1. Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

Strengths
- Ran has a great ability to pinpoint the important aspects of the curriculum and tie these to other topics that might be of more interest. He also has a keen understanding of what graduate students want to learn from the course in terms of others' research and how to conduct their own research. He truly cares about the development of his students as scholars and puts a tremendous amount of effort into course structure, curriculum and lectures rather than merely teaching the course with as little cost (effort) to himself as possible.
- - passionate - accepting of people that took the subject due to the pre-requisite requirement. - encouraged us to be opinionated, critically evaluate papers and not passively absorb them.
- Ran's a very understanding teacher. He is super-flexible too. He can adjust his teaching dynamically to what the students want, and accommodates for different circumstances of students in a very fair way. His idea of a "safe environment" to present your preliminary work and ideas made a big positive difference.
- Fantastic teacher. Very approachable, and always willing to help students. I am very pleased I took this class.
- Ran is a great teacher.
- Very clear explanation.

Suggestions for Improvement
- Ran is really an excellent lecturer, instructor, teacher,...[He's probably the best instructor I've had at Stanford according to any metric I can think of] so there aren't many suggestions for improvement. I just wish there was more time to hear his insights during class lecture periods (though this would have to, unfortunately, come at the expense of another important part of the course - student presentations). Maybe one particular improvement could be to summarize the non-assigned readings on the syllabus and how they relate to the day's topic and contribute to the overall theme.
- None beyond the midterm evaluation suggestions. I think that Ran clearly cares about the class and adjusts following feedback.

2. Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses, if any, of the textbook(s) and reading(s). What materials were most and least valuable? Why?

Strengths
- Most of the readings were really quite good. They covered a broad range of different types of economic history papers and exposed students to many different ways of thinking about economic history while trying to maintain student interest at as high a level as possible since there was always some paper or some aspect of a paper that the student would like and find useful.
- - We get introduced to reading papers, this is a nice class for beginning research in general, not just history research.
- Some of the readings were great because the papers were far from perfect. I really liked the way the course was structured.

Suggestions for Improvement
- I personally would like to see a broader range of applied micro-type topics taught and assigned instead of the macro-related topics that dominated the first few weeks of the quarter. I think this contributes more to the topical/thematic nature of the course that is intended.
- None - I think Ran has adjusted the readings after feedback on them appropriately.
- Only recommendation is to get rid of the Clark papers - but I think you plan to do that anyways. I would also suggest looking at a different paper for inequality (but that may be just my preference).

3. Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

Strengths
- *Reading - one reading per class is very reasonable, better to focus on one reading in detail than on multiple readings in less detail *Student presentation of a paper - valuable presentation skills honed: Ran's template was great; nice to hear a fellow student's perspective on papers *3 discussion slides - I enjoyed the process of creating these as it made me think about the paper while reading it making me more of an active reader than a passive reader *research proposal presentation - useful to think about an economic paper topic and get feedback from fellow students *Final paper - not completed yet
I love the term paper requirement. I have a lot of work to do, but it is so different presenting a research proposal you actually have to perform than one that has no commitments attached. I got a lot out of the process.

The proposal presentations and comments were very useful.

Suggestions for Improvement

* Reading - some of the readings were less than scintillating but teach important methods nonetheless. Ran asked about our likes and dislikes and has agreed to change the syllabus in the future based on student interest/feedback rather than rigidly teaching the same syllabus year-to-year.
* Student presentation of a paper - most presentations were good and useful for understanding different perspectives...not much to improve here...it's not Ran's fault if a student doesn't care about presenting
* 3 discussion slides - provide sample discussion slides for the first paper to set clearer expectations of what is expected here - there seemed to have been a lot of variance in student level of caring about the creation of these slides
* Research proposal presentation - have an earlier deadline (maybe end of week 7) to submit a very brief skeleton proposal to get feedback before investing in working on something that may not be as promising as it initially seems
* Final paper - not completed yet

Another strength was the presentation of Ran's own work with him pausing to illustrate why he is presenting the slides in that order. I think that it would be great if we had handouts for that class, so we could annotate his slides with presentation skills notes. Very refreshing to see a Prof. attempt such a different teaching method, well done.

4. Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all?

Strengths

* See answers to other questions
* The lecture where Ran used one of his papers to explain how to present a paper, giving us many tips on how to make slides for presentations, was extremely helpful.

Suggestions for Improvement

* See answers to other questions