

**Stanford University**  
**Winter 2021 Course Feedback**

**Course:** W21-ECON-144-01: FAMILY AND SOCIETY  
**Instructor:** Petra Persson \*  
**Response Rate:** 65/81 (80.25 %)

1 - About what percent of the class meetings (including discussions) did you attend in person?					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	
0	(0)	29	64.44%		31.69
1	(1)	1	2.22%		
50	(50)	1	2.22%		
85	(85)	1	2.22%		
90	(90)	1	2.22%		
100	(100)	12	26.67%		
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>
45/81 (55.56%)				31.69	45.88
				<b>Median</b>	0.00

2 - About what percent of the class meetings did you attend online?					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	
0	(0)	5	8.20%		89.16
10	(10)	1	1.64%		
75	(75)	1	1.64%		
82	(82)	1	1.64%		
90	(90)	2	3.28%		
95	(95)	1	1.64%		
98	(98)	1	1.64%		
99	(99)	1	1.64%		
100	(100)	48	78.69%		
<b>Response Rate</b>					
61/81 (75.31%)				89.16	29.47
				<b>Median</b>	100.00

3 - How much did you learn from this course?					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
A great deal	(5)	43	71.67%		4.58
A lot	(4)	9	15.00%		
A moderate amount	(3)	8	13.33%		
A little	(2)	0	0.00%		
Nothing	(1)	0	0.00%		
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>
60/81 (74.07%)				4.58	0.72
				<b>Median</b>	5.00

4 - Overall, how would you describe the quality of the instruction in this course?					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Excellent	(5)	46	75.41%		4.69
Good	(4)	11	18.03%		
Fair	(3)	4	6.56%		
Poor	(2)	0	0.00%		
Very Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>
61/81 (75.31%)				4.69	0.59
				<b>Median</b>	5.00

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### 5 - What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve?

Response Rate	36/81 (44.44%)
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- Understanding casual drivers Learning how to interpret data
- Inequalities in the United State and abroad, role of family in future outcomes
- I learned about the connections between sociology of the family and economics.
- Understanding of how economics impacts familial matters; some economic analysis on STATA
- I learned a lot about the different events/factors that families and society contributes towards the world economy.
- - Understanding the difference between correlation and causation, critically thinking through omitted variable bias, selection bias, etc. - Understanding how gender, SES, race, etc. affects health, socioeconomic mobility, fertility etc. - Understanding how individuals, couples, and families make decisions - How do family members affect one another - Data analysis, especially in R
- This course was such an interesting take on economics that I never had thought about. The relationship between economics and family - in many different aspects - was incredibly engaging and very well taught. Petra did a great job of teaching, especially
- Knowledge about the broad economics of family planning and family in society
- How to understand empirical studies and methods.
- I learned how to apply different research methods to the topic of social economics.
- My overall knowledge of how we can use economics and statistics to explain family and society around us.
- Learned a lot about golden standards when it comes to identifying causal impacts.
- Learned how economics is intertwined in a lot of aspects of the family unit.
- fertility, assortative matching, family spillovers, policy implications, my R skills
- -
- I learned so much about econometrics and causal analysis in general, bolstering my fundamental economic skills. The way we analyzed problems during lecture and on the problem sets helped me so much with feeling like I was truly getting applicable tools for analyzing real world problems from my econ degree. I learned about so many concepts and forces affecting families in today's society and feel like a much more informed citizen.
- Deep analysis of different socio-economic and family models and how it relates to the economy. Further discussion on policy matters and the ability to analyze research and data to not only relate it back to class content but to push policy discussion further as well.
- I enhanced my abilities to distinguish causality from correlation
- Evaluation of econometric research papers; comparing and evaluating research design; differentiating correlation and causation; relating economic research with policy design and real-world outcomes
- Loved this course
- Economics
- how what family you come from can drastically affect your outcomes, difference between correlation vs causation
- learning the nuaces and family! the economic consequences of being a women in the labour market! economics of marriage!
- How economics plays a role in family, educational outcomes, health, etc. Also, a great focus on the inequality that exists within these different areas.
- Correlation vs. causation (soooo helpful and this class explained it in such a clear way that no other econ class has been able to do at Stanford so far) Family Economics Thinking about every day life in an economics lens
- There are just so many things in life that affect different families, parents, children, and genders in ways that I hadn't thought of before.
- Professor Persson did an excellent job in having her students meet and exceed the course's learning objectives. I am now equipped to to demonstrate how the role of the family in society is shaped by laws, norms, social insurance, and technology. Prior to this course, I could not have talked even remotely on the subject. But, I have become a novice expert after the introduction of frontier social science research on key social and economic issues relating to the family. Lastly, this course and its material has prepared me well for future economics courses by teaching us how to distinguish between causal and correlational evidence in empirical data on these issues.
- I learned so much about the economics of family and how to raise children etc. Almost all of the content was new information to me and was fascinating to learn about.
- How to analyze whether an effect is causal or correlational, inequality and its various outcomes, economics of families
- Regressions
- how family structure impacts econ, how technology and policy relate to personal life
- Using data to look into social issues; analyzing data in R
- How economics and policy intertwine with family dynamics; correlation vs. causation; basic Stata coding skills
- Information regarding family and different aspects of growing up and family life
- How to use R to evaluate research and causality
- I learned more about the impact of household decision-making on macro and micro levels, and about what analytical strategies/research designs we can leverage to pursue knowledge in the space. The topics were handled with care and grace, as many of them can be considered sensitive!

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6 - How many hours per week on average did you spend on this course (including class meetings)?						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses		
3	(3)	1	1.67%			
5	(5)	9	15.00%	■		
6	(6)	6	10.00%	■		
7	(7)	9	15.00%	■		
8	(8)	10	16.67%	■		
9	(9)	1	1.67%			
10	(10)	13	21.67%	■		
11	(11)	1	1.67%			
12	(12)	1	1.67%			
13	(13)	1	1.67%			
14	(14)	2	3.33%			
15	(15)	4	6.67%	■		
30	(30)	1	1.67%			
35	(35)	1	1.67%			
				0 25 50 100		Question
<b>Response Rate</b>		<b>Mean</b>		<b>STD</b>		<b>Median</b>
60/81 (74.07%)		9.25		5.25		8.00

7 - How organized was this course?						
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Extremely organized	(5)	38	62.30%	■		
Very organized	(4)	16	26.23%	■		
Moderately organized	(3)	6	9.84%	■		
Slightly organized	(2)	1	1.64%			
Not organized at all	(1)	0	0.00%			
				0 25 50 100	Question	
<b>Response Rate</b>		<b>Mean</b>		<b>STD</b>		<b>Median</b>
61/81 (75.31%)		4.49		0.74		5.00

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**8 - What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future? All comments are subject to Stanford's Terms of Use for Sites. Answers to this question will be viewable by other students, as well as instructors.**

Response Rate	46/81 (56.79%)
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- Great field course with useful information on a variety of topics in family economics. Psets can take some time if you aren't comfortable with statistics or programming.
- Really great course! Manageable work load and interesting.
- This course was great and I think revolves around really pertinent issues that you can definitely discuss at the dinner table! It gets you thinking about how your circumstances gave rise to who you are today, and makes you think about the inequalities that pervade. Professor Persson is super friendly and clearly passionate about the topics she teaches, and I would also highly recommend going to office hours! (particularly for problem set help)
- This course is so interesting. Looking at economics through a societal lens is something everyone should try. Petra is also so passionate about this topic and the class which makes the whole class so enjoyable
- Professor Persson structures the class extremely well and is very warm-hearted. The work is very manageable and the content interesting. Can recommend
- This was such a wonderful class! Professor Persson is great and really cares about her students. Discussions are engaging and the flipped classroom model worked very well.
- All of the topics are extremely interesting and you get as much out of the class as you put into it.
- Really interesting material. Workload is pretty light and I think you witness a lot of cool ways to apply economics to mundane things or things we take for granted. I thought it was a very creative course and Petra is a very kind and understanding professor.
- A surprising wonderful course for a first-time offering. Very reasonable amount of work, the material is super interesting, and Petra is a great lecturer who's very understanding of students. As a first-time offering, the psets fluctuated a bit in their difficulty and length, but I'm sure this will become better in the future. I see this becoming one of the best field courses in the department in the future!
- Petra is absolutely amazing! You will learn so much. My favorite economics course by far.
- Definitely take this class! Petra is a great professor, and the course is interesting and relevant. You cover a great diversity of topics within just 10 weeks, and it leaves you wanting to learn more! Also, really great for helping to understand economics research.
- TAKE THIS CLASS. Petra is one of the nicest professors I have had at this school and genuinely prioritizes your learning. The material is super interesting and engaging, and the workload is incredibly manageable. Amazing class and 10/10 would recommend to everyone.
- Take it - it provides actionable, broad knowledge that's useful for any situation later in life. The grading is a bit harsh, so proactively speak up about it!
- Another very interesting, moderately low time commitment field course. This was the first time it was offered and some of the psets were difficult to do in R or Stata, but the teaching team said that coding was not the goal of the course and shifted it to be not focused on the code. Probably will be less in future quarters.
- Such an interesting class! Petra is such an amazing professor and extremely engaging. The class focuses on a very overlooked concept in economics which is becoming increasingly more important. Furthermore, you learn so much about research in this area that you end up learning a ton of different research methods that could be applied to other situations.
- It really helps to have some coding background in either STATA or R.
- It's an interesting course, but the amount of coding was unexpected. It was not discussed that you would need coding experience. There was some help, but I still really struggled. The topics are interesting and I enjoyed lecture.
- Super interesting class! highly recommend.
- Fantastic course! Petra is a great professor who listens to student feedback and adapts when feasible/necessary. Work load is manageable as well.
- It's a very accessible class for anyone who is interested in Economics and the topics are very interesting.
- Petra is a very kind and caring professor who will ensure that everyone has a chance to get a good handle on the material. The class topics are pretty interesting, but I felt like the organization of topics could have been slightly better. The final project was a reasonable workload, but probably would have been more interesting if it was a deeper dive into a topic over several weeks, rather than just focusing on one paper. Good course overall.
- It is a really interesting course. Petra always said that the course was not about coding, but the coding for the problem sets actually was quite difficult at times. Overall, a really enjoyable class to be in!
- Loved this class! One of the most interesting and applicable Econ classes offered by Stanford. Definitely take it if you want to understand how econ applies to social issues.
- Take it for sure. It was a great class that covered tons of interesting topics, helping you understand the economic forces at play and helping you learn about causal analysis. I feel more informed about the subject matter itself but also more generally about economic research and tools. It also was very chill and a very manageable structure- making me learn a ton (as much if not more than all my other econ courses) without feeling as stressed as usual.
- highly recommend this class and the professor!
- Prof. Persson was a wonderful instructor and clearly passionate about the topic she researches and teaches. The class admittedly was not that rigorous compared to other econ electives I've taken, but the content was very compelling, interesting, and relevant to many modern policy debates surrounding socioeconomic and family inequities.
- Prof Persson is fantastic. By nature of her specialty, family and economics, she brings a number of perspectives to economic analysis that aren't usually centered in the typical economics course -- things like social norms, laws, networks and how they impact economic outcomes. Many of the topics we cover in class are some of the most pressing and interesting issues of our time -- inequality, family structure, marriage, and fertility. She does a great job of connecting rigorous economic analysis to policy design and real-world outcomes, and it is clear she is a leading expert in the field. Lectures are engaging and clear. On top of this, Prof Persson is warm, caring, and truly easy to talk to. Assignments were straightforward and solidified concepts learned in class. I would highly recommend this class as an example of what applied economics should look like!
- Take this class!!
- Great course!
- definitely take this course. every lecture is extremely interesting and engaging, and you learn soooo much about how what family you come from affects your outcomes. i completely forgot it was an econ course, so definitely non-econ majors can take it as well. really easy but also really interesting. one of my favorite courses I have taken in my 4 years at stanford
- I'm so grateful that this course was created! Professor Persson gives a great overview of many questions that are very relevant in current econ research, but have not really been covered by other economics courses at Stanford until now. This content -- looking at intergenerational mobility, inequality, women's labor force participation, etc -- is why I wanted to study econ, but I previously hadn't even been able to take econ classes on these topics. It definitely isn't a "deep dive" on any particular topic, but the course touched on a lot of interesting topics that I now want to learn more about.
- The course topic is so so interesting and Petra is also a great and incredible instructor. If you're interested at all in your own family, the economics of that, you'll really like this class. Workload is not too intense and you genuinely learn a lot from lectures. easily one of my fave econ classes.
- This has been the most interesting economics class I have taken at Stanford so far! Professor Persson is absolutely fantastic! She has made such a great course and each lecture is extremely engaging and relevant to today's times. The assignments are interesting, and I actually looked forward to completing the problem sets. I highly recommend any student to take this course at some point during their Stanford career. I really hope that they continue offering this course in future years.
- Actually a really interesting course and unlike anything else taught in the Stanford econ department. Family economics does not get enough love and is SO important and all-encompassing in everyone's life. Petra is one of the few instructors at Stanford where you can tell that she truly, truly cares about her students. The nicest and most personable person ever. If she is teaching this class again, do not hesitate to sign up - you won't regret it!

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**Response Rate:** 65/81 (80.25 %)

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- This is one of the best courses I have taken at Stanford. Everything we learned was so relevant and so eye-opening. As young students, we don't typically think about our future families or employment, so it was really fascinating to learn about how different societal structures dictate people's behavior and outcomes. Plus, Petra is so wonderful!
- I wholeheartedly advise students to take this course. It is very beneficial to students, especially those who have not previously been exposed to the intersection between economics and social issues. It serves as a nice snippet of what there is after completing the economics core. It also was a great introduction to regression analysis for students without any previous experience. The teaching staff went above and beyond to meet the needs of the students. You will not regret taking this course with Professor Persson. She genuinely wants what is best for her students.
- This is probably my favorite economics class I have taken and I highly recommend it to everyone, even those who are not majoring in Economics.
- This course was fascinating and very well taught, without too heavy of a workload. I would recommend having background knowledge in R or Stata as the psets will be very difficult if you don't. They said they'd give all the code required to do the problem sets but in actuality would only give the easiest snippets and leave you to figure the rest out.
- Not too bad, problem sets are hard though.
- Petra is a great professor and so understanding, she is a rarity in the Economics department and I highly recommend you take this course with her. It was well-designed, there's only 4 psets and a group project and participation as part of your grade. The TAs Jacob and Rachel were so helpful and want to help you succeed which is also a rarity in the Economics department here at Stanford. The only thing I would change is the heavy Scandinavian-focus that some of the papers had but I think this is because Petra is from Sweden. It would be helpful to broaden our geographical perspective with papers that still touch on the same issues.
- great class!
- Great class, great quality of instruction. Try your best on the psets, and make use of office hours!
- This is a really nice, chill class with interesting content, good instruction, and light workload. There are a lot of tie-ins with public health, health equity, and education which made the course especially enjoyable for me. PSETs are pretty easy - most of the coding hints you need are given in the instructions - and the in-class presentation is a very manageable amount of work. Petra is also super kind and supportive of students' learning. Great class overall!
- Amazing course, Professor Persson is such a great instructor and the topics you cover have such real world relevancy.
- Petra is so sweet and kind (she herself is a mother teaching the economics of FAMILY and society, and you can really feel her caring motherly vibes through the screen). The topics are extremely interesting since they all pertain to everyday life. The problem sets use R and sometimes it was challenging for those who have never used R, but the TAs provide code for everything you need on the psets so its really not that scary. Also, this is the first time this class is held and it's honestly really really good, low workload, but fun discussion topics
- TAKE THIS COURSE! It is a very unique one in the Econ department. Topics from Family and Society affect all of our lives! It was very engaging. Prof. Persson is outstanding and you are sure to have a positive experience. All of the assignments are fair and the teaching staff wants you to succeed!

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### 9 - Would you like to provide any other comments about this course?

**Response Rate** 15/81 (18.52%)

- Thank you for such a wonderful course!
- Could have been better organized, but definitely understand b/c it was the first time this course has been taught.
- Great job! I can't believe this course was one taught for the first time this quarter. It was one of the courses I have most enjoyed at my time at Stanford, and the things I learned have meaningfully impacted the way I see the world! Seriously!
- petra is the goat
- Great course and amazing TAs
- This was a truly great class with an incredible teaching team. I am grateful I chose to do it and hope future students are able to take this as well!
- no
- Although coding wasn't a prerequisite, the hw assignments were very much based on coding. As someone who has little coding background, I found this extremely frustrating and the assignments to be very difficult. Even when the lines of Code were included at end of pset, this was still not helpful. I was really struggling and think that the coding should either be removed (if coding is not a prerequisite) or make coding a prerequisite.
- no
- Amazing class!
- I sincerely hope that the University will continue to offer this course. It was a great refresher for me while in the middle of economics core. It reaffirmed my desire to continue studying economics. More courses like this one, with minimal prerequisites, should be offered early in the economics sequence.
- The professor was fabulous. She was engaging, knowledgeable, and brought a ton of her own expertise to this class.
- no
- N/A
- I wish TAs would be more helpful on Canvas discussions or have a piazza page for people to help each other. Because canvas is not anonymous, sometimes i just dont have the guts to post on there

### 10 - How well did you achieve the learning goals of this course?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Extremely well	(5)	40	63.49%			4.54	
Very well	(4)	18	28.57%				
Moderately well	(3)	4	6.35%				
Slightly well	(2)	1	1.59%				
Not well at all	(1)	0	0.00%				
				0 25 50 100	Question		
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
63/81 (77.78%)				4.54	0.69	5.00	