

Individual Report for William A. Masters (Sp24-NUTR-0238-01-Econ Food and Nutrition Policy)

Project Title: **Spring 2024 Course Evaluations - Friedman**

Courses Audience: **39**
Responses Received: **17**
Response Ratio: **43.59%**

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).	1.47	0.72	1.47	0.74
2. The amount of material covered in the course was effective for my own learning.	1.47	0.62	1.59	0.85
3. The assigned readings for the course were instructive and relevant to the course objectives.	1.63	0.62	1.60	0.83
4. Information communicated by guest lectures was useful.	1.00	0.00	1.45	0.68
5. The workload for the course (readings, homework, papers, etc.) was effective for my own learning.	1.41	0.62	1.65	0.87
6. Audio/video media was relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).	1.64	0.50	1.41	0.59
7. Experiential activities outside of the classroom were relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).	1.67	0.52	1.34	0.56
8. Overall, how satisfied were you with this course?	1.71	0.92	1.66	0.89
Overall	1.50	0.67	1.52	-

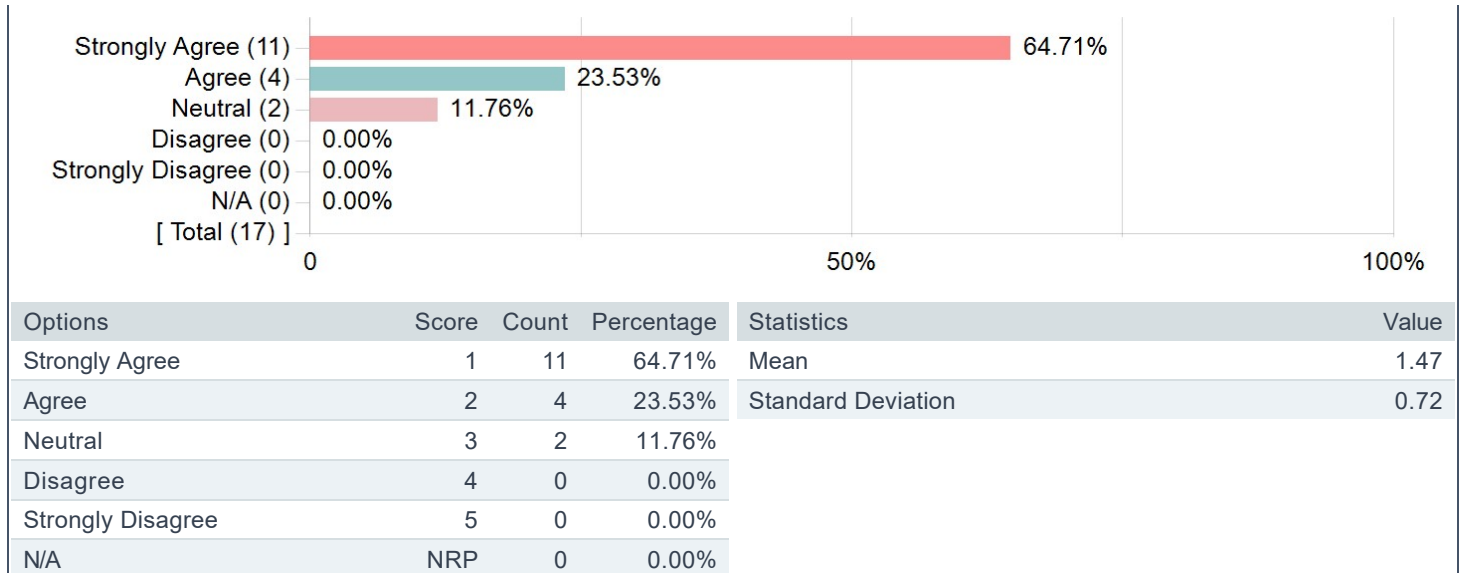
Instructor evaluation summary

Question	Course		School (Friedman School of Nutrition)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
15. The instructor was prepared for class.	1.06	0.24	1.28	0.60
16. The instructor communicated the course concepts clearly.	1.47	0.62	1.36	0.68
17. The instructor responded clearly and completely to questions and/or feedback.	1.35	0.61	1.32	0.65
18. The instructor stimulated enthusiasm and interest in the subject.	1.12	0.33	1.26	0.59
19. The instructor was available for help outside of the class.	1.18	0.39	1.40	0.77
20. The instructor provided useful feedback on assignments and exams to date.	1.41	0.62	1.46	0.72
21. The instructor was sensitive to issues of diversity (e.g. race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation).	1.71	0.59	1.54	0.82
22. Overall, how satisfied were you with this instructor?	1.53	0.62	1.43	0.76
24. The course included relevant concepts of diversity and social justice.	2.06	0.66	1.87	0.95
Overall	1.43	0.60	1.44	-

Detailed Results of Course Evaluation

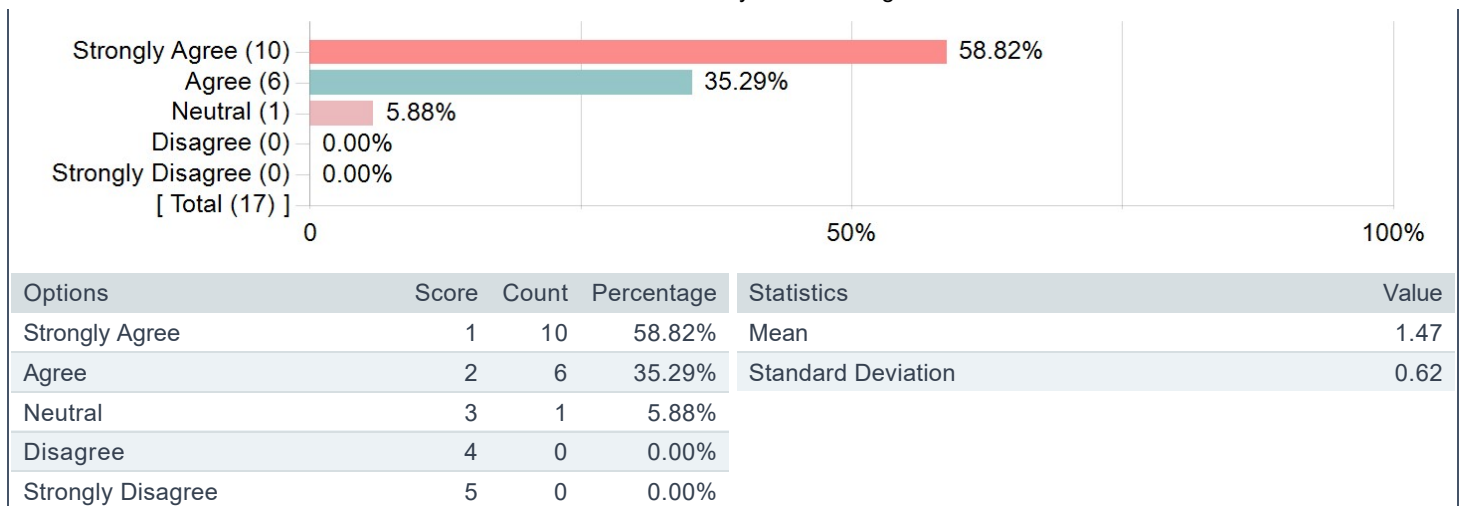
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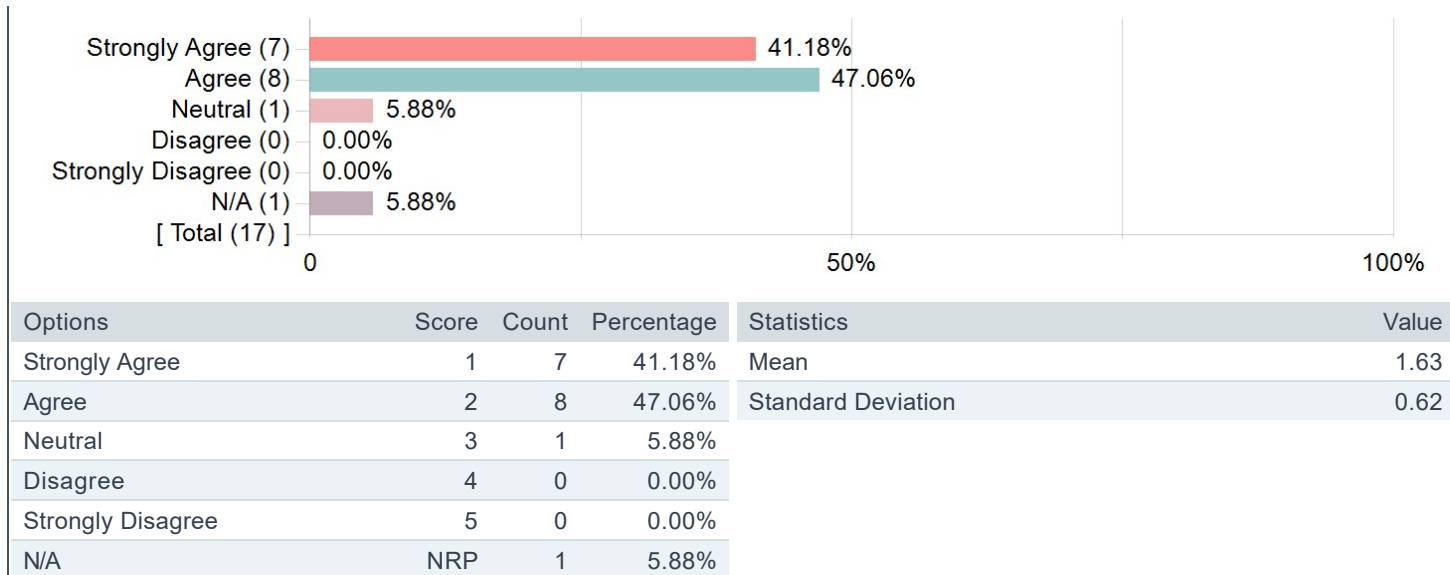
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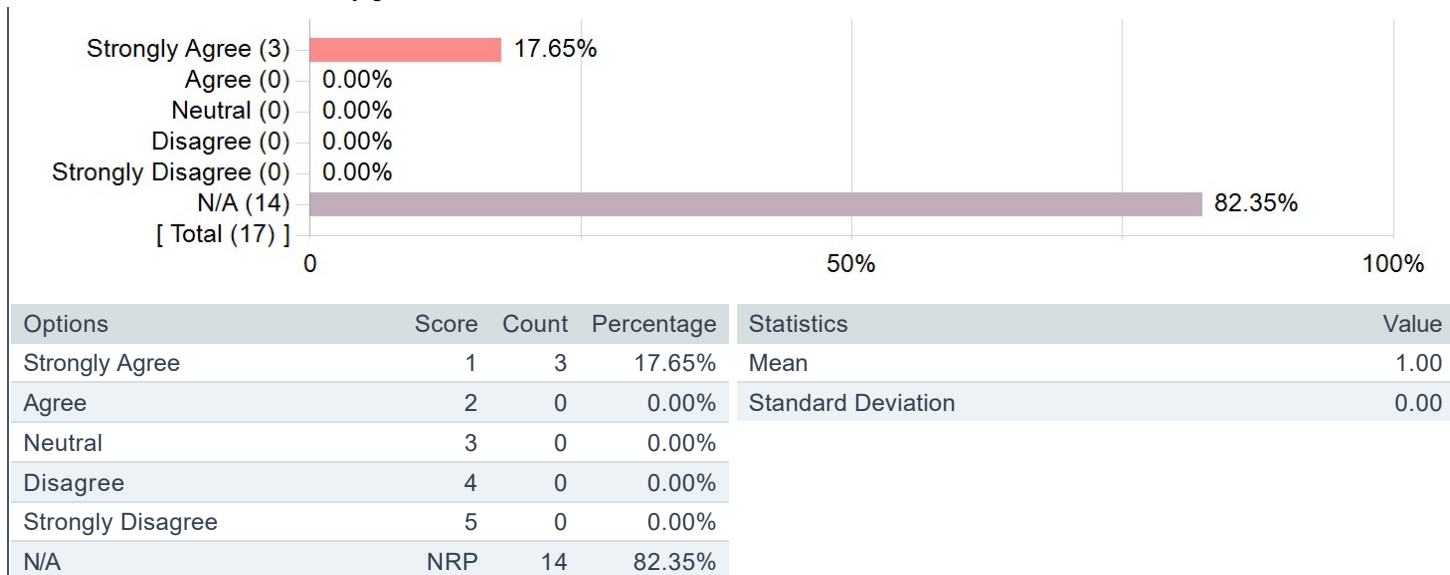
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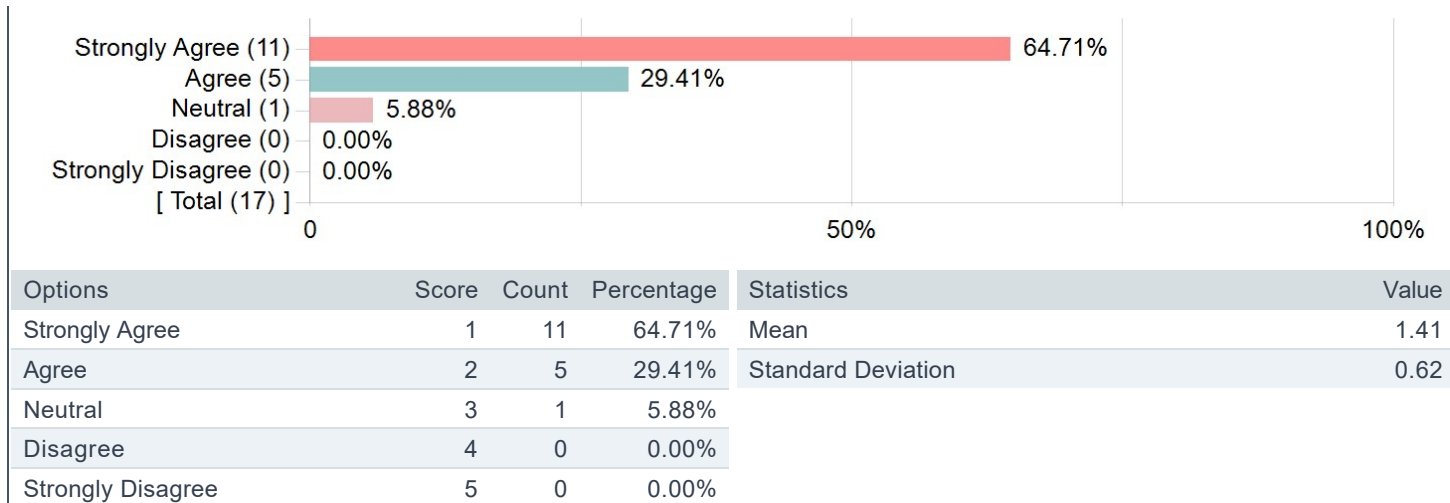
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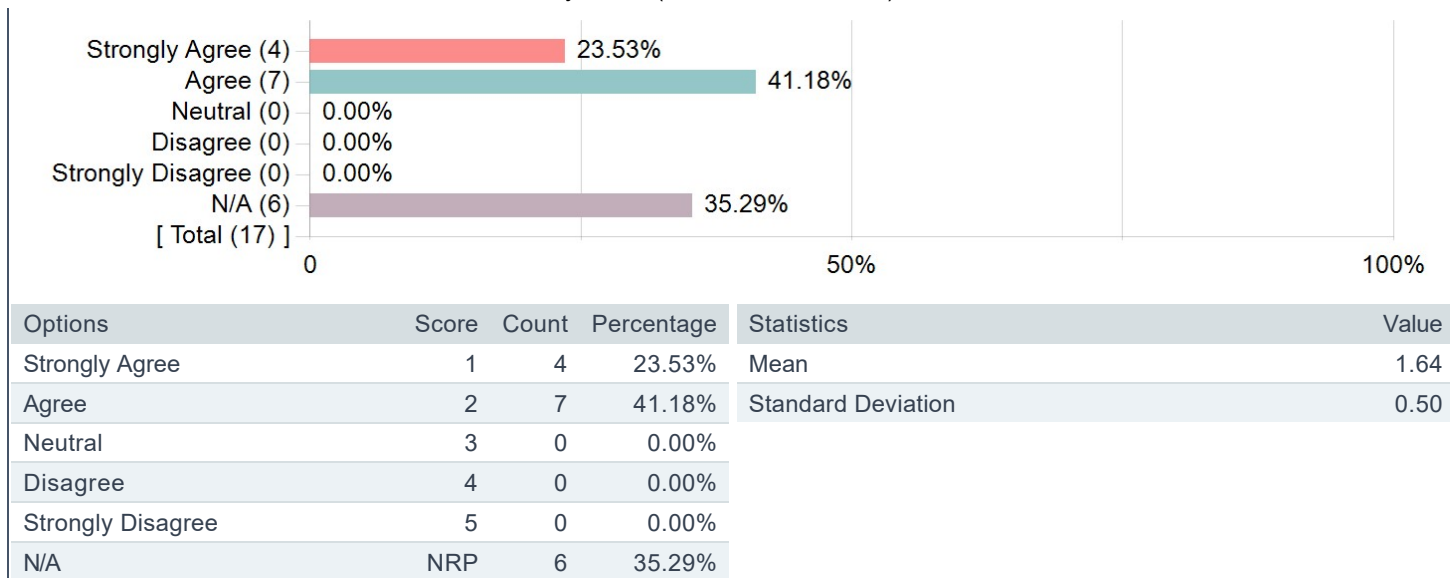
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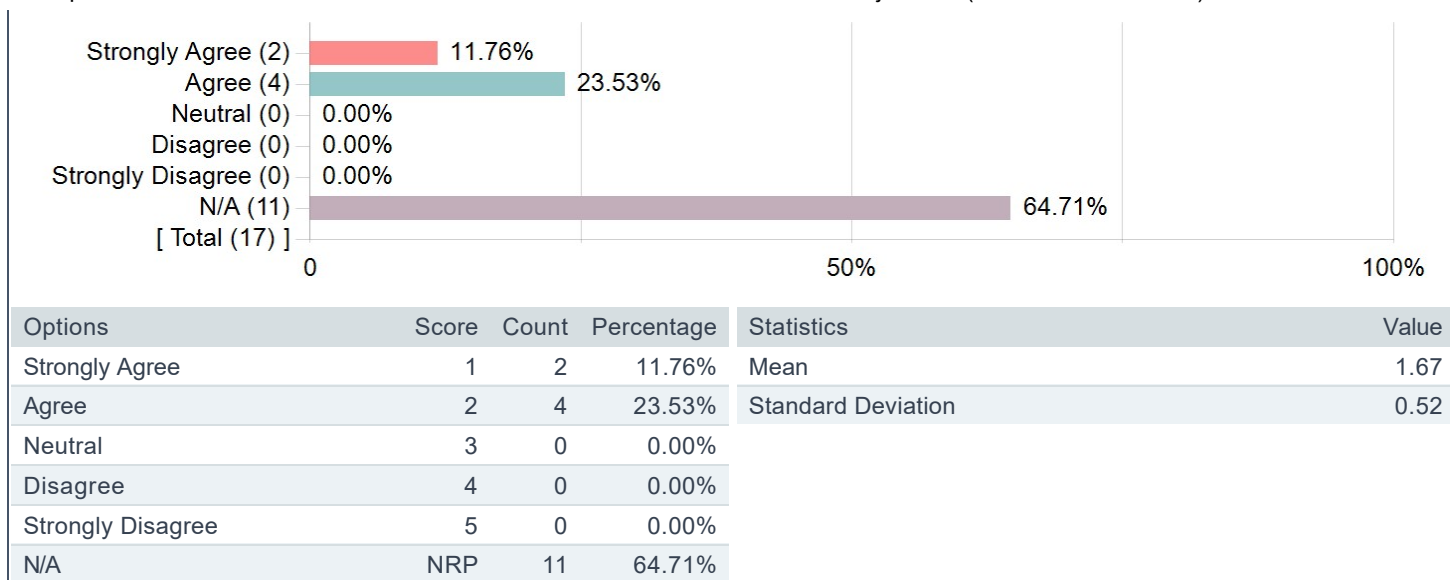
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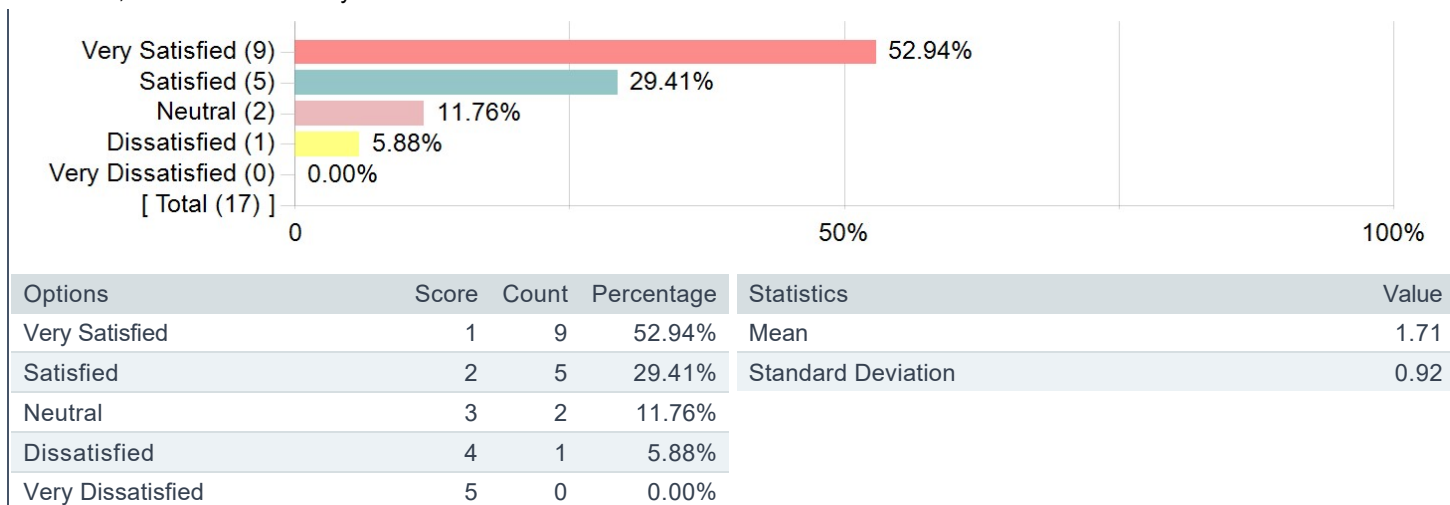
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8. Overall, how satisfied were you with this course?

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Open-Ended Feedback

9. Comments regarding the assigned readings:

Comments
N/A
N/A
No time to read.
The textbook was useful for me, especially the later chapters that went beyond the fundamentals. I think economics concepts are best explained by talking through them (like we did in class) or shown visually, so I didn't use the textbook as much at the start of class.
The textbook was a great resource, though I did not have to refer to it often because the class was so comprehensive.
The class readings were perfect.
I appreciated that we had the textbook if needed but it was not required
The assigned readings are very helpful, you can get 100 points in the exam if you read the text book.
The assigned readings from the textbook followed the weekly material well but I found that it was difficult to stay consistent since the text is so dense.
Readings were pertinent to what was being covered in class.

10. Comments regarding guest lecturers/speakers:

Comments
N/A
N/A
We don't have any guest speakers.
N/A
N/A

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

Comments
The TAs provided essential feedback on assignments that were helpful to consider in future submissions.
The TA's provided helpful feedback, but I think it could have been helpful, on occasion, to have TA office hours (perhaps over the weekend if possible?) or other opportunities to engage with them.
Teaching assistants were available and responded timely when needed.
I didn't talk much with the TAs, but they both provided great feedback on my assignments
The TA's were perfect
I think the TAs should host office hours, or at least be slightly more present in class. They did not really feel like much of a resource this term.
Chad was very helpful during office hours. Amy also provided great feedback on assignments.
They are excellent!
TAs were fair graders

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

Comments
The hybrid approach
I love Will's lectures and appreciate his teaching and lecture style.
The weekly homework assignments helped facilitate learning the material.
The ability to take the course at the degree of difficulty desired. Not everyone has an interest/need for every course, this level of autonomy was surprisingly respectful compared to others taken at the college.
The material.
Keep the data sections of the course, but perhaps focus a bit more on 2–3 central graphs and offer more details behind the phenomena driving them and the data provider instead of having so many examples, which got a little overwhelming. An annex of additional graphs could be provided in the slides that a student could view as they liked.
The lectures were really exceptional, and Will has put so much time, care, and effort into making economics accessible and applicable to Friedman students
The homework assignments.
Drawing the weekly diagrams/new analysis exercises in the first half of the class is very helpful.
As tedious as the homeworks are, I found them overall very useful to create a portfolio and practice elements learned in the classroom.
time-limited exam (help me to memorize a lot)
News analysis and data analysis assignments were a great way to build skill over the course of the semester – very challenging but necessary!
The weekly assignments

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

Comments
N/A
I didn't fully understand the purpose of the lectures after spring break. I enjoyed doing a little data visualization practice but many of the concepts we discussed in class in the latter part of the course were pretty straightforward and obvious. I think I would have enjoyed learning more economic concepts/principles and/or learn more Excel skills in class (like how to build scatter plots from scratch, for example).
Have you considered a flipped classroom? I found that class time were very lecture-heavy and we rarely finished the slide decks. There were concepts at the end of the slides that I would have liked to cover. Watching the lectures at home would have solidified course content. Then it would be nice to work on the assignments in small groups in the class.
Use poll everywhere! Would have been really helpful to have mini 'quizzes' throughout the lectures to ensure I understood.
we can't see your mouse pointer via Zoom. (btw I really appreciate the Zoom option!)
Leave enough time to do the poll everywhere questions during the first 6 weeks of class. The times that we used this tool to check understanding and facilitate in-class discussion were helpful.
An assignment every week was a little aggressive especially because some of them took far longer than is worth for 5 points without improving the lesson.
The midterm feels too rushed. The weekly assignments also feel very fast-paced and tiring to keep up with.
Not sure if this is possible, but I think moving this course to a smaller space would encourage participation. I shared pretty frequently, but I think Friedman courses are usually livelier than this one.
I would love more direct connections between the first half of the class and the second half. I needed a bit more of the connections explicitly laid out for me.
There is nothing to improve in this course, this class is perfect.
Many of the assignments have very long instructions, which makes it difficult to figure out what we are actually supposed to be doing. I recommend editing these instructions for brevity and clarity. I also think that the course content for the second half of the term could be more incorporated into the main topic of the class.
We need to have more discussion and engagement during the class. I understand the desire to get through slides, but the lack of engagement, especially at in a 4 pm class, can feel really distancing. The last week of class was the most engaging it ever was, but even still, it could have benefitted from better discussion opportunities.
Anything is great.
Course slides were overpopulated with text and graphics so it was often hard to follow along/take notes during class. I would prefer an assignment deadline on a weekday rather than Sunday. It would be useful to include more examples of how to navigate datasets online or the creation of different graphs during class rather than just showing the end result.
Please be rid of the distracting zoom chatbox and have a TA on call if online students have questions

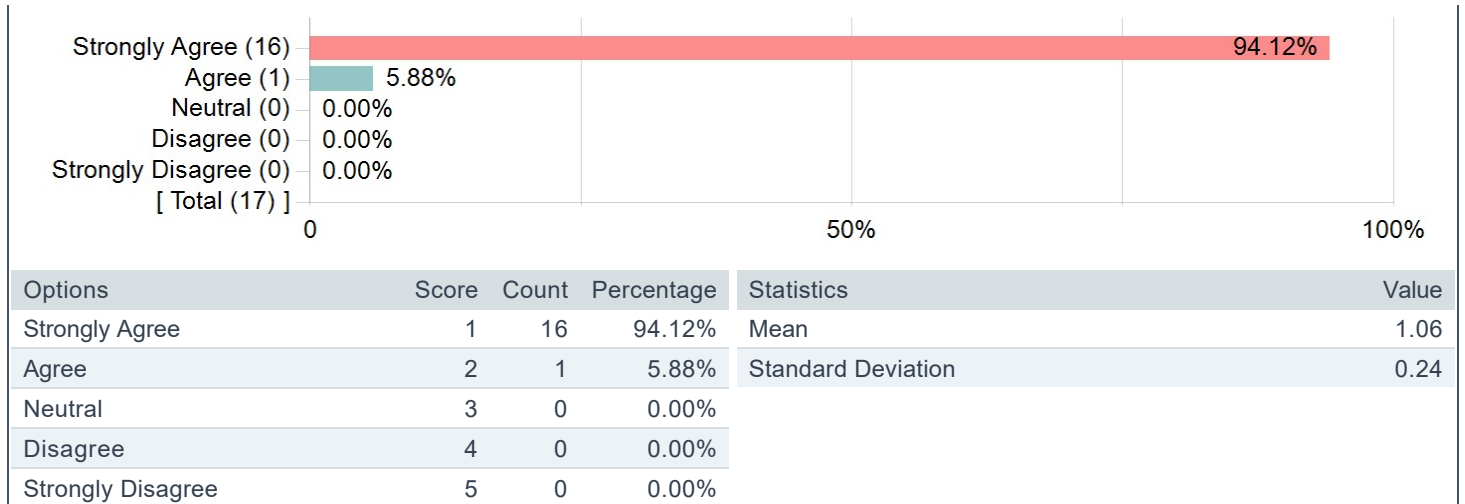
14. Additional comments regarding any other aspect of the course:

Comments
N/A
I appreciated the format of the midterm and felt like it was really stress-free while also facilitating learning!
Courses should not be taught in the Jaharis auditorium. It is hard to engage the class when everyone is spread out!
Although I predominately attended in person, I appreciated having a hybrid option.
I went in super intimidated by econ and left the class with a totally new framework for thinking about food systems. Thank you Will!
Some of the weekly assignments (especially the ones after the midterm) took a very long time to complete and were outside the normal time expectations for a weekly assignment.
The classroom needs to not be in the auditorium.
I wish professors could reduce some of the controversial topics in class. For example, the issue between China and Taiwan. This issue is very, very complex, and I don't think "invasion" should be used to describe China's actions against Taiwan. Because mainland China has been administering the land of Taiwan for thousands of years, and this land has been the same country as China for tens of millions of years. Including Taiwan's current constitution, it is written that China and Taiwan are both part of the "Republic of China". During World War II, China was invaded by Japan. Taiwan and the northeastern part of China were the first areas to fall. However, after Japan's defeat, Taiwan was returned to China. A civil war also broke out in China at that time. Mao Zedong's government occupied mainland China, while Chiang Kai-shek's government retreated to Taiwan. But this does not prevent us from being the same country. There are now two regimes in many countries in the world, such as Palestine and Yemen. Although there are two regimes, they all belong to the same country. It is true that there are many people on the island of Taiwan who advocate Taiwan independence and hope that Taiwan will join the United Nations. But what I want to say is that the Chinese government has clearly stated that it has no intention of organizing these people to establish an independent country, but they should not establish a country on Chinese territory. It is definitely allowed to buy a piece of land overseas to establish a country called Taiwan.

Detailed Results of Instructor Evaluation

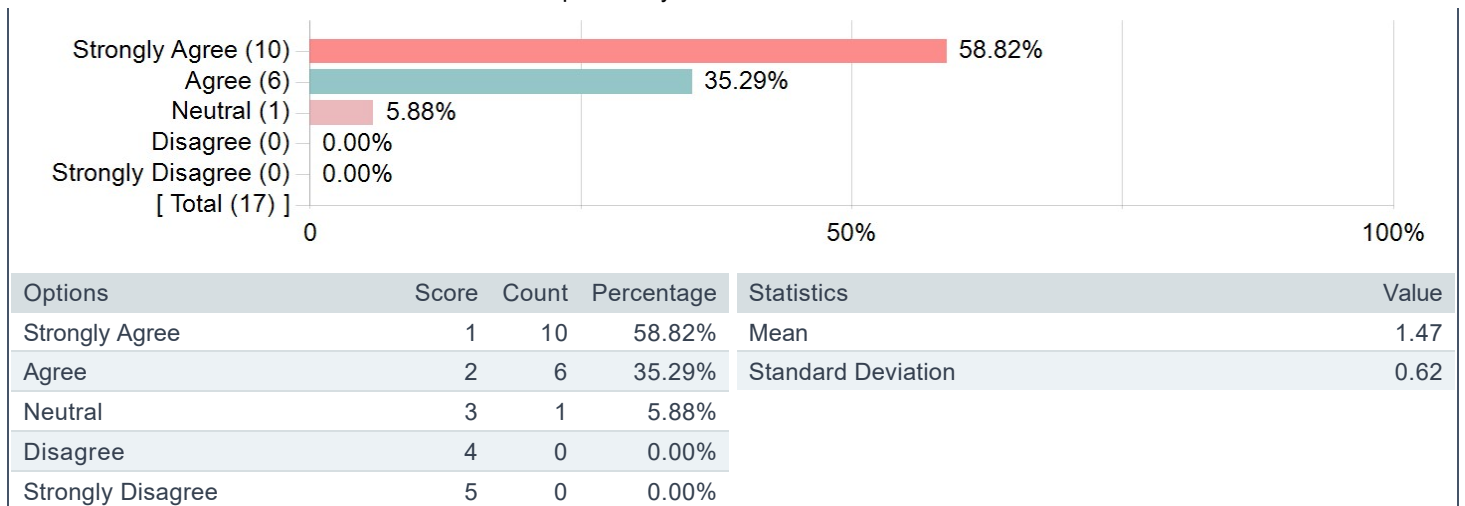
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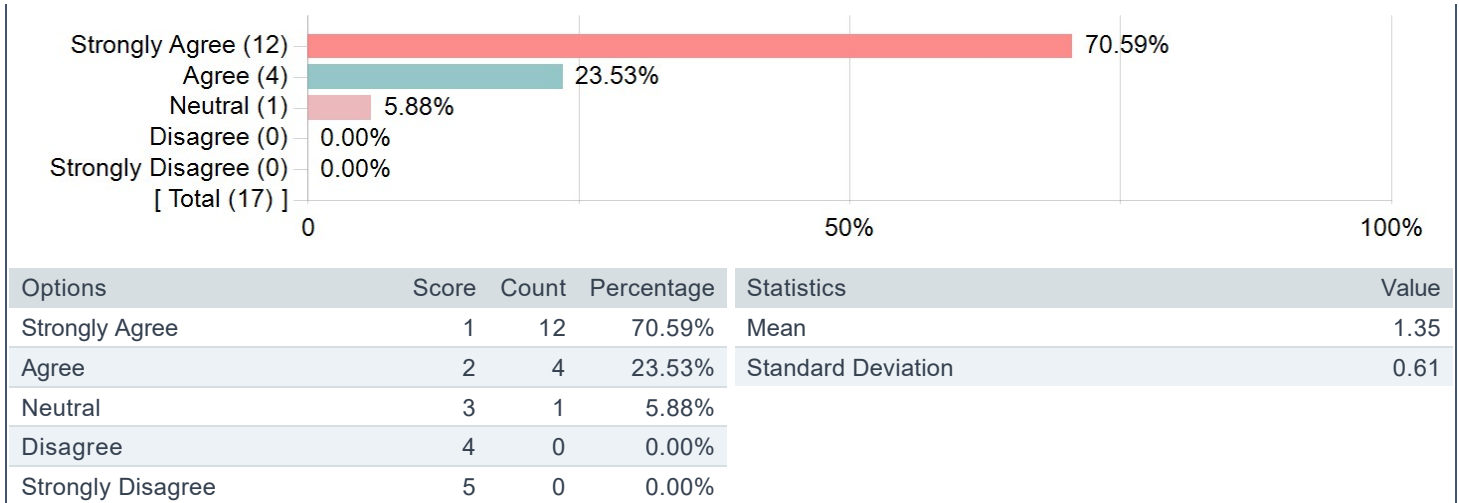
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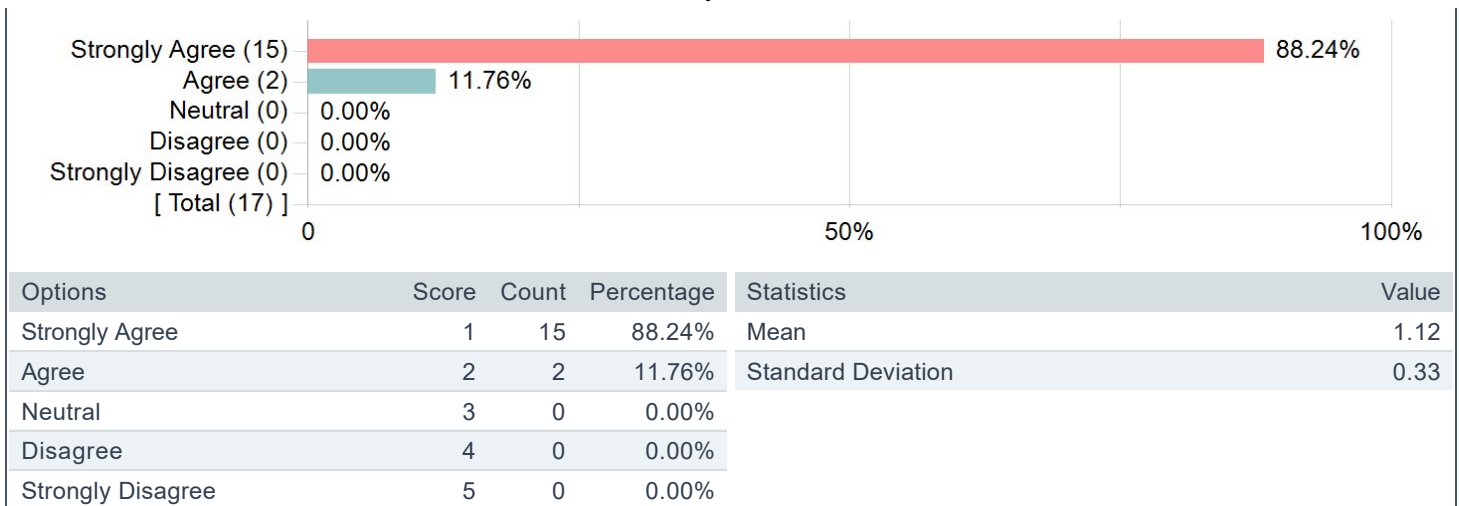
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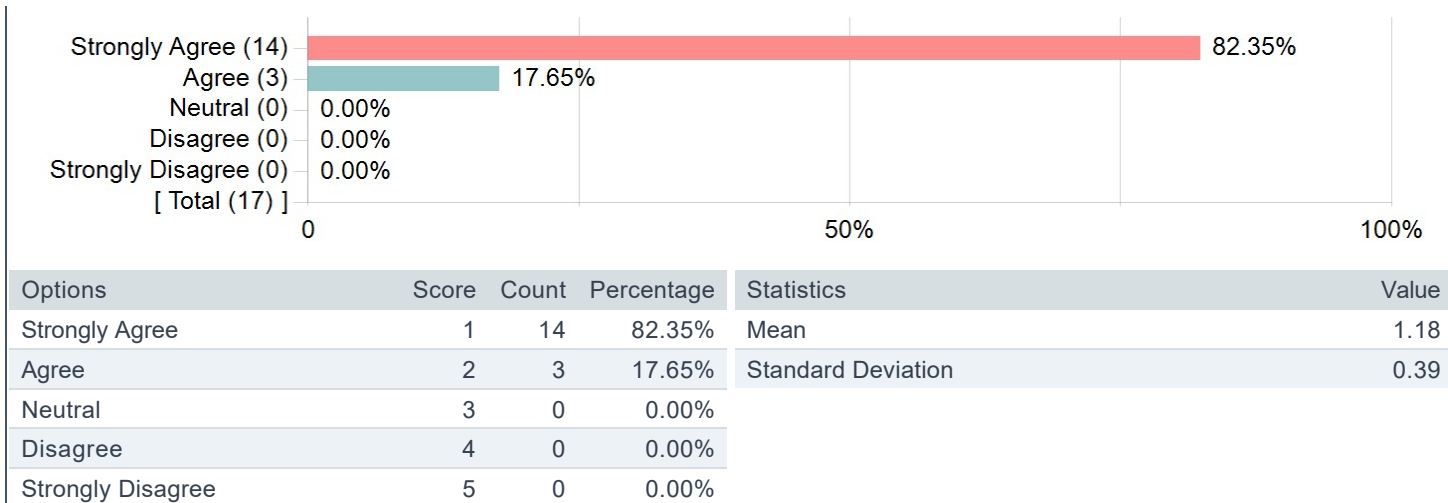
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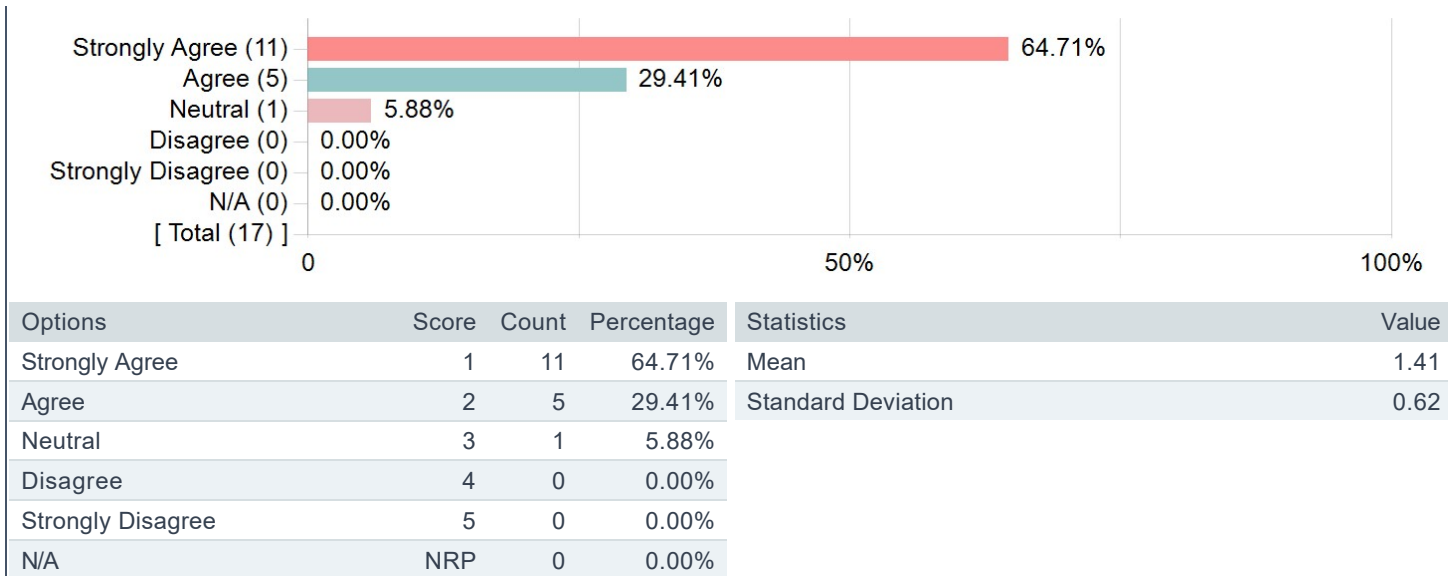
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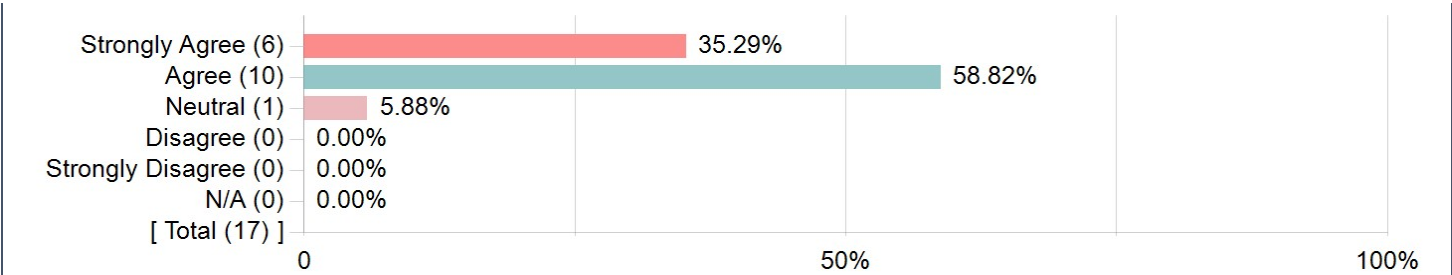
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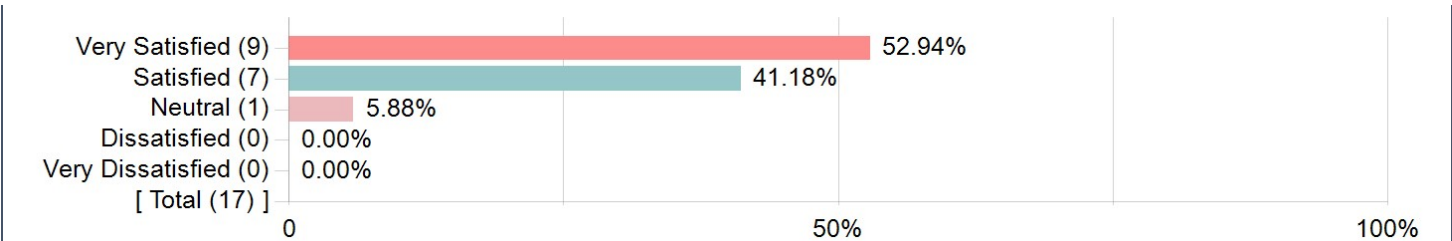
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Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	6	35.29%	Mean	1.71
Agree	2	10	58.82%	Standard Deviation	0.59
Neutral	3	1	5.88%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	0	0.00%		

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

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Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Very Satisfied	1	9	52.94%	Mean	1.53
Satisfied	2	7	41.18%	Standard Deviation	0.62
Neutral	3	1	5.88%		
Dissatisfied	4	0	0.00%		
Very Dissatisfied	5	0	0.00%		

23. Additional comments regarding the instructor:

Comments
N/A
Will was always prepared, and very passionate about the subject.
Thank you for a great semester! This is my first Econ course ever and it felt like a great introduction given the context of food and nutrition policy. I appreciated your dedication to education and the very intentional teaching style.
He is very knowledgeable, but sometimes hard to understand his explanations. Sometimes explanations are convoluted and the professor goes on tangents.
Will clearly has a passion and enthusiasm for this topic that made my experience in class super enjoyable.
Phenomenal professor; so wonderful to learn from someone who puts a lot of effort into teaching and who clearly is obsessed with their area of study.
Dear Professor Masters, you were a great professor.
I wish there had been a little more feedback on the projects. I understand there were a lot of them, but the peer review structure I think would work better on a paired level or if we got more feedback from the instructor. Additionally, I would urge Will to engage in more classroom discussions and hear from students. I know it can be awkward, but I feel like the only real opportunity we had for that was during the last week, and people were already checked out by then. It is more engaging to come in person, but to make people come I feel like something about being in person has to be different than being online.
he is excellent! I learned a lot!
William is an enthusiastic professor who cares deeply about the subject

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