

Summary of Evaluations for POL 306: Constitutional
Law I: Institutional Powers, Fall 2017

Instructor: Miles T. Armaly

Student Comments

Below are *all* of the student comments available. 59 students were enrolled in this section. 48 completed evaluations. As can be seen, very few students completed open ended responses.

1. What are some positive characteristics or strengths of the course and/or instructor?
 - Cool guy
 - Dr. Armaly is a really cool down to Earth professor, he's fairly young so he connects with the the students very well. He made a fairly boring topic super interesting and relatable. He is also really funny which makes the class much more enjoyable. He goes kinda fast on the powerpoint, but puts them on blackboard after lecture.
 - Easy to listen while attending lectures, very engaging, made mundane topics interesting and applicable
 - Great enthusiasm
 - Great enthusiasm, great attitude, great at making learning the material fun and interesting
 - Great professor and a great course! Very good interpretation of the material!
2. What are some negative characteristics or weaknesses of the course and/or instructor?
 - Hard grader
 - I cannot think of any
 - I have none
 - It can be a little hard to follow if you aren't super into political science, like the tangents in class, not the class itself
 - None
3. What specific changes would you like to see made in the course?
 - I have none
 - More frequent and shorter exams
 - More opportunity for class participation since there is a grade for participation.
 - More tests
 - None, the court [sic] was great.
4. What do you want other students to know about your experience in this class?
 - 5 legal briefs, 2 exams, a number of pop quizzes. Attend regularly and you should be able to pass the class while learning along the way
 - Awesome, interesting class.

- Best teacher in the POL department. Definitely take him if you can!
- Good class difficult but learn a lot
- I thoroughly enjoyed this course
- It was great, one of my favorite poly sci classes and this teacher is bomb. Super funny and makes class comfortable. Would HIGHLY recommend

Responses to Survey Items with Comparison Groups

Figure 1 displays student responses to 11 closed-ended survey items for my class, as well as the average response for instructors in the Department of Political Science and the College of Liberal Arts. Each item appears along the y-axis. Plotting symbols display the percentage of students responding affirmatively to the corresponding prompt. Red triangles display scores for my class, blue circles for the average department instructor, and black circles for the average college instructor.

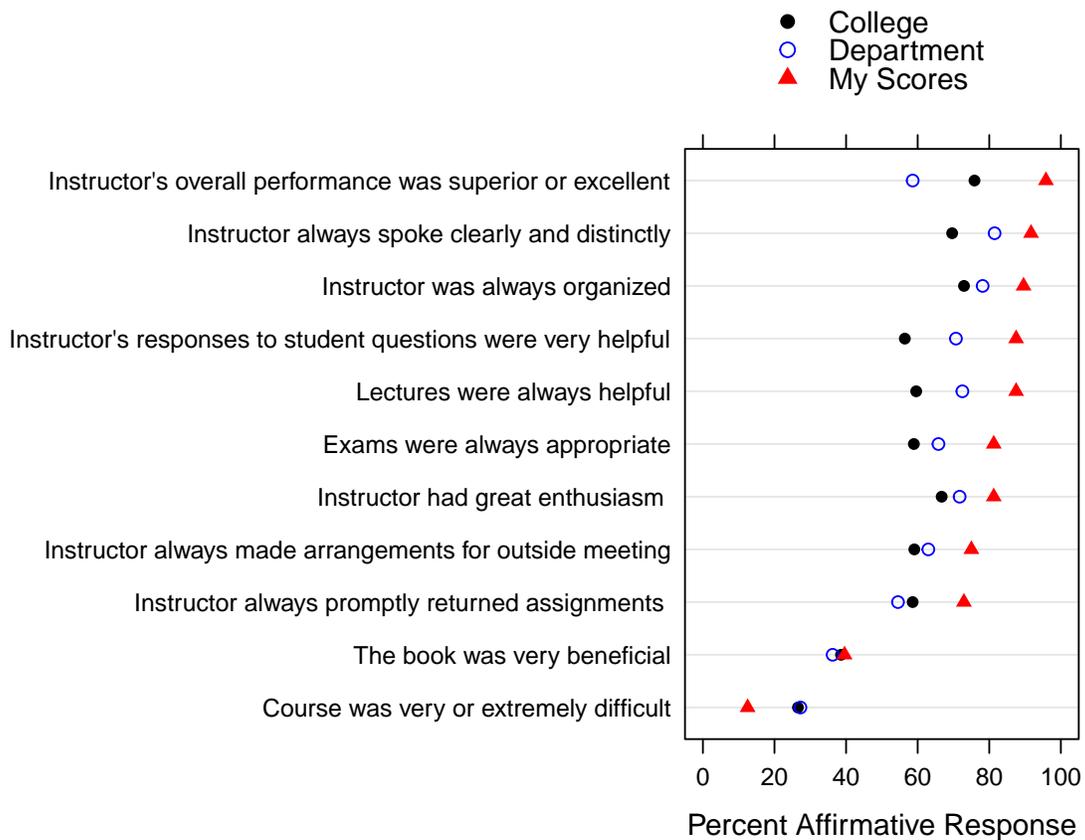


Figure 1: Percentage of students responding affirmatively to evaluation items, with comparisons to average department and college values.

As can be seen, I outperform both the average college instructor and department instructor in all categories, save for the difficulty of the course and the beneficialness of the assigned course text. Perhaps most notably, 95.83% of students classified my performance as “superior” or “excellent,” the most positive choices. This exceeds the average college instructor by nearly 20% and the average department instructor by just short of 40%.

Overall Rating with Comparison to Previous Course Instructors

Figure 2 displays the overall instructor rating for the previous 10 offerings of POL 306. Average ratings are a weighted sum of the overall performance survey item.

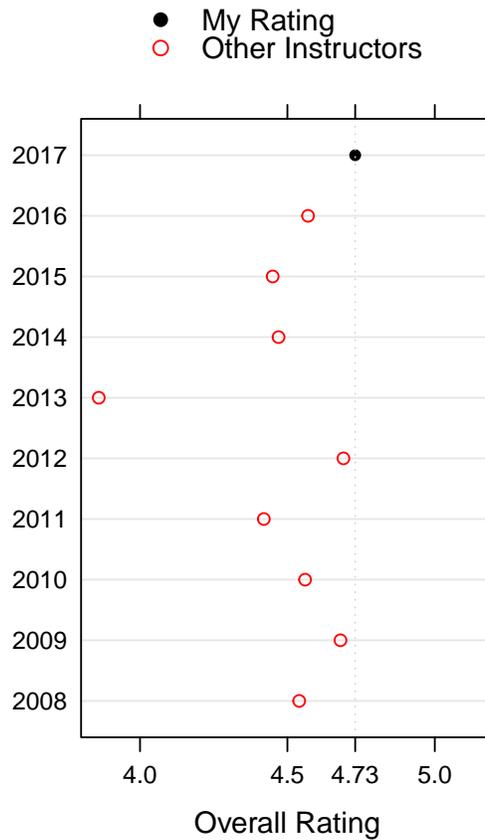


Figure 2: Overall course rating for previous 10 sections of POL 306.

My average rating, as denoted by the closed black circle corresponding to 2017, was 4.73. As the vertical dotted line shows, this rating is the highest for this course in the 10

previous years. Also not systematically higher than every offering of this course, I believe this is clear evidence of effectiveness.