Instructional Assistant Student Evaluation of Teaching for Lapo Bini
Department of Economics

ECON 220B - Econometrics B (Ma, Xinwei)
Winter 2025

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 16
Number of Students Enrolled: 22

1. The Instructional Assistant used instructional methods in section and/or office hours that helped me learn and engage with the course material.

14 (87.5%):	Strongly Agree
1 (6.3%):	Agree
1 (6.3%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

2. The sections led by this Instructional Assistant were well-coordinated with other components of this class (e.g., lecture, lab, assignments, etc.).

14 (87.5%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
2 (12.5%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

3. The Instructional Assistant communicated effectively.

15 (93.8%):	Strongly Agree
1 (6.3%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

4. The Instructional Assistant provided constructive feedback on my work.

14 (87.5%):   Strongly Agree
2 (12.5%):   Agree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

5. The Instructional Assistant created a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

14 (87.5%):   Strongly Agree
2 (12.5%):   Agree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

6. The Instructional Assistant generally began and ended section/lab/office hours on time.

15 (93.8%):   Strongly Agree
1 (6.3%):   Agree
0 (0.0%):   Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):   Not Applicable

7. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that created or interfered with a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

- His openness to feedback and the follow through he showed to implement it that quickly is admirable and showed to us that he really cared about our learning outcomes.

- Lapo is incredibly approachable and his passion for the field is palpable. I'm very glad that he'll be our TA again next quarter!

- Lapo was also very prepared coming into section and both willing and able to answer all of our questions. He also made sure we as students felt comfortable to reach out over email when we needed additional support and help.

- Lapo was eager to support his students and always met them where they were at. He was unsatisfied with a student not understanding something and worked at helping them think through what they were struggling with.

- Lapo was incredibly effective in fostering a welcoming and supportive learning environment. He made great efforts to ensure that all students felt comfortable asking questions, no matter how basic or complex. He was patient, approachable, and always willing to provide clarification without making anyone feel inadequate. His enthusiasm for the subject was contagious, which made discussions more engaging and encouraged active participation. Additionally, he treated all students with respect and consideration, creating an inclusive atmosphere that made learning more enjoyable.

- The Instructional Assistant created a welcoming and supportive learning environment by being friendly, encouraging participation, and explaining concepts clearly. The approachable nature made it easy for students to ask questions and engage in discussions, fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere.

- Yes, he was very welcoming and supportive

- Yes, Lapo is very very supportive! He wrote down the questions we have asked during office hour or discussion session carefully in the annotated slides version.

8. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that particularly helped you to learn the material and/or encouraged you to feel that you could succeed in the course.

- Getting a "good job" on a problem set was probably the highlight of my week. I really appreciated the feedback on psets in general!

- He might believe in my capabilities even more than I do and he expressed that often. The sessions were tailored to both help us succeed in the exam and reinforce the concepts we saw in class.

- Lapo didn't focus solely on what I was getting wrong but acknowledged my strengths and used that as a jumping point to help me improve as a student.

- Lapo went above and beyond to help students grasp the material and feel confident in their abilities. He explained difficult concepts in a clear and structured manner, often providing multiple approaches to problem-solving, which was extremely helpful. He was always available for extra help and took the time to ensure that students truly understood the content rather than just memorizing formulas. For example, he held extra office hours before exams to help students prepare for the exams. His encouragement and support made a significant difference in my confidence in the course, and his genuine investment in students' success was evident in every interaction.

- Lapo's willingness to work with students individually and provide individualized feedback helped me feel supported in the course.

- The discussion section with a surprise practice final-exam was great! That session was particularly very engaging.

- The discussion sessions are helpful. The questions that Lapo prepared for the sessions are useful for understanding the concepts.

- The Instructional Assistant supported my learning by explaining concepts clearly, breaking down complex ideas into manageable steps, and providing helpful real-world examples. The approach made the material more accessible and easier to understand.

- Yes, very responsible! Commented on my HW and give feedback to my wrongly answered questions.

9. Please offer constructive suggestions that might help the Instructional Assistant improve their contribution to your learning of the course material.

- -Maybe sometimes it would be good to start with the baseline assumption that people *DO NOT understand things from the lecture, though it was covered in class. Fairly simple, but starting off from this assumption might give everyone the opportunity to reinforce the existing concepts.

- He improved a lot each session so I would just say keep doing what you are doing. It is impressive how much he dominates the material and he is quickly developing a sense of where exactly people come from when asking questions, which is crucial for teaching effectively.

- Hello, you have been amazing—thank you for your kindness and availability! Here are a few things I think could be improved: The session moves at a fast pace, which can sometimes lead to confusion. Some topics covered may not be the most relevant for exam preparation or the broader understanding of the class. This can sometimes lead to distraction or dispersion—for example, in DS2 when you went through ridge regression.

- I find it overwhelming that we were reviewing new content with the TA instead of reviewing class material or exercise to reinforce learning. This might not be the TA's fault but hindered the benefits we got from the TA session.

- Lapo is extremely gifted at econometrics, which can make it intimidating to ask questions for fear of appearing lesser than (although not his fault at all). I think that something that all faculty and TA can improve upon is not assuming that things are obvious or a given, since that crowds out students who might be too shy to speak up about their academic struggles.

- Lapo was very receptive to feedback throughout the course, and I felt that particularly the last few TA sessions were very high quality. It was very helpful when we could target the TA sessions to tools and exercises that were directly related to problem set and exams concepts.

- One small improvement would be to explicitly list out the key formulas and assumptions required to work through problems before diving into the solution. While the explanations were always clear, having a structured breakdown of the necessary equations and underlying assumptions upfront would make it even easier to follow along and apply the concepts independently.

- The first couple sections were far too dense, but I think Lapo did a really great job at paring that back. Also, I read E[as EL every single time (like in the expectations operator). I asked around, I know that they have brackets in Italy as well

10. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with this Instructional Assistant?

- He is very empathetic and that is strongly valued as a PhD student.

- I loved the efforts on the slides that Lapo put in -- they were very neat and easy to follow. Also, it was great to see so much passion and energy being poured into the TA sessions.

- I was extremely impressed by Lapo's patience and calm when faced with a ... very frustrated ... student.

- It was great. I always looked forward for his sessions even if they were on the latest time slot of the week. He is talented and he cares so you cannot ask for much more.

- Lapo is a great TA.

- Lapo is amazing. He has a high understanding of the class material and is always opened to offer help, he even follows up on your learning process which shows how much he cares about you understanding the concepts and the doubts you might have. He created a mock test for us to have a sense on how the exam could be, he has annotated and not annotated slides, he goes topic by topic. In the overall he is a great TA and I am sure he will be a great Professor (he is also a great person).

- Lapo is very detail-oriented, but sometimes I would have liked a brief description of a procedure to follow when attempting to problem solve. I get lost with the amount of material being presented to me and which key takeaways might be most important for intuition over exams, for instance.

- Lapo was, without a doubt, the best TA in the entire program and my absolute favorite TA. His ability to break down complex econometric concepts into clear, intuitive explanations was truly exceptional. No matter how difficult the topic, he had a way of making it accessible and engaging, ensuring that students not only understood the material but also felt confident applying it. Beyond his technical expertise, Lapo fostered an incredibly welcoming and supportive learning environment. He was always patient, approachable, and genuinely invested in his students' success. Whether it was answering questions during office hours, providing insightful feedback, or just offering words of encouragement, he consistently went above and beyond to help students excel. His enthusiasm for teaching was contagious, and it made learning an enjoyable experience rather than just another academic hurdle. Lapo's dedication, kindness, and ability to explain material so effectively set him apart from any other TA I've had. He is the kind of TA who not only helps students succeed in a single course but also inspires confidence in their ability to tackle challenging material in the future. Any course would be incredibly lucky to have him, and I can confidently say that his support made a significant impact on my learning experience.

- One of the best TAs I have!

- This was Lapo's first time TA-ing this class, which comes with its challenges, but he really stepped up and did a great job. Thank you very much for all the time and effort you put in to support my cohort and me through this term!

11. What was/were your reason(s) for taking this course?

14 (93.3%):	Major/Program Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Minor
0 (0.0%):	College General Education
0 (0.0%):	Elective
1 (6.7%):	Interest
0 (0.0%):	American History and Institutions (AHI) Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Undergraduate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Requirement (DEI) Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Jane Teranes Climate Change Education Requirement (JTCCER)

12. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **IN THE SECTION**?

10 (66.7%):	Frequently
3 (20.0%):	Sometimes
2 (13.3%):	Seldom
0 (0.0%):	Never
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

13. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **DURING OFFICE HOURS**?

7 (46.7%):	Frequently
5 (33.3%):	Sometimes
2 (13.3%):	Seldom
1 (6.7%):	Never
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

14. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA EMAIL**?

8 (53.3%):	Frequently
5 (33.3%):	Sometimes
2 (13.3%):	Seldom
0 (0.0%):	Never
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

15. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA THE COURSE DISCUSSION BOARD**?

4 (26.7%):	Frequently
1 (6.7%):	Sometimes
1 (6.7%):	Seldom
5 (33.3%):	Never
4 (26.7%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

16. How often did you receive feedback from this instructional assistant on assignments/exams/papers?

11 (73.3%):	Frequently
3 (20.0%):	Sometimes
1 (6.7%):	Seldom
0 (0.0%):	Never
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
1:	[No Response]

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