Fall 2020 Arts & Sciences Instructor Report for FL2020.L32.Pol Sci.505.01 - Theories of Individual and Collective Choice I (Tony Yang)

Project Title: **Fall 2020 Course Evaluations - Danforth Campus**

Courses Audience: **10**
Responses Received: **4**
Response Ratio: **40.0%**

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, June 24, 2021**

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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.

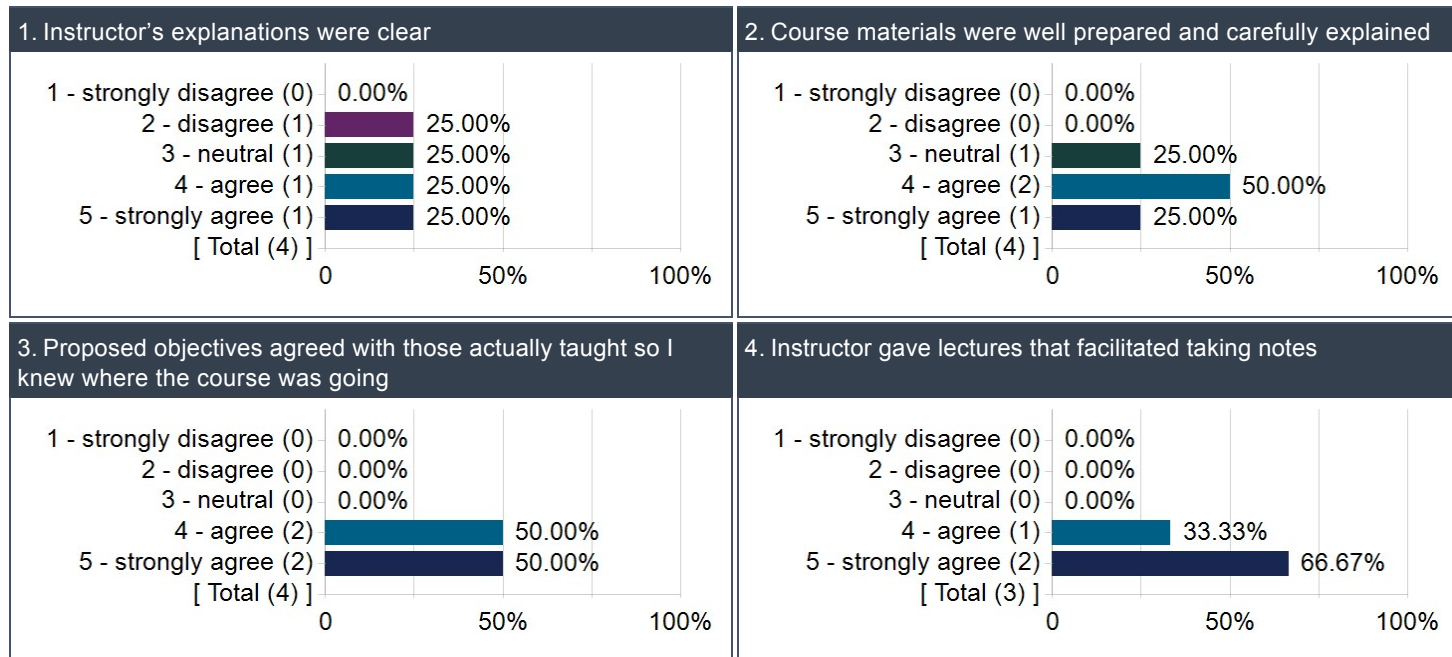All questions below use a 5-point response scale: 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree

Learning

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.82

1. I have found the course intellectually challenging and stimulating

1 - strongly disagree (0.00%)	0
2 - disagree (0.00%)	0
3 - neutral (0.00%)	0
4 - agree (0.00%)	0
5 - strongly agree (100.00%)	4
[Total (4)]	

2. I have learned something which I consider valuable

1 - strongly disagree (0.00%)	0
2 - disagree (0.00%)	0
3 - neutral (0.00%)	0
4 - agree (25.00%)	1
5 - strongly agree (75.00%)	3
[Total (4)]	

3. My interest in the subject has increased as a consequence of this course

1 - strongly disagree (0.00%)	0
2 - disagree (0.00%)	0
3 - neutral (25.00%)	1
4 - agree (0.00%)	0
5 - strongly agree (75.00%)	3
[Total (4)]	

4. I have learned and understood the subject materials of this course

1 - strongly disagree (0.00%)	0
2 - disagree (0.00%)	0
3 - neutral (50.00%)	2
4 - agree (25.00%)	1
5 - strongly agree (25.00%)	1
[Total (4)]	

Organization

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.17
Median	4.00
Mode	4, 5
Standard Deviation	0.92

1. Instructor's explanations were clear

1 - strongly disagree (0)	0.00%
2 - disagree (1)	25.00%
3 - neutral (1)	25.00%
4 - agree (1)	25.00%
5 - strongly agree (1)	25.00%
[Total (4)]	

2. Course materials were well prepared and carefully explained

1 - strongly disagree (0)	0.00%
2 - disagree (0)	0.00%
3 - neutral (1)	25.00%
4 - agree (2)	50.00%
5 - strongly agree (1)	25.00%
[Total (4)]	

3. Proposed objectives agreed with those actually taught so I knew where the course was going

1 - strongly disagree (0)	0.00%
2 - disagree (0)	0.00%
3 - neutral (0)	0.00%
4 - agree (2)	50.00%
5 - strongly agree (2)	50.00%
[Total (4)]	

4. Instructor gave lectures that facilitated taking notes

1 - strongly disagree (0)	0.00%
2 - disagree (0)	0.00%
3 - neutral (0)	0.00%
4 - agree (1)	33.33%
5 - strongly agree (2)	66.67%
[Total (3)]	

Comparison Detail for Course and Instructor Evaluation

Learning

Score (4.50)	
Department (4.38)	
School (4.32)	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

Organization

Score (4.17)	
Department (4.38)	
School (4.28)	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

Enthusiasm (Tony Yang)

Score (NRP)	
Department (4.37)	
School (4.44)	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

Individual rapport (Tony Yang)

Score (NRP)	
Department (4.63)	
School (4.56)	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00
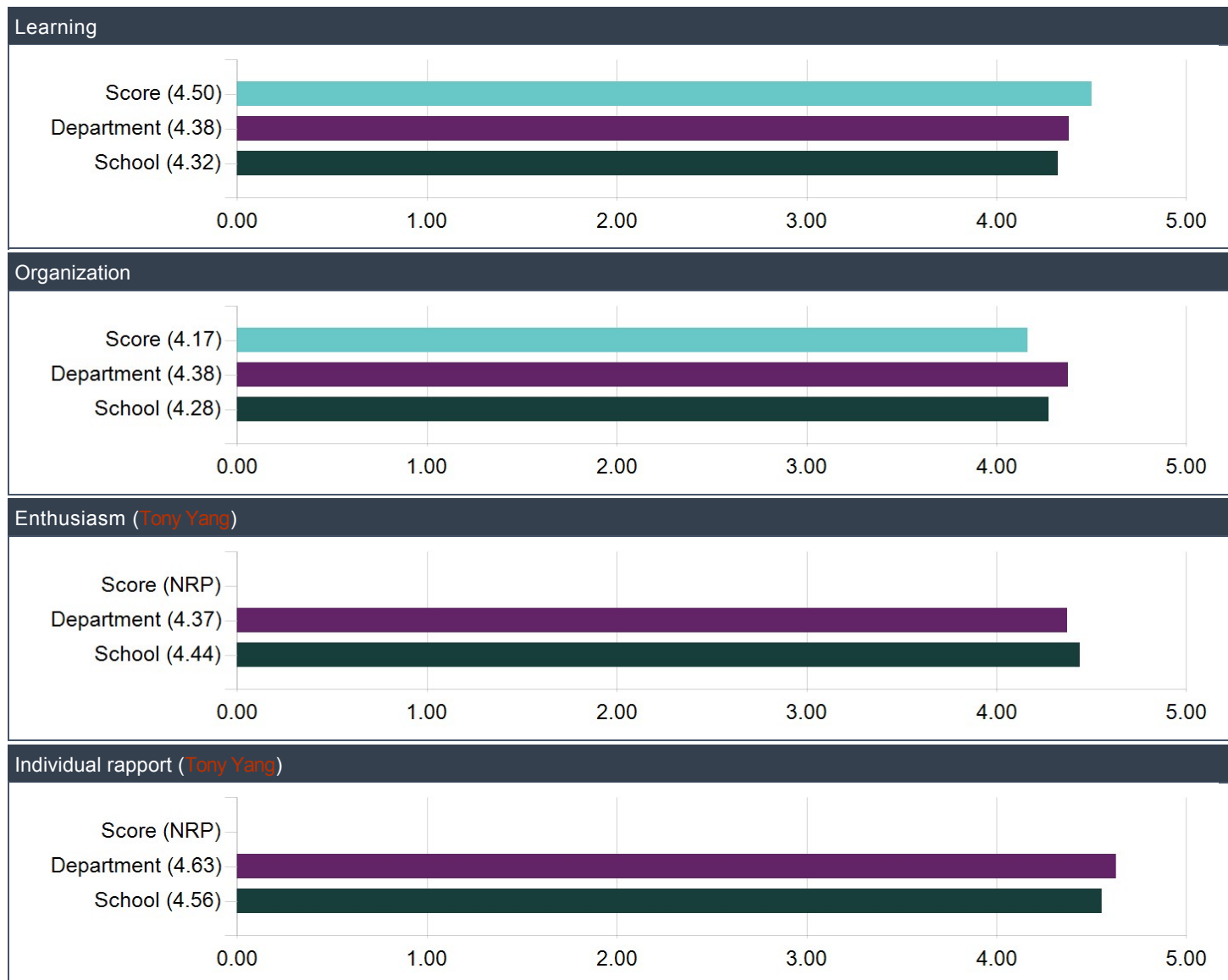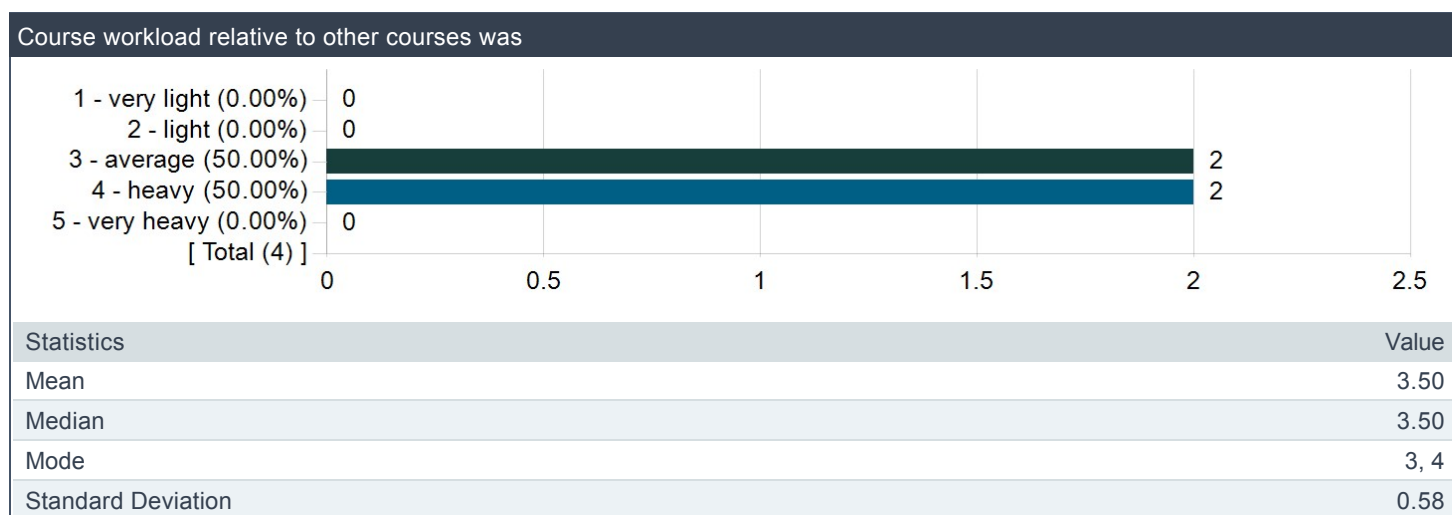
Varied Rating Scale Responses

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

Course difficulty relative to other courses was
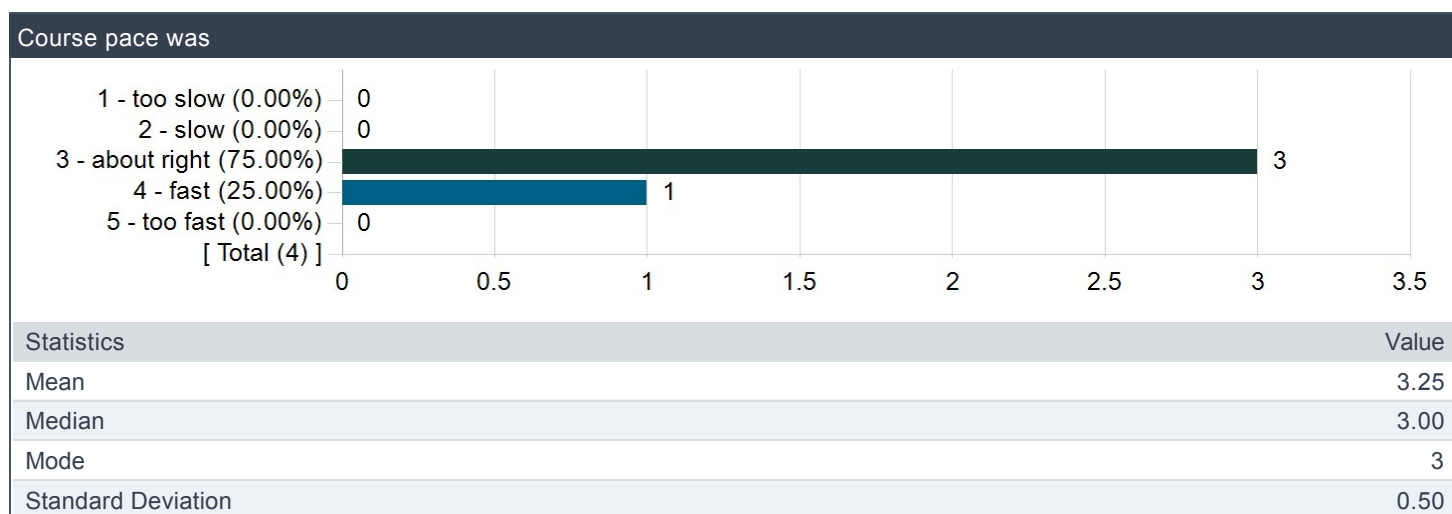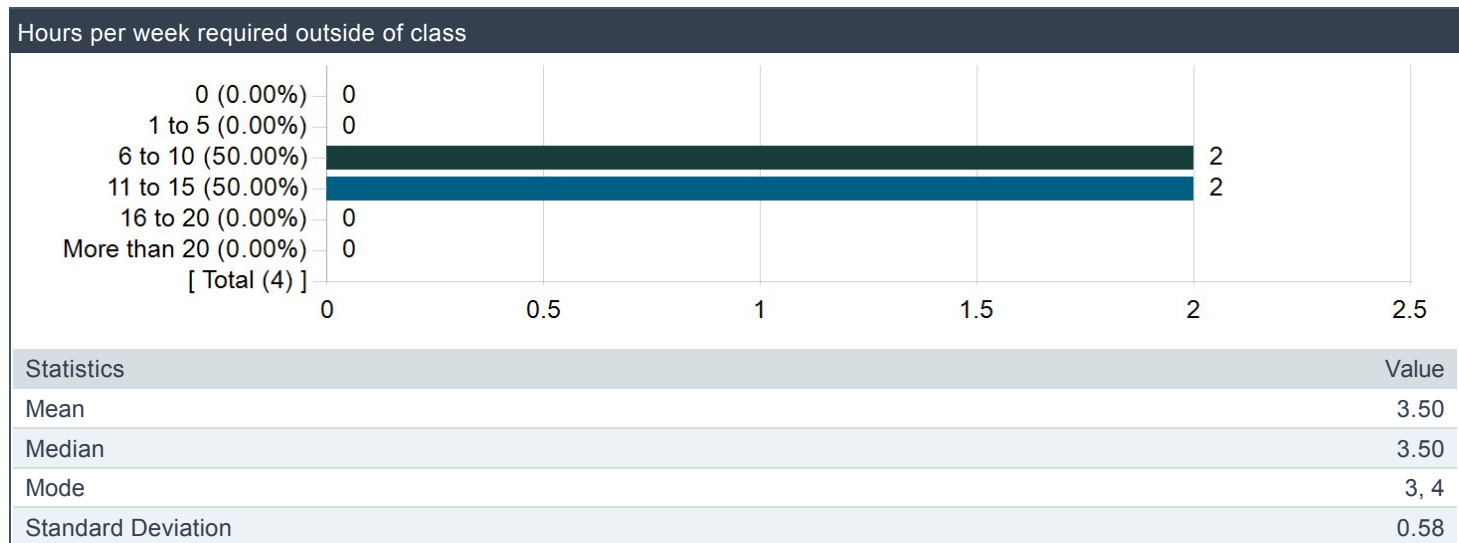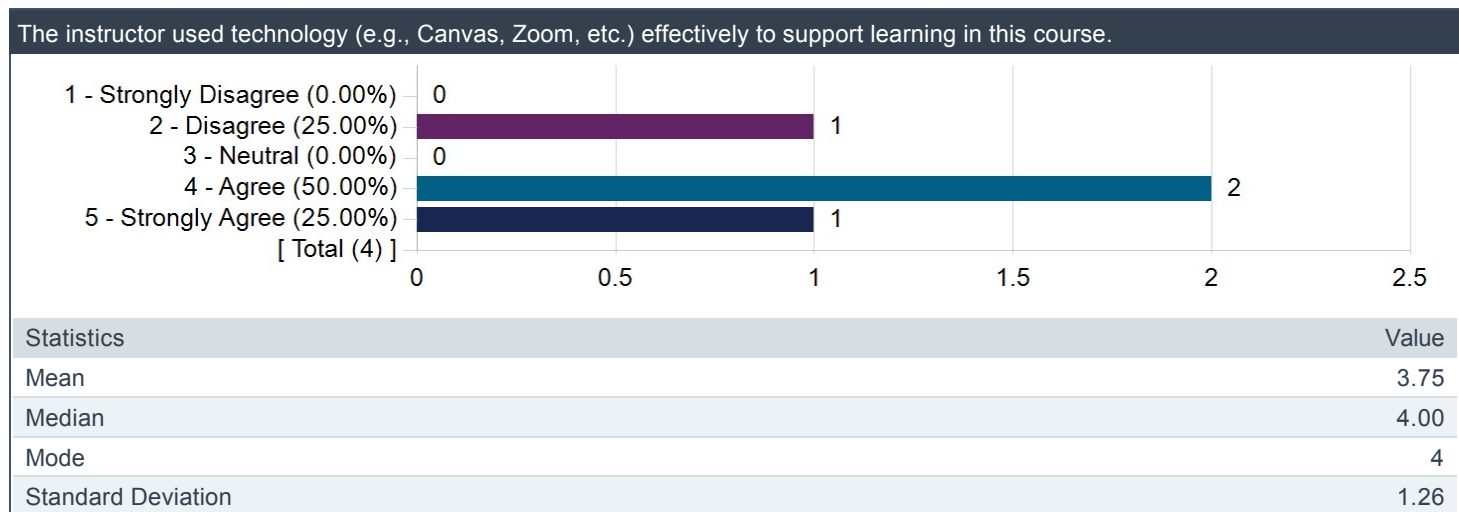
Course difficulty relative to other courses was

1 - very easy (0.00%)	0
2 - easy (0.00%)	0
3 - average (25.00%)	1
4 - difficult (25.00%)	1
5 - very difficult (50.00%)	2
[Total (4)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.25
Median	4.50
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.96

Course workload relative to other courses was

Course workload relative to other courses was

1 - very light (0.00%)	0
2 - light (0.00%)	0
3 - average (50.00%)	2
4 - heavy (50.00%)	2
5 - very heavy (0.00%)	0
[Total (4)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	3.50
Median	3.50
Mode	3, 4
Standard Deviation	0.58

Course pace was

Course pace was

1 - too slow (0.00%)	0
2 - slow (0.00%)	0
3 - about right (75.00%)	3
4 - fast (25.00%)	1
5 - too fast (0.00%)	0
[Total (4)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	3.25
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.50

Hours per week required outside of class

Hours per week required outside of class

	Value

0 (0.00%) — 0
1 to 5 (0.00%) — 0
6 to 10 (50.00%) — 2
11 to 15 (50.00%) — 2
16 to 20 (0.00%) — 0
More than 20 (0.00%) — 0
[Total (4)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	3.50
Median	3.50
Mode	3, 4
Standard Deviation	0.58

Comparison Detail for Varied Rating Scale Responses

Learning Technology and Interaction

The instructor used technology (e.g., Canvas, Zoom, etc.) effectively to support learning in this course.

The instructor used technology (e.g., Canvas, Zoom, etc.) effectively to support learning in this course.

1 - Strongly Disagree (0.00%) — 0
2 - Disagree (25.00%) — 1
3 - Neutral (0.00%) — 0
4 - Agree (50.00%) — 2
5 - Strongly Agree (25.00%) — 1
[Total (4)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	3.75
Median	4.00
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	1.26

Would you have preferred more or less synchronous (live) engagement in this course?

Would you have preferred more or less synchronous (live) engagement in this course?	
1 - Much less (0.00%)	0
2 - Somewhat less (0.00%)	0
3 - About the same (25.00%)	1
4 - Somewhat more (0.00%)	0
5 - Much more (75.00%)	3
[Total (4)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.00
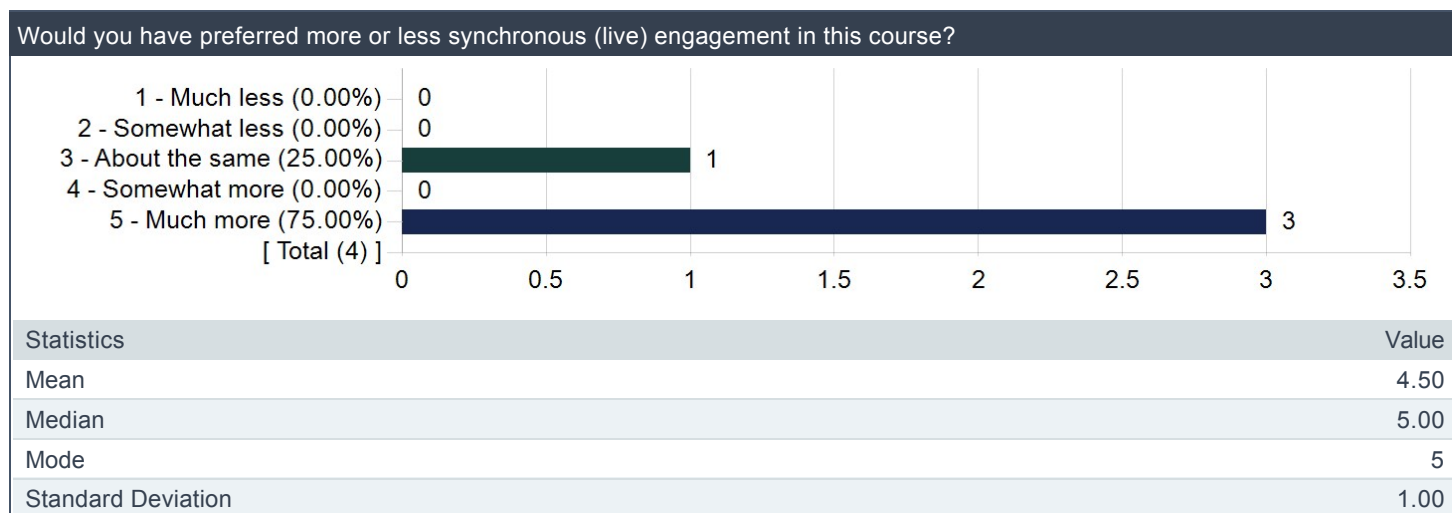
Short Answer Responses

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

Comments
The course was challenging and very stimulating. It was a lot more math than I initially anticipated, but I found it quite cool to see the applications in Political Science The professor was extremely knowledgeable and eager to help students with any difficulties or questions. I learned so much over the course of the semester!
It's more difficult than you think — granted, it is a graduate–level course so few WashU students would likely consider taking it, but it's the most difficult course I've ever taken.

Describe at least one thing about this course that helped you feel connected to the instructor and your peers.

Comments
There were weekly one on one sessions with the professor that were extremely helpful to work through any misunderstandings. Also, weekly sessions with a graduate TA helped to practice the material and progress through the problem sets.
I thought the one–on–one meetings with the instructor were helpful. It was good to be able to ask questions without worrying about holding up the class
Is it too much to say that there was some trauma bonding between my cohort over this class? We spent a lot of time together struggling through problem sets, and I guess that's forming connections.

Describe at least one activity (an exercise, project, assignment, etc.) in this course that helped you learn.

Comments
Pretty much everything helped me learn and get better. Granted, it was like learning to ski on a black diamond slope, but it was learning. Assignments were (mostly) clear within the context of lecture videos, and feedback on assignments was useful — although sometimes it came rather late.

Describe at least one aspect of how this course was designed and carried out (the organization, structure, communication, etc.) that contributed to your success.

Comments
Everything built on previous material, so there was a clear and logical progression of how the material related to itself from week to week. The prof was generally good about being reasonably up–to–date with any announcements or changes (I'm inclined to give him a pass for the events in December; family comes first).

Describe at least one thing about this course that could be changed to help you feel more connected to the instructor and your peers.

Comments
Maybe it's just me, but asynchronous lecture videos are not an ideal way to deliver a course that heavily relies on a mathematical understanding of material. I'll admit that I didn't utilize the office hours nearly as effectively as I could (and should) have, but honestly I hated much of this class because (again, somewhat self–inflicted) I felt like I was fumbling around in the dark. I get that this is challenging and the challenge is a necessary part of the graduate experience, and life. I get that it's not really the instructor's fault of the broader circumstances, and I generally assume that this course is much more functional when things are "normal." But please, consider synchronous course meetings if possible, should the online format be necessary in the future.

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

Comments
I would have preferred if there were a synchronous option for the lectures. The instructor provided videos of lectures, which was great because I could pause to take notes during them. However, I found that I was often confused about the steps the instructor took; for example how did he get some variable or why did he use a particular formula. Without being able to ask for clarification those questions lingered for me. He did make himself available one–on–one during which I could have asked for clarification. But given that the problem sets were much more advanced than the lectures, I felt I had to prioritize getting help on the problem sets over any questions I may have had from the lectures.   I also would have liked more instruction on why formulas and variables were used as they were. I would have liked more explanation oh how to set up problems and more talking through each step.
Synchronous course meetings. Please.

Are there any features of this remote course you would encourage your instructor to retain when the course returns to in person format, and why?

Comments
I suppose that issuing the problem sets and latex code online is fine. In a way, it beats using handwritten assignment submissions.

Hybrid/Remote Learning

There was ample opportunity to interact with your classmates.

There was ample opportunity to interact with your classmates.

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1 - Strongly Disagree (0.00%)    0
             2 (0.00%)    0
             3 (0.00%)    0
            4 (50.00%)    ████████████████████ 2
             5 (0.00%)    0
             6 (0.00%)    0
   7 - Strongly Agree (25.00%)   ██████████ 1
           N/A (25.00%)   ██████████ 1
         [ Total (4) ]
                          0       0.5      1      1.5      2      2.5
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Statistics	Value
Mean	5.75
Median	5.50
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	2.06

The course Canvas page or website could be easily navigated to find course materials.

The course Canvas page or website could be easily navigated to find course materials.

1 - Strongly Disagree (0.00%) — 0
2 (0.00%) — 0
3 (0.00%) — 0
4 (0.00%) — 0
5 (0.00%) — 0
6 (0.00%) — 0
7 - Strongly Agree (100.00%) — 4
N/A (0.00%) — 0
[Total (4)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	7.00
Median	7.00
Mode	7
Standard Deviation	0.00