

ECON 378 Summer 2015 - CommentsResponses (All Sections): 11 Total

002 Though just a lowly PhD candidate, Professor Palsson might be the best professor that I have had. If not the best, he is certainly in the top three. One could see the level of care and preparation he put into the lectures, always striving to find economic examples for the math that we were learning. Almost immediately after class, we would receive emails addressing a question or filled with supplemental material. It helped that he had to take this same class relatively recently because he knew how to help us. He knew exactly what we were going through, something that few professors seem to know. You just felt like he cared.

002 I really loved having Prof. Palsson as our instructor for Econ 378. I was nervous coming into this class, but he was always so helpful and obviously cared a lot about helping us to learn. He really went above and beyond in doing this - walked us through concepts we were struggling with outside of class time, responded to emails quickly, etc. When concepts were difficult to understand, he was really good at clarifying and simplifying, and I am sure that he will just get better at that as he continues to teach. He was also effective at making what could be a very dry subject more interesting, by bringing real-world applications as well as humor into his classes. I feel privileged that I was able to take this class from Prof. Palsson.

002 I appreciated his care for the students and use of relatable applications of the material. Clearly he understands statistics and economics. Only advice would be to be careful of using the word "easy" to describe concepts. It's still the first time many of the students have been exposed to even the easy material and we don't want to feel slow for not understanding it right away. Also, continually reminding the class about the definitions of the variables would be helpful considering there are so many to remember. Thanks for teaching this term!

002 Concepts taught in class were overly complex and unclear. I've taken Stats and probability classes before, the teaching of this class was certainly inferior.

It's difficult to understand the material being taught. I think part of this is because the professor struggles to understand, and therefore explain the material. A second part would be that examples are done without consideration as to why an idea holds.

Overall we attempted many problems, but I don't feel I really very well understand any of the topics.

Also, tests were painstakingly difficult and time-consuming. Test preparation materials were basically non-existent (no practice exams, no review sheet, no study guide, no additional problems, review session where we rework the same homework problems).

Overall this class was a frustrating experience. The topic material is certainly difficult, but the way it was taught and presented further exacerbated the problem because it was unclear. It was difficult to obtain meaningful help in the class.

Since over half of the class withdrew from the class, I'm sure grades will be distorted which makes the class additionally frustrating.

002 I really quite enjoyed this class considering the difficult subject matter. At the beginning of the course Professor Palsson could call up students to the board, which I thought was a great idea. As the semester progressed though it stopped happening, because of the large amounts of material, and shortened time. I would have liked to have seen more of those kinds of opportunities though. I appreciated the honesty when a specific question was difficult to answer, and you didn't know the answer. Overall though thank you for keeping it as lively as the course permitted, at such an early time in the morning.

002 It was a challenging class. I feel the teacher did a fairly good job communicating the material. Throughout the class I felt a heavy need to work with the TA, and even with that help I still didn't understand all the material. I wish the material was taught a bit more clearly. Maybe if we did a bit more practice in class, to apply the things we're learning immediately, we would've understood it a bit better. I greatly appreciate that the professor adapted grading to meet the needs and progress of the class. He enabled us to get a good grade through effort even if not everything was clearly understood. I do feel like exams were challenging, and I don't think the homework assigned sufficiently prepared us for the test questions. They were more difficult in ways we weren't necessarily prepared to address from class instruction or homework.

002 I liked the class, brother Palsson knows what he's talking about. Even though it was difficult to pay attention at 8 in the morning, he knew how to handle it to make the class interesting and keep people awake. My problem was that I didn't know how to apply what was taught in class on the exams. That was my greatest weakness in this class. Either I didn't catch what was said in class or I just didn't know how to study the material and apply it on the exams. He explained how to solve some examples, but there was no way to review and examine the examples, because they were not online. Some other important information was not online either. Overall I enjoyed the class, but I wish I could have taken more advantage of it.

002 I really enjoyed the class. Professor Palsson is a great teacher. He provided a mix of humor and real-life application that helped a statistics class become enjoyable. Very passionate about economics and the importance of statistics in the field.

002 He is such a great guy! He really brings a lot of fun and Spirit to the classroom. He also has great exams... really good questions and he puts a lot of thought into it. He explains things really well too.

Some suggestions:

- Maybe give us more practice exams
 - I liked it when you got students to come up to the board to do questions at the start. I hope you can involve the students more....
 - I like it when you share about your research! Makes the lessons fun... Maybe you can share more in every lesson.
 - More data assignments.. It was fun!
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002 I think Prof Palsson is one of a kind. He's new still, and that comes across in the teaching, but I have rarely felt the level of genuine love and concern that I feel from Prof Palsson from other professors. I think that his greatest strength is that he cares about us and our wellbeing--including scholastically. That was seen in his willingness to have students over in office hours, and in how much we attended them. On top of that he would never hesitate to take time to work with students one on one according to their needs, even if that included doing his best to help students with their Econ program experience and post-graduation aspirations.

As far as teaching, I think that organization would most have helped me. I felt Prof Palsson frequently moved on to the next topic, made it relatively clear that he was moving on, but occasionally didn't tell us what we were moving on to. (Luckily Trevor normally asked "what should we call this in our notes") But I feel like some of the muddiness of my understanding different concepts and which are which come from this deficiency in division and organization. For a learner like me who best learns from what he remembers hearing and seeing in class that makes a big difference.

002 I really enjoyed the class and the instructor. He was very good at working with us personally, knowing our names, helping us individually, etc. He is still a new teacher and was working off of other professors notes often, so that made it difficult occasionally with some of the more difficult subject matter but I thought he did well anyways.
