

Summary of Evaluations for POL 307: Constitutional  
Law II: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights, Spring 2020

Instructor: Miles T. Armaly

## Student Comments

Below are *all* of the student comments available (omitting those where a student entered “n/a”). A total of 63 students were enrolled. 48 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?
  - Armaly is one of my favorite professors in the department of polisci. Highly recommend taking him for pol 305-307!! Very organized, engaging in class.
  - Dr. Armaly is extremely knowledgeable about what he teaches and it comes across in his lectures. He’s an absolute legend and is young and energetic. He’s one of my favorites.
  - Dr.Armaly is enthusiastic and is very clear and concise with his responses to questions. He is a little sarcastic sometimes, but it keeps many engaged in the class and adds humor.
  - Enthusiastic and engaging. Felt a part of the conversation and learning the material didn’t feel like a chore.
  - Excellent professor, clearly cares about the material, honest about grading, does not require textbook.
  - Great engaging course and Professor Armaly brings a sense of humor to a very challenging subject
  - Professor is enthusiastic about the subject.
  - Very laid back environment and approachable professor.
  - very nice guy
  - The material and court cases are interesting to learn about.
  
2. What are some negative characteristics or weaknesses of the course and/or instructor?
  - Clearly wants student engagement during class, but large size of sections makes discussion difficult. Smaller sections would work better but not sure that’s his fault
  - He grades his papers hard. He expects a lot from his students.
  - I wish he would tuck his shirt in.
  - Literally nothing I loved this class especially Dr. Armaly.
  - The course is so laid back that assignments sneak up on you and the material is actually very hard to grasp without going to class.
  - kinda boring lectures
  - He talks way too fast.

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

- Bring the hedgehog to class
- It never occurring online again...<sup>1</sup>
- Maybe a group activity
- The material should be made a little more digestible.
- maybe more class involvement/student interaction during lectures so we don't get bored and fall asleep

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

- Be prepared for a fast pace lecturer. He speaks quickly and is very receptive to questions and comments. Lectures are posted after each section is covered and the notes are helpful. Be very specific and logical in you papers.
- Dr. Armaly is awesome take ALL of his classes.
- Dr. Armaly usually includes a picture of his pet hedgehog in the powerpoint on the first day :)
- Excellent professor, clearly cares about the material, honest about grading, does not require textbook. Learned a lot
- Get him. You will not regret.
- Great professor take him
- I love armaly
- The professor is very laid back and does not require attendance. This is almost a trap because the material is very hard and a lot of it sounds exactly the same but the info could be worlds apart. Go to class and ask questions!
- Dr. Armaly is nice, but he talks really fast so it's hard to take notes. He also grades the writing assignments pretty hard, but the class itself isn't hard. just come to class and listen

## Responses to Survey Items with Comparison Groups

Figure 1 displays student responses to 9 closed-ended survey items for my class (black plotting symbols), as well as the average response for instructors in the Department of Political Science (red), and the College of Liberal Arts (blue). Each item appears along the y-axis. Plotting symbols display the percentage of students responding affirmatively to the corresponding prompt.

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<sup>1</sup>NB: The semester was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic

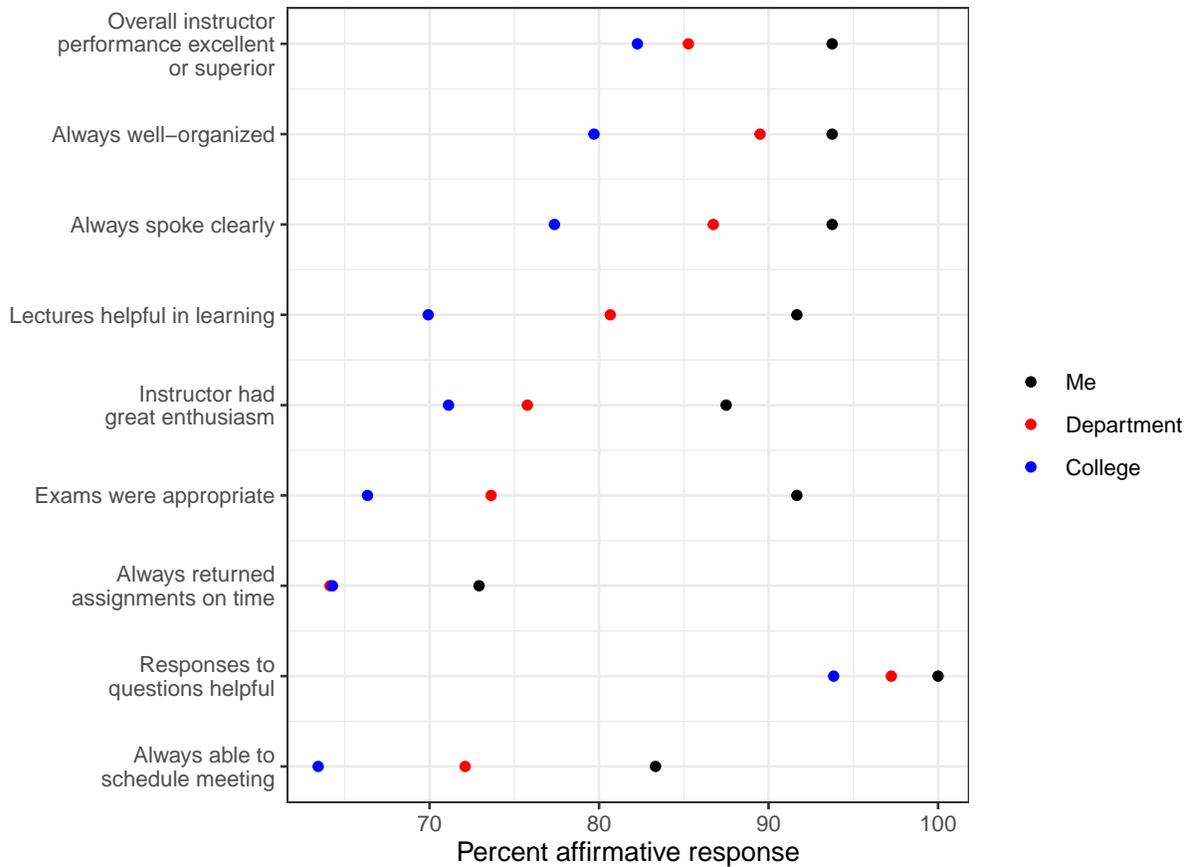


Figure 1: Percentage of students responding affirmatively to evaluation items, with comparisons to average college values.

As can be seen, I outperform the average college instructor in all categories. Perhaps most notably, 93.75% of students classified my performance as “superior” or “excellent,” the most positive choices. This exceeds the average department instructor by 8.48% and the average college instructor by 11.49%.