

POLS 370 (LEC-002): Contemp International Problems

Fall Sem 2017 | AARON GOLD

35 | Students Enrolled
 23 | Students Responded
 65.71% | Response Rate

Quantitative

<i>Please rate the following questions based on your experiences in this course. The rating categories are 5=Strongly Agree, 4=Agree, 3=Neutral, 2=Disagree, and 1=Strongly Disagree. If the question does not apply to this course then choose 0=Not Applicable.</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable	N	DNA	SD	M
The instructor contributed to your understanding of course content.	60.87% (14)	34.78% (8)	4.35% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.58	4.57
The instructor created an atmosphere that invited you to seek additional help.	65.22% (15)	26.09% (6)	8.7% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.65	4.57
The instructor responded to your inquiries about the course (e.g., emails, texts, phone calls) within a reasonable time-frame (i.e., 48-72 hours).	78.26% (18)	21.74% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.41	4.78
The instructor created a respectful and positive learning environment.	73.91% (17)	26.09% (6)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.44	4.74
The instructor provided useful feedback on course assignments.	56.52% (13)	39.13% (9)	4.35% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.58	4.52
The course challenged you to learn something new.	65.22% (15)	26.09% (6)	8.7% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.65	4.57
The class sessions were well organized.	52.17% (12)	34.78% (8)	13.04% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.71	4.39
The course materials (readings, homework, laboratories, etc.) enhanced your learning in this course.	56.52% (13)	26.09% (6)	13.04% (3)	4.35% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	23	0	0.87	4.35

	14-15	16-17	18-19	Under 20-21	2-3 22 or more	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	N	12-13 DNA	SD	M
On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this course outside of class meetings (e.g., doing readings, completing assignments, studying for exams, and/or any other related course work)?				4.35% (1) 0% (0)	47.83% (11) 0% (0)	34.78% (8) 0% (0)	0% (0) 0% (0)	4.35% (1) 0% (0)	4.35% (1)	23	0	-	-

	C-	D	F	A Satisfactory/Passing	A- No Credit/Not Passing	B+ Incomplete	B I do not know what my grade will be	B-	C+	N	C DNA	SD	M
The grade I expect in this course is:				43.48% (10) 0% (0)	13.04% (3) 0% (0)	13.04% (3) 0% (0)	4.35% (1) 8.7% (2)	4.35% (1)	8.7% (2)	23	0	3.72	3.52

	My primary major	My secondary major	My minor/cognate	My graduate certificate (graduate students only)	A general education requirement (undergraduates only)	An Elective	DNA	SD	M N
In regards to your academic program/major, this course is for:	79.17% (19)	12.5% (3)	8.33% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0	-	- 24

	First-Year undergraduate	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduate	Non-matriculating Student	DNA	SD	M N
My class/year in school is:	0% (0)	4.35% (1)	39.13% (9)	56.52% (13)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0	-	-
									23

Qualitative

Is there any additional feedback you would like to provide about the instructor (e.g., teaching style, time management, accessibility)? -

- Aaron really cares about the material, and it shows. He is more than willing to answer any questions, and is very helpful. Teaching style was excellent and lined up perfectly with the readings and our assignments. This was my second class with Aaron because I enjoyed him so much.
- Aaron does a really good job with the timing of our lectures and is invaluable in breaking down the multitude of scholarly articles that are part of the course into distilled lectures that highlight the important aspects of each article.
- Aaron Gold's teaching style is very straight forward. He tells his students what he expects from them and provides the necessary materials required in order to meet those expectations. I also really appreciated how many scholarly articles he provided that supported his powerpoints and in class discussions.
- Aaron Gold is extremely fair to his students. He treats all students with the same amount of trust and respect, all he asks for in return is the same respect.
- Professor Gold is super nice and is very willing to help students.
- Well organized and responsive to any questions I had about course material. I would take one of his classes again.
- I felt as though a lot of peers were not paying attention due to distractions on laptops, which had an effect in preventing good discussion in class. More discussion would be a good way to apply information to real life.
- The instructor is quick to solve any issues or provide any information we need very quickly. The Exams, that include the reading and the lectures really help me understand the material and the main focus of the theories. The structure of the exam really makes a lasting impression of the material
- N/a
- Aaron is definitely passionate about what he is teaching and it makes it a wonderful learning experience because it makes you passionate about the topic as well!
- He's obviously very smart and was able to explain things in a really lucid way. I do wish he had shared more of his views with us. I can tell that it's a good thing that I had him as an instructor for this course, I learned a ton.
- Great professor!!!
- I think Aaron is a great instructor, but he often loses his train of thought, so he can be hard to follow during lectures

Is there any additional feedback you would like to provide about the course (e.g., workload, content, technology)? -

- I understand that the theories of why terrorism exists and the strategies used by terrorists are important to know, but it would have been a lot more helpful to first have a general understanding of who the groups actually are. I previously took another course at UT that discussed the same dilemma of defining terrorism and the same theories of its causes, but again, no background, maybe assuming we would know the basics from the media or something. It seems like a lot of courses at UT initially go too far into the material and skip the basics, turning into a seminar reflecting the PhD-level interests of the teacher. So when we get out of college, we can easily discuss the relationship between susceptibility to terrorism and government type, audience costs, the logic of suicide terrorism, the four waves of terrorism, and the five strategies of terrorism, yet if the average American asks "What in the world is Boko Haram, Hezbollah, FARC, the Shining Path, and the Tamil Tigers, or what's the difference between the Taliban and al Qaeda and ISIS?" we may not know these basic things, showing a bit of a paradox when sharing what we actually know. Anyway, I know each semester is short and the information we learned was necessary, so I wouldn't take any of it out since we are paying for a high quality education, but maybe spend one day to one week in the beginning giving a very quick layman's overview of all relevant groups in order to level the playing field.
- The workload was very do-able. The content was also challenging, yet interesting. I am confident that I learned something new in each class session. Dr. Gold was VERY knowledgeable of the topics we discussed and he was always there to help or answer any questions anyone had.
- His online course page was perfectly organized. Workload is fine, I like the reading. Interesting intro to terrorism
- I feel like the readings were a little bit much, mostly because we didn't talk about what half of the reading assignments covered; if the assignment was 30 pages long, we really only needed to read half to understand the concepts in class which I wish would've been mentioned.
- I liked the structure of this course
- I find the course well done, and the learned a lot. i find that the only issue was the lack of participation form the other students. I found that the Exams were really helpful in deeply understanding the material. I found your course very interesting and you helped me understand all the complex methodology
- Very interesting material in the class, and seeing how trends of groups unfold. I think more case studies would be interesting, and more examples of terrorist groups acting based on studies found that are discussed in class. This did happen sometimes, but seeing examples helps understand and apply the information to a real life example.
- The articles used throughout the semester seem to repeat a lot of the same theories and ideas; with certain topics this is helpful for memorizing the lesson, but others can be slightly tedious.
- The course was beneficial. A solid combination of book materials and scholarly articles contributed to a thorough understanding of the subject, while also introducing the students to research in the field.
- The workload was absolutely manageable and I really liked the structure of the course. I would take his class again.
- I think that the class could have done well to have a quiz every week or two. Nothing major, but like 8 quizzes in a semester for a combined 10 points on the final grade. I think that probably would have helped with attendance without being an unreasonable pain.
- Good chosen readings for the topic. Good balance of reading and spacing and content of papers and memo.