University of Connecticut

Student Evaluation of Teaching
Spring 2017

Individual Report for POLS-2998-009-STORR-Political Issues

Instructor: **Douglas Spencer** (SET Secondary Instructor)

Response Table

2017 Spring Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET)	
Raters	**students**
Responded	12
Invited	29
Response Ratio	41%

Section 1. Summary

Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.

Question	Course	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FESI)	University (Course Level 2000-FESI)
	Median	Median	Median
The instructor presented the course material clearly.	5.0	4.1	4.0
The instructor was well prepared for class.	5.0	4.6	4.5
The instructor responded to questions adequately.	5.0	4.4	4.4
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	5.0	4.5	4.3
The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.	5.0	4.5	4.5
The instructor gave clear assignments.	5.0	4.5	4.4
The instructor was accessible to students.	5.0	4.6	4.6
The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.	5.0	4.1	4.1
The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.	5.0	4.5	4.5
The instructor used class time effectively.	5.0	4.4	4.4
The instructor treated all students with respect.	5.0	4.7	4.7
The instructor graded fairly.	5.0	4.6	4.6
The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.	5.0	4.2	4.0

What is your overall rating of Douglas Spencer's teaching?

Question	Course	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FESI)	University (Course Level 2000-FESI)
	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	5.0	4.0	3.8

Please respond to the following question about the course.

Question	Course	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FESI)	University (Course Level 2000-FESI)
	Median	Median	Median
The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.	5.0	4.2	4.2
The course content was well organized.	5.0	4.2	4.2
The course objectives were clear.	5.0	4.3	4.3
The course objectives were met.	5.0	4.1	4.2
The textbook made a valuable contribution.	5.0	3.5	3.7

The other course materials made a valuable contribution.	4.5	4.2	4.3
The pace of the course seemed appropriate.	5.0	4.1	4.2

What is your overall rating of the course?

Question	Course	School (CLAS-Course Level 2000-FESI)	University (Course Level 2000-FESI)
	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the course?	5.0	3.8	3.6

Section 2. Student Information

What is your Academic Level?

Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0%
Sophomore	1	8%
Junior	4	33%
Senior	7	58%
Graduate	0	0%
Other	0	0%

What is your expected grade in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
A	5	42%
B	7	58%
C	0	0%
D	0	0%
F	0	0%
Pass	0	0%
Fail	0	0%
Other	0	0%

What is your cumulative average (GPA)?

Options	Count	Percentage
3.5 and above	4	33%
3.0-3.4	7	58%
2.5-2.9	1	8%
2.0-2.4	0	0%
< 2.0	0	0%

How many times did you miss this class?

Options	Count	Percentage
0-2	11	92%
3-4	1	8%
5-6	0	0%
> 6	0	0%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

On average, how many hours a week did you spend outside of class preparing for this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
0	1	8%
1-3	8	67%
4-6	3	25%
7-9	0	0%
10-14	0	0%
15+	0	0%

Which best describes this course for you?

Options	Count	Percentage
Requirement for my major	3	25%
General Education Requirement	0	0%
Other Requirement	1	8%
Elective	3	25%
Elective for major	5	42%

My desire to take this course was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	9	75%
More than most courses	3	25%
About the same as most courses	0	0%
Less than most courses	0	0%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

For me, the level of difficulty of the course content was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	0	0%
More than most courses	5	42%
About the same as most courses	6	50%
Less than most courses	1	8%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

Overall, how much do you feel you've learned in this course?

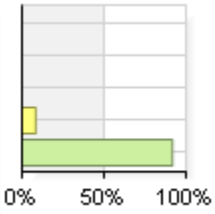
Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	7	58%
More than most courses	5	42%
About the same as most courses	0	0%
Less than most courses	0	0%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

Section 3. Questions About the Instructor

Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.

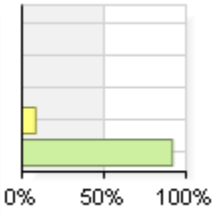
1. The instructor presented the course material clearly.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	1	8%
5 Strongly Agree	11	92%
Total	12	



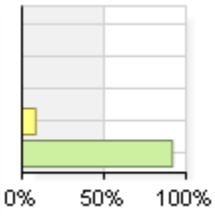
2. The instructor was well prepared for class.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	1	8%
5 Strongly Agree	11	92%
Total	12	



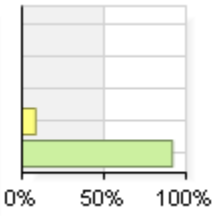
3. The instructor responded to questions adequately.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	1	8%
5 Strongly Agree	11	92%
Total	12	



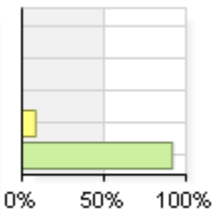
4. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	1	8%
5 Strongly Agree	11	92%
Total	12	



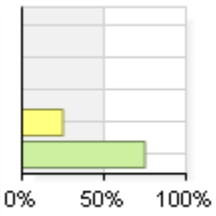
5. The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	1	8%
5 Strongly Agree	11	92%
Total	12	



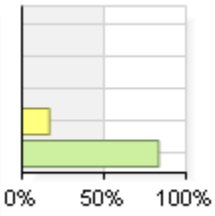
6. The instructor gave clear assignments.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	3	25%
5 Strongly Agree	9	75%
Total	12	



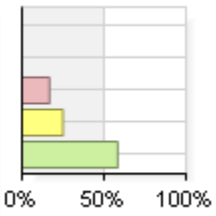
7. The instructor was accessible to students.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	2	17%
5 Strongly Agree	10	83%
Total	12	



8. The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.

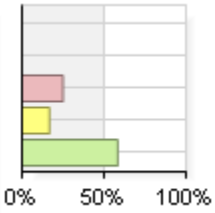
1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	2	17%
4 Agree	3	25%
5 Strongly Agree	7	58%
Total	12	



Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer. (continued)

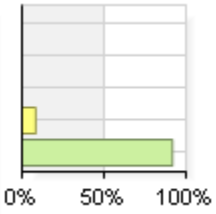
9. The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	3	25%
4 Agree	2	17%
5 Strongly Agree	7	58%
Total	12	



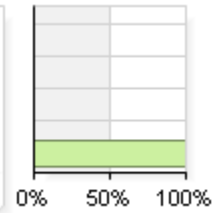
10. The instructor used class time effectively.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	1	8%
5 Strongly Agree	11	92%
Total	12	



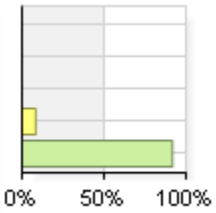
11. The instructor treated all students with respect.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	0	0%
5 Strongly Agree	12	100%
Total	12	



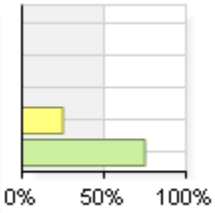
12. The instructor graded fairly.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	1	8%
5 Strongly Agree	11	92%
Total	12	



13. The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	3	25%
5 Strongly Agree	9	75%
Total	12	

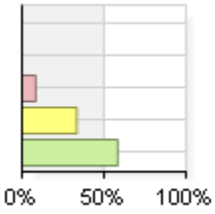


Section 4. Questions About the Course

Please respond to the following question about the course.

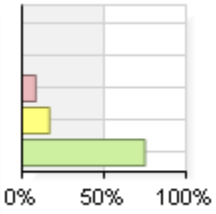
1. The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	4	33%
5 Strongly Agree	7	58%
Total	12	



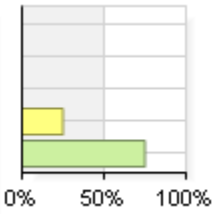
2. The course content was well organized.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	1	8%
4 Agree	2	17%
5 Strongly Agree	9	75%
Total	12	



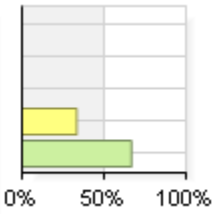
3. The course objectives were clear.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	3	25%
5 Strongly Agree	9	75%
Total	12	



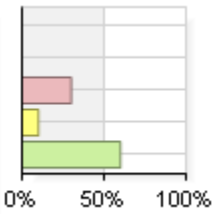
4. The course objectives were met.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	4	33%
5 Strongly Agree	8	67%
Total	12	



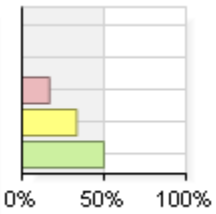
5. The textbook made a valuable contribution.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	3	30%
4 Agree	1	10%
5 Strongly Agree	6	60%
Total	10	



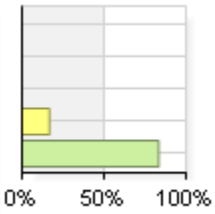
6. The other course materials made a valuable contribution.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	2	17%
4 Agree	4	33%
5 Strongly Agree	6	50%
Total	12	



7. The pace of the course seemed appropriate.

1 Strongly Disagree	0	0%
2 Disagree	0	0%
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree	0	0%
4 Agree	2	17%
5 Strongly Agree	10	83%
Total	12	

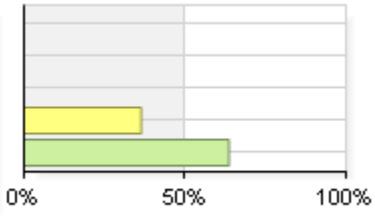


Section 5. Aggregate Report on "Overall Questions"

Overall Rating

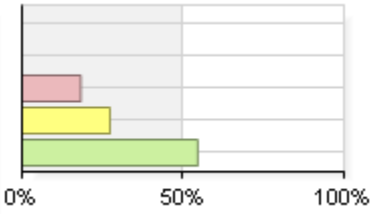
1. What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?

1 Poor	0	0%
2 Fair	0	0%
3 Good	0	0%
4 Very Good	4	36%
5 Excellent	7	64%
Total	11	



2. What is your overall rating of the course?

1 Poor	0	0%
2 Fair	0	0%
3 Good	2	18%
4 Very Good	3	27%
5 Excellent	6	55%
Total	11	



Overall Rating

Question	Good, Very Good & Excellent	Very Good & Excellent	Excellent
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	100%	100%	64%
What is your overall rating of the course?	100%	82%	55%

Section 6. Comments

What was the most positive aspect of the way in which this instructor taught this course?

Comment
Very passionate, he spoke in a way that was very accessible for students. I could tell that he was teaching something that he cared about, and that passion made me more engaged in the class.
I think the lectures were the most positive aspect. Professor Spencer did a great job of pulling out the most important aspects of the readings, making the content interesting and engaging, and overall making the class lectures entertaining yet informative.
Professor Spencer is skilled at teaching somewhat complicated subjects. example; 2000 Election.
Very well prepared, comprehensive, engaging and thought-provoking lectures.
Prof. Spencer always incorporated student's ideas and perspectives to make sure that we understood the information.
Kept it enjoyable and entertaining, explained things well.
Really enthusiastic about the subject. Beyond knowledgeable.
Very positive and engaging. Encouraged independent thought about all topics
The most positive aspect was that the instructor had us do group projects. Having this benefited me greatly and made me enjoy the course more
Spoke clearly.
Professor Spencer is well knowledgeable in public policy and plotical law. Considering he normally teaches grad law students, he did a great job of explaining policies like the efficiency gap to undergraduates.

What can this instructor do to improve teaching effectiveness in the classroom?

Comment
Because this was the first time they taught the class, it felt a bit disorganized at times, and I'd like to get grades back sooner.
Maybe more powerpoints instead of just straight lectures.
We started the class with discussion about current events, but maybe some a bit discussion time after each professor gave their lecture about what was just presented.
I don't think anything needs to be improved. I wish I could take more classes with this Prof.
NA
Keep doing what he's doing.
Nothing.

Please write any comments you have about the course or course materials.

Comment
Fantastic class. I've learned more than I have in many other classes, and it's opened my eyes to many issues I never thought about regarding election administration.
I think this course was great, it was one of my favorites.
I thought the class where we attempted to come up with a situational campaign strategy had potential, and could be improved. We would need more time than 15 minutes, and some of the situation lacked context that was important to our strategy. Maybe instead of hypothetical situations, pick out real-life losing campaigns or future campaigns in the next election cycle and task groups with finding an improved or ideal campaign strategy, with the benefit of hindsight. Instead of a short 30 minute exercise, this could be an out-of-class group project requiring a slideshow, writeup, etc.
Professor Spencer and Professor Herrnson are both amazing professors alone. Together they were even better! Not

only are they extremely knowledgeable and leaders in their respective fields, but they presented all the course material in extremely engaging ways and were very accessible to students. I felt like the class was more challenging than others I have taken, and that I learned much more. We covered a broad spectrum of topics within election administration, and I always left learning something new. The class made me want to look into this specific area in more detail in my future studies. I loved how the class was split between talking about law and public policy, and then the politics of it all. I am happy I was able to take this course when it was offered for the first time. I would recommend not just the course, but each professor to anyone at UConn.
For this course to be new, it was well prepared for and invited us students to become mini experts.
Posting grades on HuskyCT is recommended. I like knowing how i'm doing throughout the course. Having two exams instead of one would also be helpful.
I enjoyed this class very much. This was one of my favorite classes and I did learn a lot in this class. The professor seemed very in touch with the students and had a positive attitude in class
None.

For courses with laboratory and/or discussion sections: were the laboratory/discussion sections helpful to your learning?

Comment
N/A
N/A
NA
None.

Did the briefing by Connecticut's Secretary of the State increase your understanding of election administration? If so, how?

Comment
It's easy to talk about election administration's shortcomings in the classroom and think that it's obvious that things should be changed. However, listening to her speak made it clear that seemingly obvious reforms have to go through a ton of political red tape, and all the different actors in government have differing agendas. Her presentation highlighted the political challenges that reform faces, that the rest of the class doesn't touch on as much. Her briefing made it clear that policy is not made in a vacuum.
Yes because we got a different perspective and it was really interesting.
Yes. Secretary Merrill answered questions with lots of detail and experience. It was interesting to hear her answer certain questions like a politician would. It was also great that she is president of the NASS and was able to answer questions about national issues.
I was absent that day, but I am sure it did.
Not much, I already felt like I had a great understanding of election admin. and when the Sec. of State came in to brief, there wasn't much to teach our class.
Yes, it helped me see how much the Secretary has to do with elections.
Yes. By having an opportunity to directly interface with the Secretary, I feel like I learned much more about the political hurdles involved in getting voting legislation passed.
yes
Yes It did. Having the practical experience and how elections really work in the real world rather than in theory benefited and helped my understanding of election administration. I would recommend this to continue in the future.
Yes.