

College Course Evaluations

PLSC 21009: Experiments in American Politics and Policy

Section 01 - Spring 2016

Instructor(s): Porter Ethan

Number Enrolled: 15

Number of Responses: 6

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Ethan was a great instructor; you wouldn't be able to tell that this was the first time he had taught this course. Very reasonable expectations, interesting course material, good facilitator of discussion, good class organization, helpful outside of class.
- He had a very clear understanding of the material
- Ethan was such a resource in and outside of class. He set the pace just right, for us political science majors with just a little bit of stats background, while teaching us how to get the job done with the information we needed. I really liked his style of teaching.
- Ethan is great! He is super knowledgeable and was good at answering questions as well! Take a class from him if you can.
- Ethan was a fantastic instructor. He knew the material forwards and backwards, was incredibly enthusiastic about it, and helped us develop our own ideas about experiments through both discussion and hands-on experience. Honestly wish he were staying at the university to teach other classes.

What were the teaching assistant's or writing intern's strengths? Weaknesses?

- N/A
- N/A
- n/a
- N/a

What, if anything, what would you change about this course and why?

- Maybe slightly more Stata if possible? Sometimes it was hard to understand what my results meant.
- Nothing I can think of.
- I sort of wish there was a little more intro to statistics--not because I felt I was underprepared to do the final analysis, but because I wish we could have learned to do some more complicated regressions and really really know what we were coding/regressing. That said, I came in with a little bit of stats background, hoping to learn more; I really did learn how to use the stats I already had with more subtlety and for a practical goal, which was awesome.
- nothing

Is there any topic in this course that you wished you had had previous background in?

- Statistical software
- Statistics
- Not really. I think at least one intro to statistics course helps though.
- statistical software
- A little more stats background

Which texts were most useful?

- The Field Journal
- Gerber & Green Enos
- Gerber and Green, Enos, Hainmueller

Which least?

- Some of the readings

How productive was class discussion?

- Pretty productive
- Very productive. Helped with understanding the material.
- Pretty productive, I thought. There were a few lulls, but Ethan was great at handling them and directing discussion toward productive critiques of the papers we were looking at.
- Class discussion was helpful and productive. You got to really discuss experiments. It was a fun class.
- Discussion was useful in understanding the basics of experimental design and how researchers built on these principles in their work. It was also helpful in developing ideas for the experiments we did as final projects.

How has this course contributed to your education?

- Really practical class, helped me figure out the structure of how to actually conduct a social science experiment. I had already taken the PoliSci requirement for that, but while I did enjoy that class, I believe this class was more useful since we actually conducted experiments.
- Helped with understanding the course material
- I now feel much more prepared to do my B.A. thesis--a goal I know many going into the class had in mind.
- I've learned how to run a survey experiment I designed on my own. Very practical real world and intellectual knowledge.
- In my opinion, the most practically useful course I've taken for the political science major. It builds nicely on the material of Practice of Social Science Research, and the experience of conducting my own experiment was both challenging and rewarding. The department should definitely offer this class again.

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	0 / 0%
Instructor Reputation	0 / 0%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	2 / 33%
Meets at a convenient time	0 / 0%
A student recommended it	0 / 0%
Topic interests me	3 / 50%
Concentration elective	5 / 83%

In summary, I had a strong desire to take this course

Strongly Agree	3 / 50%
Agree	1 / 17%
Neutral	1 / 17%
Disagree	0 / 0%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

How many hours per week did you spend on this course?

Low Answer	2
Average Answer	4.5
High Answer	6

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	5 / 83%
75%	1 / 17%
50%	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
None	0 / 0%

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	6 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Presented clear lectures.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	67%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	33%

The Assignments

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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How helpful were the lectures and discussions in preparing for exams and completing assignments?	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	67%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Were helpful with assignments.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Discussion Sections, Problem Sessions, Writing Tutorials

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were well coordinated with this course and contributed to it.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Provided well-designed materials.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%