

Fall 2023 Individual Instructor Aggregated for POT4204: American Pol Thought (Glen Billesbach)

Project Title: **University of Florida GatorEvals – Fall 2023 Main Project**

Courses Audience: 24	Instructors Audience: 24
Responses Received: 16	Responses Received: 16
Response Ratio: 66.7%	Response Ratio: 66.7%

Report Comments

INTRODUCTION

Teaching is a fundamental purpose of the University of Florida and the dissemination of new knowledge in our classrooms, studios, and clinics enables our students and trainees to fully explore their intellectual boundaries. Assessment and evaluation of our courses are designed to enhance instruction and maximize learning to meet the mission of the university. This report contains the results gathered through the new GatorEvals system. Students were invited to share their feedback on the teaching and course material. We invite every faculty member to examine the analysis in the report and utilize the resources provided in the report. Thank you for your continued great work!

Chris Hass, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs

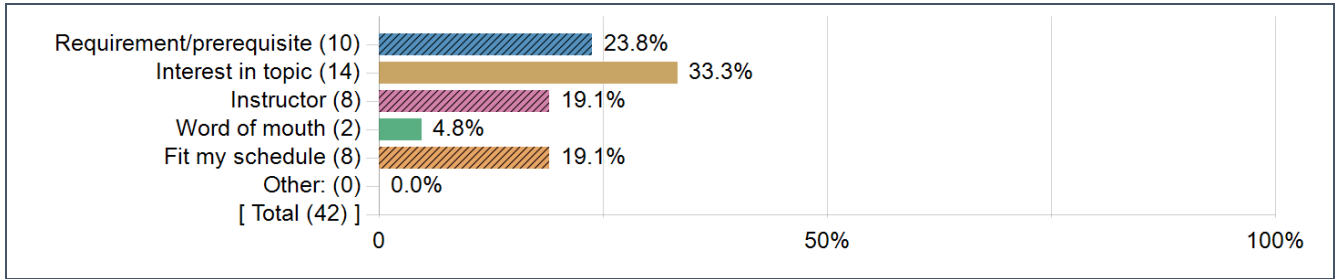
Resources to help you with this report:

1. Consult our [GatorEvals Guide](#) for interpreting and using teaching survey results.
2. [Register for Elevate](#), a new Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) initiative to help you create a customized trajectory for professional development, focusing on growth in areas you have identified through self-reflection.
3. GatorEvals offers the ability to [opt-in to a midterm](#) evaluation. This formative feedback offers you a chance to address student insights and adjust the course before the term concludes. Reports are only available to you and are not considered part of the T&P process.
4. Register and attend a [CTE workshop](#).
5. Schedule a [consultation](#) with a CTE staff member or your internal unit to help you interpret your results and develop a course of action.
6. Visit the [CTE Resource Library](#) for additional support.

Creation Date: **Tuesday, June 4, 2024**

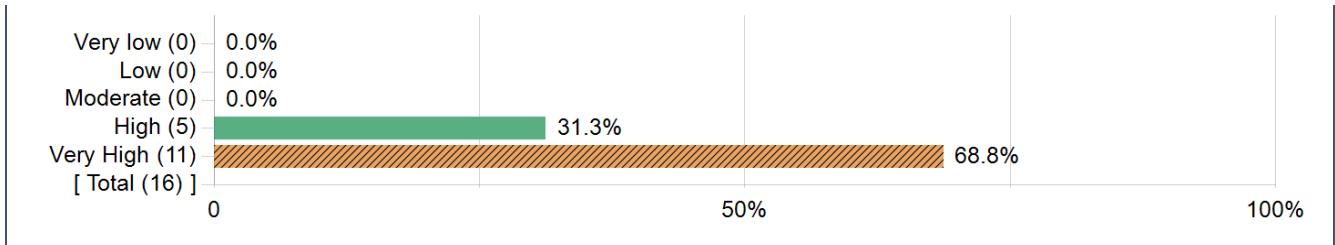
Student Self-Evaluation Questions

Why did you take this course?



How would you rate your own participation (completed readings, assignments, etc.) in this course?

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Comparative Evaluation Results

How would you rate your own participation (completed readings, assignments, etc.) in this course?

Response Count	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
16	66.7%	4.69	4.77	3.98	4.03	4.08	4.15

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	66.7%	4.63	4.88	4.66	4.83	4.45	4.70
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	66.7%	4.69	4.93	4.28	4.63	4.17	4.52
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	66.7%	4.69	4.93	4.50	4.75	4.39	4.65
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	66.7%	4.63	4.88	4.45	4.72	4.32	4.63
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	66.7%	4.69	4.93	4.12	4.57	4.10	4.47
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	66.7%	4.63	4.88	4.19	4.62	4.05	4.47
Overall	66.7%	4.66	-	4.37	-	4.25	-

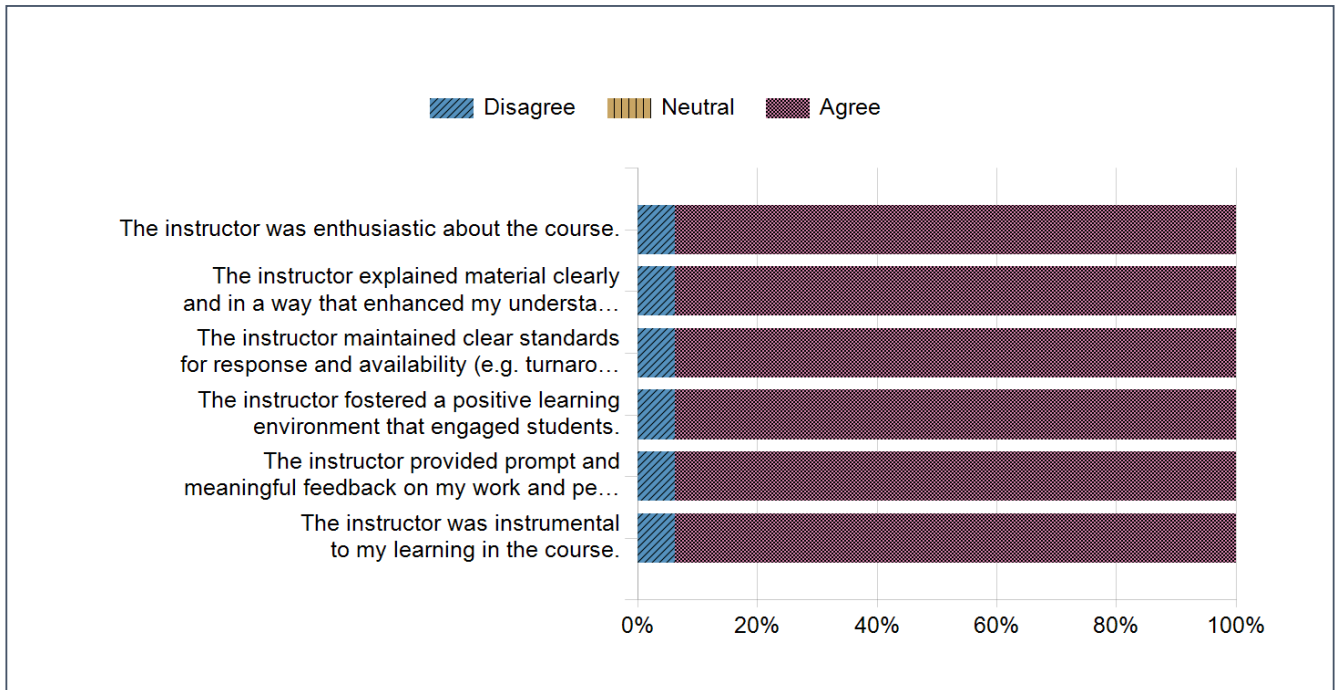
University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	66.7%	4.69	4.77	4.29	4.41	4.15	4.25
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	66.7%	4.81	4.88	4.02	4.23	3.88	4.08
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	66.7%	4.75	4.83	4.13	4.33	4.10	4.23
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	66.7%	4.75	4.83	4.26	4.48	4.13	4.29
Overall	66.7%	4.75	-	4.18	-	4.07	-

Aggregate Evaluation Results

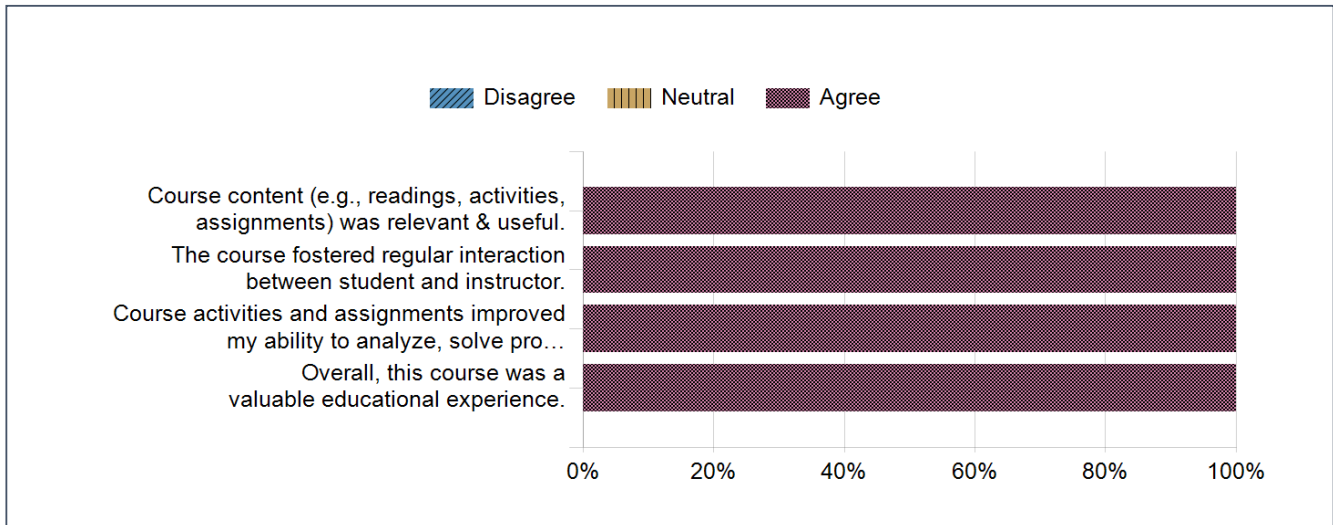
University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



University Core Course Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



Percentages Evaluation Results

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	Count	Mean	Median	SD
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	81.3%	16	4.63	5.00	1.02
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	87.5%	16	4.69	5.00	1.01
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	87.5%	16	4.69	5.00	1.01
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	81.3%	16	4.63	5.00	1.02
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	87.5%	16	4.69	5.00	1.01
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	81.3%	16	4.63	5.00	1.02

University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	%(1)	%(2)	%(3)	%(4)	%(5)	Count	Mean	Median	SD
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	31.3%	68.8%	16	4.69	5.00	0.48
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.8%	81.3%	16	4.81	5.00	0.40
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	16	4.75	5.00	0.45
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	16	4.75	5.00	0.45

For additional information and resources in each of these question areas, please visit the GatorEvals Website at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/resources--policies/question-set/>

Free Response Section

Please identify the instructor's strengths that contributed to your learning in the course.

Comments
he had great content, overall. He systematically gave us a great overview of American political thinkers from late 1700s to 1980. He is very good at selecting particular pieces for his classmates to read.
Very engaging, kind professor! Truly shows interests in ensuring that his students succeed and when a student can tell that, it makes learning a lot easier and fun.
Prof. Billesbach truly cares about his students and it shows every single day. He is super engaging and leads extremely fruitful class discussions. He is aware that life happens and will work with students if they give proper notice. His lectures are amazing as well.
Hi Prof! Caitlin here! I just wanted to say that this has been my favorite political science class I have taken in my 2 years at UF. I don't say any of this to be a teacher's pet or anything and I don't believe in saying nice things if I don't absolutely mean it. Anyways, I just wanted to commend you on the classroom environment you created. In the beginning of the semester I was a little nervous because I knew we had to talk a decent amount in this class and I was a little intimidated, it's a level 4000 class and everyone seemed so articulate and I felt like a little baby who just wrapped up my intro classes. But as time went on, I became really comfortable speaking, not just from my own convictions, but because the questions you posed were not one-dimensional. These questions always made me think, and I found it to be challenging at times, but I find nothing more riveting than when I must dive into the nuance of a situation. Also, you are one of the only professors (so far) that found my humor/modern twist on history actually funny. I understand situations, problems, and history best when I can translate it into "caitlin-terms" and these Caitlin terms mean being able to call a theorist a weirdo or an egocentric man (there were many of those, am I right). Point is, you never put me down or looked at me sideways when I would incorporate humor into my analysis and I can't thank you enough for that. I think one of the best parts of life itself is holding joy and spreading it when you can, and whenever I would analyze out loud in class or add a question with a bit of humor, I wasn't just doing that to get a "haha", but because I genuinely understand concepts better when I can find the joy in it. And I find tremendous joy in laughing. So thank you for allowing me to share that with you and with the class. Also, I wish I had a gateval for my classmates, because this group of kids has pushed me intellectually in ways that I couldn't predict. There were days where I would leave the class with a slight headache but I loved it. I love nothing more than to see things from the endless angles they could be viewed as. That is the beauty of education to me. And you know what? I think if Bloom were to step into our classroom he would be the hoity-toity dweeb sulking in the corner because he thinks he's holier-than thou. And you know what? I would call him wrong if he had anything bad to say about the way this class is conducted because in our own way, we are wise, just not in the conventional way! Anyways, you got really lucky with this bunch of kids and I know I got lucky to have them as classmates. Academically, I remember getting that first worksheet and being a little frustrated, I was like how am I supposed to find the contradiction with our founding fathers? Like lil ol' me finding a hole with Jefferson's argument? Who do I think I am? But as I started removing myself and my ego from my historical analysis, I was able to become a better writer and I think my way of critical thinking has improved greatly because of this class. So thank you. Not one thing in this class was easy, but no one learns when things are easy. Great job Glen! Also, I've been dying to say this, but I found out from Yanet that you went to college in the UK and that made me realize that that is where you get your wit from! Because if there's one thing the Brits will do is be as sarcastic as possible. And I appreciate that! Bob's ya uncle! HAHAHAHAHAAAAHA okay, that's all! Hopefully, I will be able to take another one of your classes in the future but not the one next semester because there would have to be a gun to my head to make me get to a class at 7:30 in the morning. Sorry but not really! Maybe I might see you as a TA... (wouldn't I be such a great and funny TA? Don't even play with me I literally think I would become a mother to all my students) Okay bye!!!
Mr. Billesbach was very passionate about the course which further allowed me to understand the content. When some of the concepts seemed hard to adjust to or understand, he simplified it in a way that not only allowed me to grasp it, but to further ask myself about its implications.
Prof. Billesbach is incredible at taking a complicated and abstract idea or thought and explaining it in a way that students will truly understand. I have had very few professors during my time here at UF that can explain things with such proficiency. He is undoubtedly a professor that puts the learning of his students at the forefront. I cannot stress how instrumental Prof. Billesbach has been in my learning experience. Furthermore, Prof. Billesbach has a talent for getting students to critically think and grapple with complex topics at a moment's notice. He always values and cares about the different perspectives and interpretations of course content among students and his leading of class discussions highlights this. This course would not have been as profound to me without Prof. Billesbach's teaching.
Answering bad questions from students in a thoughtful and genuine manner while providing a careful response. Facilitating deep debate and discussion among students. Provoking student's interest and passion on course topics. Deep knowledge of the material. Very very helpful and kind. Overall, Professor Billesbach is an outstanding instructor.
In my years at University, Glen was my favorite professor I have had thus far. He ran the course excellently and was funny, understandable, and relatable. He constructed a solid foundational premise with the allotted information well.
good lecturer – in person segments provided strong overview and fostered discussion of topics covered in readings/homework
The instructor was very provided very clear and insightful analysis on each unit. The professor also had a level of enthusiasm about the course that was infectious for his students.
Professor Billesbach was truly exceptional, creating a classroom environment that promoted interactive learning. His approachability and teaching methods encouraged students to actively participate, fostering an engaging educational experience.
I have had the opportunity to take Professor Billesbach twice for classes, and he has been the BEST professor I've had in the Political Science Dept.! He is an interactive educator, where students consistently participate in discussions or ask questions. Professor Billesbach will also answer any questions and get back to you almost immediately when emailed. My favorite strength of his that has contributed to my learning in the course is his ability to give grace when needed but also ensure his students are doing their part in the course. Consequently, it has pushed me to meet the deadlines and put in my best efforts in the class.

Comments
Professor Billesbach was passionate about the subject he taught, and he offered several valuable insights to the readings during class. Lectures were productive, and he ensured that everyone had an opportunity to contribute, engage in debate and discussion, and share ideas. He did an excellent job of making the classroom more than just a learning environment, but also a critical thinking environment, where I was able to engage with the course content at a deeper level. He made connections to other political thinkers, such as those explored in Intro to Political Theory, and historical/current event. Overall, his approach was effective and his lectures were engaging.
Glen is one of the best professors I've had at UF, and I'm finishing my second to last semester here. He is extremely engaging, and his enthusiasm toward the material in itself makes digesting complex information easier. Further, when information becomes hard to follow, he can explain it in a way without spoon-feeding it to you, where he follows with a question that leaves you still having to exercise your brain in order to analyze what you've been told and in turn, learn more. He's great at communicating with his students, facilitating engaging and thought-provoking discussion, and often our class ran 5 minutes over because we had so much to say and Glen did not want to interrupt the flow of thoughts amongst students. There are countless traits about Glen's performance leading our classroom which have left me with content I will actually remember after this class and will better prepare me for law school.
Prof. Billesbach is one of the best Political Science professors at UF. He is firm on guidelines and makes us aware, yet he is understanding and approachable. The content was interesting and discussions were engaging.

What additional constructive feedback can you offer the instructor that might help improve the course?

Comments
practice his lecture style. of course it takes time, but his value oversees that by far.
N/A
keep it at 3 briefs! very managable!
N/A
upper limit to page count for weekly assignments – somewhere between 40 and 60 perhaps?
The only piece of information that might improve the course is having better time management as we seemed to run out of time to cover some things at the end of class but it was mainly because the class got hyper focused on one particular idea or philosopher.
Was an awesome semester!
I cannot think of anything off the top of my head! However, maybe providing the essay prompts instead of the students getting to decide their essay topic! It can be challenging to form a strong analytical question from authors.
Sometimes the class would spend a little too much time on one issue/question/topic, and the instructor needs to work on moving the lectures along in order to cover all the points/authors/issues from the week.
N/A
I like the class structure as is!

What constructive suggestion(s) do you have for improving the course materials, organization, and assignments?

Comments
nothing, great organization.
N/A
The course design is fabulous. Each reading is carefully picked and contributes to the discussions that are held in the following class period.
Perhaps providing an example of a satisfactory worksheet in the course files. At times I felt I was overwriting for some of the worksheets.
No criticism. He did a great job.
see previous
There was a lot of reading and I times I thought it was too much but I understand why they were all important for the scope of the class.
I would have liked to meet 3 days a week instead of 2, but still was a great experience
Providing a study guide that is more concrete for blue book exams. Besides that, everything is perfect and well-organized (class and assignments)!
The variety of authors and time periods that were selected provided students with a comprehensive view of American Political Thought, and I do not recommend any additions or subtractions. With regard to organization, course structure, assignment formats, and the workload, these were well-designed and appropriate for an upper-level college course. No corrections should be made.
Maybe space out reading more, present a flow of how the readings are better connected week to week
I think the course is great as is.

Please identify the topics and/or skills you learned in the course that you believe will have the highest application for future courses or professional growth.

Comments
reading large amounts of content within a week. selecting important quotes, getting a clear idea what the author is trying to convey.
Critical thinking
My writing skills have improved tremendously in his class.
Every topic we have learned not only applies to real-world thinking but also helped me further grow in understanding the foundations of politics.
Constructive debate and discussion. Analyzing and comprehending complex texts. A rethinking of how I view political thought and political theory. Deeper overall understanding of political thought.
I learned so much about all of these various thinkers. I would argue I might have learned more in this course than I have in any other I have taken.
critical thinking/reading, synthesizing information, analyzing academic texts, making critical statements evaluating the writing style/argument
I believe this course has helped me immensely with my reading comprehension and analysis skills. Furthermore, I feel more knowledgeable about the different schools of philosophy that have led us to this point in American politics.
The skills I learned in this class, specifically the critical thinking and in-depth analysis of complex texts, will be invaluable for future course and my professional growth.
Definitely, analyzing texts and being able to question an author or what is said in class!
Learning how to engage in thoughtful discussion about history and politics with my peers, and how to approach political thought using the "reflexive" technique of making connections to personal emotional responses as well as previously acquired information
Critically examining text in a way where I can identify analytical questions I may have, increased comfort with heavy reading
Critical analysis and open-mindedness