

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2024
Colin Case, POLI 281-005 DATA IN POLITICS I
Mode: IP (In Person)

Raters	Students
Responded	25
Invited	30
Response Ratio	83.3%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.44	5.00	0.71	25	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	44.0%	52.0%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.88	5.00	0.33	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	88.0%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.77	25	0.0%	0.0%	16.0%	12.0%	72.0%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.48	5.00	0.77	25	0.0%	0.0%	16.0%	20.0%	64.0%
5. I could really be myself in this course.	4.24	4.00	0.88	25	0.0%	4.0%	16.0%	32.0%	48.0%
6. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.44	5.00	0.65	25	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	40.0%	52.0%
7. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.48	5.00	0.59	25	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	44.0%	52.0%
8. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.56	5.00	0.58	25	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	36.0%	60.0%
9. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.36	4.00	0.70	25	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	40.0%	48.0%

11. The instructor held class meetings consistent with the official schedule published for this course.		
N	Yes	No
25	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.	4.75	5.00	0.44	24	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%
2. Communicates clearly and logically.	4.64	5.00	0.64	25	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	20.0%	72.0%
3. Promotes a climate of mutual respect.	4.80	5.00	0.41	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%
4. Encourages student questions.	4.72	5.00	0.54	25	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	20.0%	76.0%
5. Emphasizes critical thinking.	4.68	5.00	0.56	25	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	24.0%	72.0%
6. Uses teaching strategies that promote active involvement.	4.60	5.00	0.76	25	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	20.0%	72.0%
7. Clearly communicates expectations for student performance.	4.72	5.00	0.46	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.0%	72.0%
8. Regularly provides constructive criticism of student performance.	4.56	5.00	0.65	25	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	28.0%	64.0%
9. Provides timely feedback on student performance.	4.64	5.00	0.70	25	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	24.0%	72.0%
10. Provides a fair evaluation of student performance.	4.68	5.00	0.48	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.0%	68.0%
11. Is available when needed.	4.88	5.00	0.33	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.0%	88.0%
12. Is well-prepared for instruction.	4.72	5.00	0.46	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.0%	72.0%
13. Overall, considering both the possibilities and limitations of the subject matter and course, I would rate this instructor as "excellent."	4.68	5.00	0.48	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.0%	68.0%

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.	4.68	5.00	0.48	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.0%	68.0%
15. Requirements (e.g., assignments, attendance, student responsibilities) are clearly specified.	4.60	5.00	0.71	25	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	28.0%	68.0%
16. Course assignments are clearly related to the course objectives.	4.72	5.00	0.46	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.0%	72.0%
17. Instructional methods in the course facilitate my learning.	4.56	5.00	0.65	25	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%	28.0%	64.0%
18. In general, the course is well-organized.	4.60	5.00	0.58	25	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	32.0%	64.0%
19. Course materials stimulated critical thinking.	4.64	5.00	0.57	25	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	28.0%	68.0%
20. I know significantly more about this subject than before I took this course.	4.79	5.00	0.41	24	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.8%	79.2%
21. Overall, considering its content, design, and structure, I would rate this course as "excellent."	4.60	5.00	0.50	25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%

Open-Ended Responses

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

Comments
Incredibly knowledgeable, the design of the class didn't assume prior experience, and the format of collaborative groupwork and assignments was immensely valuable.
He offered many opportunities to ask questions during class as well as holding his office hours consistently.
He held office hours frequently and was really helpful when you asked him questions. He was very patient, which allowed you to learn more because he would go over stuff with you multiple times. You could tell that he really cared and wanted you to learn the material.
His office hours were helpful, and he was always available for questions.
He was very available as well as the TAs for help. He also did a good job explaining course materials and expectations.
I think Colin did a good job answering questions after we had finished the main lecture portion of class, sometimes he moved a bit fast through material, making it difficult to follow along.
The instructor was very approachable in and out of class and great at answering questions. He gave plenty of time to complete assignments and graded very fairly.
Colin was an amazing lecturer, he was very clear throughout the entire semester and would always make a really good effort to explain things in different ways if you had any confusion or misunderstanding on subject matter or assignments.
He was very helpful in breaking down the complexities of the course into easy to understand lectures
He always made himself available for questions and never made me feel bad for asking him to go over the class material again. I also always felt like we had the class resources we need to complete our homework assignments, which were open well in advance of the deadlines.
Professor Case was extremely helpful in answering questions and was clear in his instruction. He always left room for questions and helped during groupwork, if needed. I felt like I learned a lot in this class and definitely feel comfortable using R Studio.
Through his excellent explanations of code that kept the class interesting.
Colin gave strong lectures that showed us how to do work through R and gave us assignments that helped us learn the material.
Colin was great! Super helpful in taking extra time to explain content and a great teacher.
I think Colin did a great job keeping lectures engaging and interesting. The subject matter here is pretty dull (its hard to look at R Studio for very long without getting bored) but I think that Colin did a good job of making it at least somewhat interesting. I also think that he did a good job of facilitating groupwork, especially in the first half of the semester.
Providing many scheduled hours outside of class to get one on one assistance on class material.
Provided time to work on the subject material/practice in class
Well informed charismatic guy who was very kind and human. Also knew his stuff damn well.
Colin did a good job at allowing us to work on assignments in class and ask questions if we needed to, which was a big help and allowed me to learn the material.
Held interactive discussions on the R code that made it easy to pick up quickly.
He was very thorough during class and always accessible during office hours. He was kind when the coding was hard which was very appreciated.

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

Comments
Having TAs to assist students with assignments.
I enjoyed the final project. I thought that it was a good use of what we learned without being too stressful. I appreciate that he took stress level into account when planning assignments and projects.
I liked the group workshop sessions, though it would be better if we had fixed groups rather than random groups each time.
All of the assignments and projects were helpful. I think it's good there are no tests or exams and its mostly project based. I also liked how the class was very collaborative.
I liked the tutorials prior to class, as they helped me have a better idea of the coding we would be doing in class. I also enjoyed the assignments and the group work aspect of them, as it made understanding easier. Collaboration with others really helped me to learn.
I think that the number of assignments and time given to complete them should be kept. I also like that the final project is a group project since it is lengthy.
I thought some of the data sets would slow down my computer so maybe using more simple data sets instead of ones with 10,000+ data points
All of it
I think that the assignment/homework structure is manageable. I think that the lecture–groupwork hybrid was really helpful at the start of the semester and wish we had had it more towards the end of the semester. The lecture only classes were really hard to follow and stay engaged in. I also appreciated being assigned groups during each class period as I really feel I got to interact with most of the class.
I liked how we had a mix of lecture style and group work. This allowed for us to collaborate with others as well as learn from the teacher.
The assignment schedule and just how it is taught in general.
I think the assignments should be kept.
The group work in class was great for understanding the content and was definitely helpful for me understanding the content.
I think that, from a Stats major point of view, the first half of the course is insanely useful. I would like to see more time spent on getting good at coding in and of itself and less time relearning basic statistics. There should definitely be a prereq of STOR120/155 so that the majority of stats theory can be left to math teachers and so that the POLI professors are able to focus on the coding. I think we barely scratched the surface of data cleaning and that is ultimately what the majority of actual data scientists do on a day–to–day.
All of it, the structure truly is enriching.
ULA aid
Everything should stick around except for their weird lul towards the end of the semester
I would keep the flipped learning piece of the course, and I liked the assignment system in the class.
The final project
I liked the group work a lot because it revealed what I needed to work on while I was still in class. I also like how he encouraged us to meet the whole class and work with different people.

Department Specific

Please comment on the strengths of the course.

Comments
This course was very collaborative and supported people helping each other.
The assignments were helpful and I gained a lot from them. His lectures were also very good and I learned significantly from him teaching the code and going through things with us before going into groups. The groups right after lecture were helpful because I was able to apply what he discussed and get help if needed.
This course was interesting and taught helpful materials.
Great course. Learned a lot. Was my first time coding and the expectations for students was very reasonable.
Consistent, fair grading
I think the course was very well planned out and easy to navigate, definitely a good amount of work (not underwhelming or overwhelming) and all assignments related closely to the course lecture content.
Great course where I learned a lot
I really think I learned a lot, especially given how unfamiliar I was with the course content before taking this class. I appreciated the step-by-step instructions provided during every class period and the access to class notes we had when working on assignments outside of class. Overall, I am walking away feeling confident in my newfound basic data analysis skills using R.
The structure.
The coding learned here had some real utility in the workforce and it should be expanded on.
the pace of instruction
good workload and sttucture.
The strength of the course is the format. I like the flipped learning we engaged with in the course and the assignments I thought were fair.
The discussions
I thought the course was very effective in balancing teaching coding and statistical analysis at the same time.

Please comment on the limitations of the course.

Comments
The instructor had to rush through the material pretty fast, so it was hard to follow or fully understand the information during class.
I think that it would have been helpful to have set groups after the first month or two to work with on assignments. I feel like I did not get to know many people in the class because we kept switching around. People I feel like would also be more willing to talk if we had set groups for one or two months of the semester.
I think this course would be better if we had fixed groups, which would enhance our opportunities to work with our team members. It was hard to get to know other people in the class.
May need to have less units and focus more intensely on certain parts of r. Like tidyverse, etc.
The pace of lecture, especially throughout the section on ggplot/graphing made the content somewhat difficult to understand. I definitely feel weaker on graphing in R than any other topic.
Ofentimes found assignments more difficult than class material and had trouble understanding how to complete them.
There were some parts of class that had a little too much lecture material compared to code applications making it hard to focus and pay attention the entire class.
Not really any that I can think of
I think the ending of the course was a lot less engaging then it could have been. I also don't think that the assignments took an equal amount of work each which made it hard to judge how long they would take but I probably should have just started them earlier. I will say, this is the only class where I have met male classmates that seem to doubt my abilities. Obviously this is just one group of students but this is the only class where I have ever felt like the guys feel inherently smarter than me, and possibly other girls in the class, due to our gender. Multiple guys used code I wrote and then acted as though they were better at the course material than me.
n/a.
The whole second half of the class has been my tenth time learning about standard deviation. Make a stats/math prereq and move on with it. It is a waste of time.
hands on is better than lecture
needed better TA hours
As soon as we left R for the data analysis part of the course, the equality of the course dropped. The lectures simply were not interesting, and that's something that may need to be revised.
I didn't find much limiting
Sometimes the class was a little boring but I think that's just because some stats are boring.

Please comment on the strengths of the instructor.

Comments
A genuinely kind instructor who was always available to help and understanding about external circumstances. Encouraged critical thinking and was consistently helpful during office hours when needed.
He is very supportive and asks a lot of questions to the class to make sure everyone is following along.
Responsive, clear, understanding, knows the material very well, and he is approachable.
The instructor was passionate about the course and ready to help.
Very patient and open to help students whenever they need it. Also very logical teacher that doesn't get sidetracked with tangents which is nice. Very cut to the case and I liked how the class was run.
Colin is very helpful in one-on-one settings.
Approachable, eager to answer questions, consistent, helpful
He was probably the best instructor I have had this semester, for a fairly non-engaged class he showed up every day and gave great lectures and was always willing to stay back / come early to help you.
Professor Case was a great instructor who made learning about the material very interesting and understandable.
He was always accessible and willing to answer questions. I felt like he had a lot of experience with the material he was teaching and he was always willing to help students out.
Excellent lecturer who made looking at code interesting.
Colin did a great job covering subject matter and keeping class engaging.
always helpful
youth, smart, energetic
Colin was always engaging during lectures and tried his best to make the course material interesting, even when sometimes it wasn't.
He was very helpful and straightforward when it came to explaining code.
He was a great instructor and very accessible during office hours.

Please comment on the limitations of the instructor.

Comments
Colin overall speaks fast so it is hard to understand him at times.
None, I think that he is a good instructor!
I thought it would be better if we had more detailed power points for the last few classes, since the materials were a bit harder.
Does say "right" after every sentence when teaching at first it can come off as condescending but I think its more of a nervous habit. Good to be aware of though.
Colin can move through things at a confusingly fast pace sometimes.
Sometimes would explain things too quickly; hard for me to follow along at times
Honestly I couldn't think of any, he did a very amazing job.
When I would ask a question, he would ask it back to me. I understand that this is a teaching style meant to prompt students to begin critically thinking about the material however I would not be asking the question if I already knew the answer.
Nothing, he did great.
n/a
alittle borign, add some persoanlity
Colin sometimes would ask too many questions of us, and I wish he just moved on to the subject rather than continuously asking questions.
None
n/a