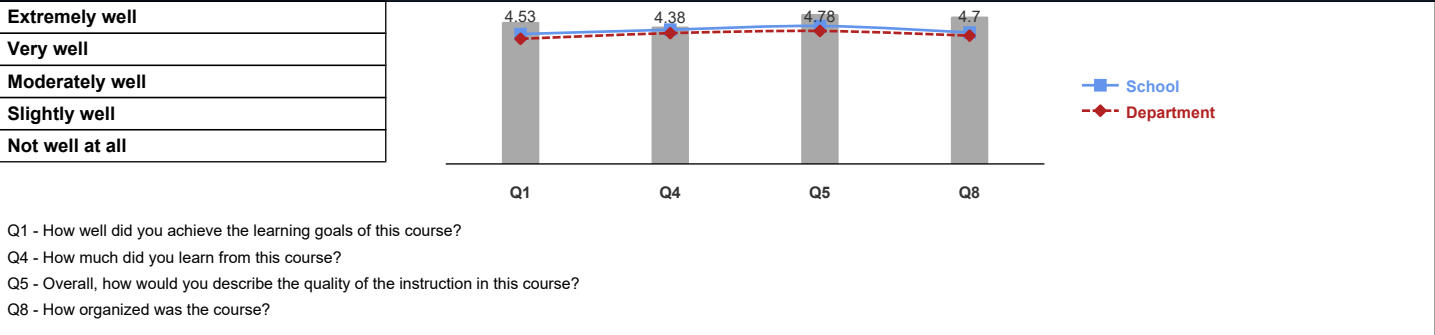


Stanford University

Winter 2022 Course Feedback

Course: W22-ECON-144-01: FAMILY AND SOCIETY
Instructor: Petra Persson *
Response Rate: 65/80 (81.25 %)

At A Glance: Summary Chart



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

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Extremely well	(5)	36	58.06%		4.53	4.14	3.99					
Very well	(4)	23	37.10%									
Moderately well	(3)	3	4.84%									
Slightly well	(2)	0	0.00%									
Not well at all	(1)	0	0.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	School	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
62/80 (77.50%)	4.53	0.59	5.00	15414	4.14	0.89	4.00	1178	3.99	0.96	4.00	

2 - About what percent of the class meetings (including discussions) did you attend in person?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
29	(29)	1	1.72%		79.10	67.54	71.02					
50	(50)	1	1.72%									
60	(60)	5	8.62%									
68	(68)	1	1.72%									
70	(70)	11	18.97%									
71	(71)	1	1.72%									
75	(75)	3	5.17%									
79	(79)	1	1.72%									
80	(80)	13	22.41%									
84	(84)	1	1.72%									
85	(85)	4	6.90%									
89	(89)	1	1.72%									
90	(90)	2	3.45%									
91	(91)	1	1.72%									
95	(95)	5	8.62%									
97	(97)	1	1.72%									
100	(100)	6	10.34%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	School	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
58/80 (72.50%)	79.10	14.01	80.00	14154	67.54	30.58	75.00	1110	71.02	25.00	75.00	

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3 - About what percent of the class meetings did you attend online?												
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses								
0	(0)	3	5.66%	█								
4	(4)	1	1.89%									
5	(5)	4	7.55%	█								
10	(10)	2	3.77%									
15	(15)	4	7.55%	█								
16	(16)	1	1.89%									
20	(20)	13	24.53%	█								
21	(21)	1	1.89%									
25	(25)	3	5.66%	█								
27	(27)	1	1.89%									
30	(30)	12	22.64%	█								
40	(40)	3	5.66%	█								
50	(50)	1	1.89%									
71	(71)	1	1.89%									
90	(90)	1	1.89%									
100	(100)	2	3.77%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	School	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
53/80 (66.25%)	26.30	21.61	20.00	13345	40.15	33.88	30.00	1011	32.06	26.38	25.00	

4 - How much did you learn from this course?												
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
A great deal	(5)	30	51.72%	█								
A lot	(4)	21	36.21%	█								
A moderate amount	(3)	6	10.34%	█								
A little	(2)	1	1.72%									
Nothing	(1)	0	0.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	School	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
58/80 (72.50%)	4.38	0.75	5.00	15054	4.28	0.85	5.00	1147	4.17	0.89	4.00	

5 - Overall, how would you describe the quality of the instruction in this course?												
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Excellent	(5)	48	82.76%	█								
Good	(4)	8	13.79%	█								
Fair	(3)	1	1.72%									
Poor	(2)	1	1.72%									
Very Poor	(1)	0	0.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	School	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
58/80 (72.50%)	4.78	0.56	5.00	15058	4.40	0.84	5.00	1139	4.24	0.92	4.00	

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6 - What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve?

Response Rate 31/80 (38.75%)

- Learning about policy goals
- N/A
- -Identification strategies -Trends/patterns within society (really fascinating material!)
- critical thinking
- How to view and analyze economic experiments, studies, and relevant societal concepts in family economics.
- just more abt research in the field of family and society
- Learning how to view issues relevant to the family: marriage, fertility, and child rearing behavior, through an economic lens
- I learned about how economics and other social sciences can be used to analyze family situations and the laws/tech/social norms that influence behaviors of people within a family
- Many facts about family structure and its place in society
- econ
- Understanding of how families, couples, and children play a role in the changing demographics and groups in society through an economic lense.
- Applying economic concepts to family structure and social formations.
- I learned so much about a very vast variety of interconnected topics which I appreciate
- Women's fertility policies, how the government affects people's life outcomes, and the economic factors that impact wealth
- thinking about correlation, causation, and confounding factors. interpretation of data & statistics
- I learned a great deal about the difference between correlation and causality.
- I learned a lot about family spillover effects, difference in difference regressions, how government laws and technology has affected fertility and family decisions.
- Reading economics paper, critical thinking, economics of family
- Stata
- I learned about many economic studies of family in society: health, education, marriage/divorce, and more. I sharpened my skills of distinguishing causation vs. correlation, and improved in my understanding of regressions.
- Learned how to distinguish between correlation and causation in various contexts relating to family and society. Learned about the factors that influence economic outcomes.
- Social Science statistical methods Academic validity
- Correlation vs causation
- I learned more about how important one's early family environment is and the implications that might arise both in the short - term and the long - term if an individual does not have a good one.
- I learned how research is used to guide government policy, especially with respect to families.
- I learned a lot about how to read academic papers. Even in other courses that are heavy on academic papers, I haven't been given instruction on how to read academic papers, but I feel like the TAs and assignments gave me a better understanding on how to approach reading papers. I also learned a lot about family policies that I feel will become increasingly relevant to me as I get older.
- I learned a lot about the economic research that exists regarding women, equity, and family dynamics.
- How to think about causal relationships; applying economic frameworks to real-world policy applications; how to work in Stata/R; the complexities of health and family policy
- Improved on regression analysis and learning about best practices for experimental design
- Data analysis, reading economic papers and understanding causal relationships through statistics.
- Economics Research Empirically Analysis

7 - 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	1.96%											
5	(5)	11	21.57%	■										
6	(6)	2	3.92%											
7	(7)	4	7.84%	■										
8	(8)	11	21.57%	■										
9	(9)	1	1.96%											
10	(10)	14	27.45%	■										
11	(11)	1	1.96%											
12	(12)	5	9.80%	■										
25	(25)	1	1.96%											
					0	25	50	100	Question	School	Department			
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
51/80 (63.75%)	8.45	3.35	8.00	13867	9.90	6.43	9.00	1031	11.90	5.75	10.00			

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Instructor: Petra Persson *
Response Rate: 65/80 (81.25 %)

8 - How organized was the course?												
Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Extremely organized		(5)	42	75.00%		4.70						
Very organized		(4)	12	21.43%		4.19						
Moderately organized		(3)	1	1.79%		4.09						
Slightly organized		(2)	1	1.79%								
Not organized at all		(1)	0	0.00%								
					0 25 50 100	Question	School	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
56/80 (70.00%)	4.70	0.60	5.00	14885	4.19	0.87	4.00	1119	4.09	0.89	4.00	

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Winter 2022 Course Feedback

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Instructor: Petra Persson *

Response Rate: 65/80 (81.25 %)

9 - 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	39/80 (48.75%)
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- The course was super interesting. However, the PSETs did require a bit of coding knowledge, and felt inaccessible to those without that background. However, office hours were useful!
- Take it
- A fun, easy and interesting Econ elective. I think that its topics are really interesting and you will learn a lot from the class! Highly recommended!
- 144 is a great exposure to many extremely relevant and interesting concepts in the Economics of Family and Society. These are often such overlooked aspects of Economics that are actually so important and that I feel like all Economics students should learn.
- not very interesting material, lectures much too long but not learning a lot involved, pset grading is vague and harsh
- Petra is extremely caring and kind, and one of the best lecturers in the econ department. Plus, the issues that you discuss through an economic lens (fertility, childbearing, marriage, etc.) are actually interesting and relevant.
- Professor Persson is a really nice instructor, and I would recommend taking this class if you find the topic interesting! It's not a class that requires too much (if any) prior economics knowledge, and it was cool to learn about how economics can be used to study families and household relationships. The workload is also pretty manageable (a few psets that may include using R/Stata, as well as two projects).
- Great course and you learn a lot - not a lot of pressure
- This class is super interesting, content-wise. The lectures are slow but very engaging because the content is so interesting and the lecturer is super engaging. The lectures are simply too long so things get repeated a lot. The Psets are by far the most annoying part of this class, they honestly are very difficult for no reason. This class focuses way too much on the difference between correlation and causation, a concept I think I mastered in middle school. I wish the P-sets focused more on the interesting facts we learn about families as opposed to research methods, there is only so much to understand about how research is conducted.
- take it
- A wonderful course. Psets are very reasonable and do not overwhelm you. Wonderful instruction. Must take.
- I really enjoyed this class. It was one of the most well-organized, informative class that I have taken. It wasn't too difficult (if you go to office hours you will be totally fine on your psets), and it was pretty fun.
- Petra is a great instructor and was very adaptable to changing health/social circumstances. Assignments were doable and I genuinely learned from them.
- I would highly recommend! Petra is one of the best lecturers I have had in the econ department. A lot of the material is repetitive from ECON118 and ECON126, but things are explained really well and all of the papers are super interesting. Psets are not super related to the lectures, but they are really not too hard
- Take it! Very interesting topics and engaging teaching team
- Not a single reason to not take it. Petra is awesome!
- Petra is great! She goes through a lot of topics within the 10 week period, because she really knows exactly what she's talking about and what the relevant literature is to each topic. The class is well structured and easy to follow, and it provides a really interesting way to think about issues concerning family and society. I enjoyed it
- This was a very fluffy class — very easy with not much work, so it should be appealing to many students. The topics in the class are super interesting, but they are covered in a very light way (mostly centered around NYT or Atlantic articles), so this class is definitely accessible to non-Econ majors. If you're looking for a rigorous Econ class, this is not it. In terms of class logistics, a few small things annoyed me, like how they downloaded our Panopto video data to confirm we watched the lectures and track our attendance.
- Professor Persson is a great professor and she really makes her class engaging and fun.
- The papers and material are very interesting! Workload was very manageable, and it's nice to only have p-sets and a final project, allowed me to not stress and just enjoy learning the content.
- The material itself is not terribly interesting, but the thought experiments that are presented are extremely useful.
- Prof. Persson is a great teacher and this course has some really interesting topics. Psets can be hard so be sure to work with friends but lecture is always interesting. Would highly recommend as one of the field courses for the Econ major.
- Take this class!! Dr. Persson is such a caring professor who clearly cares about her students and is passionate about the subject. This is a really unique field course as you get the chance to apply economics to very personal matters like parenting, marriage, etc. The workload is totally manageable, and I would definitely recommend this class to anyone thinking of taking it.
- This is an interesting class to learn about various factors effecting families within society, and how families impact economies and the society at large. You will get out what you put in (e.g., reading the required studies, going to section, etc.). Problem sets require a bit of coding in Stata or R (which takes some time to learn if you haven't already, and you will need to go to office hours for the psets); you're also expected to be able to read regressions and some more technical economic papers, but overall the course is not too difficult.
- The class is incredibly interesting and not as rigorous as other upper-level econ classes. Professor Persson has interesting lectures and usually asks questions that engage the class well. The topics themselves are really broad and have a ton of interesting implications for our everyday lives.
- Great class if you are interested in economics and familial structure
- Feel like this class could be taught in 1 hour slots rather than 2. Go into lots of detail about some intuitive and sometimes unremarkable insights about society which can sometimes be boring. Essentially the whole class is correlation vs causation over and over again. Petra is so great and thoughtful, creates a welcoming vibe in the classroom.
- Such a fun class that covers topics in a way that most Econ courses do not. Truly focused on your success and learning and taking as much as you can from the content. Petra is wonderful, kind and super accessible. Take it!
- I really enjoyed taking this course! It's not too much work and the material is quite applicable in the context of today's society.
- Professor Persson is wonderful, and while the lectures start to drag on after some time, you learn a much of really interesting things in this course. Workload is low and the material is pretty straightforward, aside from unclear wording of some pset questions. Dante was an excellent TA.
- Very interesting content! A great field course.
- This is one of my favorite econ field courses I've taken at Stanford! Petra is an excellent, warm instructor that genuinely cares about the course material. The teaching staff was excellent as well, eager to help students. The course material was so interesting, and I think very applicable to life. This class is a must take in the econ department!
- its a good course
- Great course! I loved learning about the different studies and topics.
- This is a really enjoyable course. Petra does an amazing job of keeping the content engaging while also keeping the class low stress. The material is really interesting, and it never felt like it was moving too fast or too slow. The workload is not heavy at all, and this feels like proof to me that professors don't need to overload students with work to make them learn the material. Petra was very respectful of the heavier subjects that were discussed in class, too, which I appreciated a lot. She was also the only professor I had this quarter who actively told students to prioritize our physical and mental health. Definitely recommend taking this class!
- This was my single favorite economics course I've taken at Stanford. Incredibly interesting, fun, well-taught, and learned a ton. Highly recommend it to anyone thinking of taking it (and it's a field course!)

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Response Rate: 65/80 (81.25 %)

- I loved this class so much. Professor Persson is a talented lecturer and a wonderful instructor. I found the course content to be compelling, relevant, and presented in a cogent manner. The TAs were helpful and I also improved on my R fluency this quarter.
- Great elective economics course with a fantastic instructor! It touches on some very interesting topics and teaches a skill that is overlooked by many other economics courses, which is separating causal relationships from correlations in data.
- A very unique class which combines hardcore economics research with a human touch.

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

Response Rate	8/80 (10%)
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- N/A
- I think that the office hours were too generous in giving students "answers". By the end of the course, many students were essentially being told the answers of the PSETs, devaluing any of the time that we spent working on the PSETs on our own.
- n/a
- Take it!
- Try to find a way where not everyone is messing around on their computers during class.
- I loved the course and hope it continues to be offered to students in the future!
- No
- N/A

Mean of Means Calculations	Mean	School	Department	
Mean of Means	4.60	4.25	4.12	