

Summer 2022 Individual Instructor Aggregated for POT2002: Intro Political Theor (Glen Billesbach)

Project Title: **University of Florida GatorEvals – Summer 2022 Main Project**

Courses Audience: 36	Instructors Audience: 36
Responses Received: 23	Responses Received: 23
Response Ratio: 63.9%	Response Ratio: 63.9%

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!

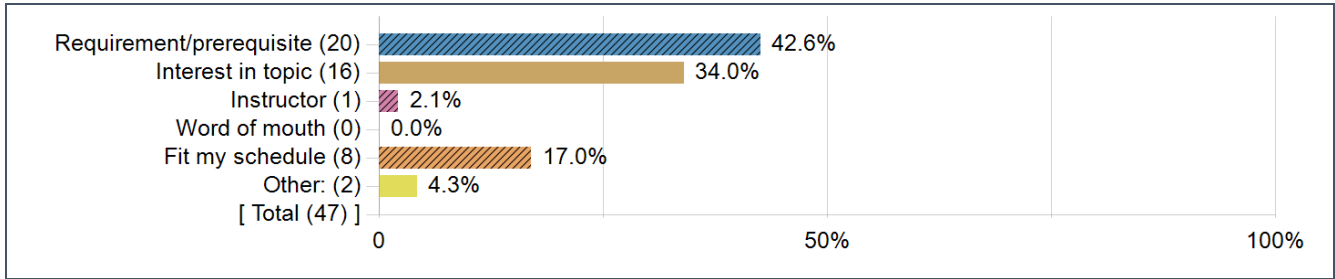
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Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs



Creation Date: **Monday, September 19, 2022**

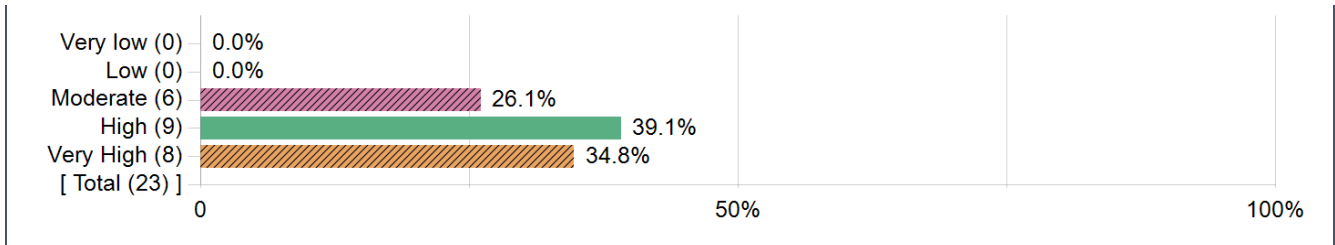
Student Self-Evaluation Questions

Why did you take this course?



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

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



Comparative Evaluation Results

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	63.9%	4.96	4.98	4.55	4.76	4.41	4.68
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	63.9%	4.83	4.89	4.33	4.63	4.21	4.54
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	63.9%	4.96	4.98	4.38	4.70	4.39	4.66
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	63.9%	4.96	4.98	4.43	4.71	4.33	4.63
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	63.9%	4.96	4.98	4.14	4.53	4.15	4.53
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	63.9%	4.83	4.93	4.23	4.62	4.07	4.49
Overall	63.9%	4.91	-	4.34	-	4.26	-

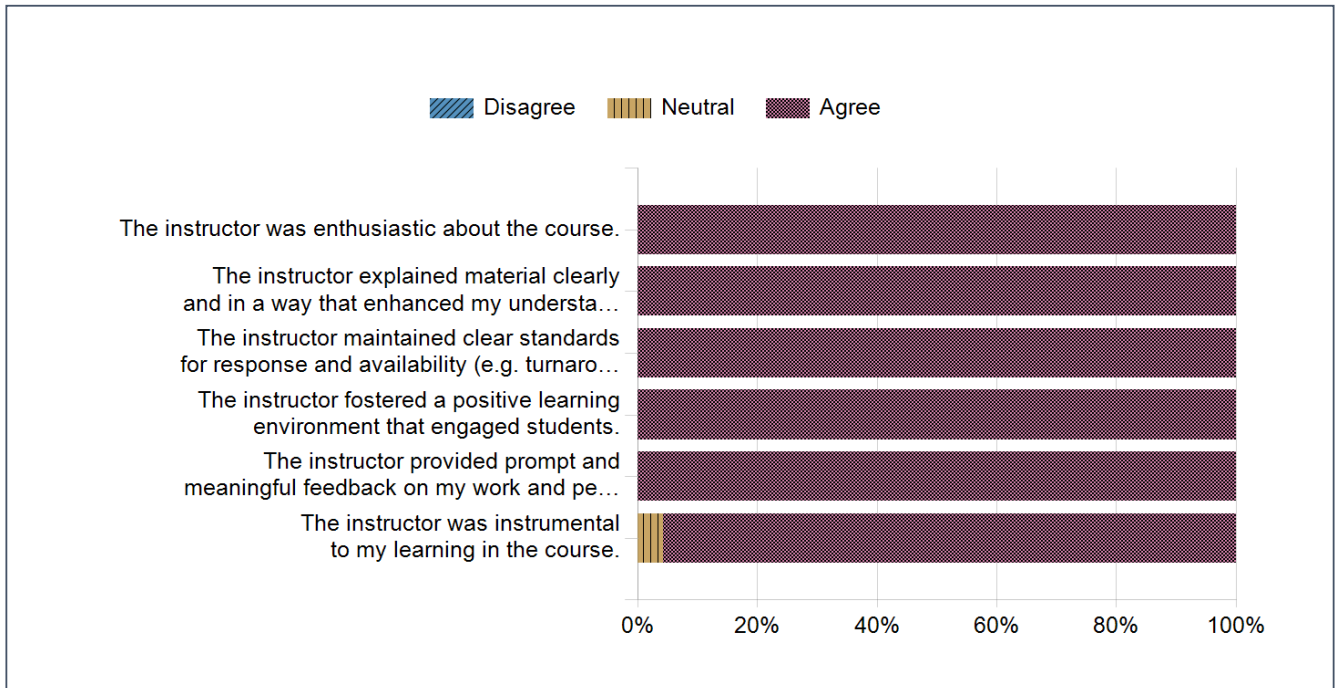
University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	63.9%	4.65	4.73	4.34	4.45	4.20	4.31
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	63.9%	4.78	4.86	4.29	4.60	3.93	4.14
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	63.9%	4.52	4.54	4.28	4.52	4.15	4.29
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	63.9%	4.61	4.68	4.28	4.58	4.18	4.36
Overall	63.9%	4.64	-	4.30	-	4.11	-

Aggregate Evaluation Results

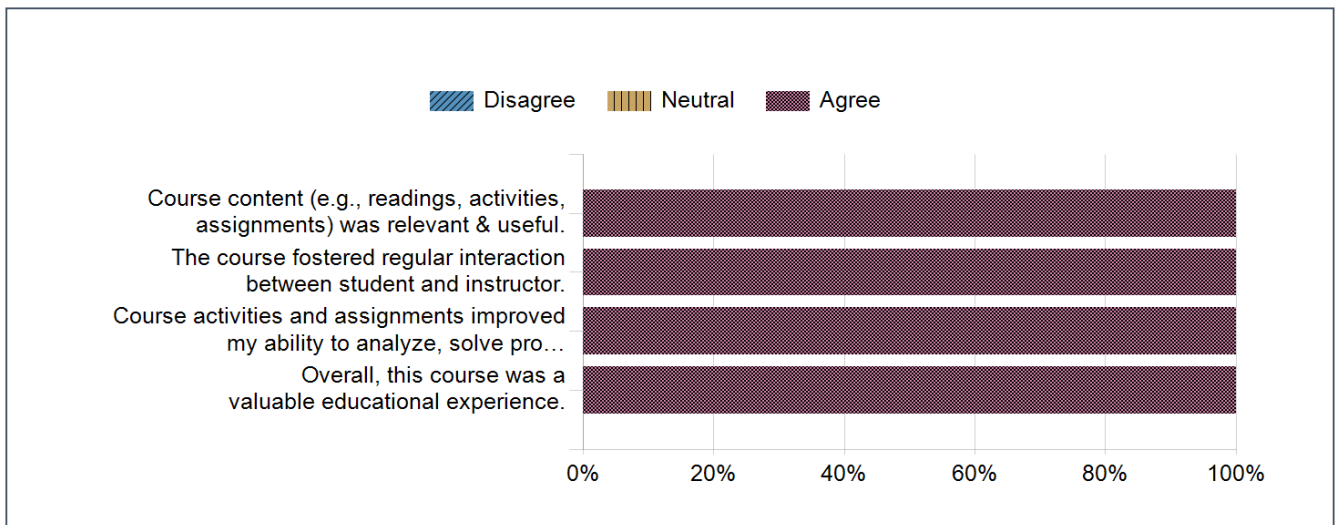
University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

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%	4.3%	95.7%	23	4.96	5.00	0.21
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	17.4%	82.6%	23	4.83	5.00	0.39
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	95.7%	23	4.96	5.00	0.21
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	95.7%	23	4.96	5.00	0.21
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	95.7%	23	4.96	5.00	0.21
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	8.7%	87.0%	23	4.83	5.00	0.49

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%	34.8%	65.2%	23	4.65	5.00	0.49
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.7%	78.3%	23	4.78	5.00	0.42
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47.8%	52.2%	23	4.52	5.00	0.51
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	39.1%	60.9%	23	4.61	5.00	0.50

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

Free Response Section

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

Comments
Glen was an amazing teacher, he made an effort to make a dynamic and learning class in a very short time. In addition to the fact that he accommodated himself to the needs of his students, understanding them and guiding them to have a good semester. It shows that he loves what he does and that he gives his best in each class.
Professor Billesbach communicated the content in a way that was very digestible— we had a lot to cover in a short period of time, but he managed to hit what was essential in an incredibly effective manner. Moreover, having a professor who is strong in their abilities is important, and he undoubtedly fulfilled that aspect; however, finding a professor who accompanies his talent and passion with such an admirable level of warmth and relatability is hard to come across. This made it easier to ask questions, and made me look forward to come to class.
Was incredibly thorough and interacted a lot with the students.
Involving student participation and offering extra office hours for help
Professor Billesbach has genuinely had one of the most positive impacts on my experience here at UF. As a first-year and a Summer B student, it was really hard to find a class that was reasonable to take, while also fulfilling my classes. With Professor Billesbach's discussions, worksheets, and essays, I find myself wanted to go deeper into the world of politics. If you're considering his class: take it! The discussions are always fun and his office hours are extremely accessible. He really just wanted us to succeed.
I personally don't look at Canvas comments even if they're nice because I get anxious, but the amount of care and feedback he put into assignments for everyone was incredible
Glen was able to elaborate and really dive into the course's readings and get to the core concepts of political theory.
Mr. Billesbach was an amazing teacher, especially since class met every day for an hour and fifteen minutes. His slides were informative, his lectures were relevant, and even though the class was made up of around thirty students, he always managed to get many of us to participate. The worksheets he assigned were very helpful in facilitating my understanding of the readings, and the way he organized them also made it very easy to go back and use them for essays. His feedback on both the worksheets and essays were in-depth and well-written, showing he clearly made an effort to improve each and every student. His office hours were also very accessible and he was always able to provide meaningful answers and feedbacks without just giving you an answer. All around a stand-up guy.
He is an excellent communicator who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the course topics.
gave great feedback on homework and activities and caring for students.
Very open to discussions and pulling from outside materials of any kind. He always found a way to relate back no matter how off topic someone's comment may have seemed.
Very interactive with the class, informative, lectures were easy to understand and the professor broke down the content very well. The professor encouraged engagement and further thought on the subject.
The instructor facilitated the learning process in many way. We read and review topics and expanded upon them in class adding layers to the information that we, as students, were able to take in. I also liked the scene setting that the instructor would do in order to give us a better understanding of the time and circumstances the authors we read were writing from. Lastly, the instructor was very willing to take and expand upon comparisons to other forms of media, as well as events in the real world, giving the students the bonus of being able to recontextualize and evaluate concepts in circumstances more applicable and understandable to people living in modern times.
Charismatic, knowledgeable, patient and knows how to teach
The instructor was extremely interactive and allowed for constant discussion between students and with himself. He was very responsive and always gave helpful feedback. Having an instructor that actually interacted in a meaningful capacity was so helpful and he seems genuinely interested in the subject, which can be seen in his enthusiasm for teaching.
Professor Billesbach's strengths that contributed to my learning in the course include his compassion for students throughout the semester as well as his engaging and passionate teaching style. Professor Billesbach made his expectations very clear for the course as well as for each assignment and paper, creating a much more comprehensive understanding of what was entailed within the course for the semester.
Professor Billesbach was wonderful in finding the value in anyone's comments or questions; he fostered an extremely positive environment where everyone is fairly comfortable asking him to clarify or expand on whatever he was saying. He provided great feedback on each assignment, which was available to us students very soon after it was submitted (considering the pace of a summer course, his speed was impressive). He split up the week in a great way, where we spent 4 days discussing a reading and then did a discussion at the end of the week; on those Fridays it was much easier to fully understand course material.
great communicator, excellent knowledge of the subject matter.
Mr. Billesbach's passion for political theory is unavoidable. He comes prepared with very helpful powerpoints discussing the reading of the previous night. He takes the time to carefully review assignments, providing insightful comments to help guide for future assignments of the same nature.
His enthusiasm was nice, and he connected with the class well.
very kind, warm, welcoming, charming, passionate and knowledgeable about material, well organized presentations, very engaging in class/values student participation and discussion

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

Comments
n/
I have very minimal advice as to what he could improve, as I found him to be undoubtedly one of the best professors I've experienced thus far at UF. The only thing I will say is that some of the verbiage in the text is a bit difficult to understand sometimes, so perhaps giving us a quick overview as to how we can break down some of this old English could be beneficial.
N/A
More lecturing
The only thing I wish he would've continued to do is adding "questions" for students to think about for each author. For Plato, we focused on his definition of justice; for Locke it was property within the Social Contract. If he had continued this, I think it would've made the worksheets just a bit more analytical for students.
Honestly nothing, this course was great.
I don't really have much here. I loved the engaging discussions the class had, but sometimes it would get us behind. Maybe try and find a way to still have the discussion, yet stay on track.
I really enjoyed it overall.
N/A
Include readings that aren't the source material. (Almost impossible for summer b and he mentioned how he does it during fall, I'm just jealous.)
N/A
I enjoyed the structure of the course and the weekly classes purely dedicated to discussion of the prior days' learning. I did not find any aspect of the course particularly unsatisfactory, and it was an all around very enjoyable class.
I think the way he has it structured is perfect
I think being a little more flexible could have been helpful, but it definitely was manageable. Overall, he is still very understanding and helpful.
I do not have much constructive feedback for Professor Billesbach as he was very engaging and clearly passionate about the content. He assigned various readings and worksheets that all contributed to my understanding of the course and were very helpful. I especially enjoyed how we would spend time in class discussing what was noted in the readings and have class discussions relating to such.
Sometimes I felt that certain questions were almost too entertained, in that while it was relevant to the topic, it definitely was not what he had wanted to cover, which then left us scrambling a little at the end. I never felt like I learned less because of these moments, but I do think it might be important to remind students to stay fairly focused on the topic directly at hand during lectures.
keep doing what you are doing!
N/A one of the best professors I've had!

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

Comments
The whole course seemed very well organized.
N/A: I felt this to be very well-organized and effective.
N/A
More tests
N/A; everything was very accessible through the bookstore and through online textbook platforms.
N/a
Since it was a summer course, we were only able to cover six books, and only one of them was from the modern era (Du Bois). This is probably rectified already, but if I was taking a course in the fall, I'd want to read even more books! However, I really liked the pacing of both the readings and assignments. I had to put in the work, but I never felt overwhelmed.
Maybe having an essay due the day after people are required to leave dorms isn't the best idea but it is still entirely possible to finish the final essay before because of the great allotted time given for it.
N/A
None. It was simple, straight forward, and useful.
None, really
No major complaints, the reading was enjoyable and none of the work was particularly laborious, although the reading would at times be a bit long.
I think it's perfect
Nothing really. The readings were sometimes extremely tedious, but it was not terrible.
The course is incredibly well structured and organized. The readings and corresponding assignments were all valuable to my understanding of the content, thus I do not have any suggestions for improving the course as a whole.
I understand this is a shorter semester so it is difficult to have more readers, but I would have included more women or POC thinkers.
NA
None, very well organized and specifically tailored for the summer session.

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
This course taught me all about the main philosophers of political theory. I read a lot about society, justice and many other essential topics to understand society.
Fundamental political theorists whose ideologies will be critical in my pursuit of political science as a career.
The ability to reason in the world of political theory.
Good writing and note taking
Personally, I believe my analytical and discussion skills have grown the most. Professor Billesbach really encouraged us to stay active within class discussions, prompting me to think differently on subjects I was previously close-minded on.
As a prerequisite class, I believe that texts covered were perfect. The material was the perfect opening for further political theory classes and political science majors as a whole.
Learning about the political theory canon has taught me to look at government institutions differently and always be questioning the world around me. I also think this course has facilitated my critical thinking and analysis skills through quality assignments.
I learned to think more critically about the things I like and was able to learn and associate those ideas with other topics.
the readings were very interesting and I believe that I will use them in future classes.
Analyzing complicated language and historical readings.
I am interested in political theory and science, so I will definitely apply these texts to my own current beliefs and education.
I think the thinkers taught in the course have many ideas applicable to modern society and governments, and I feel as though I am more able to provide context to historical events than prior to taking the course.
Political theory in terms of Wollstonecraft , Dubois , Burke , Plato , Locke and Rousseau – best class ever
Definitely writing subject-related essays and maintaining a timeline to ensure I remained on track.
I learned an immense amount about differing philosophers as well as political theory and ideals. These topics that I learned about during this course will ultimately help me as I continue to progress throughout the various courses entailed within my major. Because I am a Political Science major I know that the notions of philosophers and their beliefs will help me have a more thorough understanding of political theory intertwined with classes I will take in the future.
Critically analyzing the texts in order to explore them and compare them with other readings is probably the most valuable skill I learned in this course.
deep literary analysis
I believe understanding the different perspectives of the authors of the books read in these books will enhance my knowledge and application of personal ideals, such as justice, freedom, and the notion of property.
important historical thinkers/leaders, basis of modern day political systems, philosophic thinking/theories/methods