

Project Title: **Fall 2018 Evaluations**

Courses Audience: **26**
Responses Received: **24**
Response Ratio: **92.31%**

Subject Details

Name	POL SCI 1 DIS 111 INTRO AMERICAN POL
DEPT_NAME	POL SCI
DEPT_FORM	POL SCI
EVALUATION_TYPE	G
First Name	Samuel
Last Name	Trachtman

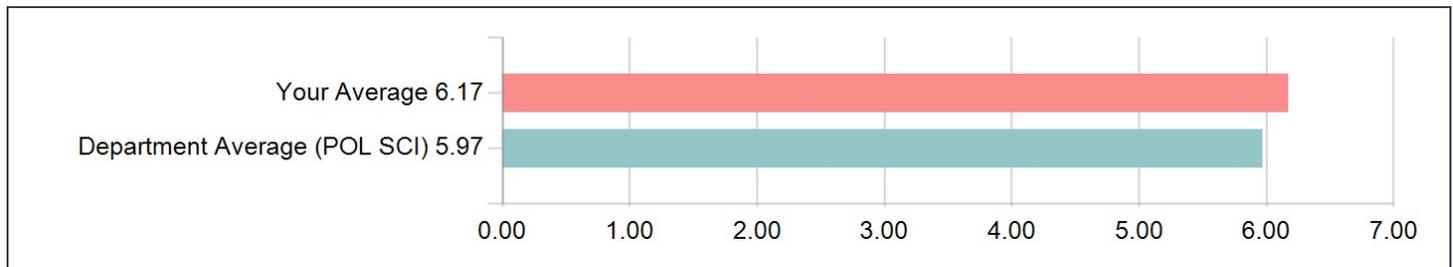
Creation Date: **Tue, Jan 08, 2019**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Please note that "Department Average" for each rating question is calculated using all sections in your department. This may include both Faculty and GSIs depending on whether the department has selected a question item to be used for both.

RATING QUESTIONS (QUANTITATIVE)

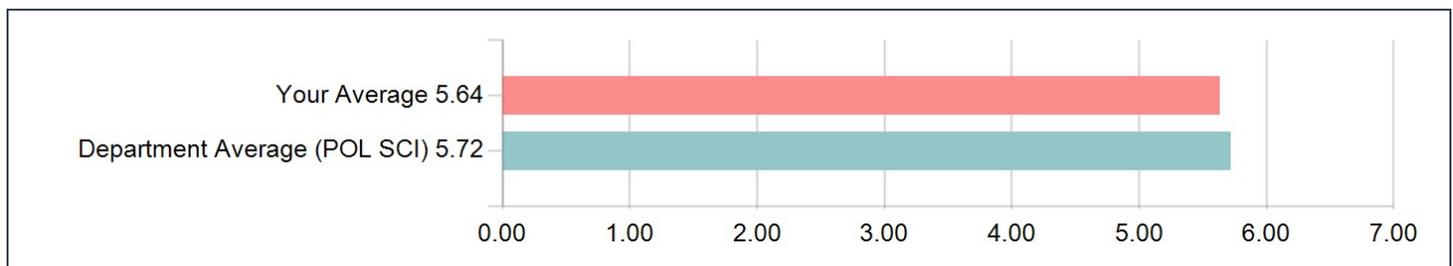
UNIVERSITY WIDE QUESTIONS: The quantitative items in this section are asked across all courses at Berkeley.

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this graduate student instructor?



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	1	4.35%
5	4	17.39%
6	8	34.78%
7-Extremely Effective	10	43.48%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	
Mean	6.17	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	0.89	

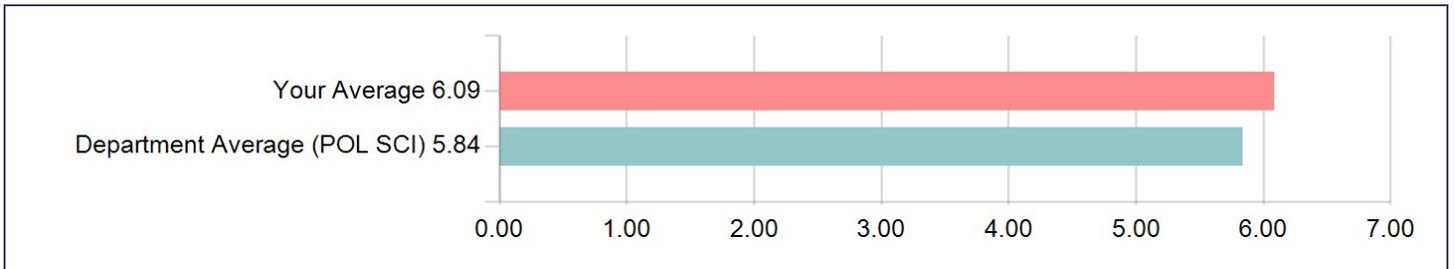
Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this course?



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	1	4.55%
4-Moderately Effective	2	9.09%
5	6	27.27%
6	8	36.36%
7-Extremely Effective	5	22.73%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	22	
Mean	5.64	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	1.09	

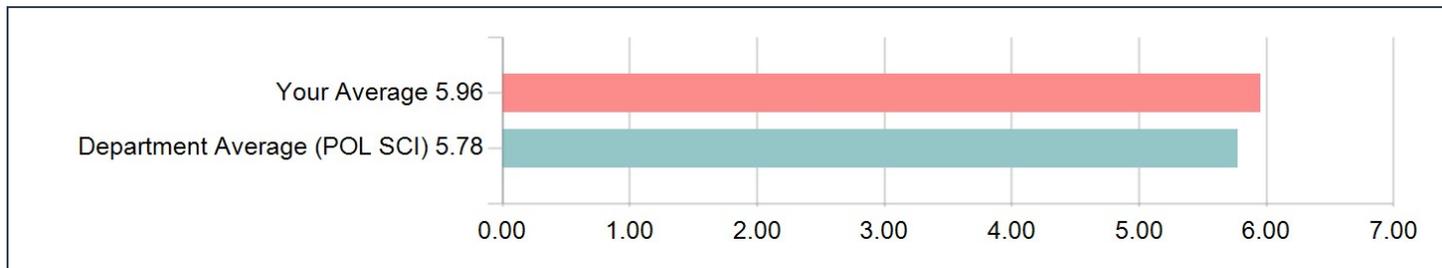
DEPARTMENT PROVIDED RATING QUESTIONS: Questions in this section were selected by your department for inclusion on this evaluation.

The instructor presented content in an organized manner



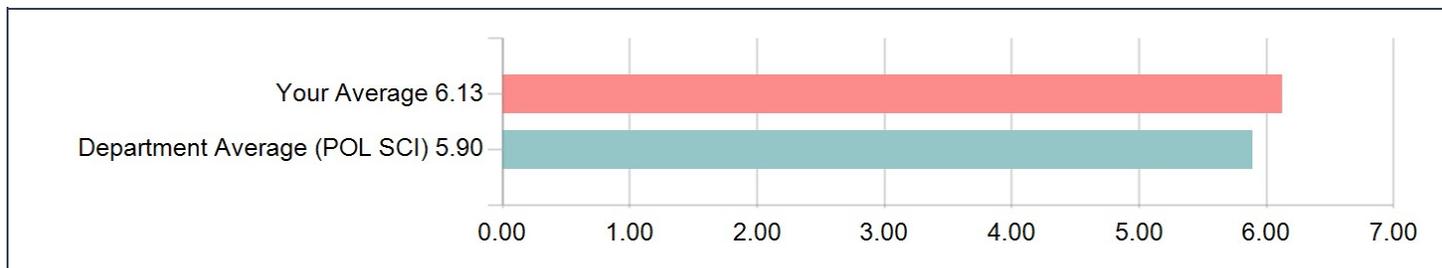
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	3	13.04%
5	3	13.04%
6	6	26.09%
7-Very	11	47.83%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	
Mean	6.09	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	1.08	

The instructor explained concepts clearly



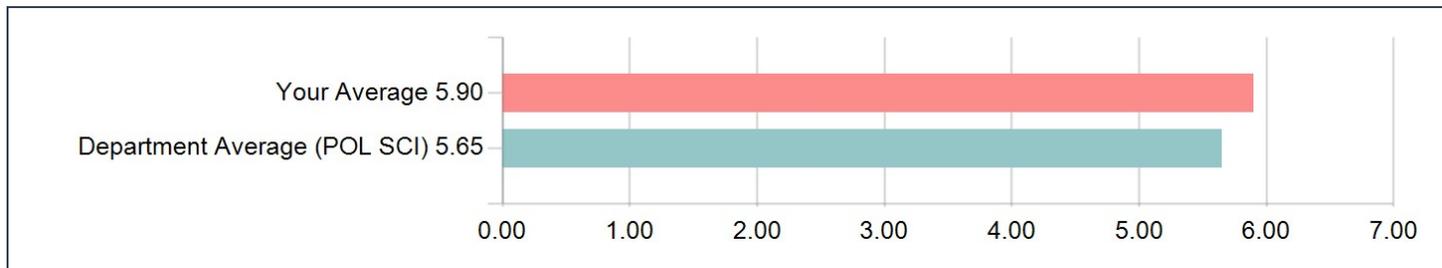
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	2	8.70%
5	6	26.09%
6	6	26.09%
7-Very	9	39.13%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	
Mean	5.96	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	1.02	

The instructor was helpful when I had difficulties or questions



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	1	4.35%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	5	21.74%
6	5	21.74%
7-Very	12	52.17%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	
Mean	6.13	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	1.22	

The instructor provided clear constructive feedback



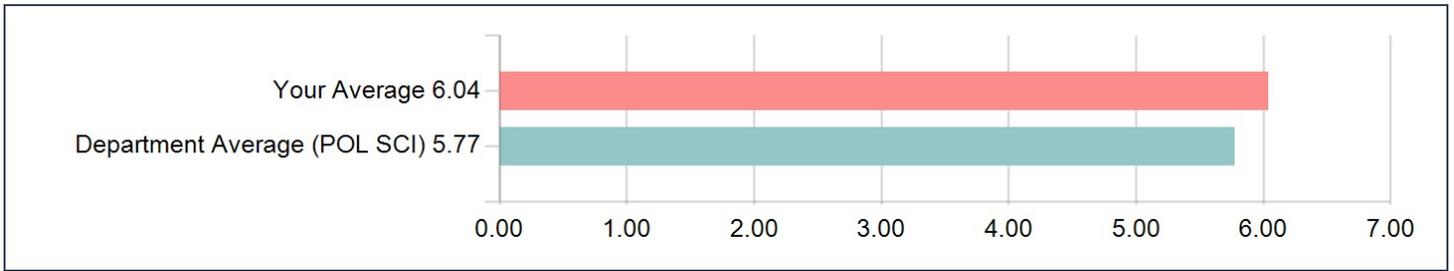
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	3	14.29%
5	2	9.52%
6	10	47.62%
7-Very	6	28.57%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	21	
Mean	5.90	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	1.00	

The instructor encouraged student questions and participation



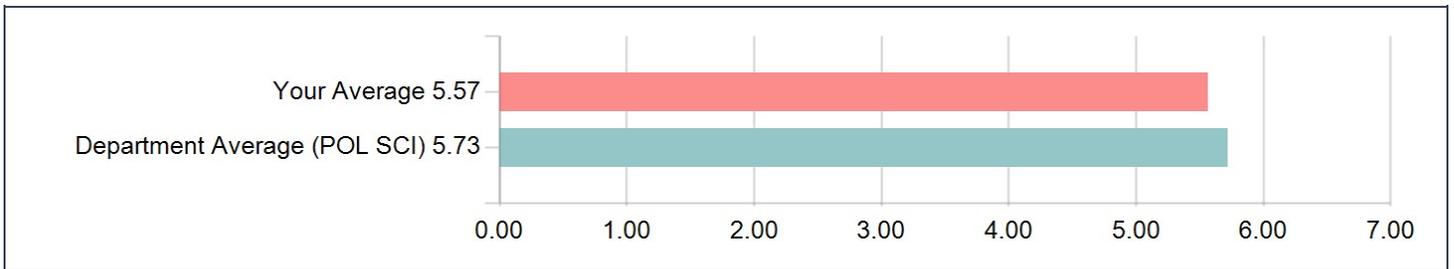
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	2	9.52%
5	4	19.05%
6	4	19.05%
7-Very	11	52.38%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	21	
Mean	6.14	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	1.06	

The course was effectively organized



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	1	4.35%
5	5	21.74%
6	9	39.13%
7-Very	8	34.78%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	
Mean	6.04	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	0.88	

The course developed my abilities and skills for the subject



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	1	4.35%
4-Somewhat	6	26.09%
5	3	13.04%
6	5	21.74%
7-Very	8	34.78%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	
Mean	5.57	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	1.34	

The course developed my ability to think critically about the subject



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	2	8.70%
4-Somewhat	3	13.04%
5	4	17.39%
6	7	30.43%
7-Very	7	30.43%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	
Mean	5.61	
Median	6.00	
Standard Deviation	1.31	

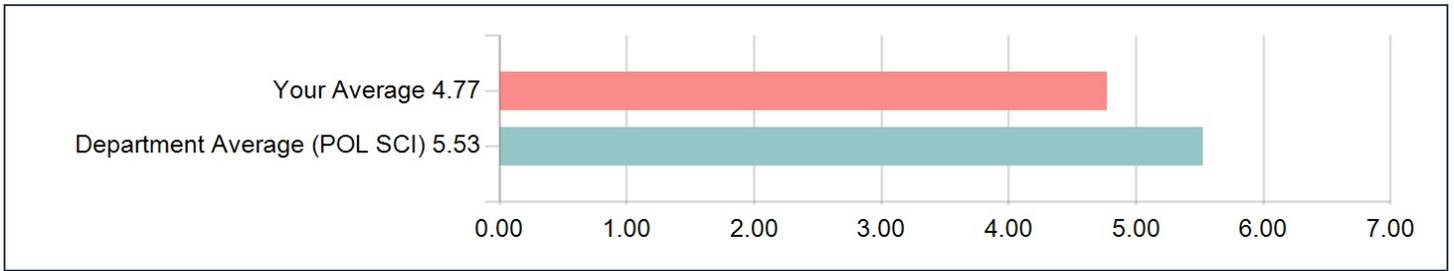
On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this course, including attending classes, doing readings, reviewing notes, writing papers, and any other course-related work?

Options	Count	Percentage
3 or Fewer	6	26.09%
4-6	6	26.09%
7-9	5	21.74%
10-12	5	21.74%
13-15	1	4.35%
16-18	0	0.00%
More than 18	0	0.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	23	

How many class (or section) sessions did you attend?

Options	Count	Percentage
None	0	0.00%
Fewer than half	1	4.35%
About half	2	8.70%
More than half	11	47.83%
All	9	39.13%

How satisfied were you with your effort in this course?



Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	1	4.55%
4-Somewhat	7	31.82%
5	10	45.45%
6	4	18.18%
7-Very	0	0.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	22	
Mean	4.77	
Median	5.00	
Standard Deviation	0.81	

INSTRUCTOR PROVIDED QUESTIONS (CUSTOM): If any rating questions appear in this section, they were created by you. If blank, you did not add any custom items to your evaluation. These are viewable only by you and not accessible by other report viewers in your department.

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS (QUALITATIVE)

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED QUESTIONS: Questions in this section were selected by your department for inclusion on this evaluation.

What advice would you give to another student who is considering taking this course?

Comments
Do the readings!
Do the readings.
Keep up with the readings, try to remember the themes of the course when taking on the midterm, either two essays and final.
keep up with the readings
Do the readings
Don't take it in the afternoon if you can. It's a mistake. Take it when you have the energy to really think and speak. Also, don't be shy! Everyone's trying to figure out the same concept, so your contribution is just as helpful as anyone else's.
Read the course material and make summaries. It will help you in the long run
Make sure to read the readings that are provided on b-courses and make sure to attend discussion class.
You should find someone to discuss your readings with since the conceptions are often interlocking and complicated.
Learn how to scan the readings, not read every word.
Keep up with the readings every week
Settle in for a lot of interesting readings.
Do all of the readings and participate in class/ discussion
My biggest piece of advise that I would give to another student taking this course is to never underestimate the amount of effort needed to get an A in the class. I would also recommend for the student to interact more with the GSI as it is very important to be able to understand the class.
Do all the readings and raise your hand in discussion!
Do the readings

Please identify the strengths of this GSI and the discussion section.

Comments
Kind, gives constructive feedback Approachable
Was able to keep the class engaged and explain material from the course in an effective manner.
Discussion section did a really good job of focusing me on certain parts of the reading and lecture. With knowing the bigger themes, it even became easier to analyze the smaller concepts.
he did a great job of going over confusing content
The GSI did well to encourage group discussions
Knowledge of material
Sam is very direct and asks good questions in discussion that actually force thinking. I hated that at first because I never did my readings, but that was also the fuel to start picking up the positive work habits in order to actually be able to give quality answers.
Also, Sam does a really good job of helping people find the balance between subjective and objective in such a heated subject like American politics. He really ensures that claims we make are based on evidence and actual data/theory, not just our own emotions and opinions. I have never felt so intelligible in my life.
Very organized
Although I failed to attend many discussion sections, Sam was one of the most organized and easy going discussion GSI I've ever had. There was never a dull moment at his class, and it was amazing how he helps students to understand the material by organizing group and class discussions.
If asked, he is willing to spend time evaluating your mistakes and help you resolve problems.
Sam really took our constructive feedback into account and restructured his section so that we spent more time on readings, so we all enjoy section more and it's more helpful now. He's good at explaining abstract concepts.
Very helpful section slides and section notes, thorough study guides were given to the class
He breaks everything down very succinctly and makes us do a lot of thinking.
Spoke clearly and went over readings
The biggest strength by Sam is that he is always willing to answer questions and truly wants his students to understand the material so he truly puts in the effort for every discussion. He is also willing to make himself available to answer any question possible. He also has a very organized section but he is open to change if the students request it.
Sam is very knowledgeable and poses interesting questions.
Worked with students to accommodate their needs

Please identify areas where the GSI's performance and/or the discussion section could be improved.

Comments
Give tips on essays and midterms BEFORE they happen.
idk
Make section more engaging, but also make sure to explain concepts a little more before going into group discussions, and also not force group discussions if students seem tired.
Communication
At first I felt like there was a slight bias against people of color. Many of us would raise our hands, but he'd call the same 3 white boys. Then he started using a randomizer, which I liked.
Get the class to participate more
Nothing to be honest. Sam was great !!
This is a stylistic problem. Sam is really low energy. It makes listening to him harder for me.
Ensuring we cover course material in a timely manner, instead of having to do 2 hours of catch up for 1 hour sections
Maybe spice it up a little.
Be more direct and if the class doesn't know the answer then don't put people on the spot.
The GSI could improve with his clarity with the material as sometimes he thinks that people know more than they really do which leads to unnecessary confusion.
I cannot think of any at this time
More structure

INSTRUCTOR PROVIDED QUESTIONS (CUSTOM): If any open-ended questions appear in this section, they were created by you. If blank, you did not add any custom items to your evaluation. These are viewable only by you and not accessible by other report viewers in your department.