Subject Details	
Name	POL SCI 112C LEC 001 HIST POL THEORY
DEPT_NAME	POL SCI
DEPT_FORM	POL SCI
EVALUATION_TYPE	F
First Name	Daniela
Last Name	Cammack

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?

Your Mean 5.65	
Department Mean (POL SCI) 6.04	

Scale: 0.00 – 7.00
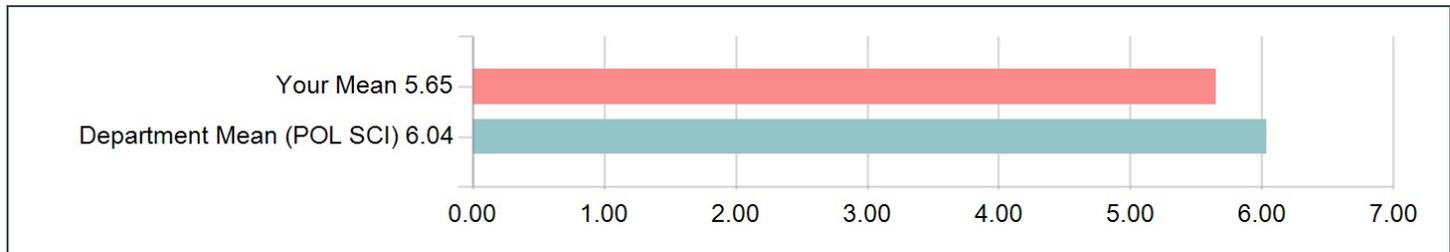
Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this instructor?		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	3	2.78%
2	5	4.63%
3	2	1.85%
4-Moderately Effective	12	11.11%
5	17	15.74%
6	25	23.15%
7-Extremely Effective	44	40.74%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		108
Mean		5.65
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.58

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

|	
Your Mean 5.50	
Department Mean (POL SCI) 6.06	

Scale: 0.00 – 7.00
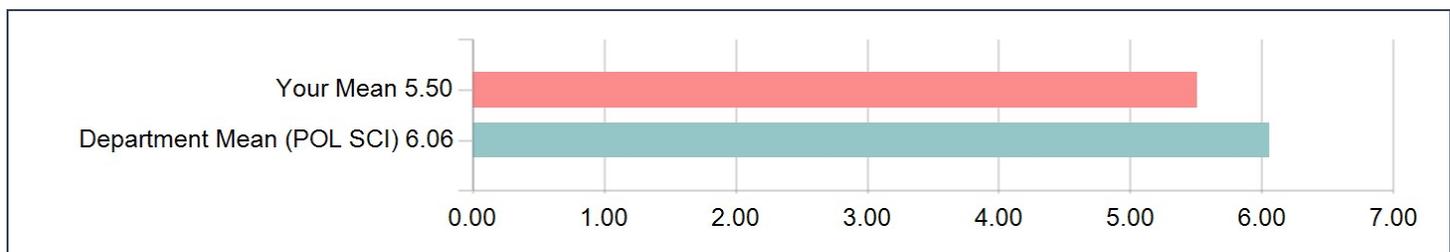
Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this course?		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	3	2.86%
2	7	6.67%
3	4	3.81%
4-Moderately Effective	7	6.67%
5	20	19.05%
6	27	25.71%
7-Extremely Effective	37	35.24%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		105
Mean		5.50
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.65

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.

Your Mean 5.44
Department Mean (POL SCI) 6.42

The instructor presented content in an organized manner.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	5	4.63%
2	5	4.63%
3	8	7.41%
4-Somewhat	10	9.26%
5	14	12.96%
6	24	22.22%
7-Very	42	38.89%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		108
Mean		5.44
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.78

The instructor explained concepts clearly.
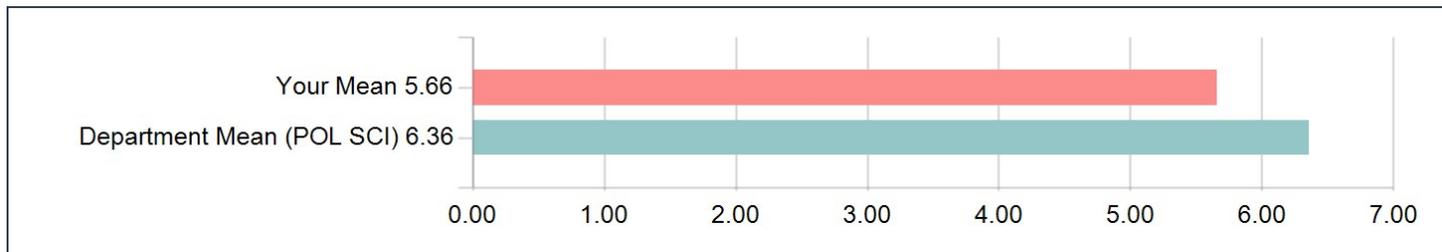
The instructor explained concepts clearly.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	4	3.70%
2	4	3.70%
3	6	5.56%
4-Somewhat	8	7.41%
5	13	12.04%
6	27	25.00%
7-Very	46	42.59%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		108
Mean		5.66
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.66

The instructor was helpful when I had difficulties or questions.
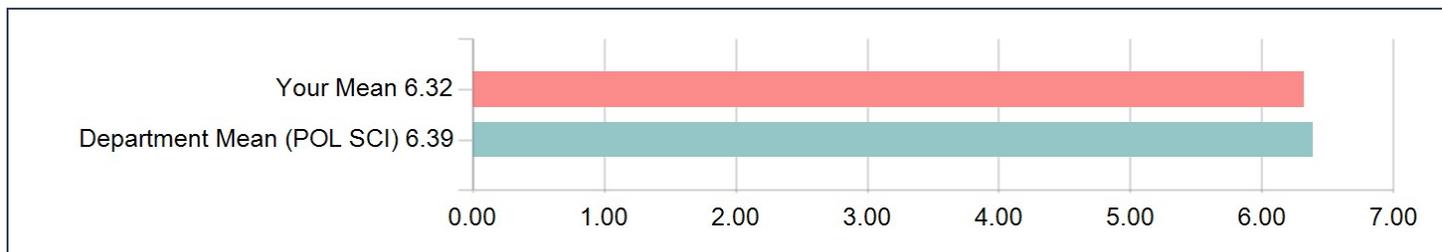
The instructor was helpful when I had difficulties or questions.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	1	0.96%
2	2	1.92%
3	1	0.96%
4-Somewhat	5	4.81%
5	8	7.69%
6	20	19.23%
7-Very	67	64.42%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		104
Mean		6.32
Median		7.00
Standard Deviation		1.21

The instructor provided clear constructive feedback.
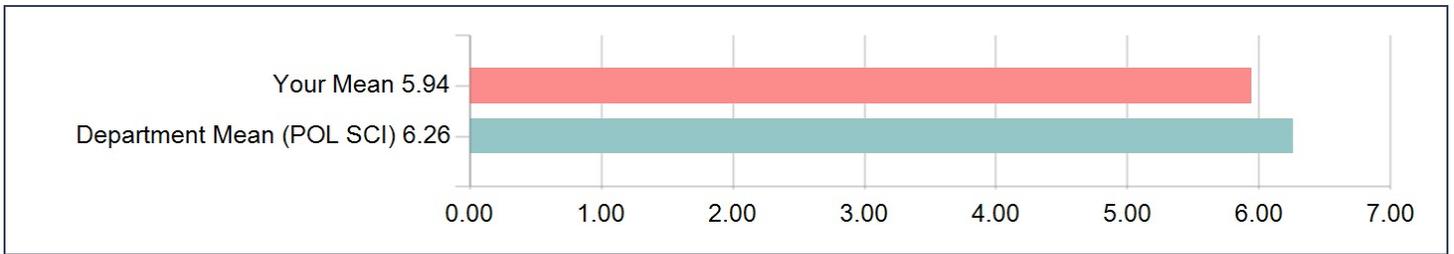
The instructor provided clear constructive feedback.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	2	1.92%
2	4	3.85%
3	2	1.92%
4-Somewhat	10	9.62%
5	9	8.65%
6	22	21.15%
7-Very	55	52.88%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		104
Mean		5.94
Median		7.00
Standard Deviation		1.51

The instructor encouraged student questions and participation.
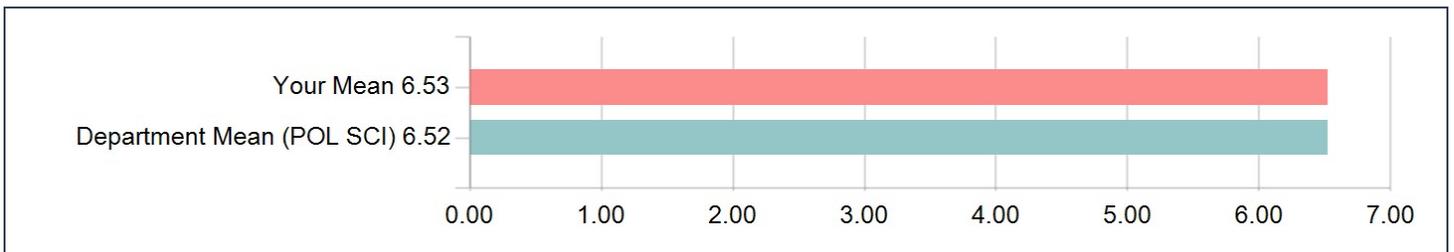
The instructor encouraged student questions and participation.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	2	1.82%
2	1	0.91%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	4	3.64%
5	6	5.45%
6	11	10.00%
7-Very	86	78.18%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		110
Mean		6.53
Median		7.00
Standard Deviation		1.15

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED COURSE QUESTIONS:

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

The course was effectively organized.
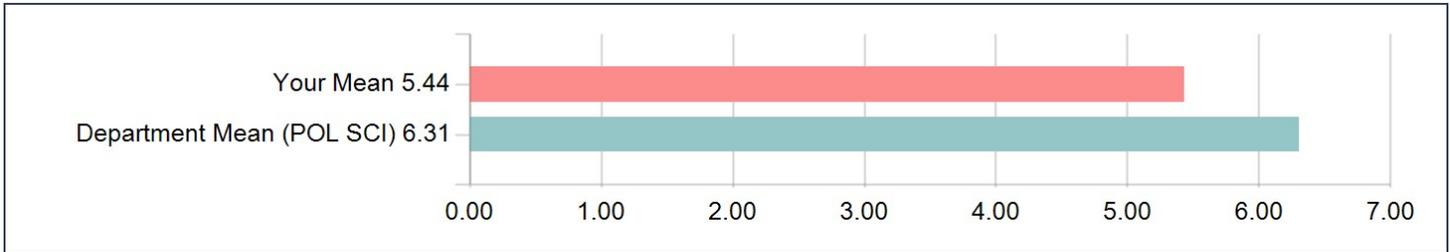
The course was effectively organized.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	7	6.48%
2	4	3.70%
3	8	7.41%
4-Somewhat	10	9.26%
5	9	8.33%
6	27	25.00%
7-Very	43	39.81%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		108
Mean		5.44
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.86

The course developed my abilities and skills for the subject.
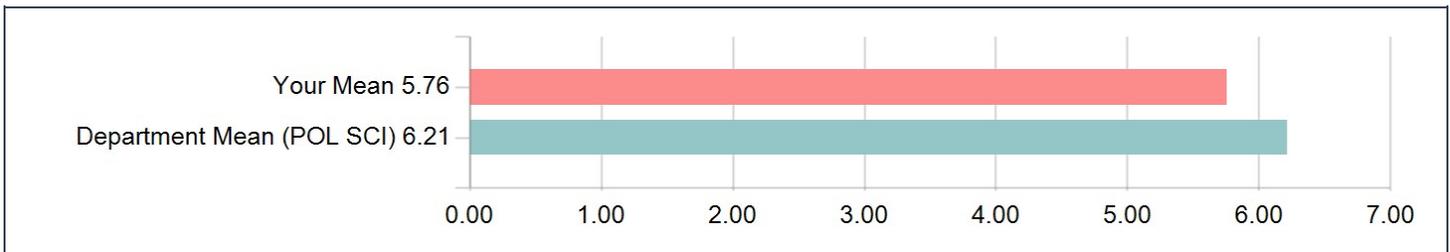
The course developed my abilities and skills for the subject.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	5	4.67%
2	5	4.67%
3	2	1.87%
4-Somewhat	8	7.48%
5	11	10.28%
6	24	22.43%
7-Very	52	48.60%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		107
Mean		5.76
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.71

The course developed my ability to think critically about the subject.
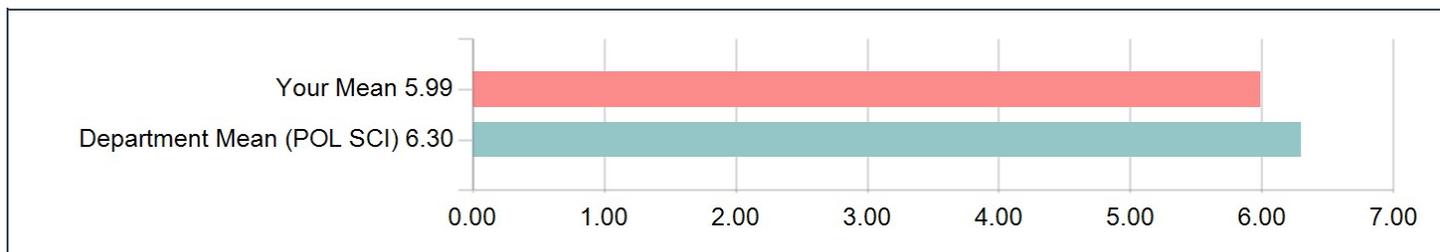
The course developed my ability to think critically about the subject.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	3	2.78%
2	3	2.78%
3	3	2.78%
4-Somewhat	8	7.41%
5	12	11.11%
6	16	14.81%
7-Very	63	58.33%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		108
Mean		5.99
Median		7.00
Standard Deviation		1.55

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

Comments
Really insightful information, the course was admittedly challenging but I think it was intended to be that way. The professor's enthusiasm and helpfulness was amazing as well. The course made me think about concepts and issues in a new light. I also appreciated how the professor would bring in her own personal experience on concepts such as our discussion of feminism and Freudian theory.
This class is very detailed and provides a lot of good information.
Very diverse authors. Loved the themes we covered.

Comments

The openness the professor had towards hearing students questions, comments, thoughts, etc. and always encouraging active participation.

Challenging, informative, interesting, makes and helps to think critically. Dr. Cammack made sure that the class is not boring. Great class! Lots of knowledge gained!
Covered a huge amount of topics/material/authors.
This class is a great addition to Cal!

N/A

I really appreciated the way this class was organized, and the way Prof. Cammack presented the material. The class really promoted a deep level of engagement with the texts and the ideas, but also provided a good balance of historical context. Prof. Cammack was extremely approachable and a great resource for students. She also, more than any other class I took this year, was able to build a sense of community in the class that was appreciated and made the material more engaging.

The selection of readings was amazing! Overall learned so much and appreciated the freedom to get creative with assignments. Prof. Cammack was extremely accommodating with her time and feedback. I appreciated the grading system established between herself and the GSI's. A genuine person with great thoughts and effective class format that encouraged participation and open discussion.

Probably the most student engaged out of most of my virtual courses.

strengths – good background on history

Great focus on texts and structuring course so reading is required but not burdensome

Professor Cammack was very passionate about the course material which I absolutely loved. She also encouraged participation and made the class environment super enjoyable. I also liked how she included a diverse variety of authors.

Our professor made me so happy to come to class. Surprise vists from her daughter and her husband's tea interruptions made my entire day every time. But also, she is a class act and such a professional. She cares deeply about her students and deeply about her material. This is honestly the first time I had a professor here at Cal (I am a junior) who I felt loved to teach as much as she did. She scrapped the course structure and went with her own for this semester as it was the first time she taught the class, and I am so glad she did. I loved her assembly of texts, her class set up (largely discussion–based), she even had innovative ideas to keep the class engaged (studio audience) on Zoom. Basically she is great and if anyone deserves to be a prof here at Cal, it is her.

Professor Cammack is an extremely pleasant and kind teacher. It is clear that she is dedicated to the subject she teaches and is passionate about sharing her knowledge with students. Her energy is a major strength for the politcal science department at Berkeley. I appreciate the diversity in reaching options and ability to pick and choose which readings to do.

this was seriously one of my favorite classes I've taken. I loved how everything was facilitated in almost a conversation–like manner, so even though we are all remote it still felt welcoming and inviting as an in–person class would. I also loved how questions and comments and even challenges or different interpretations were welcomed from the studio audience because it gave me a full grasp of whatever it was that an author was saying, and would show me perspectives on the text other than my own or the professor's. I also really liked how there would be little recaps in the beginning of each lecture, with a wrap up of key take aways at the end, so I could know which were the main themes to pull from each text and the course overall. Also very small but extremely appreciated detail was how she made sure to introduce the studio audience by name every lecture, and thank them by name at the end of the lecture! It definitely made a large class feel more small and made me feel more welcomed and seen.

Wonderful and personable professor, thorough and interesting look into modern political theory.

Professor Cammack actively encourages student participation. I really like the idea of studio audiences and believe that more polisci courses should adopt this model because it creates richer discussions on the readings.

The course readings were very well thought through, and I appreciated that all of them were chosen for a reason. As well, the professor was very effective in working through them, and I very much was able to learn from their commentary on many of them.

Professor provided her lecture notes which was somewhat helpful. I somewhat liked that we could make up our own prompts and choose authors.

The strengths of this course was definitely the ability to make students and the studio audience think critically about the readings. The discussions genuinely contributes to student's learning.

I think the biggest strength of this course was the breadth of content we got to cover. While it at times was overwhelming, I felt like I really got to sample a huge range of voices and opinions on the topics we were covering. I also enjoyed the idea of our memo assignments. While sometimes instructions were unclear, I like the idea of having a low–weight one–page assignment like that. It wasn't too big of a commitment and yet I feel like I got as much out from it as I would have if we were assigned a longer assignment. Prof. Cammack seems to really care about her students and that is much appreciated.

Readings were grouped by subject matter and chronology. The instructor was enthusiastic and asked good questions of students.

interesting and broad selection of readings

The course covers so many different topics.

None. This course was highly disorganized. I dont doubt Professor's Cammacks ability and knowledge about the subject she

Comments

taught, BUT that doesn't take away the fact her course was highly disorganized in the sense that she doesn't do lecture slides so it was very hard to follow through and just sit for 2 hours watching her talk. Later down in the semester she fixed it by giving us notes to know what she would talk about in class but there was a negligence for visual learners because we wouldn't be able to learn the material like other students would.

be exposed to a wide array of political thinkers across all spectrums, as well as various political movements throughout history and the world

The strengths of the course can be summarized as such: it was very welcoming, friendly, unintimidating, and enthusiastic. There was no barrier that might normally exist for a Theory course and the Professor succeeded in establishing an environment where students unfamiliar with theory can thrive.

The strengths of the course are exposure to diverse texts and the emphasis on a variety of important themes across political thought.

N/A

Professor Cammack was so so so so so sweet! She is so understanding and accommodating of student needs, and was so incredibly graceful when it came to letting students speak and letting them participate in class discussions. Her zoom room was constantly overflowing with raised hands and faces, which is a testament to her ability to teach effectively and engagingly. I loved her class and wish I took more opportunities to get to know Professor Cammack more personally!

The strengths of the course was that we got to participate during lectures and ask questions after lecture.

The course is a great introduction to political theory and gives a lot of thinkers a lot of space to speak.

The professor is amazing, and I loved the syllabus and readings. They constantly surprised me and pushed me to question my understanding of all the concepts. The professor was so willing to look over papers and engage with us in ways I rarely see with professors. She was also very creative in different ways to engage us in the online setting and very accommodating due to COVID. I also loved her engagement one on one during office hours, she took the time to really try to get to know us despite the class size which I endlessly appreciated.

The passion brought to the subject by the professor. She was clearly invested in engaging students and presenting material in a way that could be synthesized well.

Professor Cammack provides amazing lectures with rich course material. Her willingness to make small adjustments to satisfy the class and her ability to accept feedback supports her successful dynamic approach to instruction. She is a highly skilled specialist in political theory. Her expertise, her calm disposition, and her smooth instruction make her very complicated job look easy (even though it is not). I highly recommend Professor Cammack's course to anyone interested in philosophy, history, or political theory.

This course was incredible. I loved the content, the lectures were interesting and easy to follow even without visual aid, the assignments were thought provoking yet manageable, the professor was kind and empathetic while still pushing us to spend time with the reading and participate in class. I liked the studio audience layout. Office hours were really useful. The professor herself looked at our papers which was incredibly appreciated. Honestly, I was thinking about switching majors and the prospect of taking another class with this professor was one of the reasons I decided to stay in the major.

Covered a lot of material and new ways to think about politics. Appreciated the general wide material from across the world, especially with this usually being a European Political Thought class.

How well organized the professor's lecture notes were as well as the course content!

A strength in this class was the wide array of material we covered. Based on the nature of our assignments, it was helpful to have multiple authors at our disposal.

The GSI was really helpful. Lots of office hours.

The readings were better than I expected, I learned a lot from them and some of the authors I discovered are now part of my future reading list.

The strengths of the course were definitely the readings selected for the course as well as the open discussion nature of the class where the professor would let people speak during lecture to talk about the readings in full detail.

The wide selection of readings and authors helped me to learn a wide variety of political theories and ideas by different authors. I also enjoyed the professor's context and clarification on the sources as she helped me better understand these complex political theories. The short memos were very fun to write and the topics helped me to bring together different political theories. Overall I thoroughly enjoyed this course and I have learned so much about political theory this semester.

This course challenged me in so many ways. From the intense reading load to the ambitious memos, I really pulled out all of the stops for this class. However, as difficult as this class was it was equally rewarding.

The reading load was intense and I had a difficult time with it for most of the semester. However, once I realized that I don't have to read each text in–depth (I wish this was made a little more clearer at the beginning) the reading load became more manageable. In general, I really loved the texts for this class. I'm so tired of reading old white men and this class presented so many different perspectives and ways of looking at things. I appreciate how open–minded Professor Cammack is. She gave every author validity while also critiquing them. She made clear what her biases were but she was very open–minded in how she presented and

Comments

analyzed the texts. I am so happy that Professor Cammack included so many different authors. I've always wanted to read about political thought from non–Western countries and this is the first class where I was able to do that. I loved reading DuBois, Washington, Martineau, Gandhi, and the other anti–imperialists. Although writers like Adorno and Horkheimer and Benjamin were harder to get through, they really changed my perspective over what politics means and encompasses. In addition to the diversity of authors, I loved the diversity of content. This class showed me that politics and political thought doesn't just equate to what democracy looks like; from economic indicators to culture to psychology, this class pushes back against conventional concepts of political theory (although it did include a lot of that as well).

Professor Cammack was very accessible and she increased her office hours during key parts of the course (i.e. finals week). I met her twice in office hours and she was so kind and so sincere. She genuinely loves her job and interacting with students. Truth be told, this semester sucked but Professor Cammack got me excited for this class. In addition, she is super open to feedback and asked us for it halfway through the course.

I appreciated how there was a lot of flexibility in the course. I liked how there were a lot of texts and authors to choose from because I could focus on the authors that most interested me for the discussion posts and memos. I liked that the memo prompts were general also because I could choose what I wanted to write about (but I think most students would disagree with me).

She was very knowledgable and opened me up to knew ideas about political theory and thought I had not discovered yet.

Prof. Cammack included some very interesting authors in the syllabus, some of which are not commonly read in other political thoery classes. I enjoyed her experimentations and found the class enriching. I particularly liked how she encouraged student participation through her "studio audience".

I found the readings presented by this instructor to be very important for the study of political science. We were presented with articles and readings from authors whose voices are needed to be heard.

I thought section was very helpful. It was effective to discuss readings in depth with our gsi

the diversity of authors

The class taught me a lot. I came into this course with a very limited Political Theory background, however I now feel much more prepared to explain concepts such as Democracy, freedom, women's rights, ect...

Professor provided a lot of creative freedom for students which I appreciated.

I thought that the studio audience was a great way to give everyone a chance to speak and allow for those who have anxiety speaking in class to prepare. I liked having the studio audience because it felt more organized that way given the online environment. I appreciated Professor's historical background leading up to the discussion of the authors and their works which allowed us to put the pieces together of historical events to political works. I especially appreciated the Professor's authenticity and honesty in presenting these authors and speaking her truth.

Professor Cammack was really kind and encouraging. She provided a lot of positive affirmation whenever people contributed and presented the material in a way I wasn't expecting – really emphasizing the process of thought and feeling with the texts rather than spoon–feeding the material or her beliefs.

I think the focus on texts kept me grounded to something very tangible that I could always turn back to when confused.

The course was organized very well and it was very clear which module we were on. Also, the readings were very engaging. Though they were very numerous and often times tedious, they were very challenging, yet fun to read and broadened my knowledge of the subject matter.

Interesting materials and discussions.

Very interactive, provided space for questions and was very welcoming to student participation

Professor Cammack structured the class with a studio audience every lecture which facilitated discussion having a group of students prepared to have a discussion.

Not too much courseload which was nice. Some nice accommodations and deadline pushbacks.

The strengths for the course would be the flexibility for the reading schedule and the clarifications in lecture for all readings plus useful context.

This course was very well organized and contained a fantastic variety of texts which spanned an impressive amount of history. Above all, I cannot say enough good words about Professor Cammack — she is passionate and enthusiastic about the topics, up front about her own political biases, respectful of ideological differences, and perhaps the most genuinely kind teacher I've had at Berkeley. She cares about the well–being and success of her students, both inside and outside of the classroom.

–Professor Cammack cares about the wellbeing of her students and was very accommodating.
–I liked how participation and attending office hours was 40% of the grade. This kept me focused and held me accountable.
–Professor Cammack is quick to respond to student emails and questions
–I liked that there were no stressful quizzes. No memorization required!
–Professor Cammack is very friendly and creates a positive class environment
–Professor Cammack is very knowledgable of the material and historical context of each text.

Comments

–She is responsive to student feedback. She modified parts of the course after student surveys.
–Professor Cammack facilitates discussions well.
–Professor Cammack provides thoughtful and informative feedback on papers.
–I have some gripes with the course structure, but it is clear that Professor Cammack cares and is well–qualified.
–In the beginning, lectures were overrun by irrelevant student commentary. However, lectures improved significantly by the end of the course.

Professor Cammack was a great professor, and her enthusiasm really engaged students and kept the class active. She adapted very well to remote learning and was very accommodating and understanding. Class taught me how to write clearly and concisely and I saw improvements in my writing over the course of the class.

The Professor's insight and knowledge on every single topic that we covered were incredible! She included a lot of her own personal experiences and takes on the subject matter to make it personable to us which I really appreciated considering how this material can sometimes feel distant. Also, the Professor set out the standards for the course very early on which definitely set the tone for the expectations and the workload of the class very early on.

Professor Cammack is very earnest and knowledgeable but is a bit scattered and the course is hard to follow and the texts, difficult to engage with. I appreciated her efforts to send clear outlines for papers, but that was only after students created uproar.

I loved the range of readings in the class and the way that the class was divided up into modules. I thought lectures were really helpful in understanding and digesting the course materials. I thought the class was so interesting and really thought–provoking. I really loved being in the class!

The instructor is very knowledgeable about the material and content which makes it interesting to engage with the material as well as challenging us as students to critically analyze and formulate our own opinions and ideas about the works.

There is so much room for creativity in this course. I truly feel like there is no class like it. Enjoyed writing every single paper

The course materials and subjects covered were so interesting.

One page, single–spaced memos with any size margins with a lot of text evidence available definitely improved my writing, conciseness, and analysis abilities. Professor Cammack had very many open office hour slots available. It was nice seeing her daughter in lectures.

The strengths of the course include: Professor Cammack's genuine passion for political theory and teaching, and the variety of the reading selection included in the syllabus.

The course is organized very clearly overall.

professor is very open to questions from students

the material was interesting, the conversation was always encouraged and fun

I think overall, Professor Cammack was the strength of the course. She was incredible in detailing certain topics and was very engaging.

The course is designed around readings and conceptual pieces, which creates a learning environment where one gets out of the class what they put in. I enjoyed learning about theories of government and historical continuities largely due to the engagement and passion of the professor and the GSI.

Learned how to analyze different political thoughts rather than summarizing them

The course material was very engaging and thought provoking. I appreciated the variety that Professor Cammack provided with the course material. It was nice not only focusing on Western writers as we delved into the vast landscape of political theory. Additionally, it was nice to have the professor engage with us when we evaluated the texts.

Interesting

The course heavily focuses on critically thinking about the readings of the course. Having taken political science courses before, I was surprised by the amount of engagement with the readings that we had. This isn't to say my other PS courses haven't engaged with the readings, just not to the degree in this course.

The professor is very knowledgeable about the course material.

Professor Cammack is amazing for teaching political theory especially for students with no background in it. Providing historical background and biographical context to each one of the philosophers we read helped me a lot

The GSIs

Perhaps more than any other course I have ever taken, this course forced me to forge my own ideas and develop my own ability to interpret the course content. The instructors also highly encouraged class discussion and interaction in a welcoming and engaging way.

The studio audience portion of the course was innovative, interactive, and easily one of my favorite parts! I appreciated that Professor Cammack enthusiastically incorporated student voices and perspectives into the lecture. This allowed us to witness as fellow students grappled with questions and to hear alternative perspectives and interpretations of the text than the Professor's. Professor Cammack had a great balance between listening and challenging student perspectives and arguments, too. This

Comments
created a very encouraging environment to test out new arguments and air half–baked thoughts without fear of being shut down or criticized. It was a great lecture!

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

Comments
Having slides would improve engagement a lot as it is quite hard to follow without them.
I think less readings in the reader would be helpful so that we can really go into topics rather than just skimming readers. There is so much to cover I think that even one or two less readings each week can be useful. I was the most confident on weeks with short readings or weeks with just a few readings we focused on.
This class could use more assignments other than writing assignments in order to diversify work.
Shorter readings per week. It was overwhelming at times.
She improved on this towards the middle of the class, but it would be great if she could always post her talking points for each lecture throughout the whole semester.
The course is good as is. Sometimes I felt, Dr. Cammack wasn't sleeping like me and as I was doing my late night readings, I would get emails of her submissions of various needed material for the course, to make sure, we weren't missing on anything, which was great!
N/A
It did not always feel like Prof. Cammack and my GSI were on the same page about what they were looking for in writing assignments.
I wish there were a visual aid; I found it hard to concentrate during lectures and would often zone out despite taking notes. There were a LOT of announcements for the class, and so my inbox was flooded. Sometimes when students made a point/contribution, the professor would avoid or talk over them; it might be good to offer OH as a more appropriate time to discuss the ideas or otherwise open up alternative places to speak rather than moving on so abruptly.
I believe slides would have greatly helped me in better understanding the content of the course. I also found it difficult to pay attention in lecture.
improved – hard to follow along with lecture because prof did not offer slides.
More intellectual diversity of thought among different thinkers, especially some more attention given to the right
I think better organization around the assignments would have been nice. Also some more explanation of the readings/authors overall.
Any faults of this course can be attributed to Zoom issues in my opinion.
perhaps small slideshows for the more background/ historical content of the lectures, that have key numbers or even just the name of historical figures and a few pictures, to help visually contextualize the history aspect of what we're learning.
It was more like a seminar, which I loved. But not everyone is an auditory learner so maybe just put something in the class description to warn people before they sign up that there will not be lecture slides.
I really wish Professor Cammack used slides with bullet points.
I was not a fan of the studio audience part of lecture, and I often found that student comments would distract or detract from the direction and organization of the lecture. I wish the professor would have spoken more and given us more of her own opinions and thoughts on the text, for her own comments were truly rich and insightful, I just would have liked to have gotten more of them during lecture.
The course did not have any slides and the professor was biased. Before readings that challenge her views, she explicitly mentioned that "I do not agree with these authors". The prompts for papers were vague and too general thus students had to turn to their GSIs for direction. Furthermore, this class had too many readings for each week and even though the professor mentioned that it is not required to read every single reading, it was expected to have done them in order to participate in section. The readings themselves were difficult and many of them not interesting/main texts of theorists.
I feel like the course can be improved by spending less time on an author's background during lecture. One way to do this is by providing a short document on bcourses about an author's background. Also, another alternative is by having weekly modules on bcourses where students can find articles, videos, and background info.
This class had a ton of reading. And while it allowed us to learn from a diverse array of political thinkers, it was just too much. At some weeks there was over 100 pages of reading and it was very overwhelming at points. I think that if the reading was refined to maybe 70% of the volume that we had this semester I would have been really able to dive deeper into the thinkers that we covered. I also think that while the memo assignments were fun, they were treated a little bit seriously for making up only 10% * 3 of our final grade. I put a lot of effort into them and got good grades on them but they didn't really matter in the end compared to the other portions of our grade.

Comments

Some weeks, reading assignments were incredibly long and materially dense. Also, the memo prompts could be broad or ambiguous and it was not always clear what was being asked.

N/A

N/A.

Professor Cammack had no authority in her course. At times i wondered whether i should listen to my GSI or her. Cammack would praise the GSI and not tell them anything when they would be wrong and give us false information. She would leave the responsibility to the GSI to give us a grade and she never even looked it over. There were a lot of discrepancies in the course such as; not being clear and staying with what was initially posted on the syllabus. I hope this class gets serious revision because i dont want other peers to suffer the way i did.

maybe some worksheet hw. to reinforce readings, or a midterm exam.

I would suggest that the consequences of its strengths are that students who wish to explore the depth of political theory, e.g. canonical texts, are actively discouraged. The readings offered in the course are, perhaps, not challenging enough. There is a little elaboration on key concepts, though this is intentional as to prevent biasing our reading of texts with already formulated categories, and, nonetheless, I can't help but feel that there wasn't enough theoretical structure in an undergraduate course (the course that is supposed to give you the guard rails or map that you later can challenge with further study/competence). Likewise, I was uncertain how the modules were created. There seemed to be a "national" element missing when talking about nations. I am biased in this interpretation and I don't consider my opinion to have much weight relative to the class, but having a discussion on the Russian Revolution whilst neglecting the Russian "nationalists" views may pervert the image of the Russian for the students. Lenin was not a Russian in culture, let's say, since he was living in Europe and had correspondences with Germans which, debatably, perverted his view of the Russian Nation.

Communication between professor and GSIs could be more streamlined, but there was improvement over the course of the class.

Professor could have made powerpoint slides to accommodate visual learners instead of saying "I have no time"

Also said in GSI one – a lot of reading! Maybe consider cutting down a little bit after a paper is turned in for a little break

I think the course could be improved by putting people groups for short discussion.

Perhaps reducing the number of authors by about 15% and adding a bit more from each. Furthermore, especially in online semesters, having a week that is lighter at the mid semester mark would help let students catch up.

Some authors we didn't touch on as much as I would have liked to, which felt like we were doing more reading than we could talk about at times.

The student participation is wonderful, but the studio audience idea got tedious. At some points there seemed like too much focus on student thoughts and not enough genuine lecture material being taught. Moreover the disconnect between the prof and the gsis in terms of rubric and harshness of grading was a prevalent negative in my experience.

My only complaint (which won't happen in the future) is the chat function. I find the chat highly distracting, impersonal. Unfortunately, it provides certain students with a Twitter–like ability to post without accountability. I would imagine that some of their comments might be different if there was a person in front of them.

Communication between the GSIs and professors especially in regards to assignment expectations can be improved.

However, I feel that the course was still extremely Western and white–centric. I did not appreciate the Global South or Eastern philosophers being forced to fit into one week, same with feminists or Black political theorists as it perpetuated a form of tokenization of these philosophers. It also perpetuated the narrative of democracy and the subject matter in the course as a derivative from white thinkers which is not the case. By focusing mainly on Western philosophers in a class on History of Modern Political Thought, it biased the material from a very white male centric lens, unforunately. I wish the course was more intersectional. This is a great start as the political science department is generally lacking on intersectionality and diversity of thought. But a lot more can be done especially since this is one of the few political thought courses taught. Please diversify the readings and course material!!! Moreover, the amount of work and readings in a time like this was unnecessary and confusing. GSIs and the professor usually had different expectations that were not clearly communicated and assignments were changing a few days before they were due. It simply was a lot of material and assignments with little clear organization and resources

Critical lack of communication between GSIs and Instructor. This resulted in unclear expectations for assignments. Many course readings were unrelated to political theory. Instructor and GSIs repeatedly gave students contradictory or divergent instructions regarding assignments. Greater coordination is an absolute necessity.

The course could be improved by allowing students to finish their own particular thoughts on the subject matter.

While I appreciate Prof. Cammack's sentiment with the studio audience feature of this course, it was extremely ineffective. Limiting participation to 6 or 7 students for the entire lecture was unhelpful and exclusionary. If you were not in the "studio audience" for that lecture, then asking a question and getting an answer was almost impossible. Prof. Cammack would oftentimes discount students who raised their hands to see if anyone from the studio audience had a question first. Considering that this class presented a lot of challenging material, Prof. Cammack's choice to conduct lectures by freely "vamping" on the material and limiting space for questions was a poor one.

The changing of directions on the memos was so confusing. I would just stop reading the announcements because there were so

Comments

many changes every day.

During lectures, I feel that we spent too much time on the history and background of authors, but not enough time articulating the ideas and thought processes of these thinkers.

There didn't feel like much structure during the course when it comes to how lectures were actually organized and I think the course would be better off with powerpoints even if the powerpoints aren't particularly clear or helpful for people that might be visual learners.

The only area I can think of for improvement would maybe be ro reduce the number of readings as it was often hard to keep up with all of the readings.

There was some miscommunication between the GSIs and the professor. This didn't affect me as much because my GSI was clear in her expectations but for some other students this might've caused difficulty. For future courses, I think the GSIs and professor need to be on the same page more.

I liked the studio audience, but sometimes it could be quite distracting. Sometimes, students didn't explain things as well as Professor Cammack would've and it took away from lecture (because the students in the studio audience studied the texts more in–depth than everyone else). As a result, sometimes key points in the lecture would not be expanded upon.

The memos asked a lot from us. I personally enjoyed them but I won't deny that writing the memos shaved 10 years off of my life. I think grading expectations should be reduced for the memos.

I wish there were more international thinkers. Personally, I would've liked to see more Middle Eastern and African thinkers.

Unorganized in terms of assignments – get all the GSIs on the same page so we aren't all confused

While this course was slightly unorthodox for a political science class (lack of presentations), the orientation of class discussion helped the understanding of each week's material.

I think lectures should have more notes using slides so we can get the main points of the readings/authors. I felt like too much time was used talking about history of authors and not text. And when we did talk about text I felt like we were the ones responsible for explaining what they said. We shouldve gone through text more in depth and had passages explained to us after we attempted to guess what the author meant. More physical notes needed. Also prompts in the beginning of the course were kind of vague and I was unsure what was being asked of us for the papers.

Maybe have less reading, to go into depth to fewer texts.

I think the course can be a bit more organized during lecture time perhaps with a power point with guiding information for the specific content being covered each day.

As much as I loved learning about all the authors, it was just way too many readings to focus on. It was hard to read all the texts as they were lengthy. I found all the readings extremely interesting, but I would have appreciated fewer texts so that I had a chance to get to them. I was only able to read the ones I found most interesting and in the end for my final paper, it bit me back that I have a few I didn't read every single one.

I think because there were so many readings, many of which I felt were beyond my pay grade, it would have been helpful to have a little bit more overview of each text during lecture just to say "here are the big points and the author's big takeaway."

I think there wasn't enough of an effort towards abstraction. There were so many authors and texts, but I never felt that the instructor made much of an effort to show us broad theories and trends of political theory. I felt that it was more of a history of political thinkers and their thoughts than the history of how political thought evolved at large.

This course was taught as if it were a seminar of 7 people, instead of hundreds. I did not engage with the professor at all.

Also, the lack of transparency and standardization in grading was very disappointing.

If the lectures had slides, it would be a lot easier to follow.

I was very happy to have Daniela as my professor for this course. She is very supportive and gives fast, organized e–mail responses than anyone else! I don't see things that should be improved.

Like all courses on political thought, there is definitely a eurocentric feel. Decolonial/third world studies felt like an afterthought which was definitely disappointing

n/a

A little too much summary at the beginning and not enough diving into the text. Not all text are relevant so it would be best to just leave them out completely, it would reduce a lot of stress. Even though we were encouraged to just "skim" it still feels like a burden to skim and not feel as if you comprehended the material properly etc. Rather read what i need to be successful in the course and move on.

I think what could be improved is having visual aid during lectures for students that are visual learners. Professor Cammack did a good job of accommodating later in the semester by providing notes she prepared for each lecture.

Comments

It was a really confusing course. I wish the memos were more specific, maybe a set of prompts to choose from– It was a bit too freeform, and that often caused confusion.

This course could be improved with more organization in lecture through possible slides or at a slower pace.

I really liked the idea of the Studio Audience, but it has some limits. The professor sometimes focused too much just on the students in the Studio Audience, ignoring pretty much the other students in the chat. I understand that the course has a lot of students, but the professor may have suggested to write in the chat only when necessary rather than for chatting and discussions between students. Chat messages would have been less numerous and maybe she would have been able to read them and answer to eventual questions. Not that she never did it obviously.

The only thing I can think of is to somehow add more depth to some of the authors, or to present them at their best. For instance, while there were several texts from Marx and Engels, there was only one from Hayek (and not his best writing, as discussed in lecture). If this is the first time that someone is encountering an author, then they might be encouraged to pursue further reading (i.e., to learn more about the author and to dive into their other works) if the text is considered among the author's most significant or impressive works. This could also be achieved if there are more excerpts from other readings, which could help students get a fuller sense of the author's work.

–Fewer texts!!!!!!! This course was hard to keep up with and lacked continuity between modules.
–Lecture went overtime nearly every class.
–Course reader should have page numbers in the table of contents.
–All assigned readings should be included in the course reader.
–The default setting on zoom was for students to be unmuted. This caused frequent interruptions from unmuted students who weren't aware that they had mics on. This created problems nearly every lecture.
–I think breaks and holidays should be honored. I found the amount of email communication to be overwhelming before the class started.
–Two–hour sections are too long! 1.5 hours is perfect, especially considering the time it takes to read all the course material.
–The grading was confusing and inconsistent. GSI's had multiple interpretations of essay prompts.

Maybe less readings, and more in depth in those few

There was a little bit of confusion between the Professor and the GSI's on a couple of assignments which was a little confusing but both the GSI and the Professor did what they could to clear up the confusion. Maybe in the future, clarify expectations about grading and assignments with GSI's before the assignment is talked about in class. People at this school are understandably anxious about grades and I think the confusion caused a lot of unnecessary anxiety.

Professor Cammack tended to ramble so I did not know what was relevant or not to the course material. She stuck Ho Chi Min, Mao, and Guevara into 1 lecture... Yet, gave thinkers of the French revolution weeks upon weeks. Her personal opinions came through in her teaching such as her dislike of Toussaint L'Ouverture's politics which lead students to have a skewed image of him!

I think sometimes, the instructions for some of the writing assignments were a little unclear, and it would helpful to have instructions that were a little more detailed. While I loved the readings, there were a lot and I think it would have been nice to have the opportunity to dive deeper into the individual texts.

I think that there could be more organization in the material. I also think that it is incredibly difficult to be organized online in the middle of a pandemic, so I don't blame the instructor for this shortfall.

I think maybe there could be a bit more structure. but i personally didn't feel like i needed it. It made it so much fun to come to class and have a discussion about the texts. Though, if someone is new to political theory, maybe they'd benefit from a bit more structure.

Maybe less readings, felt I could not properly take in a reading because I was scrambling to get through as many as I could.

The first and second memo instructions were so vague and varied. Each GSI ended up making their own prompt. Professor Cammack also said she'd decrease the weighing of our first (or worst) memo grade, but didn't specifically give out percentages. There are so many readings! The penis envy discussions and use of the N–word were a little awkward.

I think the course could be improved in terms of organization, time management, and being more accessible to students by providing visual aids. Additionally, communication and consistency in policies/expectations/directions between our professor and the GSIs could be greatly improved.

The lectures are somewhat unclear and confusing. When the Lecture notes became available it helped a lot.

essay questions are a bit too broad, some guidance would be helpful, didn't feel like an intro course and felt more geared towards students who have a background in political theory

work more closely together with GSIs and solidify essay prompts that are cohesive and do not have ambiguous expectations

In this course specifically, I think there was a very large disconnect between the GSIs and Professor Cammack. There was a lot of mixed information and the GSIs seemed to have different policies than each other and Professor Cammack. The class needed much more structure on that front.

None

It would be super helpful if there were slides with notes. It's very difficult to understand the course subject matter for many students when the entire class revolves around the professor speaking.

Comments

This class typically included more weekly reading than all of my other three political science classes combined. Of course the amount of reading varied from week to week but since some of the material was very dense it was hard to keep up with the reading even though I read more than 80% of the material for this course. Additionally, grading and expectations for assignments were unclear at the beginning of this course and this lead to a lot of low grades for the majority of students on their first written assignment. The teaching team was able to recognize this and reevaluate how they approached what they expected from the written assignments based on feedback and an anonymous survey which I am thankful for. However, there still remains a bit of a disparity between how one GSI grades compared to another. In order to alleviate inconsistencies with grading, GSIs should be required to swap papers so that there is a little bit of overlap in grading. Additionally, all assignments should be graded blindly because bias always seeps into grading whether intentional or not. Furthermore, the lectures often seemed a bit disjointed and did not have much structure. This often meant that we would always go over class time and we practically never ended on time. Not ending on time may be fine for an online class, but it would be very problematic for an in–person class when students have to rush across campus to get to their next class. Professor Cammack is a brilliant scholar with a wealth of knowledge and an absolutely infectious personality, however, I would have appreciated more structure and a more clarity and consistency with what is expected from assignments. I think some of these wrinkles of this course are due to the fact that this is the first time Professor Cammack is teaching this course. These issues can certainly be ironed out for the future. One point of contention that I still have is that the professor has still not made clear how the first three written assignments will be weighted and it is now late April. We were told that our lowest grade for the first three written assignments will be weighted less than the other two, but we still do not know how much each of the written assignments will weigh in terms of grade percentages. I recognize that the Professor is dealing with a few family struggles at the moment, but it's important to make a decision about grading and communicate that decision well before the last two weeks of class.

Biased views. Diversity of opinion not valued. More authors that are not just Marxists could have been studied.

The lectures sometimes felt a bit like historical background rather than actually discussing the readings, which happened in section. I don't know if this division was intentional (lecture = background, section = readings), but it was confusing at first.

Professor Cammack is very knowledgeable, I loved how engaging she was during lectures but her class could be better organized. She doesn't provide lecture slides and primarily speaks the entire time which is good but it's sometimes hard to follow. In terms of grading, it felt as if she wasn't very accommodating especially since we're in a pandemic. Overall, this class gave me anxiety and it was probably one of the hardest courses I've taken here at Cal.

I think it could be great to see more of her lecturing or illustrative discussions. By this, I mean having a PowerPoint or on a "digital board" the main points that students bring in class, I think this can make the class more engaging and increase participation

All of it. Particularly however the course really just seemed to be a parade of the Professors favorite authors with no structure or real point behind anything beyond her wanting to talk about them.

This course was overall incredibly unstructured. I can understand the benefits of encouraging us to go at it on our own, and the loosely planned lectures/discussions were certainly interesting and did help me grapple with my ideas, but this course was almost not a course – it was a reading list. A very overwhelming reading list.

I think GSIs' and the professor's expectations for assignments and grading were very confusing and often I felt like I was receiving two, contradicting sets of instructions. I would appreciate if the course shared the same grading rubric for the memos for all GSIs, and that all GSIs were clear on what the expectations and outcomes of each memo was meant to be. I sensed that there were some miscommunications in the teaching team, and this made planning and writing the memos confusing, because I wasn't sure which set of expectations to fill.

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

Comments

Really hone in on the readings and think big picture, what are the important themes the reading brings up? What is the author's message? What do they believe in?

Improving your reading would be very helpful in digesting all the content in this course.

Skimming readings is fine.

Be prepared to read a lot of material, however don't be afraid to not understand the material when you read it. That's why we have discussions during class and during section, to elaborate on these tough ideas being presented.

Sign up for office hours, ask questions if something isn't clear. Be prepared for the discussion/class, participate.

N/A

Spend a LOt of time thinking thorugh your ideas before writing the paper. Also, DO NOT do all the readings; pick and choose what's interesting to you. You won't be evaluated on memorization so much as analysis of chosen texts through your memos and final projects.

Try to take notes, as this will keep you more engaged.

do the readings

Comments
Do the readings, you absolutely have to.
This is a great class for politcal theory requirement!
go to office hours, whether it's with your gsi or the professor. they're extemely helpful with clarifying parts of the reading you might be stuck on, and with getting memo feedback to know if you're on the right track with the paper! also, if you can take advantage of how they look over your introduction paragraphs before the memo's are due! you also get extremely good feedback that way, and it's helpful because they're helping guide your paper essentially so that you write something good and get a good score as well! all of these things are to help you
Do not try to do all the readings! Just do the readings that stand out to you/interest you. Also, take advantage of office hours with the professor and GSI.
Do the readings!
I would rely on the GSIs for success in this course. Lectures are not helpful and the professor only reads off of her lecture notes.
My advise to a student considering taking this course is to focus on critiquing the readings rather than trying to understand it. In other words, focus on asking questions about the reading rather than trying to understand every concept of the readings.
Skim through the readings but don't get sucked into them. Just full–on read the ones that interest you so you can use those for assignments.
Be ready to read and ask questions!!!
Do as many readings as you can
Do your readings! You'll learn a lot from them.
DONT TAKE THIS COURSE. You probably wont fail, BUT your GSI has the authority to do whatever he/she wants with you. Basically, if you and a friend take this course and they get a different GSI than you, then your class will be basically different because each GSI has different requirements for the course and the professor does nothing about it except defend the GSIs. Take another class thats actually worth your time and effort.
do the readings, particiapte and have office hours with the prof. she´s super nice
I would suggest taking this course if you are not a Political Theory concentration or if you find the more philosophical discussion of politics to be daunting. This course is a wonderful introduction to Theory. However, if one wishes to explore Theory deeply, they should choose a class that limits the readings to fewer authors so that their canonical texts can be explored.
Be prepared to read a lot.
Do not strongly recommend
Read ahead
The advice would be that students should read ahead before lectures.
Stay on top of the readings, and perhaps start them before the course begins.
Do: keep an open mind, the chosen readings can surprise you and you may take interest in people you have never heard of Don't: only focus on the people you already know you agree with, I did this in the first half and had to go back on some old readings to really engage with them!
Be ready for readings, go to office hours, etc
READ THE PROMPTS CAREFULLY, AND GO TO OFFICE HOURS. Make sure that you understand HOW to write an argument essay.
Make sure to do a little reading every week but don't stress too much if there are weeks you can't get through all of it.
I would advise other students against taking this course. If one was required to take the course I would advise them to disregard any advice given by the instructor and try their best to adhere to the byzantine expectations of their GSIs.
Take lots of notes and focus on the readings that resonate with you
I would advise other students to keep up with the readings.
Do all the readings
Make sure to pay attention during lecture and don't be afraid to ask questions during lecture.
Make sure to participate and stay on top of the readings.
Scan all of the texts and then choose the texts you find most interesting to read in–depth. Visit your GSI often to discuss paper ideas and any questions you have. This class prioritizes creativity, which is not hard to do in your memos if you focus on the readings that interest you. That being said, the memos can be graded harshly so make sure you get as close to a 100% for the participation grade. Visit Professor Cammack in office hours! She's awesome!
do the readings, although there were so many and it is hard to do them all. Do your best!

Comments
As our instructor mentioned as well, I would recommend dedicated reading time for the reading materials for each week. While the work is not overwhelming, the readings showcase very interesting ideologies and stories.
Read and reread texts you are considering writing about and then use section to ask your gsi for help understanding. Had it not been for my GSI i would've done worse than I did.
lots of reading!!!!
Be prepared to think critically about the class material, you will be encouraged to form your own opinions and come to your conclusions. Know that the material can be overwhelming at times, but that office hours should help clarify any questions you have.
Do all the readings!
Be prepared for the readings! The memos that are handed in this course allow you to practice the skill of only saying the important things into one page, even with no margins and single–spaced format. The memos also translate to a real life skill of only saying things that you really mean and cut out the crap!
Set aside lots of time for reading
Take the professor's own view points with a grain of salt.
Do the readings.
Be prepared to read ALOT> not a course where you can skim, you'll need to anaylze and understand material but professor is helpful for majority.
Attend or watch all the lectures even if you didn't do the reading, the professor does a good job of covering the readings during the lecture.
Don't procrastinate, do OH with your GSI.
Do not stress too much about the readings, just try your best to get through as many as possible and contribute in section if you are too shy to be in the section audience.
Read with a questioning and open mind, read for understanding, attend office hours, and participate in lecture and section.
–Don't take this course if you are a perfectionist or have an anxious personality. This class lacks traditional structure and does not have visual aids. –Don't take this course unless you plan to specialize in theory.
Do the readings! Take notes in the margins.
Be prepared to read! But also, don't force yourself to read every single word of every single text. Find what's interesting to you and pay attention! Take what resonates, and leave the rest.
Attend lecture and take notes during lecture because they are very helpful as a reference!
Read the material and read it critically.
I would probably consider taking other theory courses before you take this one so that you're prepared for the rigorous analysis and writing required of you. but if you've already taken theory, i think this class is challenging but so much fun. And Professor Cammack is truly such an understanding and accessible professor. It's quite rare i find that at a public school you'll be able to get so much time with and personalized feedback from the professor.
Do the readings and ask questions.
There are so many readings in this course! Many are interesting authors (not just in political thought, but also sociology and many other realms), but others can just be boring and long. Since the course is based on the memos and section participation, you don't necessarily need to attend lectures and can instead focus on analyzing the readings.
Advice I would give to another student who is taking the course is to review any handouts/notes she gives because they help make sense of the lecture, given that no slides are provided and lecture is simply Professor Cammack/the studio audience talking. Thus, it can be difficult to keep up with the conversation, especially when the topic revolves around historical context and theory. I would also recommend reading as much of the course readings as possible, but don't overly exert yourself to the point of harming your holistic well–being.
Do the readings!
make sure you do all the readings
go to office hours and annotate the readings
Be ready for a lot of very difficult readings. It is extremely important to be analytical while reading.
The more work you put in to engage yourself, the more enjoyable the course will be.
Only take this course if you are confident in your prior knowledge of political thinkers and history.
Try your best to read as much of the readings that you can, and don't hesitate to use other resources such as the internet to review the main ideas of authors that seem unclear to you.
Bring your Communist Manifesto to every class.

Comments
DO THE READINGS. The readings are the essence of this class and if you do not read, you will be unable to keep up with the course and your essays will be lackluster.
Proceed at your own risk.
I would for the theory requirement or for anyone interested in gaining philosophical thought with political theory and the history of democracy. Excellent class!
Don't?
Do the readings.

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	4	3.70%
4-6	14	12.96%
7-9	29	26.85%
10-12	32	29.63%
13-15	8	7.41%
16-18	12	11.11%
More than 18	9	8.33%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		108
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	2	1.89%
Fewer than half	9	8.49%
About half	12	11.32%
More than half	32	30.19%
All	51	48.11%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		106
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	3	2.80%
2	2	1.87%
3	4	3.74%
4-Somewhat	9	8.41%
5	18	16.82%
6	31	28.97%
7-Very	40	37.38%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		107
Mean		5.71
Median		6.00
Standard Deviation		1.47