

# TEACHING STATEMENT

Mohammad H. Seyedsalehi

Department of Economics, University of Toronto

---

I have taught continuously for 13 years, gaining experience extensive in both scale and breadth. During my PhD, I have served as a teaching assistant for more than 2,000 assigned hours, including at least ten appointments involving direct classroom teaching. My courses range from introductory economics for approximately 100 non-economics students to small and medium-sized advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in macroeconomics, finance, econometrics, climate economics, data analysis, programming, and machine learning. In the attached evaluations, my performance was rated at an award-winning level, including in a course I had not previously taught. Before beginning my PhD, I spent seven years teaching International Math Olympiad (IMO) students, building a strong reputation and receiving frequent invitations to teach at camps in different cities and abroad.

## TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Because students may not use every model or technique after graduation, I want them to leave my courses with lasting ways of thinking. In structural climate economics, for example, students are often struck by the idea of a counterfactual: using a model to learn about outcomes in a world that was never actually observed. In machine learning, a similar moment comes when students understand the distinction between estimation and prediction, or see through model selection that the same problem can be approached in different ways. These moments are not limited to advanced courses. In introductory policy classes, students without an economics background often become more engaged when they see how the effects of a tax or subsidy depend on elasticities, while students in global affairs begin to understand the logic of comparative advantage and the gains from trade. For me, these are the most important moments of teaching: when students begin to think like economists rather than simply apply formulas, developing intuition that can remain with them long after the course ends.

## TEACHING METHODS

My teaching experience has taught me that no single approach works equally well in every classroom. In small-group settings, including six semesters of machine-learning tutorials and DataCamp sessions, programming workshops, and finance courses, I have found patience, step-by-step instruction, effective use of the chalkboard, and opportunities for students to explore and discover solutions through practice particularly important. Large classes require a different set of skills. In introductory courses, especially those designed for public policy or global affairs students with little prior technical background, well-designed graphs prepared in advance, and effective classroom management become especially important. Courses such as Economic Analysis of Law and the History of Economic Thought emphasize concepts rather than mathematics and therefore require an engaging speaking style and consistent feedback on students' written work.

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Although I have extensive experience teaching data analysis and machine learning, climate, finance, trade, and introductory economics, what I enjoy most is engaging students with interesting ideas and communicating complex concepts clearly. I remain eager to explore new courses and teaching environments, as I have throughout my career.

# SAMPLE TEACHING EVALUATIONS

## TA evaluation

Evaluation of **Mohammad Seyedsalehi** for **ECO421/1551H1 (Topics in Financial Risk Management)** in 2022 (60 hours of work).  
Submitted by **Alan Yang** at 2022-07-01 02:10:03 and acknowledged by Mohammad Seyedsalehi at 2022-07-03 23:52:09.  
This evaluation is visible to the student, the instructor, the Graduate Administrator, the TA Coordinator, and the Chair and Associate Chair, Graduate Studies.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | OUTSTANDING<br>(AWARD QUALITY)                                                                                                                                          | EXCELLENT<br>(EXCEEDS<br>EXPECTATIONS) | GOOD<br>(MEETS<br>EXPECTATIONS) | NEEDS<br>IMPROVEMENT | UNSATISFACTORY* | NOT APPLICABLE/<br>NO OBSERVATION |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Interaction with instructor</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Enthusiasm and initiative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Reliability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Knowledge of subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Cooperation w/ other TAs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Tutorials and office hours</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Helpful to students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Punctuality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Grading</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Fairness and accuracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Punctuality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Overall</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Overall rating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | x                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| * If the "Overall rating" of a TA's work is "Unsatisfactory", the instructor should meet with the TA to discuss the evaluation, and have a printed copy of the evaluation signed by the TA. (You may ask the TA Coordinator for participation.) A TA who receives two "Unsatisfactory" grades can be refused any future job - please use this evaluation for students who should not work in Economics. |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Instructor's comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mohammad Seyedsalehi is one of the best TA I have ever met. He is reliable, knowledgeable, cooperative, fair and accurate. Overall, he is Outstanding and Award worthy. |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |

## TA evaluation

Evaluation of **Mohammad Seyedsalehi** for **ECO231H1 (Economics of Global Trade)** in 2023 (100 hours of work).  
Submitted by **Robert Owen** at 2024-01-12 07:39:53 and acknowledged by Mohammad Seyedsalehi at 2024-01-14 16:10:37.  
This evaluation is visible to the student, the instructor, the Graduate Administrator, the TA Coordinator, and the Chair and Associate Chair, Graduate Studies.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | OUTSTANDING<br>(AWARD QUALITY)                                                                                                                                                                             | EXCELLENT<br>(EXCEEDS<br>EXPECTATIONS) | GOOD<br>(MEETS<br>EXPECTATIONS) | NEEDS<br>IMPROVEMENT | UNSATISFACTORY* | NOT APPLICABLE/<br>NO OBSERVATION |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Interaction with instructor</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Enthusiasm and initiative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Reliability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Knowledge of subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        | x                               |                      |                 |                                   |
| Cooperation w/ other TAs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Tutorials and office hours</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Helpful to students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Punctuality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Grading</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Fairness and accuracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Punctuality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Overall</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Overall rating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | x                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| * If the "Overall rating" of a TA's work is "Unsatisfactory", the instructor should meet with the TA to discuss the evaluation, and have a printed copy of the evaluation signed by the TA. (You may ask the TA Coordinator for participation.) A TA who receives two "Unsatisfactory" grades can be refused any future job - please use this evaluation for students who should not work in Economics. |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Instructor's comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | An excellent, very helpful and reliable TA with a particularly agreeable personality and willingness to invest significantly in teaching a course, which was not a principal field of previous experience. |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |

## TA evaluation

Evaluation of **Mohammad Seyedsalehi** for **ECO461H1 (The Economics of Financial Risk Management)** in 2021 (140 hours of work).  
Submitted by **Ata Mazaheri** at 2022-05-05 23:43:03 and acknowledged by Mohammad Seyedsalehi at 2022-05-06 16:40:57.  
This evaluation is visible to the student, the instructor, the Graduate Administrator, the TA Coordinator, and the Chair and Associate Chair, Graduate Studies.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | OUTSTANDING<br>(AWARD QUALITY)                                                                       | EXCELLENT<br>(EXCEEDS<br>EXPECTATIONS) | GOOD<br>(MEETS<br>EXPECTATIONS) | NEEDS<br>IMPROVEMENT | UNSATISFACTORY* | NOT APPLICABLE/<br>NO OBSERVATION |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Interaction with instructor</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                      |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Enthusiasm and initiative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Reliability                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Knowledge of subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Cooperation w/ other TAs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                      |                                        |                                 |                      |                 | x                                 |
| <b>Tutorials and office hours</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                      |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Helpful to students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Punctuality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Grading</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                      |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Fairness and accuracy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Punctuality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| <b>Overall</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                      |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Overall rating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | x                                                                                                    |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| * If the "Overall rating" of a TA's work is "Unsatisfactory", the instructor should meet with the TA to discuss the evaluation, and have a printed copy of the evaluation signed by the TA. (You may ask the TA Coordinator for participation.) A TA who receives two "Unsatisfactory" grades can be refused any future job - please use this evaluation for students who should not work in Economics. |                                                                                                      |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |
| Instructor's comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mohammad was excellent and did a fantastic job. Thank you for being humble, gracious, and attentive. |                                        |                                 |                      |                 |                                   |

## TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

**ECO101: Principles of Microeconomics**

*Fall 2024–25*

**ECO200: Microeconomic Theory**

*Summer 2025*

**ECO202: Macroeconomic Theory and Policy**

*Fall/Winter 2024–25*

**ECO204: Microeconomic Theory and Applications (Commerce)**

*Fall/Winter 2024–25*

**ECO231: Economics of Global Trade**

*Fall 2023–24*

**ECO232: Global Macroeconomics and Policies**

*Winter 2023–24*

**ECO2450: Structural Approaches to Climate Economics**

*Winter 2024–25*

**ECO2460: Economic Applications of Machine Learning**

*Winter 2023–24*

**ECO320: Economic Analysis of Law**

*Summer 2023, first and second halves*

**ECO349: Money, Banking and Financial Markets**

*Winter 2022–23; Fall 2025–26*

**ECO358: Financial Economics I**

*Summer 2024*

**ECO359: Financial Economics II: Corporate Finance**

*Summer 2024*

**ECO365: International Monetary Economics**

*Winter 2021–22; Summer 2026*

**ECO421/1551: Topics in Financial Risk Management**

*Summer 2023*

**ECO428: Classical Economic Thought**

*Summer 2024; Summer 2025*

**ECO460: Introduction to Financial Risk Management**

*Fall 2022–23, two sections*

**ECO461: The Economics of Financial Risk Management**

*Winter 2021–22*

**ECO481: Special Topics in Economics with Data Analytics**

*Fall 2024–25*

**ECO482: Machine Learning Applications in Macroeconomic Finance**

*Fall and Winter 2023–24, 2024–25, and 2025–26*

**PPG1002: Microeconomics for Policy Analysis**

*Fall 2023–24*