Individual Report for William A. Masters (Fa24-NUTB-0238-01-Economics for Food & Nutr Pol)

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

Courses Audience: **8**
Responses Received: **4**
Response Ratio: **50.0%**

Summary of Results

Course evaluation summary

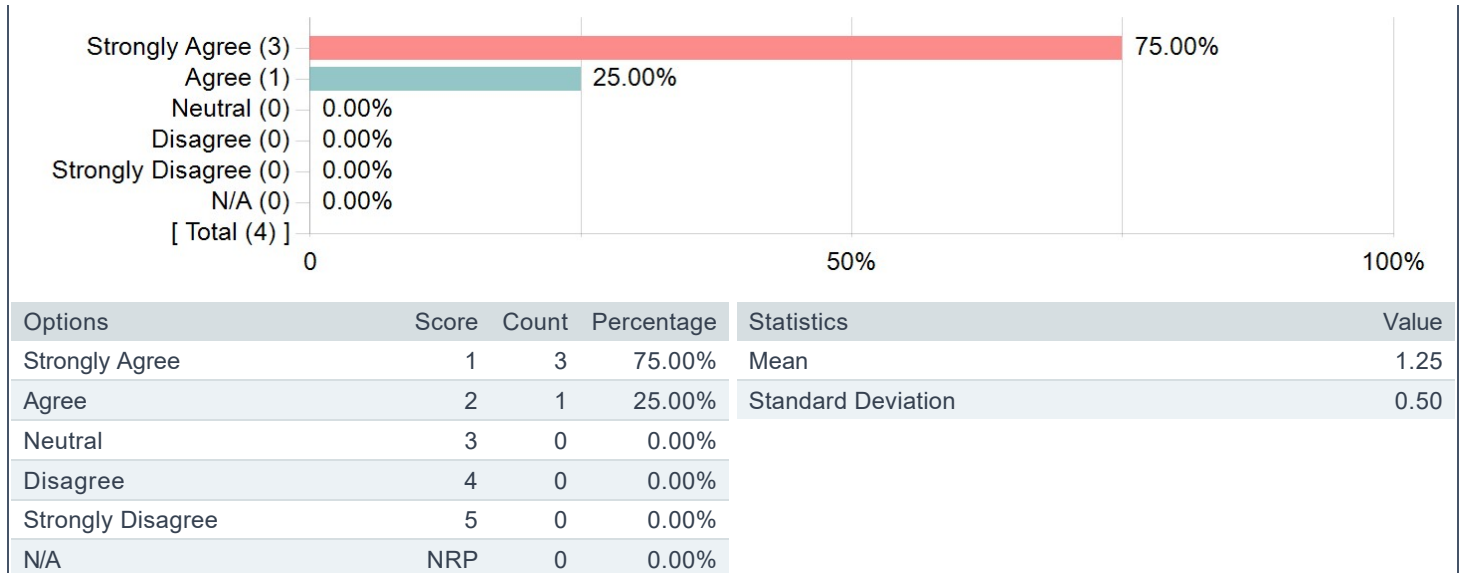| Question	Course		School (Friedman School of Nutrition)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
1. This course met its defined objectives (as described in the course abstract and the syllabus).	1.25	0.50	1.52	0.82
2. The amount of material covered in the course was effective for my own learning.	2.00	0.82	1.71	0.93
3. The assigned readings for the course were instructive and relevant to the course objectives.	1.50	0.58	1.78	0.91
4. Information communicated by guest lectures was useful.	1.00	0.00	1.57	0.73
5. The workload for the course (readings, homework, papers, etc.) was effective for my own learning.	2.25	1.50	1.78	0.90
6. Audio/video media was relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).	1.25	0.50	1.56	0.72
7. Experiential activities outside of the classroom were relevant to the course objectives (if used in this course).	N/A	N/A	1.51	0.81
8. Overall, how satisfied were you with this course?	1.75	0.96	1.75	0.97
Overall	1.57	0.86	1.65	-

Instructor evaluation summary

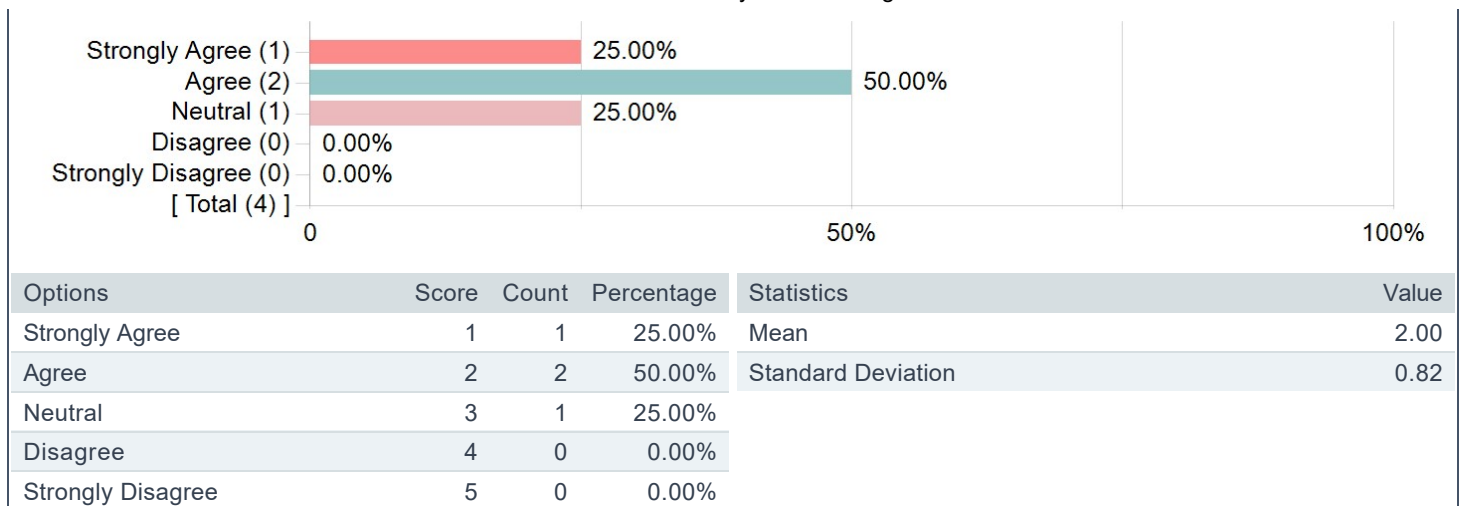| Question	Course		School (Friedman School of Nutrition)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
15. The instructor was prepared for class.	1.25	0.50	1.44	0.84
16. The instructor communicated the course concepts clearly.	1.25	0.50	1.59	0.83
17. The instructor responded clearly and completely to questions and/or feedback.	1.25	0.50	1.58	0.85
18. The instructor stimulated enthusiasm and interest in the subject.	1.00	0.00	1.38	0.75
19. The instructor was available for help outside of the class.	1.50	1.00	1.62	0.90
20. The instructor provided useful feedback on assignments and exams to date.	1.25	0.50	1.64	0.92
21. The instructor was sensitive to issues of diversity (e.g. race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation).	1.00	0.00	1.49	0.71
22. Overall, how satisfied were you with this instructor?	1.25	0.50	1.58	0.88
24. The course included relevant concepts of diversity and social justice.	1.25	0.50	1.76	0.87
Overall	1.22	0.48	1.56	-

Detailed Results of Course Evaluation

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

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

Strongly Agree (3)	75.00%
Agree (1)	25.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
N/A (0)	0.00%
[Total (4)]	

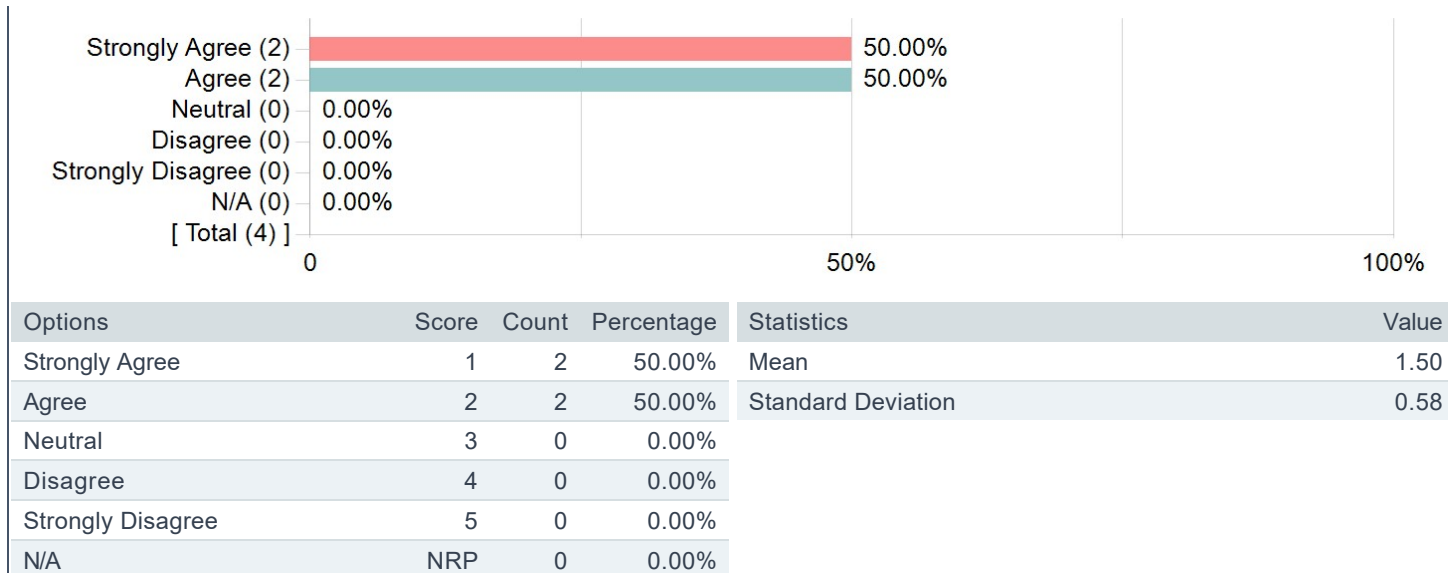| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Agree	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	0	0.00%		

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

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

Strongly Agree (1)	25.00%
Agree (2)	50.00%
Neutral (1)	25.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
[Total (4)]	

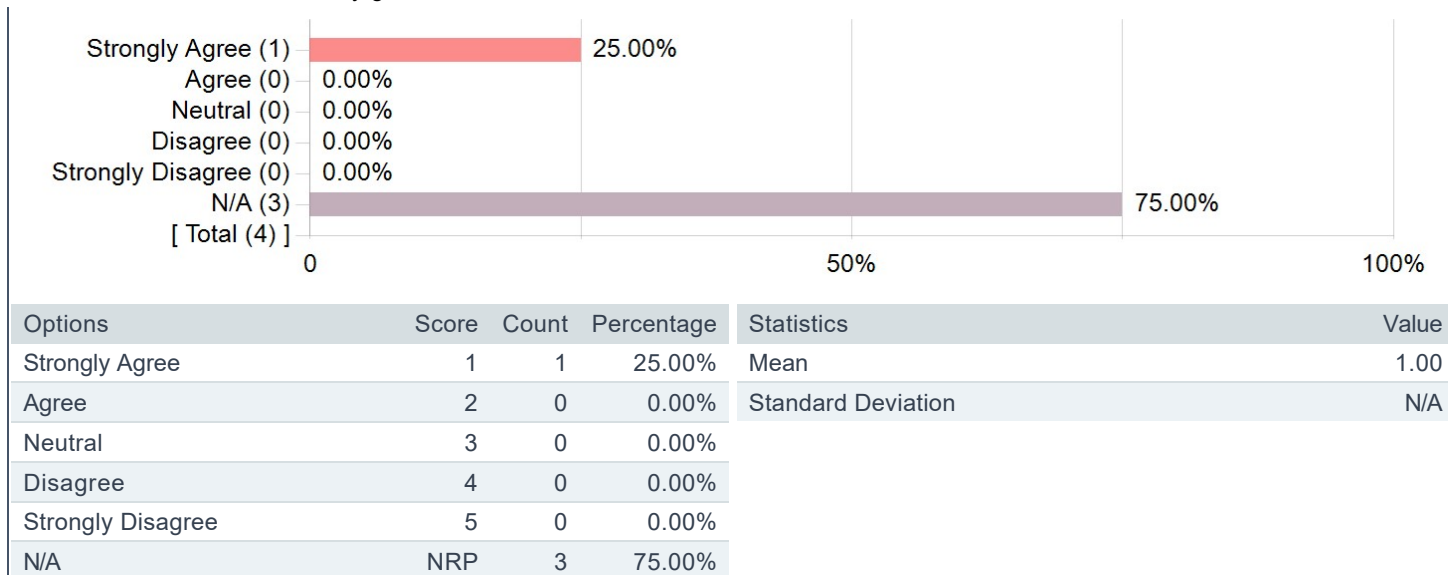| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	1	25.00%	Mean	2.00
Agree	2	2	50.00%	Standard Deviation	0.82
Neutral	3	1	25.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		

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

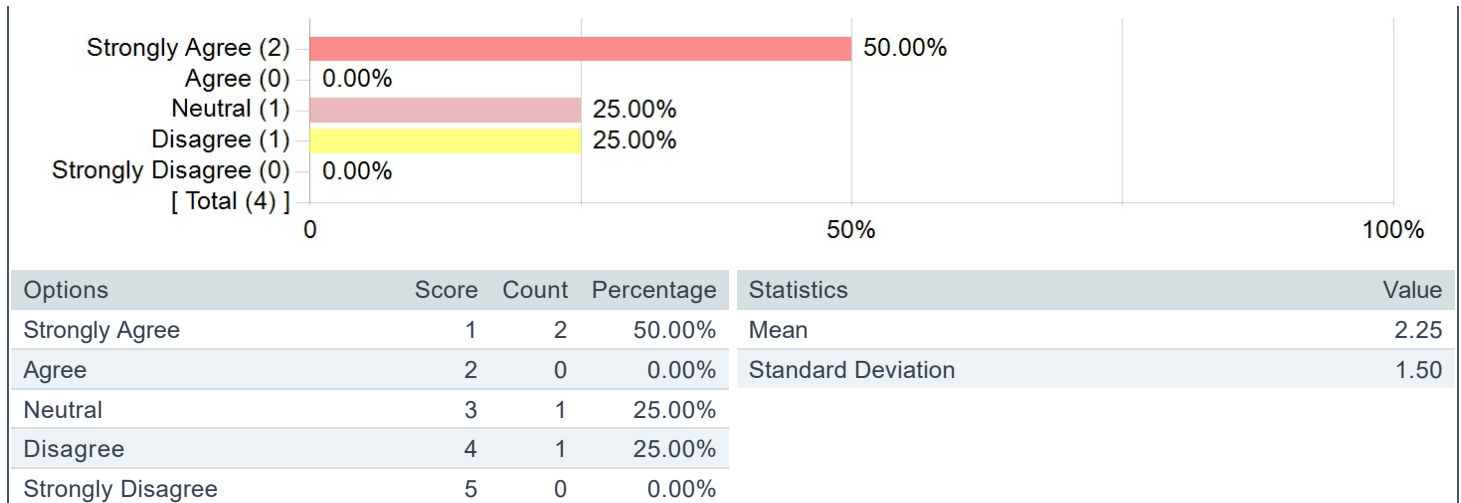3. The assigned readings for the course were instructive and relevant to the course objectives.

	Strongly Agree (2)	50.00%
	Agree (2)	50.00%
	Neutral (0)	0.00%
	Disagree (0)	0.00%
	Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
	N/A (0)	0.00%
	[Total (4)]	

Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	2	50.00%	Mean	1.50
Agree	2	2	50.00%	Standard Deviation	0.58
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	0	0.00%		

4. Information communicated by guest lecturers was useful.

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	Strongly Agree (1)	25.00%
	Agree (0)	0.00%
	Neutral (0)	0.00%
	Disagree (0)	0.00%
	Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
	N/A (3)	75.00%
	[Total (4)]	

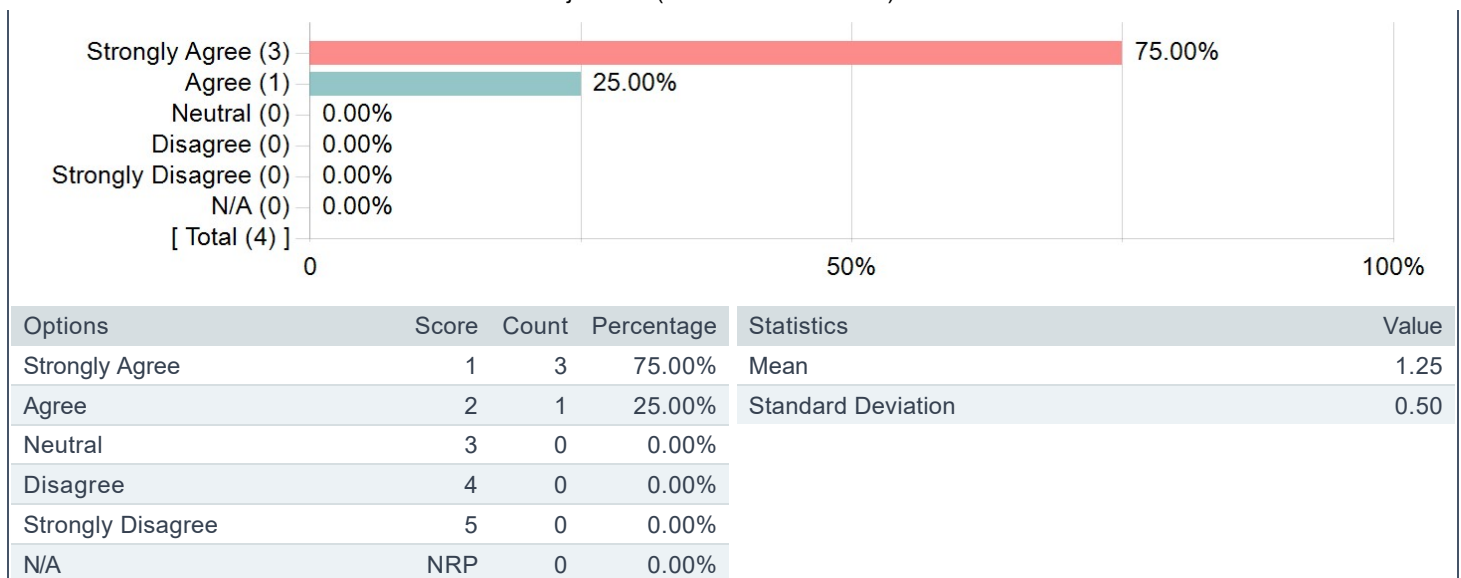| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	1	25.00%	Mean	1.00
Agree	2	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	N/A
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	3	75.00%		

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

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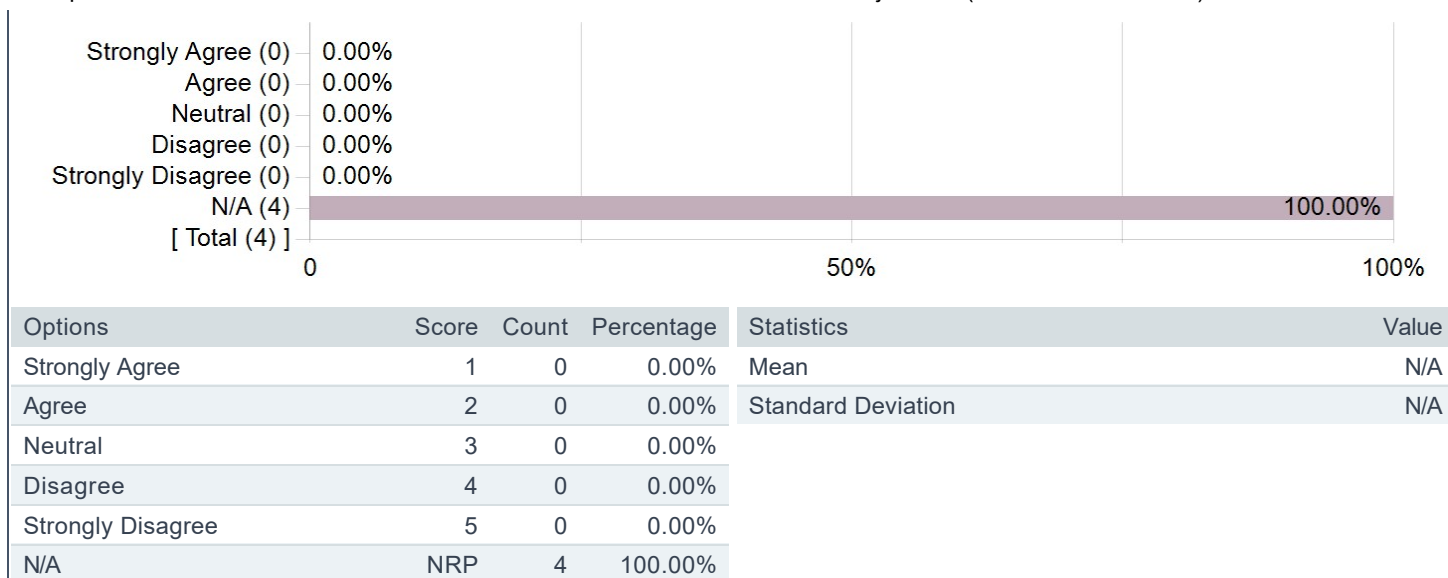| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	2	50.00%	Mean	2.25
Agree	2	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	1.50
Neutral	3	1	25.00%		
Disagree	4	1	25.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		

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

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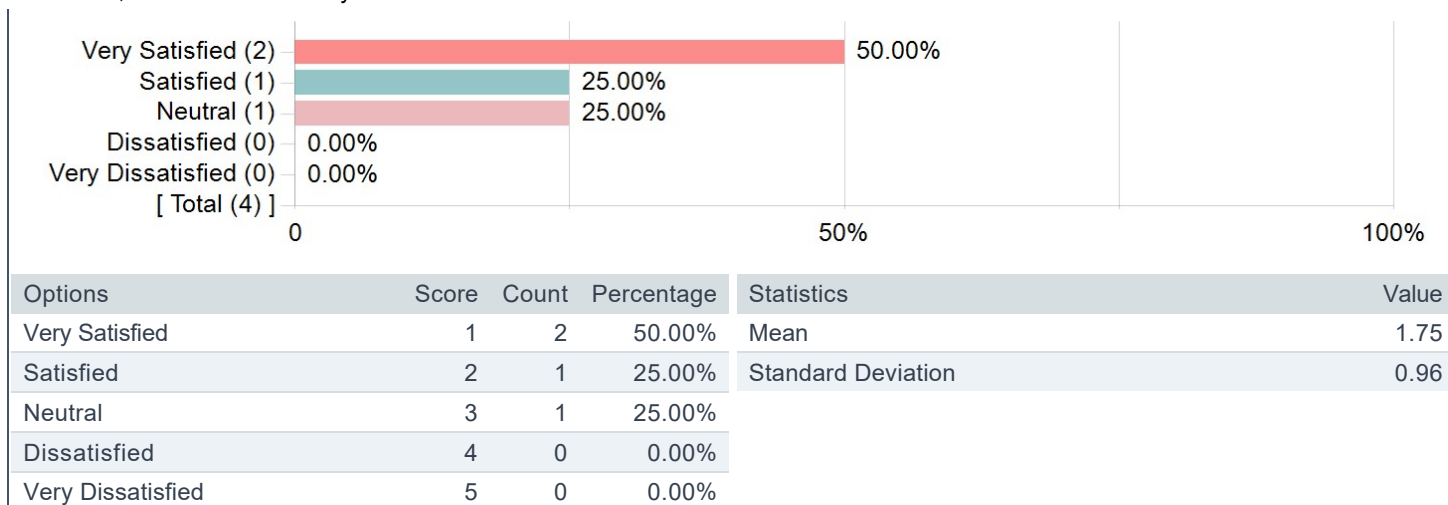| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Agree	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	0	0.00%		

7. Experiential activities outside of the classroom were 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).

Strongly Agree (0)	0.00%
Agree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
N/A (4)	100.00%
[Total (4)]	

Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	0	0.00%	Mean	N/A
Agree	2	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	N/A
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	4	100.00%		

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

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

Very Satisfied (2)	50.00%
Satisfied (1)	25.00%
Neutral (1)	25.00%
Dissatisfied (0)	0.00%
Very Dissatisfied (0)	0.00%
[Total (4)]	

Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Very Satisfied	1	2	50.00%	Mean	1.75
Satisfied	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.96
Neutral	3	1	25.00%		
Dissatisfied	4	0	0.00%		
Very Dissatisfied	5	0	0.00%		

Open-Ended Feedback

9. Comments regarding the assigned readings:

Comments
Textbook is outstanding; it is clear, follows a logical flow of information, and uses interesting real–world examples to illustrate its points. It was somewhat onerous to have to comment on the textbook every week. I wonder if the requirement could be relaxed to comment 5 or 6 times throughout the semester rather than weekly.
This course was a lot of reading and busy work within the textbook.
The assigned readings were helpful and reiterated the information in the lectures. They were long! I didn't love the weekly annotation, but I understand the value for students, the professor, and the author.

10. Comments regarding guest lecturers/speakers:

Comments
No guest lectures

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

Comments
Ellie the TA was super helpful and available for questions or to hop on quick zoom sessions for extra support and help within the course.

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

Comments
The few hours we spent in residency reviewing and drawing all the analytic diagrams together was invaluable! This should definitely be preserved if possible. I thought it was very helpful to do this in person and in real time so that we could discuss and answer questions, so if possible I suggest having an in–person option for anyone taking the class locally along with a synchronous Zoom session.
The professor.
I think this course was well–designed. The course page, ongoing communication, consistent feedback, and 1:1 opportunity were inspiring. Given the volume and topic, it's a lot and hard to keep up with.

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

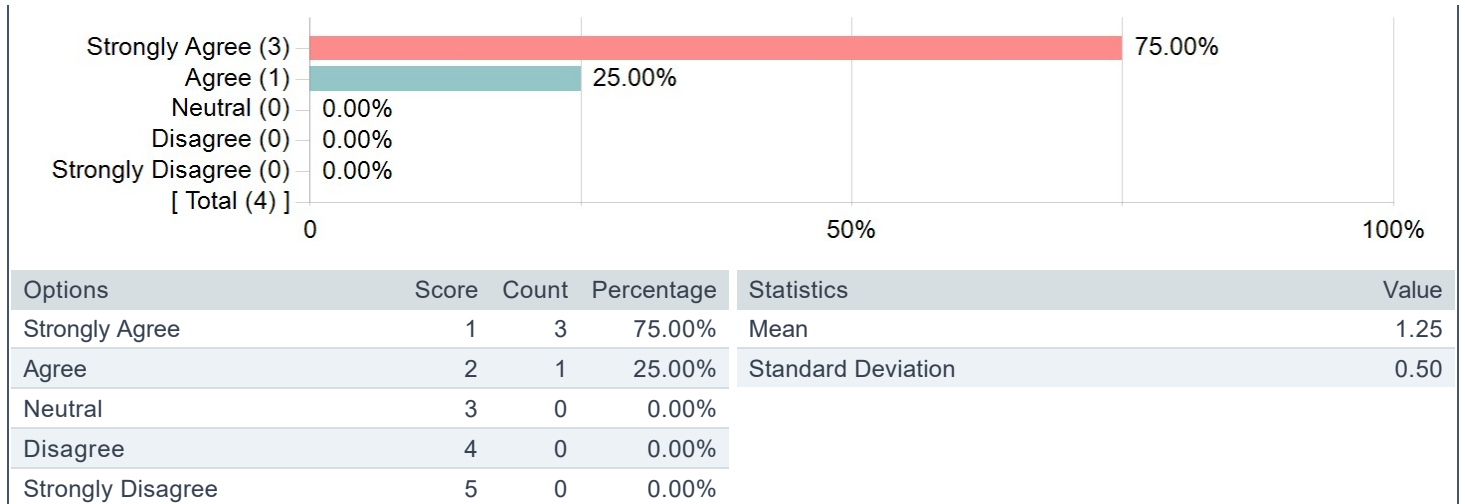| Comments |
| --- |
| The course project and the weekly exercises (drawing analytic diagrams and data analysis) were very effective in terms of learning the material and learning how to apply it, but searching for news articles that could be applied to each specific topic took a long time. I wonder if the news article section could be reduced to finding 1 article each week instead of 2, or having a pre–existing set of news articles to choose from for some of the topics. The data analysis exercises were very time consuming but I felt that every piece of those was useful for learning and should be kept in their current format even though they are time consuming. |
| Creating graphs from data downloaded to Excel was an important part of this course. It would be great if there was a tutorial offered that would prepare students for this. |
| Not assuming that everyone has taken an economics class. |
| I think a flipped format would be far more beneficial (for me). Spending time in class with Will to work on drawing the analytical framework visuals would have helped so much. Trying to find an article that I understood and then trying to apply it to the concepts each week was taxing and, in some cases, led to a feeling of defeat. I spent 6+ hours just on the assignment each week. That left very little time to chip away at the final project, which I spent at least 50 hours on over a weekend. I enjoyed the class it was just a lot! |

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

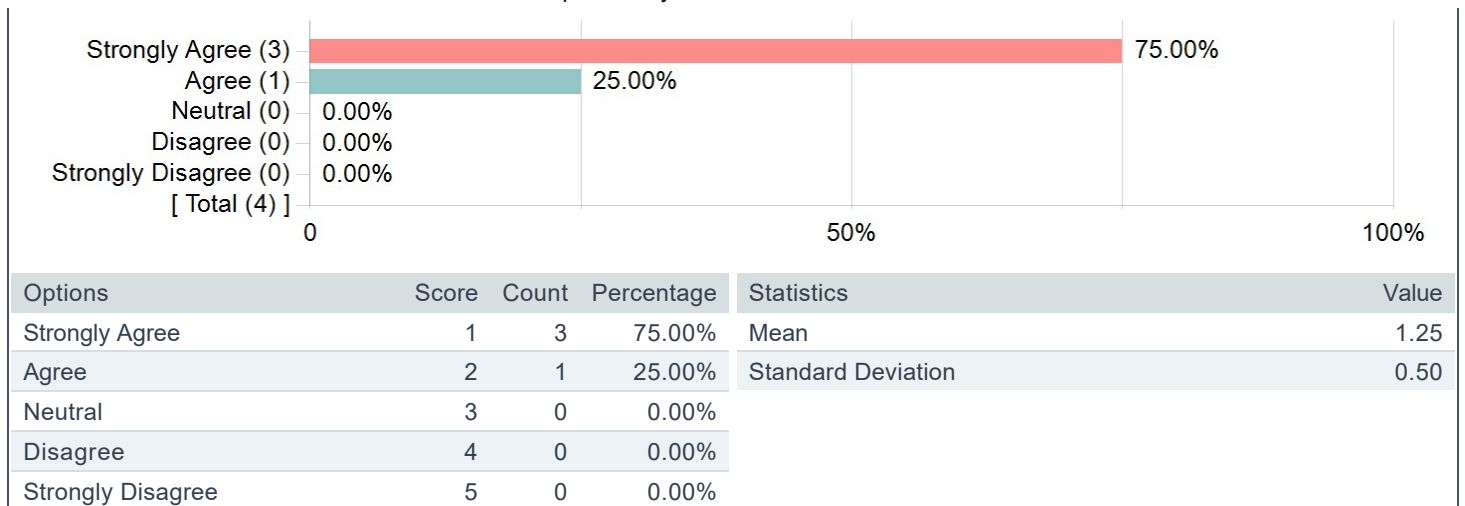| Comments |
| --- |
| The workload in terms of the weekly exercises was quite high. It generally took me 2–3 hours to complete the written assignments each week; then having to also comment on the textbook and write a discussion post each week was quite a bit of work. I would suggest considering reducing the amount of times students have to comment on the textbook and having some other forum for discussion (perhaps 2–3 times total in the semester when the class meet synchronously for a live discussion) rather than the weekly discussion posts. |
| This class was extremely challenging for someone who has never taken an economics class prior |
| Will is a gem! My understanding of economics and human nature has changed for the better. This was a complex and tedious class. I questioned my life decisions on several occasions. I would take the course again, given the chance. |

Detailed Results of Instructor Evaluation

15. The instructor was prepared for class.

15. The instructor was prepared for class.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Agree	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		

16. The instructor communicated the course concepts clearly.

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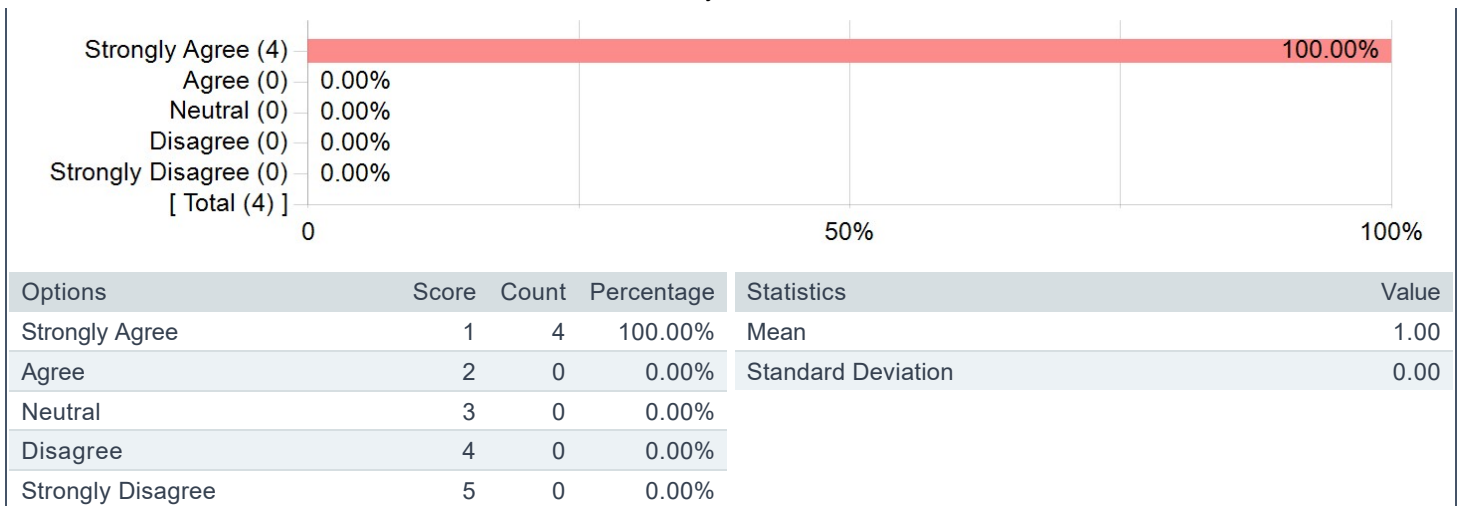| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Agree	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		

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

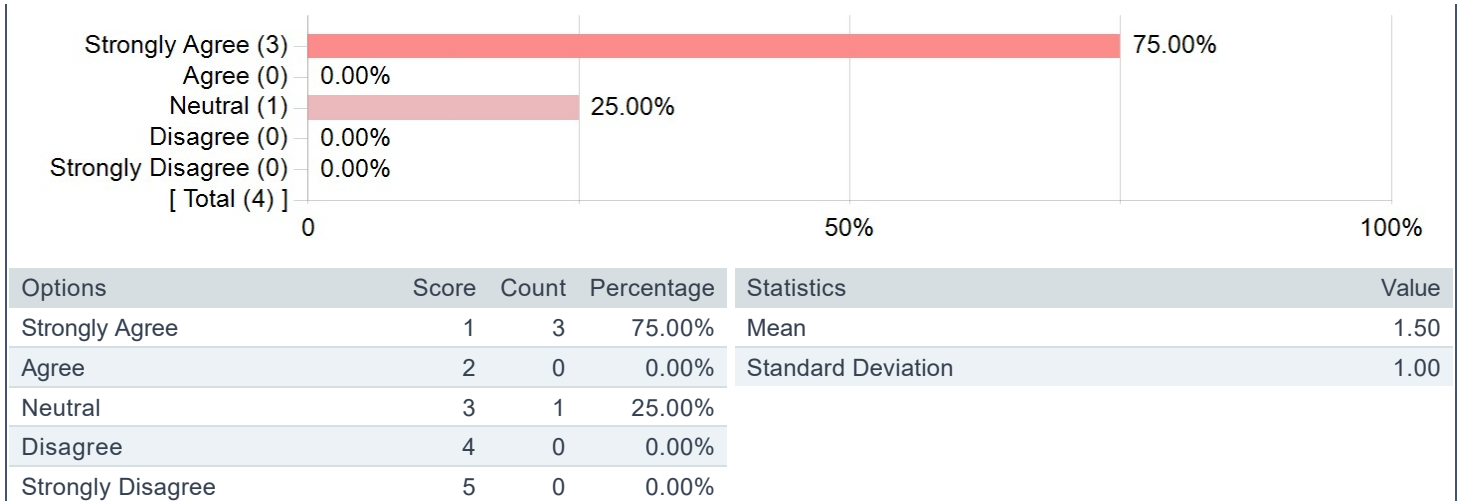17. The instructor responded clearly and completely to questions and/or feedback.

Strongly Agree (3) — 75.00%
Agree (1) — 25.00%
Neutral (0) — 0.00%
Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.00%
[Total (4)]

Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Agree	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
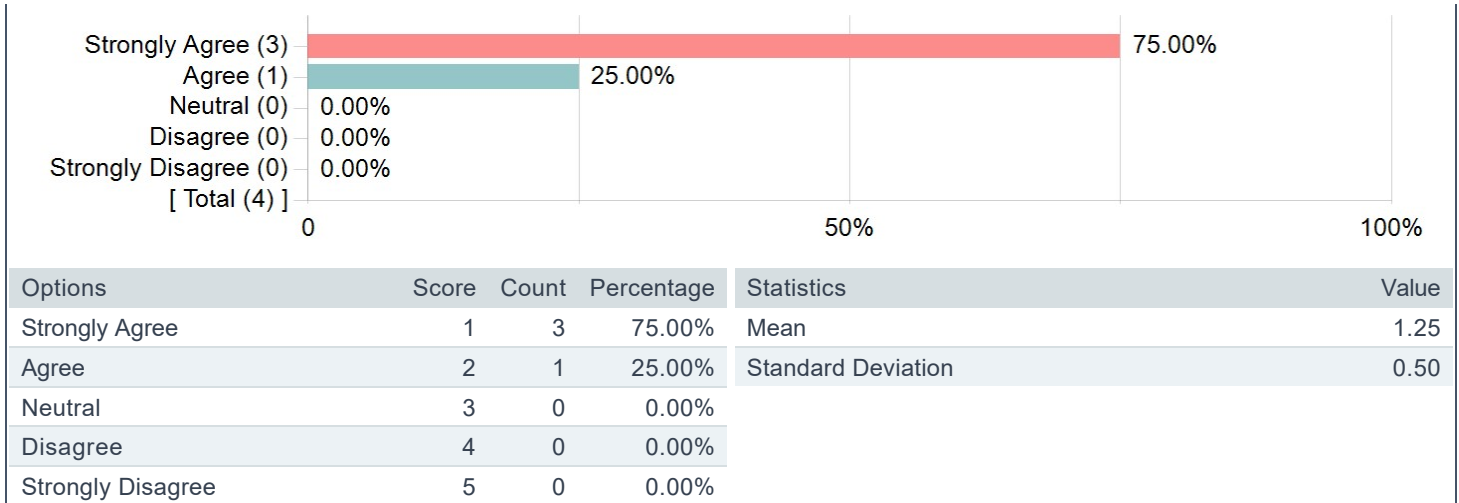
18. The instructor stimulated enthusiasm and interest in the subject.

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Strongly Agree (4) — 100.00%
Agree (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (0) — 0.00%
Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.00%
[Total (4)]

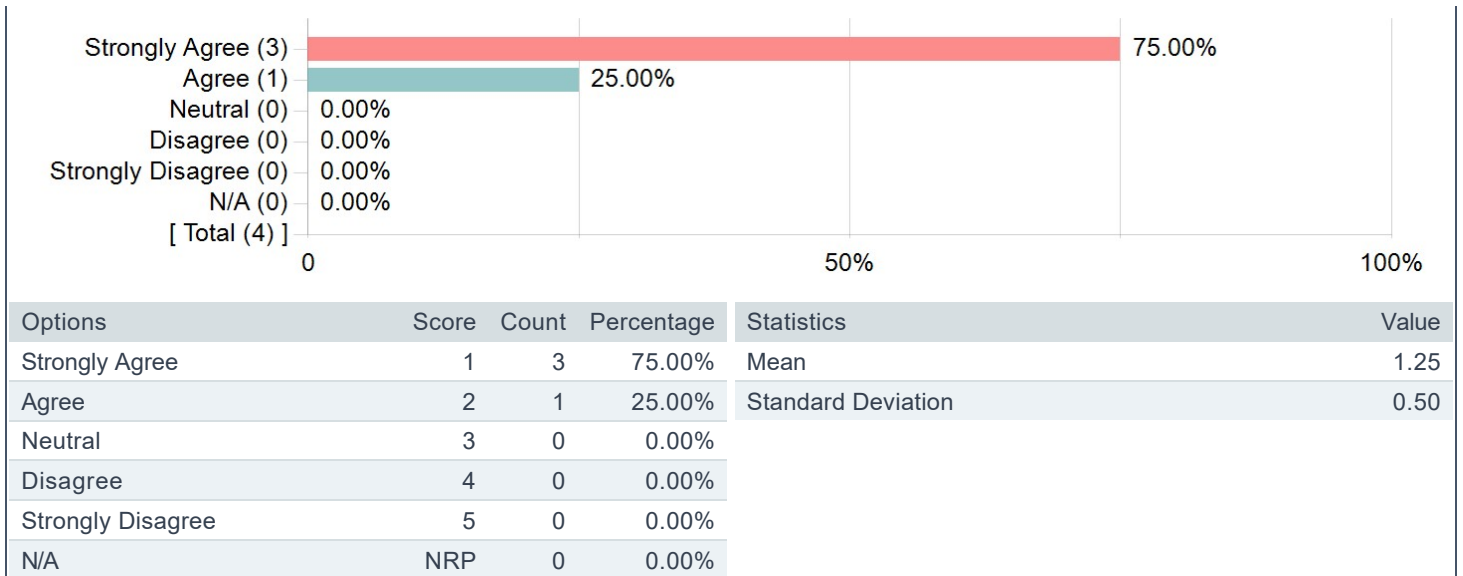| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	4	100.00%	Mean	1.00
Agree	2	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	0.00
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		

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

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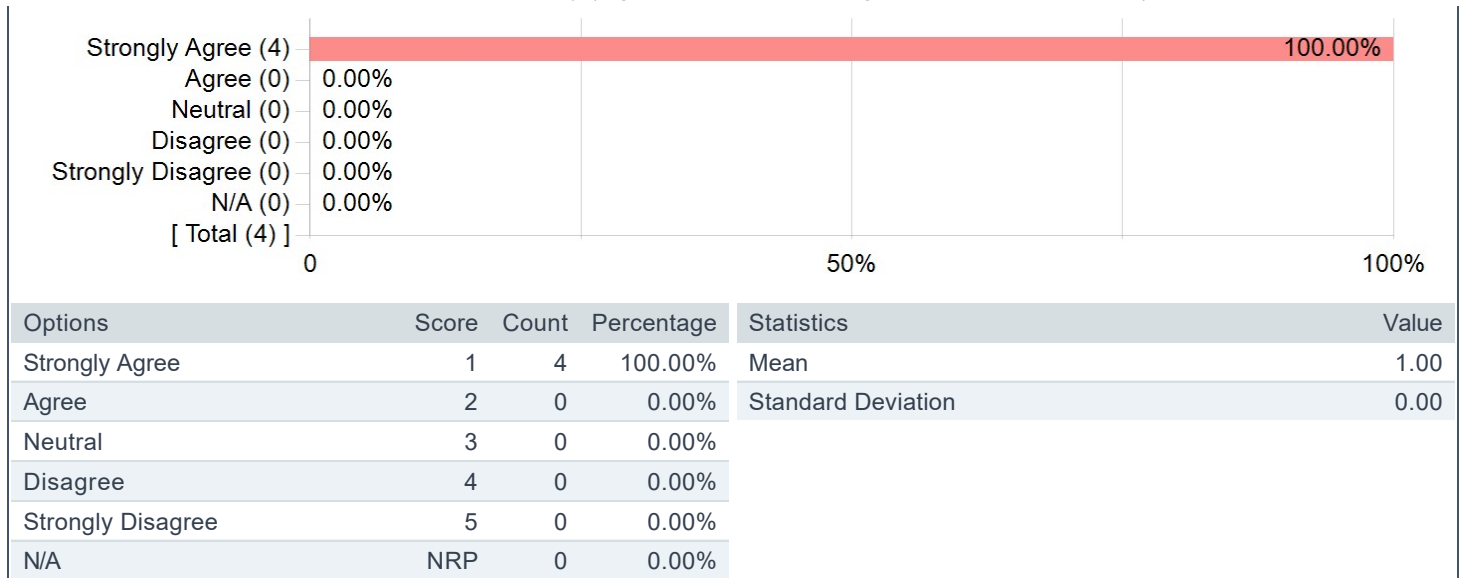| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.50
Agree	2	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	1.00
Neutral	3	1	25.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		

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

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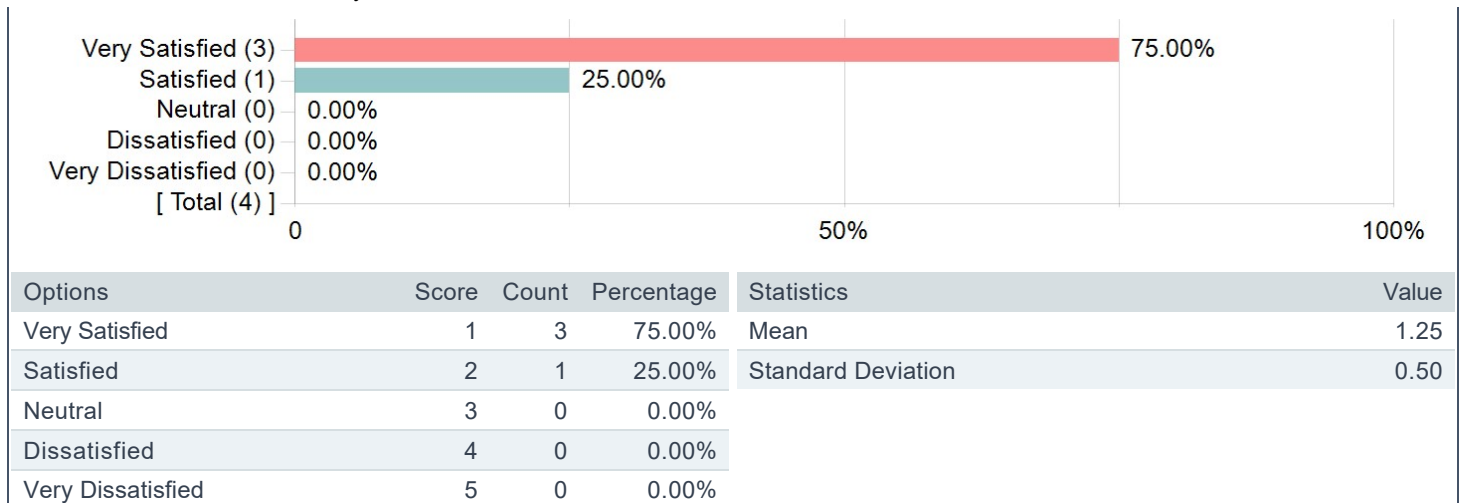| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Agree	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	0	0.00%		

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

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

Strongly Agree (4)			100.00%
Agree (0)	0.00%		
Neutral (0)	0.00%		
Disagree (0)	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%		
N/A (0)	0.00%		
[Total (4)]			

0   50%   100%

Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	4	100.00%	Mean	1.00
Agree	2	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	0.00
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
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?

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

Very Satisfied (3)			75.00%
Satisfied (1)		25.00%	
Neutral (0)	0.00%		
Dissatisfied (0)	0.00%		
Very Dissatisfied (0)	0.00%		
[Total (4)]			

0   50%   100%

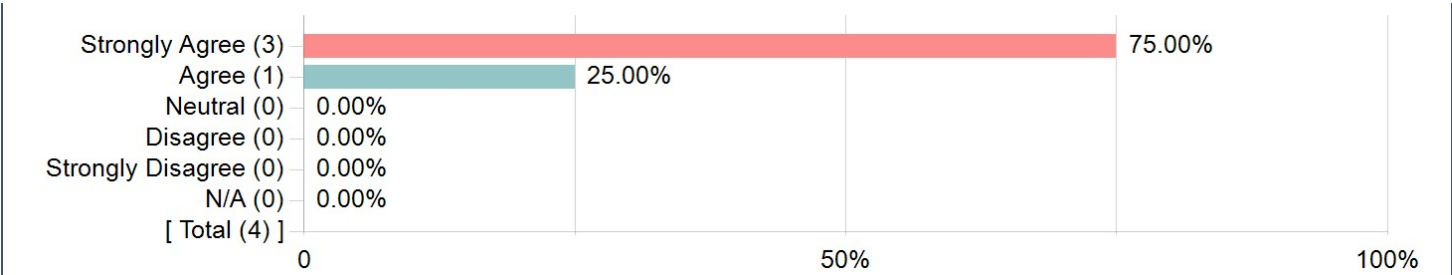| Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Very Satisfied	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Satisfied	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Dissatisfied	4	0	0.00%		
Very Dissatisfied	5	0	0.00%		

23. Additional comments regarding the instructor:

Comments
Will is a wonderful teacher! He is approachable, enthusiastic, and communicates challenging concepts really clearly. His lectures always followed a logical flow and used interesting real–world examples that helped illustrate the material. He returned assignments quickly with helpful feedback. He clearly put a lot of thought into the weekly exercises to make sure that they teach students useful skills and extend our learning from the lectures into real–world applications. While this was a pretty new way of thinking about food and nutrition for me (as I'm sure it is for many students in the class), Will made it clear why learning to think in terms of economics can be really helpful when trying to explain and solve real–world food and nutrition problems. I think every student getting their graduate degree at Tufts would benefit tremendously from taking this class!
I appreciated the time outside of office hours that Will was available to meet via Zoom calls and share screens, etc. The graphing concepts were tricky for me.
Will was an excellent professor, who had a lot of passion for economics. I wish he had more options for help sessions instead of at 12pm on Fridays, due to students with full time jobs not being able to make these.
Thank you for a challenging semester!

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

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Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Agree	1	3	75.00%	Mean	1.25
Agree	2	1	25.00%	Standard Deviation	0.50
Neutral	3	0	0.00%		
Disagree	4	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	5	0	0.00%		
N/A	NRP	0	0.00%		