

Student Feedback

Module "Introduction to Economics – A Heterodox Approach"

Conceived and taught by Michael Derrer

at Hochschule Luzern (Lucerne University for Applied Sciences and Arts)

29 respondents from the classes of 2020 and 2021

1. Mr. Derrer's style of teaching was refreshing and kept us students involved with the content. I did not attend any other course where the participants engagement was this high and where the students got included so much in the process. The various teaching methods used by him showed us that there was something for everyone and kept our sessions diversified. Mr. Derrer requested our feedback several times and always tried to adapt his style of teaching accordingly to benefit our learning process. Instead of teaching us one sole correct theory, Mr. Derrer introduced us to a variety of theories and ideas and left us with a choice of what we personally considered useful. This, I think, is a very appropriate method to teach young adults since it increases our capability of critical thinking and does not underestimate our ability to think for ourselves. I hope to have further modules using this style of teaching.
2. I would like to thank you once more for the module and introduction to economics. Out of the six modules I have taken during the first semester yours was by far the most comprehensive and advanced in terms of knowledge transfer and applied teaching techniques. Therefore, no suggestions to improve the module are needed in my opinion.
3. I am 100% positive that every student appreciated the engaging and interactive learning we had during the semester. The economic schools chosen by you are not only relevant for us, but we can also use them in real life. I wouldn't change anything in regard to the teaching skills or content. Your teaching was the best I have seen so far at the university. So keep up the good work !!!
4. I found the module Introduction to Economics one of the best I've had in the whole master program. There are several reasons for this. First, I really loved being exposed to so many different economists and ideas. Second, the critical reflections and exchange I've had in class with my fellow classmates and the professor were very enriching. The way in which Prof. Derrer led the class really facilitated the exchange of ideas. Third, I want to thank Prof. Derrer for putting so much effort into the presentations, readers, class structure, etc. As a student, one can tell when a professor really is interested in the students' learning and encourages us to be critical thinkers. Thank you for that, it was a pleasure.
5. I very much liked your teaching style and openness so that we could express our thoughts boldly and without judgment. I am also very impressed with your equitability, not to shift towards one economic school or the other. Instead, we had the opportunity to share our life examples, beliefs, disbelief, and not be bent to one side or the other. I want to take the opportunity and thank you for your time and effort in nudging us to think differently.
6. Your module was by far the best and most comprehensive of the entire master's program.
7. I would like to compliment the course. The content and design of the class were very informative but also interactive. As a result of the course, I feel much more confident to participate in an economic discussion and express my own opinion. It was great that we did not just look at the classical point of view, but that the class was open to all possible existing economic approaches. I think that such a subject should be introduced everywhere as a basic subject at our schools. It encourages us to think outside the box.
8. I was skeptical how this course would turn out when I was assigned to it as an additional module: after all, all I remembered from my prior economics class were phrases like "supply and demand curve". I never really comprehended or digested that course. Throughout the module's journey, I would conclude that it has been an extraordinarily insightful experience, with knowledge and

viewpoints I had no idea existed. If additional elective economic modules were available, I would not hesitate to sign up for a follow-up course.

9. As a bachelor graduate in economics, I was convinced that my basic knowledge would be extensive and that I would have understood what economics is. This module gave me an understanding of the bigger picture, and I learned to love economics even more. The courses with Mr. Derrer were extremely instructive since we had interactive lessons that allowed us to discuss theories and ideas with each other. The tools provided were designed to enable us to reflect on what we had learnt and to draw our own conclusions. This module was very useful for me, and I am also convinced that every business student should have this perspective.
10. In full and complete honesty, I was in no way looking forward to this module. The only experience I had with economics prior to this date were my friends from university who studied economics as their undergraduate degree. These people were typically male and constantly tired. However, since September 2021 I've developed somewhat of an affinity for economics. Well, heterodox economics to be specific. I never thought that delving into the different schools within economics would be as enjoyable as it was, knowing all the differences and how each school interprets issues was much more fascinating than I initially assumed. I found this course to be surprisingly enjoyable and informative.
11. The course was the most interesting for me the last semester. I really enjoyed the classes because they were always interactive. I believe it helps us better understand and remember the material we have learned. This module has motivated me to continue studying economics in my spare time and has also given an idea of what kind of topic I will be writing my master thesis on. To conclude, I would like to reiterate that I find this course very interesting and would gladly include more hours of study in it.
12. I was impressed by Prof. Derrer's wide range of teaching methods. So, the course was never boring. This was also related to the lively discussions we had in class. I think these discussions in class marked me the most.
13. The method by which this course was taught was phenomenally amazing and resources provided were well suited for the program. I enjoyed the interactions in class, which give me a broader perspective on the topic. The teacher clearly wants his students to really understand the topic, letting us ask as many questions as we can and in general wanting to know our opinion on the topic being discussed. This method of teaching was greatly successful and can only be achieved in my opinion by a teacher who deeply cares about his students and what he is teaching to them. Prof. Derrer's constant passion and dedication is something I will never forget. In my humble opinion, I would say this was the best class I attended this semester, and I would give it a 10/10 and highest rating for its impact on my academic life.
14. With the knowledge gained from Mr Derrer's course, I can now classify and question world views and attitudes much better. I would also like to mention Mr Derrer's unbiased way of teaching. Thanks to his humour, learning was fun. I was impressed by the wide range of teaching methods. I can imagine that economics is a very dry and boring subject without the right teaching skills.
15. I found the classes well-balanced and well-presented. The teaching made the classes stand out for me compared to other modules this semester. I enjoyed having an open-minded professor that presented in a very neutral manner yet managed to engage students and encourage them to bring in their thoughts. The study material was well-prepared and well-laid-out (and it has to be said, that was not the case in all the modules I attended). We were given enough opportunities to explore our thoughts, express our idea without wondering if they were right or wrong. Many ideas came out of this, many of which I probably would not have thought of otherwise. The professor's passion for the subject was inspiring.
16. The didactical method of the Introduction to Economics module was by far most interactive course in the first two semesters. The reading material was challenging enough that participants were engaged, yet not discouraged from the amount of work. Since I have never had interaction

with economics students, I was very ignorant and not interested to the topic itself. Now I am able to assess the political decision-making in a different perspective than I did before.

17. Especially after all the rumors I've heard about economics, I really didn't want to attend this class. I was told by a few students that economics is very hard and that most probably I would fail. Now, I am very happy that I have attended this course. I would really recommend Prof. Derrer due to his teaching style, managing the class, the way he motivates the students, and being available whenever needed, to any student. Consequently, I can say that this class is one of the courses, in which I was never bored or unfocused.
18. This is my first time taking an economics class covering both micro and macro-economics. I can pleasantly say that this entire module has completely shifted all my pre-conceptions of what economics was about. The objective of this course was not to make us look at certain economic schools as good or bad, but to analyse and consider for ourselves what we do and do not agree with rather critically. Professor Derrer continuously encouraging us to think for ourselves also contributed largely to me enjoying this class and eagerly looking forward to every session.
19. I really appreciate that I have had this opportunity unlike many other economic students. I learned that there are economists whose goal is to improve the economy to provide a better living for so many people. I hope one day I can be one of them.
20. It may sound weird, but I felt that Mr. Derrer made me like economics and awoke the interest that I never thought I would have. I found myself enjoying reading and discovering the material given for this class. I am glad I had the chance to be part of this module. During the course, we were pushed in a good way to think critically, to be open and brave to share our thoughts and point of view. There was no correct or incorrect answer or opinions, nor the imposition of the professor's opinion. Instead, there were open discussions where we could even learn from our classmates.
21. I can say that this module was one of my favorites. It was insightful and exciting. I felt I learned a lot from the method of teaching of Mr. Derrer. I never thought I would enjoy this module, but surprisingly, I liked it a lot.
22. At the university I studied before, to be honest, I was shocked at how monotonous the teaching was in some lectures. There was no questioning and what was presented by the teacher had to be taken as correct. For professional reasons, I then changed to the University of Applied Sciences in Lucerne. I was quite surprised when I encountered a different procedure in the first economics lesson compared to what I had known. But I really liked it! The course Introduction to Economics has included well-suited, various contents and different methods were used. There was not only frontal teaching, but much more. This meant that the material was learnt much more efficiently. In addition, there was a lot of discussion and own experiences were brought in, which led to a bigger picture for each individual. I am grateful for having visited this class and am happy about my learnings.
23. Unlike other classes, thanks to the methodology implemented by the teacher to develop the course, we had the opportunity to interact, have fun and expand our network, which made the subject easier to understand. I found it extremely valuable since usually, the teachers keep almost a monologue throughout the class, and the participation of the students is very little, which prevents us from getting to know each other and building friendships.
24. I am extremely happy with the outcomes of this course and the knowledge I have received. It gave me many new perspectives on economics, especially on its complexity and fluctuation. I had a chance to learn about different principles of different schools of thought, their positions, ideas, and criticism, and with the limited time we had, I still feel like there is much more exploring left for me to do. I have enjoyed the teaching methods provided during the module; I am surely planning to try discussing the materials I learn more often with others for deeper understanding and exchanging of knowledge and gaining new perspectives. I will probably use the provided educational resources for myself also in the future.

25. I appreciate the fact that no specific views were forced upon us, and we were eventually free to interpret and have own opinions. Those two days a week, on which we had class, quickly became a highlight for learning and getting new insights. The presentation task increased my enthusiasm and I really enjoyed doing it. I am pretty sure that I spent more time than expected working on it, as I really wanted my classmates and professor to be interested throughout the whole presentation. Also very much appreciated were the readers provided by Prof. Derrer, they had a lot of insightful information, and it is very clear that a big amount of time and effort was put into creating them and making them attractive for us. Something I will never forget, is the enthusiasm and devotion that Prof. Derrer always showed. Different teaching strategies were constantly pursued. This created a very comfortable atmosphere where we all felt confident enough to share our own experiences and opinions while Prof. Derrer showed genuine interest. And I have to say, just because we are master students does not mean that lectures must always be so serious and become boring. When teachers authentically enjoy what they do, it is reflected to the students and the process becomes more enjoyable for everybody. Overall, this module was different to what I initially expected. It was interesting, insightful, and quite overwhelming but I did learn a lot.
26. Something that I feel was extremely memorable about this class was definitely the teaching style. I found the lectures to be a very enjoyable mixture of information on the economic schools as well as engaging conversation or activities. Students being able to include input from their cultures, experiences and studies was very informative. I found the module to be entertaining while also being informative, I was very pleasantly surprised, and I will have a fond place in my heart for economics from now on.
27. I would like to thank you for the inspiring class. I have to say that I really came to enjoy the course. I believe you have managed to achieve all your goals for the class, and I believe this is also one of the reasons why I learned so much in class. My opinion is that frontal teaching is an outdated form of teaching and I tend to learn a lot more when given the opportunity to discuss the topics with other students, especially in a class as diverse as this one was. Therefore, I would strongly recommend continuing to teach the course in this style.
28. I would like to thank Mr. Derrer for his amazing teaching style and engagement towards the course. There are so many aspects that we have not seen in other courses, such as group discussions, debates and expressing personal opinions. This is a great way of engaging and motivating everyone to participate actively in a classroom setup. The materials such as readers, presentations and videos were carefully selected and simplified to fit into the course.
29. The course with you was a milestone in my whole life education and I really hope that future students will have the same luck as me and develop their own perspective about the current economic system. It's not about adding another point to our CV, but about creating a better society.