



University of Connecticut

Student Evaluation of Teaching Fall 2015

Individual Report for PP-5340-H01-HRTFD- Introduction to Public Policy

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

Response Table

2015 Fall Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET)	
Raters	students
Responded	29
Invited	34
Response Ratio	85%

Section 1. Summary

Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.

Question	Course	Department	School	University
	Median	Median	Median	Median
The instructor presented the course material clearly.	5.0	4.0	4.5	4.4
The instructor was well prepared for class.	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.6
The instructor responded to questions adequately.	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.6
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	5.0	4.4	4.5	4.5
The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7
The instructor gave clear assignments.	5.0	4.1	4.5	4.5
The instructor was accessible to students.	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6
The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.4
The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.5
The instructor used class time effectively.	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.5
The instructor treated all students with respect.	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8
The instructor graded fairly.	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.7
The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.5

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

Question	Course	Department	School	University
	Median	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	5.0	4.0	4.3	4.2

Please respond to the following question about the course.

Question	Course	Department	School	University
	Median	Median	Median	Median
The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.4
The course content was well organized.	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.5
The course objectives were clear.	5.0	4.4	4.6	4.5
The course objectives were met.	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.5
The textbook made a valuable contribution.	5.0	3.7	4.3	4.2
The other course materials made a valuable contribution.	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.5
The pace of the course seemed appropriate.	5.0	4.1	4.4	4.4

What is your overall rating of the course?

Question	Course	Department	School	University
	Median	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the course?	5.0	4.0	4.0	3.9

Section 2. Student Information

What is your Academic Level?

Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0%
Sophomore	0	0%
Junior	0	0%
Senior	4	14%
Graduate	25	86%
Other	0	0%

What is your expected grade in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
A	25	86%
B	3	10%
C	0	0%
D	0	0%
F	0	0%
Pass	0	0%
Fail	0	0%
Other	1	3%

What is your cumulative average (GPA)?

Options	Count	Percentage
3.5 and above	12	63%
3.0-3.4	7	37%
2.5-2.9	0	0%
2.0-2.4	0	0%
< 2.0	0	0%

How many times did you miss this class?

Options	Count	Percentage
0-2	28	97%
3-4	1	3%
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	0	0%
1-3	19	66%
4-6	6	21%
7-9	3	10%
10-14	1	3%
15+	0	0%

Which best describes this course for you?

Options	Count	Percentage
Requirement for my major	27	93%
General Education Requirement	1	3%
Other Requirement	1	3%
Elective	0	0%
Elective for major	0	0%

My desire to take this course was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	9	31%
More than most courses	8	28%
About the same as most courses	12	41%
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	1	3%
About the same as most courses	22	76%
Less than most courses	6	21%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

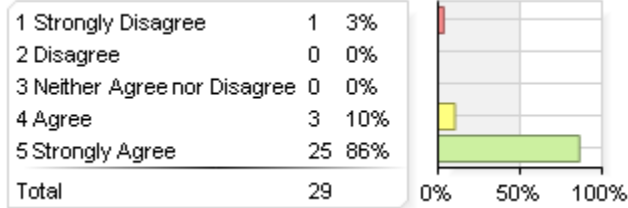
Overall, how much do you feel you've learned in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	8	28%
More than most courses	12	41%
About the same as most courses	9	31%
Less than most courses	0	0%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

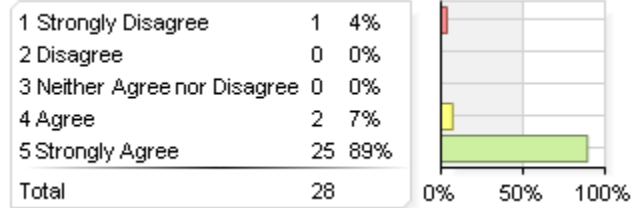
Section 3. Questions About the Instructor

Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.

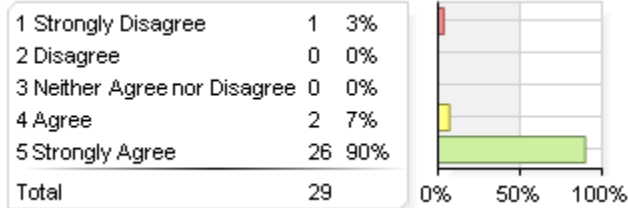
1. The instructor presented the course material clearly.



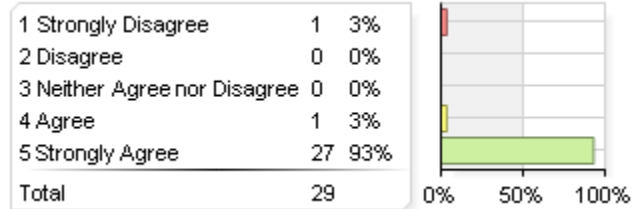
2. The instructor was well prepared for class.



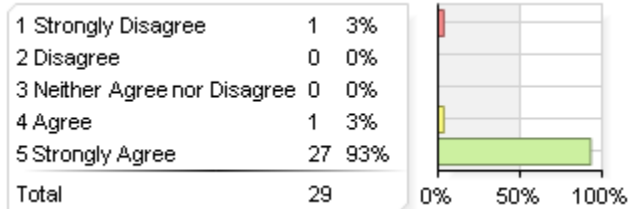
3. The instructor responded to questions adequately.



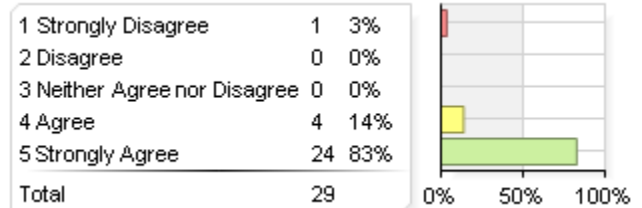
4. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.



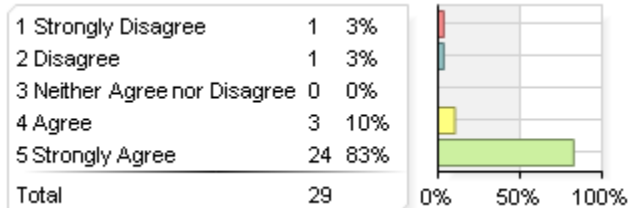
5. The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.



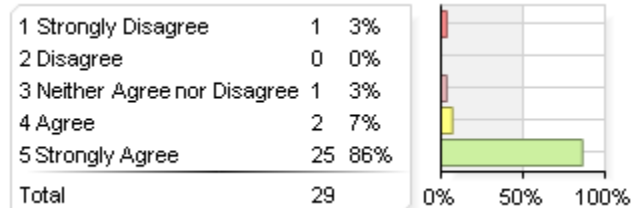
6. The instructor gave clear assignments.



7. The instructor was accessible to students.

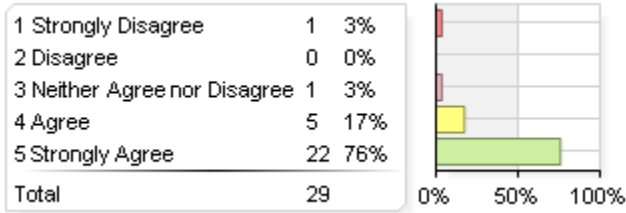


8. The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.

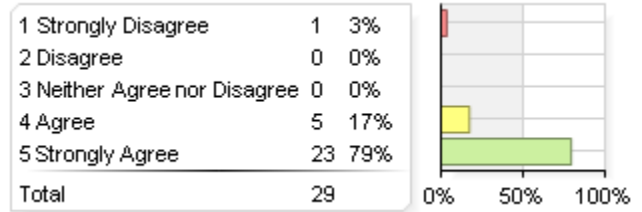


**Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.
(continued)**

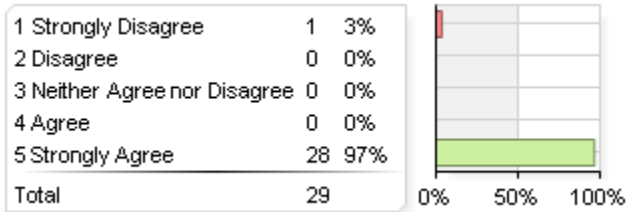
9. The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.



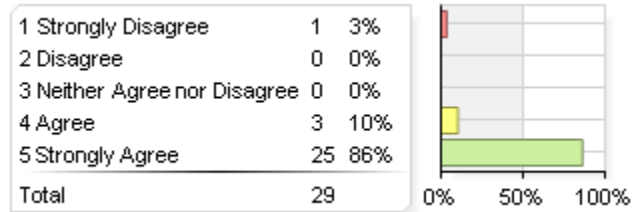
10. The instructor used class time effectively.



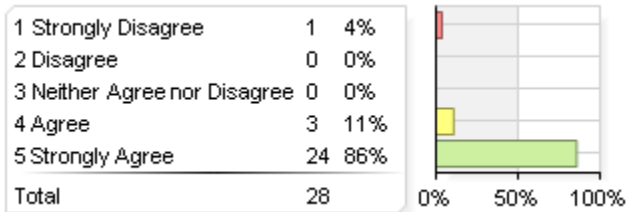
11. The instructor treated all students with respect.



12. The instructor graded fairly.



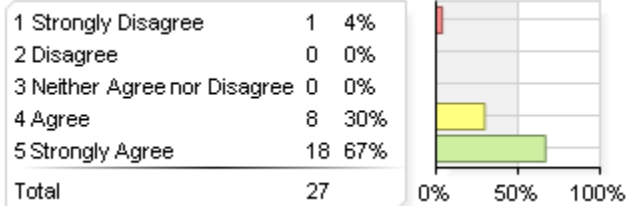
13. The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.



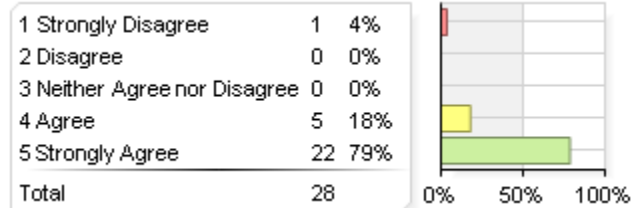
Section 4. Questions About the Course

Please respond to the following question about the course.

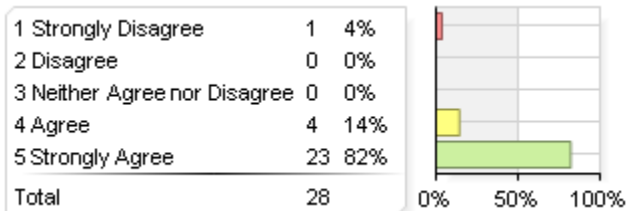
1. The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.



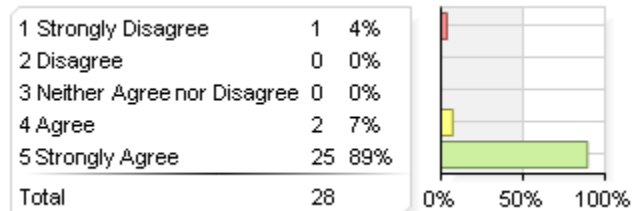
2. The course content was well organized.



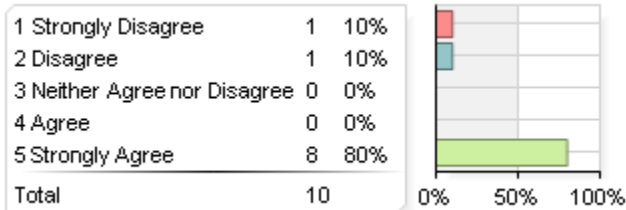
3. The course objectives were clear.



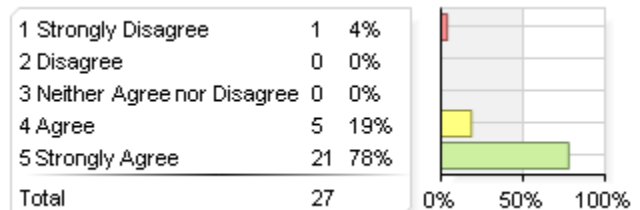
4. The course objectives were met.



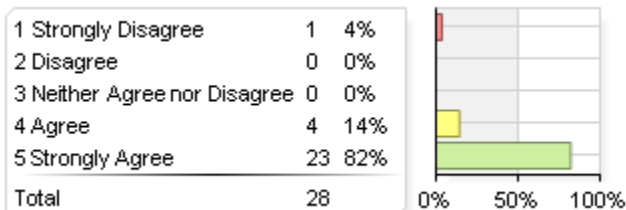
5. The textbook made a valuable contribution.



6. The other course materials made a valuable contribution.



7. The pace of the course seemed appropriate.

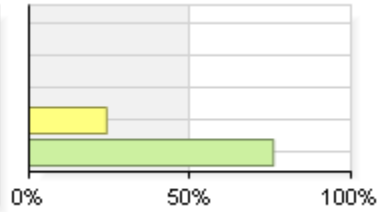


Section 5. Aggregate Report on "Overall Questions"

Overall Rating

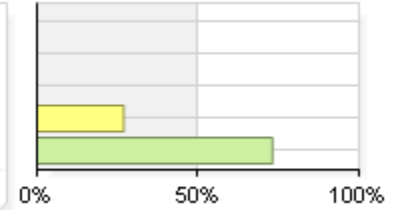
1. What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?

1 Poor	0	0%
2 Fair	0	0%
3 Good	0	0%
4 Very Good	7	24%
5 Excellent	22	76%
Total	29	



2. What is your overall rating of the course?

1 Poor	0	0%
2 Fair	0	0%
3 Good	0	0%
4 Very Good	7	27%
5 Excellent	19	73%
Total	26	



Overall Rating

Question	Good, Very Good & Excellent	Very Good & Excellent	Excellent
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	100%	100%	76%
What is your overall rating of the course?	100%	100%	73%

Section 6. Comments

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

Comment
He was very enthusiastic about the topics and the course in general. Made it a pleasure to come to class.
Guest speakers and using real world examples to understand concepts
His personality and the material he used to relay concepts and teachings.
I liked having the guest speakers so I learned a little bit about a lot of different things
The professor was extremely engaging, and made class a pleasure. He is an asset to the UConn faculty.
He was really good at engaging student interest and had a lot of valuable insight on many of the topics
The looser, discussion-style format encouraged participation, and the atmosphere was informal enough for all students (regardless of experience in PP issues) to feel comfortable voicing opinions.
He get's really animated once in a while, which is great. I also really like his sense of humor.
Bringing in Guest Speakers
Professor Spencer is an absolute beast, one of the smartest people in the program, the best discussion facilitator
Doug has a great personality that makes classes enjoyable. The example that stands out to me the most is when he was trying to teach us the tax freeloader dilemma. He had set us up with 4 cards each and assigned value to the different colors. We were to hand in 2 cards each and for every red card turned in the group gained 1 point each. But for every red card that you kept in your hand you gained 4 points. The person at the end of the class with the most points won a t-shirt. This was 15 minutes into class and in the 5th round he told the class that if every single card turned in was red that the class was over and that we could all go home, knowing that we would remember what he was trying to teach because we got the rest of the class off. And as he received multiple black cards, the class continued. But this type of creative teaching is exactly why I will never forget that concept. Doug is a great teacher.
I think prof. Spencer's speakers in class were very insightful and inspiring. His teaching style is more focused on getting students involved through actual debate and discussions on the topics versus reading about the problems and trying to solve things alone at home. I think this has been the best class in my whole semester. I absolutely loved prof. Spencer and I feel like I have a much better understand of what our "job" as public administrations is and should be like thanks to him.
He stimulated our interest by the way he spoke. He was very friendly and knew what he was talking about. The readings were interesting. Finally, the guest speakers were also excellent.
Instructor stimulated interest with engaging discussion. Allowed for open discussion of issues.
Professor Spencer was very professional and helpful.
The instructor was very engaging, challenging, and used relevant examples.
Learning to write memos in a short concise manor which got right to the point . Very valuable skill which i will use in the future.
Brought real world examples and topics to complement the material
He's genuinely a nice guy who knows what he is talking about
Doug did an excellent job engaging students and promoting student learning through lectures and classroom discussions.
The guest lecturers were great and the professor was very engaging

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

Comment
NA
More assignments

Nothing. He's a pro.
I'd rather the group for the presentation deck had more time in class to work on the presentation
Teach more classes
I think having more lecture time and less discussion time would have been more better. I learned less from the discussions, especially since they were more open-ended and didn't always have a clear direction/ objective
More small-group discussion and then presentation to the class as a whole.
I thought he was great. I can't think of anything. Maybe the writing workshop day could be organized differently. People didn't take it as seriously as I thought they would, considering they're in grad school and all, so a lot of my commons were not helpful/minimal.
He did an excellent job! He kept students engaged!
UConn should give him a raise
Nothing comes to mind. Everyone knows Doug is the man.
nothing much he is truly great as his now.
Nothing, he is great the way he is.
Not much.
Nothing.
A rubric should be handed out with each assignment so student s can have a road map to follow.
I wish there was a bit more on the history of PA and PP
Not much. He's pretty awesome
Nothing.
None. I looked forward to the class every week and it was always engaging.

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

Comment
The course is a a great survey course for students who have not been exposed to this material. For students who work in legislative or policy roles already, course could be a bit too easy.
The entire course was informative and enjoyable.
Great class
It was all hunky dory. No complaints from me. He's a great teacher and it was a good class.
n/a
The speakers were awesome keep doing that. You kind of look like Tony Romo
I really enjoyed this class.
All the readings provided are eloquent and precisely describe the situation and what one needs to know. I enjoyed learning.
The course is amazing, there should be more subjects I know there is only so much time in the semester.
Doug should teach more courses, we need professors like him more.
Great course. Interesting readings, very applicable. I especially liked guest speakers.
n/a
I enjoyed the course very much.
The speed and efficiency that professor Spencer portrayed getting back to me with questions or graded course work made all the difference to me given my busy schedule.
N/a

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

Comment
NA
n/a
very much so.
n/a
n/a
N/a