

Spring 2023 Individual Instructor Aggregated for POT2002: Intro Political Theor (Glen Billesbach)

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

Courses Audience: 47	Instructors Audience: 47
Responses Received: 33	Responses Received: 33
Response Ratio: 70.2%	Response Ratio: 70.2%

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!

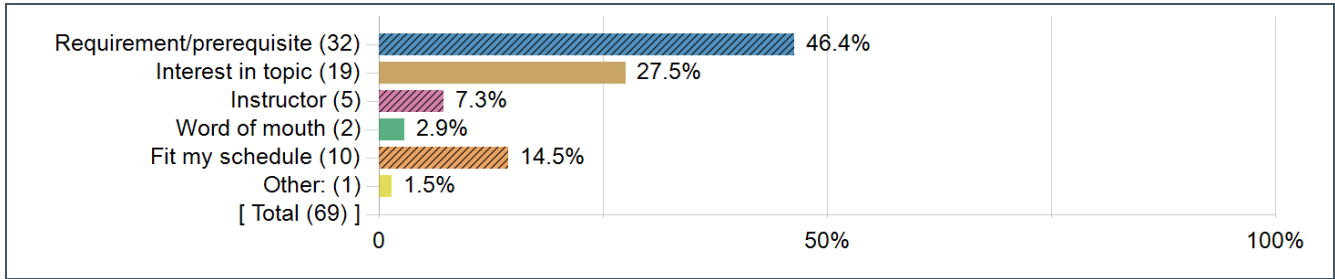
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Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs



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

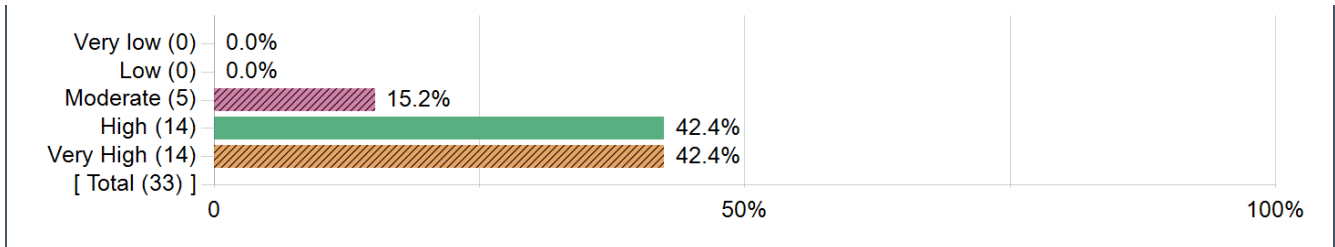
Student Self-Evaluation Questions

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
33	70.2%	4.27	4.32	4.00	4.04	4.08	4.16

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	70.2%	4.91	4.95	4.73	4.86	4.48	4.73
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	70.2%	5.00	5.00	4.41	4.71	4.23	4.57
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	70.2%	4.97	4.98	4.55	4.78	4.40	4.67
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	70.2%	4.97	4.98	4.50	4.75	4.35	4.66
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	70.2%	4.91	4.95	4.23	4.63	4.17	4.55
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	70.2%	4.97	4.98	4.35	4.71	4.11	4.54
Overall	70.2%	4.95	-	4.46	-	4.29	-

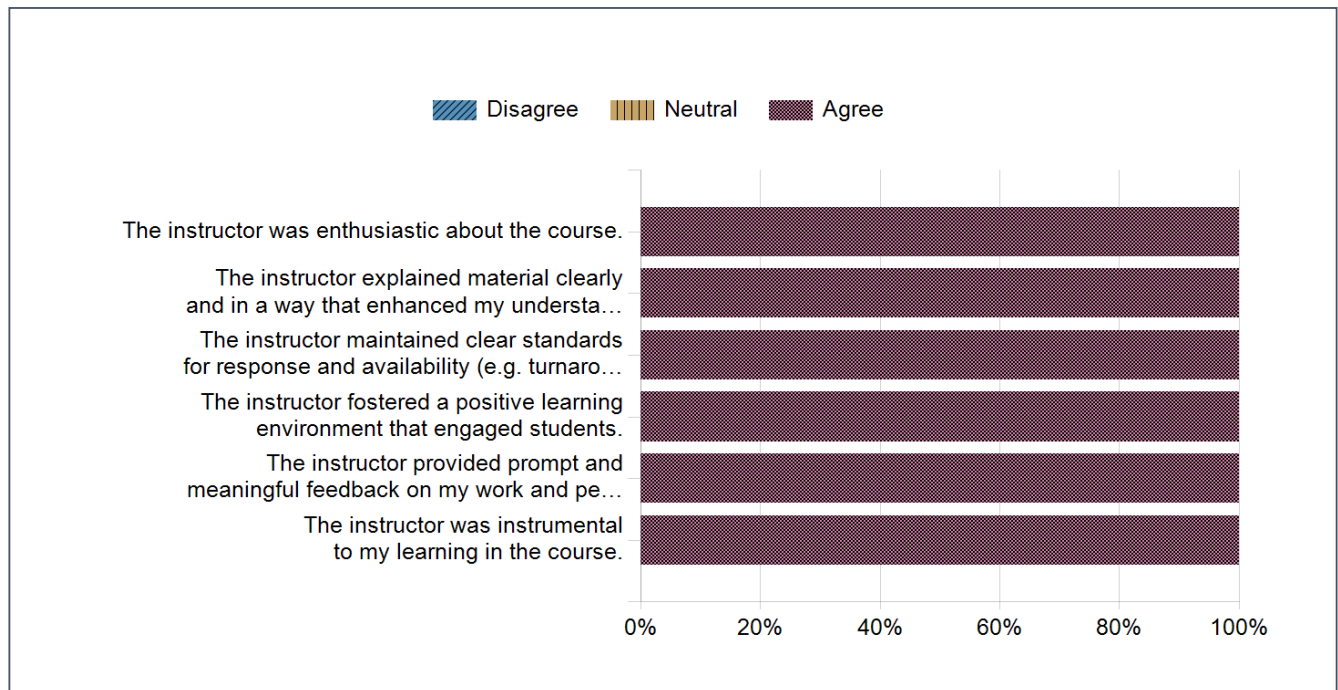
University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	70.2%	4.67	4.75	4.35	4.47	4.19	4.30
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	70.2%	4.67	4.75	4.09	4.33	3.98	4.18
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	70.2%	4.67	4.75	4.20	4.39	4.15	4.29
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	70.2%	4.76	4.84	4.32	4.54	4.18	4.35
Overall	70.2%	4.69	-	4.24	-	4.12	-

Aggregate Evaluation Results

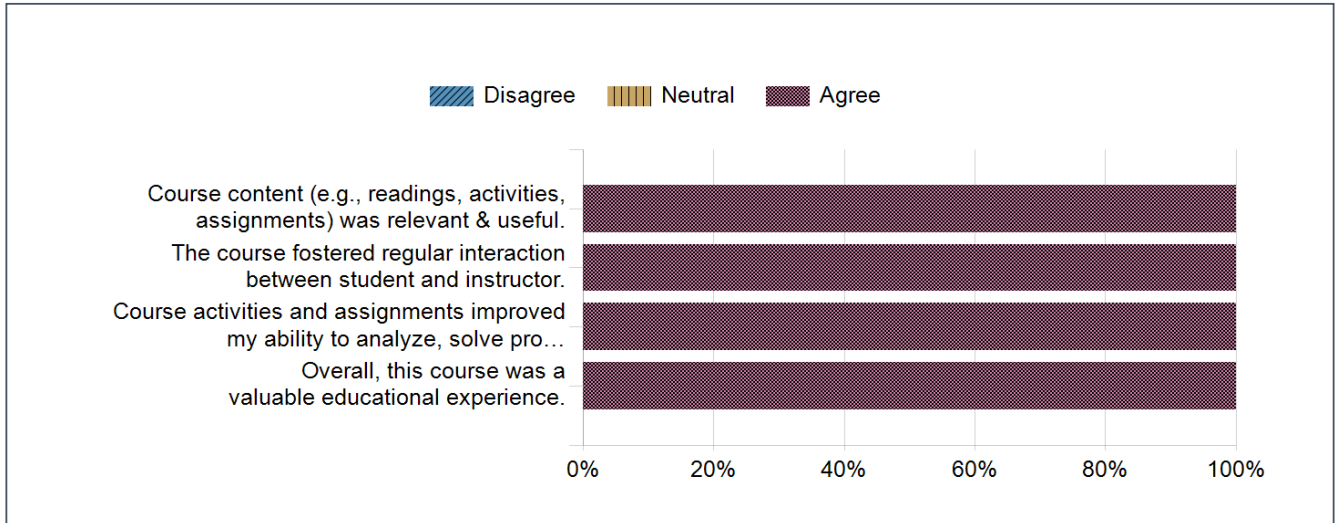
University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

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.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	90.9%	33	4.91	5.00	0.29
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	33	5.00	5.00	0.00
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	97.0%	33	4.97	5.00	0.17
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	97.0%	33	4.97	5.00	0.17
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	90.9%	33	4.91	5.00	0.29
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	97.0%	33	4.97	5.00	0.17

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%	33.3%	66.7%	33	4.67	5.00	0.48
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	33	4.67	5.00	0.48
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	33	4.67	5.00	0.48
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	24.2%	75.8%	33	4.76	5.00	0.44

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
I think his enthusiasm really contributed into my learning into this course – also, his real-life examples aided my learning a lot
Professor Billesbach is so clearly knowledgeable and passionate about the topics he teaches. He has a perfect tempo to his lectures, fitting plenty of information in while also providing ample time for note-taking.
The instructor was very good at being accepting of multiple different ideas and viewpoints while still being able to bring broader ideas into a narrower focus. He is also very knowledgeable about the field and I felt that he knew the books we read inside and out.
Very good at creating an open and positive environment for students to share their opinions
Professor dedicated Fridays to discussion to review any confusion students had in re: to assigned readings. If no confusion, it was a great time to dive deeper into the content of each thinker.
N/A
Professor Billesbach is so far the best professor I've had at UF. He is well educated, passionate, and relatable. He makes the class feel less intimidating, and is always there for his students. He gives great feedback, and I always get excited when I see he graded something because I thoroughly enjoy reading his feedback. He is open to political opinion from anyone, and holds no biases towards the content, which is extremely hard in a political class.
Instructor displayed a through understanding of each author and was receptive to everyone's views.
super kind funny and easygoing.
Prof. Billesbach was very interested in and knowledgeable about the course material which greatly enhanced the learning environment.
N/A
The instructor did an excellent job at breaking down the readings and explaining the main ideas of the thinkers. I don't know if I would've gotten as much out of the course if not for the professor's understanding of the topics and interactions with the class.
Billesbach is super passionate about this class. He's easy to relate too and made understanding the topics very easily.
Prof. Billesbach was amazing. He was very good at taking complex readings and explaining them in an easily digestible way. He also made pop culture references that brought a lot of the older readings to life. Furthermore, he truly cares about his students and works extremely hard to make sure that each and every one of them gets something out of the class. I would love to take more classes with him if they fit my schedule.
The instructor was very enthusiastic about this course, and was very knowledgeable about each author and its corresponding book. The instructor did not hesitate to help students during his office hours, and held them frequently. He also responded to emails in a timely manner, providing students with immediate feedback. The instructor encouraged everyone to participate in class discussions, and paid special attention to those who had not previously spoken during that class period.
Professor Billesbach incorporated a sense of positivity and enthusiasm into his teaching. Numerous readings in this course could be interpreted as boring and long. However, the instructor took numerous steps to engage his students in class.
Very very passionate about the course material and teaching it which made for a much more enjoyable & educational experience, gave super thorough feedback which showed how much he cared & also was very helpful for completing future assignments and understanding what to improve, gave a good breakdown of each of the texts, fostered engagement and actually wanted to know what students thought about what we were learning
I have only amazing things to say about this instructor. Mr. Bilesbach has got to be one of the best and for sure the most enjoyable instructor I've ever had here at UF. He's extremely knowledgable, personable, understanding, a quick/witty thinker, and any other great thing I could possibly say (the list goes on). He is extremely organized and sets the class up in a way that we had a constant flow of new ideas and discussions. his way of explaining concepts was very engaging as well.
instructor was extremely nice and engaging in discussion. always ready to teach, answer questions, and engage everyone.
The feedback on every assignment was extremely helpful as it allowed me to recognize what I needed to do to improve.
Extremely helpful and resourceful. Provided me extremely thorough feedback on my assignments and was always open to meeting during office hours to provide essay feedback.
Extremely knowledgeable, kind, and responsive to students. Definitely felt like he truly cared about our learning and in making sure that we all had clear understandings of certain concepts, but I truly loved how welcoming the classroom was to different perspectives and opinions.
Is clearly very knowledgeable on these topic but most importantly is able to break down complex and intricate subjects into an easily decipherable way for all his students. Is an incredibly engaging professor which really influenced my motivation for learning.
Very engaging, encouraged discussions, made content easier to understand.
Mr. Billesbach's lectures were always detailed and intriguing, and his reflexive examples during discussions helped to ground fairly abstract concepts in terms understandable to students.
Professor Billesbach has such a strong passion for this course that made me want to come to class. He gave meaningful comments on all of our work and made sure we were truly understanding the material. He engaged us during class and made sure everyone had a chance to speak and contribute. He is a great teacher and everyone would be lucky to take one of his courses.
Explained all concepts in-depth and was happy to elaborate further when questions were raised. Provided ample time to complete assignments and was always available for help. Was very accomodating for technical issues.
The instructor was extremely positive, and helped me gain an education in the course material through his ability to connect with me and understand my strengths and weaknesses. The professor also was extremely helpful when I went through difficult times and

Comments

helped make sure that I was able to gain an education and learn the content, while successfully handling the obstacles in my personal life as a helping hand and a positive force in my life.

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

Comments

I think that the list-type review that we did at the end of the semester for the exam review would be helpful to do at the end of each section that way there is something to look for when starting exam prep.

None

The PowerPoint slides are super informative and useful as they are posted on canvas by the end of the week for students to refer to. However, they can be lengthy so I might suggest condensing them.

N/A

none, 10/10 professor.

Maybe some more in class group discussions between students would be beneficial.

none

N/A

I think this class would benefit from more small group discussions.

No constructive feedback. The instructor knows that not everyone came into this course with prior knowledge on different philosophers and took his time explaining each concept in detail for further understanding.

My only suggestion would be unlocking course grades on canvas. I know how I did on individual assignments in his class, however, the whole semester I never knew my total grade in his class. All in all, Professor Billesbach was an outstanding professor and always cracked jokes during lectures to further engagement in his class. Additionally, he is very informed in all of the reading that took place in the class and explained it to the class in ways that were easy to understand.

I think he could be a little tougher so people take the class a little more seriously (not that they didn't, I just wouldn't want people to take advantage of his kindness)

I have none.

the notes were a little too fast/hard to keep up with.

A little more explanation on how to really analyze and break down the various thinkers arguments (specifically for worksheets). Other than that Keep it up!

I think the class is set up perfectly.

While I greatly appreciated changes made in the course schedule to provide additional time to write the final essay and prepare for the final exam, I think I would have preferred to maintain the original schedule and discuss essay ideas with classmates.

I would say the reading and writing is definitely heavy, so maybe if the worksheets had some variability and not just plain writing every week

N/A

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

Comments
I found the first essay that we had to do very interesting but I would actually prefer if we could have more of an opportunity to participate in more group work
I feel like it would be helpful in the worksheets we do to have an overall topic at the top of the page so that I can tell if I'm on the right path with interpreting what I am reading. Ex: for Locke: Self-Rule, Anti-Hobbes (chaos) .
The slides were very engaging and lectures were very helpful, I feel having a whole other final is a bit excessive though
I found the presentations at the end to be super helpful in recapping the theories/ideas presented by each thinker. Perhaps having 2 presentations would be beneficial?
N/A
None really, I enjoyed the lay out of the course.
N/A
Less required readings, focus text on pages that are more important.
Each assignment aided the students in further understanding each author and their book, and made it so that they were actually required to read the book. If there had been no assignment, the class discussions definitely would have had less participation, and probably would have been more confusing as less people would have read the assigned pages.
Unlock grades on canvas so students can see overall grades.
I think that for the final, there should be a little more information given ahead of time, like, for example, giving ideas as to what the prompts could be.
I have none. I enjoyed the structure/material thoroughly and completely.
go slower with the notes so that we can write down what the board says AND understand the lecture.
The readings got a bit difficult to keep up with at the end but that's just from it edging closer to the end of the semester, I think that there could be a bit more necessary information conveyed on the slides (ex. when I missed a day due to extenuating circumstances it was difficult to catch up using just the slides alone and I lacked the time to meet directly with the professor).
The course is complete and stimulating.
Being able to receive in-person constructive criticism about our essays.
I think that it would be beneficial to set aside additional classes for exam review.
Course materials should be more engaging rather than just writing. Maybe answering prompts rather than just writing down everything we learned.
N/A

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
I think the way I relate historical thinkers and their analogies into contemporary examples will be something that I will use in the future as this really helped my learning
I feel like i gained the skill of being able to apply a reading to the real world. A lot of my past classes have not that so this class I feel like allowed for the comparison of a book to modern day society.
Really glad I took this class because I'd always wanted to learn about these important political thinkers, but definitely learned political theory is not for me lol
I have a deeper understanding of key political theorists and will be able to apply said knowledge to my future political science courses.
N/A
The wide range of philosophers we cover helps us learn different perspectives to politics, which is one of the most important lessons that can be taught.
I think there was a lot of concepts from the political theory content that will help me grow as an individual in the future.
N/A
Learning how to understand political theory.
Critical thinking and reasoning; Essay construction and writing
My reading comprehension skills greatly improved through my engagement in this class. Additionally my analysis and note-taking skills advanced due to instructor Billesbach's assignments.
I learned about various different political theories/ideologies, I learned how to accurately locate the main points, and I gained more confidence about speaking up in class.
He really fostered the idea of Paideia in me. I was already a student who was eager to learn but sitting in his class was a treat every single day for me. Political commentary is for sure a skill I can take away from this course, something I hadn't done much of in the past but learned that I enjoy.
knowing politics for my future in law!
critical thinking, heavy and in depth analysis was key throughout this course, and a willingness to listen to other perspectives was instrumental
Reading and thinking critically, evaluating different arguments, and building my own arguments based on reason are skills I learned in this course that I will carry with me in the future.
Understanding early political thinkers, improving my reflexive and analytical skills.
The thinkers we were introduced to and the ideologies we explored provided an in-depth history of many of the political ideas referenced today.
Critical thinking skills, foundation for politics
I have an established understanding of how to interpret political theory and the concepts surrounding the thinkers we studied in this class. I believe my learning from this course will be incredibly helpful in my future career in law school.