

LMU Midterm Student Evaluation: POLS 3620 (International Security)

22 responses

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What are the instructor's teaching strengths?

22 responses

The teacher comes across as very knowledgeable on international security and very detail-oriented. Activities done in class are very engaging and teacher opens class up for helpful discussions.

Super interesting discussions and discussion questions, strong slides with corresponding images, cares a lot about students, and is very reliable for help in-class and out-of-class

Reasonable and good at communicating with students

Interesting content

I would say the instructors teaching strengths are that he cares about the students and always encourages them to talk to him regarding assignments. He is very helpful and wants the students to succeed.

The little games are helpful to understand how people react in certain situations

Class activities/engagement, detailed and thorough explanations of concepts

Kindness and understanding

Very passionate about the topic,

Good lectures

Really great information and is fair and understanding.



Open debates and talks, I absolutely love how engaging the class is, all the activities and discussions that are held each class are always very interesting and improve learning. In my honest opinion I am very glad how low stress I am with the class, it makes me happy that I do not feel any less motivated or lazy, in fact it motivates me to learn and engage more!

My professor is very good at explaining certain situations or even connecting to specific topics to broader concepts. I feel like his instruction is very straight forward and easy to understand.

Speaks very thoroughly about each topic making sure everyone understands.

I really like how he explains the topics clearly. Surprisingly was really interested in the history portion of it. I found myself just really engaged in the storytelling of the history portion :)

creative, fresh application, hands on, lots of collaboration opportunities, very knowledgeable

I would say that Professor Uras' strengths as an instructor are that his lectures are very engaging and interesting, as well as the games we play in class, which give me a better understanding of the theories and scenarios of IR

Uras is charismatic, enthusiastic, fun, approachable, and has a true passion for teaching the content of the course. He cares about the health of his students and always stays behind after to answer questions. He is very helpful and an excellent prof!

The instructor makes himself very available for help. During lectures, he explains concepts in a clear and engaging manner. The instructor effectively combines lecture with class discussion (e.g: answering discussion questions in small groups before sharing with the class.).

The instructor is great at leading lectures and in class activities. Lectures are engaging and informative

Making class engaging, bringing students into discussion, and explaining all sides of the history.

Able to stimulate the class and keep us interested by giving us activities, which prevent us from getting bored or lost.

Which aspects of this class do you feel contributed most to your learning thus far?

22 responses

I feel like the infographic activity, weekly quizzes and activities have helped me learn the most because they actually apply the knowledge we are learning.

The discussions help with the application of the theoretical concepts - providing important peer insights and examples

Interactive activities with other students

In class discussions

in class discussions with classmates.

The discussion questions

The hands on class activities

The active participation

Goes in depth with all the IR theories - learned a lot more specifics

The weekly review quizzes help summarize the important topics covered each week

Coming to class and not skipping

The discussions and activities. Although I do like the weekly quizzes for the lectures and readings, its like a challenge to see if I actually did learn, and I have been :)

I feel like little group discussions about the topic we were talking about helps me understand the topic better and be able to hear what other people think and fully dive into the topic.

Lecture

The slides are extremely helpful and was easy for me to pick concepts for my infographic

the dice and paper demonstrations and activities that show the perspectives in action, individual projects and presentations where we can be more creative with research

The lectures and the games, as well as the infographic

Project-based learning, including the infographic assignment, Uras' teaching style is fun, the in-class exercises are engaging. Overall it's a fantastic course.

I feel that the brief, weekly quizzes have helped me to collect all of the key points from the lecture that week, as well as review the lecture notes. I also find the combination of lecture and discussion to be helpful. I also enjoy the fact that the class assignments are a few larger projects and that there are engaging activities/simulations during class.

I tend to learn best in lecture style classes, so the depth of the lectures has been most beneficial to my learning.

The group activities and sharing

The material of the course taught me a lot about how and why things happen politically, it also helps me understand what is going on in the world today and how these things happen.

Which aspects of this class could be improved to enhance your learning?

22 responses

The lectures are a bit dense and not very engaging. It is hard to pay attention and retain all of that information. Much of it is very repetitive of other classes for POLS/IR students, so maybe focusing more on just security would help. Slides are also not the most engaging.

At times the activities can be hard to keep up with and connect to course material - but still super fun

More collaborative work with students

Slowing down slides

very lecture based with no time to take notes causes the class to be dull and too many material. this is new to me so i find it a bit hard.

I feel like the class is very lecture based which sometimes makes it difficult to stay engaged

Nothing I think Dr Uras is doing a great job

Na

history section was a bit boring

The lectures can be long so a break in between would help

I find the course really interesting however theres a lot of information overload and I tend to kind of get a little lost and lose interest. If we could do more discussion base learning maybe the class would be more engaged? I don't think that this class is boring however I think theres just too much lecture, playing chicken etc is a great way to engage however I think it would be nice to have conversations and input?

Lectures are good, you may speak a lot but it's entertaining and informative. But I would encourage you to give yourself some breaks too!

Maybe sometimes not so much lecturing for big periods of time since I tend to lose a bit of focus.

More group and class discussion

Maybe upload the lecture slides the day of class

more discussion and group opportunities, less lecture focus, more organized weekly itinerary

I can't think of any at the moment i really enjoy this class a lot

I highly recommend that Uras consults with other IR faculty in the future about what is being taught in other POLS courses, especially lower-division prerequisites to this class. As someone who has taken intro to IR, one upper division region-specific elective, and politics of the global economy, a lot of the class has been review for me. Uras is great, and it's fun to learn from him, but there were moments that I felt like could have been way more intellectually engaging via the introduction of new material. That might be part of the nature of the class but it definitely would have improved my experience.

Also, I would kindly suggest a slower pace of lecture; I always feel like I'm scrambling to get

down all of the important information and can't really take it all in before we go onto the following slides.

N/A

I'm not sure yet. So far, I think everything works well.

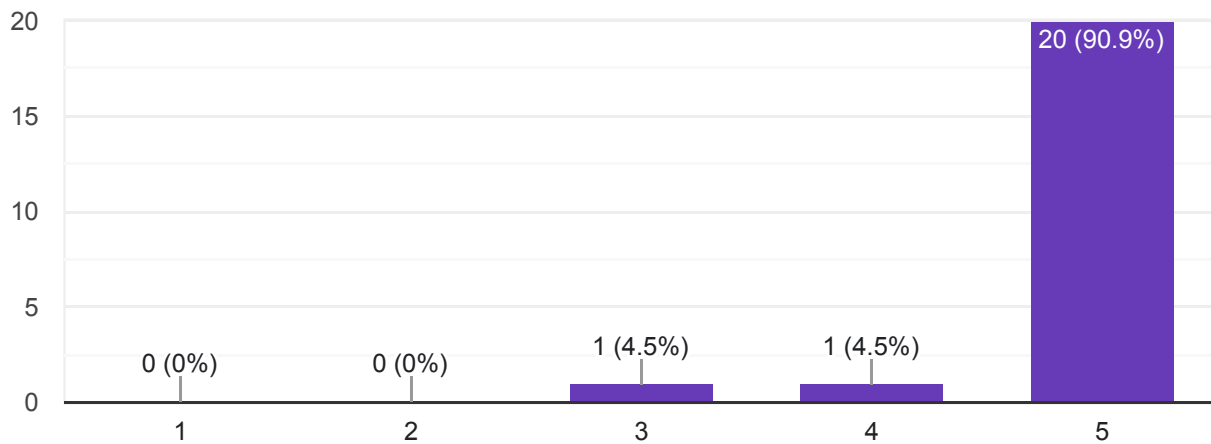
Taking breaks with slides as it can get lecture heavy

Less lecture based classes or maybe adding a break in class to help everyone stay focused



The course instructor shows enthusiasm for and is interested in the subject.

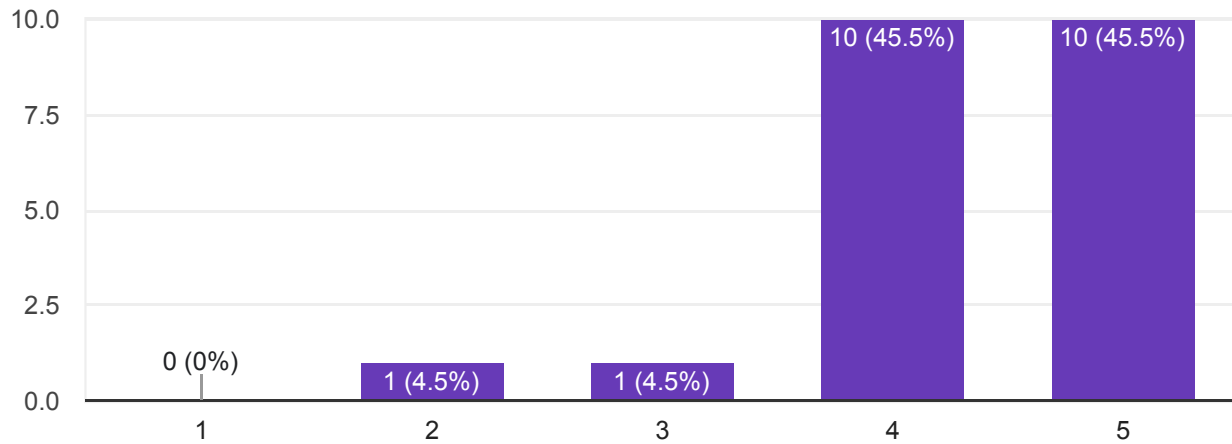
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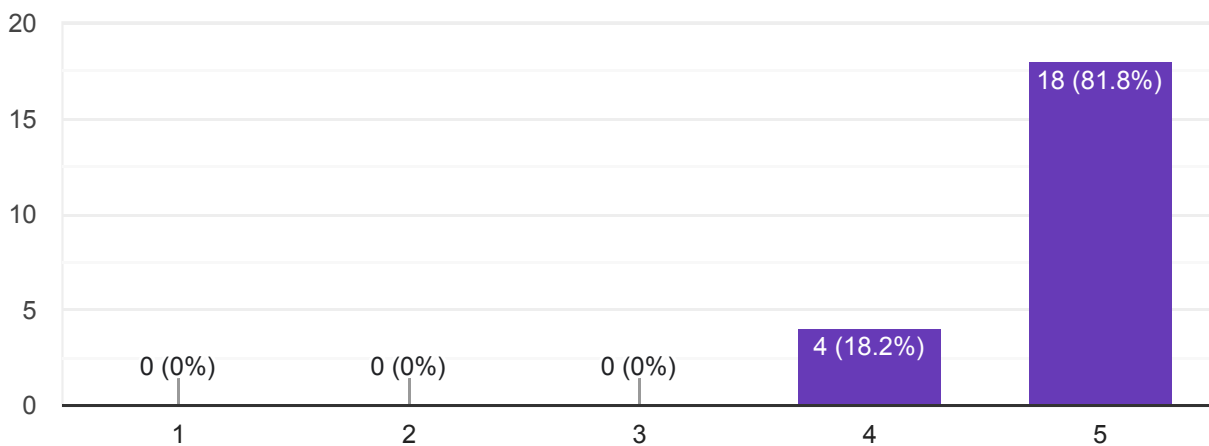
The course instructor stimulates your interest in the subject.

22 responses



The course instructor meets stated objectives of the course.

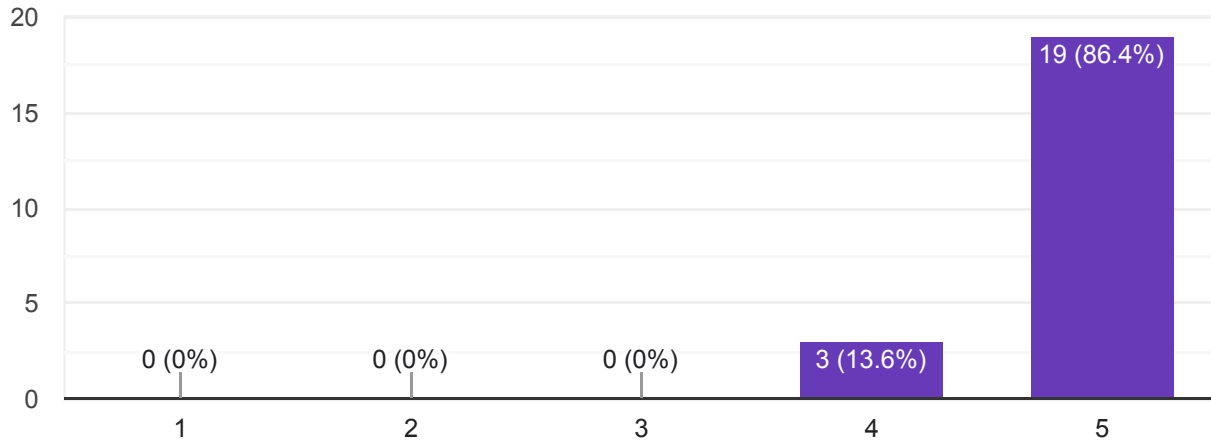
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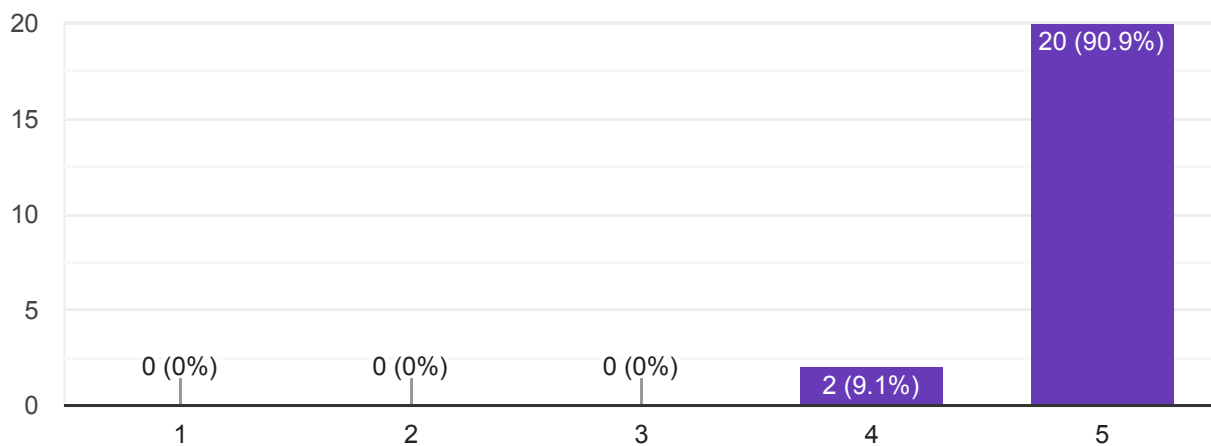
The course instructor is accessible/responsive.

22 responses



The course instructor creates an open and fair learning environment.

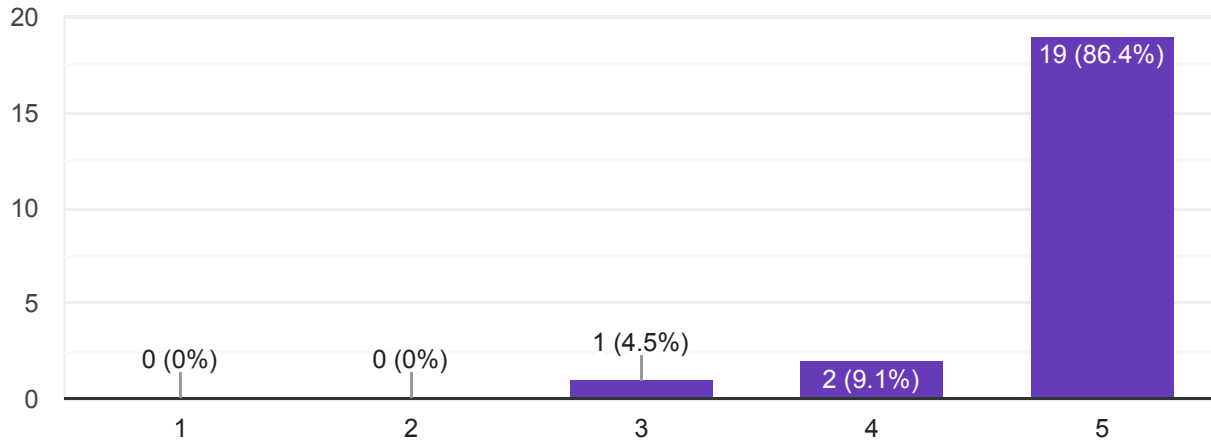
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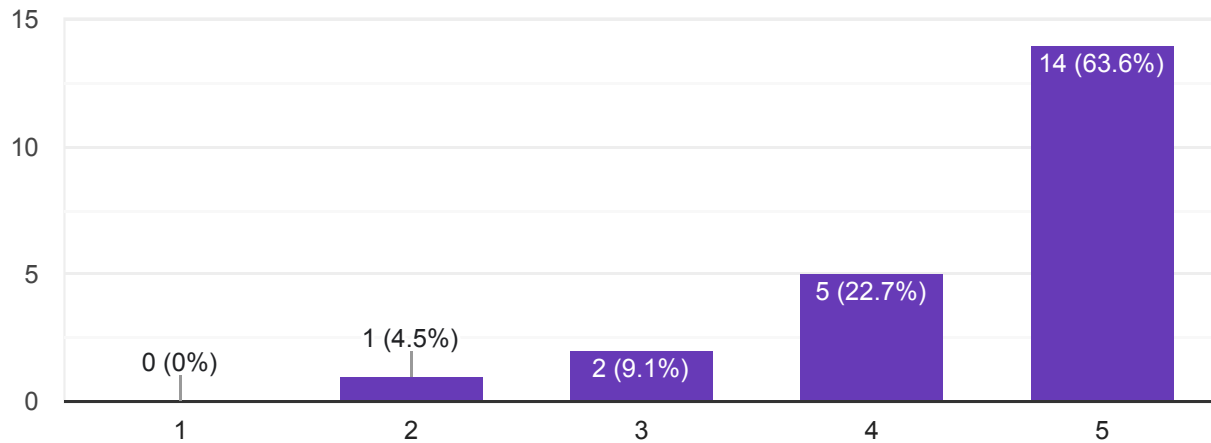
The course instructor encourages students to think in this course.

22 responses



The course instructor's presentations and explanations of concepts were clear.

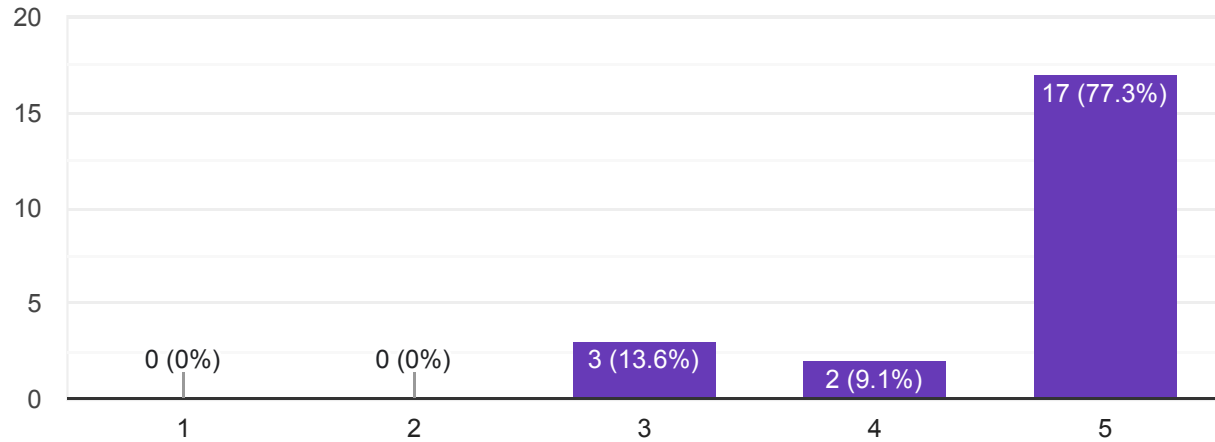
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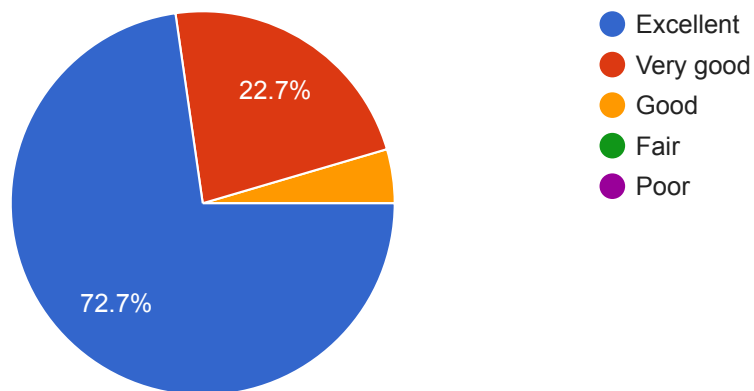
In-class activities and assignments supported my learning experience.

22 responses



What overall evaluation would you give this instructor?

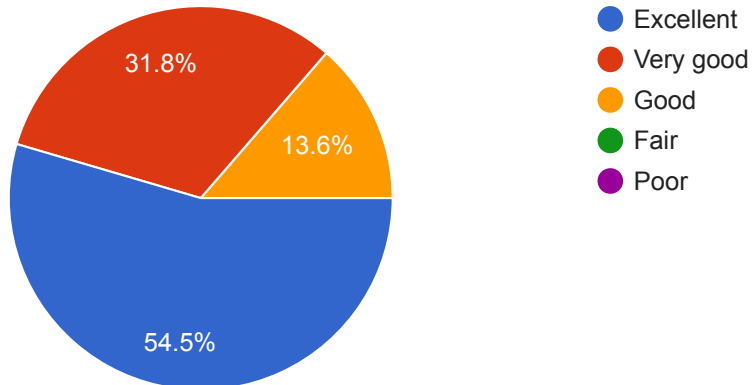
22 responses





What overall evaluation would you give this course?

22 responses



Any other comments?

5 responses

It's a good and interesting class however it's too textbook and needs more stimulation. I think it would be interesting if we could talk about events that are happening now and somehow incorporate into the class.

I was really scared and anxious coming into this class, as a senior juggling two majors and a two semester thesis process at the moment. But this is one of my favorite classes so far, its engaging and invokes my initiative on learning more. Thank you, you are doing great :)

I really enjoy this class

N/A

This has been such an engaging class, you are a great professor!!!

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