



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2024-25 Winter Term 1 UBC-V Individual Instructor Report for POLI_V 220-A_001 - Choice and Conflict: An Introduction to Domestic Politics around the World (Sally Sharif)

Project Title: 2024-25 Winter Term 1 UBC-V Instructor SEI Surveys

Course Audience: 111

Responses Received: 74

Response Ratio: 67%

Report Comments

Recommended Minimum Response Rates

Class Size	Recommended Minimum Response Rates based on 80% confidence & $\pm 10\%$ 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%

Legend

N: Invited

n: Responded

Frequency Distribution

SD: Strongly Disagree

D: Disagree

N: Neutral

A: Agree

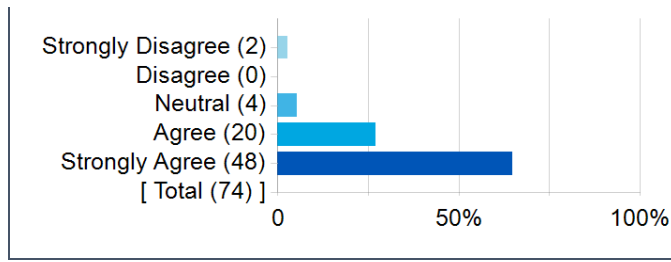
Creation Date: **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

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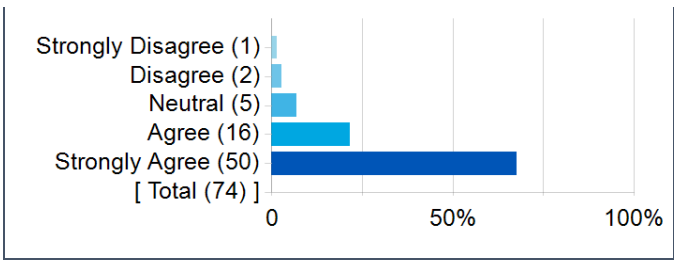
University Module Questions

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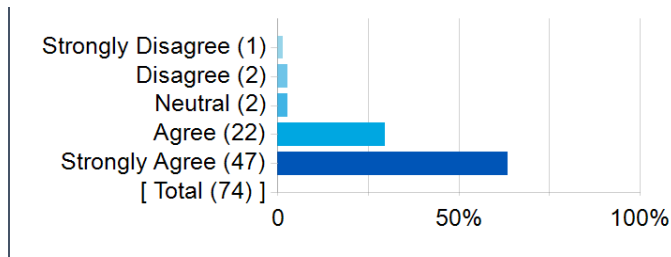
1. Throughout the term, the instructor explained course requirements so it was clear to me what I was expected to learn.



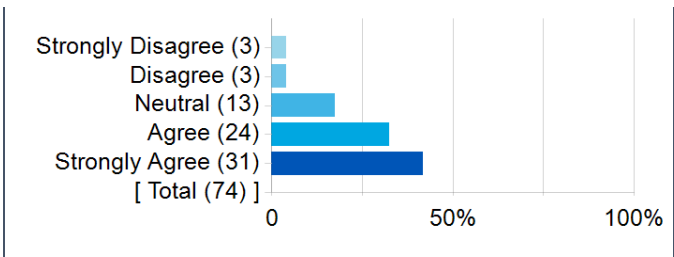
2. The instructor conducted this course in such a way that I was motivated to learn.



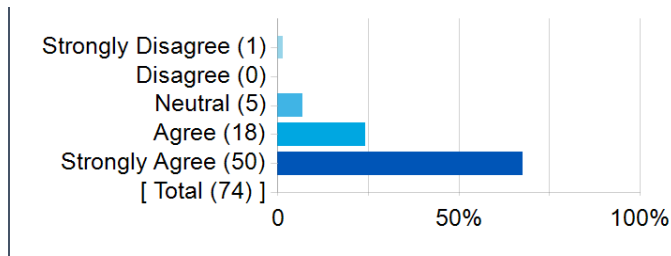
3. The instructor presented the course material in a way that I could understand.



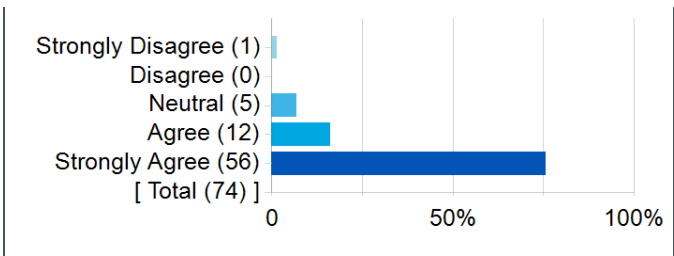
4. Considering the type of class (e.g., large lecture, seminar, studio), the instructor provided useful feedback that helped me understand how my learning progressed during this course.



5. The instructor showed genuine interest in supporting my learning throughout this course.



6. Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.



University Module Questions

Question	IM	PF	DI
Throughout the term, the instructor explained course requirements so it was clear to me what I was expected to learn.	4.7	92%	0.4
The instructor conducted this course in such a way that I was motivated to learn.	4.8	89%	0.4
The instructor presented the course material in a way that I could understand.	4.7	93%	0.3
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.	4.3	74%	0.5
The instructor showed genuine interest in supporting my learning throughout this course.	4.8	92%	0.3
Overall, I learned a great deal from this instructor.	4.8	92%	0.3

Faculty Questions

Considering everything, how would you rate this course?

N	n	Very Poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very Good	IM	DI
111	73	0	0	3	15	54	4.8	0.3

%Favourable
95%

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

Comments
Dr. Sharif was a wonderful teacher in class, engaging students in conversation and guaranteeing interesting discussions.
Course content is easy to understand, and engaging material.
i really enjoyed how she uses the dicussion questions for the midterm and final exams, its super helpful and if you study you will do well
The professor made it very engaging to all topics throughout the term
a strength were the weekly quizzes. The midterm exam was straightforward. She is very engaging
Very interesting content. Covers foundational information first before continuing onto other content which was very helpful.
The professor
well-organized slides helped me to understand difficult concepts of politics.
The professors' energy and passion.
I liked that we had a quiz each class, which I was surprised to like. They kept me on top of my readings and made sure I understood the material. Even though some articles were long, by having them assigned I was able to learn how to read and approach professionally published research papers.
The real world examples
Gives a strong introduction to comparative politics, easy to follow, very interesting content.
Dr Sharif is incredibly passionate about her field of research and talks about topics that are usually quite "boring" in a way that engages everyone and makes them WANT to come to class. Wonderful prof.
The way its outlined on what we are expected to know going into each class.
The instructor is incredibly charismatic and provides a deeply engaging tone to class that conveys the material well but also keeps students entertained.
Engaging
The content is well-presented and interactive in class. It spurs lots of individual thinking and analysis.
Very engaging lectures, and discussion questions were very helpful for knowing what to study!
Engaging lecturer, interesting material, not just textbook readings, lots of group work in class(rather than 70 minutes straight of lecturing), and good class size for facilitating discussion.
I really enjoyed the journal readings and how well they tied into the textbook content. I also felt that the textbook used was very easy to understand and provided a lot of information on the subject. Overall, this course was great and I would have little changes to suggest.
The instructor! She was incredibly helpful, passionate, concise and engaging.
The strengths of this course are how clearly the expectations are communicated and the relevance of the readings that we are assigned.
Dr. Sharif did an amazing job in helping students get engaged in course materials. Her passion for the course made me motivated to learn and listen to her.
The readings, particularly the journal articles, were really interesting! Being tested every class was very helpful for my learning.
Dr. Sharif! She was an amazing lecturer and made the content super accessible and fun to learn. She's very funny and witty and makes class exciting everyone. The way she mixes theory and research makes learning the ideas easy. And I really like how she talks about her own research too. UBC is lucky to have her and should definitely offer her tenure track!
Straightforward exam criteria and reading quizzes to make sure we understand the reading material
The instructor made every topic interesting and engaging, she challenges every student to express their thoughts and opinions. She encourages students to speak up and corrects us with the most appropriate and respectful manner.
Clear expectations and helpful explanations of concepts. good intro to comparative politics
Quizzes right after the classes. Prof. Sharif's passion towards comparative politics.
Honestly one of the most interesting and informative professors. Incredible use of relevant research articles that tie into what we are learning. Could not recommend any more-I'm sure all other courses taught by her are equally as fantastic.
Her passion and enthusiasm for the course material. She is a very engaging speaker, and course materials was very accessible. Her weekly quizzes really helped consolidate my knowledge on readings.
The strengths of this course are the weekly quizzes as they incentivize our learning and support us in understanding key terms/graphs.
The structure of assessment in this class was excellent. Our 2 weekly quizzes motivated myself and my peers to engage in class materials and understand course content over the semester. 2 quizzes per week for 13 weeks resulting in 40% of our grade sets us up for success over time as well as on the midterm and final exams. The instructor Sally Sharif is an excellent teacher as well as extremely passionate about the course content and her research, I'd love to take another one of her courses as I've learned a lot in one single semester.
Up-to-date and relevant examples of conflicts and political behaviour that is relevant today

Comments
Sally makes course concepts easy and accessible to understand, coming from the perspective of a student with very little background in political science. She explained class concepts using real life examples and assigned journal articles relevant to the curriculum which helped me to contextualize the information we learned. The class was interesting and engaging, and I found there was lots of value to each lecture outside of simply the material we learned (examples, informative class discussions, etc.)
The content was excellent. Readings involved a mix of textbook chapters for basic concept knowledge, and journal articles for supplemental knowledge and real-world cases. The reading load was exactly what I find to be beneficial. Dr Sharif is a great lecturer. She is able to teach concepts in an engaging way, and leads really dynamic discussions within class. She is also very funny, which helps. I was also very satisfied with the grading and speed at which grades were returned.
the daily quizzes and the clear instructions for the midterm and very interesting lectures
Challenging but not overall so, introduced concepts in a clear and not overall academic way
course material was delivered well – powerpoints included everything we needed to know
The professor clearly outlines what is expected and necessary to succeed. The class itself is also very interesting.
professors way of teaching is remarkable. pretty much everything was great.
professor was very engaging and kept lectures entertaining
Highly engaging, passionate professor. Explained the course concepts with lots of detail, examples, and analogies to make understanding easier.
Professor Sharif is a very engaging lecturer. I appreciate her enthusiasm and how passionate she is in teaching the class. It made me extremely motivated to explore more of comparative politics.
I enjoyed the use of class quizzes based on the readings assigned for that day. It forced me to stay on top of my readings and guaranteed that I was keeping up with all the content in class. It is also effective in identifying which topics were most difficult for me, which I could go back over before exams to make sure I understood them.
very interesting, learned a lot, she's very funny
Having a quiz per class made my attendance 100%, encouraged me greatly to go to class each lecture.
I find that in making students take a quiz every class, it keeps students on their toes and ensures they hold themselves accountable in doing their pre-readings.
The professor's enthusiasm for the content was motivational and her vast knowledge helped me understand the content smoothly
I liked how every theoretical concept was accompanied by videos with real life examples, and relevant academic papers as well. This really helped understand the concept as it exists in the world as well as tie it into academia.
– This course provides an introduction to foundational concepts in the study of political science – This course included the study of foundational concepts + contemporary case studies
Topics she lectures in class which gets beyond a normal analysis of comparative politics.
Professor Sally Sharif has been the biggest strength of this course. Her commitment not only to teaching and guiding students but to the course content itself and its implications in the real world has motivated and inspired me throughout the entire semester. She has reminded every student of the true importance of why we come here to study, why we live in this world, and why we interact. Undoubtedly, the Political Science Department and UBC will lose a lot if it ever lets professors like Sally Sharif go.
the discussion questions being the exam questions helped me learn a lot
the youtube videos were interesting when linked
the end of lecture quizzes made me read the content before which forced me to learn and i surprisingly found it very helpful
I loved the structure of the weekly quizzes after each class and the one midterm and final. My favourite aspect of the course was the the exams were based off of the discussion questions so I knew exactly what to study and how to succeed. The teaching of the course felt human– not just reading off of slides– but engaging with the class and also taking into account what the students were saying and not acting as superior but learning from one another. Sally made it easy to contribute in class as it didn't feel as nerve wracking as other classes and she made each class fun with humour.

Please provide suggestions on how this course might be improved.

Comments
Exam questions were difficult to answer coherently. They were often three or four questions bundled into one prompt, making essays splintered and it was difficult to create a cohesive narrative. Exam questions should focus on one particular prompt or a set of related questions.
Daily quizzes after lecture, in my opinion, should just be once a week.
less heavy lecture slides
–Bigger texts when writing –Professor needs to be more on task –Discussion classes need to be more rewarding for students to show up
More tutorials
None
Not have too many slides or get through all the slides.
Less overlap between readings and class content would waste less time
Not sure.
As reluctant as I am to create more work for the future students of this class, having some sort of written assignment for students to be evaluated on the development of their comparative politic skills would be useful.
Less weight on final.
No suggestions, this was a fair class that depended more on how prepared I was than the class' structure or how the professor taught me.
Johnny Harris is not known for his journalistic integrity; maybe do not assign his videos in the future, even though they're fun and simple.
The lectures seemed disorganized and messy to me. When I spent some time taking notes and am distracted for just a few seconds, I find myself having no idea what we are talking about in lecture because it is all over the place.
Can associate the content of the book with the readings. By making it clear, (the purpose of reading) we can understand even more on the course
The course can be improved by having more office hours or having attendance marks for discussion sessions to boost our learning or provide other components that add up to the final points. I noticed that very few people chime into the discussions so having attendance points can help in engagement and discussing the topic more in–depth.
More opportunities to apply our learning and actively engage with it
I have no suggestions.
Other than grading policies, I can't think of much.
less reading
None
one writing assignment instead of one of the exams
N/A
better organization
A more concise/better structure around the lectures where we looked at articles/poli sci studies.
The many quizzes were overwhelming so once a week may have been helpful
I found the use of videos to highlight concepts in class very informative. If there were additional optional videos/articles that highlighted real life examples of the concepts more I think it would be benefical.
Students should be forced to attend discussion sessions
sometimes i felt the content on the lecture quizzes wasn't discussed in lecture and was only in the reading so i think more emphasis on that would be good

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
Dr. Sharif is incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about what she teaches, making class a joy to attend. Her Socratic method of teaching, with significant class participation, was a very engaging way to learn the course material.
I did once have a negative experience, and asked for help with understanding somethings. But when I approached the instructor at office hours for help, she said it's just "common sense" and I need to read more. That was not helpful, and did bring me down.
i really enjoyed her teachings, and wished she was coming back next year
she is very passionate and engaging. she brings examples from multiple countries, not just one area.
The prof was very engaging and made lectures interesting and easy to follow. Very knowledgeable and would provide many examples to enhance understanding and go in depth with information. Loved coming to class it was super interesting and it helps that the prof is very positive and enjoys what she teaches. She also makes it clear that she wants to help her students and wants to see them succeed.
N.A
Professor Sharif is a really engaging instructor. She balances funny with serious and is able to communicate and teach concepts clearly. I liked that she would draw from her own experiences as examples. Overall, through her enthusiasm, you can tell she is passionate about what she is teaching.
I loved how much discussion there was between Prof Sharif and the class throughout the lectures. It kept me so engaged and fully listening. Prof Sharif is fully engaged and passionate and prepared and makes the content so enjoyable. I loved learning from her!
Very energetic and made the class very enjoyable. Drew upon her vast experience in the field to make it more engaging.
Amazing classes
Particularly effective aspects of Ms. Sharif's teaching were the overall interaction with students, interest in students, and engagement in class discussions. Ms. Sharif is charismatic, outgoing, and above all, a very knowledgeable professor, her attitude toward the content taught was what made the course very insightful.
Easily the most engaging professor I have had at UBC.
She provided a keenly engaging and unique atmosphere to a lecture hall I have yet to experience. I am sad to hear of her departure from UBC, we will be losing a great professor within in the Political Science department.
It's a little awkward sometimes when she asks a question and no one can think of an answer, but that's a symptom of every larger lecture so it's not her fault. She is dedicated to the topics, and that makes the class better. She is a great professor in that she seems to genuinely enjoys teaching this course.
I loved the instructor! she was so engaging and very knowledgeable
Very positive and humorous professor. This helped keep students engaged. She also cared about the student's perspectives.
I felt that Sally was very personable, respectful, and funny during class. She was an excellent instructor.
She was extremely engaging to listen to, she made class enjoyable and the concepts understandable.
Her passion for the class helped me be passionate too.
She's amazing. No notes.
Made class super fun and exciting! Everyone always seemed engaged. Dr. Sharif really made me interested in comparative politics!
Active participation is encouraged
The class atmosphere is so good. Easy to speak up (I didn't do it tho) Sometimes she goes off the track.
The class atmosphere was friendly and engaging. She offered high quality teaching with her positive attitude.
The instructor was very passionate & enthusiastic about the subject matter & supported class discussions/engagement. I enjoyed showing up to class every time and was able to better understand certain concepts. She's one of the more engaging profs at UBC.
Prof. Sharif provided us with an engaging lecture every single class. She clearly puts much time and effort into her teaching on top of her research, which she is happy to share with the class to an appropriate extent.
I like the enjoyable and interactive elements in discussion. The professor makes class very fun with anecdotes and relevant examples
Dr Sharif was super engaged, lively, funny, and interesting. She was a tiny bit intimidating, and I would sometimes avoid raising my hand in class in case my answer was wrong. However, this wasn't a super serious thing for me.
She was very friendly and positive, which made it easy to be engaged and interact in the class
My most favourite course it was for sure, the prof made the class environment really exciting to learn and the class boosted my mood every time I went.
Sally is wonderful. A bit scattered sometimes but always passionate and a great sense of humour. Sad to see her leaving.
n/a
This professor was awesome, she made coming to class enjoyable and clearly outlined expectations and what was necessary to succeed in this class. One of my favourite profs at UBC.

Comments
the best professor I have had so far at ubc.
loved the way she ran lectures, was always engaged
Excellent professor. Can't praise her enough.
The structure of the class was very effective in encouraging a clear understanding of the content. I enjoyed the encouraged class engagement and discussions, as well as very useful examples and descriptions used to further my understanding.
she was super friendly and funny, made class interesting but at times she would ramble a lot and it would be non-examinable
Extremely engaging class, my favorite by far this term, only negative is that professor sharif is leaving this year (UBC give her more money please)
Professor Sharif was enthusiastic, engaging, passionate, funny, knowledgeable, and overall one of the best professors I've had. No complaints.
Professor Sharif was always enthusiastic and the articles she brought into the course was relevant but still worthwhile and interesting reads
I thought Dr. Sharif was very enthusiastic about teaching the class and made the atmosphere more conducive for learning.
– Professor was very passionate and enthusiastic about teaching
– Professor did not spend class time going over important lecture slides, students were left to learn the slides on their own
When I visited her in office hours, she kindly and respectfully listened to my questions and answered them.
she was very interactive, interested in the topic, wanted us to learn. she is what made me decide i want to go to grad school and focus on comparative politics. i will be taking her class next semester and i would 100% recommend her to anyone who asked

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

Comments
Good format
while the readings were heavy, they were still manageable. She managed to make them more exciting during lecture. 1.5 hours twice a week is a good time length for this course
Course content was very interesting and I thought the format had a good flow
N.A
I liked that there was a balance between more general textbook reading, research paper material, and YouTube videos. I think it helped my learning to have different forms of instructional content.
None
The course was well paced and made relevant connections to current politics.
format and content were good to absorb, not too difficult and not too easy. fascinating topics and lectures on articles, helps digest literature.
The knowledge on comparative politics I gained this class remains forever
The syllabus was great and the readings were very manageable.
The tutorials could use more participation
The content is interesting and relevant, but the lectures are not useful for the exam preparation, and exams are worth a lot.
the content format was very clear and understandable well still being challenging but not too challenging
Loved the textbook for the course and the use of videos
heavy on tests, only a midterm, final and quizzes every class .
The format of the course was good.
engagement promoted by professor in class, discussion sections and quizzes every class helped boost learning the content a lot stronger.
N/A
Very easy to follow, instructions were clear, testing criteria very well explained.
good format and pacing, although quizzes were sometimes stressful it was beneficial to learning and for practice for exam
Loved the quizzes at the end of each class, helped me to pay attention in class and attend each class, midterm structure was also very good i liked the mix of short and long form answer type questions.
Great and organized format
– Daily quizzes kept students on top of the course material
– Course included the study of foundational concepts in political science + contemporary case studies