

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2024
Yi-Hsuan Huang, POLI 276-001 MAJ ISS POL THEORY
Mode: IP (In Person)

Raters	Students
Responded	30
Invited	41
Response Ratio	73.2%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.67	5.00	0.48	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.90	5.00	0.31	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.90	5.00	0.31	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.67	5.00	0.66	30	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	13.3%	76.7%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.67	5.00	0.76	30	0.0%	3.3%	6.7%	10.0%	80.0%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.87	5.00	0.35	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	86.7%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.67	5.00	0.71	30	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	16.7%	76.7%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.63	5.00	0.61	30	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	23.3%	70.0%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.57	5.00	0.77	30	0.0%	3.3%	6.7%	20.0%	70.0%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.		
N	Yes	No
29	100.0%	0.0%

Department Specific

Political Science Undergraduate: Instructor Ratings

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Demonstrates enthusiasm about teaching.	4.90	5.00	0.31	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
2. Communicates clearly and logically.	4.77	5.00	0.50	30	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	16.7%	80.0%
3. Promotes a climate of mutual respect.	4.87	5.00	0.35	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	86.7%
4. Encourages student questions.	4.93	5.00	0.25	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	93.3%
5. Emphasizes critical thinking.	4.80	5.00	0.41	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%
6. Uses teaching strategies that promote active involvement.	4.83	5.00	0.38	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
7. Clearly communicates expectations for student performance.	4.90	5.00	0.31	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
8. Regularly provides constructive criticism of student performance.	4.66	5.00	0.55	29	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	27.6%	69.0%
9. Provides timely feedback on student performance.	4.83	5.00	0.38	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
10. Provides a fair evaluation of student performance.	4.87	5.00	0.35	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	86.7%
11. Is available when needed.	4.80	5.00	0.41	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%
12. Is well-prepared for instruction.	4.90	5.00	0.31	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
13. Overall, considering both the possibilities and limitations of the subject matter and course, I would rate this instructor as "excellent."	4.73	5.00	0.69	30	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	10.0%	83.3%

Political Science Undergraduate: Course Quality Ratings

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
14. Course goals and objectives are clearly specified.	4.83	5.00	0.38	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
15. Requirements (e.g., assignments, attendance, student responsibilities) are clearly specified.	4.87	5.00	0.35	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	86.7%
16. Course assignments are clearly related to the course objectives.	4.83	5.00	0.38	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
17. Instructional methods in the course facilitate my learning.	4.67	5.00	0.61	30	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	20.0%	73.3%
18. In general, the course is well-organized.	4.87	5.00	0.35	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	86.7%
19. Course materials stimulated critical thinking.	4.77	5.00	0.43	30	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.3%	76.7%
20. I know significantly more about this subject than before I took this course.	4.73	5.00	0.52	30	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	20.0%	76.7%
21. Overall, considering its content, design, and structure, I would rate this course as "excellent."	4.77	5.00	0.57	30	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	10.0%	83.3%

Open-Ended Responses

1. In what ways did your instructor make learning possible for you during the Spring 2024 semester?

Comments
We had thoughtful class discussions and fun activities in class to help understand the concepts.
She is very understanding and fair to all students
I absolutely loved my class with Prof. Huang! She was exceptionally inclusive, knowledgeable, and helpful answering any questions that came up during the semester.
Lots of class conversations and flexible due dates/semester long assignments
The journals prompts allowed us to dive into the material and get a better understanding.
She was extremely kind and respectful to all students. She gave everyone the opportunity to share their opinions and listened really thoughtfully to everyone's responses. She was very available to meet for extra help and accommodate students. Overall she was the kindest and most engaging and thoughtful professor I had this semester.
Yi-Hsuan did a great job in making sure everyone stayed engaged in class. 50% of the lecture time was held in a format where our entire class had discussions on the subject matter. This format helped me understand the subject matters we discussed in every class, and it was the class I looked forward to going to the most.
The open discussion format allowed me to learn by discussing and talking, which I personally find to be the way I learn best. While we did have readings before class, the lecture simplified the content so it was easier to understand after reading the material.
1. She made learning possible by explaining every concept with simplicity and made sure everyone understood what was being taught, regardless of how complex or simple the concept was
She was able to summarize certain readings that were assigned with Gamma presentation very well and touching on points that were really straight forward and that helped to be able to get the grade that I needed and understand the material
The instructor broke down very difficult and dense readings with the whole class. This made some of the more challenging content more digestible. Sometimes too much time was spent explaining simple concepts
My professor put a huge emphasis on discussion based learning in the class which I felt helped significantly since this course was mostly theory based and it was beneficial to hear my classmates' views as well. I really liked her lectures where she incorporated the philosopher who wrote about the theory we are about to discuss that day. She also always asks us deeper meaning questions which allowed me to think outside the box on all the concepts we learned.
She was always available for questions after class and during her scheduled office hours. She provided journals for readings that helped guide my understanding.
We not only held lectures about course material every day, but they consisted of numerous discussions about the material. This enabled the class and me to express our opinions and questions in a friendly and open environment.
Professor Huang is an excellent teacher who was willing to answer any question, no matter how silly. She encouraged me to speak in class even though I was initially nervous to do so.
The group work were extremely fun and made learning possible. Being able to have open discussions with our peers and how they interpret the material really helped to give different perspectives of the material.
She was super encouraging and really helped people engage in content by providing multiple outlets to discuss our viewpoints and interpretations of the readings. Class discussion was always open and never felt forced or swayed in opinion, no one was wrong or right.
Instructor Yi-Hsuan Huang made herself easily accessible to students, answering emails promptly and holding flexible office hours. She created a comfortable and conducive learning environment for all.
Prof. Huang encouraged discourse in her class that gave students the space and the guidance to go beyond her bullet-point focused consolidations of political theory. She assigned interesting theory from throughout the liberal political spectrum and encouraged us to challenge it and think critically about it.
She is a very passionate and knowledgeable instructor. Huang also uses very clear examples to explain complicated ideas to make them really easy to understand.

Comments
Yi-Hsuan is a wonderful person. She is super nice and understanding. She was always willing to talk after class to answer student questions.
Instructor Yi-Hsuan token policy makes courses less stress-free and easy to succeed in class. She is a very flexible teacher and i appreciate that.
By creating and implementing a token system, she allowed all of her students to learn at their own pace. I have never had this model in a class before and it was refreshing to be in charge of my own learning experience.
Professor Yi-Hsuan Huang offered us various opportunities to engage with the course material, allowing us to engage with mock real-world examples and consistently deliberate theories and ideas covered from the readings. The professor was also very understanding of real life necessities outside of class time, allowing for flexibility that provided a productive learning environment.
She always facilitated group work during class periods and allowed students to voice their theories or opinions about theories. She was very open to students challenging our teaching content and wanted us to think critically.
She was very encouraging and facilitated many class discussions. The quizzes and assignments were very straightforward and had clear instructions
Ample opportunities to express our opinions/thoughts, a number of assignments that were manageable and kept us engaged with the course material, and group activities that assisted in teaching the material.
Ms. Huang was very interactive with the class and had activities for us every class. Her interaction and activities made learning the material much easier. I always enjoy her class, and I look forward to it. She is a teacher than genuinely cares about her students.

2. Which aspects of this course should be kept for future times this course is taught?

Comments
The class activities were great.
The in class discussion is always interesting
I love how the course was taught and I do not believe any changes need to be made.
everything. I really enjoyed how this course was run
Journals and the open debates
I really enjoyed the format of the class. It was a great mix of lecture and group work.
All aspects! It was conducted amazingly.
The open discussion.
Every aspect. The grading system was very fair and well liked, the autonomy tokens are an excellent idea, and overall I loved how this course was structured.
I think the way she gives a chance to be able to refresh our memory before taken a quiz
keep the discussion elements of this course. The most interesting days where when discussion and debate was centered.
I personally really enjoyed doing the journal entries in this class. I thought it was a great way to expose the information to us briefly before the lecture that same day where we discussed the topics deeper. I also really enjoyed all the group work we did because it first allowed me to become more familiar with my classmates to feel comfortable enough to participate in class in front of everyone, and second it allowed me to hear a lot of other points of views that I had never thought of before which was very beneficial for my learning of the concepts in this class.
The suggested reading questions to follow for each unit was helpful and should remain. The issue analysis essays were a great alternative to critically think about the course concepts than a traditional exam.
I believe that the class is fine the way it is.
Honestly all of it. I really appreciate how she would lead reviews for pop quizzes in order to ensure we did well. I also really enjoyed the Issue Analyses.
I think that having the power points were very helpful and as I mentioned previously the group discussion should be kept.

Comments
The discussion really helped push me to engage in public speaking as well as let me understand other peoples viewpoints on a subject. I also really enjoyed the journals that Professor Huang had us complete.
The weekly quizzes helped me track my knowledge in this class
The encouragement of discourse between students
Everything about the class was great. I think we should implement this kind of teaching style in the political science department because her teaching style uses participation to help us retain ideas better and longer.
I liked the journals. It made me do the readings and think about the material. I also liked how she would go over the content before the quizzes. The quizzes were a good way to check my understanding of the material.
token policy
The token system and group conversations. The token system allows everyone to take charge of their own education, and the group conversations allow for the sharing and challenging of ideas, encouraging students to understand the subject matter on a deeper level.
I really appreciated the tokens aspect of the course, for it alleviated a lot of stress when unforeseen events take place. I also really enjoyed when the class would role play and debate based upon the situation we were told to enact.
I enjoyed the part of the class where we discussed how we justify democracy. As an American, I have always just assumed that democracy is the best form of government and the one we should utilize but this part of class challenged that and made me think about alternatives.
The assignment formats and grade weighting
Group work and the ample opportunities to participate.
Continue to be interactive with the class.

Department Specific

Please comment on the strengths of the course.

Comments
This was a great class. There is a lot of time for discussion in small groups and for the whole class. The assignments are challenging but not stressful, as we given flexible due dates based on personal circumstances (called autonomy tokens). This class always left me thinking and wanting to have conversations about class material with friends and peers, but it was never a major source of stress (this is ideal to me).
It allowed for deeper thinking and gave us many opportunities to debate and collaborate with classmates
Great mix of activities and assignments
This course was by far the most engaging and interesting class that I have taken at UNC. Yi-Hsuan has been the best professor I have had, and I really appreciated the way she conducted our class.
The course is well organized and easy to digest, with each topic being clearly seperated, while also building on the ideas of previous topics.
It allowed for students to explore a multitude of different perspectives from a variety of different authors and explore viewpoints they may never have explored or even been exposed to outside of this class. The course did an excellent job of presenting a variety of information as well.
the way we are able to give our perspective on certain aspects that were being taught was good and
This course provided a deep basis of understanding of ideas through studying a variety to theorists
Some strengths of this course are how every theoretical concept we discuss, there are always multiple answers which I found interesting since most courses I've taken there is always a question and one right answer.
The various topics covered provide information for numerous occasions and areas of politics.
The public debates/conversations are a strength. I found myself always engaged with the discussion and thinking deeply because of how the professor made it interesting. No one seemed bored.
I love how attentive and involved Professor Hsuan Huang was. You could tell that she was very passionate about the topics which translated over very well.
I really liked the content and how she approached teaching it. I felt it was very organized and structured which helped me understand the content and really think about it.
This course encouraged me to think about our modern day democracy in the context of philosophical literature and intellectual debate. This course promotes thinking outside of the box.
It was well organized and expectations were clear
participation, writing, and Huang's excellent ability to explain complicated concepts.
Some students had really insightful comments on different topics. I liked doing the journals because it helped me unpack my thoughts on the readings.
flexibility and tokens
This course introduced concepts and ideas for a wide variety of issues using a political lens. No matter what a student's interests are, there is certainly something in this class that will excite them.
The strengths of this course include the depth yet manageability of the readings and the ability to engage in discussion about the course material.
Lots of room for public speaking, frequent learning evaluations (pop quizzes, journals, etc.) so that you don't fall behind on the reading material, and very encouraging teaching manner
Explained in previous open-ended questions.
The course was very interactive, and it allowed me to get to know my classmates better and understand the material more.
I was thoroughly challenged on my beliefs through this class and it opened my eyes to major flaws within democratic systems that I otherwise overlooked.
I think I heard a lot of different perspectives during this class and really had to pay close attention to what the readings were saying

Please comment on the limitations of the course.

Comments
The short quizzes
n/a
None
Not much, I think that there were times that I felt like it was just talking and I wish there were more hands on experiences to be able to be interactive with the learning and peers around me
The course didn't discuss any problems in political theory as was advertised. It felt more like political theory 101 than problems in political theory. Theory studied also almost entirely focused on theory of liberal democracys. Overall the course didn't really expand my understanding of politics and theory very much.
I think some limitations of the course are when different philosophers overlap sometimes it is hard to distinguish their specific views from others'. We talk about so many but a lot of them have similar thoughts about concepts.
Maybe some of the group conversations/projects were given too much time to work?
N/A
I do not have any comments
No limitations, this course was immensely enjoyable.
The course was limited in scale, both in the types of thinkers and ideas we considered and the depth we went into about those ideas
I wish fewer people per class could bring out more participation.
Personally, I do not like discussion based classes. I understand why this class is discussion based, but I wished it was more lecture heavy. I liked talking in small groups, but not doing assignments with the group. I also feel like PowerPoints could have had more content on them. When reviewing the slides I often felt like they did not provide enough substance on the material.
Sometimes the lectures and concepts can be a bit confusing, so just further explaining and truly grasping the concept
I didn't find any course limitations, I only wish attendance was not required.
The only limitation I would note is the overall scope of the course... really what is the final point/purpose?
Some of the readings were very dense/long and hard to understand. However, her lectures usually always clarified on the areas where the reading confused me.
Extremely dense readings that often were too much to handle, though they did relate to the subject matter.
There were times when there was too much reading at once.
n/a

Please comment on the strengths of the instructor.

Comments
Professor Huang is a great, helpful, and kind professor who made the material fun to learn and challenged the thoughts of the class.
She is very helpful and I can tell she is interested in hearing our different opinions during class which makes me want to participate more
She is just the greatest. She is so kind, witty, engaging, and you can tell she really cares. She is always prepared, willing to admit if she makes a mistake, and is open to hearing all perspectives even if they are not consistent with the general opinions of the majority of the class. She made a point of making sure our classroom was a safe space and she succeeded!
Encouraged participation
So welcoming, thoughtful, considerate, accomadting. Is really passionate about what she teaches about

Comments
She was effective in engaging the class, communicating assignment dates, giving helpful reviews on our assignments, and making the course load interesting to follow/easy to grasp.
Very respectful and good at fostering discussion between student.
The most noticeable strength is how caring and openminded she is. No matter the perspective or viewpoint offered, she was always willing to embrace and explore it and challenge it when needed. Every class she remained positive and always made the room an enjoyable environment where everyone felt comfortable to share their opinions on whatever question or scenario was presented. Overall, this was one of my best classes this semester and I would definitely take it again if I could.
I think she was able to really be able to communicate with me specifically during times of need
Professor Huang is a great listener. She does a really good job letting the class be guided by the questions and interests of the class.
My professor was always extremely prepared and never came to class without a plan and guiding questions for that day. Her due dates and grading were always within a timely manner and she had an aura about her that was very inclusive and I always felt like I could go up and talk to her. She made every classmate feel comfortable even if they answer a question "wrong".
She created a learning environment that encouraged participation regardless of whether you were right or wrong. She always was available for questions and gave answers when she could.
She is always prepared and ready for class and knowledgeable about the material. She provides feedback and is open to questions for clarification or comprehension. She also structures the class for active involvement and participation.
I think Professor Huang is the best or one of the best professors I've had here at UNC. She treats all students with kindness and respect and gives everyone the opportunity to do well.
She is extremely understanding and passionate about her work. She is very understanding when it comes to extensions or needing extra time or help with a topic. She reviewed topics in a way that made the students understand and grasp the material even when the material was quite dense. The discussion questions that she posed were very well taught out and brought about many different perspectives and interpretations which was appreciated.
She was super organized, well thought-out, and enthusiastic. I liked how she would have us role-play, listen to her, talk to each other, talk to the whole class, or participate in various activities that made no two classes the same.
Instructor Huang is an incredible caring professor who wants to see her students succeed and push themselves to think outside of the box. She makes all voices feel heard and never discredits a thought or opinion.
She was spirited and encouraged class input
Huang's excellent ability to explain complicated concepts.
Yi-Hsuan clearly enjoys teaching and student engagement. She was very accommodating of student needs. She answered questions effectively and graded assignments and responded to emails promptly.
Flexibility
Yi-Hsuan is enthusiastic and passionate about what she does and the content she teaches. This was incredibly important in keeping me engaged.
The professor is very passionate about the work and is constantly encouraging students to engage in discussion as well as nuanced debate.
She was always good at explaining confusing theoretical concepts in ways that were easier to understand. She would walk us through complicated readings and could simplify the arguments into bite-size chunks.
She is so kind, encouraging, and knowledgeable! She is always ready to answer questions and provide constructive feedback on assignments. She made something that should be very intimidating—political theory—very approachable and accessible, even though I didn't have much experience in this subject. I loved her!! I also really enjoyed her lecture slides, which were thorough without being too overwhelming with information.
Extremely kind and caring, understanding of each student and their strengths and limitations, and clearly knows the material that she's teaching. She was one of the sweetest instructors I've ever had.

Comments

She is very interactive with the class, and she cares for her students.

Please comment on the limitations of the instructor.

Comments

n/a

N/A

n/a

None

I think that one of them might be that she could maybe use more interactive teaching methods to be able to encourage students to be more engaged and do something that will aid in making sure that what she is teaching is remembered.

I don't have many limitations that I noticed, I really was impressed by my professor and learned a huge amount of substantial information. Maybe she could use more visuals when describing concepts for students that learn better that way (she definitely did do that, just maybe a bit more could be helpful).

Maybe responding to emails more quickly.

N/A

None

N/A

Although she encouraged a great amount of discourse, she struggled to push students to expand their worldview or attack subjects from different angles.

I didn't find any.

The structure of this course was not my favorite, but I don't blame Yi-Hsuan for that because I understand why the course is structured this way. I do wish there was less time devoted to discussion and more given to lecture. I think doing short written daily reflections at the end of lecture could help people like express their thoughts without having to speak in front of the class.

clarity

None that I observed

I honestly do not have anything to say, other than maybe responding to some emails to note that she received them.

Sometimes I think there was a tad too much student-led discussion, I wish we got a bit more of her lecturing.

N/A

N/A