this is perfect for you. There's lots of resources, this class makes it easy to learn.</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 5 (excellent)</p> <p>An excellent alternative to Ec10.</p>
<p>Evaluate the course overall.: 5 (excellent)</p> <p>It's unique experience, and one that non-economics concentrators (and econ concentrators too) can really benefit from.</p>



Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Marglin is a very interesting professor but his class is manageable only if you have a strong background in economics. He tends to put too much material on the final and this makes it very difficult to answer all the questions within the allotted time.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This is an awesome, unique, memorable course. It's taught with care and intelligence. You'll learn so much, both inside economics and critiquing it. I'm so glad I took it, and I won't soon forget it. It fits really well with Social Studies, especially if you take it junior year (so you can look back on all of SS10). Take this class! Don't write it off as communitics -- it provides a really necessary critical perspective and you're always allowed to disagree.

Evaluate the course overall.: **2 (fair)**

The sections are great. The first half is terrible if you have not background by the second half is a lot easier. The professor has terrible lectures

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

The content was worth taking the course, but had the course not been a *critical* economics course, I would not have taken it.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

If knowing economics is important to you, then take this course; if you have no interest in economics, you will not find the course interesting.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

This class teaches you everything you ever wanted to know about economics (and some things you didn't). Warning: That is a lot of economics and it is very easy to get lost in all the material if you're not already familiar with basic economics!! Lectures don't help either.

PLEASE COMMENT ON YOUR SECTION LEADER'S TEACHING.**Larson, Jennifer Mary**

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jenn did a very good job explaining the concepts we learned in lecture -- she always made them very clear and understandable. Sometimes I think she simplified a bit more than was necessary. She was also engaging and got people talking in section. I was also very impressed and pleased when she defended our classroom against the interlopers during our first section.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jenn tried valiantly in a section full of people who didn't seem to understand anything and given a section syllabus that asked her to basically repeat each week's lecture. Section was miserable but it wasn't really her fault. She didn't seem totally sure about all of the material but she tried. She was very nice and I liked seeing her each week.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

I was very impressed with her ability to lead a section.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn was great!! I learned everything in section and she conveyed all the material with clarity and precision. Also very funny. Great TF!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn was an awesome teacher who understood the material well and knew how to teach it to her section in a way we understood and was engaging.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

There was nothing really about which to write home, but she is perfectly competent.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Great at explaining everything.

Evaluate the course overall.: **2 (fair)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

I would not have understood anything in the course if it wasn't for Jenn.



Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn is the reason I passed this course, I really enjoyed her section and learned a lot from her teaching. She is very clear and explains things very thoroughly.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **3 (good)**

reviews of lecture, but necessary ones.

Evaluate the course overall.: **1 (unsatisfactory)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **1 (unsatisfactory)**

she just read aloud to us, barely taught anything in reality

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn is amazing. She presents material clearly and succinctly and answers questions very well. She's available and ready to help. Section atmosphere is encouraging and welcoming.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn was an excellent TF. One of the best that I've had at Harvard.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Never had a better section leader. She made concepts easy to understand and was always willing to help.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jenn was a great section leader, encouraging participation without singling out students. She grades fairly and returns assignments on time. She treats students with respect and kindness. She is knowledgeable about the subject matter, and is a very effective teacher.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Our section felt a bit lackluster, but I don't think that was Jenn's fault at all.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

One of the best section leaders I've had. Sections are SO useful and interesting. I always made sure I studied my section notes before exams. Questions were always answered helpfully and intelligently. Really really good section leader



Evaluate the course overall.: **2 (fair)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn is amazing. She should be the one teaching the course. Not only is she clear she teaches to the different backgrounds of students.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jenn is excellent - explains topics very clearly and is very approachable.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jenn was a great TF - she helped clarify all of the concepts learned in lecture (something crucial for me) in a very easy to understand, relevant manner.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Great job hitting all the main concepts that we needed to know on the problem sets. Maybe do more problems that follow the application model of the midterms and finals. Yes, just take relevant problems from practice exams and go over them in section.