

Summary of student evaluations, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2016

Cole J. Harvey
Instructor of Record

Selected student comments

This document presents selected numerical reviews and comments from students' anonymous evaluations of the course and of the instructor. The full, unabridged evaluation can be provided on request.

Table 1: Student evaluations

	Instructor rating	Department average
Communicates clearly and logically.	4.74	4.35
Promotes a climate of mutual respect.	4.84	4.54
Encourages student questions.	4.81	4.43
Emphasizes critical thinking.	4.47	4.43
Uses teaching strategies that promote active involvement.	4.61	4.09
Clearly communicates expectations.	4.45	4.16
Provides timely feedback on student performance.	4.65	4.07
Provides a fair evaluation of student performance.	4.71	4.21
Is available when needed.	4.73	4.34
Is well-prepared for instruction.	4.87	4.60
Overall, I would rate this instructor as "excellent."	4.58	4.26
Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher.	4.68	4.32

Responses on a scale from 1 (Strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree)

Response rate: 84% (31 out of 37 students)

Strengths of the course

- Great introduction to political science for someone who has never thought about these sorts of things. Given good vocabulary, theories, case studies etc. with which I can move forward and think about world events from a political scientist's point of view.

- Great mixture of material. Lectures presented in collaborative and informative setting.
- I enjoyed that this course allowed us to explore the politics of other countries. Our essay assignments were especially interesting and I can say I haven't had another class that allowed as much freedom in our choice of writing.
- I think one of the strengths of this course is how well the instructor promotes an engaging class period. Small group thinking, and even individual thinking about concepts, helped engage the classroom, and helped to really see different perspectives and understand the material in new lights.
- The overall organization of the course is perfect. It was very easy to follow what assignments were due and when, what was expected of us in class and in our assignment performance, and the lectures were always consistent, concise and interesting. The reading material, textbook, lectures and assignments were all aligned well and were all helpful in learning the course material thoroughly.
- The papers and in class discussions covering the lecture material were helpful in internalizing the information. Since we had to apply theories of democratization and all that entails in both of our papers, I felt like I got a solid understanding on why and how a country actually becomes a democracy.

Strengths of the instructor

- Answers questions thoughtfully, values every question, treats every student with respect, and is enthusiastic to help you.
- Cole always explains everything very thoroughly and I never seem to be lost in class. Everything ties in together and he makes it so the class is enjoyable.
- Cole is a really fair grader and very prepared to answer questions and provide feedback. He is more than willing to meet students half way; he even had office hours over Skype one day when he wasn't feeling well and couldn't be in the office. One of the best POLI teachers I've had yet at UNC.
- Cole is extremely clear and organized. He is a good lecturer and always open for questions. I feel like I have learned a lot from taking his course.
- Cole is great. He's better than most professors I've had, and he's only a PhD student! I would recommend him to any of my friends. He presents the material clearly and in an engaging way. He encourages participation, but in ways that make students feel comfortable. Also, he's very fair when it comes to grading. Additionally, you can tell that he's very passionate about what he teaches, and he's passionate about helping his students.
- Cole possesses two of the most important characteristics of an effective teacher. These are knowing the material very well and being able to present them in a manner that can be understood by one's audience. I wish more of my professors were like this.

- He's an excellent lecturer. He is clear and gets straight to the point. He was also very diplomatic and unbiased, unlike some of my other political science professors. I doubt anyone could guess where he stands politically, he listened to every opinion on all sides of the political spectrum in class. This was the most helpful in creating a welcoming learning environment. Most, if not all, of my other political science courses make students pretty emotional and focused on their opinions about the lecture rather than what is actually being taught.
- Mr. Harvey was an excellent professor, and seemed to always come to lecture excited about the material. He encourages students to engage with the curriculum and his genuine admiration for the field of political science is clear.
- Obviously likes the subject matter, and enjoys teaching it. Encourages participation and makes students feel like they can contribute to classroom dialogue. Does a good job of mixing up lecture and discussions to avoid excessive lecturing. Is clearly concerned with students understanding course material. Is good at explaining tricky concepts.
- The instructor takes care in promoting class discussion, is easily approachable for questions, keeps the class at a good pace, is a fair grader, and comes up with creative ways for teaching otherwise dry material.
- The instructor was always ready for class with a detailed plan yet willing to adjust to best meet the needs of the class.
- The professor is really good at providing examples to illustrate theoretical concepts.
- You can tell he really enjoys teaching and loves his job.