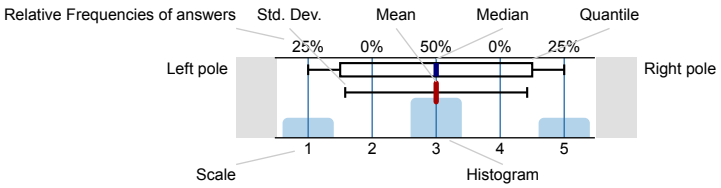
# Prof. Dr. Thomas Gschwend

MET Crafting Social Science Research Fall 2025 ()
No. of responses = 10

UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM
GESS – Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences

## Legend

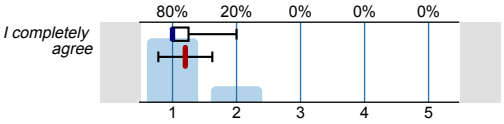
Question text




n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
md=Median
dev.=Std. Dev.
ab.=Abstention

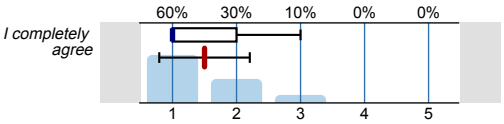
## Coursework and learning process

The course contents were illustrated very well by using appropriate examples.



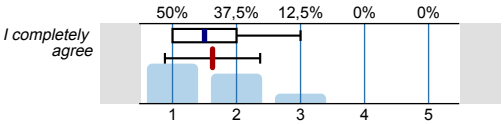

n=10
av.=1,2
md=1
dev.=0,4

Recommended reading materials were useful in facilitating understanding of course content.



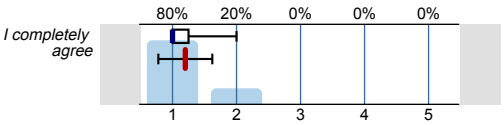

n=10
av.=1,5
md=1
dev.=0,7

The exercise sessions were very useful (if applicable).



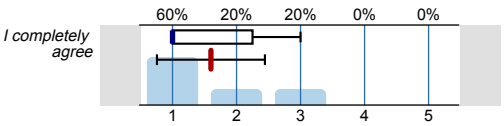

n=8
av.=1,6
md=1,5
dev.=0,7
ab.=2

The course contents were very well structured.



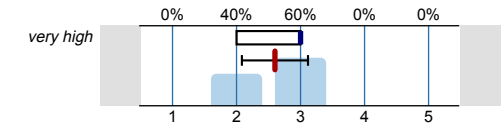

n=10
av.=1,2
md=1
dev.=0,4

The course has helped me expand my knowledge of the topic/field.




n=10
av.=1,6
md=1
dev.=0,8

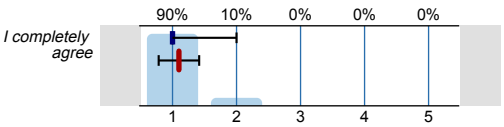
In relation to the number of ECTS credits I receive, the average workload for this course is ...
(One ECTS credit corresponds to an average workload of approximately 30 hours)




n=10
av.=2,6
md=3
dev.=0,5

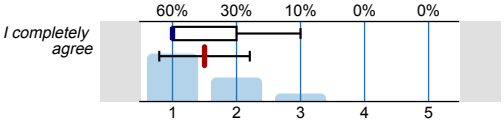
## Instructor

The instructor demonstrated a high level of commitment in this course.



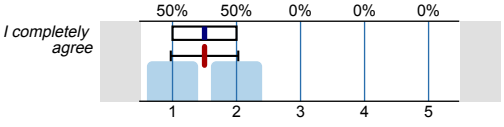

n=10
av.=1,1
md=1
dev.=0,3

Answers given by the instructor were helpful in clarifying uncertainties.



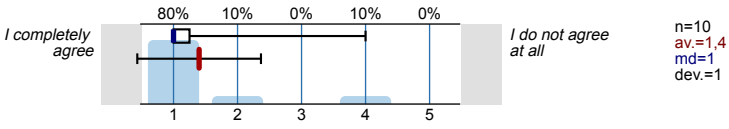

n=10
av.=1,5
md=1
dev.=0,7

The instructor motivated me.

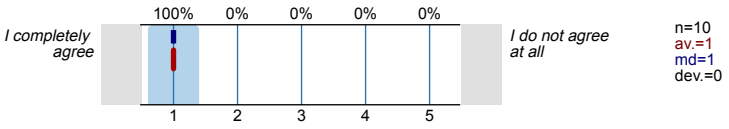



n=10
av.=1,5
md=1,5
dev.=0,5

The instructor encouraged the open and creative participation of students (if applicable).




Instructor's manner of speaking was clear and audible.




## Overall satisfaction

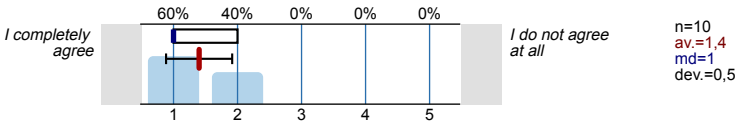
What did you especially like about the course?

- - the manner in which exercises built up over time to lead to our proposal drafts
  - choice of topics: the topics reflected the move from student to researcher -> focus on publication, reviews, scientific conduct...
  - Thomas' encouragement based on personal experiences
- - topics were very important and new to me, so the structure and content of the course were really helpful
  - exercises to quickly present our topic
  - workshop day was helpful
- I liked the open atmosphere as well as the structure (what is a good research question? A good design? etc.).
- I like that I was forced to produce a first proposal, and think about specific RQs throughout the semester
- relevant aspects of research (e.g., FAIR principles, how to write a proposal, etc.) were covered; we also had the possibility to present and get feedback on our own work (and, feedback was also given by the instructor)
- There is one thing which I forgot to say today at the feedback meeting in class, which is that I really liked the external speaker sessions! Both sessions were helpful, the open science and the data management one (I didn't know about the services the uni also provides to PhD students, so I gained a lot of practical knowledge). Also, the session on the review process was super useful!

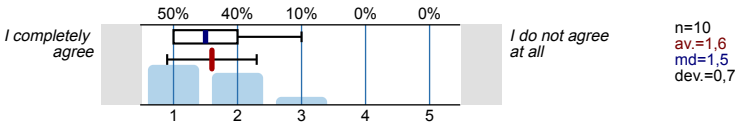
Do you have any recommendations how to improve the course? If so, which ones?

- - because it was discussed that our cohort is rather quiet: Maybe wait (even) longer for answers after asking a question; I can imagine that in our cohort people need some time to think about their answers (not because of being not-interested or not-well prepared, but maybe more due to personality traits); the 5-minute talk in the beginning idea is very good in my view
- I think every major criticism has also been voiced at the feedback meeting. Though there were many deadlines and the first ones started really early in the semester, I am convinced that the course was valuable - it definitely helped me to start thinking about my dissertation topic. The course provided a glimpse into different dimensions of academia (pitching ideas, peer reviewing, presentations, practical advice and connecting with fellow first years).
- I would do it more participatory. Especially in the last sessions, there was a lot of repetition on review etc., as well as a rather frontal teaching style, that did not help me much in my current phd process.
- set the workshop dates before the start of the course
- To me personally, the class was really driving and motivating. The quiet manner of the group was even apparent outside the class room - in light of that, I advice not to interpret it to strongly as a reflection on course design or teaching style.

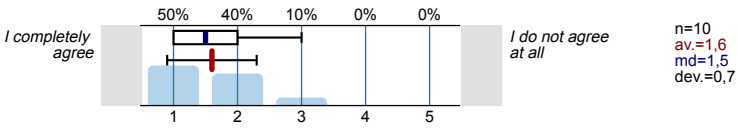
Overall, I am very satisfied with the instructor.




Overall, I am very satisfied with the course.




I learned a lot in this course.

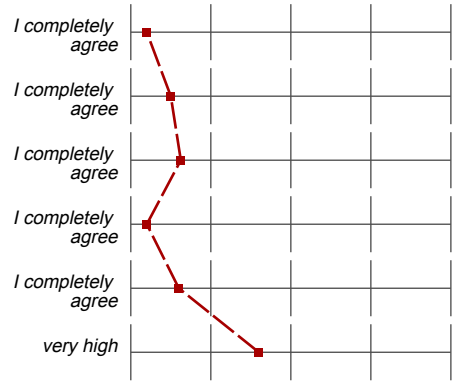


# Profile

Subunit: GESS
Name of the instructor: Prof. Dr. Thomas Gschwend
Name of the course: (Name of the survey) MET Crafting Social Science Research Fall 2025

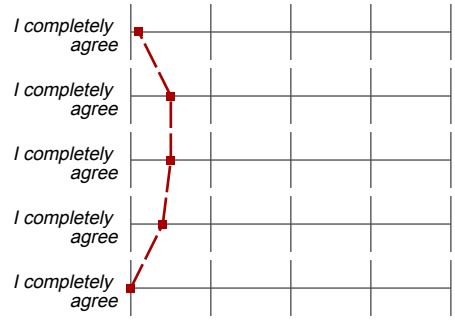
Values used in the profile line: Mean

## Coursework and learning process



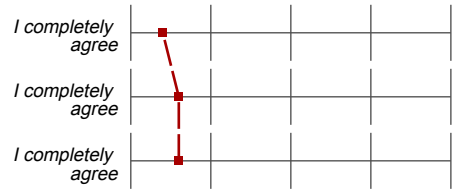

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The course contents were illustrated very well by using appropriate examples. | n=10 | av.=1,2 | md=1 | dev.=0,4 |
| Recommended reading materials were useful in facilitating understanding of course content. | n=10 | av.=1,5 | md=1 | dev.=0,7 |
| The exercise sessions were very useful (if applicable). | n=8 | av.=1,6 | md=1,5 | dev.=0,7 |
| The course contents were very well structured. | n=10 | av.=1,2 | md=1 | dev.=0,4 |
| The course has helped me expand my knowledge of the topic/field. | n=10 | av.=1,6 | md=1 | dev.=0,8 |
| In relation to the number of ECTS credits I receive, the average workload for this course is ... (One ECTS credit corresponds to an average workload of approximately 30 hours) | n=10 | av.=2,6 | md=3 | dev.=0,5 |

## Instructor




| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The instructor demonstrated a high level of commitment in this course. | n=10 | av.=1,1 | md=1 | dev.=0,3 |
| Answers given by the instructor were helpful in clarifying uncertainties. | n=10 | av.=1,5 | md=1 | dev.=0,7 |
| The instructor motivated me. | n=10 | av.=1,5 | md=1,5 | dev.=0,5 |
| The instructor encouraged the open and creative participation of students (if applicable). | n=10 | av.=1,4 | md=1 | dev.=1 |
| Instructor's manner of speaking was clear and audible. | n=10 | av.=1 | md=1 | dev.=0 |

## Overall satisfaction




| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall, I am very satisfied with the instructor. | n=10 | av.=1,4 | md=1 | dev.=0,5 |
| Overall, I am very satisfied with the course. | n=10 | av.=1,6 | md=1,5 | dev.=0,7 |
| I learned a lot in this course. | n=10 | av.=1,6 | md=1,5 | dev.=0,7 |