

Summary of Teaching Evaluations

Course	Financial Economics	Computational Methods in Economics	Introductory Macroeconomics	Introductory Macroeconomics	Game Theory	
Instructor	Eduardo Dávila	Tony Smith	Michael Peters	Fabrizio Zilibotti	Benjamin Polak	
term	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Total
Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fair	0	0	1	1	0	2
Good	0	2	3	5	0	10
Very Good	1	7	2	5	1	16
Excellent	14	17	4	12	3	50
average	4.9	4.6	3.9	4.2	4.8	4.46

Department Average: 4.2

Course Taught

- **Game Theory (UG, Fall 2024)** — teaching assistant, Prof. Benjamin Polak
- **Introductory Macroeconomics (UG, Spring 2024)** — teaching assistant, Prof. Fabrizio Zilibotti
- **Introductory Macroeconomics (UG, Fall 2023)** — teaching assistant, Prof. Michael Peters
- **Computational Methods in Economics (UG/PhD, Spring 2023)** — teaching assistant, Prof. Tony Smith
- **Financial Economics (UG, Fall 2022)** — teaching assistant, Prof. Eduardo Dávila

Featured Student Comments

“Songyuan was ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC! I think he is the sole reason I was able to get as much out of this class as I did. He was extremely generous with his time, and spent many hours with me and other students going over confusing topics after his section hours ended. He is a great teacher and really made the difference for me. I cannot emphasize enough how grateful I am for Songyuan's energy, time, and guidance over the course of this semester. Especially as a student who had no finance exposure going into the course, Songyuan has an intuition for predicting what seemingly simple ideas are hard to understand for a finance newbie to understand, and made an effort to carefully explain them.”

“Songyuan is a great TA. He explains topics well, structures section well and can answer deeper questions beyond the course material. He's also available to answer questions outside of section.”

“Songyuan is so caring and dedicated - he really cared about all of us and was always staying after class to elaborate on topics we were confused on (sometimes even for an extra hour or more!!)”

“Songyuan was excellent. His sections were really helpful and he was always willing to answer questions about content and coding over email and in office hours.”

“Songyuan was a wonderful TA who took the time to personally get to know his students. His sections were always helpful in terms of reinforcing the lecture information. He always answered any questions I had, whether in class or over email. His explanations were detailed and clear.”

“Songyuan was a wonderful TF! I first met Songyuan during a review session -- I found him to be such a wonderful lecturer that I began attending his office hours and some of his discussion sections! And his research on fostering innovation is fascinating! I will fondly remember my conversations towards the end of semester, when I was reviewing for the final. His clear and concise explanations were invaluable as I was preparing for the final. One thing that I found myself particularly struggling with was how to compare economic models on an exam -- this requires a deep understanding of each model's parameters, assumptions, and intuition. There are very few individuals who can clearly explain the intuition of an economic model while fully encompassing the nuances that can make these models challenging to learn, but Songyuan is one of the few who has both a nuanced understanding of all of the models and is superb at communicating the most challenging concepts in the course. His advice was a game-changer when preparing for this part of the exam, and he was so patient when answering my questions. I wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors!”

“Songyuan was patient and thorough in his explanations during section. One time, our discussion section period was over before we were able to cover the full content of the problem set, and he took us students to another room to spend almost another half an hour going through the pset! Beyond that, he even followed up with us by email when he realized he had a better way of explaining the tough pset question, and offered to answer any follow up questions by email or office hours. It was a pleasure meeting Songyuan and it would be a pleasure to have him as a TA (or professor) sometime again!”

Teaching evaluation records are attached below. Page numbers are non-consecutive because I remove evaluations for instructors and retain only those for myself.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 135
Fall 2022	ECON 251 01 - Financial Economics	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 95
Instructors				
Davila, Eduardo (P)				

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 9
Declined to Answer Question: 11

Respondent	Answer
1608824	Extremely helpful: summarizes lecture content well and goes through examples with us.
1614080	Very kind and made sure we understood the material.
1620770	Great TA, dedicated, comprehensive slides, very helpful during section and office hours to clarify doubts.
1626580	Songyuan is a great TA. He explains topics well, structures section well and can answer deeper questions beyond the course material. He's also available to answer questions outside of section.
1632072	Was clear and precise w teaching, often stayed late to help stragglers, very receptive. One of the best TAs I've had.
1632086	Songyuan is so caring and dedicated - he really cared about all of us and was always staying after class to elaborate on topics we were confused on (sometimes even for an extra hour or more!!)
1632088	Great TF. His section slides were well-organized.
1632609	Songyuan did a good job covering the material taught in class. He was also very helpful going through more examples and helping talk through tough questions on the problem sets.
1634192	Songyuan was ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC! I think he is the sole reason I was able to get as much out of this class as I did. He was extremely generous with his time, and spent many hours with me and other students going over confusing topics after his section hours ended. He is a great teacher and really made the difference for me. I cannot emphasize enough how grateful I am for Songyuan's energy, time, and guidance over the course of this semester. Especially as a student who had no finance exposure going into the course, Songyuan has an intuition for predicting what seemingly simple ideas are hard to understand for a finance newbie to understand, and made an effort to carefully explain them.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 135
Fall 2022	ECON 251 01 - Financial Economics	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 95
Instructors				
Davila, Eduardo (P)				

#11 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 15
Declined to Answer Question: 5

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.9 ±0.3	4.2 ±1.0	4.2 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	0
very good	1
excellent	14

Term Spring 2023	Course ECON 417 01/ECON 561 01 - Computational ECON Methods	Primary Dept ECON	Primary Division Social Sciences	Enrolled: 48 Responded: 33
Instructors Smith, Tony (P)				

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 10
Declined to Answer Question: 23

Respondent	Answer
1649027	Songyuan was a great TA, always very helpful in answering questions! Thank you!
1652096	Excellent
1659335	Very good
1660745	Songyuan was very helpful with assignments and the project. He explains concepts clearly and is responsive when asked for help with the material.
1663730	I appreciate that Songyuan provided feedback on my problem sets and project; it was very helpful to try to improve my code based on his solutions.
1663966	Songyuan was a fantastic TA. Could not have made it through the course without his help in section.
1664531	Very communicative
1669443	Very attentive to detail and I received great feedback on my psets! Thanks Songyuan!
1678908	Songyuan was excellent. His sections were really helpful and he was always willing to answer questions about content and coding over email and in office hours.
1682672	He showed many good coding examples.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 48
Spring 2023	ECON 417 01/ECON 561 01 - Computational ECON Methods	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 33
Instructors				
Smith, Tony (P)				

#11 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 26
Declined to Answer Question: 7

	Average and Standard Deviation		
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.6 ±0.6	4.2 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	2
very good	7
excellent	17

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 81
Fall 2023	ECON 116 01 - Introductory Macroeconomics	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 56
Instructors				
Peters, Michael (P)				

The leadership of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering & Applied Science request that readers of student course evaluations from Fall 2023 keep in mind that the mechanism that prevents students from viewing grades prior to submitting a course evaluation was out of operation for several weeks. If students visited Yale Hub during the affected timeframe, they could have viewed their Fall 2023 course grade before submitting an evaluation.

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 7
Declined to Answer Question: 6

Respondent	Answer
1700625	Nice, explained things clearly.
1702815	A strength is that he was clearly very knowledgeable about the material and clearly explained the material. A weakness is that sometimes questions would be misinterpreted so we wouldn't get a clear answer for the original question.
1702817	He was always willing to clarify things we were unsure about.
1702842	I thought it was great; no suggestions for improvements from me.
1710809	Really good at explaining concepts, approachable.
1720203	Songyuan was an incredible Teaching Fellow who took the time to carefully answer all students questions and review key concepts during section. Songyuan always took the time to explain concepts in depth, and provide additional questions in order to allow us to deeper understand concepts. He was very approachable and dedicated, and was a wonderful TF throughout the semester.
1723480	Songyuan was a wonderful TA who took the time to personally get to know his students. His sections were always helpful in terms of reinforcing the lecture information. He always answered any questions I had, whether in class or over email. His explanations were detailed and clear.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 81
Fall 2023	ECON 116 01 - Introductory Macroeconomics	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 56
Instructors				
Peters, Michael (P)				

The leadership of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering & Applied Science request that readers of student course evaluations from Fall 2023 keep in mind that the mechanism that prevents students from viewing grades prior to submitting a course evaluation was out of operation for several weeks. If students visited Yale Hub during the affected timeframe, they could have viewed their Fall 2023 course grade before submitting an evaluation.

#11 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 10
Declined to Answer Question: 3

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
3.9 ±1.1	4.1 ±1.1	4.1 ±1.1	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	1
good	3
very good	2
excellent	4

Term Spring 2024	Course ECON 116 01 - Introductory Macroeconomics	Primary Dept ECON	Primary Division Social Sciences	Enrolled: 326 Responded: 287
Instructors Zilibotti, Fabrizio (P)				

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 14
Declined to Answer Question: 26

Respondent	Answer
1742785	Willing to help.
1746033	He was very attentive to our needs though he would go off on a tangent sometimes onto economic concepts irrelevant to our syllabus which would be confusing at times.
1746686	He was great and really cared about teaching the material. He asked us a lot of questions to make sure we understood the material.
1746731	Great guy and instructor!
1746888	helpful
1746904	He did a great job of explaining everything and was honestly the best TF Ive ever had.
1747072	He was really professional
1747276	Very kind and attentive.
1747413	He was good
1747777	solid job
1749168	Songyuan was not my TF, but I was a regular attendee to his office hours. During office hours, Songyuan was excellent. Very knowledgeable, excellent explainer of concepts.
1750445	Songyuan was a wonderful TF! I first met Songyuan during a review session -- I found him to be such a wonderful lecturer that I began attending his office hours and some of his discussion sections! And his research on fostering innovation is fascinating! I will fondly remember my conversations towards the end of semester, when I was reviewing for the final. His clear and concise explanations were invaluable as I was preparing for the final. One thing that I found myself particularly struggling with was how to compare economic models on an exam -- this requires a deep understanding of each model's parameters, assumptions, and intuition. There are very few individuals who can clearly explain the intuition of an economic model while fully encompassing the nuances that can make these models challenging to learn, but Songyuan is one of the few who has both a nuanced understanding of all of the models and is superb at communicating the most challenging concepts in the course. His advice was a game-changer when preparing for this part of the exam, and he was so patient when answering my questions. I wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors!
1751662	very accomodating, worked at our pace. I enjoyed his section times
1760395	Amazing amazing!! Hes one of the best teaching fellows Ive had the pleasure of having at Yale.

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 326
Spring 2024	ECON 116 01 - Introductory Macroeconomics	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 287
Instructors				
Zilibotti, Fabrizio (P)				

#11 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?
Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 23
Declined to Answer Question: 17

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.2 ±1.0	4.2 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	1
good	5
very good	5
excellent	12

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 329
Fall 2024	ECON 159 01/GLBL 159 01 - Game Theory	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 298
Instructors				
Polak, Benjamin (P)				

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 3
Declined to Answer Question: 9

Respondent	Answer
1811855	He was very clear and very helpful in clarifying points from lecture.
1814031	Songyuan was great! He really understood the problems and how to approach them, and was able to convey that information. He also really wanted to make sure that students understood everything, so if he made a mistake during office hours, we were sure to receive a detailed email correcting it.
1814324	Songyuan was patient and thorough in his explanations during section. One time, our discussion section period was over before we were able to cover the full content of the problem set, and he took us students to another room to spend almost another half an hour going through the pset! Beyond that, he even followed up with us by email when he realized he had a better way of explaining the tough pset question, and offered to answer any follow up questions by email or office hours. It was a pleasure meeting Songyuan and it would be a pleasure to have him as a TA (or professor) sometime again!

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 329
Fall 2024	ECON 159 01/GLBL 159 01 - Game Theory	ECON	Social Sciences	Responded: 298
Instructors				
Polak, Benjamin (P)				

#11 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

Instructor(s): Teng, Songyuan

Responses for Instructor: 4
Declined to Answer Question: 8

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.8 ±0.5	4.2 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	0
very good	1
excellent	3