

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:09:13 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

By attending office hours, I reinforced my knowledge of topics taught in class. I also made sure to use the study materials Professor Porter had at our disposal.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Porter was very engaging since it was apparent how much he enjoyed the topics he taught. In addition, his blog post assignments helped me to understand topics in a real world scenario.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I think the most significant skills and knowledge that I gained was the theoretical understanding of ways networks operate in terms of the spread of information and also game theory applications to a network.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I think the course was very well organized and taught in a manner conducive to learning.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter was always available and eager to meet with us. His office hour sessions were very beneficial because he did not just give answers nor did he withhold them. He helped every student work through the problem which I felt strengthened my understanding and allowed me to excel on exams.

Additional comments.

Thank you for an amazing semester, Professor Porter!

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:09:35 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Professor Porter offered several surveys throughout the semester to give him feedback. Each time, he took all of the feedback into account and would significantly adjust the way he taught. Professor Porter was incredibly generous with adding office hours and always seemed so invested in our learning--more so than most Professors I have had at Amherst.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

At the beginning of the class, it legitimately felt like Professor Porter was speaking a foreign language. Through his problem sets, office hours and lectures, by the end of the semester, I felt confident in my ability to understand and apply the material.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I think I developed my problem solving skills tremendously in the class. I also, through my work with classmates on assignments became a better team member.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace was fast and the expectations were significant, but the class challenged me in the right ways. Professor Porter was always willing to make adjustments based on the feedback of the class as a whole.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

I had a couple one-on-one interactions with Professor Porter in which he was willing to stay past the allotted window of his office hours to help me understand material. Professor Porter is genuine, kind, and extremely hard working and it came across in all the interactions I had with him.

Additional comments.

N/A--Thank you, Professor Porter!

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:09:42 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **sometimes**

Attend class: **often**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **rarely**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

It was helpful to start the problem sets early as I often ran into problems completing them.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I think this course provided a very unique perspective on economics that I had not yet seen in other economics courses here.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I think I learned the most about graph theory in this class. I learned a lot about game theory too, but I had seen game theory in some other classes before so the information about graph theory was more new to me.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace was pretty good but could maybe be a bit slower as some of the material was pretty challenging. The number of problem sets and time given to complete them was definitely fair.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

The instructor was very engaged with the class and very willing to provide any help necessary and answer questions.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:09:53 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

I think that attending office hours was the most effective thing in improving my learning for this course. If I ever had a question, I found the one-on-one time extremely valuable.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

The lectures were all engaging which certainly helped. Prof. Porter is very passionate about the topics he teaches and it definitely shows in his effort and excitement in class.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

This was my first course in Economic networks so everything I learned was new to me.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I thought that at times we moved kind of quickly through the topics. I felt that the presentation of information was clear and if it was not Prof. Porter was available to meet. At times I felt like the problem sets were a bit tedious. I think overall they were helpful but sometimes I thought they were more a test of stamina rather than a test of knowledge.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

All interactions were positive.

Additional comments.

Overall a great experience.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:10:50 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **always**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

This is definitely a challenging course so I made use of office hours with both Professor Porter and the TA Marius. Also taking detailed notes was very effective for improving my learning in the course.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Porter was very helpful and was able to get his students to really think about questions on problem sets. Similarly, blog posts were an excellent way to use our imagination to create real life situations that apply to the course.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

This is not a typical economics course but I think that this course is going to help me in future economics courses. We have learned graph and game theory which will be helpful knowledge as I move into more advanced courses.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

This was definitely the most fast paced course I have taken here at Amherst. Sometimes I found it hard to follow if I missed a single step in the process. However, the information was presented very clearly along with assignments and such. However, it was really easy to go to office hours and get the information re-explained to me.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter was very engaging with student questions and ideas in class. He always had an answer to the students and tried to include all students within discussions. He always holds office hours even past the time he had originally set which goes to show his commitment to his students success. He also was very thorough on feedback on course work and made it very easy to see what I needed to work on.

Additional comments.

none

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:11:21 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **often**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **rarely**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Reviewing class notes for the test was the most effective way I learned this semester.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

On the first day, Professor Porter showed us different real world applications of the class. While we did not actually discuss these real world applications much further, whenever he did connect what we were learning in class to real world phenomenon is when I was most interested in the course.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

The most significant knowledge I developed in this course is in game theory and the properties of networks. Things like strong triadic closure and game equilibriums make me feel like I can better explain at least a small part of the world around me.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The overall design of the course was not very conducive to my style of learning. Professor Porter would write a lot on the board, to the point where I felt like I was just copying whatever he was writing as opposed to actually learning it. While I did have great notes to look back on, looking back on them did feel very necessary because I feel like I didn't learn it in class. That being said, Professor Porter was extremely receptive to feedback in the course. He started off at a very fast pace at the beginning of the semester, but after a round of feedback on his teaching, the pace of the course became much more manageable.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter was extremely approachable. He made me feel comfortable asking questions and approaching him and outside of class. He made sure that if anyone had questions they were comfortable asking it and made sure that he gave an answer that was satisfactory to whoever posed the question.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:11:45 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **often**

Participate in class: **sometimes**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Professor Porter always walked the class through examples that simplified the rather obtuse class material.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

It was very interesting to learn about how interpersonal connections are quantified in economics.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I understand how to read a graph matrix and the basics behind graph theory as it relates to economics.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Porter taught very quickly for the first few lectures but as the semester went on he took feedback from the class and slowed hi pace down to a very reasonable speed. The assignments were always clear and we were given ample time to complete them.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Porter encourages questions and always answers them succinctly and thoughtfully. Whenever I attended office hours with Porter I felt that we were able to engage on a more personal level and he answered any questions I had.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:11:46 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Meeting with prof for office hours was effective as well as speaking with fellow students.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

The content of the course was challenging and forced me to think in new ways. This often required lots of deep thought and problem solving.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

Problem solving techniques and patience.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace was much too fast and was even acknowledged by the prof at one point. The lectures lack relevant examples that would have been useful in clearing up information. Also, the prof included some proofs that were unnecessary for the course material and added to the confusion of the material. Sometimes I would give up on even trying to actively learn even though I mindlessly wrote everything down from the lecture.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

The prof was flexible and understood the difficulty of the material. However, this was not matched from his assignments and pace of lectures. He was very nice in adding office hours but sometimes added confusion because he resisted to guide a student too much on a problem set.

Additional comments.

This course 100% should have a prerequisite. The prof mentioned several times that the course was all about game theory and linear algebra, which led to much of the class feeling lost due to not taking these courses before.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:12:09 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

It was helpful to read the textbook to help with problem sets, attend office hours, and work on problem sets collaboratively.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I think that the topics in this class were interesting, the professor added a lot of connections and applications.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I think I worked a lot on being able to apply what we learned in class to more difficult types of problems on the problem sets, so mainly applying my knowledge. I got to learn a lot of new Econ concepts that I had never seen before.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace of the class was fine, I think we spent enough time on topics. I think that in class, sometimes we would go through a lot of really complicated examples instead of working through the basics and I wouldn't always grasp the concepts in class. After working on the problem sets and finishing them, I would be able to get the concepts, however, I think we could've spent more time going over simpler examples in class or taking more time to go through basics/definitions. I had to spend a lot of time trying to work through things on my own after class and go through the textbook again to try and understand concepts.

I think that the assignments had a huge range in difficulty; some of the problem sets were fine and correlated to what we were learning and made me feel like I grasped the information, but a couple of them were extremely difficult and took very long to complete.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

The professor was helpful in office hours and was so generous with his time; he would always schedule more office hours if people were struggling with the problem sets.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:12:15 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Finding outside resources such as videos and explanations was useful for the tricky material. I found that explanations in class were sometimes overcomplicated and unsuited for students without a strong linear math background. Resorting to outside resources helped me fill these gaps.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Assigning blog posts allowed us to take what we learned and apply it to something of interest in our life. I thought this was a cool way to transfer the base of something we learned and expand it to a way that applied to our own life or interests.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

Asking for help and learning to think more abstractly.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

This course was extremely difficult for me to follow. The class lectures tended to be very long, often going over class time, and arduous making learning the base of each concept difficult as it often got lost in tangents. The professor would tangent off to a branch of the material focusing on linear algebra which is not a prerequisite for the course and left myself frustrated and confused. The exam however were much more manageable as they focused on the base of the concept. After attending many office hours, reading outside resources, and working with peers I was able to study these concepts and work through them on the exam.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

The instructor was always pleasant and willing to help and make time to meet outside of class.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:12:36 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

I took really good notes during lecture, which was really helpful for completing our problem sets as the problems on these assignments were heavily based on examples we did in class.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I absolutely loved the material in this class and found it fascinating. I was slightly familiar with networks prior to this class from my computer science and math background, so seeing the intersections of that with economics was great.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

My problem-solving skills definitely improved as a result of this course and I also really enjoyed gaining knowledge about the mechanisms behind certain aspects of the internet like PageRank and sponsored search.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I personally thought the pace was perfect and I loved how Professor Porter conducted lectures. He wrote down the lecture notes on the chalkboard in a very organized manner, which made the lecture easy to follow and helpful for looking back on the notes. The one complaint I have is in regard to the readings. I rarely knew which chapters to read before class as they were nowhere to be found in the syllabus.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

My interactions with Professor Porter were very positive. He was always very receptive to questions in class and was very useful during office hours. The one thing I would say is that some of the office hours were scheduled at inconvenient times (4-6pm), which is when my extracurriculars occurred.

Additional comments.

I really loved this class, thank you for providing such interesting and engaging material!

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:13:11 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

What I believed helped me in this course was rereading the notes and going to office hours while I completed my problem sets.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Porter was great at shaping my intellectual interests. Porter always tried to keep the class engaging and make examples that we could understand at first.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I gained knowledge of how the world interacts when we discuss social networks and the relationships between individuals and groups. I became familiar with different prices that take place in graphs and learned about how social media, populations, and other groups interact.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

This part of the course went well for the most part. Porter was always ready to slow down and often unprompted and stopped and asked the class if his pace was ok. He encouraged questions and was always easy to approach and eager to help. The work required for this course is fair as problem sets are a majority of the course load. One thing that I believe Professor Porter could improve on is explaining terms more clearly and going over his math sometimes. It gets very confusing and sometimes I got lost in the numbers and variables. Also, The problem sets should be more punctual with the material. Often I would be working on problem sets and the questions would be on relatively old topics.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter was very easy to reach and easy to talk to. His office hours are extremely helpful and inviting. Professor Porter also responds to emails very quickly and is always available to give extra help or set up a meeting outside of class or during office hours. He will often add office hours if he senses a need for them.

Additional comments.

Great Dude and very fair but a hard course.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:13:14 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Reading the textbook, doing practice problems, attending office hours

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Real-world examples were connected to the concepts discussed in class

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I learned more about how nodes in a network connect with each other.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Pace was very fast and the material was not clear at times, but reading the textbook helped a lot. Clarity of expectations was extremely clear, assignments were very difficult but still possible to do. Activities and discussions were interesting.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Instructor is extremely engaging and inclusive. He offers a lot of opportunities to meet outside of class, which helped a lot during the semester; if he didn't offer so many of these opportunities, the class would be much more difficult, even with the TA hours available. When the professor offers feedback on coursework, he is very helpful.

Additional comments.

The professor made the material in this course much easier to learn than in other circumstances. He is one of my favorite professors at Amherst.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:13:34 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **sometimes**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **rarely**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

What I did that was particularly effective for improving my learning in this course was looking back over submitted and graded assignments for a better understanding of the material as well as taking thorough notes and paying attention in class.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

This course and instructor helped to shape my way of thinking in how I now relate to social networks, my surroundings, and connections with people I hardly know as well as those I deeply care about and how information is passed between us.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

The most significant skills and/or knowledge that I gained during this course would have to be my newfound knowledge of game theory and graph theory as this will help me in future, more challenging economics courses.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The problem sets given throughout the semester were definitely very challenging and while I believe this to be helpful in my learning the course material, I often found that completing these problem sets consumed a majority of my time during the week, which became rather stressful as the semester continued. However, the pacing and presentation of information in class was clear and concise and Professor Porter was always available to help answer any questions.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

The instructor was very engaging during the duration of the course, coming up with thoughtful and stimulating hypothetical situations to answer questions, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Professor Porter was also always very inclusive as well as extremely available, which I appreciated.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:14:05 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **often**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **rarely**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

The course itself was particularly difficult in terms of thinking about so many different aspects of economics that I was new to (game theory, graph theory, how to solve different networks type problems), and one thing that was effective was really focusing on what points Prof. Porter was highlighting during class and using the notes and chapter readings to compare what are the most important things to conceptualize. The hardest part often was finding where to start.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Prof. Porter is a very engaging professor and is always accommodating to students. He is always looking for feedback and understands the difficult nature of the subject major, so he is willing to mold his schedule around how students are doing in the class - at first the pace was a little fast and some problem sets quite difficult but the course itself is very intellectually rich.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

Definitely just more understanding of networks and how to identify them in the world (and the underlying economic/math concepts that come along with them). A great addition to a lot of the material I have covered already in economics.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Pace was fast but not impossible - presentation was great and always engaging. The assignments were clear for the most part and the exam I had I could adequately prepare for.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Prof. Porter is one of the best professors at making sure students get their questions answered and will always go the extra mile to make sure everyone understands (if it means uploading a supplemental video he will). You can really tell he is passionate about his subject and wants to help students understand better, which is reflected in his comments.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:14:08 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **always**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Professor Porter was always available outside of class. Even when office hours were not originally planned he would go out of his way to make himself available for his students.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

He tried to connect most things we learned to real-world scenarios. Because what we are learning is very conceptual it is hard to understand out of context.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I learned how some algorithms worked and the math and planning behind a lot of networks.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace was too fast. The presentation of information was very confusing, and it was hard to follow a lot of the material in class. Although Professor Porter tried to foster an environment where people could ask a lot of questions, if everyone did, we would never get through the material. I think Professor Porter is a very intelligent and caring person. However, I think his teaching style is hard to follow and very complicated. I think when he presents information, it could be presented at a simpler level to allow students to grasp the information without going to office hours all the time. When I would sit down to do problem sets myself, I was completely lost sometimes, and going to office hours was a must. Expectations were very clear, as well as assignments and activities.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Outside of class, Professor Porter was very helpful. I think many people came to office hours because the initial presentation of the information was hard to grasp, and it only did in a one-on-one setting some of the time. Professor Porter was completely open to feedback and very receptive and accommodating to his students. The learning environment was always positive, except I was so lost in the class sometimes I could not cultivate a specific question but rather questioned the entire lesson.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:05:45 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Paying attention to lectures, doing the readings, and going to office hours was very helpful for my learning in this course.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I liked all the various examples the professor provided when discussing various aspects of the course so that we could apply what he was teaching to real-life scenarios.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

This course intellectually stimulated me to learn more about how people interact with one another and make economic decisions.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I think it impacted my learning positively. Occasionally, the problem sets were a bit difficult but the professor was very accessible and helpful in office hours.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

My nature of interactions were all positive along with my feedback. The professor was very helpful in class with questions and outside of it in office hours. He was also very easy to access over email as he would respond quickly.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:05:56 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **sometimes**

Attend class: **sometimes**

Participate in class: **sometimes**

Complete assignments: **sometimes**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

not sure wasnt happy with this class

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

he was a nice guy

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

not much didnt really learn much

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

he was fast paced

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

nice guy

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:08:10 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **sometimes**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Attending office hours to understand confusing problems on problem sets, reviewing problem sets before the exam, asking Porter to slow down when lectures were getting confusing

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

This course helped me think about the real world through the lens of game theory

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

Learning about Nash equilibrium in games with many players and routing games was quite interesting

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Expectations were clear, but I think it was apparent that Professor Porter didn't have a good grasp on whether or not people understood what he was saying. He would often spend far too long going through algebraic steps rather than explaining the concepts behind them, essentially wasting lecture time in my opinion. He constantly asked for feedback which was nice, but I'm not sure how many students are willing to take the time to tell their professor how to teach.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

He was great about answering questions when asked and clarifying things. He was happy to go at whatever pace the students wanted both in class and in office hours. However, like I said above, he would often assume students had grasped a concept when it was apparent that they had not.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:08:43 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Being attentive in class, doing the readings, coming ready with questions, communicating with him if there is an absence

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

He did a really good job of walking us through all the material in class and was very open and flexible about meeting with him to go over anything we are having trouble understanding

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I feel more comfortable looking at graphs of networks so when I encounter them in the future, I feel more confident in my ability to analyze and know what is going on.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Pace was strong. We covered a lot of material. Presentation of information was really good; he did a fantastic job with the lectures and made sure to cover anything that felt ambiguous to us. There were not much activities which I wish there were more of, but his lectures were able to fully cover everything we needed to know to understand the material.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

I came to office hours very frequently to get help with the homework. It was a very inclusive environment. He was also very flexible with meeting outside of class. Only thing is that we did not receive that much feedback on our problem sets since we only have received the score on around half of them.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:14:14 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **sometimes**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **sometimes**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

He was very organized and always had a direction for the class. I think, at times, he moved rather quickly, and it was difficult to digest the content. The single midterm and problem sets were great for reinforcing the material, but I think that some of them were way too hard/long and often discouraging to the point that I sought to just get them done without really understanding the material.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I really liked the content of the course and thought it was a unique topic. As an econ major I have already learned game theory twice before in micro and intro and feel as though parts in this syllabus could be abbreviated/removed.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

The content of unique games such as routing games and mixed strategies was interesting and the relationships of nodes/actors and networks was a topic I enjoyed studying.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Pace was quick but sometimes a bit too fast. I appreciated the flexibility he had with extensions, but I think it was a bit unfair to give extensions so close (day of) to the deadline because by that point I felt as though I had really committed a lot of time to get it done by the deadline or extended deadline and those that did not put as much effort in were able to do things on their own schedule which did not seem the fairest.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

They were always pleasant, but I think that the frustration I had with some of the problem sets made them a little less so. Because most of the times were held during sports practice times, I felt rushed to ask all my questions and understand all of the content in the few minutes of the single office hours period I could attend.

Additional comments.

I liked the problem sets closer to the end of the semester which were more straightforward examples of the content from class. It made me revisit what we discussed in class while still allowing me to feel like I could make progress on my own and in a more reasonable time. I think the earlier problem sets could be used for the final take-home or something of that nature.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:14:28 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Attending Professor Porters office hours and TA office hours were very helpful to improving my learning in this course. Especially for solidifying material on the problem sets.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Through blog posts and other examples in class, Professor porter was able to provide tangible examples that were very helpful to helping us see how the course material worked into the economics of real world applications.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

The most significant skill and knowledge that I gained during this class was the usage of game theory and graph theory and how both are used within economics.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The course design was very reasonable, though fast at first Professor Porter was very receptive to feedback and immediately the course was at a more reasonable and understandable pace.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter was very welcoming to questions and was sure to answer every question thoughtfully and to the best of his ability. He constantly was adding and extending office hours in order to address the needs of the class.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:15:14 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **rarely**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

In this course, I took organized notes during class time. I was also able to review these which helped a lot of the problem sets.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

My professor was always very energetic and enthusiastic about teaching. This professor did stimulate my imagination by helping me think of different games and theories that are a representation of economic markets

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

As someone who is not an econ major this class really helped me with my problem solving skills and taught me to think outside of the box.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The assignments were very straight forward, and I felt I had a good amount of time to complete them. However, the pace of the class was a little too fast and I often felt like I was still trying to comprehend a topic as we were already moving to the next.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

The professor was open to answering a lot of questions in class. He was also very accommodating in helping people outside of class and really cared about helping me as a student. He often would ask if anyone had question after he had finished a topic during his lecture, and most of the time nobody said anything. I feel like most people are not willing in a large class to raise their hand so often time he would just move on quickly to the next topic.

Additional comments.

Something frustrating about the course was that I have not taken a course in math ever in my 3 semesters at Amherst and this course was extremely math heavy. I feel like I was not conveyed this by the course description. It is frustrating that this does not at least count as a math credit.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:15:33 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

I spent a good deal of time discussing some of the harder problems on the problem set and it pushed me to actually understand the material in the class rather than just "pass the assignment." He also always provided citations from his lecture and which papers were based off which theories and always make it clear that he would help in whatever way possible to clear up any of the confusion one might have. He has also offered countless times to make review videos as needed for topics coming up on exams, etc.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

He really got me into thinking that there was a lot more different types of mathematics that are used in the real world. He also got me to thinking just how much everything was connected. Often times in class I would find myself wondering how this could be applied to other scenarios and how different models fed off of each other. I am glad that he has an assignments called blog posts that allow for us to apply some of what we have learned in the class to things around us. This class is my first economics class that allows me to do something like that and that is honestly the reason I chose to study economics: to apply principles to things beyond just money. He also brought up just how much of a blooming field network economics is, and how interdisciplinary skills can help shape your understanding better than anything. It seemed like he knew the proofs for just about every question he could have been asked.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I would say that, bar none, the most important thing I will take from this class, aside from the obvious economic aspect of it, is to look into what the models actually mean. I was more excited to read up on the materials in this class so that I would understand them and be able to apply them when given the opportunity. I have had nothing but great economics professors here, and I would say that I have never been more excited to come to an economics class than this one.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace in class was fast at first, but Professor made sure to ask for feedback constantly, which really was helpful and felt that he actually cared that we were understanding the material rather than just filling out all of the boxes he put on his syllabus. He changed it immediately upon reading feedback, and made himself available so much more than what was expected. The assignments were always clear representations of what we did in class, and while some were definitely more complex than others, I would say there was nothing that he gave us that we could not solve after a given amount of time.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Prof. Porter always made sure to ask questions throughout the lecture and during his proof work to keep us engaged. He always tried to gauge the class and see if we understood what he was writing or if we wanted to see another example, and it was clear that he could do this pretty much on command. He was always willing to stop what he was doing and go back over what he just did to make sure that everyone was caught up. I do not think there is a single person in the class can dispute that.

Additional comments.

In talking with him about post-graduation topics, he was a very helpful resource to talk to. Regardless of where he ends up in the future, I have no doubt he will have a big office at some big university. Thank you for everything, Prof.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:15:46 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **always**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Going to office hours and TA hours, studying in groups, and preparing scribe notes.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

The course had a lot of room for application. I was always interested in learning aspects of game theory, and Prof Porter's teaching methods and the content of this course helped supplement that interest.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

Asking questions and understanding the course material helped improve my overall logical process.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The course was well-paced and spaced out. Prof Porter had well-defined expectations in the course, and his presentation was well-nuanced and descriptive. Assignments were challenging, but we always had access to resources and his support to help us. Activities and discussions were thought-provoking and helped place lecture content into perspective.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Prof Porter was relatively easy to meet and contact for support outside class. He was aware of the varying contexts of students and was very flexible in his accommodations for extensions when necessary. He made me feel very comfortable asking basic questions and was always open to giving feedback and constructive criticism.

Additional comments.

Prof Porter is a remarkable addition and asset to the Economics department at Amherst. He is genuinely interested in his research and work, and this is noticeable in our conversations outside class. If he chooses not to remain at our college following next spring, he will be thoroughly missed.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:15:46 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **sometimes**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

I think being engaged during the examples we go over in class is very useful for understanding how to apply the class to the problem sets. I also think reading the textbook alongside the other papers assigned was very helpful to preface the content in the class.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Porter often related the content to real scenarios and applications in other fields, like computer science. This helped me view the course more broadly and practically. Also, the blog posts gave me the opportunity to find ways in which this class applies to current events.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I gained a lot of quantitative skills over the beginning of the courses. This course also made me more familiar with intuitive thinking and just using reasoning to solve problems.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The course had a comfortable pace and the problem sets were also spaced out well. Even when the lectures proceeded a bit too quickly, the Professor checked in and slowed down if anyone had any issues.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter is very receptive to questions during office hours and during class. I also liked his extensive availability over office hours, which varied in time slots days of the week.

Additional comments.

I really liked this course and, while I didn't know what to expect from the course description, it taught a lot of relevant skills and information. It also introduced me to many new ways to perceive economic problems, such as traffic and pricing.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:16:15 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

I took sufficient notes for this class. I attended office hours, whether it was in-person or on zoom, to get any help on any part of the problem sets I was struggling with.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

The problem sets really allowed us to practice what we learned in lectures. Before, the problem sets it was quite hard to understand the material, but once you face the problem sets and start to do them, everything starts to click. In addition, the blog posts allowed us to link any concept learned in class with the real-world. We were allowed to choose any topic of interest, which was nice as we were able to dive into topics that we were passionate about.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

This course helped me change the way I viewed certain things. For example, traffic was due to networks and people's responses to certain events. A lot of these topics, I would have never thought it to be so apparent in our daily lives. This class allowed me to notice it.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

At first, the pace of the class was very fast. It was extremely hard to keep up. However, Professor Porter sent out multiple evaluations to the class during the course of the semester to receive feedback on anything about his teaching. Once he received those feedbacks, his pace improved tremendously. It was extremely easy to follow, and his explanations were very clear as well. The assignments allowed us to apply our learnings in class.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter was very open to suggestions from his students, whether it be extra office hours, more time on assignments, etc. He was very helpful in helping us with any questions. In class, he would always double check with the class to make sure we were all on the same page, and students were free to ask questions, and he would answer those questions immediately.

Additional comments.

Professor Porter was very passionate about his teachings. I sensed from his lectures that he truly enjoyed teaching and this topic of Networks. Seeing him excited to teach made me excited to learn.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:17:52 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **rarely**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **often**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **rarely**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Pay attention in class and take detailed notes. On the problem sets, took my time and tried to compare the questions to the examples we did in class.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Porter was a very engaging and passionate lecturer. I really enjoyed the class material because of his enthusiasm and efforts to incorporate real-life relevant examples to the concepts of the course. I learned that there are many different ways to think about mathematical problems, including an economics approach that takes human behavior into account.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I developed knowledge about game theory and economic choice making that I had no prior experience with. This helped me approach mathematical problems in a different framework and discover the basic intuition behind complicated economics theories. I also improved my ability to solve difficult problems whose answer isn't immediately clear, through application and collaboration with other classmates.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace was appropriate and the expectations were clear. Even if Professor Porter sometimes moved quickly through lecture, he was always extremely thorough with his examples and notes so that I could review them after class and understand better what was going on. His problem sets were difficult but didn't seem impossible or out of reach, they were both challenging and interesting. He was also extremely generous in offering extensions to the class when needed, which saved me a lot of stress.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter has been an extremely kind and helpful teacher over this past semester. He is great at engaging with students and makes the course feel interesting and approachable. Although we learn a lot of complicated material, he presents it in a way that doesn't feel overwhelming. He is also very humble and focused on student's learning first and foremost. He makes himself available outside of class more at times that are convenient for students, it is very impressive to me that he is willing to dedicate some of his weekend to host an extra office hours session. He also provided a lot of positive feedback on my work that gave me confidence to continue moving forward in the course, even as the material became more complex.

Additional comments.

Professor Porter is one of my favorite teachers I've had at Amherst. As someone who isn't an economics major, I thoroughly enjoyed this class in large part due to the ways that Professor Porter worked to make the class a success. He mentioned several instances in the course where he was changing or adapting things compared to previous years. I really appreciate his desire to receive constructive feedback and make the course more valuable to all those who take it, and I have seen that he genuinely tries to build of this criticism to consistently improve students experiences in the course.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:20:18 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **often**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Attending office hours several times a week was beneficial for my learning in this class. Working with friends on assignments and class work was also very helpful in improving my learning.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

I enjoyed learning about many of the networks and games we studied in class. Sometimes I felt the class got bogged down in the weeds of the mathematic side of things and would have been better spent dealing with concepts versus the more niche mathematics problems. But, being someone who loves math, I didn't mind. I thought much of the course material was very interesting.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

More so than anything, I feel like the class was very helpful in connecting, mathematics, economics, computer science, and social sciences. It is very interesting to see how my math courses have overlapped with this one and it was cool to use Gephi and see how we can really work with data to find out interesting information.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace was okay. At the beginning of the semester things felt like they moved a little too quickly. But, after Professor Porter sent out an instructor feedback form where I think many individuals stated they felt the course was moving too quickly, he definitely slowed things down a bit. So, initially it felt a bit too fast paced but after hearing our feedback Professor Porter definitely modified things for everyone to feel comfortable. I felt the presentation of materials was good and the clarity of expectations was obvious. I appreciate how much of our grade the problem sets count for. Underratedly problem sets in any course take up so much time and are such a good benchmark for who puts in the time and effort / works hard / understands the material. I feel that sometimes other professors only count problem sets as 10% or a small percentage of the grade which definitely disincentivizes students from putting in maximum effort. So I really appreciate Professor Porter recognizing all of these things and counting them towards our great more so than many other teachers. Makes taking exams less stressful as well.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter is incredibly kind. He always wants to be accommodating to the students and most importantly he wants to be the best teacher he can be. Being a newer professor at Amherst College, it can be difficult to jump right in and run a course smoothly. Professor Porter has done

everything to continue to adjust the course and make students feel comfortable. He finds a good balance. He is always willing to adjust problem sets if topics become too complex, or give extensions if work load becomes too much. He always holds office hours and continuously offers to hold more if problem sets felt harder than expected or if an exam is nearby. He works incredibly hard and clearly cares about his students and wishes to give us all the individual attention we need.

Additional comments.

The class could have run slightly smoother this semester. But, all things considered, Professor Porter worked so hard to continue to modify and adapt his course to meet students in the middle. He is clearly so passionate about his material and he wants to share this with all of us. Professor Porter deserves so much credit for introducing a new course and starting at Amherst College. So although there were a few bumps in the road at the start (perhaps too fast paced and too challenging course material...), he worked very hard to make the class a great experience. Going forward I would love to see the class include more conceptual ideas and get less bogged down in the nitty gritty mathematics side of things. I would love to learn more about social networks and interactions and things like that. Also another option could be proposing an independent project either in substitute of a few problem sets or in substitute of an exam where a student or a group of students picks a graph theory / networks topic and presents on material or writes a paper on it. For instance networks & sports or something along those lines to let students find something that really resonates with them. I thought the first exam was definitely fair as well. A final project might be better than a final take home exam in the future or the addition of a final project would just be nice in general. Overall, the course was a really good experience and I think after another semester, it will run very smoothly. Professor Porter is so kind and filled with so much excitement.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: *12/8/2022 1:20:59 PM*

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **sometimes**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Professor Porter is a great explainer, in a class setting but more so when you ask him individual questions. He has a great ability to understand where I am at in processing the material. From here he does a fantastic job of helping me with guiding questions along the way. I personally felt that the class was detailed, so naturally there were times I was confused with the material. This was not an issue but rather an opportunity to dive deeper and understand the concepts from the core. Compared to economics classes in the past, the office hours of this course were by far the most helpful.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Porter included blog posts as a essential part of applying the concepts we learned in class. In this, he individually took time to email and meet with me about my first blog post. He was interested in the topic I was exploring, and provided great feedback to build upon for my next post. As my post was related to economics but not central, he pointed out aspects of the topic that relate exactly to the material of our course. Again, his outside of class efforts to help our thinking along went a really long way in terms of engagement with the material of the course.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

The course brought in a lot of real world concepts backed up by math. The most significant skill I developed from the course was learning about expected values: in an auction, probability, game theory, cascades, adoption mechanisms. Expected values are versatile in their application, and the material Professor Porter included was eye opening in quantifying seemingly ordinary occurrences.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The course was very material heavy, but did a great job of covering a breadth of ideas. The presentation of information was slow and made sure the class was onboard before moving onto the next idea. When a student did not understand the material, Professor was diligent in providing multiple examples or alternative methods of thinking through the same problem/topic.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

My interactions with Professor Porter outside the class were a great supplement to the lectures. I often had questions on the problem sets, and he was very clear in helping guide my understanding. For me he is the best explainer I have had in the department. Professor was also very open to hosting extra office hours for students, like me, that needed extra help. During office

hours he did a great job of circulating to everyone's distinct questions while addressing common themes of misunderstanding. For this reason, Professor often answered a question I had before I was able to ask.

Additional comments.

Honestly, I have nothing but great things to say about Professor Porter. One critique of the class could be the depth of material as at points I was lost in why we are going so deep about a topic. But even then, I am now thankful to have spent the time learning a concept more thoroughly rather than just brushing the surface.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:21:50 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **rarely**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

I found asking questions in class to be particularly effective.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Professor Porter, always related what we were learning to real life examples and was consistent about connecting course material to areas of open research. Specifically, I was very interested in our discussion of routing games and how they could model optimal transit networks in towns and cities.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I think that I have a much better understanding of game theory than I did before taking the class. I took this class concurrently with the Math class Graph Theory, and it was cool to see practical applications of theoretical concepts we were learning in that class.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I think at times the lectures could get a little in the weeds with algebra problems and as a result the main idea of why we were doing the algebra sometimes got lost. Additionally, I would have liked to see a few more example problems completed in class--sometimes it felt like I was not prepared to complete the problem sets based on information we had learned in class. Overall, however, I thought the lectures were by and large good and informative. I thought the sequence of lectures/course material was well planned.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter was always receptive to student questions and answered them well. Furthermore, I think he cultivated a classroom culture in which people felt like they could ask as many questions as needed.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:27:38 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **often**

Attend class: **often**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **always**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

I spent a lot of time with the professor outside of class. this was essential to my success in this class as I am a slow learner, and I am grateful that Prof. Porter was always available.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

He gave me different ways to approach the problems.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

I learned how to think critically and analyze problems. This was basically what most of the network things were about, so this skilled became quite developed throughout the course of the semester.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

In the beginning of the semester, the class was a little too fast pace for me and the other students. The professor asked us what we thought and, recognizing that we were struggling to keep up, slowed things down a little bit. He was very clear about what he expected.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

The professor was always interested in all his students feedback and input. He was also always available when I needed help and was very flexible. I really appreciated it.

Additional comments.

Professor Porter is the best!

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:29:59 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **often**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

***Doing the assigned readings
Going to office hours for problem sets***

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

So much! This is my 3rd year at Amherst and so far my favorite class I've taken. I've been vaguely interested in "networky" stuff but it was never formal. I'd had several conversations with some friends about how cool it would be to make a social network of the friendships among Amherst students, and I'd always been curious about that fact about "7 degrees of separation", and I'd heard about the Strength of Weak Ties paper, so when I saw last year that this course was offered I got really excited and made sure I'd take it. Learning about diffusion in networks and the small-world phenomenon have been especially thought-provoking. And taking this class alongside CS 111 was really exciting for me because it helped me get a peek at the computational potential of the models in this class (and I was inspired enough to make an SIR disease model for my CS final project).

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

Doing theory! I've taken mainly natural science classes at Amherst, which are more empirically focused, and I didn't realize until this class what more mathematically-oriented thinking was like.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The structure of this course made a lot of sense to me (more than most of the classes I've taken). Prof Porter was very thorough about making sure we understood a concept before moving on, and when I didn't get stuff I was able to ask questions and he'd go back and explain.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

I went to office hours as got help with problem sets. My questions normally felt thoroughly answered and I never felt bad about asking/ not understanding. Prof Porter set up extra office hours often when there was a difficult problem set, which was helpful.

Additional comments.

Thanks! Awesome class!

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:30:26 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **sometimes**

Complete assignments: **often**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Meeting Professor Porter during Office Hours was the best thing for me. Intro to Economic Networks has been pretty difficult for me this semester, but meeting with Professor Porter during office hours or one-on-one meetings proved super helpful, as I could get in-depth explanations at my own pace.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

The course required a lot of complex thinking, so I had to work on my thought processes when facing new problems.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

This class furthered my skills in studying. Because I struggled with the class, I had to take a lot more time outside of class to keep up and develop techniques that were best for me.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

Although the class was challenging, the pace and presentation of the information were still really good. A lot of the information was just complex, and I needed more individual time to develop an understanding of it. I could still complete the work and assignments with more extensive help from Professor Porter, so I still learned a lot.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter has set his class and intentions around helping his students. He genuinely cares about making sure everyone has a good understanding of the material. He always takes time to answer students' questions in and outside of class, and he's super nice and easy to talk to overall. His feedback is always helpful, and he goes in-depth when helping and explaining anything.

Additional comments.

Professor Porter has been one of my favorite professors this semester. He went far out of his way to help me throughout the course, and I really appreciate all of his help!

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/8/2022 1:34:16 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **often**

Participate in class: **always**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **sometimes**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

Meeting with Prof. Porter during office hours was very insightful and deepened my knowledge and understanding of the core concepts of this course, as he was very willing to push me one step further in my level of understanding.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Introduced me to some very interesting academic papers and concepts, linking ideas I have learned in other disciplines together (computer science, linear algebra, etc.)

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

Introduced to some elements of game theory, graph theory, information cascades

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

The pace and presentation was very helpful for me, as I felt like we covered a lot of breadth in concepts without sacrificing too much depth in any particular area. Presentation-wise, if I had any questions Prof. Porter was willing to take a step back and answer my questions specifically.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

Professor Porter is one of the best instructors I have had at Amherst college so far. He has been consistently available to help further learning outside of class, and has given good feedback on course work that actively improved my understanding of that material.

Additional comments.

**Course Evaluation Form
Fall 2022 – ECON 224-01
Professor Tyler Porter**

Date: **12/10/2022 4:51:42 PM**

1. How often did you:

Prepare for class: **always**

Attend class: **always**

Participate in class: **rarely**

Complete assignments: **always**

Meet with professor(s) outside of class: **often**

2. Using specific examples, please briefly describe what you did that you feel was particularly effective for improving your learning in this course?

When I went to office hours or reviewed the notes from class diligently i found that my understanding of the material improved significantly.

3. In what ways did this course and instructor stimulate or shape your intellectual interests, thinking, and/or imagination?

Prof. Porter helped me better understand the material and the interaction between networks and economics in our everyday life. Game theory was a really interesting and challenging unit as well.

4. Please describe the most significant skills and/or knowledge that you gained or further developed during this course.

One of the best skills I gained was reasoning. In many of the problem sets it is important to understand and reason for the answers that you give.

5. Considering the overall design of the course, how did the pace, presentation of information, clarity of expectations, assignments, activities, and/or discussions in the course impact your learning?

I enjoyed the lectures of the course. It is clear that Prof. Porter is a very knowledgeable professor and cares very much about his students success. He has a great grasp on the material and subject. Lectures were complicated but lecture notes helped better understand material. Office hours were helpful as well.

6. Please describe the nature of your interactions with the instructor in this course, including the instructor's engagement with student questions and ideas in class, their cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, their availability outside class, and the feedback you received on your course work.

All my interactions with Prof. Porter were positive and mostly in the Office Hours setting when I had questions about the material.

Additional comments.