

Cornell University
 Course Evaluation Response Summary
 Semester: Fall 2015 Course Owner: GOVT
 Course: GOVT 1111 DIS 201 CID: 9221
 Title: Intro To American Govt&Pol
 Instructor: Roblin
 17 Responses, 20 Enrolled, 85% 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)	4.76	0.72	17	0	1	0	1	15
N02. I met with my TA individually: (5 = more than 5 times; 1 = never)	1.65	1.18	17	12	2	1	1	1
N03. The TA was knowledgeable about the course material.	4.82	0.38	17	0	0	0	3	14
N04. The discussion sections were well-organized.	4.53	0.60	17	0	0	1	6	10
N05. The sections effectively reviewed materials covered in lecture.	4.63	0.69	16	0	0	2	2	12
N06. The sections helped me to gain new insight into the subject matter.	4.47	0.69	17	0	0	2	5	10
N07. The TA did a good job of attempting to stimulate student discussion.	4.71	0.57	17	0	0	1	3	13
N08. The TA was able to effectively explain difficult concepts.	4.53	0.60	17	0	0	1	6	10
N09. The TA was available for individual consultation with students.	4.81	0.39	16	0	0	0	3	13
N10. Overall, how would you rate the TA? (5 = excellent; 1 = poor)	4.76	0.54	17	0	0	1	2	14

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

11288. Really went in depth on the readings and taught us what we needed to know while also stimulating class discussion.

11296. Stephen is very knowledgeable on the topics we discussed. He kept the discussions interesting and did his best to incorporate everyone into the discussions without randomly calling on people.

11290. Well organized, highlighted points from readings that were relevant to assignments and exams

156. I liked getting to discuss and debate during section. Hearing different points of view about a subject helped to reinforce the course material.

11285. He helped summarize the readings in section

11292. It was helpful to have us discuss the aspects of the material that were most interesting to us, and especially going over material that we found challenging. I liked that we outlined the core of each important argument so that we knew what to read for and how to approach the material.

11284. I enjoyed most of the discussion, especially when we talked about class material and current events.

11293. I liked that the TA always said things that prompted other students to respond. He encouraged disagreement among students as well and challenged us to not accept ideas just because others think that they are good ideas.

11294. Stephen took a more relaxed approach in the classroom, which helped discussion flow more easily as a conversation between students rather than a lecture. He encouraged us to push back or he would play devil's advocate and help us consider more sides to an argument.

11281. He urged participation, which was well received by classmates

11286. Our section had some really great discussions talking about the readings we had from different authors and comparing/contrasting them. I definitely learned the most from this course through these discussions.

11280. Stephen was an excellent mediator. He allowed us to run discussions but jumped in to explain/challenge us to go further in our analysis. He made section enjoyable and a good learning experience.

11287. The TA sessions exposed me to the intelligent insights of peers, who often challenged me to reconsider and/or sharpen my own views. To me, the TA sessions were processes of intellectual refinement. Additionally, the TA went out of his way to converse with me about what he knew was a particular fascination of mine with government. Whether this gesture came from genuine interest or simple kindness, it reflects the TA's more general respect for his students' interests and viewpoints. I hope many of my discussion sections at Cornell are like this one.

11282. Stephen was very willing to assist those who were facing any challenges in the course. He was also very good at keeping the discussion sections lively and stimulating.

11283. Stephen always attempted to get the class engaged in discussions by asking broad questions that elicited various well-formulated arguments. He was also willing to help students if they ever had questions about homework assignments, exams, and class material.

11289. I always looked forward to debating with other students.

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

11288. TA sessions were perfect for this kind of class.

11296. Maybe making the discussions a bit more informal in the beginning to allow those who are less willingly to talk to become more comfortable.

11290. Not really, I think they were run fairly well

156. Regularly emailing in advance which readings are going to be discussed.

11292. N/A

11284. I wish we had talked less about the readings and more about lectures and current events, I thought that was much more interesting.

11293. The only improvement I would suggest is to have subgroups of 3-4 students discuss class topics before the larger discussion more often. This would allow people who do not say much during the whole discussion to get their ideas out and also prepares every student more for the whole discussion.

11294. I wish there was a bit more structure in the sense that sometimes at the end of discussion I was unsure of what the main take-homes of each reading.

11281. a specific amount of time should be allotted for different segments of the lesson to ensure that everything is covered

11286. Maybe group the questions that students are suppose to bring to class, so we don't all bring similar questions.

11280. N/A

11287. I have few issues with the TA sessions, but if there is one thing I would like to see, it would be some sort of summary or "takeaway" points at the end of each section. We often (and this is good) debate the merits of our different course readings, but sometimes I leave the discussion section confused as to what the main points of the readings were (naturally, we sometimes go on tangents, so we may lose sight of what we were supposed to learn).

11282. nope :)

11283. Including a syllabus for strictly discussion sessions would likely improve the course. It would allow students to understand the material they are going to cover to ensure that students are well prepared for each discussion. Adding specific questions in the syllabus that pertain to each discussion topics will also help students consider and prepare clear arguments for each discussion.

11289. Having a syllabus of what we would discuss each week would have been quite helpful.

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 Course Evaluation Response Summary
 Semester: Fall 2015 Course Owner: GOVT
 Course: GOVT 1111 DIS 205 CID: 9225
 Title: Intro To American Govt&Pol
 Instructor: Roblin
 18 Responses, 19 Enrolled, 94.74% 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)	4.89	0.31	18	0	0	0	2	16
N02. I met with my TA individually: (5 = more than 5 times; 1 = never)	1.89	1.04	18	8	6	3	0	1
N03. The TA was knowledgeable about the course material.	4.83	0.37	18	0	0	0	3	15
N04. The discussion sections were well-organized.	4.50	0.76	18	0	0	3	3	12
N05. The sections effectively reviewed materials covered in lecture.	4.22	0.91	18	0	1	3	5	9
N06. The sections helped me to gain new insight into the subject matter.	4.33	0.94	18	1	0	0	8	9
N07. The TA did a good job of attempting to stimulate student discussion.	4.78	0.41	18	0	0	0	4	14
N08. The TA was able to effectively explain difficult concepts.	4.72	0.55	18	0	0	1	3	14
N09. The TA was available for individual consultation with students.	4.56	0.59	18	0	0	1	6	11
N10. Overall, how would you rate the TA? (5 = excellent; 1 = poor)	4.67	0.57	18	0	0	1	4	13

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

11357. He's definitely one of the better TAs I've had and did a really good job with getting people to talk and not just sit in silence staring at each other (I've had more discussion sections and seminars like that than I'd care to think about).

11353. The discussions were interesting and brought a new light to many of the ideas we covered in lecture. Overall, it made the class much more enjoyable.

11361. Always very well organized. TA was genuinely interested in the material and it showed in the quality of teaching and structure. Gave everyone ample opportunity to voice opinions and ask questions in class, and the whole class was normally engaged.

11367. He knew everyone individually and I felt like he was very approachable.

11355. Talking in depth about each subject matter

11358. We went over the topics discussed in class in conjunction with the readings and it made it all easier to understand.

11356. Breaking down the readings and opinion based discussion.

11366. (As an introvert) it is easier and more enjoyable to have these small group discussions and actually hear everyone's views.

11351. It gave us a chance to talk and debate about the topics covered in class.

11365. I really appreciated how approachable he was. He was willing to meet with you to discuss anything, relevant to the course or not.

11354. I like that the TA put effort into emphasizing what was important about the course

158. I liked that the TA was able to answer questions that we had in a clear and concise manner. He helped me understand the information that we needed to know from the supplemental readings much better than I could have on my own.

11364. In the second half of the class we began to split into little groups more often to discuss specific questions. I found this to be really effective in enhancing discussions, as opposed to the whole class talks we had done prior.

11359. There were a lot of interesting discussions in this section that broadened my thinking on the topics we were covering in class. There were a lot of differing viewpoints and I got to hear some that I had not previously considered.

11352. We had good discussions on the readings. They were enjoyable and insightful.

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

11357. -keep writing agenda on board

-email us what we will be focusing on in section

-if possible, schedule office hours when students are most available

11353. N/A

11361. No

11367. It felt almost too structured

11358. I do not have any suggestions

11351. No, since the improvements came midway through the semester when Stephen asked us for our input and then made changes based on that which I appreciate.

11365. My only suggestion is this: To induce more student involvement and interaction with the material, you could assign each reading that is going to be discussed in section to a student ahead of time and have them come up with a 1 page memo summary and distribute it to the rest of the class. This way, they could help lead discussion and other students who did not have the time to finish the readings for that week will still be prepared for discussion.

11354. Managing time better so that we covered all of the material. The TA improved by the end of the semester.

11364. I think overall this session could not have been much better. Perhaps some of the discussions could have been more guided, so they forced people to talk about specific policies.

11359. Encouraging more discussions between small groups before we have a class discussion, which the TA started to do towards the end of the semester.

11352. Better time management