Student Evaluation of Teaching, Fall 2020
Rachel Surminsky, POLI 281-004 DATA IN POLITICS I

Raters	Students
Responded	12
Invited	29
Response Ratio	41.4%

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Overall, I learned a great deal from this course.	4.58	5.00	0.51	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	41.7%	58.3%
2. The instructor treated all students with respect.	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
3. The instructor encouraged students to participate in this class.	4.92	5.00	0.29	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	91.7%
4. The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets.	4.67	5.00	0.65	12	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	16.7%	75.0%
5. In this course I had multiple opportunities to express my viewpoints and questions.	4.64	5.00	0.50	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.4%	63.6%
6. The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter.	4.50	4.50	0.52	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
7. The design of this course (e.g., its format, selected materials, assignments, exercises, quizzes, etc.) helped me better understand the subject matter.	4.58	5.00	0.51	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	41.7%	58.3%
8. Overall, this course was excellent.	4.50	5.00	0.71	10	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	30.0%	60.0%

Department Specific

Political Science Undergraduate: Instructor Ratings

	Mean	Median	SD	N	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Demonstrates enthusiasm about teaching.	4.92	5.00	0.29	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	91.7%
2. Communicates clearly and logically.	4.92	5.00	0.29	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	91.7%
3. Promotes a climate of mutual respect.	5.00	5.00	0.00	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
4. Encourages student questions.	5.00	5.00	0.00	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
5. Emphasizes critical thinking.	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
6. Uses teaching strategies that promote active involvement.	5.00	5.00	0.00	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
7. Clearly communicates expectations for student performance.	4.91	5.00	0.30	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	90.9%
8. Regularly provides constructive criticism of student performance.	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
9. Provides timely feedback on student performance.	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
10. Provides a fair evaluation of student performance.	4.73	5.00	0.47	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	72.7%
11. Is available when needed.	5.00	5.00	0.00	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
12. Is well-prepared for instruction.	5.00	5.00	0.00	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
13. Overall, considering both the possibilites and limitations of the subject matter and course, I would rate this instructor as "excellent."	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	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.	4.67	5.00	0.49	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
15. Requirements (e.g., assignments, attendance, student responsibilites) are clearly specified.	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
16. Course assignments are clearly related to the course objectives.	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
17. Instructional methods in the course facilitate my learning.	4.75	5.00	0.45	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%
18. In general, the course is well-organized.	4.75	5.00	0.45	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%
19. Course materials stimulated critical thinking.	4.75	5.00	0.45	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%
20. I know significantly more about this subject than before I took this course.	4.83	5.00	0.39	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
21. Overall, considering its content, design, and structure, I would rate this course as "excellent."	4.64	5.00	0.67	11	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	18.2%	72.7%

Open-Ended Responses

1. In what ways did your instructor try to make learning possible for you during the Fall 2020 semester?

Comments
Rachel has been flexible and open during this semester which is super important due to how crazy of a semester it was. She would would push due dates back, and shift materials around in order to make sure that we learned the material before starting assignments, which was extremely helpful in learning a new skill such as coding in R.
Providing lectures online was super helpful
Rachel always made class feel energetic and was understanding of the situations at hand with the current times. She was flexible and and available when we needed her, making it less stressful than it could have been to stay afloat in this challenging course. I appreciate all that she did and feel lucky to have learned from her this semester.
She was very accessible and ready to help you understand the course.
She was always accessible and available for us to ask questions and made sure that we learned the material.
Rachel was very approachable and made learning fun and easy. She was flexible in her teaching approach, and made herself always available to tutor students and answer questions outside of class. Overall Rachel was an incredible teacher, who's dedication to providing quality mentorship is remarkable.
She was a very kind and helpful teacher, who always puts our wellbeing above everything else. I loved her as a teacher.
She was very flexible with her schedule and allowed students the opportunity to have an extension on assignments if needed.
Rachel was very accomodating and more than willing to flex to individual emergency situations. I appreciated knowing she would be flexible, even if I didn't need to ask for an extension. She was also available for more hours than probably any of my other professors, and would allow us to come work through coding projects and ask questions – this was probably the most valuable part of the course for me because I got immediate feedback while I was completing assignments and she was able to suggest more efficient/effective ways to write my code.
She made this class accessible to all students, whether or not they were interested in studying this topic full time. In every one of her lectures, she made students participate in discussion. Activating discussion in lecture and holding office hours helped me learn personally, because discussing topics helps me solidify them.
I absolutely love Rachel. She made office hours extremely accessible. Her scheduled office hours conflicted with one of my classes but whenever I needed to meet with her she would answer my email promptly and extend her office hours forme to be able to make it. Not only that but she is always checking her emails and is mindful of our needs. She is one of the few professors that I have met that truly taking in mind the student's mental health. She doesn't try to make school harder but rather accommodates us and our needs. This subject is extremely hard but Rachel makes it extremely easy to keep up. Overall love her.

Department Specific

Please comment on the strengths of the course.

Comments
i saw the correlation between subjects which was helpful
Well organized.
It was really engaging and the different assignments and mode of instruction was really helpful in facilitating my learning.
The course was well supported by a good structure of learning, flexible schedule, and examples/ work to cultivate an understanding of the subject.
Very forgiving too students, a nice environment in which I can always feel comfortable, and she is very kind.
This was honestly one of the most straight forward courses I've taken at UNC. Some professors don't communicate about when you should expect assignments or grades and Rachel was always beating us to the punch and answering questions before we had them.
This course was structured intuitively, each topic was relevant and led to the next one in a way that made it easy to learn. Recording lectures was also very helpful. If I was having trouble with an assignment, I could rewatch the relevant lecture and often get an answer.
Great course only because of Rachel.

Please comment on the limitations of the course.

Comments
Taking the course online is a little inconvenient to getting help on certain assignments, but Rachel males up for it by offering numerous opportunities to attend office hours!
switching between r and information was sometimes confusing
None.
None.
There isn't any limitations.
There could have been more writing practice during the course to help prepare students for the final project.
None

Please comment on the strengths of the instructor.

Comments
Flexible, compassionate, and understanding professor which is super important during times such as this. Communicates often and clearly with the class on due dates, upcoming lectures, expectations, etc. which allows for little to no confusion on what to expect throughout the course/ week.
she is very enthusiastic about her work and passionate
She made this course that was dounting at first very accessible. She Is amaing at teaching, and knows how to encourage others to learn.
Rachel was always so accessible! She always made sure there was a safe space to ask questions and ensure we understood the material.
Rachel was a great teacher, who was incredibly dedicated to her students and teaching the material effectively. She always presented her lectures with enthusiasm, cultivated a psychologically safe learning environment that promoted curiosity, and always made herself available to speak with students outside of class.
She is a kind, helpful instructor who gives good advice and is productive.
Competent, very knowledgeable, kind and understanding
Made a conscious effort to check in with students at every opportunity to make sure everyone understood the concepts we were learning about. When someone asked a question, which was often as Rachel prompted us to ask questions if there was anything we were confused about, she always tried to explain the answer in the simplest and most accessible way and was never smug when someone was having trouble understanding something (something I have experienced in other classes).
I could go on and on she's amazing. Always available and the complete opposite of intimidating.

Please comment on the limitations of the instructor.

Comments
N/A
None.
None.
At times she can get side tracked but thats about it.
Sometimes her tone could be mistaken as aggressive when she was not.
None she is absolutely amazing. I would be lucky to take a course with her again.