

Dear Simon Angus

MonQueST Report - Semester 1, 2010

Please find enclosed your MonQueST report. Any comments recorded have also been included.

MonQueST Summary Profiles (Overall Averages)

MonQueST Summary Profiles are also available to help guide interpretation of individual results. The purpose of summary profiles is to provide teaching staff with data showing the ratings obtained on a MonQueST evaluation as a comparison between any one individual and all MonQueST users across the university and within any one faculty.

Summary Profiles are available at the following URL:

<http://www.opq.monash.edu.au/cheq/evaluations/monquest/index.html>

Feedback:

We value your feedback and would appreciate you completing an [online evaluation](#) of our service.

Queries

If you have any further queries or concerns, please contact the Centre for Higher Education Quality on +61 3 9905 9097 or email evaluations@adm.monash.edu.au

Yours sincerely



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Evaluations Manager

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www.opq.monash.edu.au/cheq/

ABN 12 377 614 012 CRICOS provider number 00008C

Academic: Simon Angus

Department: Economics

Subject: ECC2800 — Prosperity, Poverty And Sustainability In A Globalised World

No of students Enrolled: 135
No Questionnaires Completed: 64

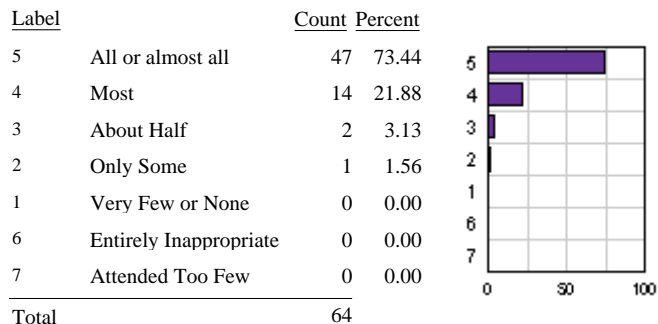
Questionnaire: Lecturing

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1 The Organisation and structure of the lectures

1.1 During each lecture, the lecturer described what students were expected to learn from that lecture.

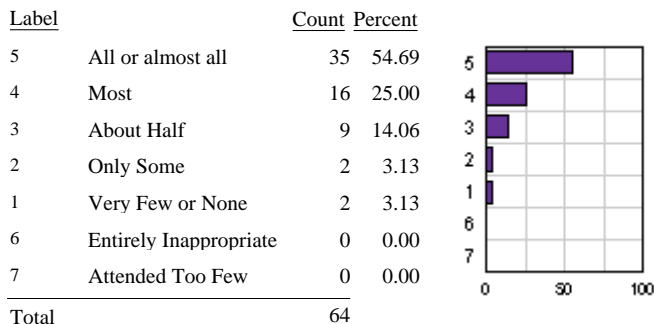


Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.67 Median: 4.82 All Faculties: 4.33
Std. dev.: 0.61 S.I.R.: 0.37 Business and Economics: 4.28

2 Effects on your learning and understanding

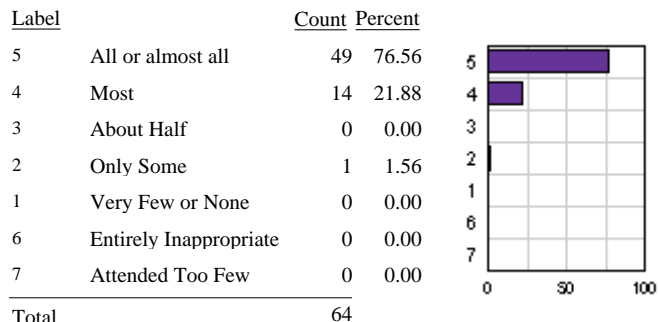
2.1 The lecturer's explanations and arguments built on concepts and ideas that I had previously learned, or with which I was already familiar.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.25 Median: 4.59 All Faculties: 3.99
Std. dev.: 1.02 S.I.R.: 0.68 Business and Economics: 3.96

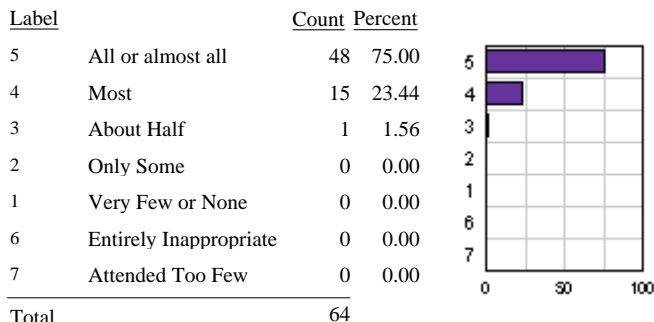
1.2 The topic of each lecture in the series was indicated by the end of the first week of that series.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.73 Median: 4.85 All Faculties: 4.33
Std. dev.: 0.54 S.I.R.: 0.33 Business and Economics: 4.26

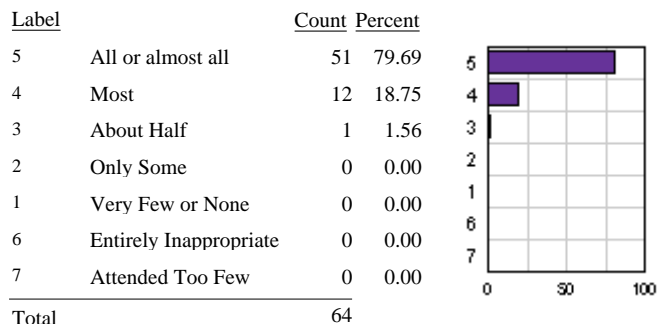
2.2 Each lecture was presented in a way that helped me to see how its sections were interrelated or connected.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.73 Median: 4.83 All Faculties: 4.12
Std. dev.: 0.48 S.I.R.: 0.33 Business and Economics: 4.05

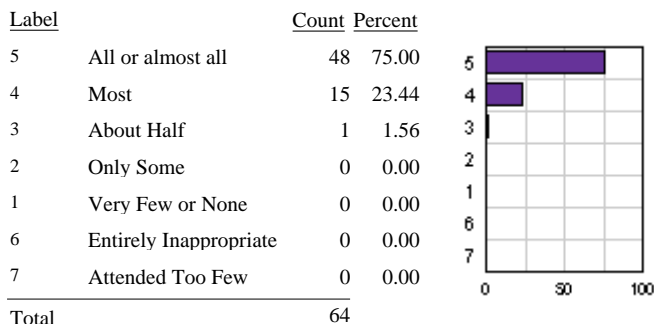
1.3 The sequential position of each lecture contributed to the coherent and logical development of the unit overall.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.78 Median: 4.87 All Faculties: 4.30
Std. dev.: 0.45 S.I.R.: 0.31 Business and Economics: 4.21

2.3 The lecturer drew the students' attention to important ideas or information.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.73 Median: 4.83 All Faculties: 4.25
Std. dev.: 0.48 S.I.R.: 0.33 Business and Economics: 4.15

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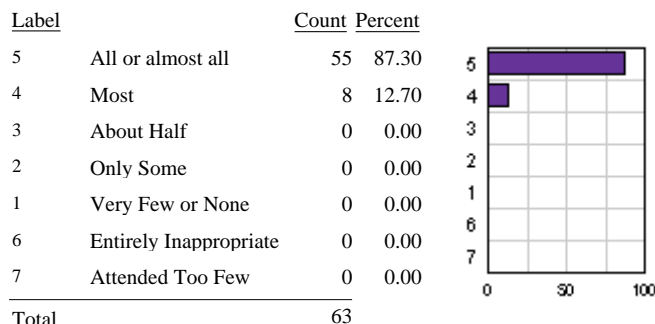
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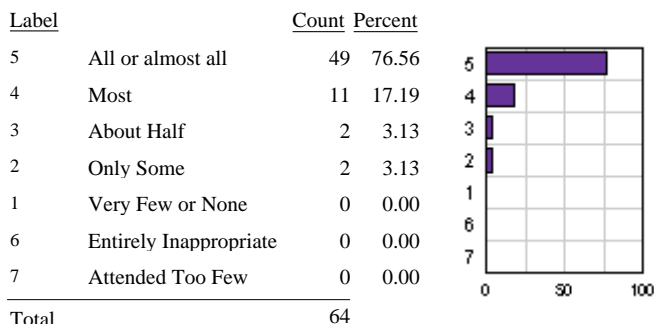
2.4 The lecturer illustrated points and ideas with examples, applications, or analogies.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.87 Median: 4.93 All Faculties: 4.33
Std. dev.: 0.33 S.I.R: 0.29 Business and Economics: 4.24

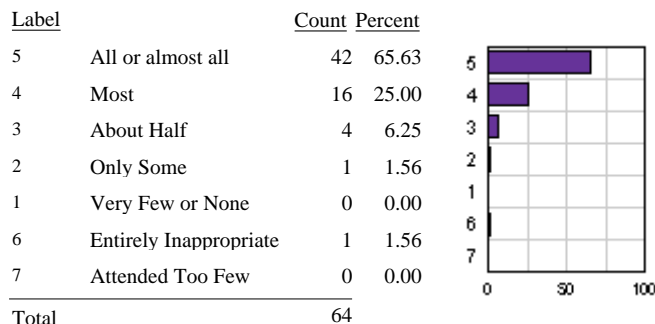
2.7 The lecturer's visual presentations (eg. drawings, charts, diagrams, graphics, schematics) assisted my understanding of lecture content.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.67 Median: 4.85 All Faculties: 4.13
Std. dev.: 0.69 S.I.R: 0.33 Business and Economics: 4.03

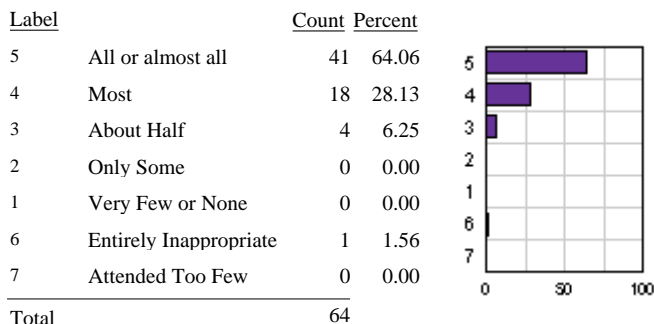
2.5 The examples, applications, or analogies that were used prompted me to make new connections or interpretations.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.57 Median: 4.75 All Faculties: 4.05
Std. dev.: 0.68 S.I.R: 0.48 Business and Economics: 4.00

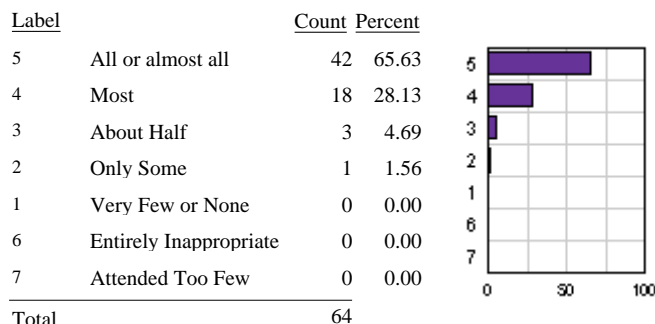
2.8 The lecturer made suggestions as to how students might think about or learn the material presented.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.59 Median: 4.73 All Faculties: 3.98
Std. dev.: 0.61 S.I.R: 0.48 Business and Economics: 3.94

2.6 The lecturer related the material to that presented in other parts of the unit (eg. assignment topics, tutorials, other lectures).

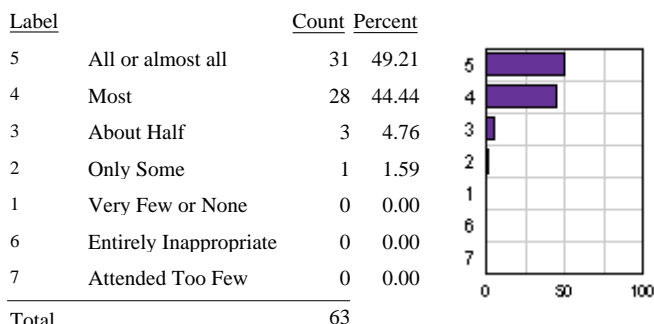


Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.58 Median: 4.74 All Faculties: 4.07
Std. dev.: 0.66 S.I.R: 0.48 Business and Economics: 4.04

3 Your levels of interest and motivation

3.1 My attention or interest was sustained during each lecture.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.41 Median: 4.48 All Faculties: 3.81
Std. dev.: 0.66 S.I.R: 0.54 Business and Economics: 3.76

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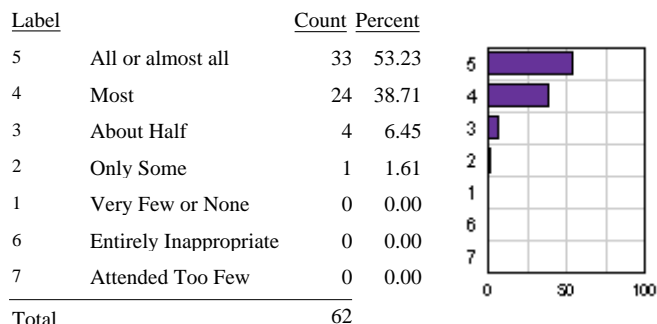
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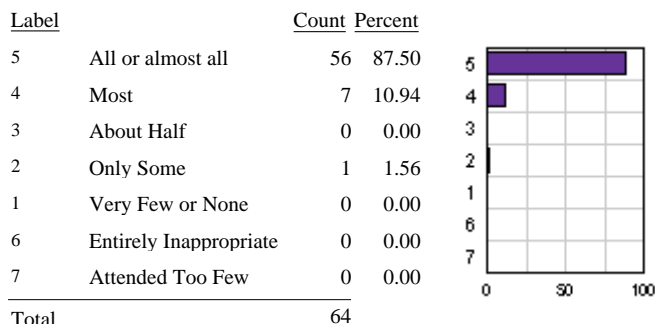
3.2 I found myself wanting to learn more about, or to develop further, ideas presented in each lecture.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.44 Median: 4.56 All Faculties: 3.74
Std. dev.: 0.69 S.I.R.: 0.55 Business and Economics: 3.70

4.2 The lecturer reacted positively to students' comments or questions during lectures.

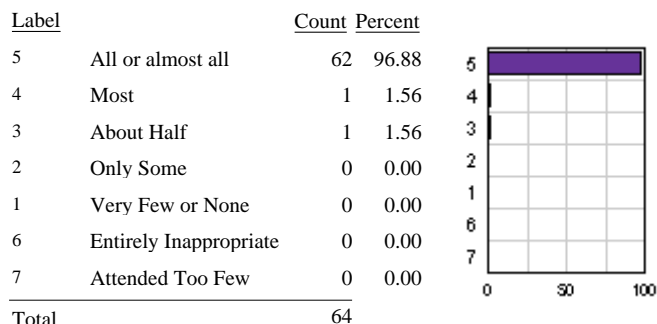


Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.84 Median: 4.93 All Faculties: 4.46
Std. dev.: 0.47 S.I.R.: 0.29 Business and Economics: 4.34

4 The lecturer's interaction and motivation

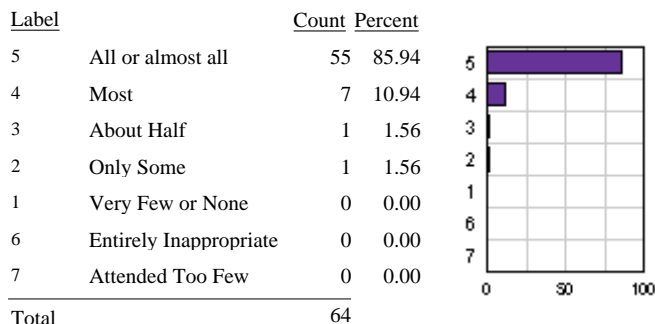
4.1 The lecturer appeared enthusiastic about the task of lecturing.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.95 Median: 4.98 All Faculties: 4.43
Std. dev.: 0.28 S.I.R.: 0.26 Business and Economics: 4.31

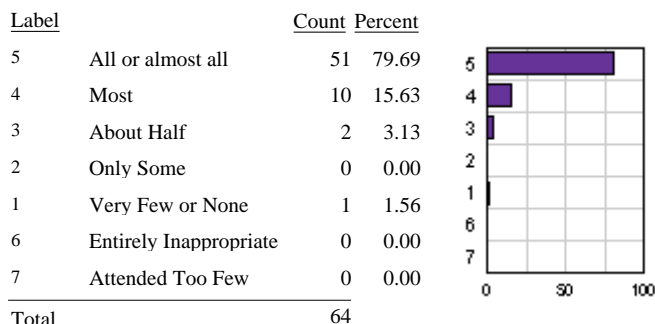
4.3 The lecturer's responses to student questions were focused on resolving those questions.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.81 Median: 4.92 All Faculties: 4.38
Std. dev.: 0.53 S.I.R.: 0.29 Business and Economics: 4.27

4.4 There was opportunity for students to clarify possible misunderstandings of lecture content, either during each lecture or at some time shortly afterwards.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.72 Median: 4.87 All Faculties: 4.35
Std. dev.: 0.67 S.I.R.: 0.31 Business and Economics: 4.23

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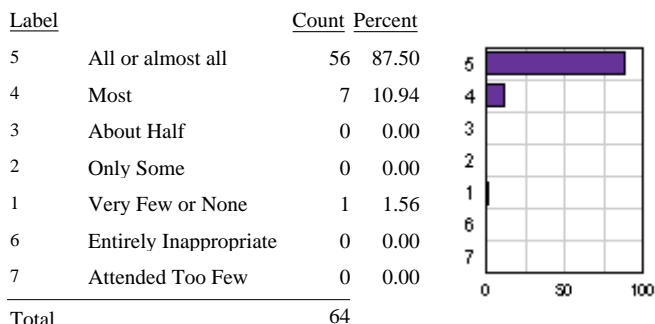
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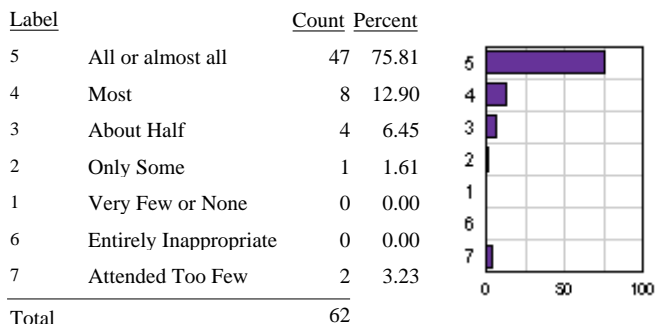
4.5 The lecturer appeared willing to assist students (either during or outside lectures) with difficulties that they had with lecture content.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.83 Median: 4.93 All Faculties: 4.45
Std. dev.: 0.57 S.I.R.: 0.29 Business and Economics: 4.34

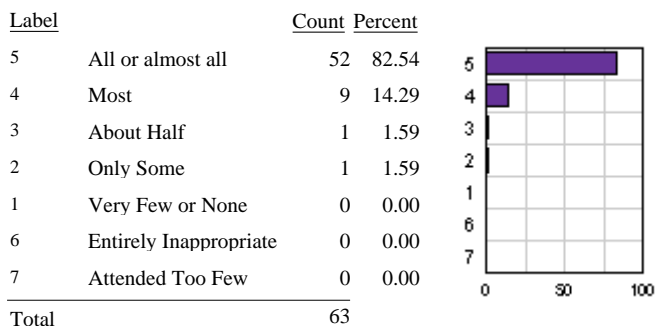
4.6 It was possible for me to consult the lecturer out of class about each lecture.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.68 Median: 4.86 All Faculties: 4.33
Std. dev.: 0.67 S.I.R.: 0.32 Business and Economics: 4.22

4.7 Supplementary materials referenced during each lecture (eg. articles or books other than prescribed texts) were available for student use (eg. library or department copies, handouts).

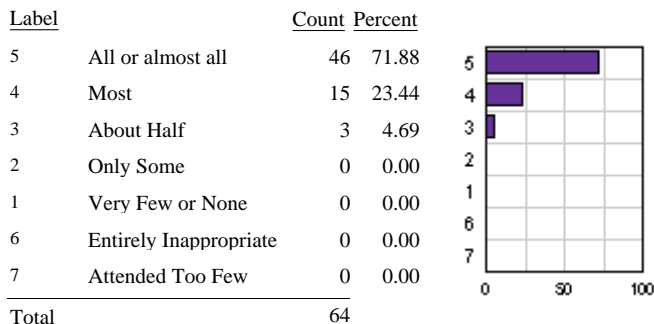


Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.78 Median: 4.89 All Faculties: 4.14
Std. dev.: 0.55 S.I.R.: 0.30 Business and Economics: 4.06

5 Physical aspects of presentation

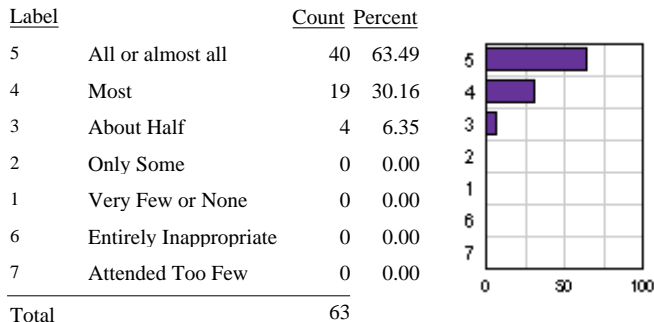
5.1 The lecturer's pace of presentation allowed me to think about the content as it was presented.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.67 Median: 4.80 All Faculties: 4.13
Std. dev.: 0.56 S.I.R.: 0.39 Business and Economics: 4.07

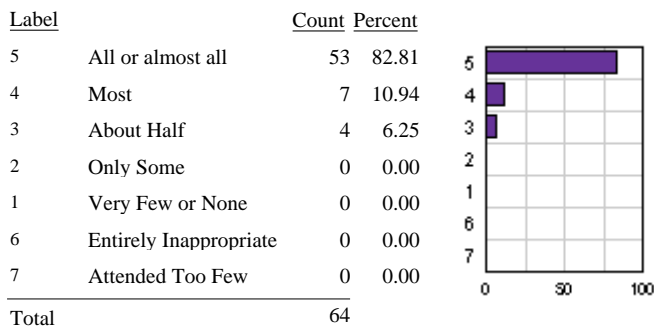
5.2 The lecturer's pace of presentation allowed me to take adequate notes.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.57 Median: 4.71 All Faculties: 4.16
Std. dev.: 0.61 S.I.R.: 0.49 Business and Economics: 4.12

5.3 I could comprehend the language and vocabulary used by the lecturer.



Overall Median (2009)

Mean: 4.77 Median: 4.90 All Faculties: 4.40
Std. dev.: 0.55 S.I.R.: 0.30 Business and Economics: 4.29

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General Comments

- 1 Simon is a brilliant lecturer, I looked forward to attending his lectures! He was always engaging and was really good at making sure all the material he had referenced could easily be accessed by students. Just one thing though- sometimes the writing was too small on the slides (especially around figures) so that you couldn't read it (I was sitting towards the front as well), so maybe check through the slides and make sure all the text is a certain minimum size. Maybe also make the learning outcomes from each topic and the unit more explicit (this would help make studying for the exam a bit easier).
- 2 Very passionate, well read and clear.
Best lecturer I've had in my 3years at monash, hard to see where to improve.
Particularly noteworthy is his use of his tablet pc so that he could make diagrams and graphs easily which were displayed on the lectures at home as well.
Also knew the material inside out due to writing the very thorough unit textbook/lecture slides which is unusual but very much appreciated.
- 3 I really liked Simon !!!!! This is one of the best units in Monash. I really appreciate your great lectures. thank you!
- 4 Simon was fantastic throughout. He has the ability to convey complex thoughts and intellectual debates with simplicity without losing any of the meaning, whilst maintaining a great demeanor.

He clearly enjoyed the subject, and is extremely knowledgeable in it's content. Absolutely no negatives to come out of PPS (except maybe the what it's showing about current human activity..)
- 5 Absolutely brilliant class. I have learned so much and shifted my perspectives on many issues. It should be a core unit for the Masters International Development & Environmental Analysis, it is that relevant.
- 6 An interesting unit in the way it intertwined several linking topics- environment, growth and poverty. I thought that the material on growth theories was interesting but it was taught in a slightly frustrating manner. The lecturer tended to ask questions, beat around the bush, almost like drawn out storytelling rather than giving us the main points and points of comparison straight up. I think the notes could have been more precise and to the point, making revision easier too. I thought the information on climate change was boring since I'd learnt much of it before but I understand some haven't. Overall I liked the lecturer and his presentation style was very good (incl. use of youtube), but could present the info in a more brisk manner rather than a lagged journey of discovery involving a lot of questions, and a difficult contention/conclusion of material to decipher
- 7 Simon is the best lecturer I have ever had. He was very enthusiastic about the unit. He was very captivating and interesting. My concentration was sustained throughout all the lectures and he always kept me wanting to learn more. I thank him for his guidance in this unit.
- 8 Excellent lecturer, very well organised subject, presenting material that he was clearly passionate about and enjoyed speaking about.

However, at times, could get sidetracked with detailed explanations that were not necessary to overall understanding. Also at times, lacked variety in lecture presentation, making it difficult to maintain focus on material. Would suggest some occasional form of personal anecdote, joke or story to maintain interest. Early lectures including humorous video was a good example.
- 9 Of all of my classes I have taken at university, this has been one of the most disappointing. Not because of the lack of interesting material, but we had anticipated the interesting material would invariably create a dynamic and engaging course. However it lacked any authentic interconnection, and I could have just read it in a book. It would make an interesting book, however as an engaging university course, this failed.

I think the main concern with the lecture notes is the same story that tutors always say to students: keep them clear and labelled and easily understandable. There are very few of the hundreds of graphs and slides that are properly labelled as to what each axis represents. Although they were referenced, why have them there if we need to return to the lecture recordings again after attending and concentrating, to really see what they are about. Not enough information to make these self explanatory.

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Also, the persistence of this class to have all of its functions digital and online did not enhance the learning experience. As a highly vocal student, who actively seeks out information and thrives on conversation but the 'reading log' as a forum for 'discussion' was contrived and self-concious. It didn't have the critical mass nor the immediacy to create sustained and active debate. There area reasons why tutorials are with real people sharing immediate conversation of 10-15 people, because its creates authentic conversation and frames ideas in new ways and provides a forum for clarifying the details of the subject matter. Maybe other students thrived under this system, but as a mode of instilling in students the skill sets that we will take with us for the rest of our lives: a blog? or real and authentic conversation? Furthermore, tutorials are the foundation of the learning experience, I rely heavily on tutors because I've always sought to achieve highly. Bouncing ideas, clarifying points and rephrasing what the lecture had not conveyed clearly- these are all essential to the functioning of a class and we simply did not have these opportunities freely accessible to us.

All in all, this is not a class I would recommend to other undergraduate students in its current format. The subject matter is interesting, but its cheaper to read it in a book than to pay HECS to just absorb information and have no dynamic way to relate to the course material.

- 10 Enjoyed every moment. Felt that I was constantly expanding my knowledge. The way in which he teaches makes one actively interesting in the topic, wanting to do extra research and study on the topic. Always examined topics from different points of view. Fantastic!
- 11 Very enthusiastic. For the online discussion logs, I would have appreciated more visits from the teaching staff.
- 12 Simon is clearly passionate when it comes to lecturing and teaching. He seems to be a very knowledgeable person for someone of his age. He was always enthusiastic and was always available for clarification after lectures.
- 13 Simon is by far the best lecturer I have ever had at university. He is enthusiastic and passionate about the topic and explains the content in a very interesting manner. I found myself wanting to know more and looking forward to coming to class. His enthusiasm is infectious, even when teaching mundane topics like how to write a good academic essay, the material was presented in such a way that we were all eager to learn. Similarly, while I have had other lectures that have taken a month to explain the Solow model, Simon explained it in such a way that the class had a real understanding in one lecture. It is clear that he puts a great deal of thought, time and energy into being a great lecturer and really cares about his students learning. He has given us a real appreciation for the wonder of humanity's achievements, and a great understanding of the challenges faced by the human race. I plan to change my subject selection so that I can enrol in other units taught by Simon in the future and will continue to recommend him to other students.
- 14 Probably one of the best lecturers I've had. Very enthusiastic about the subject. Easy to listen to and understand. And provided really good feedback on assignments.
- 15 *thumbs up*
- 16 Of all of my classes I have taken at university, this has been one of the most disappointing. Not because of the lack of interesting material, but we had anticipated the interesting material would invariably create a dynamic and engaging course. However it lacked any authentic interconnection, and I could have just read it in a book. It would make an interesting book, however as an engaging university course, this failed.

I think the main concern with the lecture notes is the same story that tutors always say to students: keep them clear and labelled and easily understandable. There are very few of the hundreds of graphs and slides that are properly labelled as to what each axis represents. Although they were referenced, why have them there if we need to return to the lecture recordings again after attending and concentrating, to really see what they are about. Not enough information to make these self explanatory.

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All in all, this is not a class I would recommend to other undergraduate students in its current format. The subject matter is interesting, but it's cheaper to read it in a book than to pay HECS to just absorb information and have no dynamic way to relate to the course material.

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- 18 Simon is a great lecturer and keeps everyone interested and focussed on the topic at hand. He should teach more subjects!
- 19 This is the last semester of my undergrad, and Simon's lecturing made this one of the best units I have ever done. His passion and enthusiasm is constant and makes all the difference, and he really allows all sides of view to be discussed. I really wish my degree went longer, so I could take up more of Simon's units.
- 20 Simon seemed very passionate about all the topics presented in the lecture. You could tell that he did spend a lot of time and effort preparing the lectures. Coming from a non-economics background and therefore, not having a good foundation for this subject, I really valued Simon's efforts in trying to translate some economics concepts and theories in a way that the average person could understand them.

I also liked the videos presented and how the subject focused on events that are currently happening in our society. You read in the newspaper or watch on TV, and with the PPS tools you can do some connections and do your own analysis about what it is happening.

The most interesting topic for me was the effects of aid in the developing world. It definitely changed a lot of misconceptions that I had about this area.

Simon is an excellent lecturer that really cares about his students. The subject is quite interesting as well. My only suggestion is trying to promote the unit for people with a non-economic background. It is really interesting and it will be better if more people had the chance of knowing about what is happening in society and what the experts say about it. For example, I had never heard about Sachs or Easterly before taking this unit. More people informed may make a more proactive vote when it comes to government elections, etc. or maybe even become an academic in this area.

Finally, thanks for the essay's feedback. Before, I wasn't that confident about my writing skills (English is not my first language) so Simon's feedback and recommendations lifted my confidence. Thank you once again!!!

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- 21 Simon was the best lecturer this semester!! Loved everything he did
- 22 Simon is one of the best lecturers I've ever had. He provided excellent and illustrative examples and analogies to aid the learning process. He seemed to have an excellent grasp of the material and presented it in a way that was interesting, engaging and increased my interests in the subject mater. I feared that economics might be boring but because Simon is such an excellent lecturer it was one of my favorite.
- 23 very open to discussion and as a student, it felt like the lecturer actually cared about teaching (unlike some who have no qualms about stating things like 'yeah so, undergrad teaching only takes up 25% of my time - i have more important things to do like my research'). Very well equipped with technology to enhance lectures like videos and recordings, and tablet pc etc.
- 24 Appreciate the passion Simon, well delivered unit, engaging and entertaining with some really broad and intriguing scope. Use of graphs, electronically drawn representations of the data and video snippets were illuminating- more photos? I would have been interested in a more critical approach to market economic theory, industrial 'revolution', the commodification of everything, the distortion of the corporate institution, distribution of wealth etc. Maybe just a more critical approach to 'prosperity' in general.
Found your presentation of climate change science really accessible to, provoking and enlightening.
All up I really enjoyed the unit and will be recommending it to fellow students.
Cheers
- 25 Best lecturer I've had since I started Universtity in 2006.
Thats a big call, but you won by a million miles!!!
Podcasts were fantastic resource, information was stimulating, flowed logically. I like your way of thinking...I couldn't design, think of a better course structure myself. I can tell you have had an engineering/ science background, as your sense of clarity is remarkable.
Thanks for arguably the most interesting subject I have studied in economics; I am biased though since I have been to Africa and seen Kilimanjaro so my perspective was quite strong.
Thanks.
- 26 Great lecturer, and very enthusiastic. Made the content very interesting.
- 27 A level above most lecturers, able to explain complex interactions (social, economic, political, environmental) to diverse class. Most valuable aspect to me was the way lecturer coached us in the best ways to educate others. For masters students it would be easier to have one 3hr block instead of having to attend university an extra day. Did not need to consult lecturer & have never taken notes in class is why I haven't answered 4.6 and 5.2
- 28 Simon Angus is clearly passionate about the aspects in this course, which shows in his presentation throughout lectures. I really enjoyed this unit.
Perhaps it there should be a greater differential between the env and ecc sides of the unit. The reason that I say this is because it is a little unfair to compare essays from 4th and 5th year students to those in 2nd year. Obvously the 4th and 5th year essays will be of a higher quality on average. This means that the ecc students, whilst receiving a decent mark, not as good as it may have been should those env students not be put in the same boat.
But overall this unit was better than I expected it to be. I enjoyed the fact that we touched on many areas, giving us a greater view of many current issues.
- 29 I really enjoyed Simon as a lecturer, the various ways of presenting information and from a perspective I understood really helped.
- 30 Best lecturer I have ever had, most interesting unit I have studied. Thanks!
- 31 Really enjoyable subject Simon. You were clearly enthusiastic, knowledgable and passionate about the subject matter. I really learnt a lot.

Academic: Simon Angus

Department: Economics

Subject: ECC2800 — Prosperity, Poverty And Sustainability In A Globalised
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I have only a couple of minor criticisms, some of the diagrams used in the lecture notes were very difficult to comprehend, i think some explanation in the notes may have been helpful. Secondly, the discussion log was a bit of a pain. I think tutorials may have provided greater assistance to my understanding and I felt that given the level of work required in the essay, it could have been worth closer to 50%, with no discussion log. I also find the hurdle requirement of 40% for the exam a little frustrating. I have quite a few exams very early and I deliberately put in extra work for the assignment to alleviate the pressure in the exam, but now the pressure is back on.

But overall, one of the best economics subjects I've done. Thanks again.

- 32 Simon is by far the best lecturer I have ever had at university. He is enthusiastic and passionate about the topic and explains the content in a very interesting manner. I found myself wanting to know more and looking forward to coming to class. His enthusiasm is infectious, even when teaching mundane topics like how to write a good academic essay, the material was presented in such a way that we were all eager to learn. Similarly, while I have had other lectures that have taken a month to explain the Solow model, Simon explained it in such a way that the class had a real understanding in one lecture. It is clear that he puts a great deal of thought, time and energy into being a great lecturer and really cares about his students; learning. He has given us a real appreciation for the wonder of humanity's achievements, and a great understanding of the challenges faced by the human race. I plan to change my subject selection so that I can enrol in other units taught by Simon in the future and will continue to recommend him to other students.
- 33 Fix the microphone so we can hear properly. It was easy to loose focus due to the poor sound quality. Also, I think Simons religious beliefs have no place in a university subject and do not appreciate reading quotes from the bible (which i do not believe in) in my unit book. I felt it undermined his character and made me inclined to think less of his opinion.
- 34 In the last section of the pace. This was hard for me because most of the ideas were new to me and sometimes it was discussed to fast. However, I realize others who are familiar with the content may disagree.
- 35 Best lecturer I've had so far.
- 36 He's hard-working, dedicated, and passionate about what he teaches.
- 37 Simon is a very enthusiastic and engaging lecturer! I wish more economics lecturers shared the same passion for their subjects, as it encourages students to develop a similar interest and understanding of the topics being covered. There was alot of content and readings to be covered for this subject, but it was all useful and interesting. I spoke to many of my class mates throughout the semester who said they would select a unit in coming semesters simply because Simon was teaching it. Thank-you for bringing the spark back to economics Simon! Keep up the good work
- 38 It was a fun unit. Your passion in what you teach is infectious :)
- 39 Fantastic, the most well attended lecture I have been to over the course of a four year degree and with good reason. Simon was engaging, enthusiastic and presented complex information in an easy to understand way. I also appreciate the focus on analytic assesment of arguments and structure for the essay marking and the detailed feedback that was given. Best lecturer and therefore subject I have taken so far at uni.
- 40 Your passion for the subject was clearly evident and was a great motivator. Thanks for that and the obvious hard work you have put into this unit. The only thing that could have been better were the class discussions. Yes, we were the quiet ones, but maybe some small group work in the beginning could have put us at ease. Again, thanks. Your classes were very rewarding.
- 41 Sir, you did an excellent job in this unit.
I appreciate the transparency of your references. I also appreciate you did a great job in Economics Now, online lectures and the lecture book. Students are able to get the information easily from the Blackboard, too.

You showed your deep understanding of the unit by referring different theories instead of a single text (off topic: to be honest, some lecturers failed to do so, so you're great!!). Most of the theories are new to me. Thus I am happy to get some

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new things which I can use in other units.

If you ask for areas that could improve, perhaps your lecture book is nearly perfect. We don't have to take much notes during the lecture. However, I personally prefer note taking, which is an effective way to keep me revise.

I understand that the lecture room is difficult to encourage students to discuss, but you succeed at a level.

Again, thanks for your teaching!!

See you next semester!

- 42 Simon is a great lecturer, clearly passionate about teaching, about the material and about his students. A very comprehensive set of notes. Fianlly I most appreciated that he clearly can think from the point of view of us as students, who don't yet understand. His notes were very clear and guided us through the material at a steady pace.
- 43 Very enthusiastic and good teaching. Definitely one of the best lecturers I've had during my university studies. Even if I couldn't always make it to class even watching the lectures online proved interesting. The teaching was very clear and thorough which made understanding easy as it should be for a general unit such as this.