

Cornell University  
 Course Evaluation Response Summary  
 Semester: Spring 2019 Course Owner: GOVT  
 Course: GOVT 3121 DIS 203 CID: 17016  
 Title: Crime and Punishment  
 Instructor: Mailhot/Margulies  
 12 Responses, 21 Enrolled, 57.14% Response

Please respond to the following statements and questions using a 5-point scale. Unless otherwise indicated, "5" indicates strong agreement, "1" indicates strong disagreement, and "3" serves as the midpoint. Leave blank if the question is not applicable.

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
N01. I attended TA sessions: (5 = regularly; 1 = never)	5.00	0	12	0	0	0	0	12
N02. I met with my TA individually: (5 = more than 5 times; 1 = never)	2.75	1.53	12	3	4	1	1	3
N03. The TA was knowledgeable about the course material.	4.25	0.82	12	0	0	3	3	6
N04. The discussion sections were well-organized.	3.92	1.11	12	0	2	2	3	5
N05. The sections effectively reviewed materials covered in lecture.	4.17	1.14	12	0	2	1	2	7
N06. The sections helped me to gain new insight into the subject matter.	4.17	0.98	12	0	1	2	3	6
N07. The TA did a good job of attempting to stimulate student discussion.	4.25	0.92	12	0	1	1	4	6
N08. The TA was able to effectively explain difficult concepts.	4.08	0.86	12	0	0	4	3	5
N09. The TA was available for individual consultation with students.	4.64	0.64	11	0	0	1	2	8
N10. Overall, how would you rate the TA? (5 = excellent; 1 = poor)	4.50	0.64	12	0	0	1	4	7

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**C01. What did you like best about the TA sessions?**

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56086. discussions

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63334. Interesting material covered

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79138. He is very explanatory and always happy to spend time answering questions. He was also very organized with the discussion material and always had very interesting questions to ask which taught me a lot.

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86036. Cameron was really great at making us expand upon what we had already talked about in class and become more comfortable sharing our own opinions in a smaller setting

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52579. I thought that discussion was valuable, covered class material fairly well, and flowed well in the second half of the semester. The emails helped and I liked the overview of section at the beginning.

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63296. I liked that Cameron was always available to meet. He held regular office hours and if he was unable to make those office hours, he held some at a later time. He was very approachable and never made anyone feel uncomfortable if they did not know/understand something.

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55262. Really engaging conversations, made everyone feel comfortable talking and sharing ideas. I really enjoyed going to section each week.

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62098. Cameron submitted a section plan before each meeting that added an effective structure to discussions

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**C02. Do you have any suggestions as to how the TA sessions might be improved?**

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56086. more organization

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63334. I felt as though class discussions might have been more engaging/throughout had the class had a stronger dynamic. This could have been improved in the first few discussion sections.

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79138. No

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86036. Maybe more smaller group discussions - it's easier to talk to the people around you than to share with the class

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49167. I think we could have more freedom in discussing what the students wanted to talk about. For example, there were a couple times where students were clearly interested in talking about a certain topic but the TA moved on to something else.

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52579. Sometimes there are questions that just need answering. Even though much of what we dealt with in class has no right or wrong answer, turning students' questions back over to the group can sometimes make the topic even murkier.

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80086. The blackboard was very disorganized and hard to understand. neater notes would be appreciated

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Please respond to the following statements and questions using a 5-point scale. Unless otherwise indicated, "5" indicates strong agreement, "1" indicates strong disagreement, and "3" serves as the midpoint. Leave blank if the question is not applicable.

Question	Mean	StDevP	Count	1	2	3	4	5
N01. I attended TA sessions: (5 = regularly; 1 = never)	5.00	0	12	0	0	0	0	12
N02. I met with my TA individually: (5 = more than 5 times; 1 = never)	2.42	1.11	12	2	6	2	1	1
N03. The TA was knowledgeable about the course material.	4.33	0.84	12	0	0	3	2	7
N04. The discussion sections were well-organized.	4.50	0.64	12	0	0	1	4	7
N05. The sections effectively reviewed materials covered in lecture.	4.50	0.76	12	0	0	2	2	8
N06. The sections helped me to gain new insight into the subject matter.	4.50	0.76	12	0	0	2	2	8
N07. The TA did a good job of attempting to stimulate student discussion.	4.50	0.76	12	0	0	2	2	8
N08. The TA was able to effectively explain difficult concepts.	4.09	0.99	11	0	1	2	3	5
N09. The TA was available for individual consultation with students.	4.50	0.64	12	0	0	1	4	7
N10. Overall, how would you rate the TA? (5 = excellent; 1 = poor)	4.58	0.64	12	0	0	1	3	8

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**C01. What did you like best about the TA sessions?**

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62901. Our TA was very friendly and certainly an interesting, fun guy to be around. He was often funny and it was never boring to come to our weekly discussion sections.

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52531. Cameron was always very approachable and willing to answer all my questions. It was easy to make appointments with him outside of his office hours.

The sessions never felt like a waste of time.

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48983. Cameron was very skilled at promoting opposing viewpoints to generate more discussion and explore all angles of a topic.

He also knew the content well and the critical points underlying each issue.

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46269. The discussions

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55913. I very much enjoyed our conversations in class. Cameron came prepared every class and asked engaging questions that kept me stimulated and enthusiastic to participate in every section.

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45945. Hearing other opinions.

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59337. I really enjoyed the TA sessions for this course. We always began section by discussing current news regarding criminal justice and then began a conversation about the lecture and reading material from that week. The discussions were engaging and I always felt like I gained a better understanding of the topics.

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59378. Discussion was usually pretty stimulating and made me think about the topics from different angles

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69589. Cameron clearly was invested in the course and was interested in trying to provoke thought from the students.

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59423. His willingness to thoroughly help me and answer any of my questions, thoughts, and concerns. I felt really comfortable approaching him and having conversations. He was also very encouraging throughout the course which I appreciate.

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45932. They were excellent opportunities to review the material, and further apply them to events happening in society at large. Due to the environment, we were able to really go in depth with the material discussed in lecture and bring our own perspectives into our debates.

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**C02. Do you have any suggestions as to how the TA sessions might be improved?**

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62901. I didn't feel that he demonstrated much knowledge of the course content. Instead of explaining concepts he would ask us to do so and then wouldn't really summarize and expand upon our thoughts, but would rather simply move on to the next person or next topic. He'd write and draw a bunch of convoluted scribbles on the board which were generally difficult to follow, too, and it almost seemed as though he was just writing on the board to make it seem like he was doing something TA-esque. Although I enjoyed coming to the discussion sections, I rarely found them to be helpful. I think it could have been helpful if Professor Margulies had sat in on a session early on to make sure that the remainder of sessions would be useful.

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46269. Nope! Great job!

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55913. Maybe do some more smaller group activities. This discussion section was one of the best that I have been in at Cornell, so I really do not more suggestions than that.

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45945. I think sometimes discussion about one topic could be cut off so we can move onto the next one and cover more topics.

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59337. If anything, these sessions could be improved by putting more emphasis on the readings and their main points/arguments.

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59378. Cut debates short on less important topics

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69589. I felt that the discussions would sometimes get bogged down in topics that were not the most interesting parts of the reading and we would run out of time before covering the most fascinating parts. But, that is a personal take.

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45932. The only thing that I found remiss was the lack of diversity in our particular session- the majority of us were white, and I felt that there were some gaps in our discussion as a result. However, I understand that it can be extremely difficult to ensure that such a thing is possible in every section, as the fact remains that most of the people in the course are Caucasian (at least, it seemed that way from my regular seat at the front of the lecture hall. I could be wrong).