

Cornell University
 Course Evaluation Response Summary
 Semester: Spring 2018 Course Owner: GOVT
 Course: GOVT 1313 DIS 208 CID: 8091
 Title: Intro To Comparative Politics
 Instructor: Hines/Mailhot/van de Walle
 17 Responses, 21 Enrolled, 80.95% 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)	4.82	0.51	17	0	0	1	1	15
N02. I met with my TA individually: (5 = more than 5 times; 1 = never)	2.29	1.52	17	8	3	2	1	3
N03. The TA was knowledgeable about the course material.	4.88	0.32	17	0	0	0	2	15
N04. The discussion sections were well-organized.	4.82	0.51	17	0	0	1	1	15
N05. The sections effectively reviewed materials covered in lecture.	4.94	0.24	16	0	0	0	1	15
N06. The sections helped me to gain new insight into the subject matter.	4.59	0.97	17	1	0	0	3	13
N07. The TA did a good job of attempting to stimulate student discussion.	4.53	1.09	17	1	0	2	0	14
N08. The TA was able to effectively explain difficult concepts.	4.71	0.74	17	0	1	0	2	14
N09. The TA was available for individual consultation with students.	5.00	0	16	0	0	0	0	16
N10. Overall, how would you rate the TA? (5 = excellent; 1 = poor)	4.76	0.72	17	0	1	0	1	15

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

5325. Cameron was always very accessible

18957. I liked how it was TA led at first so as to increase our understanding, and then shifted towards student led discussion once we had adequately grasped the material.

5392. Really good at recapping and clarifying the course material

15425. Review of the class material, discussing and clarifying the concepts rather than random points.

22361. Cameron was extremely organized and knowledgeable. He was responsive and listened to feedback. He always was prepared for sections and very helpful overall.

8689. Discussions, flexibility and communication with students and review of lectures.

22482. TA was very helpful and knowledgeable! Discussions were great.

15485. Cameron was engaging and made the material clear and interesting.

2334. Cameron was very knowledgeable and comfortable in a teaching setting. I've had TAs in other classes who knew material but were just so awkward and inept at actually interacting in a classroom setting that it defeated the point. Thankfully Cameron was not like this at all. He knew the material well and did a very good job of explaining concepts, naturally involving class participation, and making himself available.

2276. The organization of the discussions and the thorough review of the materials discussed in the week's classes.

8779. Cameron is an amazing intellect who truly cares about what he teaches. The passion he has for the subject, coupled with his sheer want for students to learn is reflected through his ability to convey the material in a clear and nuanced way. Going to discussion at sometimes felt more beneficial than the lectures, because of Cameron's ability to separate what was important from what was anecdotal. The time he invested in preparing for discussion is probably best represented by the puns he used preface the material (he says that doing so didn't take him a lot of time--but I can't imagine anyone studying poli-sci is naturally that creative). In terms of an individual basis, he was more than helpful--going above and beyond the duties of a T.A. Personally, I came to him wanting to do research with the government department. He recommended professors for me to reach out to, who shared the same interests I had. Eventually, he even helped me get a research position over the summer. This is only one example of how hard he worked to cater to his students. And though his emails tend to be terribly lengthy, I felt privileged to have the objectively hardest working T.A.

32415. The TA was very approachable and the discussion was engaging.

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

5325. I honestly felt as if professor van de Walle explains concepts very thoroughly in class himself, and a 50 minute section was unnecessary as a supplement. Section only ever consisted of us regurgitating the lecture information back at Cameron, followed by us giving specific examples of the topics we had discussed. Outside of this, Cameron never stimulated discussion on his own, and was quite inept bringing us to excitement about the course material. Perhaps we could have gone over the readings more frequently, and held discussions about those more frequently, instead of Cameron handing us a small group project in the last 10 minutes of class to complete on a whim.

18957. Try and incorporate the discussion questions that we submit more often.

5392. N/A

15425. I really liked how section was run.

22361. Sometimes he went over the time slightly, but overall was a great TA.

8689. N/A- Best TA I've had so far!

22482. No, I think the TA did a very good job.

15485. Disruptions from students having off topic conversations could have been handled better

2334. (Not quite sure who to address as the reader in this - assuming multiple people look at it so I'll refer to Cameron in the third person) There was a group that sat together at every section who would often be loud and obnoxious. Sometimes I guess they were kind of funny and were certainly knowledgeable but often times I found them fairly disrespectful and annoying for the rest of the class. They would always were trying to be sarcastic/witty, but they were never as funny or insightful as they seemed to think they were and sometimes it felt like they ended up taking over discussions. I just wish Cameron would've put his foot down a little more towards them - it wasn't a huge deal (overall experience in this section was positive) but just something to think about if Cam is to continue teaching down the road. I have no idea what his career path is and I know he's just TAing, but I think Cameron is a natural in a classroom setting and would do very well with it, so just want to give honest feedback from what I observed.

Again, other than that it was mostly positive. I'll just say maybe either work harder to get some of the quiet kids involved or don't punish a person's section grade for not talking as much. I'm one of those quiet kids, and I did my best to participate at least once every section. I had never really taken a gov/political science class outside of an easy AP Government in high school, and it felt hard to jump in to discussions sometimes just because a) some of these kids were seemingly so knowledgeable and well versed in the material already, and b) I'm quiet to begin with. I know it was recommend to go to office hours or talk to him outside class 1 on 1 if you were one of the "quiet ones," but it'd be nice if there was a solution that didn't involve me having to take out extra work/time just for not feeling as comfortable talking in class. I don't know if I have a direct solution or suggestion to fix that (or if there is one/even needs to be one), but it's just another thing to think about.

That's about it - hope this feedback is helpful. Overall a very well run and helpful section. Of the six TA-led sections I've taken in my first year at Cornell, I'd probably rank this one the best. Thank you for a good semester. -NB

2276. N/A

8779. We had to write discussion question that we never got to, so that seemed like a waste of time.

32415. More small group discussions

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 Course Evaluation Response Summary
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 19 Responses, 20 Enrolled, 95% 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)	4.79	0.69	19	0	1	0	1	17
N02. I met with my TA individually: (5 = more than 5 times; 1 = never)	2.83	1.30	18	3	6	2	5	2
N03. The TA was knowledgeable about the course material.	4.89	0.31	18	0	0	0	2	16
N04. The discussion sections were well-organized.	4.68	0.56	19	0	0	1	4	14
N05. The sections effectively reviewed materials covered in lecture.	4.95	0.22	19	0	0	0	1	18
N06. The sections helped me to gain new insight into the subject matter.	4.63	0.58	19	0	0	1	5	13
N07. The TA did a good job of attempting to stimulate student discussion.	4.84	0.36	19	0	0	0	3	16
N08. The TA was able to effectively explain difficult concepts.	4.79	0.40	19	0	0	0	4	15
N09. The TA was available for individual consultation with students.	4.83	0.37	18	0	0	0	3	15
N10. Overall, how would you rate the TA? (5 = excellent; 1 = poor)	4.83	0.37	18	0	0	0	3	15

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

-
1884. How clearly and effectively the relevant material was summarized and presented.
-
11757. I thought he was helpful. He answered our questions.
-
8283. He was engaging to our discussion group and made us comprehend the material better
-
18730. I really enjoyed how Cameron would go over the lecture material in discussion because it helped clarify a lot of difficult concepts for me.
-
15140. Cameron was very engaged and supportive the whole semester.
-
4909. I liked how he divided the discussions into sections and allowed us to individually discuss the material. He tried including everyone in the group discussions.
-
4969. I liked how our TA would reflect on the lecture material to make sure that everyone understood it before advancing into more difficult theories or discussions.
-
11681. how positive and willing to answer questions the TA was
-
15198. Cameron obviously cares a lot about the material. He helped explain things that were glossed over in lecture. Also was always willing to meet with me when I asked for help on the paper or prelim and was helpful when I needed to miss class.
-
11714. Reviewed important course materials; was able to attend office hours to understand unclear concepts
-
18711. They were very organized! They reviewed the material veryefficiently and Cameron was very passionate and knowledgeable!
-
15265. The TA did a good job of reviewing and summarizing the material in lecture as well as having us use what we learned in profiling activities.
-
15144. I loved how Cameron catered to his students and really put us first in this class. It felt like we were a subsection of the class trying to all succeed together which indefinitely helped me learn the information. I thought it was unbelievable how he would send up tips for papers and exams, something I had never had in my other gov classes.
-
8301. Was nice to have another place to go over what we had learned in section and ask clarifying questions in a smaller group
-
37486. All the help he gaved me during the semester and the disponibility to clarify class questions. I just want to thank you because of the compromise you have with helping and teaching. In addition, all the help given is the best thing on knowing that I am really learning and improving my self. Nevertheless, thanks Cameron for giving me an excellent experience this semester and making me love politics even more.
-
25581. Cameron was extremely well organized and provided helpful feedback.
-
15141. They were casual, but not short of any discussion.

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

1884. We never leave enough time for discussions -- either have no discussions or leave enough time to discuss the topic thoroughly.

11757. I feel like the 50 minute time structure of the section made it hard to make enough time for lecture material review and applicational studies. So we usually ran out of time at the end.

18730. leave a little bit more time for discussions at end of section

4909. He was a great TA!

4969. To have more smaller group work

11681. Less time reviewing what was done in lecture (kind of makes either lecture or attending TA sessions redundant)

15198. Sometimes he would break the class up into smaller group discussions with very little time left in class, making it feel rushed and unproductive. I would say either making more time for group work at the end of class or eliminating it entirely would make a better-organized section.

18711. Maybe leave more time for the small-group sections at the end of class!

15265. There could have been a little more time spent having group discussions.

15144. I honestly don't, Cameron definitely put all the effort he could on his side, and as long as the student did their part a good grade would be in their future.

Just wanted to say thank you Cameron for a great semester, your passion for the topic of Comparative Politics is inspiring.

8301. We always ran out of time to get through the entire lesson plan so maybe planning a little less?

37486. The only thing I think that should be included in the TA sections is working more on time, since many activities were not able to be covered.

15141. Make them a bit smaller.