THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2023W1 UBC Individual Instructor Report for POLI 328F 001 - Topics in Comparative Politics (Sally Sharif)

Project Title: **2023W1 UBC Instructor SEI Surveys**

Course Audience: **23**
Responses Received: **6**
Response Ratio: **26%**

Report Comments

Recommended Minimum Response Rates

Class Size	Recommended Minimum Response Rates based on 80% confidence & ± 10% margin
< 10	75%
11 - 19	65%
20 - 34	55%
35 - 49	40%
50 - 74	35%
75 - 99	25%
100 - 149	20%
150 - 299	15%
300 - 499	10%
> 500	5%

Creation Date: **Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

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University Module Questions

University Module Questions

Question	N	n	SD	D	N	A	SA	N/A	IM	DI
Throughout the term, the instructor explained course requirements so it was clear to me what I was expected to learn.	23	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	4.9	0.1
The instructor conducted this course in such a way that I was motivated to learn.	23	6	0	0	1	0	5	0	4.9	0.3
The instructor presented the course material in a way that I could understand.	23	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	4.9	0.1
Considering the type of class (e.g., large lecture, seminar, studio), the instructor provided useful feedback that helped me understand how my learning progressed during this course.	23	6	0	0	0	2	4	0	4.8	0.2
The instructor showed genuine interest in supporting my learning throughout this course.	23	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	4.9	0.1
Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.	23	6	0	0	1	0	5	0	4.9	0.3

Question	%Favourable
Throughout the term, the instructor explained course requirements so it was clear to me what I was expected to learn.	100%
The instructor conducted this course in such a way that I was motivated to learn.	83%
The instructor presented the course material in a way that I could understand.	100%
Considering the type of class (e.g., large lecture, seminar, studio), the instructor provided useful feedback that helped me understand how my learning progressed during this course.	100%
The instructor showed genuine interest in supporting my learning throughout this course.	100%
Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.	83%

Faculty Questions

Considering everything, how would you rate this course?

N	n	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good	IM	DI
23	6	0	0	0	1	5	4.9	0.1

	%Favourable
	100%

Instructor Questions

Question	N	n	SD	D	N	A	SA	N/A	IM	DI
In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.	23	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	5.0	0.0
High standards of achievement were set.	23	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	4.9	0.1
The instructor was generally well prepared for class.	23	6	0	0	1	1	4	0	4.8	0.4
The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).	23	6	0	0	0	1	5	0	4.9	0.1
The instructor treated students with respect.	23	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	5.0	0.0

Question	%Favourable
In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.	100%
High standards of achievement were set.	100%
The instructor was generally well prepared for class.	83%
The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).	100%
The instructor treated students with respect.	100%

Open ended feedback

Do you have any suggestions for what the instructor could have done differently to further support your learning?

Comments
Although I think that the publications covered in the course were very interesting and relevant, I feel that they were too central to the course structure. I think it would have helped for there to have been a clear theoretical background throughout the course and more material than just the research papers. I also think there could have been clearer lecture structures as sometimes discussions eclipsed the lecture itself.
No, Dr. Sharif was great, I don't have any critiques.
Dr. Sharif did a great deal to ensure everyone was understanding the material very well in giving useful examples and explaining key terms. Through her personal experience and research we've learned a lot about peacekeeping in Colombia. She always answered quickly via email and was available to talk prior and after class.
I would have preferred more lectures per week. Thought the class was absolutely amazing, albeit there was so much to cover!
I believe Dr. Sally has done everything beyond expectations in this course to deliver it in a productive way as possible. Dr. Sally supported my learning and offered help. she was there when I needed support and replied quickly to any concerns or questions regarding the course.

Please identify what you consider to be the strengths of this course.

Comments
The content of the course was very interesting, I consistently found myself applying what I learned in this class to other courses and current events. I also appreciated that the final for this class was a review essay rather than a research paper, I have written a lot of research papers so in this class I was learning to do something new and applying what I learned in a different way.
The strengths of the course are its very clear and cohesive structure, logic, interesting readings, very good elaboration on the readings and the main concepts in class as well as the instructor's support for the personal research. I've learned a lot from this course and I'm grateful for the great assistance by Dr. Sharif.
Lecture's were very comprehensive. Gained a strong understanding of course content, regression tables, as well as presentation and writing skills.
This course surpassed all of my expectations. Dr. Sally meticulously designed the curriculum with a high level of professionalism. She was such an inspiration. She not only excelled in teaching but also demonstrated compassion by thoroughly explaining intricate topics such as research methods, causal mechanisms, and other relevant subjects that significantly contributed to our presentations and papers. Dr. Sally generously shared her experiences conducting research in Colombia and discussed the journal articles she produced. The course was a comprehensive learning experience and fascinating, honestly seamlessly blending essential content on political violence, state fragility, and state–building with academic discourse and insights into research design. Dr. Sally consistently went above and beyond in each class, addressing topics like tables and graphs that were unfamiliar to some students and how can we read them. Dr. Sally's communication was clear; materials were in order, and clear criteria on how to do well, and this is priceless. The overall experience exceeded my expectations, and I would unequivocally rate this class as A+++
I think the material covered and the scope of the content was very engaging and relevant. I also think the size and structure of the class leant itself well to discussion.

Please provide suggestions on how this course might be improved.

Comments

Format wise, I think that having two quizzes every week was too much, especially given the little time between the sessions during the week (Wednesday–Friday) to prepare accordingly. I would suggest doing fewer quizzes or giving more time to answer the questions (e.g. during the weekend).

Nothing could be improved. Dr. Sharif deserves tenure. She is one of the most engaging, enthusiastic, and intelligent profs I have ever had. It is easy to tell that she is very dedicated to creating an atmosphere for academic rigour and takes pedagogy very seriously. I enjoy the fact that she uses the socratic method, whilst also being able to use every minute of lectures dissecting the course content. Not one boring moment in the class.

Maybe one thing I would suggest is to do more sections of group work on the readings and then answer them and one student represent the group each time It is a nice way for interaction and social skills and gives more chance for others who don't talk to participate and to come out of their comfort zone and be responsible for the group.

I think the presentation of the course (i.e., course description) could have been more specific – it was very research methods oriented, which I did not expect prior to starting the course.

Please comment on any aspects, positive or negative, of your instructor's teaching, attitudes to students, class atmosphere, or any other matters affecting the quality of instruction that you consider worthy of note.

Comments

I think Professor Sharif created a very engaging and open atmosphere, which I appreciate. I think students were made to feel like their contributions to the class were important and constructive. However, I think the lectures felt a little disorganized at times; I wonder if class discussions and explanations of research methods deviated from the lecture content.

Dr. Sharif was great, she was one of the most engaged and interesting professors I've ever had. She was respectful and created a class atmosphere where I felt encouraged to participate, ask questions, and make mistakes. She was great at explaining theory and giving examples in ways that the class could understand and remember. I've been able to apply a lot of what I've learned in this class to other courses and current events mainly because of the way Dr. Sharif taught.

Overall, the learning atmosphere in class was very fruitful and I believe everyone participated out of interest. The instructor was always very well prepared and made sure that everyone understands key concepts and ideas from the readings. Also, I liked that we were assigned more interactive materials such as videos, documentaries and newspaper articles.

My only suggestion for Dr. Sharif would be to not indicate other students' mistakes on quizzes or throughout the learning process in front of everyone, since I think the students may feel uncomfortable through this. Although it is meant well, it may not necessary resonate the same way on the other side.

As stated before, Dr. Sharif is very engaging, intelligent and enthusiastic. Everything one should look for in a professor. It is clear that she cares about her research, but also, makes the time to set her students up for success.

Dr Sally Sharif indeed set the bar for high achievement for her students. Positive attitude, so much fun teaching style, and amazing atmosphere. I will always remember this class

Please comment on any aspects, positive or negative, of the format and content of the course.

Comments
I think the only thing that could be improved was more consistency with the quizzes. They were effective as a way to grade whether readings had been completed, but because they were only meant to be done if you showed up to class they were effectively a participation grade as well. I understand that having them as part of attendance was the point, but because participation was worth 10% and the quizzes worth 30% it meant that even if you did the readings but couldn't make it to class your mark still suffered a significant amount. I think making in–class participation / attendance worth a bit more and making quizzes worth a bit less but separating the quizzes from the requirement to be in class and having the deadline consistently be EOD would be more fair for students without compromising the integrity of the course and the requirement to participate.
The format as well as contents of the course were really interesting and well structured and I learned a lot.
Loved the course. Wouldn't have changed anything.
The course was characterized by a professional and exceptional format, delivering an amazing learning experience throughout the semester. the content was heavy with a lot of readings, we experienced a significant and valuable learning curve throughout the course. Thank you so much, Dr. Sally Sharif.

Explanatory Note

Percent Favourable Rating

This is the percentage of respondents who rated the instructor a 4 or 5 (Agree or Strongly Agree).

Interpolated Median

The data collected for Student Experience of Instruction (SEI) are ordinal in nature, with a natural order (from 1 to 5). While the mean may be used as a measure of central tendency for such data, it is not an appropriate or accurate representation of SEI data (cf. Stark & Freishtat, 2014). The usual measure of central tendency for ordinal data is the median. As a result, we have been reporting the mean and the median for the last several years. After considerable thought and data modeling, we now believe that the interpolated median is the best representation of the data, since it takes the frequency distribution into account.

Consider the following example from 2015W, the two course sections have identical mean (3.8). However, the instructor in section 2 received 77% favourable (4-5) ratings, compared to 53% for the instructor in section 1. The Interpolated median values of (3.7 and 4.2), much better reflects the distribution of the scores above and below their respective median. Furthermore, the interpolated median is better correlated with percent favourable rating; such that an interpolated median of 3.5 on a Likert scale of 1 to 5, corresponds to 50% favourable rating.

Frequency Distribution

Response for University Module Item	Section 1	Section 2
5 = Strongly agree	5	5
4 = Agree	3	5
3 = Neither agree nor disagree	6	0
2 = Disagree	1	2
1 = Strongly disagree	0	1
Mean	3.8	3.8
Median	4.0	4.0
Interpolated Median	3.7	4.2
Percent favourable rating	53%	77%

Dispersion Index

The dispersion index is a measure of variability suitable for ordinal data (Rampichini, Grilli & Petrucci 2004). This dispersion index has values between zero and 1. A zero dispersion index indicates that all respondents in the section rated their experience of instruction the same. An index value of 1.0 is obtained when the respondents are split evenly between the two extreme values (Strongly Disagree & Strongly Agree), a very rare occurrence. In SEI data at UBC, the index rarely exceeds 0.85, and mostly for evaluations not meeting the minimum recommended response rate.