Instructor Carlos Algara

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - DAVIS

Fall Quarter 2017
POL 001 (003) 58003

Student Evaluation of Teaching

Enrollment 49
% responding 77

	5		4		3		2		1					
	5	%	4	%	3	%	2	%	1	%	$\bar{x}$	SD	M	N
Please indicate the overall educational value of the course. (excellent | very good | satisfactory | fair | poor)	24	63%	10	26%	3	8%	1	3%	0	0%	4.5	0.8	5.0	38
UCD Grade Point Average: (5) 4-3.6, (4) 3.5-3.1, (3) 3-2.6, (2) 2.5-2.1, (1) 2 or below	7	23%	8	27%	13	43%	2	7%	0	0%	3.7	0.9	3.5	30
Expected grade in this course: (5) A, (4) B, (3) C, (2) D, (1) F	13	37%	15	43%	7	20%	0	0%	0	0%	4.2	0.7	4.0	35
Your interest in the subject matter before taking this course: (5) Very high, (4) Somewhat high, (3) Moderate, (2) Low, (1) Very low	5	14%	13	35%	15	41%	1	3%	3	8%	3.4	1.0	3.0	37
Please indicate the overall teaching effectiveness of the instructor. (excellent | very good | satisfactory | fair | poor)	26	68%	11	29%	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%	4.7	0.5	5.0	38
Instructor's knowledge and command of subject matter. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	35	92%	3	8%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.9	0.3	5.0	38
Instructor's openness to discussion and ability to stimulate it. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	28	74%	9	24%	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%	4.7	0.5	5.0	38
Instructor's availability for consultation.	28	78%	5	14%	3	8%	0	0%	0	0%	4.7	0.6	5.0	36
Clarity of course objectives and organization. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	21	57%	11	30%	5	14%	0	0%	0	0%	4.4	0.7	5.0	37
Effectiveness of style and methods of class presentations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	19	50%	13	34%	5	13%	1	3%	0	0%	4.3	0.8	4.5	38
Relevance and educational value of readings and WorldWideWeb resources. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	17	49%	13	37%	4	11%	1	3%	0	0%	4.3	0.8	4.0	35
Instructional value of course assignments (term papers, project, etc.). (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	21	55%	13	34%	4	11%	0	0%	0	0%	4.4	0.7	5.0	38
Fairness and impartiality of grading.	29	76%	6	16%	2	5%	1	3%	0	0%	4.7	0.7	5.0	38
Instructional value of examinations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	24	63%	11	29%	3	8%	0	0%	0	0%	4.6	0.6	5.0	38

Instructor's knowledge and command of subject matter. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

The instructor was able to explain complex material in a way that was simple to understand. I always felt I understood what was going on, and didn't feel left behind. He always made sure we understood every main point before moving on.

Phenomenal teacher! This class was by far the best political science class I have taken.

Deeply passionate about his subject matter

Hire this guy.

This course requires a lot of knowledge outside class.

Carlos seems tone very passionate about his work. His detailed explanations are very helpful, I only struggle because the statistical data and some of the models are complex.

The instructor is very confident in the subject matter and is great at communicating it to students. Coming into the class I was not very interested in it, but the instructor made the material interesting and taught it in a way that was organized well. Thanks for a great class!

Excelent professor! 12/10

Instructor's openness to discussion and ability to stimulate it. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

The instructor would take the time to answer any questions and really push us to figure out the answers, not just simply hand out answers.

Engages the class throughout his lecture by asking questions and emphatically encourages people to speak their mind

Hire this guy.

One of the of the most non biased PoliSci professors I've had, this made for really good conversations

Carlos is always willing to answer questions and back track if a student needs. He is a great instructor!

Instructor's availability for consultation.

The instructor was always available after class and had accessible office hours for anyone who needed extra help.

Always available after lectures and during office hours. The average wait time on emails has been 15 minutes and I always receive thoughtful, substantive responses.

Hire this guy.

His response of emails is amazing! It is so helpful!

Instructor is very willing to help and responsive to emails. I found this extremely helpful, thank you!

Clarity of course objectives and organization. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

This course has been one of the most organized I have ever taken. The slide sets are labeled by date, meeting, and includes highlighted headings and subheadings on every slide. It was also very helpful that a full class outline with descriptions of each section was placed on the syllabus to follow along.

Every lecture is outlined with the required readings that need to be done beforehand, however the classes as ordered by class meeting # and not date, which has lead to some confusion.

Hire this guy.

Effectiveness of style and methods of class presentations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

Lectures were very discussion based and students had the opportunity to participate in every step. It was engaging and I really enjoyed learning politics through empirical methods and data, rather than simply reading text. It makes me excited to learn how to actually code political data like that myself.

Carlos always has very well prepared slides and has graphs based on research that he has conducted himself as well as expert statistics. Learning from fresh research findings really makes me feel like I'm learning from someone in the heart of field.

Hire this guy. As for this one, there were some points where he would put questions on the presentation and it was up in the air whether the answer would be put up next or not.

I thought the class was presented in a way that was organized/structured very well.

 Even though knowing that the slides alone would not have all the info I need are what got me to the class in the first place, I would have liked to see a little bit more information on the slides themselves when reviewing for the final.

Relevance and educational value of readings and WorldWideWeb resources. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

The articles assigned were interesting and relevant to everything we studied. The only downside to this was that when reading the longer articles, I didn't know exactly what to pay attention to. Maybe a few guiding points on which sections to pay attention to, or even questions to answer as we read might help the discussion of the articles in class. Nonetheless, I still felt the articles were important to the lecture material.

The readings are all exceptional troves of knowledge, but there is a lot of material to cover and it can often be a little daunting.

Instructional value of course assignments (term papers, project, etc.). (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

The essay was helpful in focusing in on one political model. The instructions were straightforward and made writing the essay comfortable.

I'm just not a fan of having only two tests and a paper. I realize this is how university courses usually are, but I prefer more coursework so that if someone flubbs the midterm, they dont necessarily flubb the class.

two tests and an essay make up entire grade?

I would have like the course to be more essay based, because on the midterms I found that the multiple choice and model were very difficult. I did well on the others but those tanked my grade. I thought we were going to be tested on one of the models that we went over on the lecture slides. Maybe this was a different way of testing us on what we already learned, it was just a little difficult and took nearly if not as long as the essay.

Fairness and impartiality of grading.

Grading policies are top notch. Even though I don't expect them to apply to me, such as the All is Forgiven policy or Amnesty Period for Quizzes, they are incredibly helpful to other students who care about their grade and need a second chance to work hard at it.

Students do not sign their names on the blue books, they sign their student ID. This way, there is absolutely no bias when grading exams.

Instructional value of examinations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

The midterm was challenging, which is, in my opinion, a great thing. Each part helped strengthen our writing, logical, and analytical skills. The comprehensive study guide was incredibly helpful, it helped me organize the sections in a logical manner that made sense to me and then I was able to remember the material better on test day.

Examination verbiage is not very clear and I find it adds an unnecessary aspect of difficulty to the tests.

Best exams I've had all quarter with a very fair grading system.

Thanks for an amazing quarter, you are the best professor I've had and I enjoyed your class very much!

I would definitely recommend Carlos for intro POL courses!

Carlos Algara was a great instructor but the one thing that I found difficult was that this course did not feel like an intro. I felt like a lot of the time he assumed that we knew what specific things meant, and a lot of the time that made me fall behind with the material. In other words, he used a lot of jargon, and as someone who's never taken a Political Science class before, that was difficult. Other than that, he was very enthusiastic about the material which was probably his best quality.

I felt that the midterm was a very comprehensive exam of the material we had been taught in the class and I thought it was very straight-forward. While it was still difficult I did not feel that the instructor was trying to trick us in any way which happens a lot with other exams I take.

Term	Eval Opened	CRN	Subject	Course	Section	Enrollment	% Response
Fall Quarter 2017	12/1/2017 12:00 AM	58003	POL	001	003	49	77