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

Strengths

- The class got even better after the mid-quarter evaluations! Thanks and good job Ran!
- Ran is a great teacher, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and organized.
- Ran is an excellent teacher. Especially, he cares about students’ feedback and has a very good interaction with us.
- Ran is a really enthusiastic and talented teacher.
- Ran clearly cares a lot about students and their learning, and his effort helps to make the course a valuable learning experience. The environment for proposal presentations was very helpful and fun to participate in.
- Ran’s consideration for his students is clear. He shows constant devotion to teaching. I appreciated the amount of respect he showed us.
- Ran is one of the most engaging and dedicated professors I’ve had - he works hard to create a challenging class with high expectations while maintaining a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere during each meeting. He cares that the material is interesting and useful and clearly wants to share as much as he can that will benefit us in the long-run, history-related or not. Ran’s enthusiasm for the material, students, and the profession is contagious - he alone makes the class worth taking.
- Ran was extremely friendly, interesting, and engaging.

Suggestions for Improvement

- I think that having a discussion of the day’s reading in place of a student presentation would be more valuable and would let students more thoroughly explore the paper. Perhaps a student could lead that discussion and come up with a list of questions instead of presenting on the paper.
- I mentioned in the mid-course eval that I didn’t like when questions were cutoff at the expense of fitting in more material, and the course was adjusted accordingly. In general, I was very impressed that he initiated and analyzed in detail the mid-course evaluation - I think other suggestions I had (presenting a new paper instead of one we all read, for instance) was adequately discussed by Ran and the whole class, and I felt my input was important whether the suggestion was adopted or not. Also on the mid-course eval, I wished we had stayed in the bubble room (more cordial feel to it) and thought there’s probably a balance in how rigid the timing is. I agree class ran a little long the first half of the quarter, but I thought discussions were not quite as insightful or enjoyable in the second half when the countdown on presentations was more organized and formal.

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 materials are of great value to me, a few not. However, I totally understand that because the instructor also has to consider other students’ demand and taste.
- I enjoyed the papers and thought they represented a broad variety of topics.
- In general, I enjoyed most of the readings. I noticed that they were carefully picked to show us a new style and/or technique.
- We did this on the google doc already, but I would say it was a good mix - I didn’t like the Kinnan paper and one Clark paper was enough - but in general this course gave a fantastic overview of applied work and economics in general.
- Great set of papers. Many of them full of problems, but without fault very educational.

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

Strengths

- I enjoy the readings assigned.
- I always like being forced to write a proposal.
- I enjoyed the format of the class. It was well-structured and organized.
• All good - the one presentation on someone else's work, one on your own work was ideal. The threat of being chosen to present at the end was also a good incentive to read all the papers - this was time-consuming, but definitely a fair workload and made for a better discussion.
• Coming up with discussion slides for every class got a bit old towards the end, but it was an excellent mechanism to stimulate discussion. So given the moral hazard problem, was definitely the constrained-optimal incentive scheme. Giving a long presentation was very useful.

Suggestions for Improvement

• Outside of class, one thing I liked was getting together with my study group from first year and having our own mini-discussion the night before class - I think this was especially good because our class was a little too big, but that's no one's fault. So it's obviously nothing for Ran to initiate or require, but maybe just to mention at the beginning of the year that it's an idea that's been tried (and enjoyed!) by other students before.

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

Strengths

• It was an enjoyable learning environment, and I'm glad I took it.
• I enjoyed the class more when we were in the Bubble Room and got lost in conversation about the papers. However, I also appreciated Ran respecting other people's complaints about the lack of space and overtime. Obviously he cannot please everyone, but I think Ran did a great job maximizing the class's utility.
• Ran did a fantastic job - the course was well-positioned in the first quarter of the second year to introduce us to types of questions being asked, how people are trying to tackle them, and where the bar is for analyzing papers. It introduced me to what economic history is, and lots of Ran's assertions ring true - for instance, that history can be it's own field, but can also be an approach to tackle a question that's interesting more generally. I enjoyed the general advice Ran had for us as well, that he sees people waiting for the perfect idea don't come up with it nearly as often as people who are just always plugging away on something. In sum, I'm very pleased with this class and look forward to recommending it strongly to others next year.
• Ran did a great job getting students excited about economic history. Loved the course!
• The structure of 1 hour of lecture, 30 min of presentation and 20 min seems to work very well.

Suggestions for Improvement

• It would probably be better as a smaller course.
• I would have liked more time for Ran to present in several of the classes. Maybe as a hybrid strategy next year he could assign some referee reports instead of presentations so at least in 3-4 classes he can present for the entire class.