Teaching Evaluation Summary (2009-2010 Autumn)

Instructor: Abramitzky, Ran
Subject: ECON
Catalog & Section: 227, 01

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

Strengths

- Ran did an excellent job. He chose interesting papers, and in general the structure of the course was good.
- Exceptional dedication and interest in students' learning.
- Great teacher, course taught research methods and ways of structuring research.
- This course is one of the very best I have taken in the Economics department. Prof. Abramitzky is great at leading and moderating discussions. Prof. Abramitzky is admirably open-minded with respect to methodology and the scope of economic analysis: this seminar did more than any other class I have taken to build my ability to judge economic evidence in light of the questions it aims to answer. Everyone in the economics program could benefit from this course.

Suggestions for Improvement

- It might work to have a rotating panel of people who could be selected to present, just so you wouldn't have to prepare the slides every single time.
- Course material was not really covering European Economic history.
- Nothing to say, really good.

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

- Enjoyed all the readings with the exception of the Ligon paper.
- Readings were really well organized--required ones were good lengths and supplemental references were helpful.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Excellent choice of material so nothing to say again.

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

Strengths

- Presentations were generally a good/helpful experience.
- Assignments allowed the practice of useful skills and exploration of research ideas.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Well for a second year student I had not time to pour into history books during the quarter so that it's difficult to come up with a good idea by the end of the quarter but it's probably impossible to do otherwise.

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

Strengths

- One of the best courses I've taken at Stanford.

Suggestions for Improvement
• Excellent class, continue like that!