

University of Michigan
 Fall 2020 Instructor Report With Comments
 FIN 503 003 - FIN 503 703
 Matteo Crosignani

25 out of 64 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	11	12	1	1	0	0	4.4	4.6	4.5
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	8	12	4	1	0	0	4.1	4.2	4.1
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	18	7	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.5	4.4
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	14	10	1	0	0	0	4.6	4.4	4.2
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	8	7	8	2	0	0	3.9	4.1	3.9
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	1	21	3	0	0	3.0	2.9	2.9
How did you participate in this course? (Q1854)	24	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.9

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Matteo Crosignani was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	21	3	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.7	4.7
Matteo Crosignani seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	23	2	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9
Matteo Crosignani explained material clearly.(Q199)	22	2	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.7
Matteo Crosignani treated students with respect.(Q217)	25	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median
Matteo Crosignani was accessible to students outside of class. (Q52)	20	3	1	0	0	1	4.9	4.8
Matteo Crosignani held students to a high standard. (Q1712)	19	6	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.8

The medians are calculated from Fall 2020 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on School of Business Administration classes.

Written Comments

Given the format of the course (e.g., fully online, in-person, etc.), what teaching methods worked well? (Q1855)

Comments
The breakout sessions to work through practice problems before reviewing them as a full class worked very well. We were able to work with a small group to practice what we learned, but then we were able to see Matteo walk through the process at the end.
Worked well over Zoom.
One breakout room to work through an example problem per class felt like the right amount. The ten-minute break was also highly appreciated – I always came back refreshed and ready to finish the class.
Breakout rooms for problem sets
Breakout sessions to work on practice problems, along with the professor walking through solutions immediately afterwards (quick feedback)
Matteo was always prepared, used a good combination of lectures, discussion, and break-out rooms, and did a great job reviewing material from previous sessions.
The use of examples with the excel spreadsheets was very helpful. The daily quizzes were good as well.
n/a
excel templates were great, solutions posted on time and clearly, accessible teacher, very patient, good use of breakout rooms, manageable problem sets
I really liked having a pre-formatted Excel sheet for each class to work from. Helped keep everything neat and allowed for learning.
Breakout rooms were very helpful, it forced us to use the excel files the instructor provided prior to class, and learn hands-on.
I appreciated the organization of the course modules — it was very clear what material was to be covered each day. I also appreciated the first 20 minutes of class were spent recapping the prior class — this significantly helped me to solidify my understanding of materials from the prior class and to reinforce key takeaways.
breakout sessions, rotating group assignments

What were the greatest challenges to your learning in this course format? (Q1856)

Comments
Not being able to work in person with classmates on problems.
N/A
Engagement level
the lectures can be hard to follow but that is a product of it being on Zoom.
I don't know how to implement any of the concepts we learned.
n/a
I am not great at finance, but the teacher made it seem very accessible
Keeping attention for two hours in a virtual environment. To that respect, I greatly appreciated the mid-class breaks.
I chose not to participate in Yellowdig — overall, I don't think it's a helpful learning tool, and clearing that off my plate was well worth any points lost for doing so. I hope to see it removed from courses in the future.

How can this course be improved? (Q926)

Comments

Remove the Yellowdig requirement. The idea to get people engaging in conversations is a good one. But in practice, people just go through and write nonsense to check a box for credit, many times not adding anything to the discussion or even just saying something unrelated at all.

N/A

Not Applicable

More emphasis on how to apply the concepts more broadly. The focus on Excel made it difficult to truly understand concepts/the logic behind what we were doing in Excel

I think Matteo is an excellent professor. It could be interesting to have additional theoretical discussions like we did towards the end of the course.

Be in person. Maybe give more concrete examples of how it relates to us in business and our everyday lives

Not sure

n/a

Nothing really. expectations were clear and assignments and structure motivated me to pay attention and do work each class so i actually learned each week instead of cramming

Have it in person.

We haven't completed the final exam for this course yet, but I'm confident it needs improvement. The plan is to provide students with a list of questions and expect students to provide responses in an excel sheet. However, we have no clear idea of expectations in terms of formatting and how much we need to elaborate our answers. Because if the expectation is to provide responses similar to assignments, there will not be enough time. There will also be a broad variation in different students' formatting and presentation of answers.

I felt some of the homework assignments were more challenging than the class materials to the degree that they did not reinforce the class concepts we had learned, but made me further confused about how concepts should be applied. I would have appreciated more frequent assignments of more moderate difficulty to reinforce the class concepts rather than occasional assignments of harder difficulty. I also would have appreciated the same group for each assignment so we could have built better rapport as a team. (All slight tweaks to the course — overall I thought it went well!)

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments

The structure and flow of the course was great and concepts built off of each other. I also appreciated Matteo taking time in one of the later class sessions to discuss the role of business in society and having a moral/ethical discussion around business.

Great course! Loved the practice problems during class. Matteo is a sweet, helpful, and amazing Professor.

Matteo is a wonderful instructor who is very patient and able to clearly explain complicated financial concepts and mechanics even to those without a business background. He took time to answer questions raised both verbally and in the class zoom chat, and always treated students with respect and encouragement. He is also the only professor who had a meaningful discussion about bias and discrimination in financial markets with us, which I appreciated taking the time to cover during the busy core.

Breadth of content

This was overall a great class. Great teaching as well.

The easy to understand spread sheets.

The concepts are really important I think

n/a

the teacher is great and more patient than I ever be

Matteo's responses were like one of those old toys where you would pull the string out from the back and it would spit out a phrase (think Andy from Toy Story). Matteo was the same way, except when you pulled the string out of his back he'd repeat back finance topics.

The organizational strengths I listed above bear repeating here, because I think organization is significantly more important for online classes than it normally would be. Beginning each class with a recap was crucial to my understanding the material, and I would have been lost without it. The in-class exercises, and their corresponding pre-populated excel sheets, were so, so helpful. The emails that were sent after each class with a short recap of what we'd learned / notes on what was up next were very helpful as well. Organizing the modules so it was clear how they fit together in a bigger picture was also very helpful. I appreciate that more tutors were added to satisfy demand for 1:1 time, and I found the tutors to be helpful when I had to miss a class. Overall, the consistency of the delivery in this class made the concepts so much easier to break down and understand. The clear organization of the course materials (Canvas site, in-class exercises, exercise excel sheets, emails following up each class, recaps at the beginning of the next class) also made it easier to stay up on the materials in the event of missing a class (or becoming distracted during a session, which was much more likely to happen with the remote format and especially a challenge this quarter with classes during election week).

University of Michigan
 Fall 2020 Instructor Report With Comments
 FIN 503 001 -FIN 503 701
 Matteo Crosignani

46 out of 64 students responded to this evaluation.

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My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)	10	15	13	7	1	0	3.6	4.2	4.1
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	26	16	2	2	0	0	4.6	4.5	4.4
Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)	14	21	9	1	1	0	4.1	4.4	4.2
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	11	12	14	6	2	1	3.5	4.1	3.9
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	1	3	36	5	1	0	3.0	2.9	2.9
How did you participate in this course? (Q1854)	45	1	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.7	4.9

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Overall, Matteo Crosignani was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	20	19	6	0	0	0	4.4	4.7	4.7
Matteo Crosignani seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	44	2	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.8	4.9
Matteo Crosignani explained material clearly.(Q199)	23	17	6	0	0	0	4.5	4.7	4.7
Matteo Crosignani treated students with respect. (Q217)	42	3	0	0	0	0	5.0	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the instructor:

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Written Comments

Given the format of the course (e.g., fully online, in-person, etc.), what teaching methods worked well? (Q1855)

Comments
I liked working on practice problems in breakout rooms with classmates.
Breakout rooms for us to discuss and actually practice the content
The class is really well-structured, the breakout groups to do the exercises together are very good to fix the understanding of the concepts.
The slides with solutions were very detailed and easy to reference after class. This combined with the excel sheets made it much easier to understand and learn the content.
online
I liked the breakout rooms with examples we could work on in class to practice the concepts.
Breaks during the class, going through examples in detail
Great slides Daily Problems helped a lot to keep up in the program Clear topics, clear explanations
Lecture + breakouts worked well! Also, daily quizzes were really helpful for making sure I was staying on track. Good mix of team/individual assignments.
Breakout rooms worked well, as did the group assignments
Teacher slides were extremely useful. The excel files that were uploaded following each class provided helpful when completing homework and reviewing material.
Break in the middle of class
slides with a lot of information, excel templates for in-class problems, breakout rooms
Fully online
I appreciated that we were able to do practice problems in breakout rooms. I also appreciated Matteo's annotations. I thought it was helpful to have the check in questions, and benefitted from the solutions being posted after the fact.
I liked the way Matteo formatted his lessons with presentation then breakout rooms then mini case
Combination of powerpoint and exercises/breakouts via Excel to apply principles
I think Matteo did a great job teaching the concepts and his slides were thorough.
No issues at all. Zoom worked out better than I thought. It's largely because the course is really structured and methodical. I give credit to the instructor.
Slides/presentation were clear. The number of homework and assignments was straightforward.
Handwriting note with touchpad
The breakout rooms to solve problems helped to reassure my learning of the course concepts
Going through the excel examples in breakout rooms and as a full class
Breakout sessions to practice problems were helpful and it was nice to have class slides ahead of time to follow along and take notes
Breakout rooms to give us time to work through some of the problem sets
Break out rooms, and lecture based instruction
-In class problems were very helpful -Tutoring was a helpful supplement -Professor Crosignani encouraged group discussion and participation which helped keep the class engaged
I really appreciated all of the pre-built excel files that were provided. It cut down on each individual student making their own which takes up valuable class time and can lead to mistakes.
I thought the class was very well structured, organized, the Professor was enthusiastic,

What were the greatest challenges to your learning in this course format? (Q1856)

Comments
I wish we went through the theoretical information more quickly so there was time to do more examples in class. We never made it through all the examples in class and I think this put students at a disadvantage.
language – Using vocabulary and language that I was not familiar with
Quant-heavy subjects such as this one are a little bit more challenging to learn remotely, but overall Matteo did an amazing job.
None.
understanding ties to other classes
It was harder to pay attention to lectures when it was on Zoom at 8AM
Difficulty of the topic
None, was well taught
It was often difficult to ask questions in the online format.
Early time slot
Studying alone, letting me sometimes misunderstand the class's concepts or formulas.
Finance is a new language for me, so I think doing this in-person would have been easier. There is more room to ask immediate follow up questions and visit with the professor after class on the way out the door. However...COVID.
my attention span to the course content suffered as a result of the delivery method. I missed out on a lot of learning opportunity because of the zoom format.
Remote format —> I believe this, while unavoidable right now, is probably the biggest hurdle.
Finance isn't something that comes natural to me, so the course format did make things a bit trickier.
Subject matter – all very new to me!
Tie with real world example due to little experiences
N/A
Diversity of participation from classmates; the same people would participate all the time
Staying engaged online is always a challenge
Lecture-heavy classes on zoom at 8 am are difficult to keep students' attention spans
Difficult to follow at 8 AM
None
No major challenges, just was a little hard at 8AM.

How can this course be improved? (Q926)

Comments

1. The professor should spend time learning about student's backgrounds before class starts. There were many people in our class with finance backgrounds. These were the people who most frequently answered questions in class. This gave the professor the impression that people were understanding the course, when only a small minority was.
2. The professor should learn more than one way to explain the course concepts.
3. The professor should spend less time on the theory and more time on the application of what we're learning. Both the concepts and the math. Ex: When is a time we may need to use one of these financial concepts in our next role?
4. Spend more time on example problems in class.

More ties to other classes

I would make the class more on the analysis of how we'd use the information instead of the actual calculations.

Promote better the participation of the class, eg. cold calls

This course could include more real world examples. The problem sets could focus on a single company and use real world data.

Work with the same groups on all problem sets, add another problem set so we don't forget the material we learned before the last problem set

start at a more basic level

prof assumed we had some basic knowledge of finance prior to starting the class

more time in class spent on rearranging equations and understanding the different parts of them

Giving students the choice to attend an in-person class

I would have liked to understand some of the "why" behind finance. I am not intrinsically interested in it, so I would have appreciated clearer explanations as to why these things were important. I also think it would have been helpful to understand more of how all of the components fit together as the course felt like a series of 11 mini-lessons at times. Finally, the homework problems felt out of reach and quite different than what we practiced in class. That made me feel defeated.

even a hybrid delivery would be significantly better than Zoom

I think I'd prefer the same homework groups for each homework, but that is just a personal preference.

In my mind, Yellowdig is not an effective tool.

More in-class examples.

We use company examples to go through problems, but I feel like we didn't go through the reason why a company would do a certain analysis or exercise

Nothing comes to mind

The virtual environment really dampened my learnings in this course.

Slowing down at the beginning of the course to help students get a solid foundation before moving on to more complex topics.

The homeworks are way too difficult in comparison to the practice problems done during lecture. I understand the intent is to challenge the students but I feel it is too difficult and very frustrating with stifles interest in the subject.

I did not find breakout sessions to be valuable, but feel this way for all classes.

More practice problems for excel

I really liked this course. I would have liked to discuss some finance concepts more conceptually as well beyond the different calculations we learnt.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments
I though the in class examples were really helpful. The professor has a strong understanding of the course concepts.
Great structure, agenda, exercises to fix concepts are a great resource, professor explains very clearly and reviews concepts very well in the beginning of the following class, which makes it easier for us to connect between subjects.
Material was well organized and thought out. The Professor was outstanding.
Ties to real life — homeloan inequalities too
It goes very in-depth into some very important information and concepts
Excellent professor who teaches well and breaks down material to be digestible, daily quizzes
Great explanations
Great class – thank you, Matteo!
Teacher, format, was well taught overall
The course objectives for each session were extremely clear. We covered a proper amount of material for the amount of sessions allotted.
well organized, structured, and ample course material provided
Answering questions by emails quickly
Matteo presented information in a clear, logical manner. The slides were easy to follow, and for the most part, the speed of the class was reasonable. I appreciated that we walked through the practice problems in class. The best part was when we reviewed material from the previous class at the start of the current class. That was helpful, especially over the long weekends from Thursday – Sunday with no class.
Matteo is a great professor
Working through problems during class with provided excel templates
I think Matteo was an excellent professor. He was clear and patient.
I thought the course was structured really well. It was very methodical and easy to follow. The pace was great. The recaps at the beginning of each class were fantastic.
Matteo did a wonderful job speaking through the material slowly, reviewing prior sessions at the start of class, and overall everything was very well organized.
Clear explanation and the preparation for the classes
Hits on all the fundamental topics without going too deep into one
Gave a very good foundation/overview of finance and Matteo Crosignani was a great teacher
Providing foundational finance knowledge
Good teacher
Professor Crosignani is a great lecturer. He's very patient with questions and clearly respects his students; I really appreciate that especially given the difficulty of the course.
Clear objectives, straight to the calculations without going overboard on explanation.
Lecture based learning + exercises in breakout rooms
–well structured –daily homework reinforced lectures –group assignments and individual assignment reinforced material from daily classes –helpful how the professor always posted answers to everything promptly