

Individual Report for Fa19-NUTB-0238-01-Economics for Food & Nutr Pol (William A. Masters wmaste01)

Project Title: **Fall 2019 Course Evaluations - Friedman**

Courses Audience: **7**

Responses Received: **6**

Response Ratio: **85.71%**

Creation date of the Report: **Wednesday, January 08, 2020**

Summary of Results

Course evaluation summary

Question	Course		School (Friedman School of Nutrition)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
1. This course met its defined objectives (as described in the course abstract and the syllabus).	1.33	0.52	1.63	0.81
2. The amount of material covered in the course was effective for my own learning.	1.33	0.52	1.80	0.97
3. The assigned readings for the course were instructive and relevant to the course objectives.	1.60	0.55	1.79	0.89
4. Information communicated by guest lectures was useful.	1.00	0.00	1.68	0.80
5. The workload for the course (readings, homework, papers, etc.) was effective for my own learning.	1.50	0.84	1.92	1.02
6. Audio/video media was relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).	1.17	0.41	1.59	0.71
7. Experiential activities outside of the classroom were relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).	1.00	0.00	1.63	0.81
8. Overall, how satisfied were you with this course?	1.50	0.84	1.88	1.01
Overall	1.30	0.57	1.74	-

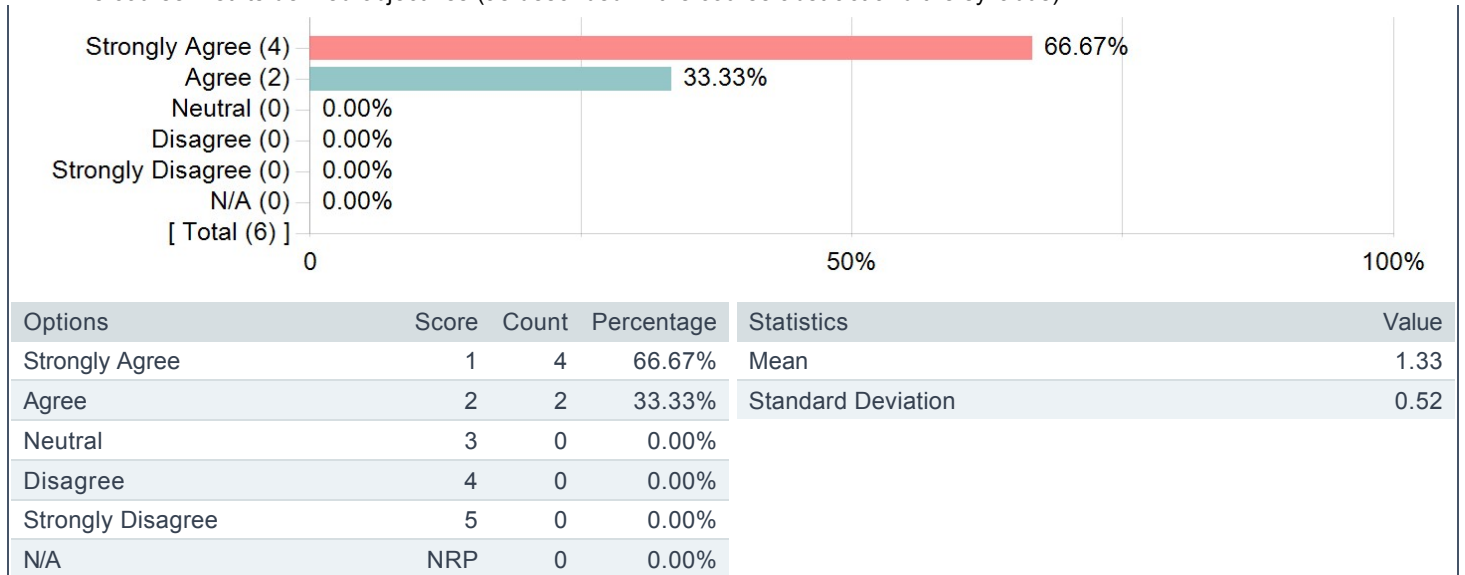
Instructor evaluation summary

Question	Course		School (Friedman School of Nutrition)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
15. The instructor was prepared for class.	1.17	0.41	1.40	0.67
16. The instructor communicated the course concepts clearly.	1.33	0.82	1.62	0.83
17. The instructor responded clearly and completely to questions and/or feedback.	1.17	0.41	1.52	0.78
18. The instructor stimulated enthusiasm and interest in the subject.	1.00	0.00	1.40	0.73
19. The instructor was available for help outside of the class.	1.00	0.00	1.56	0.77
20. The instructor provided useful feedback on assignments and exams to date.	1.00	0.00	1.74	0.95
21. The instructor was sensitive to issues of diversity (e.g. race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation).	1.00	0.00	1.53	0.76
22. Overall, how satisfied were you with this instructor?	1.17	0.41	1.55	0.83
24. The course included relevant concepts of diversity and social justice.	1.50	0.55	1.91	0.97
Overall	1.15	0.41	1.58	-

Detailed Results of Course Evaluation

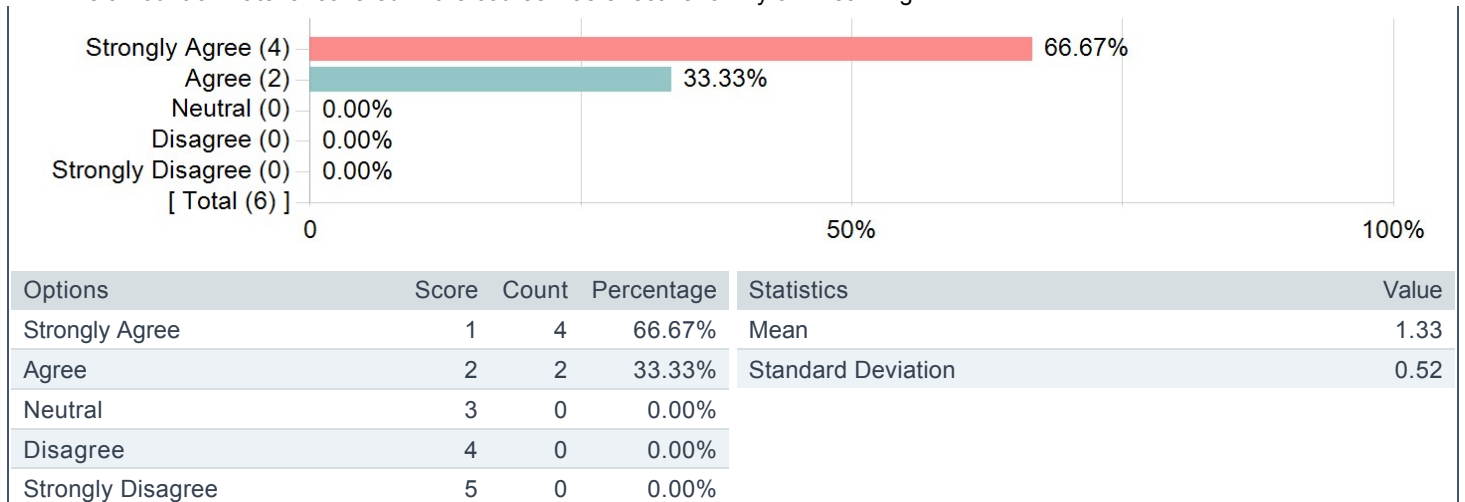
1. This course met its defined objectives (as described in the course abstract and the syllabus).

1. 1. This course met its defined objectives (as described in the course abstract and the syllabus).



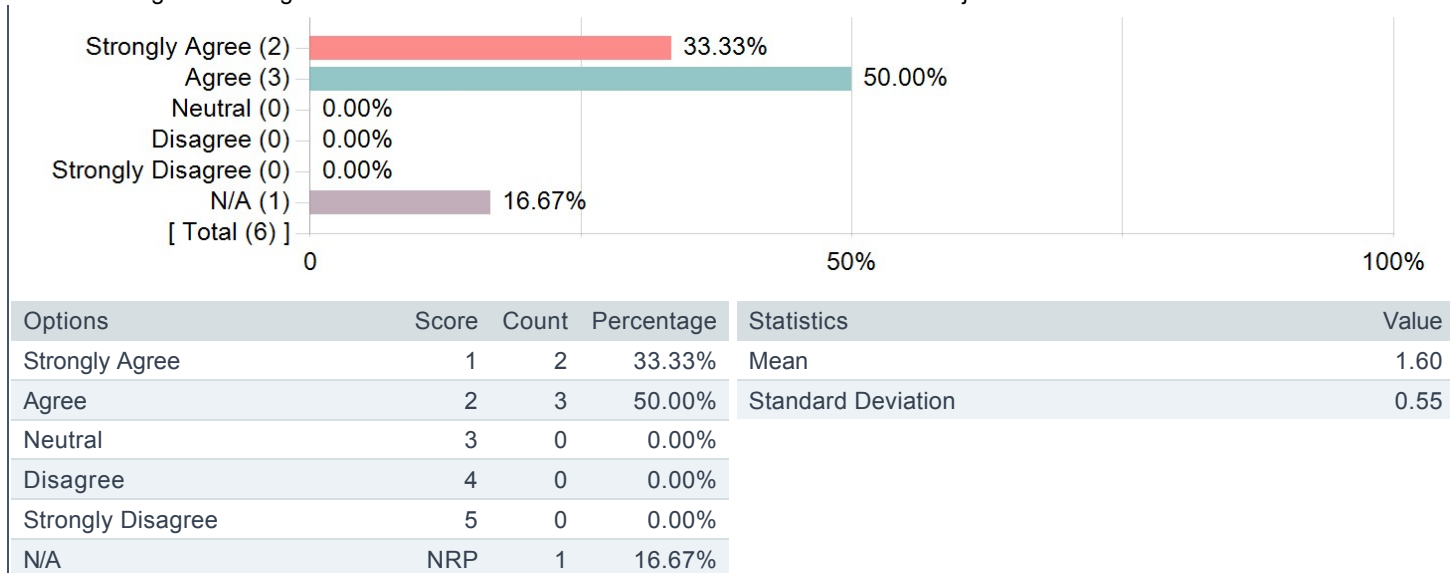
2. The amount of material covered in the course was effective for my own learning.

1. 2. The amount of material covered in the course was effective for my own learning.



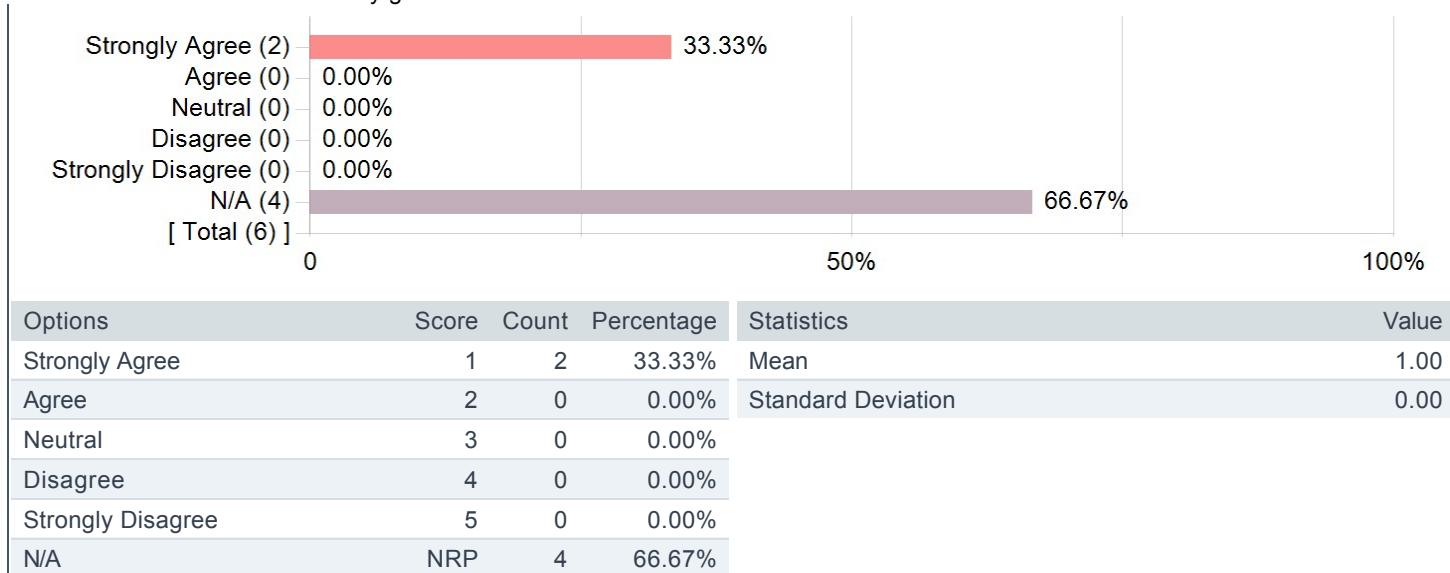
3. The assigned readings for the course were instructive and relevant to the course objectives.

1. 3. The assigned readings for the course were instructive and relevant to the course objectives.



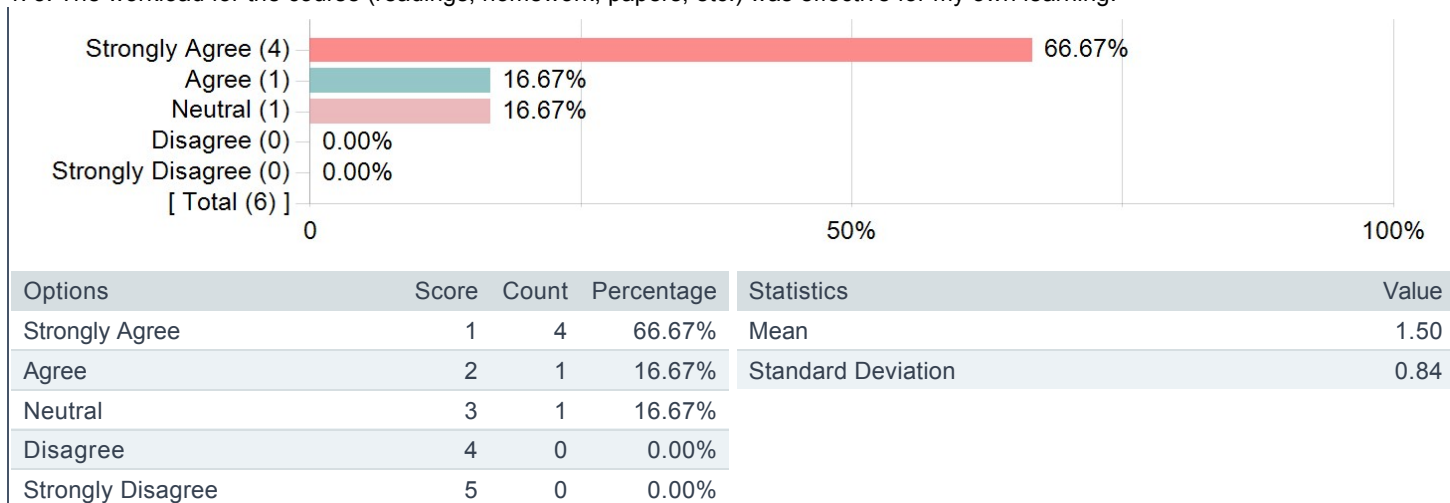
4. Information communicated by guest lecturers was useful.

1. 4. Information communicated by guest lecturers was useful.



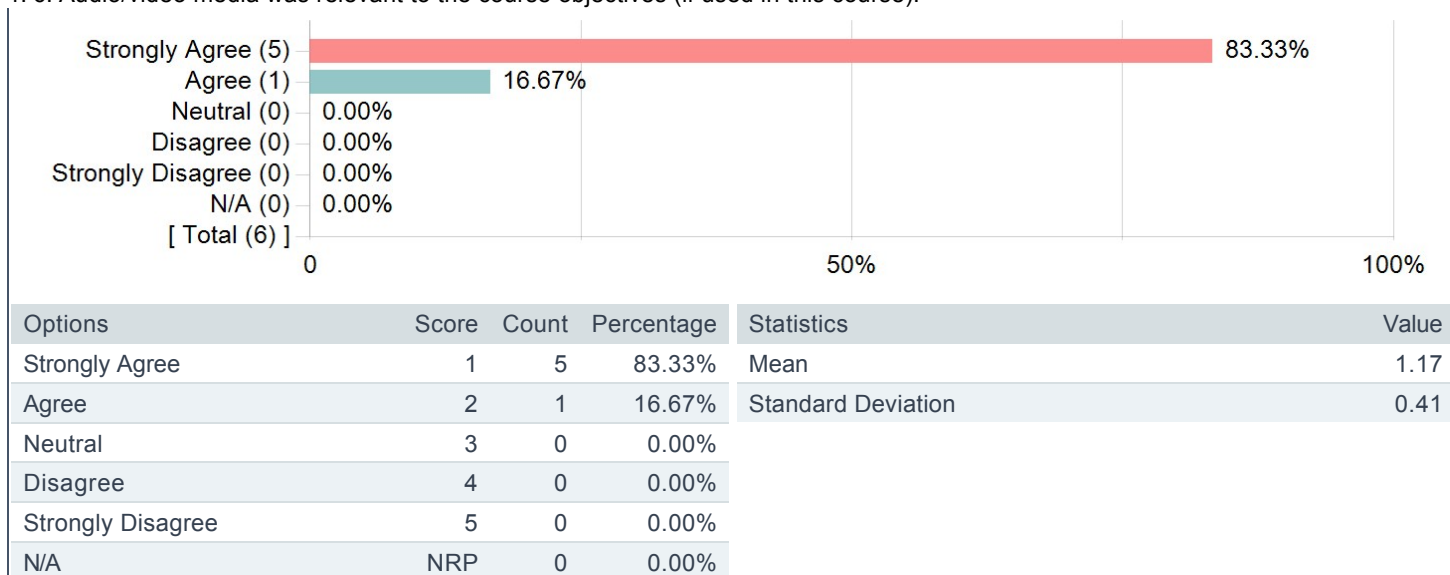
5. The workload for the course (readings, homework, papers, etc.) was effective for my own learning.

1. 5. The workload for the course (readings, homework, papers, etc.) was effective for my own learning.



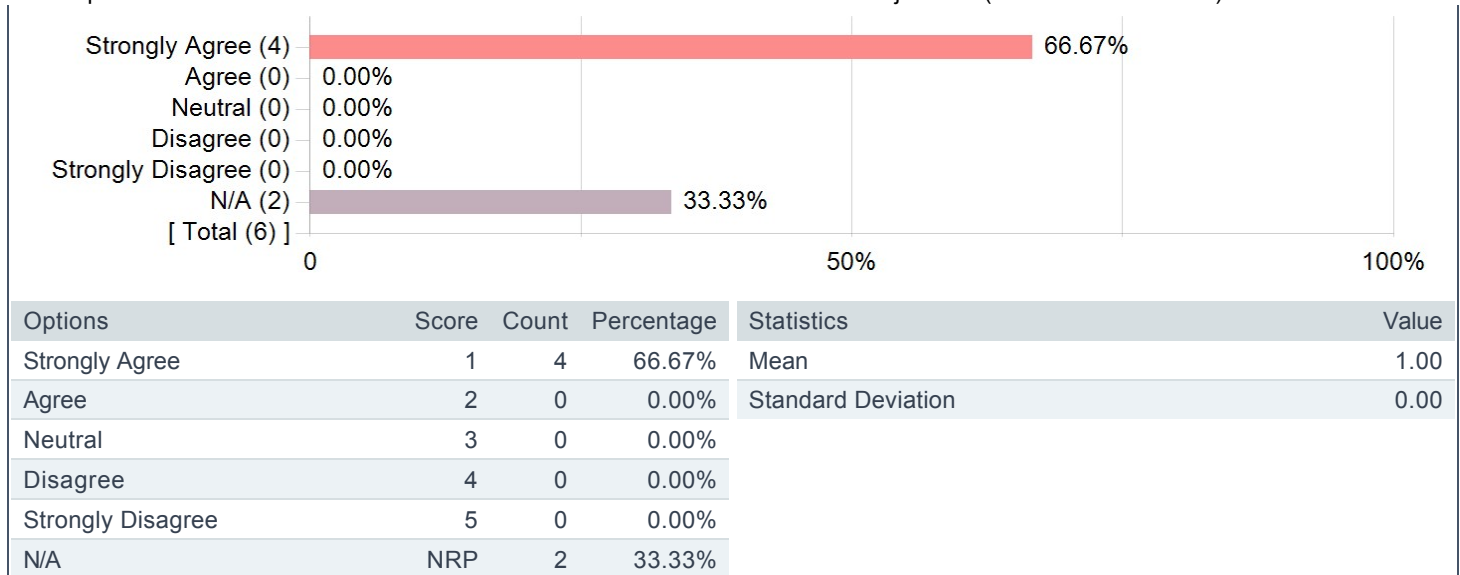
6. Audio/video media was relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).

1. 6. Audio/video media was relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).



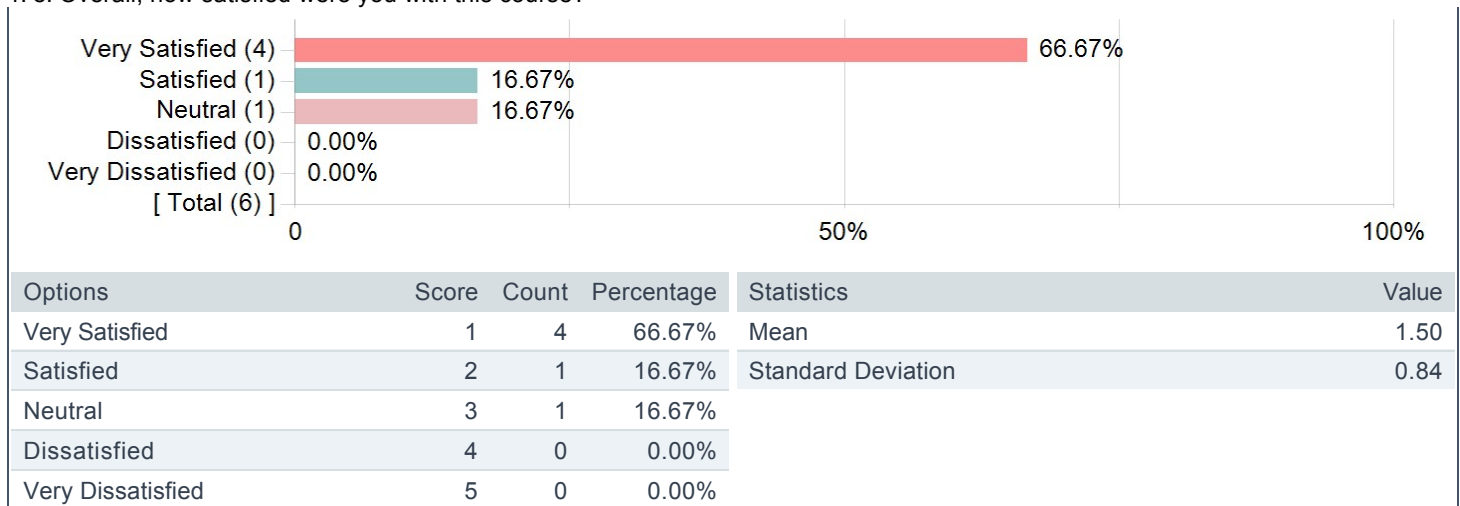
7. Experiential activities outside of the classroom were relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).

1. 7. Experiential activities outside of the classroom were relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).



8. Overall, how satisfied were you with this course?

1. 8. Overall, how satisfied were you with this course?



Open-Ended Feedback

9. Comments regarding the assigned readings:

Comments
n/a
Given I have requested an Incomplete, some of the questions were marked either neutral or N/A.
I loved this course and the professor and TA!

10. Comments regarding guest lecturers/speakers:

Comments
n/a

11. Comments regarding the Teaching Assistant(s) involved with the course (if applicable).

Comments
Lucy was a wonderful, responsive, and thoughtful TA. I really appreciated having her in this class.
Lucy was very helpful, I feel lucky to have had her expertise over the course of the semester.
Lucy was helpful, knowledgeable and made herself available when I needed assistance. I appreciated having her as the TA.
Lucy was incredible. SO smart and she was always happy to schedule time with me whenever I needed help with anything. She was a big part of my success in this course.

12. Name at least one thing that should definitely not be changed about this course:

Comments
Practically, EVERYTHING! This class is probably the BEST course in the MNSP program by far. Other professors should really look to Will Masters as an example to structure their courses, coursework, lectures, etc. He is so detailed, thorough, and brilliant. His communication is superb, which I think is truly lacking amongst other professors in the MNSP program (ie he takes the time to introduce himself and the course's content, while also taking the time to conclude his class – few other professors have done that). He leads with brilliance, intelligence, and common sense. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed his class – every last bit – and am sad it has come to an end. I'm walking away with a perspective I truly didn't have before and am thrilled to be able to apply this worldview on all other aspects of work and life. Thank you Will!!!
The high quality videos that Dr. Masters recorded were incredibly interesting. I really enjoyed that he did not simply read off of the slide but gave lectures as he would in person. Hearing about personal stories and historical events helped me better understand new or more abstract concepts.
Continuing to provide prompts or questions to help jumpstart class discussions would be helpful.
The course project was interesting and challenging. And I feel the requirement to review another student's project was helpful in developing my own.
Provision of resources and up to date links to useful content is very helpful.
Professor Master's and Lucy's support and feedback – it was invaluable!

13. Name at least one thing that should be improved about this course:

Comments
I think it'd be great if there was professor/TA participation in the weekly discussions to help give them more "life." I think there was great potential for the weekly discussions to be more productive and engaging, but that they needed a catalyst to promote this. This is certainly an extra, but I would've appreciated light readings/articles/new articles to illustrate relevant economic concepts discussed to help tie concepts together. Lastly, it'd be great to have more examples in lectures, meaning, if we are discussing how to use/create a certain type of graph, that a related news article could be used as an example to run through the economic principles to help better guide us for our weekly assignments.
Towards the end of the semester, example homework assignments were provided to clarify formatting and instructions. This was very helpful and would be beneficial for future students if provided when assignments are made available. I felt that I spent a disproportionate amount of time unnecessarily struggling through some assignments in ways that could have been avoided with 1–2 example diagrams.
Might not be necessary to offer the economics primer course! I got too nervous at the beginning of the year and spent a lot of time on it before classes began, but it did not seem all that useful.
More details on how to complete the exercises, some of the instructions were vague and samples could aid in performance.
I think that the course project was a very good way to demonstrate our grasp of economics as it applies to food security, food production, and individual choices. It might be nice to have a third check-in with the project. Maybe a required draft review – even if it's just between students.
It would have been helpful to me to know from course description how much Excel is used. If not a prerequisite, just a note that comfort level in Excel is required to successfully keep up.
The assignment directions could be a bit more concise and clear at times.

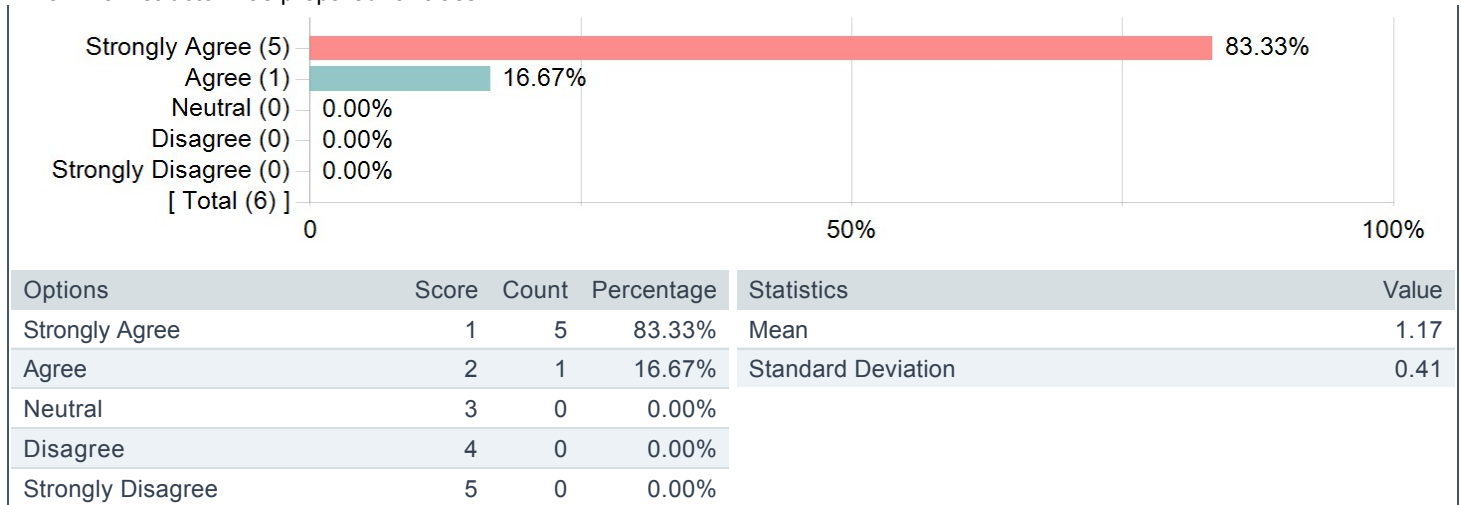
14. Additional comments regarding any other aspect of the course:

Comments
n/a
This was by far my favorite course of the semester. Dr. Masters really makes an effort to get to know his students and connect class materials to career interests. I really appreciated how organized the class Canvas site was. As challenging as they were, the current events assignments were very effective in getting me to apply class material to actual issues shared in the media. Out of all my courses, this used the greatest variety of digital tools (searching for current events about topics I would otherwise not look for, downloading and transforming data for databases I had never used previously, creating high quality charts and diagrams, labeling figures properly) and used them very well.
This course had a small group of students and I think that we benefited from that small group. We were able to get to know each other a little better in residency and that carried through the rest of the course.
Office hours for remote students was very helpful.
I learned so much and am super happy I took it!

Detailed Results of Instructor Evaluation

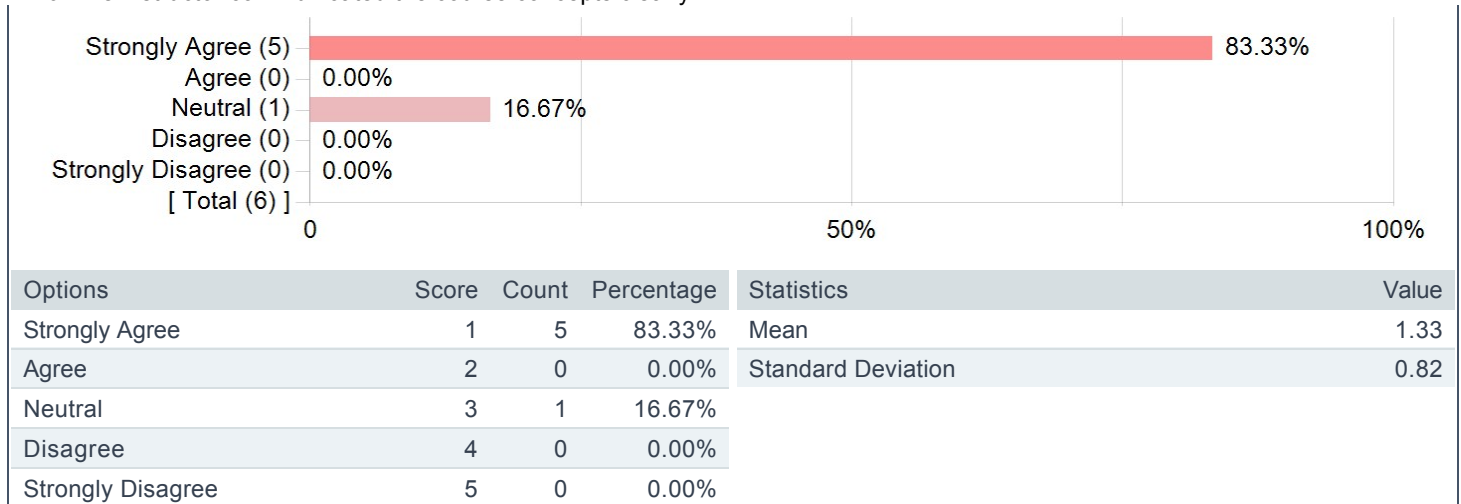
15. The instructor was prepared for class.

1. 15. The instructor was prepared for class.



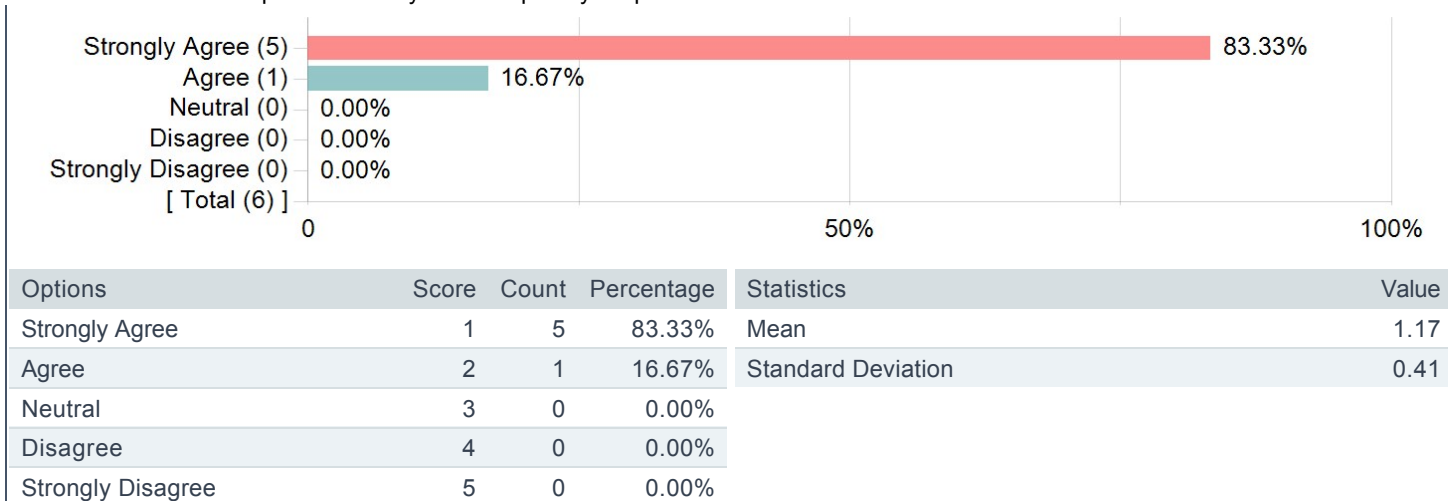
16. The instructor communicated the course concepts clearly.

1. 16. The instructor communicated the course concepts clearly.



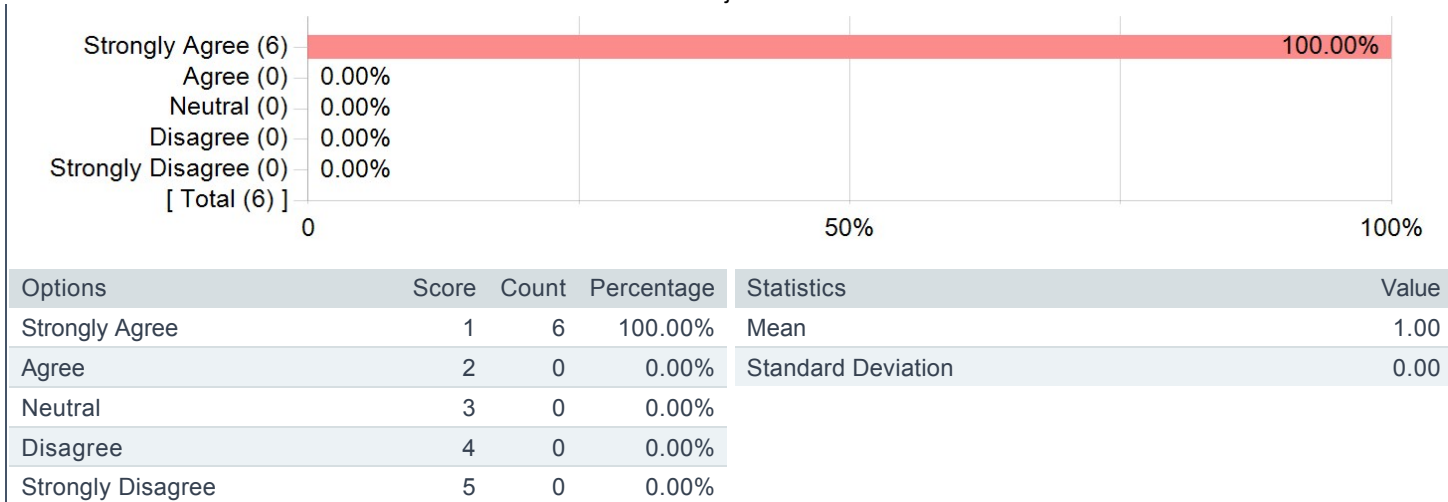
17. The instructor responded clearly and completely to questions and/or feedback.

1. 17. The instructor responded clearly and completely to questions and/or feedback.



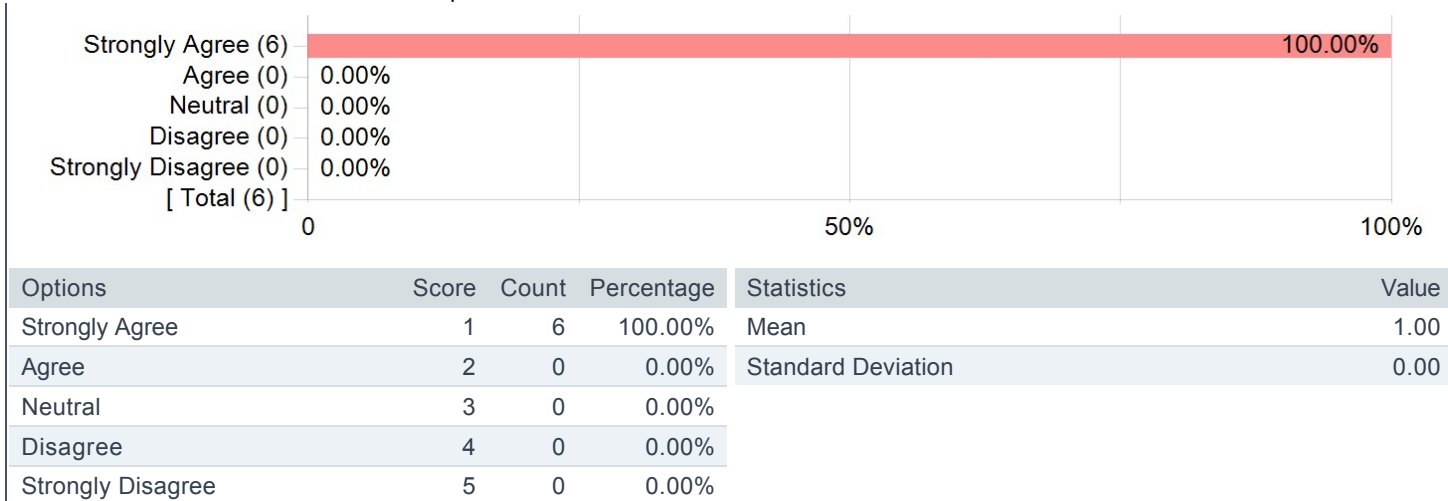
18. The instructor stimulated enthusiasm and interest in the subject.

1. 18. The instructor stimulated enthusiasm and interest in the subject.



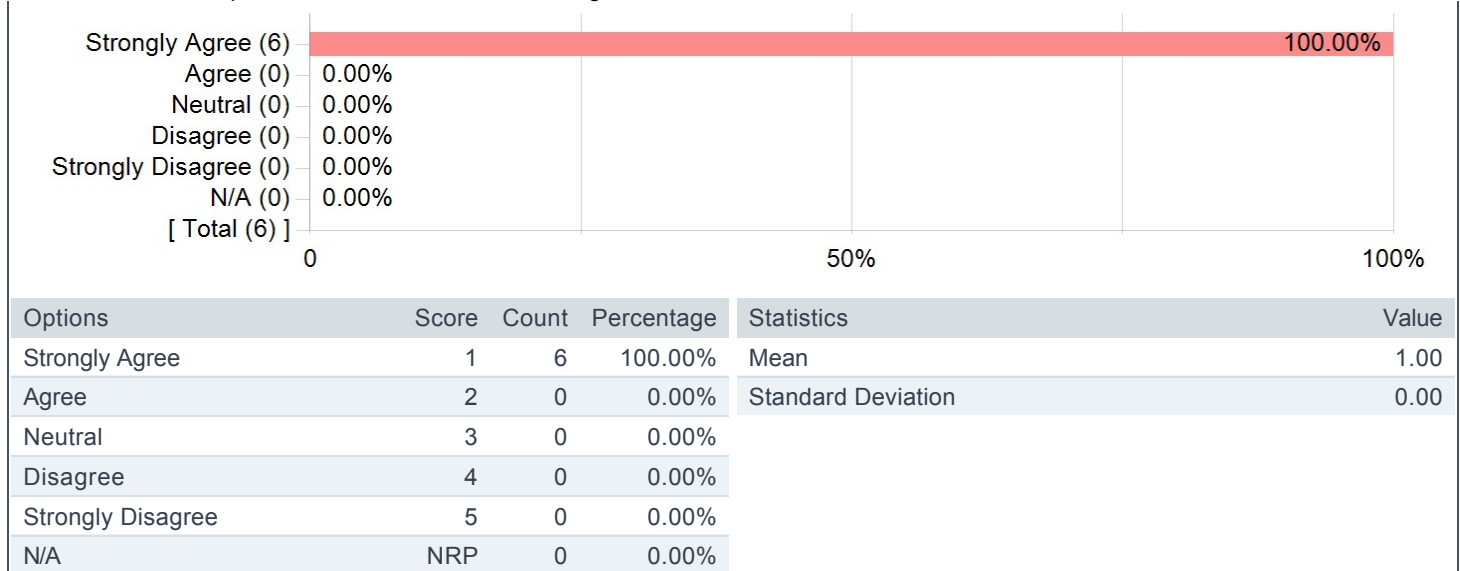
19. The instructor was available for help outside of the class.

1. 19. The instructor was available for help outside of the class.



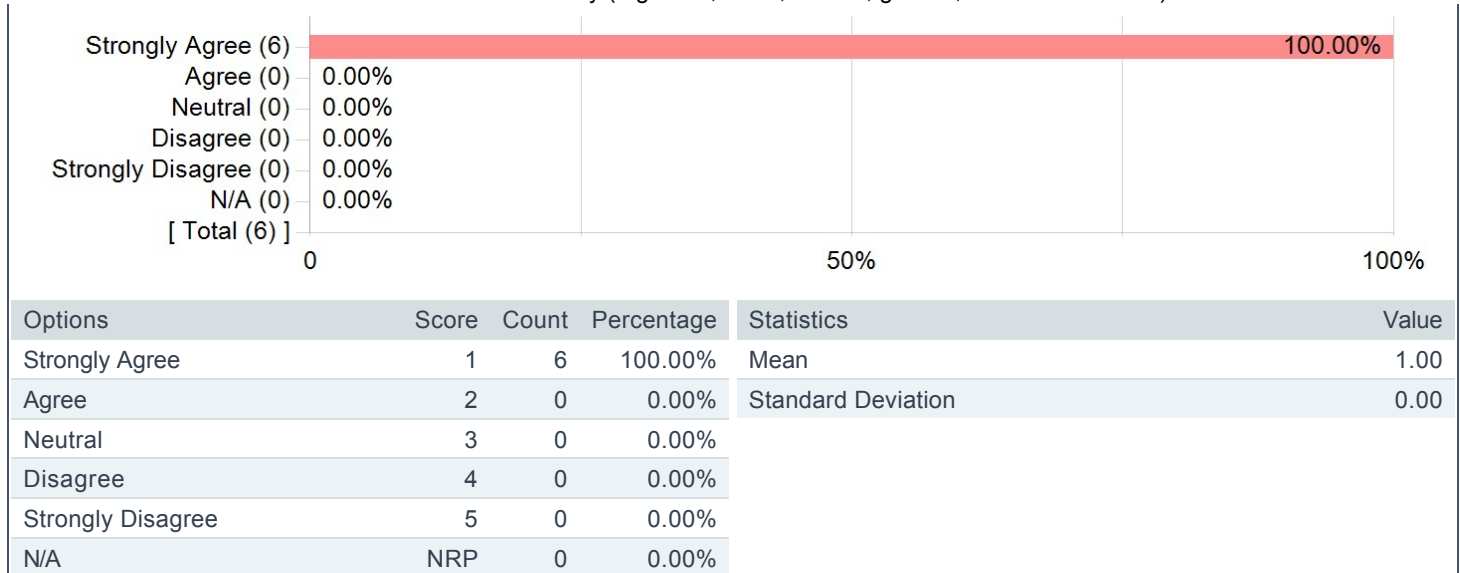
20. The instructor provided useful feedback on assignments and exams to date.

1. 20. The instructor provided useful feedback on assignments and exams to date.



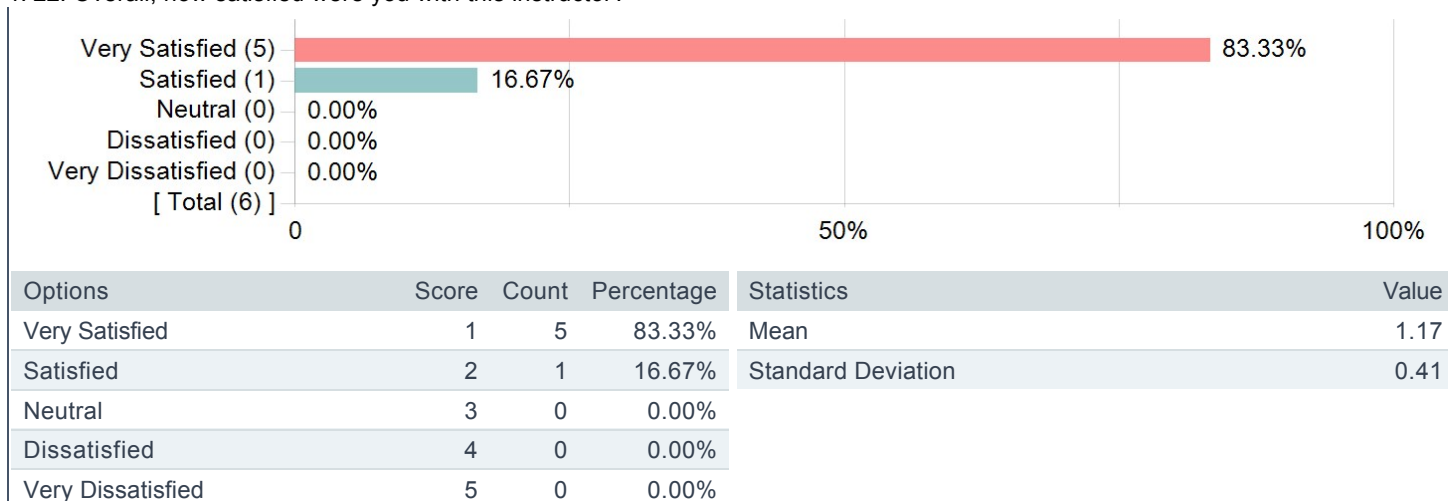
21. The instructor was sensitive to issues of diversity (e.g. race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation).

1. 21. The instructor was sensitive to issues of diversity (e.g. race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation).



22. Overall, how satisfied were you with this instructor?

1. 22. Overall, how satisfied were you with this instructor?



23. Additional comments regarding the instructor:

Comments
Excellent work Will, you should be proud of the work that you do and the quality of instruction you provide. You are by far, the strongest professor in the MNSP program.
Though this was an online-based course, I felt like Dr. Masters helped to foster an engaging, inclusive environment between students. Those who were interested were able to learn from one another and participate in interesting conversations about classroom materials. Online and in-person office hours were accessible and helpful. There are many distinguished professors like Dr. Masters, but none at Tufts have shown a genuine curiosity about students' interests and career paths as he has. Coming to class on Saturday and Sunday for the in-person sessions isn't attractive during enrollment, but it was time very well spent learning the material and collaborating with the teaching team and other students.
I think regular office hours were very helpful to me. Those meetings provided an opportunity to discuss the weekly topic and shore up (or confirm) my understanding. Also, those sessions were a good chance to get some of the kind of discussion going that would happen in a regular classroom lecture setting.
Will provided constructive, helpful feedback on the project and other assignments. That feedback was helpful in developing my understanding of the topics. His knowledge of the subject and, particularly, the context of world political changes made the course richer. He helped me learn to apply the skills of economic analysis, not just learn facts.
He was amazing, knowledgeable, kind, supportive and was always available whenever I needed help.

24. The course included relevant concepts of diversity and social justice.

1. 24. The course included relevant concepts of diversity and social justice.

