

Summary of Evaluations for POL 307/AAS 308:
Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights & Liberties, Spring
2019

Instructor: Miles T. Armaly

Student Comments

Below are *all* of the unedited student comments available. A total of 63 students were enrolled in the course; 47 completed evaluations. As can be seen, few students completed open ended responses.

1. What are some positive characteristics or strengths of the course and/or instructor?
 - EVERYTHING. Take this class. You will not regret it. You will look forward to coming to class. He makes lectures interesting and class something to look forward to. You do not dread being in class. He has a unique ability to connect with students and have them interact and engage not only with him
 - but other classmates.
 - Enthusiastic, approachable
 - He's the coolest teacher and is pretty chill about everything. The class is also really interesting and the way he presents the information is really beneficial
 - Hilarious professor. Attendance isn't mandatory but you'll still want to go
 - The professor is very enthusiastic. He clearly is very passionate about the information he is teaching. He did a great job explaining complex legal reasoning. He is the best political science professor I've had. I would highly recommend this professor for this course and any others he may be teaching. He definitely deserves a promotion, just in case any administrators are reading these.
 - Very calm demeanor, and very understanding.
 - Not uptight.
 - Professor Armaly's humor and charisma help students stay focused during lectures.
 - He is a great professor and very knowledgeable about the course
 - I would highly recommend taking Dr. Armaly. He is very knowledgeable and always willing to help. He makes class interesting and you will learn a lot!
 - The way this class is set up is really nice with going over so many court cases and what our laws are like today.
 - Wonderful all around
 - awesome professor who really likes and enjoys the subject matter. the professor is also a really cool guy and very nice. easy to talk to and very helpful in class and in office hours. great lecturer
 - Dr. Armaly has a lot of knowledge about this subject, so he was always equipped to answer student questions.
 - Dr. Armaly loves this stuff. He is so passionate about SCOTUS (sometimes to a point where it's scary haha) but if you listen you will learn a lot.

- Great teacher who knows his stuff
- He has a really thorough knowledge of the course material, and his personality makes the class entertaining.
- he is very passionate and loves constitutional law!
- He gives extra credit points just by coming to class.

2. What are some negative characteristics or weaknesses of the course and/or instructor?

- It's a lot of material and the professor moves quickly, he posts notes online but it can be easy to get lost in lecture
- None
- none
- No negative. A little cocky and [EXPLETIVE DELETED] -ish but nothing unmanageable.
- Professor Armaly failed to show up for one of our exams.
- none
- He just reads off powerpoint slides which can be very boring
- None
- n/a
- none.
- A lot of material - if you don't want to study or write papers, don't take this class.
- He's kind of a hard a** on grading papers. He'll give a super vague assignment sheet and then tear your paper up.
- The last bit of the material was really rushed, so I do not really feel like I learned it as well.
- a little rude at times, participation scale can [EXPLETIVE DELETED] you
- n/a
- He has a very smart mouth when answering questions.

3. What specific changes would you like to see made in the course?

- Move through cases a bit slower if possible
- None
- None!!!!
- none
- I would like to see the course focus slightly more on the meanings of certain terms. For example, the Supreme Court frequently uses terms like "strict scrutiny" and "rational basis" to determine the legality of subjects. I would prefer for the course to delve into justices' explanations of such terms.

- None really.
- None
- Updated powerpoint slides and a different or innovated teaching style
- n/a
- none. its an excellent course.
- I wish the material had been split up into three or four tests instead of just two.
- Less papers would be nice!
- The participation policy on the syllabus does not seem to have been applied the way he made it seem it would. Participating in this class can be difficult because it is pretty high-level information and also ****IT'S NOT A DISCUSSION-BASED CLASS**** but if you don't talk like every other class, you won't get full credit for participation. On the syllabus and on the first day of class, he made it sound like you didn't have to be super extroverted and talk in class all the time to get full participation, but that's what it feels like it's been.
- less emphasis on participation
- none, i thought this was a well rounded course with a lot to take from it.
- Since this is an African American Studies course too talk more about the subject.

4. What do you want other students to know about your experience in this class?

- Awesome professor and the court cases are interesting. The professor does a great job of keeping your attention and explaining material
- Great class to take. You will learn a lot.
- I have taken every single class offered by him in my whole two years at this university so far. The best professor I have ever had!!!!
- It was so easy but you need to go to class to really understand the cases.
- The instructor is funny and teaches in a way that students can relate best he can.
- go to class
- Attending lectures is very beneficial, as the recommended book is extremely boring and lengthy. Therefore, it is within students' best interests to attend classes in order to save time and to understand critical information.
- Hard class but if you study and actually try it is not too bad.
- This professor is the BEST! He makes constitutional law so interesting, and you'll genuinely want to attend class because he's funny and interesting to listen to - The papers are kinda hard. I write really good papers usually, and I struggled to understand what was expected of this type of assignment -His tests are very fair if you put in the work -He posts all the slides -Take this class! You won't regret it
- A lot of information.

- Great course for learning about all things law!
- He's easily one of the best professors I've had here
- I would highly recommend taking Dr. Armaly. He is very knowledgeable and always willing to help. He makes class interesting and you will learn a lot! The class is not super difficult. Study the power points and turn in papers on time.
- There is no attendance policy but if you go and pay attention, the class is pretty easy. It is extremely informative on our constitution and how it is the same or has changed over time. If you need a politics requirement, take this class.
- Don't fall behind stay on top of your work
- Good class overall. Although it's a lot of information, he posts all of his notes on blackboard so it's doable. If you work hard and show an effort, he will help you out.
- I highly recommend this class. Dr. Armaly is funny and engaging, and you will learn a lot.
- Not the worst, but definitely not the easiest Pol elective. However, 16,000 times better than Con Law I.
- this class is interesting yet challenging! i would recommend it!
- Do not take this class if you don't like politics.

Responses to Survey Items with Comparison Groups

Figure 1 displays student responses to 10 closed-ended survey items for my class, as well as the average response for instructors in 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. Black triangles display scores for my class and red circles for the average college instructor. Because this is a cross-listed course, percentages are weighted averages; 25 of 47 (53%) of evaluations were completed by African American studies students, and the remainder Political Science students.

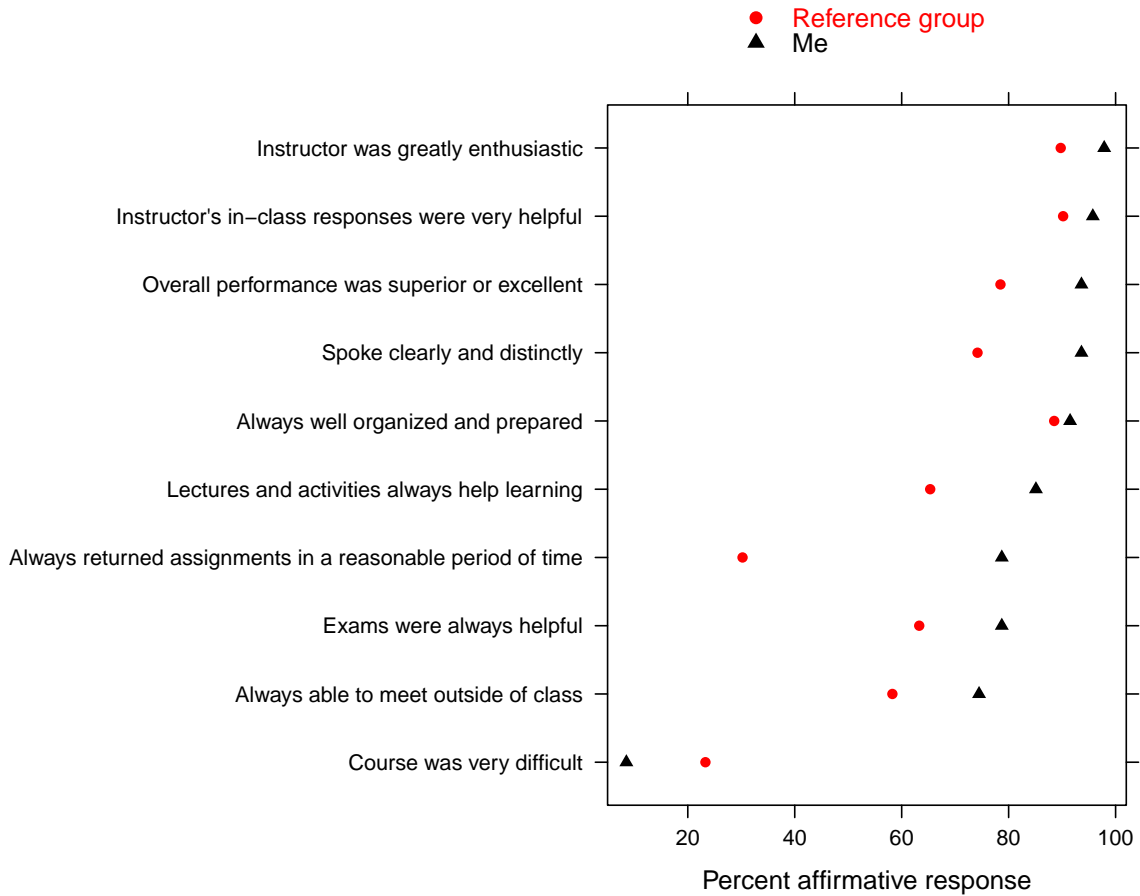


Figure 1: Percentage of students responding affirmatively to evaluation items, with comparisons to average college values.

As can be seen, I outperform the average college instructor in all categories (save for the difficulty of the course). Perhaps most notably, 93.6% of students classified my performance as “superior” or “excellent,” the most positive choices. This exceeds the average college instructor by 15%.