

Project Title: **Spring 2022 Evaluations**

Courses Audience: **16**
Responses Received: **8**
Response Ratio: **50.0%**

Subject Details

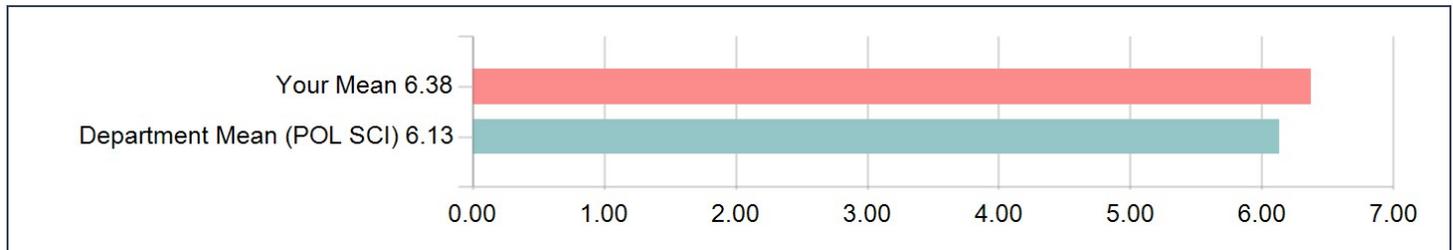
Name	POL SCI 191 LEC 001 JUNIOR SEMINAR
DEPT_NAME	POL SCI
DEPT_FORM	POL SCI
EVALUATION_TYPE	F
First Name	Samuel
Last Name	Trachtman

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Please note that "Department Mean" 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.

UNIVERSITY WIDE QUESTIONS (QUANTITATIVE/RATING):

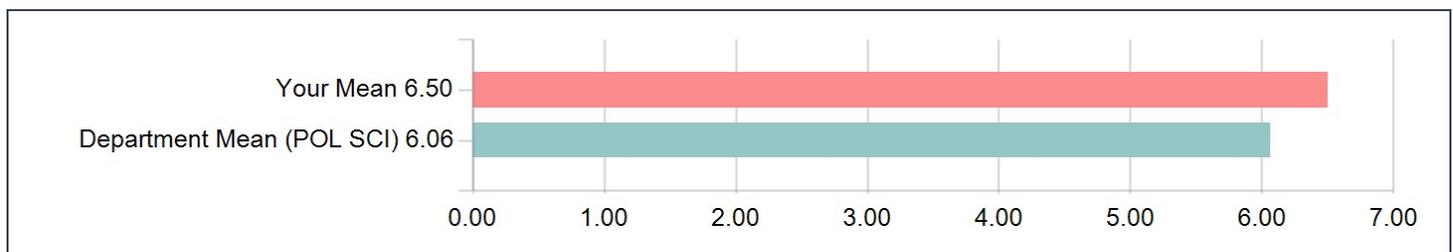
The items in this section are asked across all courses at Berkeley.

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



Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this instructor?		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	0	0.00%
5	1	12.50%
6	3	37.50%
7-Extremely Effective	4	50.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.38	
Median	6.50	
Standard Deviation	0.74	

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



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	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	4	50.00%
7-Extremely Effective	4	50.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.50	
Median	6.50	
Standard Deviation	0.53	

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED INSTRUCTOR QUESTIONS:

Items in this section were selected by POL SCI for inclusion on this evaluation.

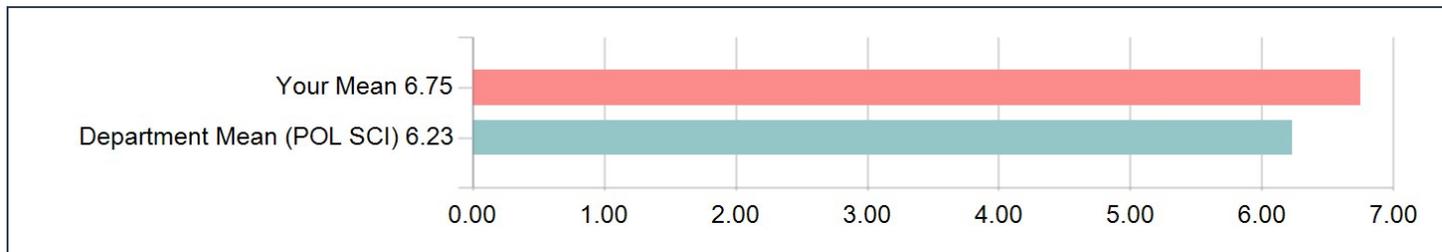
The instructor presented content in an organized manner.



The instructor presented content in an organized manner.

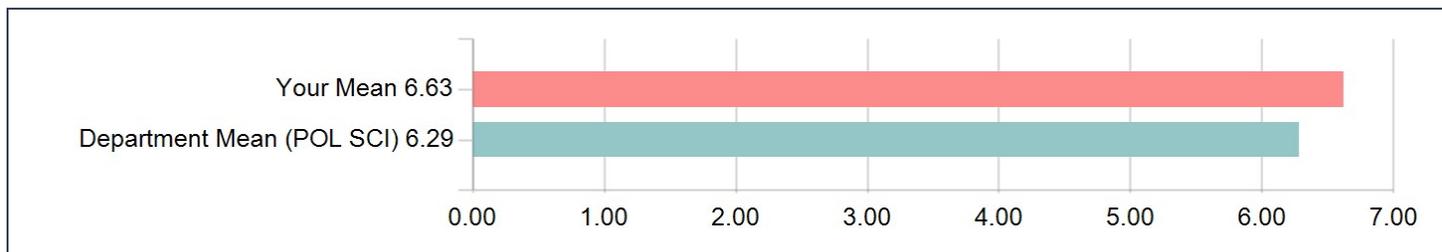
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	2	25.00%
6	1	12.50%
7-Very	5	62.50%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.38	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.92	

The instructor explained concepts clearly.



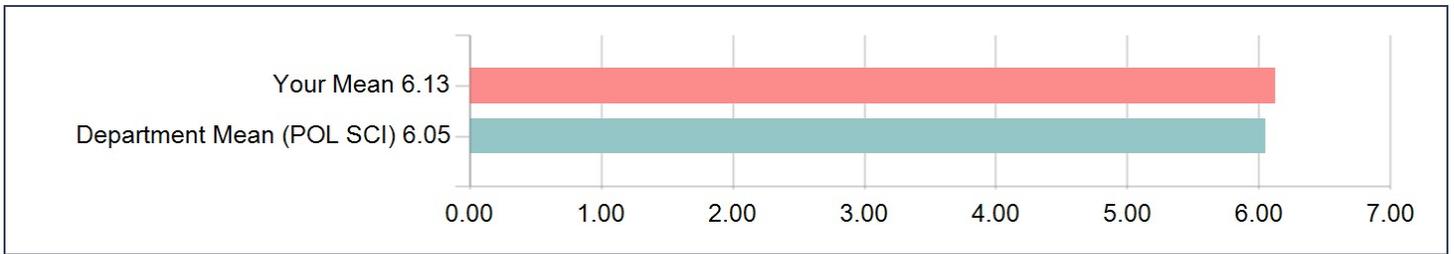
The instructor explained concepts clearly.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	2	25.00%
7-Very	6	75.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.75	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.46	

The instructor was helpful when I had difficulties or questions.



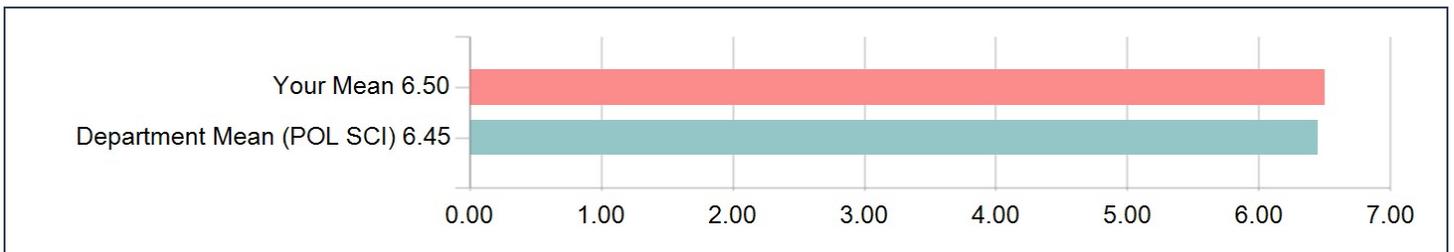
The instructor was helpful when I had difficulties or questions.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	3	37.50%
7-Very	5	62.50%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.63	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.52	

The instructor provided clear constructive feedback.



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	1	12.50%
5	2	25.00%
6	0	0.00%
7-Very	5	62.50%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.13	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	1.25	

The instructor encouraged student questions and participation.

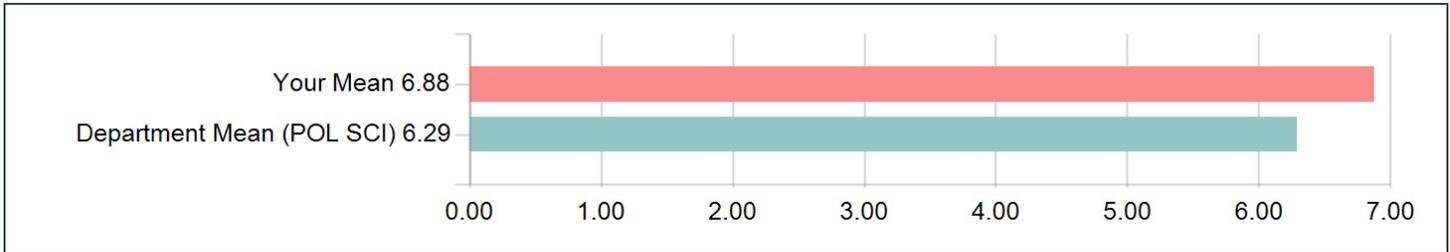


The instructor encouraged student questions and participation.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	2	25.00%
6	0	0.00%
7-Very	6	75.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.50	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.93	

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED COURSE QUESTIONS:

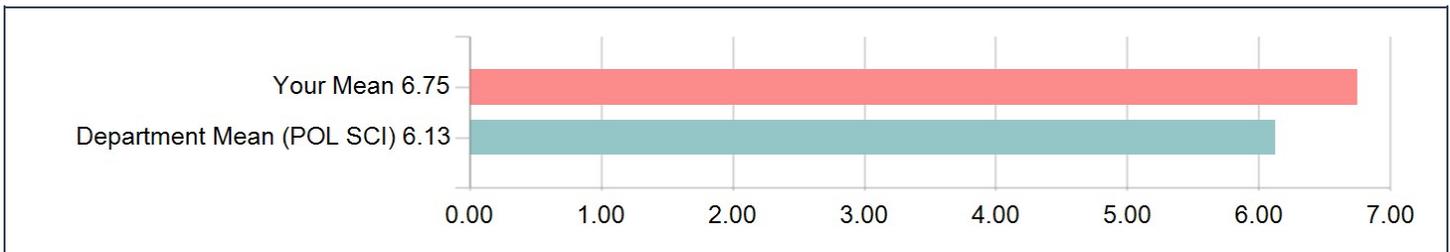
Items in this section were selected by POL SCI for inclusion on this evaluation.

The course was effectively organized.



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	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	1	12.50%
7-Very	7	87.50%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.88	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.35	

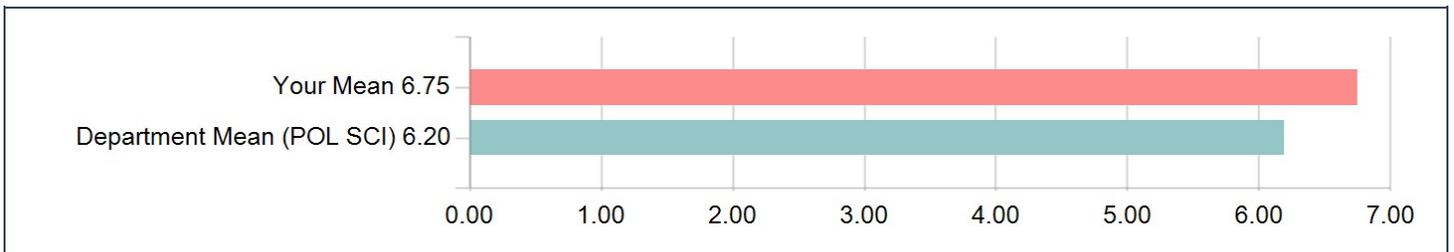
The course developed my abilities and skills for the subject.



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	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	2	25.00%
7-Very	6	75.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.75	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.46	

The course developed my ability to think critically about the subject.



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	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	2	25.00%
7-Very	6	75.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	6.75	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.46	

Please identify what you consider to be the strengths of the course (or section).

Comments
Very interesting class because very interesting. Provides us knowledge on many different political issues on the US, sometimes interconnected. The instructor is very helpful for students, and always willing to help. I really like the fact that we are encouraged to participate a lot.
The wide, survey-like nature of this course was of considerable merit as it allowed students a point of entry to the scholarly study of a wide array of topics. I further enjoyed the ability to pick my own topic for my research project.
The course was excellent in facilitating critical thinking regarding the subject matter. We were engaging with research and reports that were heavily empirical but Professor Trachtman did an amazing job of outlining readings and offering guiding questions that allowed for optimal understanding of the material.
The breadth of topics that we covered about policy in America was really interesting. Spending the first couple weeks going over overarching topics that would be present throughout the course (i.e. types of research studies, vested interests, diffuse/concentrated benefits) was incredibly helpful. I appreciated the structure of being able to participate often and learn from my peers in addition to the professor. I also think the professor did a good job facilitating when needed.
The course included a rich assortment of topics and articles that are interesting and important.
The reading material was very informative and the group discussions helped me expand on my knowledge of the subject matter
This course and professor Trachtman greatly improved my analytical reading skills as well as writing ability.

Please identify area(s) where you think the course could be improved.

Comments
Maybe the instructor could provide us more feedback on the one-pagers to improve students' ability to write
There were difficulties class-wide in understanding the statistical measures used in some of the research papers the course had offered as reading – I would either stipulate PS3 as a requirement or provide an introductory segment to how regression tables/graphs are used in literature. Further, the course content touched only lightly on labor studies and only from a unionizing lens – other economic development concepts could be a strong add in.
I think it would have been smoother if people were assigned experts on more than one reading. In the weeks where there were one or two experts, the discussions ran more smoothly and needed less direction from Professor Trachtman, so I think it would have been better if for each reading or at least two each week there were experts.
A bit more clarity on the rubric for certain assignments could be helpful in the future. Overall though, I think the course was great!
I think that the time spent at the top of each session could be shorter. Instead of incorporating the Socratic method in the beginning, it would be helpful for the instructor to quickly offer an organized framework (topic, question, theory, methods, conclusion), with limited response from students. Then, after meeting in organized groups, the discussion portion led by students could be a bit longer.
More documentaries on the various subjects could of been very beneficial
Many of the readings at the beginning of the course were much more complicated than the literature we read for the end of the course. Since this was my first time engaging with complicated social science studies I think it would have been an easier learning curve if the harder more complicated readings were done later on this course when we had a better understanding of how to tackle the material.

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

Comments
take it, and do the readings. that's not very long, and you will get a lot from the readings. They will also allow you to participate in class
Do your readings and make sure to research topics you are unfamiliar with beforehand, as research papers don't explain basic verbiage.
Be prepared to read a lot and very thoroughly. The readings can be heavy and very empirical but Professor Trachtman does not leave you hanging and really teaches you how to engage with political science research.
Do the readings every week and come prepared with some thoughts/questions and you will do great!
Read the material and ask questions
Do the readings and come prepared to participate it helps a lot to understand the information better
Read the reading guide before starting the readings not after.

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED STUDENT INFORMATION QUESTIONS

Items in this section were selected by POL SCI for inclusion on this evaluation.

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?

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	0	0.00%
4-6	6	75.00%
7-9	0	0.00%
10-12	0	0.00%
13-15	2	25.00%
16-18	0	0.00%
More than 18	0	0.00%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		8
Mean		1.00
Median		1.00
Standard Deviation		0.00

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

How many class (or section) sessions did you attend?		
Options	Count	Percentage
None	0	0.00%
Fewer than half	0	0.00%
About half	0	0.00%
More than half	4	50.00%
All	4	50.00%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		8
Mean		1.00
Median		1.00
Standard Deviation		0.00

How satisfied were you with your effort in this course (or section)?

How satisfied were you with your effort in this course (or section)?		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	5	62.50%
6	2	25.00%
7-Very	1	12.50%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	8	
Mean	5.50	
Median	5.00	
Standard Deviation	0.76	