

STUDENT EVALUATIONS

The table below is prepared based on teaching evaluations for discussion sessions of Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2016-2020), Principles of Macroeconomics (Spring 2018 & 2020), and Survey and International Economics (Spring 2017, 2018 & 2021).

Full teaching evaluations are available upon requests.

Question	N	Avg.	Econ Avg. ¹	School Avg. ²
Increased critical thinking ³	307	4.55	4.06	4.01
Knowledgeable	422	4.87	4.61	4.70
Enthusiasm	424	4.70	4.27	4.60
Treat student with respect	424	4.94	4.57	4.65
Fair grading	423	4.81	4.27	4.40
Feedback	424	4.75	4.28	4.32
Overall rating	424	4.76	4.07	4.31

Notes: 1. Econ average is the mean teaching evaluation scores of all Economic courses offered in a given semester. 2. School average is the mean teaching evaluation scores of all courses offered in Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. 3. The "Increased critical thinking" questions has been removed from teaching evaluation forms since Spring 2020.

STUDENT REVIEWS

Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 1011)

Fall 2016: ECON 1011 (Evaluation: 4.67/5)

“Steven Chen is really smart and willing to help students. Really nice person.”

“Literally the only benefit to Econ was Steven explaining it to me.”

“Good teacher. Would love to have him again.”

“This was a great help in reviewing course material! The TA was fantastic, and the discussion was a great tool in understanding confusing concepts.”

Fall 2017: ECON 1011 (Evaluation: 4.67/5)

“My instructor was a very important part to my learning this semester. I felt as if during class (*the main lecture*) concepts were spewed out but not explained in a helpful manner, and then it was expected for the students to completely be able to apply it. My instructor understood the concerns of students and made sure to take the time to go over the difficult concepts and pointed out the most important aspects of each concept. Even though I still struggled in Econ, I cannot speak higher of Steven.”

“Ruoyu Steven Chen has done an excellent job explaining concepts in discussion. He is always prepared, motivated and very helpful. He can explain concepts in multiple ways and prepares us very well for quizzes and exams. I would definitely want to have Steven as my TA again.”

Fall 2018: ECON 1011 (Evaluation: 4.77/5)

“The most helpful TA I've had at GW!”

“Well done, Steven. Really enjoyed your discussion section and help this semester and I don't think I would have made it without you. Effective TA sessions have been the best of all my courses. Thank you!”

“My TA was very helpful, his help made it possible for me and the rest of the class to succeed. I am very appreciative for all the time and effort he put in.”

“Steven was a great TA for this subject! I highly recommend him, and I would often come away confused about topics and he always knew how to explain them to us properly and concisely. I was very thankful to have him as my TA.”

“My TA was very effective in explaining concepts and is very patient with his students. Honestly good enough to teach at professor level!”

“I am very thankful for Steven; without him, I think I would've been very lost in microeconomics. Steven is articulate, engaging, and very approachable. Steven always came to discussion prepared and made sure he covered harder topics so that we could complete our practice sets and be prepared for the quizzes and exams.”

“This discussion really helped solidify my understanding of the content taught in the lectures. Steve was AMAZING, very helpful and enthusiastic about the subject. He motivated me to come to discussion every week!”

“This Econ discussion, in addition to the extra TA sessions that Steven hosts, has really helped me excel in this class. He is very knowledgeable and provides clear explanations of concepts that I did not fully grasp during lectures.”

“Steven was extremely helpful. I will miss him next semester. He was always willing to answer our questions.”

Fall 2019: ECON 1011 (Evaluation: 4.93/5)

“Incredibly helpful with practicing and memorizing concepts and ideas, without it, this class would be much more difficult due to its speed.”

“I believe that if I did not have this discussion, I would have failed the class, the instructor was very nice and helpful.”

“Mr. Chen was a great teacher! Very accessible, knew a lot about the subject and always found the simplest way to explain to us.”

“Steven is a great instructor! Really knows what he is talking about and takes topics from class that we don't understand and teaches them again AND in a new way that makes it easier for us to understand! The discussion really helped me understand the material better!”

“This is the best economics TA. Many of my peers who have other TA's go to his sessions instead due to the way he explains the work. He makes sure that everyone understands and explains everything that one may not easily understand from the professor.”

“Steven was wonderful! By far the best TA.”

“Steven Chen is a great TA. He greatly helped increase my understanding of microeconomics and I am sure I wouldn't have done as well in the course without him.”

“I feel that a majority of my understanding of the concepts covered in lecture came from this discussion class.”

“This was a very helpful recitation because the instructor was very knowledgeable and wanted to help the students do well. This class enhanced my knowledge of Econ.”

“I believe that the discussion sections were EXTREMELY helpful in order to understand the provided content.”

“Steven Chen is the best math/economics instructor that I have ever had.”

“Very informative and helpful. Went over all questions and examples until everyone understood and simplified concepts that were more abstract or complex.”

“Discussion helped clarify difficult concepts that were quickly mentioned in class; TA did a fantastic job.”

“Steven always managed to teach me something new, even if I thought I understood everything in lecture - I always appreciated Steven's helpful tips and 'tricks'. Good luck with your future studies!”

“Super helpful clarifications and different ways of looking at and explaining the concepts learned in lecture.”

“Most clear, productive, engaging class I have. Steven provided extremely clear recitation sections and TA sessions. He offered tips to solving problems that were not mentioned in lectures and explained the logic behind answers in a very digestible manner. He also had a very fair grading system and very knowledgeable about Prof. Suranovic's class.”

Fall 2020: ECON 1011 (Evaluation: 4.77/5)

“Steven Chen, our TA, was absolutely amazing at explaining economic concepts to students. There are people who call themselves teachers and then there are people who can ACTUALLY TEACH. This is someone who can actually teach. I am so grateful that I got him as my TA. He helped me understand difficult economic topics and he also taught me how to apply the concepts to problems. I hope he considers teaching full time one day because he is that great. If you're reading this Steven, know that you are a MAIN reason I passed this course *fingers crossed* Also, forget to mention that he was enthusiastic and he UNDERSTOOD that this course was hard for students. Seriously, please consider teaching full time!”

“Well organized topics and good pacing of material.”

“Ruoyu Chen adapted well to the online platform and the software and demonstration methods he used during discussion sections was easy to follow and made learning easy.”

“Really helpful applying concepts to questions in the problem set in the discussion section. Helpful responses to questions asked by students.”

“I enjoyed lectures and how the TA always critically went over things and kept a balanced standpoint.”

“Learned a lot of information and the TA helped to clear up a lot of information. The explanations from the TA were super helpful.”

“Went over problems in a very clear way.”

“Well organized, TA Chen was super helpful, knowledgeable, and patient with his students.”

“I really enjoyed the flexibility offered this semester in both the discussion sections and the lecture. Given the pandemic, sometimes I could not attend at the specific course time but recordings and posted materials still allowed me to fully understand the materials.”

“Good office hours and one on one meetings. Appreciated the flexibility with answering questions with emails and answering our questions. Also, the extra videos explaining how to do specific problems was super helpful, since we wouldn't have time to go over them during class.”

“The most helpful part of the discussion section was Ruoyu going through the tricky problems step by step. This was very helpful as I am someone who has some difficulty with math in econ.”

“I liked how Steven enhanced whatever we learned in the ECON 1011 course. Instead of only reviewing, he would also teach it in an alternate way in case we didn't catch on the first time. Steven would also go out of his way to make extra content on parts of the quiz he knew we didn't do too well on.”

“I appreciated Ruoyu's dedication to supporting us in ECON 1011. He did a good job of helping us with the more complicated problem sets. I also found it very helpful that he explained quiz questions that were often missed, as it gave us a better understanding of the course content.”

“Great discussion and Steven was very knowledgeable. Responded quickly.”

“This discussion section helped me breakdown the information and understand it.”

“Very to-the-point and the content was clear.”

“It taught me a lot of new information about basic microeconomics. It challenged me in many areas, especially in my problem-solving skills. The TA is very helpful when it comes to clarifying information.”

“Loved my TA! He was super helpful! He explained concepts multiple different times in different ways until it was understood. He was patient, made time for his students, and was knowledgeable and passionate about the subject, as well as very encouraging!”

“Mr. Chen was a great person who always made Econ easier to understand, but I just wish there was more time for the discussion sections.”

Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 1012)

Spring 2018: ECON 1012 (Evaluation 4.9/5)

“Steven has been the best TA I've had while at GW!”

“My TA was great! He was patient with questions and successfully explained concepts to students when they needed extra help. The discussion section was always well planned and helped me improve my understanding of the often challenging course material.”

“Always starts on time, very structured. Really helped supported the material learned in class, prepares us for upcoming assignments and exams the following week by going over worksheets.”

“My discussion TA was amazing. He tried his best to make what can be a boring topic interesting. He was very knowledgeable.”

“The logic of the TA is awesome.”

“Ruoyu Steven Chen was the best TA I have ever had.”

“Steven was such a good TA. He helped expand on topics I did not understand in lectures. I can honestly say I paid more attention in discussion than lecture because he was relatable, engaging, and eloquent.”

“Steven explained the concepts of Macroeconomics very well.”

“Mr. Chen is THE best TA I've ever had at GW. He is knowledgeable, patient, and explains everything extremely clear.”

“Ruoyu Chen did an excellent job of teaching certain sections and explaining how to solve problems. He did an excellent job of highlighting the most important points and helping us understand the material better.”

“I loved this section! Even though I was confused sometimes everything was well explained.”

“Steven Ruoyu Chen is a great teacher. Very nice guy and knows how to efficiently and effectively explain the course material. Keep up the good work!”

“The discussions did a good job going into detail about the topics that we covered in class as well as introducing new concepts.”

Spring 2020: ECON 1012 (Evaluation 4.77/5)

“Steven, thank you so much for your availability both in person and online. The lesson plans and problems were excellent and your feedback always on point. Great discussion sections and very well explained subjects. I learned a lot.”

“The TA was very good at communicating with the students and letting us know when things were posted and when he was available for office hours. He asked us for our feedback in order to improve the course.”

“Steven is the most amazing TA I've ever had. He made an extremely difficult subject for me much more understandable. He's so well organized with handouts, practice problems, etc. that greatly contribute to my learning and are excellent in helping me prepare for exams.”

“I had Steven as my TA for ECON 1011 as well and he is by far the best TA I've had so far in my career at GW. Even during remote learning, he remained easily accessible and open to ask questions about the online lectures. He consistently put a great effort into his work in the classroom and online while simultaneously being concerned about his student's well-being. He made the transition to online learning easier for ECON 1012.”

“Steven is amazing! I found the TA videos to be very helpful and Steven was in constant communication with his students. It was very reassuring.”

“Steven has always been available to work with me during office hours and after discussions. He has always been very flexible therefore I knew this change to remote learning would not be too difficult. He takes time to work on recorded discussion lectures and it shows.”

Survey of International Economics (ECON 2180)

Spring 2017: ECON 2180 (Evaluation: 4.6/5)

“Ruoyu is by far the best TA I have ever had. He is clear, concise, passionate, and always very helpful. Thank you Ruoyu for making this semester so great!”

“Steven Chen is an AMAZING TA. He made sense of confusing aspects of class, made the discussion sections lively and interesting, and he was kind and patient with our questions. He is honestly the best TA I've ever had.”

“The discussion sections were extremely helpful and supplemental to the class lectures.”

“Packets and practice problems were very helpful. Steven was one of the best TAs I have had at GW. He took the time to explain complex concepts slowly and carefully, frequently checked for understanding, and was always available and willing to give us any extra help he could offer.”

“I LOVE STEVEN. PLEASE NEVER GET RID OF HIM. HE WAS SO HELPFUL AND WAS SO SOFT SPOKEN. MY CAPS LOCK SHOWS HOW ENTHUSIASTIC I AM ABOUT HIM AS A TA. NEVER HAVE I EVER HAD A GREAT TA LIKE STEVEN.”

“Steven was the best TA I have ever had for Econ. He was clear and took the time to show different approaches to tackle problems. I have struggled to get Bs in my macro and micro economic courses and did not like economics as a subject. This semester has been completely different, and I will hopefully finish this class with an A. I can thank Steven for that because he was phenomenal.”

“The topics were very difficult, but the discussion helped with the synthesizing of those topics.”

“Steven was an AWESOME TA. The most helpful I have ever had.”

“I would not have done well in this class in the slightest if it weren't for this discussion with Steven.”

“My TA was the only reason I had any idea what was going on in the class. He broke down the concepts and made it wayyy easier to understand. Really knows his stuff. Bless you, Steven.”

“Mr. Chen was the best econ TA I have had at GW in my four years here. Econ has always been difficult for me, and Mr. Chen made it easy to understand and was always willing to work through problems together, making me overall more confident in my econ knowledge. Thank you!”

Spring 2019: ECON 2180 (Evaluation: 4.77/5)

“Difficult content, but Steven made a great effort to make the content much simpler and relatable.”

“Terrific TA. Would not have made it through the course without him. Very good at explaining difficult concepts, always willing to help students.”

“Steven did an excellent job with this discussion section, and I really appreciated how clearly he taught. Things that the professor made seem complicated during lecture Steven made very easy during discussion. He was willing to meet outside of class and answer even the most basic of questions. He was also just incredibly nice and funny about a topic which is obviously pretty dry.”

“What a great TA. He was very good at breaking down the concepts we were going over in class, and very helpful during office hours.”

“Steven is a great TA, he deserves much more than he is getting (I know TA's don't receive much at all). He works hard to explain the most complicated concepts in the most simple manner. He takes a great deal of care in addressing any and all questions. He guides the class time very well, and is the best econ TA I have ever had. He is so clear when describing things, and makes sure to emphasize important points. He could also tell when people were losing focus or not understanding something, and would make sure to adjust accordingly. He has great sense and is so intelligent. Please give this man a raise! He is a star.”

“Mr. Chen was an excellent TA. He did an excellent job of explaining very hard concepts in depth. He was open to questions and made sure each student grasped each concept. He made himself available to students outside of class time to help.”

Spring 2021: ECON 2180 (Evaluation: 4.73/5)

“Ruoyu is the best ECON TA I've ever met!”

“Steven is a great TA! Very helpful discussions and very fair grading policies.”

“Ruoyu did a good job as a TA.”

“Good discussion section with helpful explanations for assignments.”