



# WashU Fall 2019 Instructor Report for FL2019.L32.Pol Sci.326B.01 - Latin-American Politics (Patrick Cunha Silva)

Project Title: **WashU Fall 2019 Course Evaluations**

Courses Audience: **25**

Responses Received: **11**

Response Ratio: **44.00%**

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## Report Comments

Welcome to your Instructor Report for WashU Course Evaluations. Below you will find response data from the specified course section. Responses to personalized questions appear at the bottom of the report.

The intention of this report is to provide feedback, and also to prompt improvement in areas that may be lacking. This report is accessible to appropriate department level and school level users, as determined by your school. We appreciate your dedication to our learning community at Washington University.

If you have questions about this report, please contact [evals@wustl.edu](mailto:evals@wustl.edu)

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Creation Date: **Friday, March 6, 2020**

## Course and Instructor Evaluation

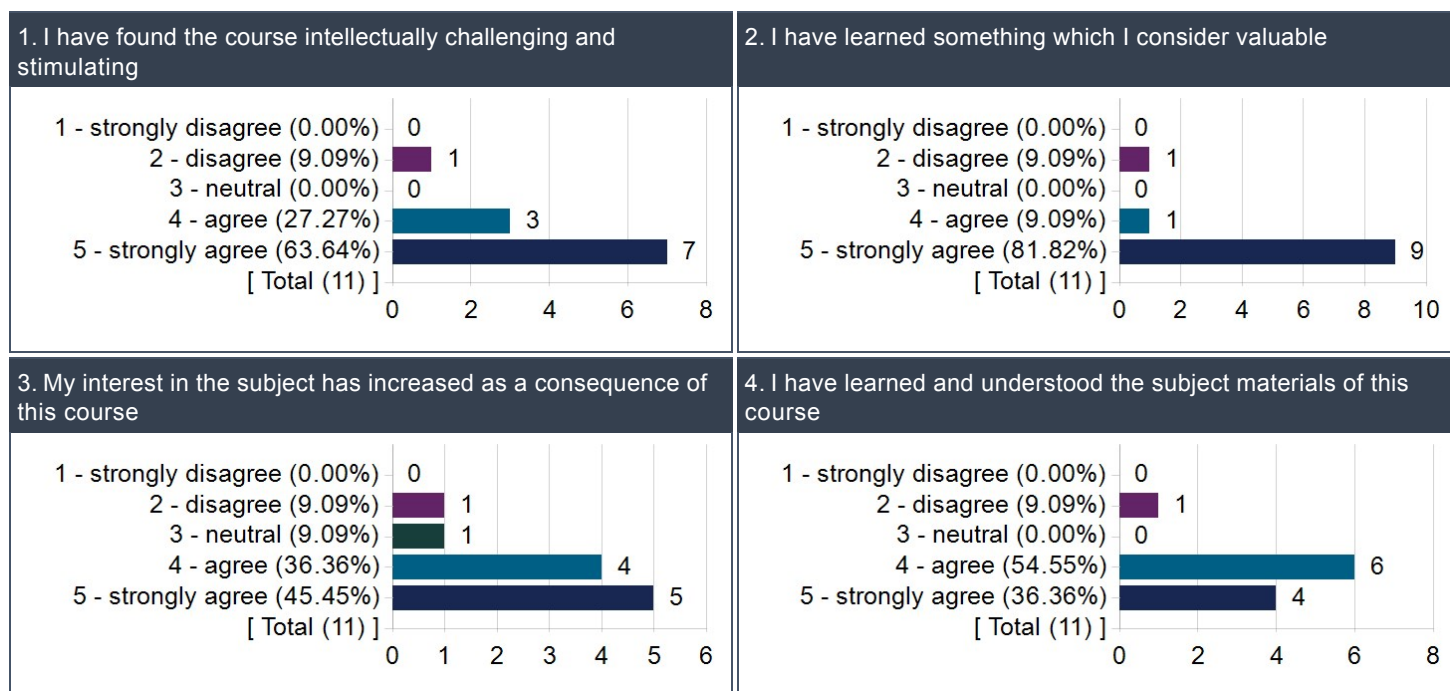
Past research shows that the students' answers to any one question can be noisy, more prone to biases, and provide less useful data for evaluating courses and instructors. Since interpreting individual questions, including their relative highs and lows, can easily lead to inaccurate conclusions due to low reliability, individual question responses are not available in any standard report.

However, combining students' responses to several questions aimed at measuring the same underlying attribute can improve the quality of the measures. Therefore, the statistics displayed for each attribute (mean, median, mode, and standard deviation) are calculated from the grouped responses to all the questions in each topical block.

All questions below use a 5-point response scale: 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree

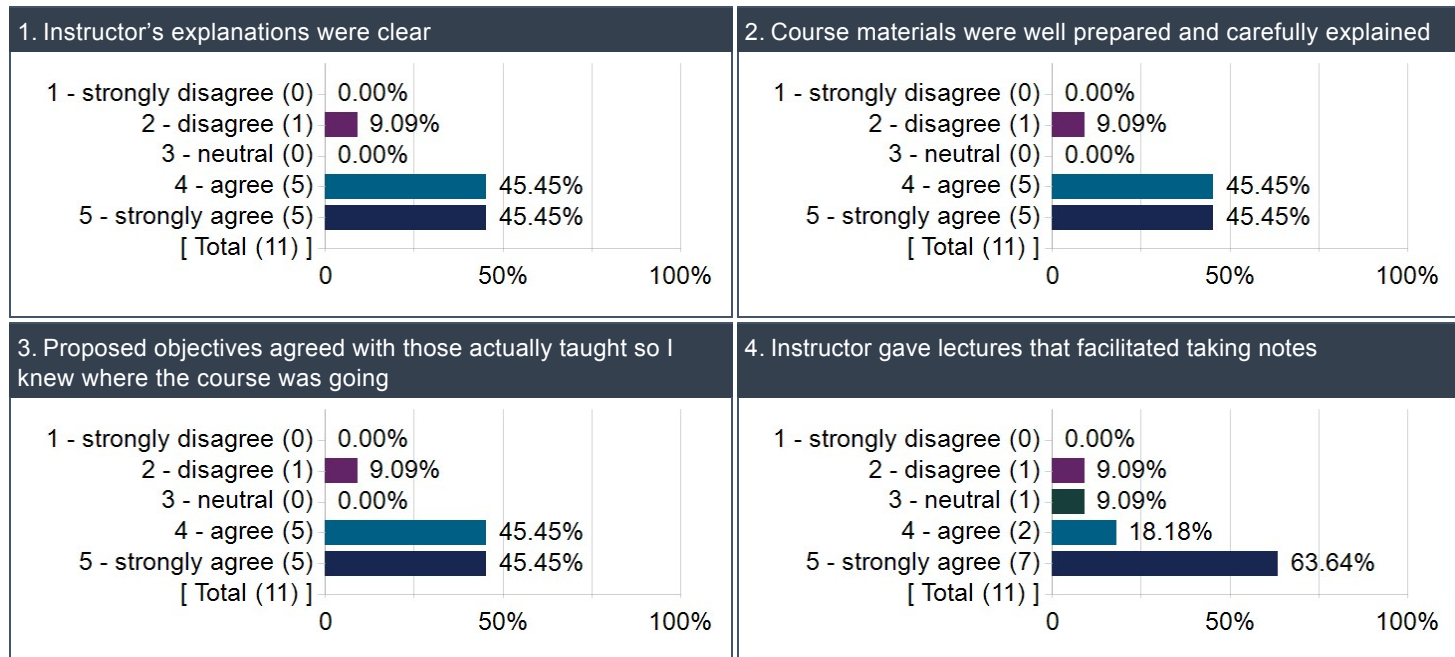
### Learning

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.36
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.92

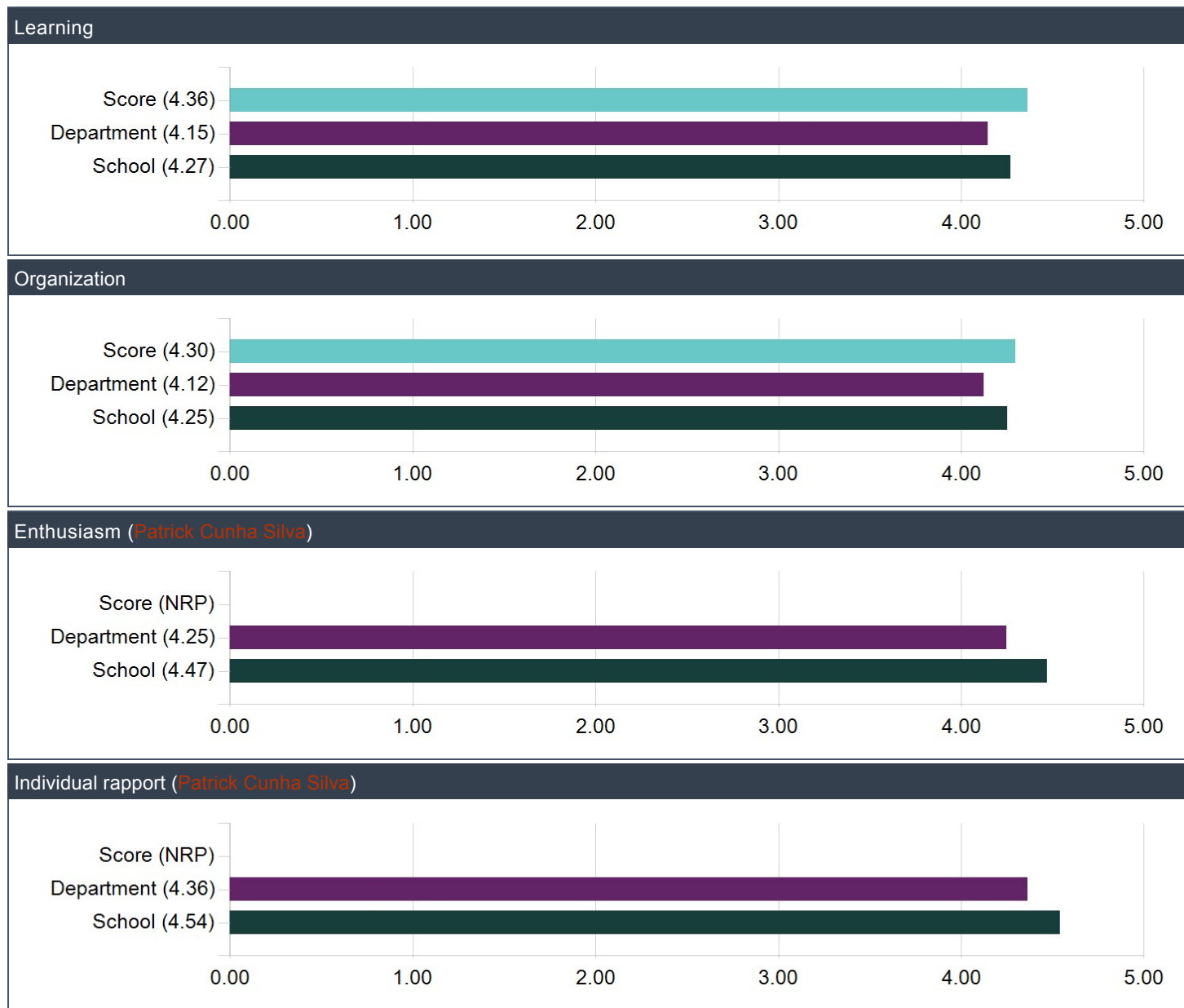


## Organization

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.30
Median	4.50
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.90



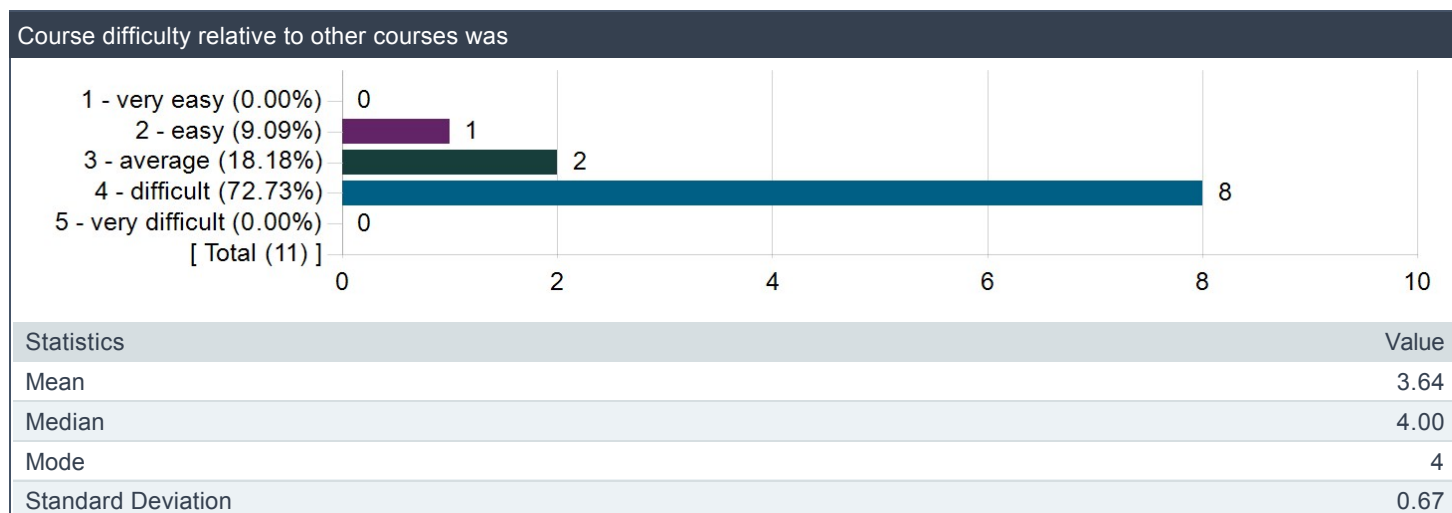
## Comparison Detail for Course and Instructor Evaluation



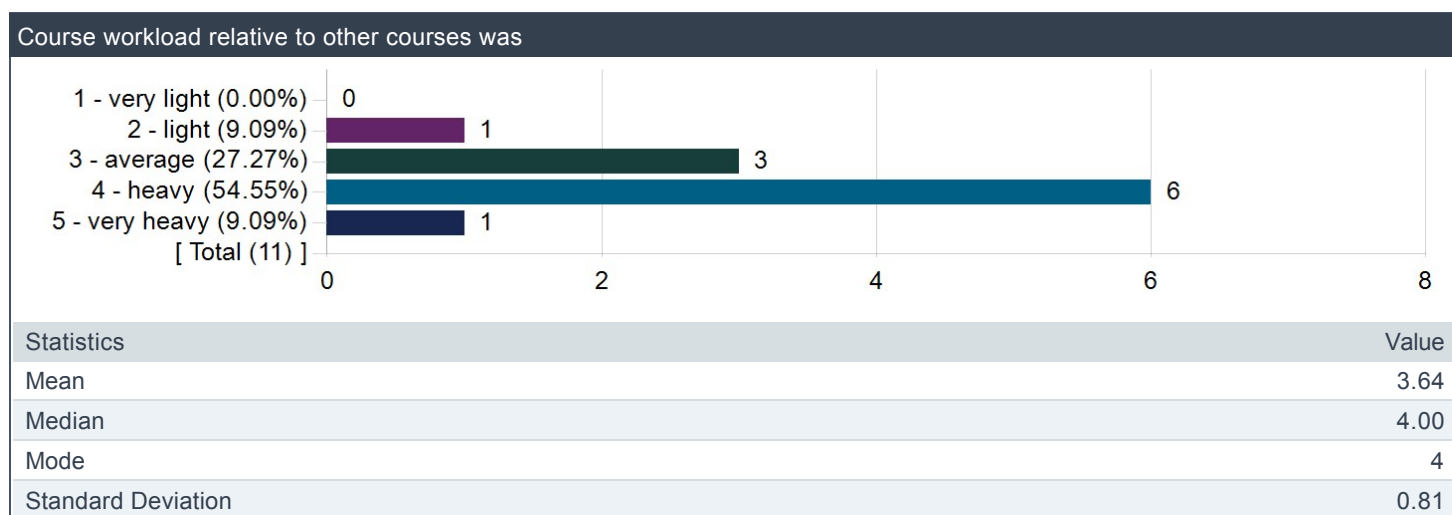
## Varied Rating Scale Responses

The varied rating scale responses are statistically reliable as individual questions.

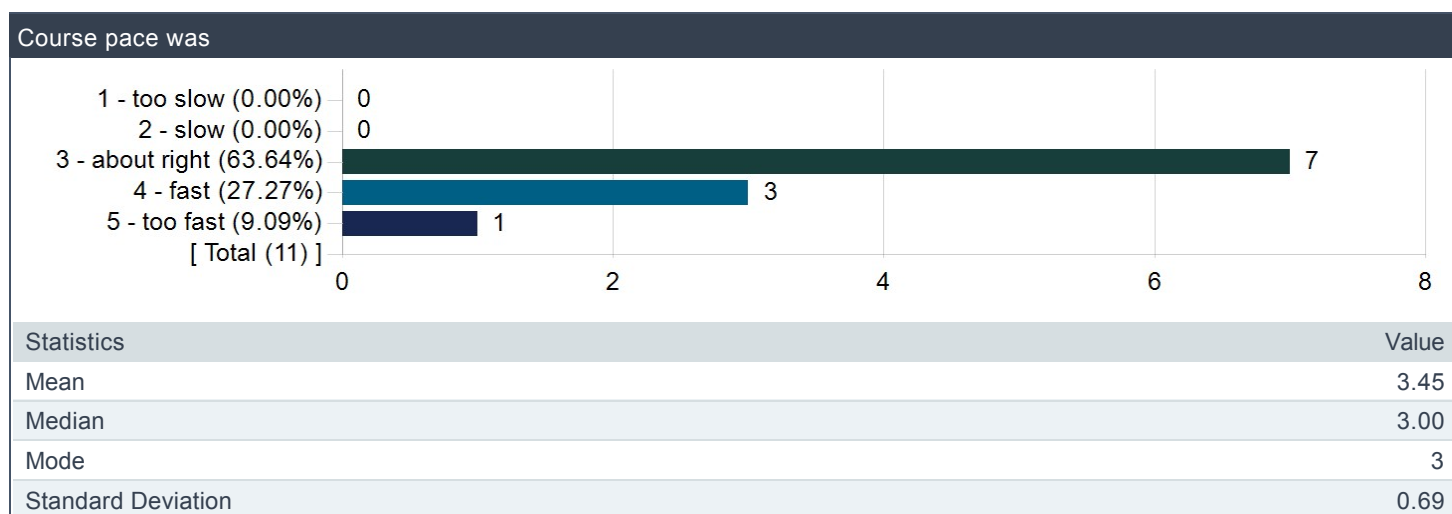
## Course difficulty relative to other courses was



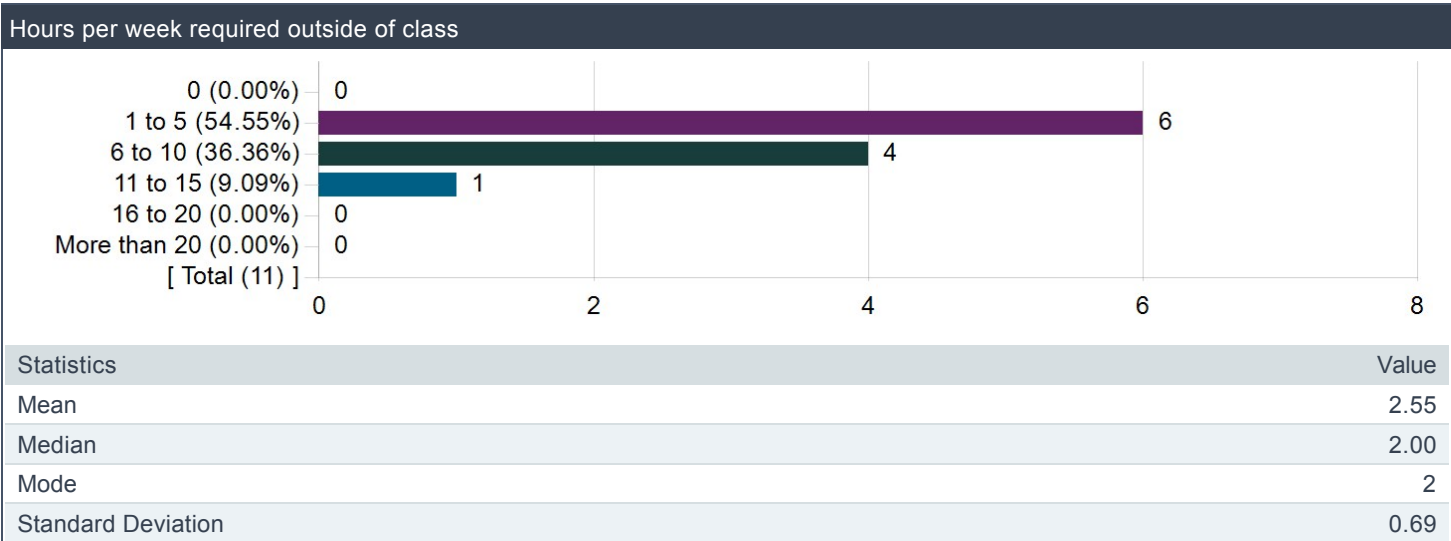
## Course workload relative to other courses was



## Course pace was

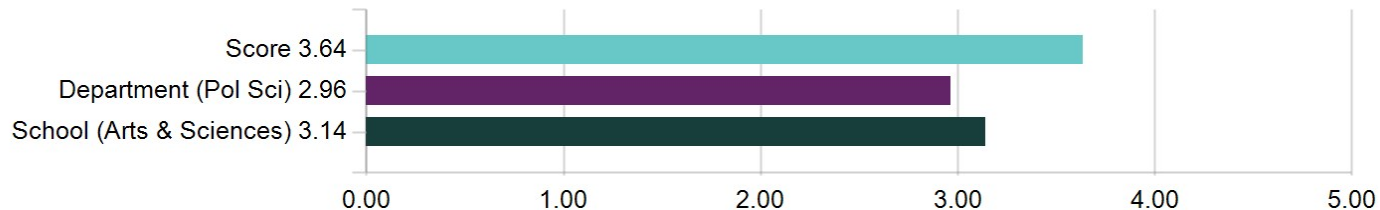


Hours per week required outside of class

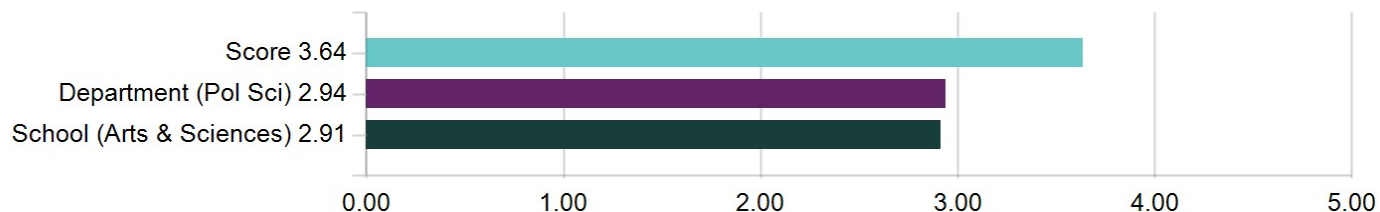


## Comparison Detail for Varied Rating Scale Responses

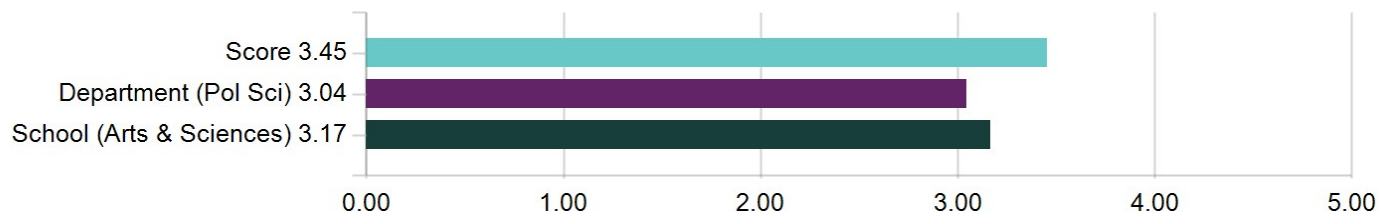
### 1. Course difficulty relative to other courses was



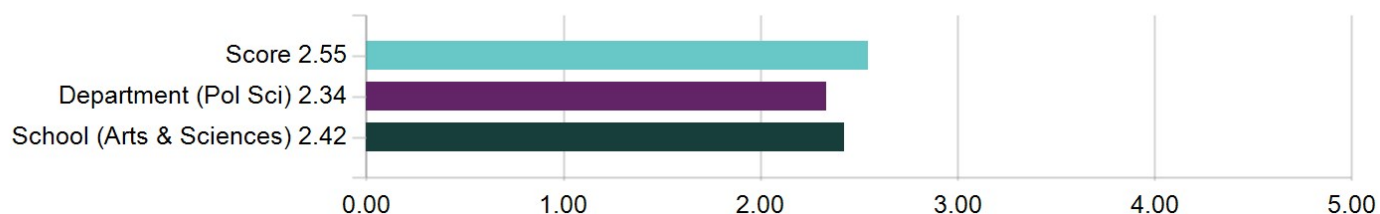
### 2. Course workload relative to other courses was



### 3. Course pace was



### 4. Hours per week required outside of class



## Short Answer Responses

### What would you like to tell other Wash U students thinking about taking this course?

Comments
Intensive class but worth it
I would not recommend taking this class. The readings are incredibly dense, and you are expected to have read them, which is NOT a big deal. However, you are immediately expected by the next class following the incredibly dense and boring and confusing readings TO UNDERSTAND them. then you are quizzed on them, THEN they are explained to you (maybe. usually they are not explained well.) This class is incredibly fast paced, and the explanations are usually unclear. I think someone who has a solid background in latin american foreign relations, politics, HISTORY etc, would be in a much better position to take this course. I wouldn't take this course if you have little to no context about latin american politics. (which is semi-fair because it's not an intro course, but the amount of information we're expected to know for this class is much more than any other class I've been in at washu). Finally, the way that we are tested in this class is horrible. one midterm, one final. no study guides, limited guidance. everyone underperformed on the midterm, which is telling of how well people are digesting the large amounts of information that is thrown out at us. I think more frequent check-ins or testing are necessary. I left this class knowing that professor rosas was trying to weave a comprehensive narrative regarding latin american politics through the 21st century, but that narrative was ultimately not delivered.
The course provides a thorough overview of Latin American politics and touches upon a wide variety of historical/social/cultural concepts. However, students should know that a lot of the information and assignments are quantitatively based and could be difficult to understand without a background in poli sci stats.
A broad encompassing approach to Latin America's history and political development from the end of the Pre-Colombian era to the 2000s. Be warned, lots of reading, but just make sure to understand the main point of the papers assigned, understanding the statistical analysis and techniques is not important.
You will have to read a lot for this course, but it is definitely worth it. The readings are often very interesting work in political science and if you commit yourself to them you will learn a ton of information about politics and governance in Latin America. You have to keep up with all the reading to do well, but the information you learn makes it worth your while
I would say that students interested in political science, or in political events in Latin America and are willing to learn about it through quantitative methods should take this course.
The course was synthesized in such a way that it was never teaching the content and subject matters from a western "outside looking in" point of view but rather one which was authentically derived from and rooted in specifically Latin American Political Science as a subfield of study within Comparative-Method Political Science.
Focus more on the specific paper readings than the textbook if you are pressed for time. Keep up with your course readings, it's easy to fall behind

### Describe at least one thing about this course that helped you learn.

Comments
to consolidate the hellenger readings and the other articles.
The best part of this class were the assignments. They were actually interesting/engaging, and I found them to be an interesting challenge. I would increase the amount of projects/data analysis in this class, or test more frequently. The data analysis (for example the assignment on how much the executive respects constitutions) helped me understand the topics better than any explanation in class. The readings WOULD have been helpful, if they were ever properly explained, instead of glossed over.
The style of presentation, using slides/graphs/data, was engaging and kept my attention. I appreciated that Rosas spent more time on concepts difficult to understand and answered students' questions.
Lecture
Professor Rosas had very good presentations that expanded upon many of the concepts and methodologies used in the readings.
I think that having all of the readings done before class helped me prepare for both lectures and exams, additionally having assignments on the readings helped reinforce the material covered in class.
Professor Rosas knows how to hold and sustain a classroom's focus.
The slides facilitated note-taking as did Dr Rosas's presentation style.



Describe at least one thing that could be changed about this course to help you learn.

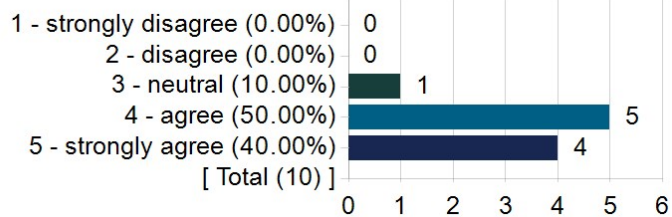
Comments
I was not a fan of plickers
See above comments. Another note, there were incredible amounts of relevant contemporary latin american political issues going on throughout this course, and we never discussed it. I would read about Bolivia, argentina, mexico in the news, and it was never contextualized into what we learning in class. seems like a missed opportunity. Ultimately, there are other political science courses that I feel like I would have learned more in.
There should be greater incorporation of group activities and conversations to make the course more interactive. It would encourage participation and help students understand concepts through discussion.
I think the course is pretty much perfect. Students just have to be aware that they must keep up with the reading to succeed.
I wish that plicker questions and their correct answers were made more clear in class and on Canvas. Additionally, I am unsure if the paper method of plicker points was the most effective way to quiz the class on the readings.
Practice tests could be implemented. Aside from the midterm and final there isn't any exposure to what assessments look like and value for this class specifically which makes them hard to prepare for given the dense amount of content covered.
Some more grounding in party systems and national politics may help ground some of the ideas presented. Quite often it felt like I lacked context to understand why certain historical political events were important since I didn't have the requisite background information

## AI Evaluation for Patrick Cunha Silva

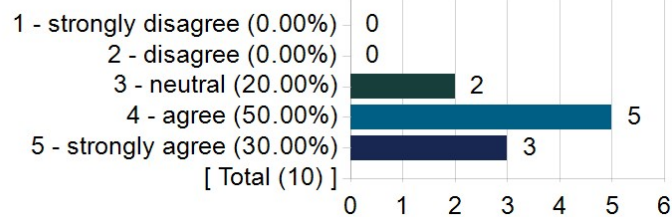
### Instruction

Question	Score			
	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median
Material was presented clearly	10	4.30	0.67	4.00
Questions were answered clearly and concisely	10	4.10	0.74	4.00
Material was presented at an appropriate pace	10	4.20	1.03	4.50
The instructor was well prepared for section	10	4.60	0.70	5.00
The instructor used time well	10	4.50	0.71	5.00
The instructor effectively led the section	10	4.50	0.71	5.00
Topics were effectively related to the course lectures	10	4.60	0.70	5.00
Communicated at a level appropriate for the class	10	4.50	0.85	5.00

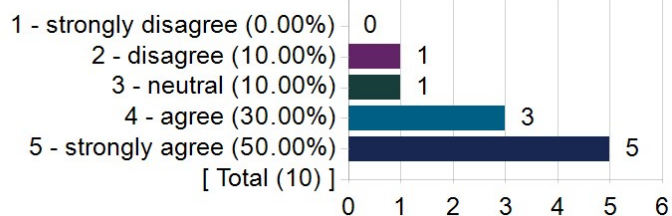
### 1. Material was presented clearly



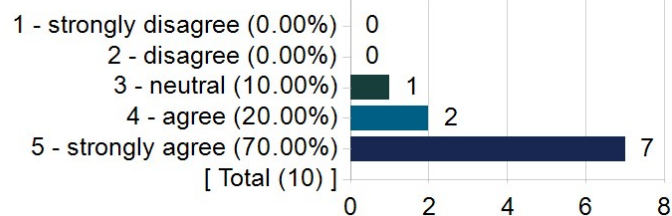
### 2. Questions were answered clearly and concisely



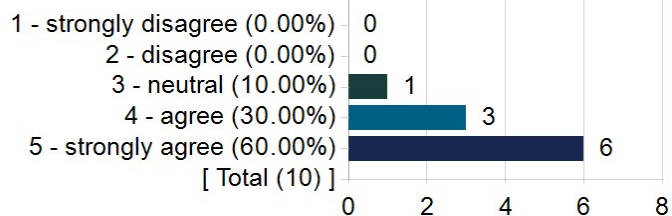
### 3. Material was presented at an appropriate pace



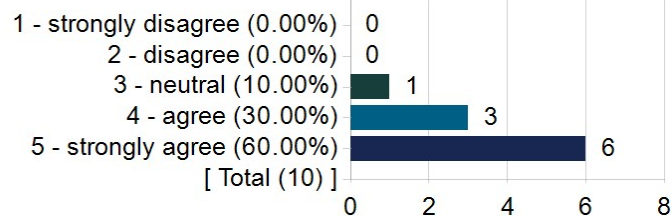
### 4. The instructor was well prepared for section



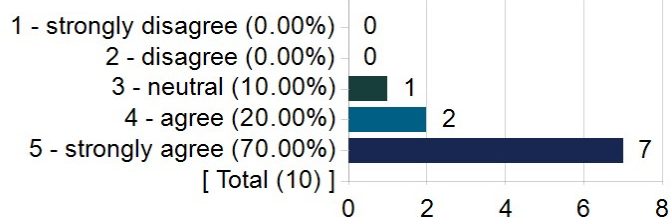
### 5. The instructor used time well



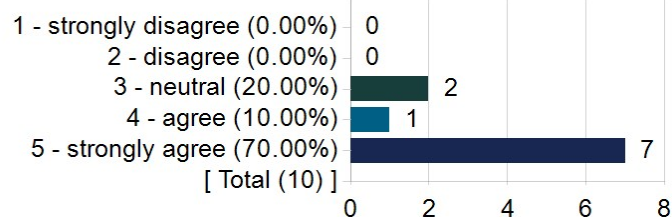
### 6. The instructor effectively led the section



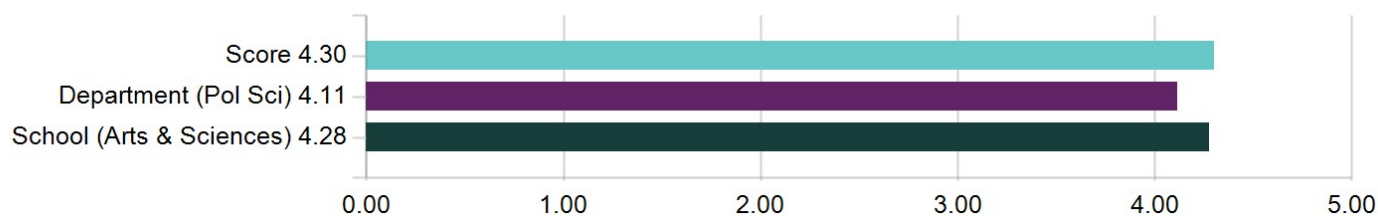
### 7. Topics were effectively related to the course lectures



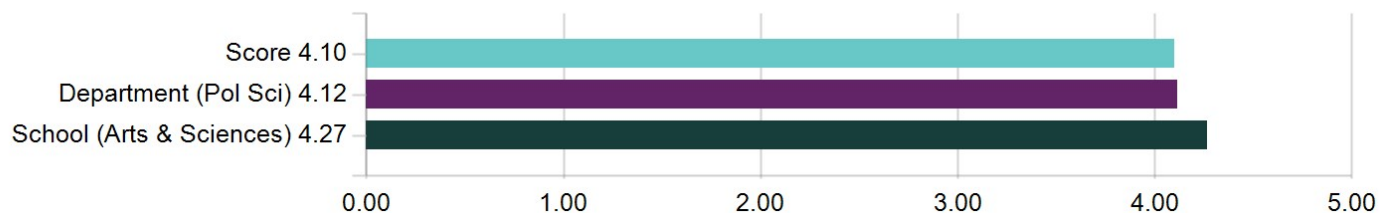
### 8. Communicated at a level appropriate for the class



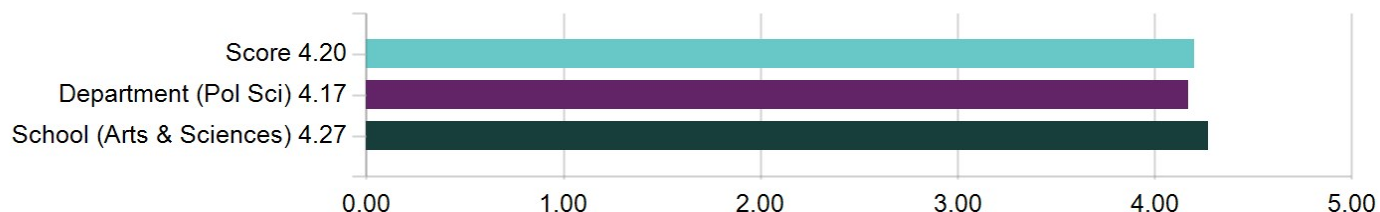
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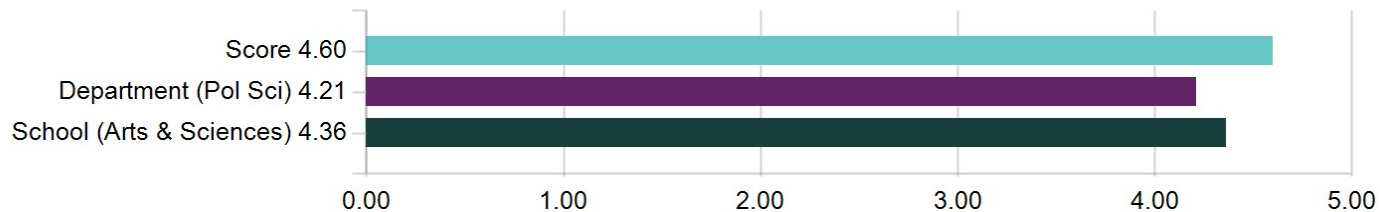
## 2. Questions were answered clearly and concisely



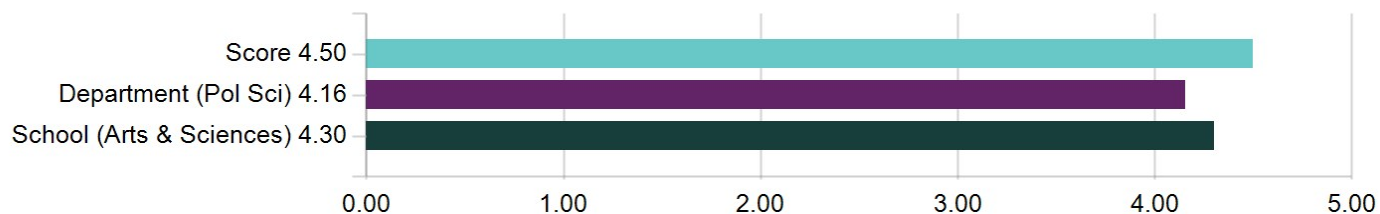
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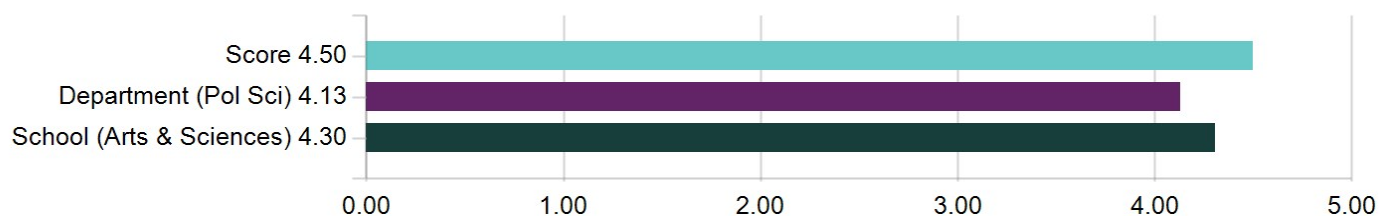
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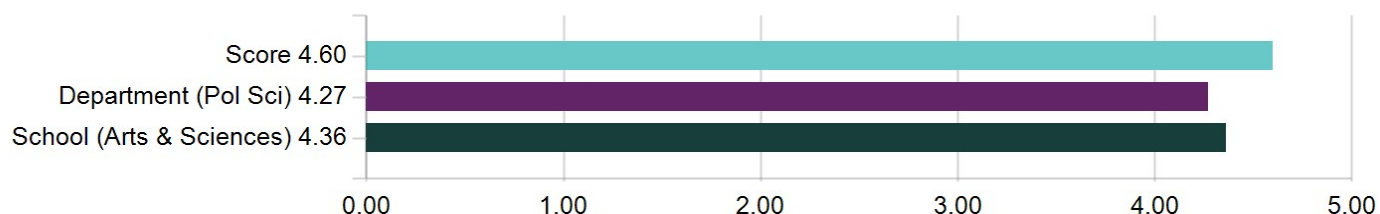
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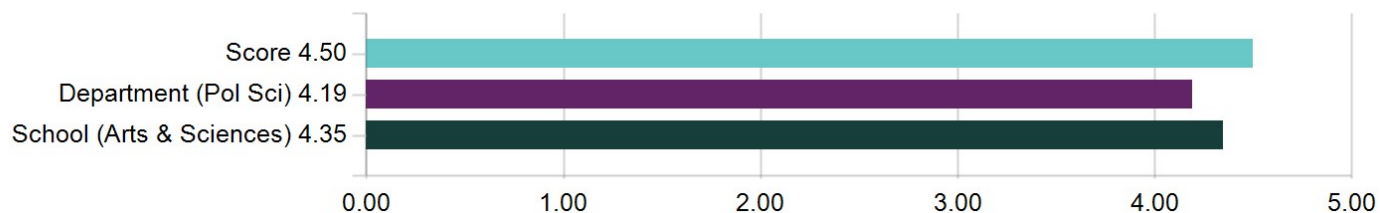
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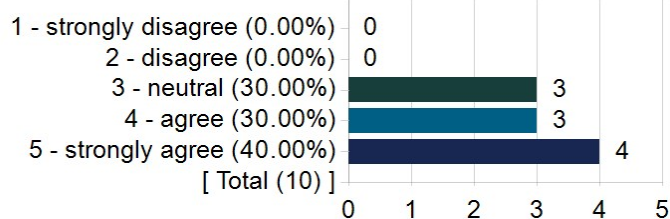
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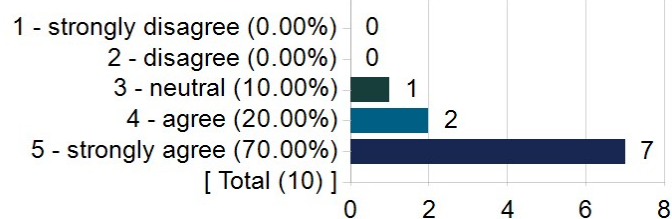
## Interaction with Students

Question	Score			
	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median
Expectations were clearly explained	10	4.10	0.88	4.00
Grading procedures were fair	10	4.60	0.70	5.00
Instructor was concerned for students	10	4.30	0.82	4.50
Instructor was available for consultation outside of section	10	4.30	0.95	5.00
Instructor maintained positive environment in section	10	4.40	0.97	5.00

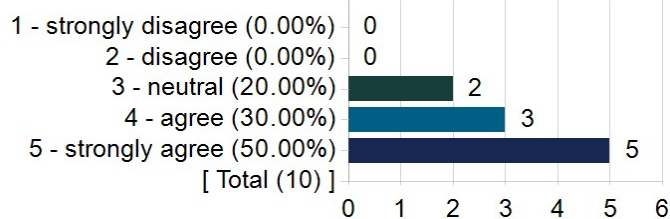
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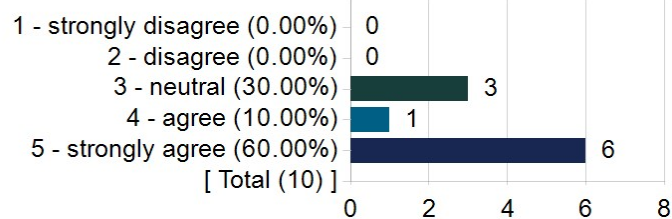
### 2. Grading procedures were fair



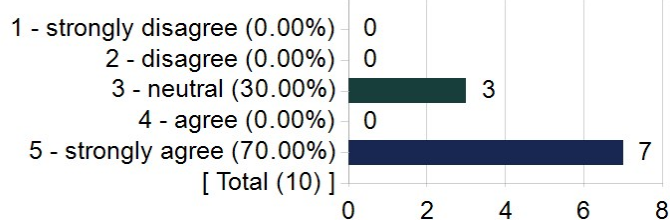
### 3. Instructor was concerned for students



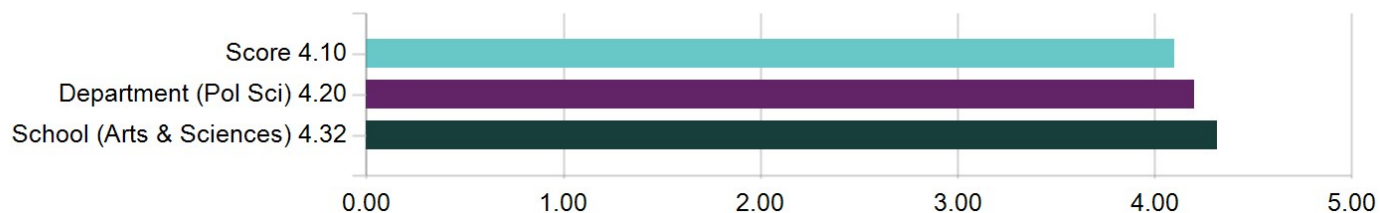
### 4. Instructor was available for consultation outside of section



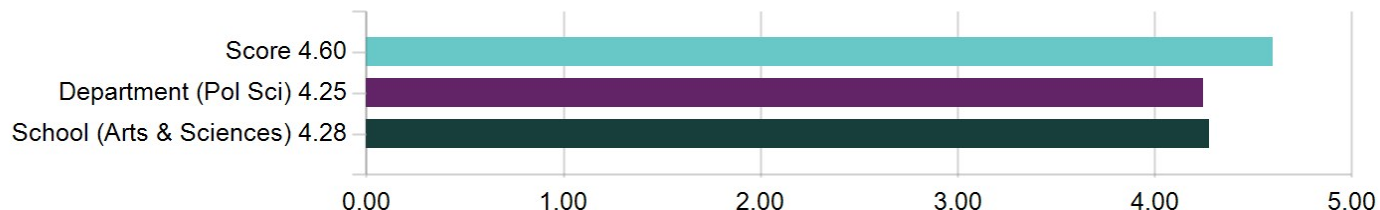
### 5. Instructor maintained positive environment in section



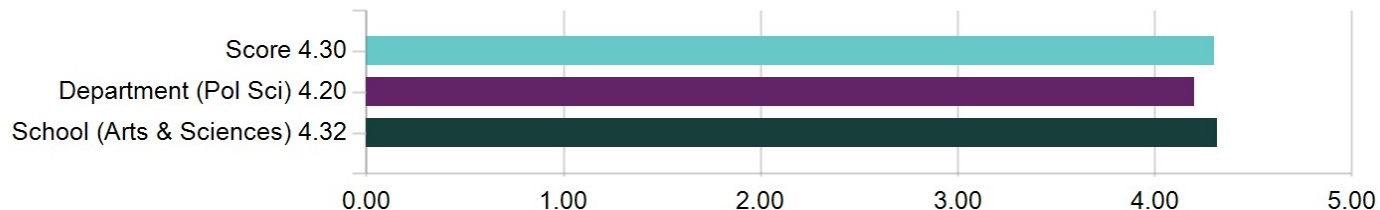
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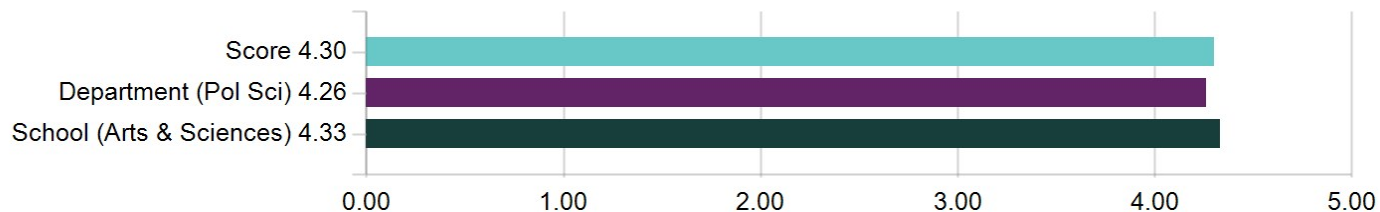
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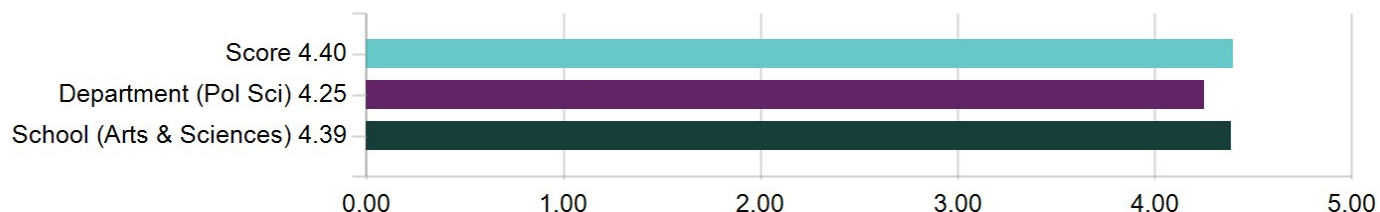
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### 5. Instructor maintained positive environment in section



Please provide any additional feedback on **Patrick Cunha Silva** that was not covered by the previous questions.

#### Comments

n/a

Al Cunha Silva is extremely knowledgeable but would help his students share in that knowledge by presenting it in such a refined way as to make it simple to understand and at that connect it to things we're already likely to be familiar with so as to make us clear on why we should care about or think of a specific piece of content in the way which we should in line with the goal(s) of a given lesson.

