



POLI 231: Intro to Political Theory - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 503) - Alec Crisman (Summer 2024)

Project Title: **Mercury Course Evaluation (Summer 2024)**

Course Audience: **33**
Responses Received: **15**
Response Ratio: **45.5%**

Instructor Audience: **33**
Responses Received: **15**
Response Ratio: **45.5%**

Subject Details	
Course Name	POLI 231: Intro to Political Theory - Lecture (Section 001, CRN 503)
Eval Start Date	07/29/2024 00:00:00
Eval End Date	08/08/2024 00:00:00
Term	Summer 2024
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Academic Unit	Political Science
Enrolment	36
Questionnaire	ARTS

Report Comments

End-of-course evaluations results, as one indicator of teaching effectiveness, are used:

- a. to help instructors improve future offerings of courses;
- b. to inform students about courses and instructors;
- c. as a component of the teaching dossier; and
- d. to help administrators and faculty committees in their decision-making processes.

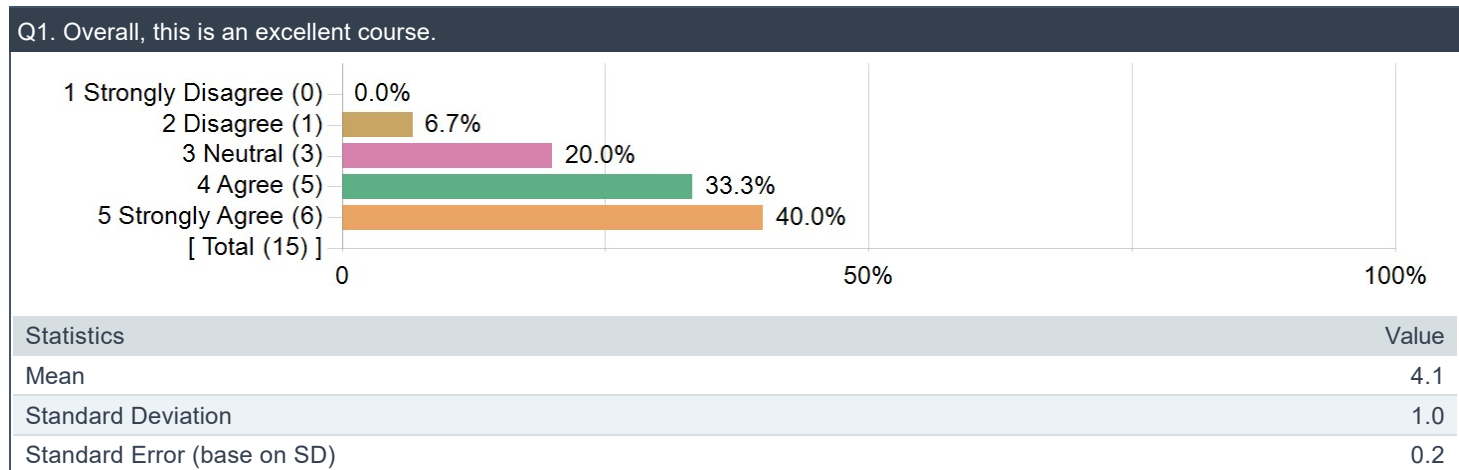
Written comments are treated as confidential and are not made available to the McGill community.

The course ratings reported here are only one indicator of teaching effectiveness and these results should be treated with caution since they represent reports on only one particular course.

Q1. Overall, this is an excellent course.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.2	0.9	4.1	0.5

Q1. Overall, this is an excellent course.



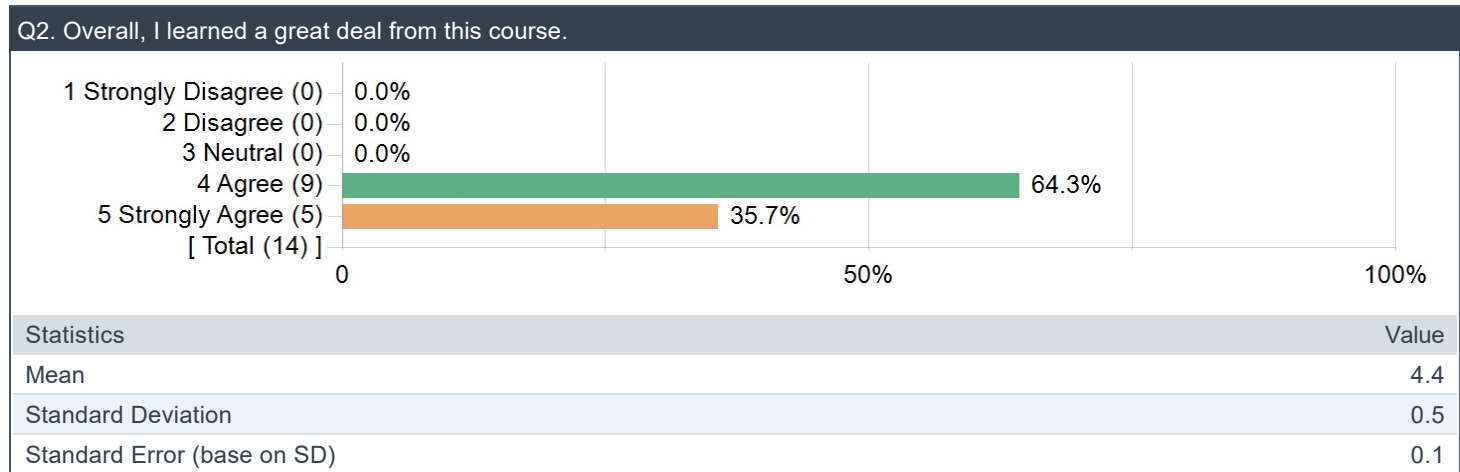
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Comments
Difficult readings but interesting
This course was taught very well. Mr. Crisman explained thoroughly and clearly, and I understood pretty much everything that was taught. I just think at some points, there were times when Mr. Crisman came across strongly. Sometimes lectures were very dense, but it is an intensive course, so you can't help that too much. But maybe there is a way to make it a bit less intense at every turn. However, a moment that came on strong was when Mr. Crisman, for example, corrected student's pronunciation on Weber. I understand that the pronunciation is important, but the way students were corrected wasn't done in a rude way, per se, but it might not give the best impression.
This course is a good introductory and prerequisite course to political theory, lots of information was fit into one course, and gave students a good idea of what is to come in the category of political theory.
The manner in which the material is presented is excellent, I have difficulty discerning if I am learning a great deal from this course because of what I am reading or if it is more so how Mr. Crisman is presenting it. The material is incredibly high quality and the way Mr. Crisman presents it is very engaging and enjoyable to listen to but some of his takes on the text could be argued with but I would certainly prefer that over a professor who makes no opinion on the material and simply recites it.

Q2. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.6	4.2	0.6

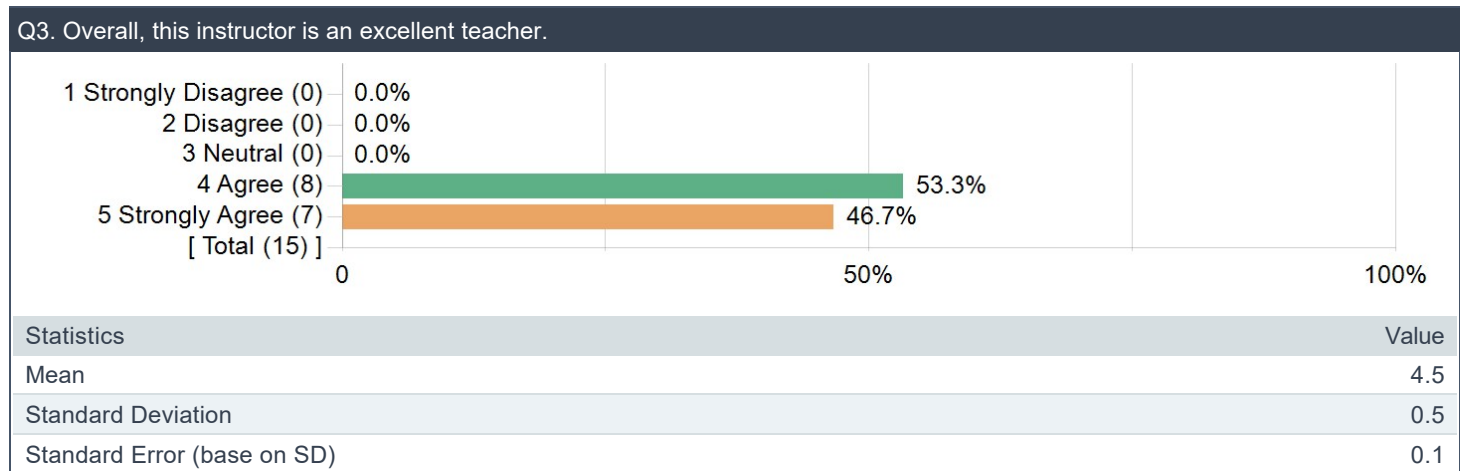
Q2. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.



Q3. Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.8	4.2	0.7

Q3. Overall, this instructor is an excellent teacher.



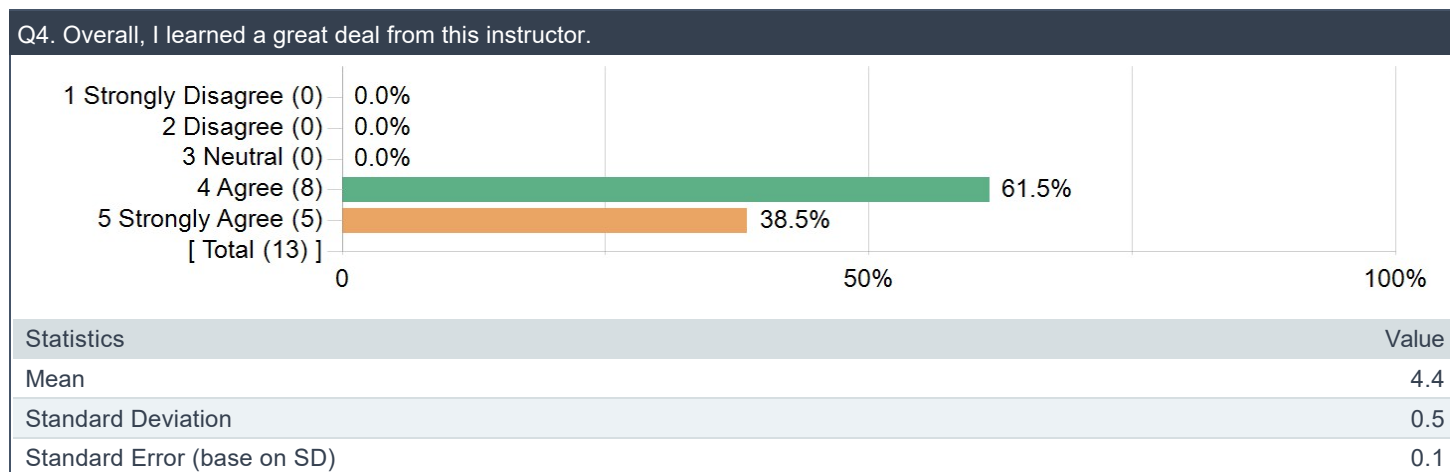
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Comments
Good lecturer, maybe less helpful in office hours, maybe I'm expecting to much guidance, not sure
Again, the course was taught very well. I really liked the articulation and the clarity. There are times though that Mr. Crisman spoke a bit quickly. Not that I couldn't understand but it would be nice if it was a little slower at time. It is our fault for not pointing that out but just something I noted. A different thing is with quotes. When Mr. Crisman reads the quotes from the authors we read, he would sometimes say a part of the quote and then provided a quick analysis or go on a tangent related to the quote. Then, he'd finish the quote. It would be a bit more cohesive if Mr. Crisman read the quote in its entirety at first and then broke it down.
Mr. Crisman is an excellent instructor who lectures in great detail while keeping it interesting throughout. He spent a lot of his own time doing office hours and helping students for as long as they need.
He is a very engaging orator, his classes are well-prepared and he communicates the material very effectively.
Very interactive and allows students to speak when they have questions. Many office hours.
Mr. Crisman was an excellent and engaging lecturer. I appreciated that he held office hours very frequently. However, with no slides, lectures were sometimes hard to follow. Also, when referring to readings, it would be appreciated if the lecturer referred to specific pages instead of quickly going through the quotes.
He as a really good energy and he is easy to talk to and ask question, plus he looks like he loves what he is talking about and it makes the class even more interesting

Q4. Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.7	4.3	0.6

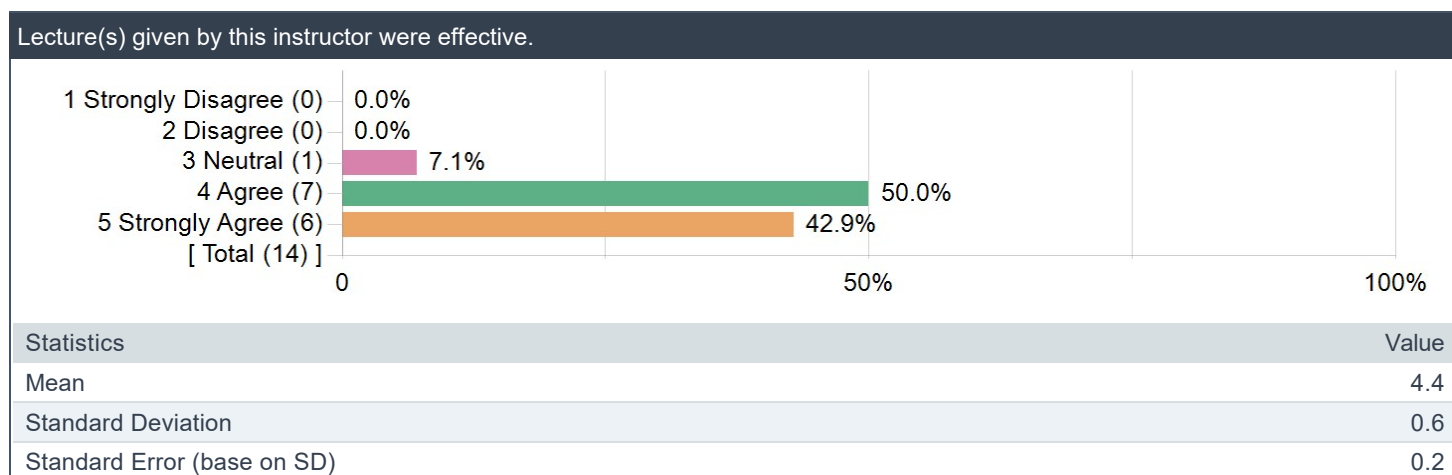
Q4. Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.



Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.3	0.7	4.2	0.5

Lecture(s) given by this instructor were effective.



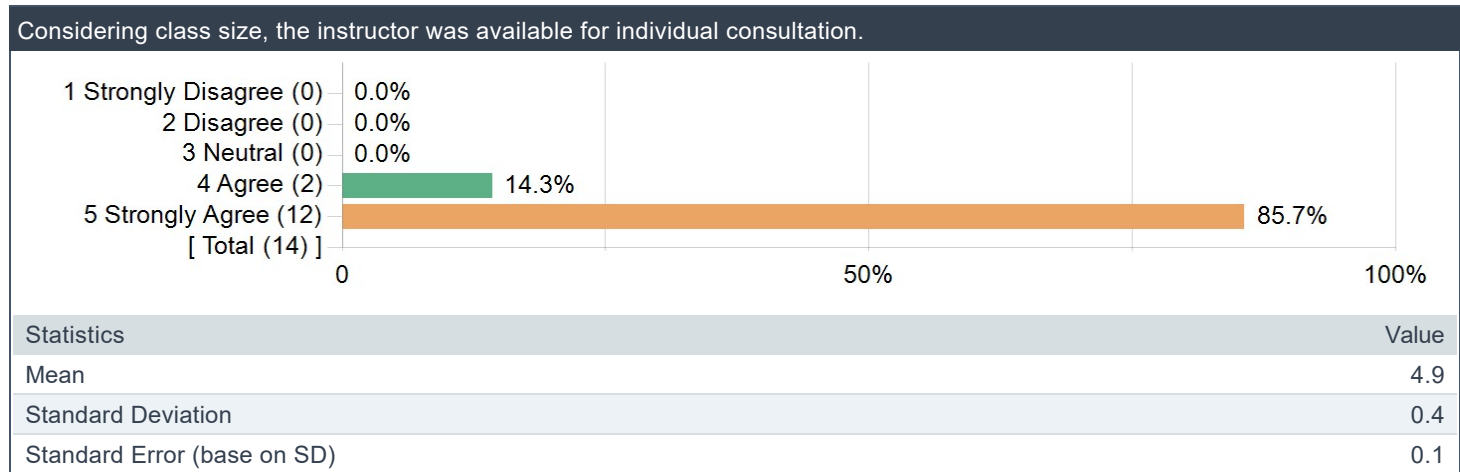
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Comments
Clear, helped me understand hard concepts, engaging, class discussion a good amount
Having loosely outlined powerpoints so that students can follow along would be very helpful!
Mr. Crisman is able to keep the lectures engaging when going through dense material that could be boring otherwise.
His classes were well-prepared and his teaching style is engaging. He explains the material very well.
Not boring, despite the material of the course itself can be tiring.
The room was horrible and made the learning environment challenging at best, too hot and very hard to maintain focus in
The lectures were truly captivating even if it was a longer class. Without a powerpoint or key points on the board and I could still keep up with the lecture!

Considering class size, the instructor was available for individual consultation.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.7	0.7	4.6	0.3

Considering class size, the instructor was available for individual consultation.



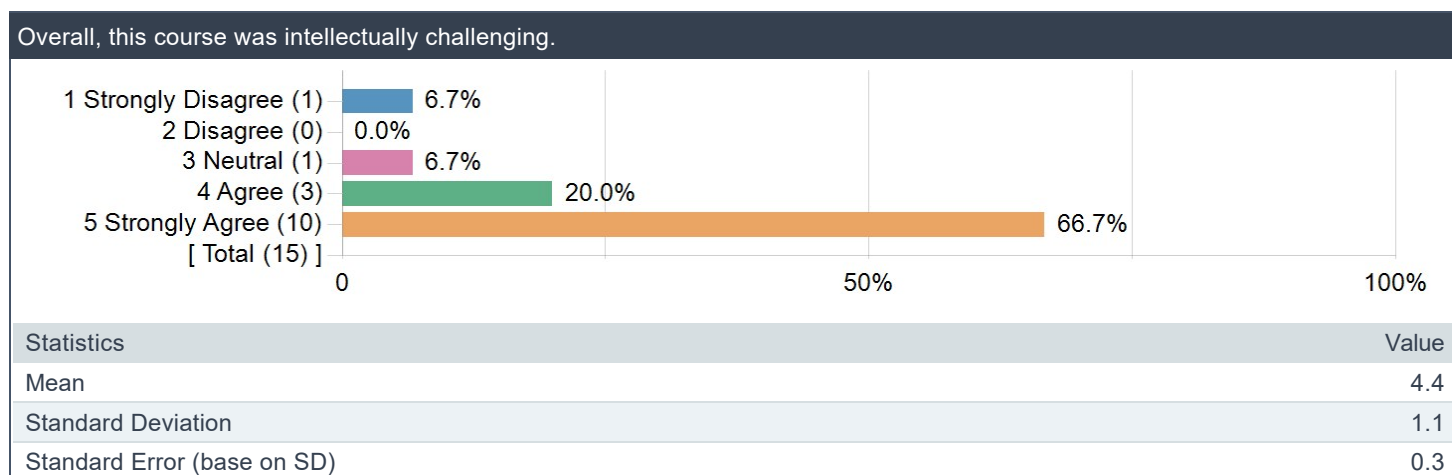
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Comments
I think the students were really active in office hours so you couldn't stay for as long as you want but that's not his fault
Yes! Very available and it was very helpful. This isn't something many instructors do, so I definitely appreciated this. Thank you, Mr. Crisman!
Lots of office hours!
As mentioned previously, Mr. Crisman always made himself available to the students. He had an email address just for the class, so that anyone is able to reach him right away.
He was always available during office hours.
Disliked that we had office hours online, in person is so so so much more effective

Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.1	1.0	4.0	0.4

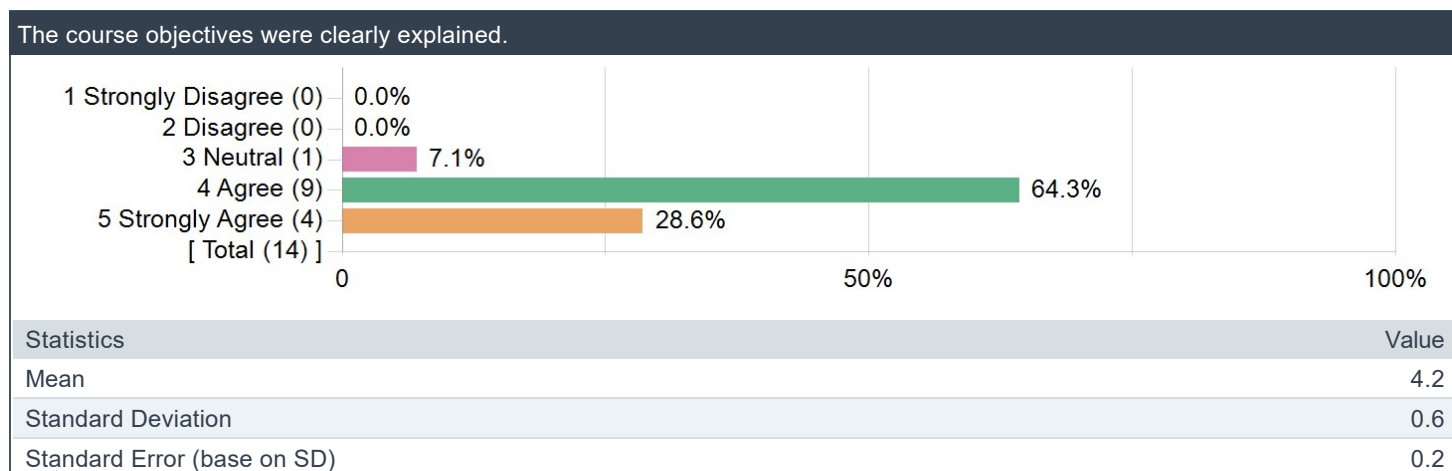
Overall, this course was intellectually challenging.



The course objectives were clearly explained.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.7	4.3	0.5

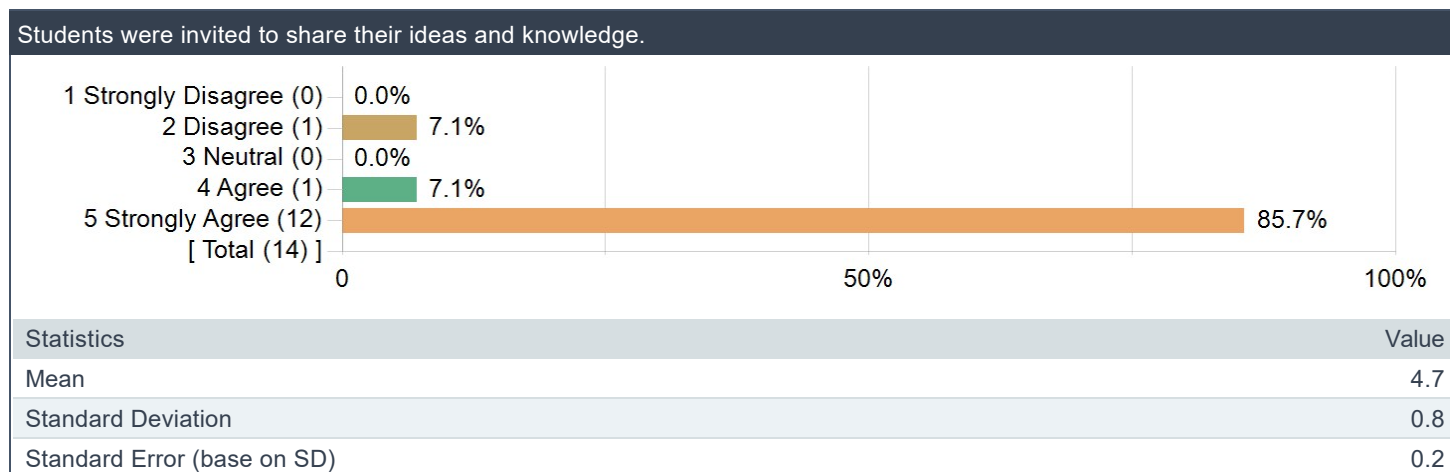
The course objectives were clearly explained.



Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.7	0.7	4.6	0.1

Students were invited to share their ideas and knowledge.



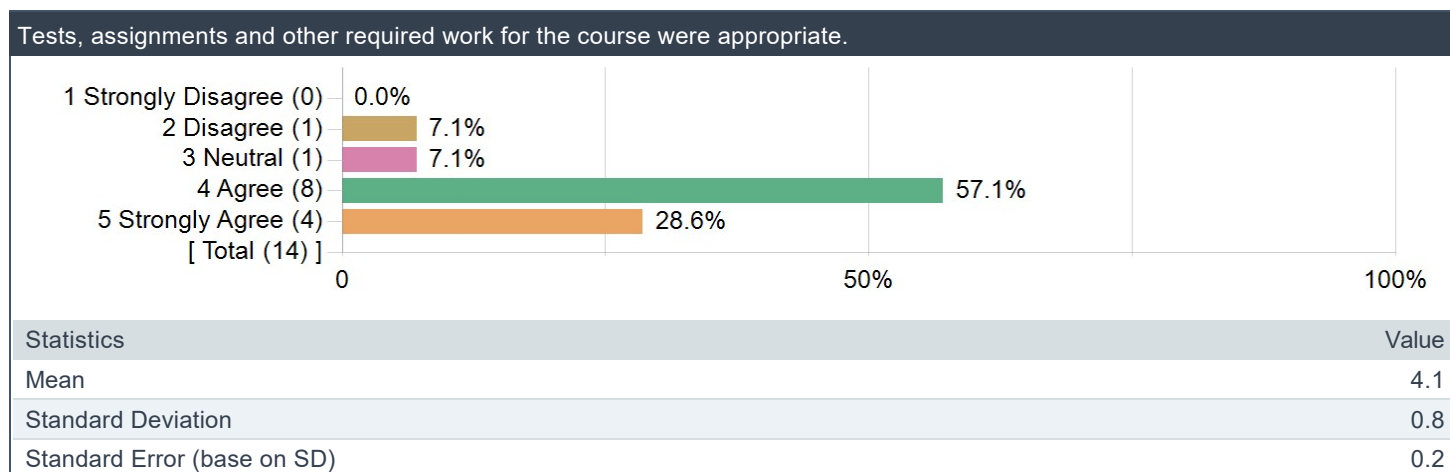
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Comments
On the note of course objectives were clearly explained – I wish thats students were a bit more informed of how the papers would be graded. We got Professor Levy's list but it didn't serve as a rubric that is straightforward to follow. I know it's a theory course, so it's not really straightforward, so perhaps Mr. Crisman could provide, for future students, a sample A essay and sample B or C essay; this could have notes and explain what students should and shouldn't do. Since it's not straightforward grading, perhaps this would help students understand better.
Mr. Crisman provided students with opportunities to express themselves both in class and in assignments.
A bit too confrontational with how he dealt with peoples takes on subject matter, there are going to be flawed positions but its the way he approaches it that feels pretty demoralizing when he pokes holes through it

Tests, assignments and other required work for the course were appropriate.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.4	0.8	4.3	0.6

Tests, assignments and other required work for the course were appropriate.



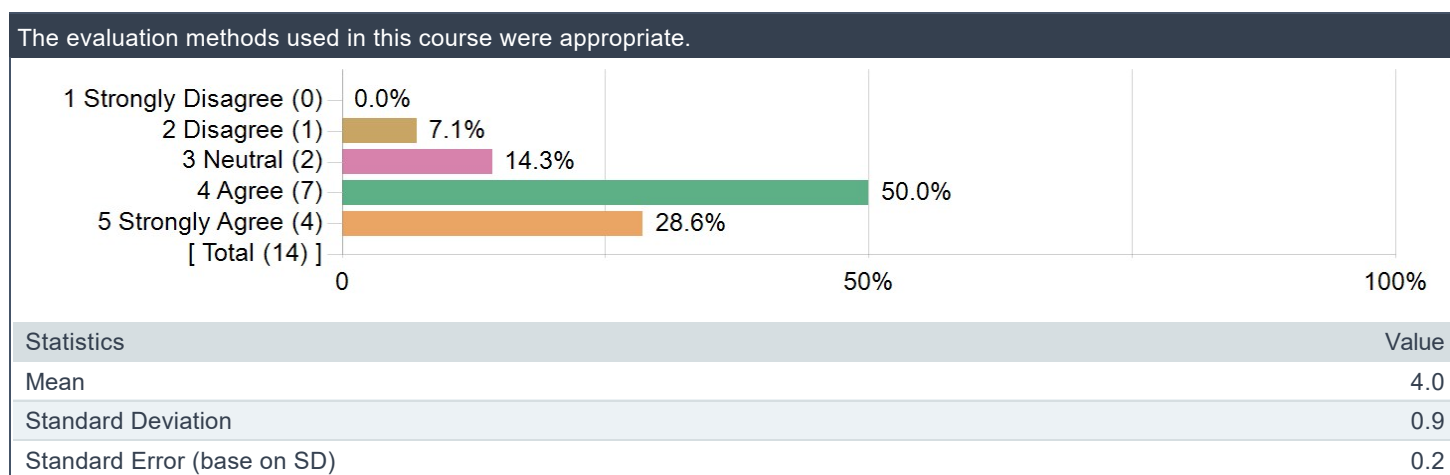
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Comments
The assignments were appropriate for the course, as Mr. Crisman starts off with a shorter assignment to get the students on track with the idea of writing a proper political science paper.
The workload was manageable.
I did not find that the instructions for the first essay were clear. We were supposed to develop an argument and a counterargument and effectively use the course readings to support them. However, when writing an argument that echoed the thinkers (perhaps without aligning with their ideologies for 100%), we lost the points. I would have appreciated if I had been told that we simply had to explore the views of these thinkers and that any critical thought (even when supported by an adaption of a thinker's view) was discouraged. I also sensed that some points were taken off for the writing style (which obviously varies from one person to another and which is highly subjective), which seemed really bizarre to me.
Furthermore, I believe that 90 minutes were insufficient for the exam, even for ordinary students, let alone those with accommodations. This seemed quite unfair.

The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.3	0.8	4.2	0.5

The evaluation methods used in this course were appropriate.



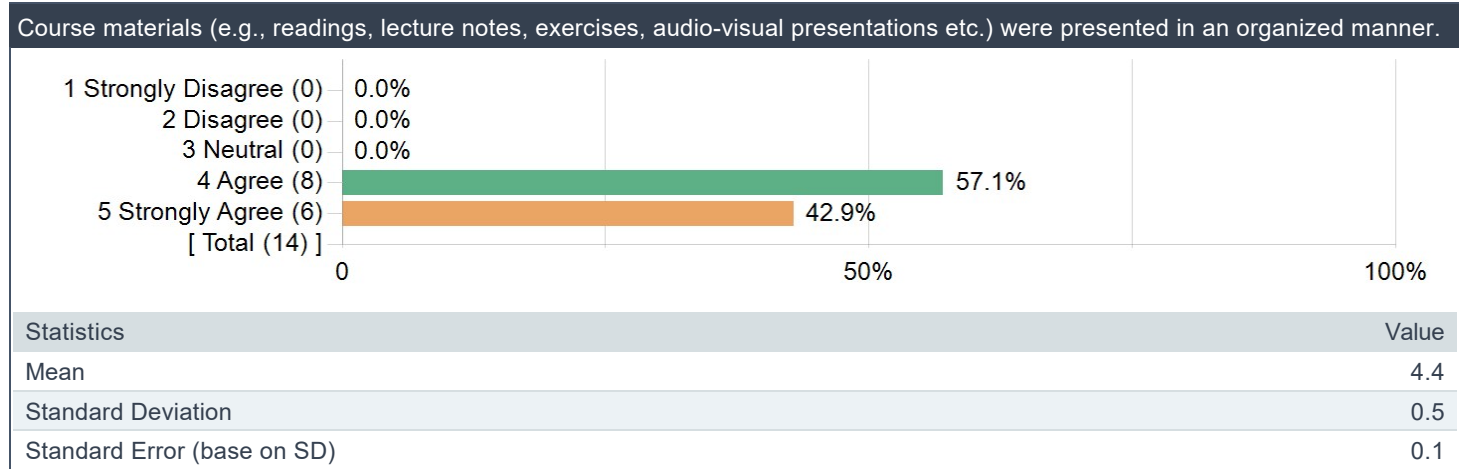
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Comments
Grading criteria seemed a bit subjective and vague maybe. Like I feel like we needed to be creative to do well and that feels unfair. Or just a good amount of challenging, not sure
Mr. Crisman was clear on his expectations regarding the paper, and talked about the paper during parts of lectures to make sure we knew everything we needed for a successful paper.

Course materials (e.g., readings, lecture notes, exercises, audio-visual presentations etc.) were presented in an organized manner.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
4.5	0.7	4.3	0.4

Course materials (e.g., readings, lecture notes, exercises, audio-visual presentations etc.) were presented in an organized manner.



Insert comments:

Comments
Pictures of books in pdf format are hard to work with.
Mr. Crisman did not use any slideshows during his lectures, but he was still able to get the information across to the students. The course readings were very organized and was made easily accessible to everyone.

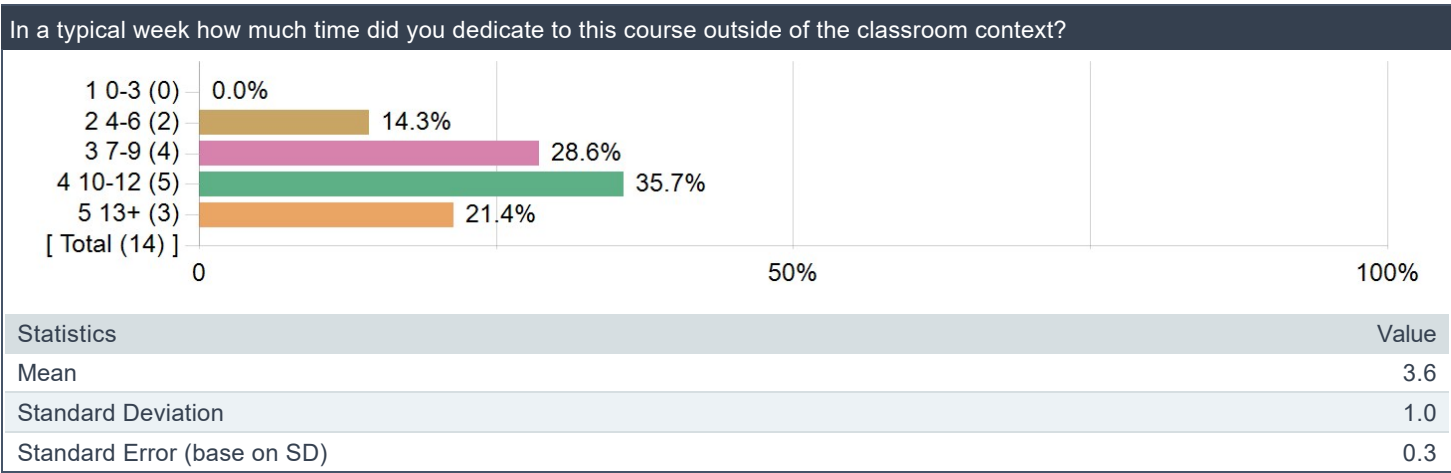
Please provide written comments with respect to the instructor and the course (including course materials, readings etc.).

Comments
Readings really challenging, the lectures were incredibly helpful I think the general consensus was that it was a readings based class but u couldn't get by without going to the lectures
Everything was good, overall. Again, the course was taught well, papers graded fairly, readings weren't too heavy for the intensity of the course, etc. More detailed comments in previous responses, but overall a really informative and well-taught course.
Very appreciative for the reading package.
Please refer to what I previously mentioned
The instructor explains the material in a clear manner, his lectures are engaging and his classes are well-prepared. The readings were pertinent and interesting.
This course, feels unreasonably restrictive. Most often, we were forced to argue why one racist white man's opinion is more correct than another's, needing to regard their opinions as fact. This course seemed to have little to do with critical thinking. I was expected to regurgitate "correct arguments". The fact that only 1 person in the class got an A on the first paper suggests we are not being graded on our analytical skills, but rather if we are able to argue beliefs that the professor would deem sound. That said, Alec was extremely passionate and eager to help others, more so than the vast majority of professors. What I'll take away from this class is that political science as a discipline is just philosophy with extra steps. It would have been much more educational to discuss the implications of valuing the opinions of men like Hobbes or Rousseau rather than being asked to argue why they're right.
Better class engagement would have been nicer, splitting into groups and talking or more visual aids would have been more engaging / captivating
My only critic of this class is the readings selection. I know in a 4 week intensive course it is hard to pick texts to propose a proper introduction to political theory, however there was a significant lack of diversity in the authors chosen. In total we read one women and three non-white authors (2 still came from an American background) on a total of 19 texts. I do know political theory holds a lot of value in classic & historical influential authors yet it gives the false idea that political thought is exclusively western. I think gender and race are not a theme or a brief subject to discuss but a continual reality that shape our political world. I added a link of a short article on the subject: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0263395720957543?download=true

In a typical week how much time did you dedicate to this course outside of the classroom context?

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
3.1	1.3	3.2	0.6

In a typical week how much time did you dedicate to this course outside of the classroom context?



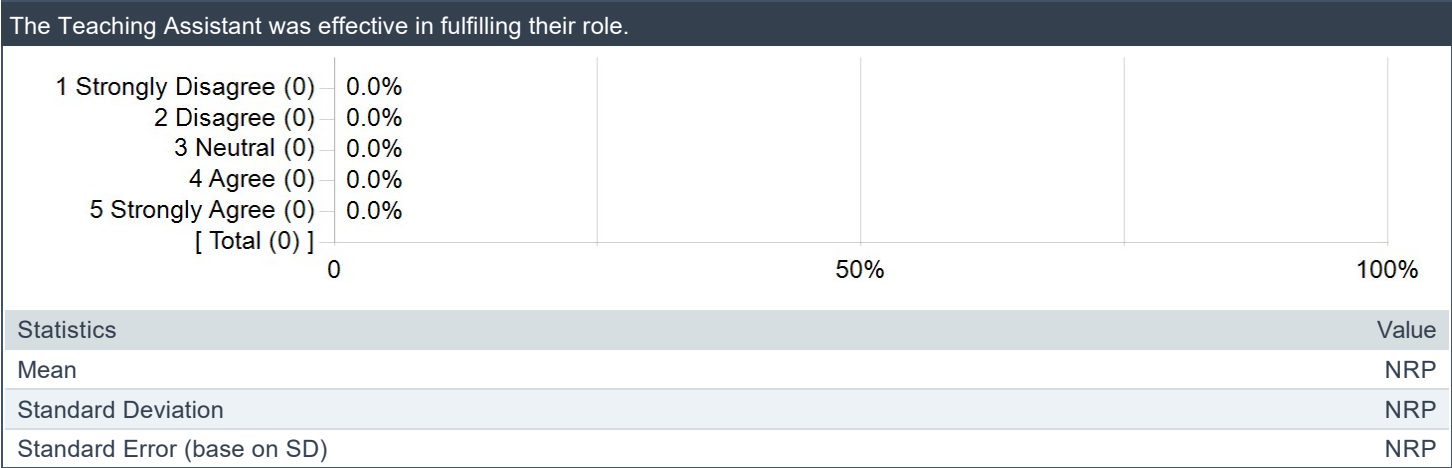
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Comments
Prof really embodied the theorist of each class, really answered each question as the author, really represented a die hard fan of each author, it was helpful to understand the theory, keep method acting
Lots of reading was required for the course, as it was very intensive and condensed.

The Teaching Assistant was effective in fulfilling their role.

Mean,Department Mean (DM)	SD,Department Mean (DM)	Mean,Dept Course Mean (DCM)	SD,Dept Course Mean (DCM)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Teaching Assistant was effective in fulfilling their role.



Insert comments:

Comments
Not Answered