

**THE STUDENT ASSESSMENT OF INSTRUCTION SYSTEM
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**



Political Science 102 Sec # 20494 Aaron Gold
Intro/Political Science (LEC) Spring 2016 Form A # of Students: 23

Questions	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Item Mean
1. Course as a whole	11 (50%)	8 (36%)	3 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.36
2. Course content	10 (45%)	10 (45%)	2 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.36
3. Instructor's contribution to the course	14 (64%)	6 (27%)	2 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.55
4. Instructor's effectiveness in teaching material	13 (59%)	6 (27%)	2 (9%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.41
5. Course organization	15 (68%)	4 (18%)	2 (9%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.50
6. Clarity of instructor's voice	16 (73%)	4 (18%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.59
7. Explanations by instructor	15 (68%)	4 (18%)	2 (9%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.50
8. Ability to present alternative explanations	14 (64%)	5 (23%)	1 (5%)	2 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.41
9. Use of examples and illustrations	14 (64%)	5 (23%)	3 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.50
10. Quality of questions/problems raised by instructor	14 (64%)	4 (18%)	3 (14%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.41
11. Students' confidence in instructor's knowledge	16 (73%)	3 (14%)	3 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.59
12. Instructor's enthusiasm	14 (64%)	5 (23%)	3 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.50
13. Encouragement given to students' self expression	14 (64%)	5 (23%)	2 (9%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.45
14. Answers to students' questions	14 (64%)	5 (23%)	3 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.50
15. Availability of extra help when needed	13 (59%)	4 (18%)	5 (23%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.36
16. Use of class time	15 (68%)	5 (23%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.55
17. Interest in whether students learned	14 (64%)	6 (27%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.50
18. Amount you learned in the course	14 (64%)	5 (23%)	2 (9%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.45
19. Relevance and usefulness of course content	12 (55%)	7 (32%)	2 (9%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.36
20. Evaluative and grading techniques	13 (59%)	7 (32%)	2 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.50
21. Reasonableness of assigned work	17 (81%)	4 (19%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.81
22. Clarity of students' responsibilities/requirements	16 (73%)	5 (23%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.68

Relative to other college courses you have taken	Much Higher			Average			Much Lower		
23. Do you expect your grade in this course to be:	4 (20%)	9 (40%)	5 (20%)	5 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
24. The intellectual challenge presented was:	1 (0%)	12 (50%)	6 (30%)	3 (10%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
25. The amount of effort you put into this course was:	2 (10%)	8 (30%)	3 (10%)	8 (30%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
26. The amount of effort to succeed in the course was:	2 (10%)	6 (30%)	6 (30%)	7 (30%)	1 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
27. Your involvement in this course (asgn, atnd, etc) was:	4 (20%)	6 (30%)	6 (30%)	5 (20%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)

28. On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this course, including attending classes, readings, reviewing notes, writing papers, and any other course related work?

Under 2	2 (9%)
3-4	7 (30%)
5-6	8 (35%)
7-8	3 (13%)
9-10	2 (9%)
11-12	1 (4%)
13-14	0 (0%)
15-16	0 (0%)
17-18	0 (0%)
19-20	0 (0%)
21-22	0 (0%)
22 or >	0 (0%)

29. From the total average hours above, how many do you consider were valuable in advancing your education?

Under 2	3 (13%)
3-4	8 (35%)
5-6	7 (30%)
7-8	2 (9%)
9-10	2 (9%)
11-12	1 (4%)
13-14	0 (0%)
15-16	0 (0%)
17-18	0 (0%)
19-20	0 (0%)
21-22	0 (0%)
22 or >	0 (0%)

30. Expected Grade

A	12 (52%)
B+	6 (26%)
B	2 (9%)
C+	1 (4%)
C	2 (9%)
D	0 (0%)
F	0 (0%)
S	0 (0%)
NC	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)

31. Course Was

In major	2 (9%)
In minor	1 (4%)
Dist. Req.	9 (39%)
Elective	11 (48%)
Other	0 (0%)

32. Class Composition

Fresh	15 (65%)
Soph	5 (22%)
Junior	2 (9%)
Senior	1 (4%)
Grad	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)

33. Wanted to take course

Yes	16 (70%)
No	3 (13%)
Neutral	4 (17%)

Student Responses to Open Ended Questions

Question #1: Was this class intellectually stimulating? Did it stretch your thinking?

- YES, It helped me gain a basic understanding of politics.
- YES, Really detailed some of the smaller and less noticed aspects of politics
- YES, Mr. Gold was very knowledgeable about the information presented throughout the course and it extended my knowledge about different government structures around the world.
- YES,
- YES, This course is outside my major, so everything we talked about was abstract and new to me. There was plenty to learn every class session.
- YES, PoliSci is a very hard subject for me, so it took a lot.
- YES, Yes, I feel that I learned a lot of information.
- YES, Yes, I really enjoyed this class and leaned a lot throughout the year!
- YES, It was an intellectually stimulating course, however I do feel that it could be improved in ways.
- YES, I really enjoyed this class!!! It was cool to be able to apply what we were learning to the presidential election and other real life situations. I have other friends that took POLS 102, but they didn't ever look at current events or real-life current situations, which I would have hated. I also appreciated how there wasn't JUST a focus on US government and politics. It was interesting to look at things like the National Referendum in England and to look at it from both sides. This class was extremely enjoyable, and I learned a lot about politics.
- NO, The whole class is just us copying down the slides in a hurry because he isn't allowed to upload them to black board, so instead of actually learning or being able to really listen we are doing that because the test questions come directly from the slides.
- YES, Material was in depth and accurate. Learning was easy and the class was always Interesting.
- YES, The content was presented and taught to me very well.
- YES, studying for this class
- YES, Because I learned things I have never seen before.
- YES, Yes because I learned things I didn't know. Gold truly cares about how his students learned. I'm not a poli sci major and I truly learned a lot in this course
- YES, Yes
- YES, We were asked in discussion multiple times to apply what we had been learning to real life situations, and I think that stretched thinking.

Question #2: What aspects of this class contributed most to your learning?

- The lecture and extra credit videos
- I thought the study guides were extremely helpful. If you did the study guide, there was no excuse not to do well on the exams. I appreciated that Mr. Gold tried to interact with the class and asked questions. I felt that when the class actually participated and had discussions, it was really interesting to hear other people's perspectives on certain issues. I also appreciated the fact that Mr. Gold remained objective for the most part.
- Everything was incredibly organized and that is seriously super important when it comes to me personally just being able to chronologically and structurally follow along
- The course discussion and explanations that referred to current events and how content we covered applied to history.
- The way he explains some things made it easier to understand
- The amount of note taking helped
- I really liked the pace that we went through notes and how much the study guide helped.
- Aaron was always incredibly excited to share information and concepts about government with students. If he wasn't so passionate about the subject, I really wouldn't have learned anything at all because I just really do not find politics to be all that interesting.
- I liked when we had discussions, and the study guide helped me learn what I needed to learn for the tests, which helped my grade AND helped me actually learn the material better.
- The study guides and Mr. Gold's willingness to answer my questions.
- The study guides
- The power points
- The study guide
- The graphs and study of data
- His contribution to the class itself helped me learn. He was always available whenever we needed help and was very passionate about his work.
- Your powerpoints were very helpful and full of information. You were very willing to work with us when we had questions or you were covering material too fast. Also, the reviews are a great tool for us, and they help out a ton.

Question #3: What aspects of this class detracted from your learning?
• None
• N/A
• Nothing
• Having everything put on the projector; I didn't have an issue with it, however, I feel like some of my classmates would disengage halfway through lectures.
• PoliSci is incredibly boring to me personally.
• Other students on their computers
• I really don't think that anything detracted from learning.
• Aaron asks several rhetorical questions rather than asking questions that require answers.
• Sometimes it could be hard to stay focused and pay attention. I often found myself pulling out other homework while also listening to notes. The class would be a LOT better if it were more interactive- make it mandatory to participate in class discussions or make it extra credit maybe.
• No homework to keep me motivated, only having exam grades (and only 3 exams), not being able to view the slides on blackboard for review.
• Not having the notes available online
• How boring the lecture was
• None. The class was great

Question #4: What suggestions do you have for improving the class?
• More interactive class
• I think review sessions could be helpful. I know that we had study guides, but I felt that an extra review session could help a lot. I also think small group discussions and in-class assignments that would help us better understand the material could be extremely helpful.
• I wish the lectures were posted, even for someone who always went to class and wrote them down, I would much rather have them posted online because a lot of the time the information Aaron said along with the information on the slides, was extremely useful and interesting but I couldn't listen as I would have liked to because I was always frantically copying down what was on the powerpoint. I do much better when I sit and listen and can absorb and take notes on what I hear, knowing I can go back and get the lecture notes online. Wish there was a differentiation between lecture and class notes.
• Potentially there could be hands on group work or examples. Like say we're given a topic at the beginning of class and present about it at the end? Also, watching videos and utilizing multiple mediums to convey material could be helpful.
• N/A
• Add more comedic relief during lectures like adding clips about the subjects from John Oliver, Stephen Colbert, etc.
• More accountability
• The lectures were not incredibly engaging, however I believe they could be if there was more discussion.
• More interaction and class discussion- make the class more interesting
• Presenting the information in a more stimulating way, perhaps show videos or pictures along with your slides since images stick to the brain more than a lot of text slides. Also it would be amazing if there were slides uploaded on black board or at least supplemental information.
• Make notes available online
• - Maybe include videos- Projects-
• Nothing, I loved it.
• Nothing. He's doing perfect!
• You had been covering material extremely fast, and you did slow down and it was very beneficial. Just remember to slow down a little, and cover everything effectively so that everyone understands it.