Northwestern

Individual Report for for Topics in Legal Studies,Seminars(LEGAL_ST_376-0_24: Topics in Legal Studies,SOCIOL_392-0_20: Seminars) (Joshua Basseches)

Project Title: **Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC Spring 2019**

Courses Audience: **14**
Responses Received: **10**
Response Ratio: **71.4%**

Report Comments

Course and Teacher Evaluations are intended solely for the use of faculty, staff and students of Northwestern University. Any reproduction, republication or redistribution of this site's content is prohibited without the express permission of Northwestern University.

For more information about the CTEC Guidelines please visit our website: http://www.northwestern.edu/ctec/guidelines/index.html

Creation Date: **Wednesday, June 19, 2019**

Powered by blue®

Northwestern University

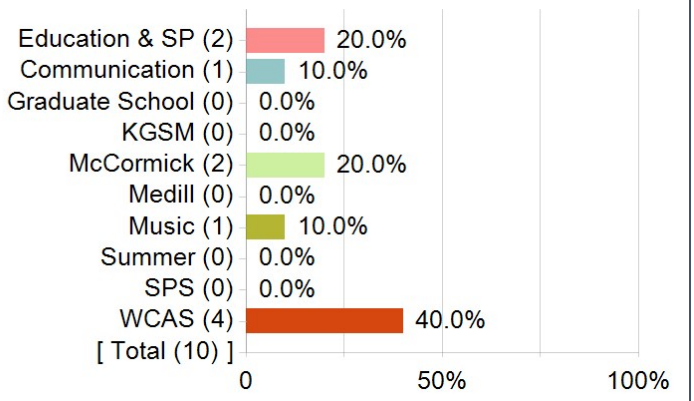
Course Evaluations

Instructor	Course
Joshua Basseches	**Topics in Legal Studies,Seminars**

DEMOGRAPHICS

Your School

1. Your School

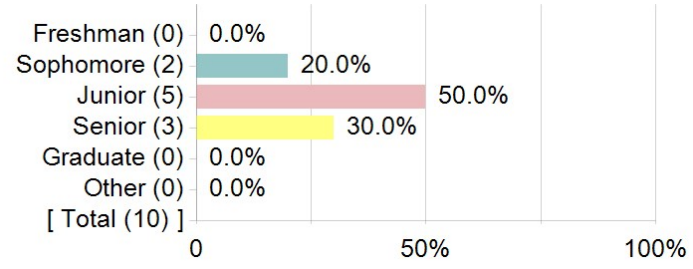


Options	Count	Percentage
Education & SP	2	20.0%
Communication	1	10.0%
Graduate School	0	0.0%
KGSM	0	0.0%
McCormick	2	20.0%
Medill	0	0.0%
Music	1	10.0%
Summer	0	0.0%
SPS	0	0.0%
WCAS	4	40.0%

Copyright Northwestern University

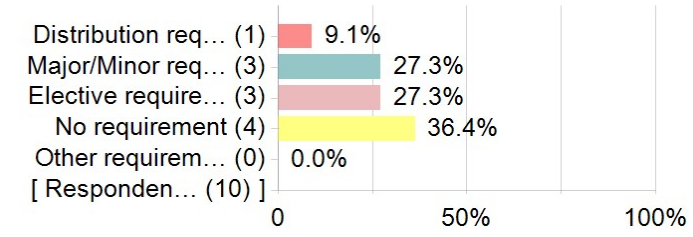
Your Class

1. Your Class



Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0.0%
Sophomore	2	20.0%
Junior	5	50.0%
Senior	3	30.0%
Graduate	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

What is your reason for taking the course? (mark all that apply)

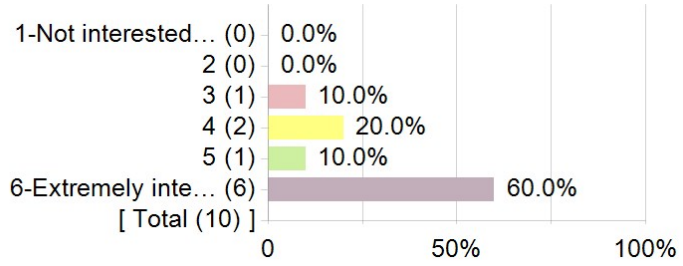


Options	Count	Percentage
Distribution requirement	1	9.1%
Major/Minor requirement	3	27.3%
Elective requirement	3	27.3%
No requirement	4	36.4%
Other requirement	0	0.0%
Respondent(s)	10	

Copyright Northwestern University

What was your Interest in this subject before taking the course?

1. What was your interest in this subject before taking the course?

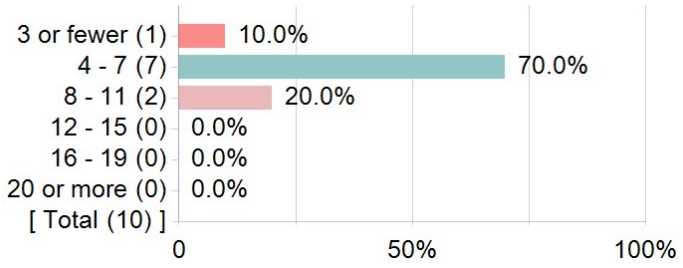


Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not interested at all	0	0.0%
2	0	0.0%
3	1	10.0%
4	2	20.0%
5	1	10.0%
6-Extremely interested	6	60.0%

TIME-SURVEY QUESTION

Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.

1. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.



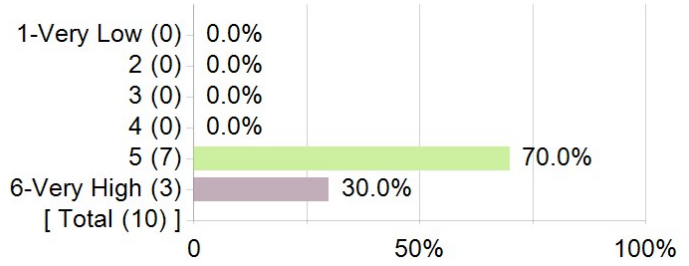
Options	Count	Percentage
3 or fewer	1	10.0%
4 - 7	7	70.0%
8 - 11	2	20.0%
12 - 15	0	0.0%
16 - 19	0	0.0%
20 or more	0	0.0%

Copyright Northwestern University

COURSE QUESTIONS

Provide an overall rating of the course.

1. Provide an overall rating of the course.

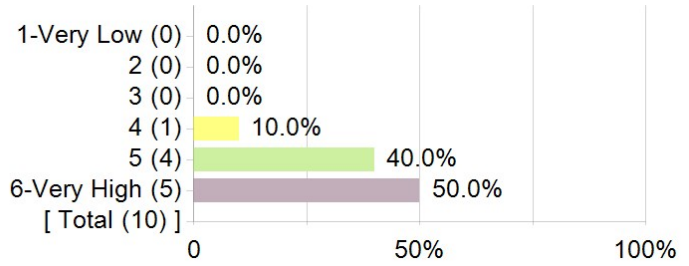


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	7	70.0%
6-Very High	6	3	30.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.30
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.48

Estimate how much you learned in the course.

1. Estimate how much you learned in the course.



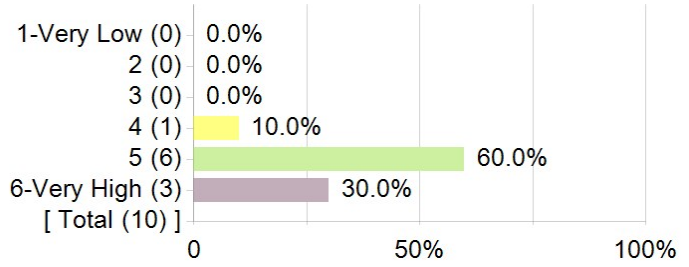
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	10.0%
5	5	4	40.0%
6-Very High	6	5	50.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.40
Median	5.50
Standard Deviation	0.70

Copyright Northwestern University

Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.

1. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.

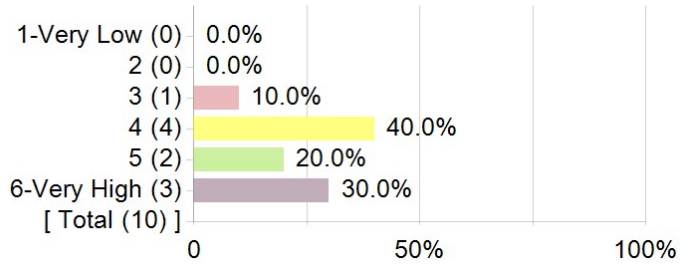


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	10.0%
5	5	6	60.0%
6-Very High	6	3	30.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.20
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.63

Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.

1. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.



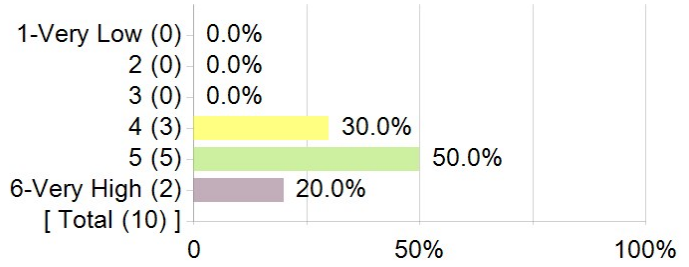
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	1	10.0%
4	4	4	40.0%
5	5	2	20.0%
6-Very High	6	3	30.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.70
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	1.06

Copyright Northwestern University

Rate how much effort you put into this course in comparison to other courses.

1. Rate how much effort you put into this course in comparison to other courses.

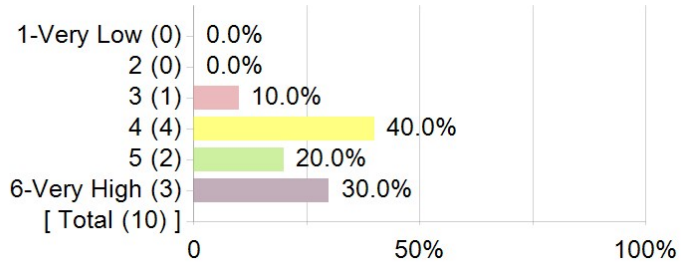


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	3	30.0%
5	5	5	50.0%
6-Very High	6	2	20.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.74

Rate how well this course helped you improve your ability to read critically.

1. Rate how well this course helped you improve your ability to read critically.



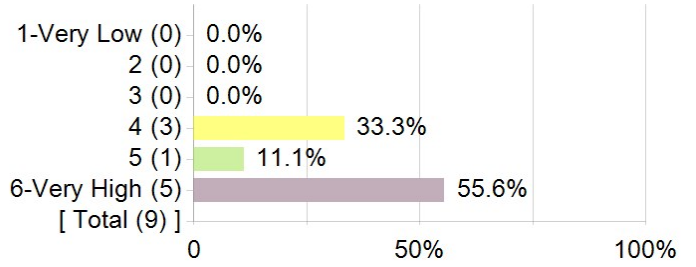
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	1	10.0%
4	4	4	40.0%
5	5	2	20.0%
6-Very High	6	3	30.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.70
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	1.06

Copyright Northwestern University

Rate how well the exams stress important points of the lectures/readings/discussions.

1. Rate how well the exams stress important points of the lectures/readings/discussions.

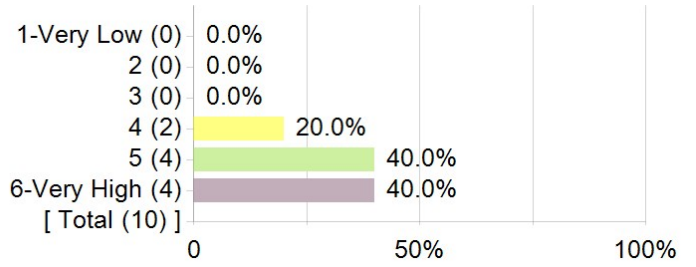


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	3	33.3%
5	5	1	11.1%
6-Very High	6	5	55.6%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.22
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.97

Rate the clarity of examples.

1. Rate the clarity of examples.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	2	20.0%
5	5	4	40.0%
6-Very High	6	4	40.0%

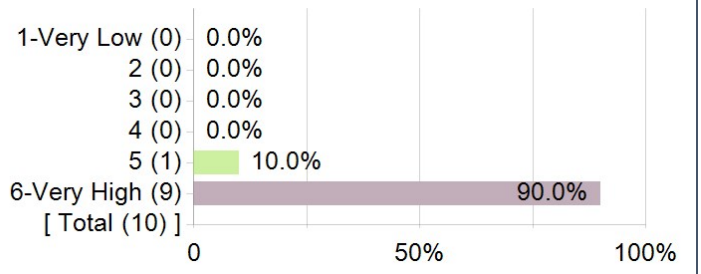
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.20
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.79

Copyright Northwestern University

INSTRUCTOR QUESTIONS

Provide an overall rating of the instruction.

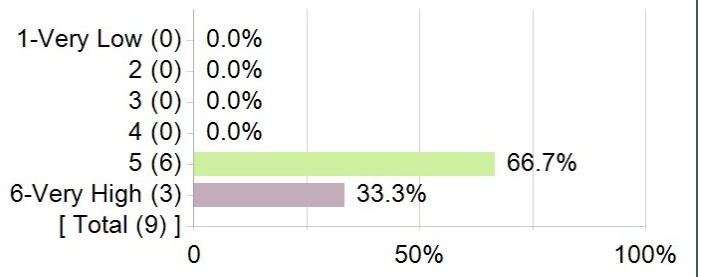
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	1	10.0%
6-Very High	6	9	90.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			10
Mean			5.90
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.32

Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.

1. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.

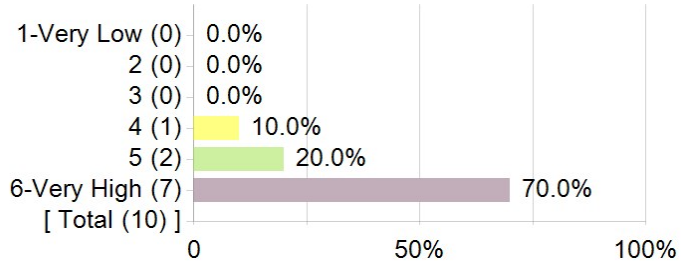


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	6	66.7%
6-Very High	6	3	33.3%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			9
Mean			5.33
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.50

Copyright Northwestern University

Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.

1. Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.

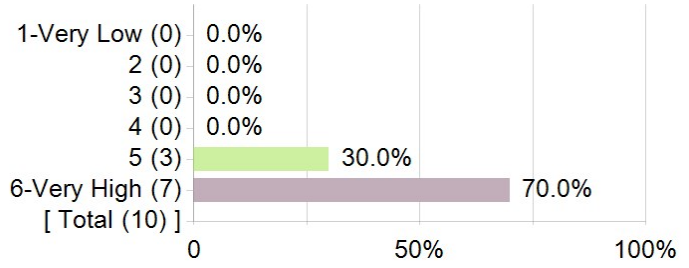


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	10.0%
5	5	2	20.0%
6-Very High	6	7	70.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.60
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.70

Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.

1. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.



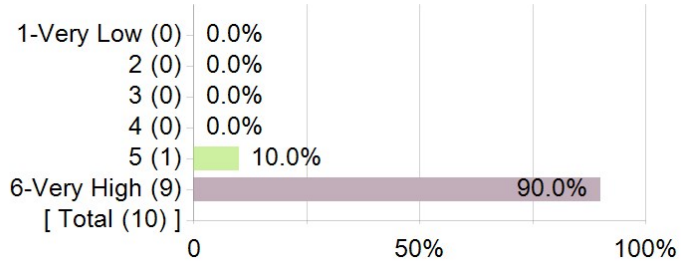
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	3	30.0%
6-Very High	6	7	70.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.70
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.48

Copyright Northwestern University

Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.

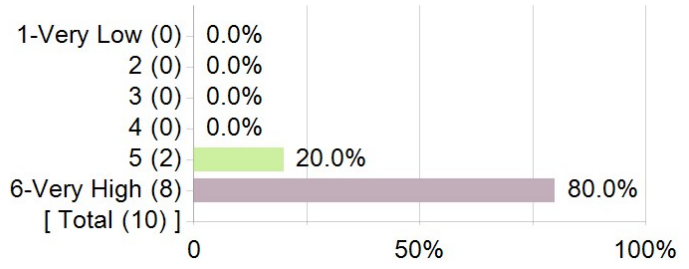
1. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	1	10.0%
6-Very High	6	9	90.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			10
Mean			5.90
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.32

Rate the instructor's efforts to highlight the interesting nature of the subject.

1. Rate the instructor's efforts to highlight the interesting nature of the subject.

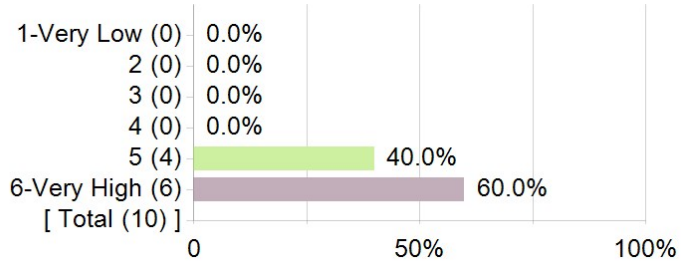


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	2	20.0%
6-Very High	6	8	80.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			10
Mean			5.80
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.42

Copyright Northwestern University

Rate how well the instructor encouraged you to think for yourself.

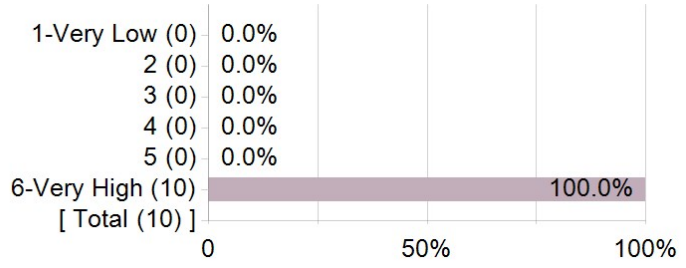
1. Rate how well the instructor encouraged you to think for yourself.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	4	40.0%
6-Very High	6	6	60.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			10
Mean			5.60
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.52

Rate the helpfulness of the instructor outside of class.

1. Rate the helpfulness of the instructor outside of class.

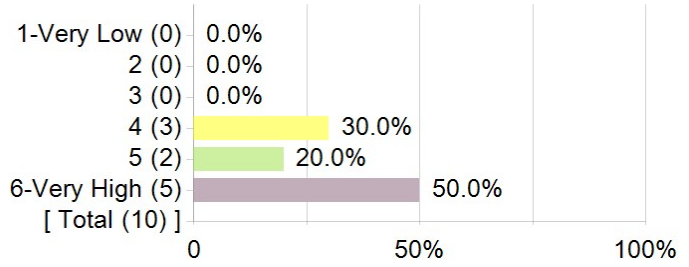


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	0	0.0%
6-Very High	6	10	100.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			10
Mean			6.00
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.00

Copyright Northwestern University

Rate how well the instructor contrasted the implications of various theories.

1. Rate how well the instructor contrasted the implications of various theories.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	3	30.0%
5	5	2	20.0%
6-Very High	6	5	50.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.20
Median	5.50
Standard Deviation	0.92

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Did the course help you learn? Why or why not?

Comments
Yes, the course was structured in such a way that it provided both realistic examples and theoretical viewpoints on advocacy. In addition, the way that the class was structured with a heavy emphasis on dialogue and learning from our peers led to engagement that I definitely would not have had in a strictly lecture based class.
Yes, Josh chose the materials and assignments very carefully. The weekly canvas discussion posts meant that I had to keep up with the reading. It was difficult to fall behind in this class because it was fast paced. I liked that it was fast paced because I was never really bored during class time. Josh balanced lecture and class discussion very well.
The guest speakers were amazing and hugely beneficial. I liked the power points too and wished we spent more time on those instead of discussion groups.
I learned so much in this course as I had never taken a course like it before, and had much to learn about the political process, institutional social movement tactics, and particularly lobbying.
I learned a ton about the legislative process and how change is written into law.
This was a wonderful course. The structure of the course was well thought out, the speakers were great additions, the readings worked together wonderfully.
This course definitely taught me about the truth behind true policymaking and how to go about implementing one's policies.

Copyright Northwestern University

Please summarize your reaction to this course focusing on the aspects that were most important to you.

Comments
One of the most interesting courses that I took at Northwestern. Josh did an amazing job of providing meaningful instruction and was the most prepared for his class of any instructor I've had. I know this isn't a recurring class, but if you ever see Josh teaching another class 100% take it. Very fair on the workloads and assessments, good feedback, and learned a lot.
Josh is an amazing instructor. He will push you to try your best. This course will challenge you academically, but it was not tedious or difficult. There are weekly canvas discussion posts that help you stay on top of your reading, but they can get burdensome. Josh is really funny, so you will never get bored in class!
This class was a great experience. I had little background in this area before taking it but the class environment that Josh fostered was super conducive to our learning. Josh's enthusiasm on the topics we discussed was evident, and his experience in the real world and with research was invaluable.
Really great guest speakers and strong readings that relate to real life. The readings were at times long but no tests. Would recommend.
This course was one of the most realistically practical courses I have ever taken at Northwestern and likely ever will. I will take the knowledge I have gained in this course with me everywhere, and although I don't know if being directly involved in institutional social movement tactics is for me, I am inspired to be more engaged in government. While I had expected there to be some discussion of protest and non–institutional tactics, there is so much value in learning about these institutional tactics and how the system works. One caveat – be prepared for some days to be a little boring. That being said, it's still one of the most valuable courses I have ever taken.
Great class! Josh was a fun and enthusiastic instructor. The work was not too challenging or time–consuming, yet we learned a ton. Highly recommend if it ever happens again
One of the BEST classes I've taken at NU. I'm almost done with a social policy/poli sci degree, and this class taught me more about the REAL political process than ANY other class. You learn about lobbying, the power of special interests, differences in legislators' power, social movements' strengths, and more. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AT ALL IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OR HOW TO MAKE POLICY CHANGE TAKE THIS CLASS. Also JOSH IS THE BEST – he cares so much and is so helpful
Josh is really great and so excited to teach. I think it was hard to get into the class without a strong background in the topic but Josh wanted you to learn and never made me feel dumb for not knowing.
This was a great class because I learned so much about the things that happen behind the scenes for policymaking. My professor was so knowledgeable and made the class so fun to participate in.

What are the primary teaching strengths of the instructor?

Comments
Josh was extremely good at providing materials in a clear and concise way, posting every slide deck he used, clearly organizing the readings on canvas and communicating what his expectations were throughout the class. In addition, he did a very good job of facilitating discussions within the class, making sure that no voices were drowned out or overstated.
Josh is an amazing lecturer. He is engaging and keeps us interested with jokes and compelling powerpoints. He is very organized.
He was extremely passionate and knew a lot about what he was teaching.
Josh was extremely passionate, kind, and helpful. I personally love taking courses with grad students and post–docs for this very reason – they have an interest in the subject that tenured professors seem to have lost, but they also have an understanding of the student experience since it was more recent for them, and are the most helpful, kind, and fun to engage with as instructors.
Enthusiastic, fun, knowledgeable
Josh is so knowledgable and enthusiastic about the material, and made such an effort to address my questions coming from a humanities background.
Josh is the BEST. So well–prepared, thoughtful, accessible, and helpful. he tried to get to know each of us, and that was clear. it made me want to work harder. He also did a great job outlining "takeaways" from long, dense readings.
Josh was always a helpful resource and reminded us constantly throughout the quarter that he was here to help us in any way that he could. He made class so fun, and his enthusiasm made it nearly impossible to not feel the same way. He presented the information in a clear way and made the content make sense.

Copyright Northwestern University

What are the primary weaknesses, if any, of the instruction?

Comments
Sometimes in the discussion portions of class, Josh would pose questions in a way that told us his opinion. However, he corrected this after the mid–quarter course evaluations. He was always open to feedback.
I don't think discussion groups are a good way of teaching, and I also think Josh could have done a better job of challenging what some students had to say. It seems at times he would let people assert ridiculous claims without having to base them in facts.
The course was meticulously planned, which I loved. However, sometimes it's for the best to deviate from the plan when students express interest in a different branch or present interesting new ideas/subtopics to explore. It would've been nice to have a more flexible class schedule in order to go where the class as a group naturally went rather than constantly being directed, if that makes sense.
No significant weaknesses
Josh is too verbose and wordy. He spent too much time talking about what we were going to do/explaining his rationale. If he were just slightly more sparing with his words, it would free up more time to do other things! Even though clearly he is verbose because he wants us to understand concepts/his logic

Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

Comments
All of the suggestions that I offered during the evaluations were incorporated, so not now!
See above. Also, more lecture with QA would be much appreciated.
In terms of content, some of the readings felt repetitive and like they were essentially presenting the same ideas in slightly different ways. I would've loved to have a combined exploration of institutional and non–institutional tactics and explore how they work together as well. But even if the focus remains to only be on institutional tactics, it would've been nice to explore institutional tactics other than lobbying – at a certain point in the course it felt like all we really learned about was lobbying.
I'd like to have spent some more time discussing the social movement side of things. What can they do differently, more examples of successful movements, etc.
The course definitely felt like a political science class more so than a sociology class, and I would have liked for the content and discussions to have been curated with more of a sociological focus.
Like I said earlier, try to be more concise. Both in speech and assignment descriptions. Also, don't be afraid to take longer than expected on parts of class. It's ok to go "off–track" if its to the benefit of the class' learning. Overall, though, Josh is an AMAZING first time teacher!!!

In what way, if any, has this course changed your view of politics and/or policymaking?

Comments
It has made me more focused on the administrative ways that policy is made, and how some groups can be ineffective and others effective.
It has showed me some ways that I could create change within the system
The best part of this class was to provide insight into how government actually works
The course quadrupled my understanding of the policymaking class. While it is still pretty bleak, that was unsurprising, and understanding the process allows us to be able to make better choices as we try to improve the government and policy.
I used to think that it is impossible to achieve progressive change through Congress, unless the party establishment and business interests decide it is OK to do so. Now I think that it is incredibly hard to achieve progressive change, and I know precisely why, and what one can do to improve the chances of getting something passed. I have a more informed mistrust of the legislative process, perhaps with some restored faith
It's made me understand the power lobbyists and interest groups play, particularly business interest groups. It hasn't made me cynical, as I knew the political process was quite flawed to begin. Now I just understand why it seems so "ineffective" and unresponsive to everyday people and social activists.
I feel a little downtrodden but only by our current climate (conservative ideas)
This course made me realize that so much more has to happen to implement policies aside from the processes we learned in high school.

Copyright Northwestern University

Would you recommend this class to others? Why or why not?

Comments
100% Very good out of class and in class materials.
Yes! it was engaging and Josh was a great instructor.
Absolutely! Everyone whines about how things need to be fixed and this class actually explains how to do it.
Yes – it is the most practically valuable class I have taken thus far at Northwestern, and is extremely important in being a person existing in the world of nation–states, particularly as a citizen of the United States.
Would highly recommend
WITHOUT A DOUBT! IT helped me understand the policy process more than any other social policy or poli sci class I've taken. The readings are amazing, and the lectures are so helpful. and josh is awesome!
Yeah!! I think it’s important to learn about things that are really topical and you can bring to your life
Yes! I learned a lot and it really encouraged me to think.

Copyright Northwestern University