

Professor Spencer
The Supreme Court & Public Policy
PPHA 39506



Spring Quarter 2019

Total enrollment: 40
Number of responses: 36
Response rate: 90%

Number of Evaluations

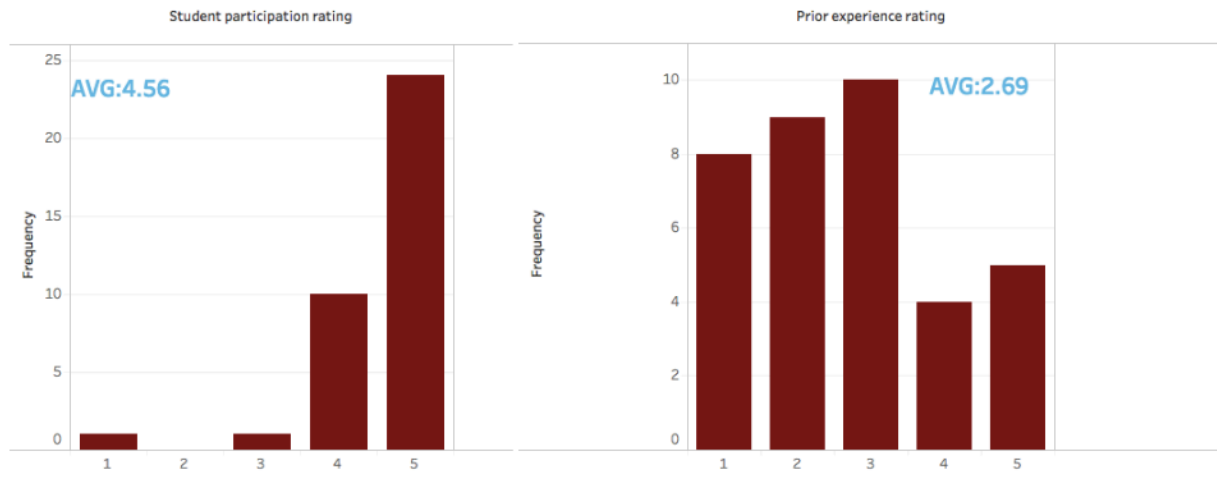
36

Excluding class sessions, estimate the average number of hours per week spent in preparation or review?

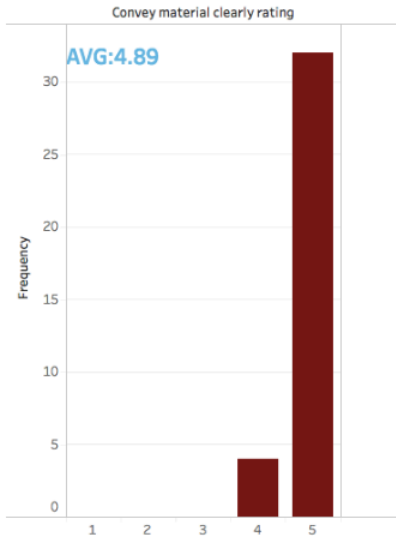
Min hours per week	1.000
Avg hours per week	3.778
Max hours per week	10.000

How would you rate the quality of student participation in classroom discussions?

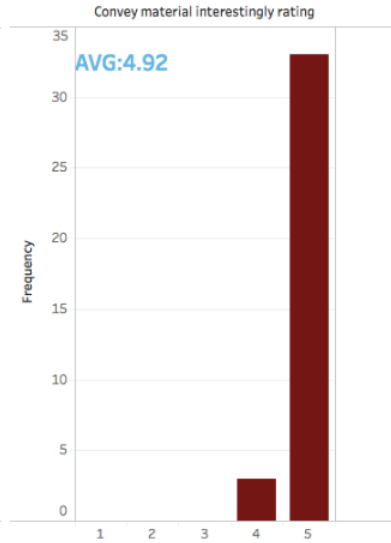
How much prior exposure did you have to the material in this course?



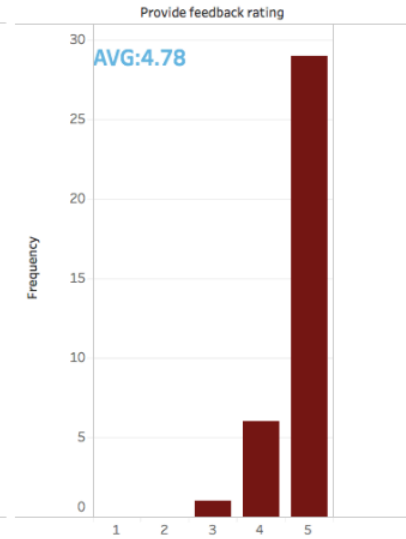
Did the instructor convey the material clearly?



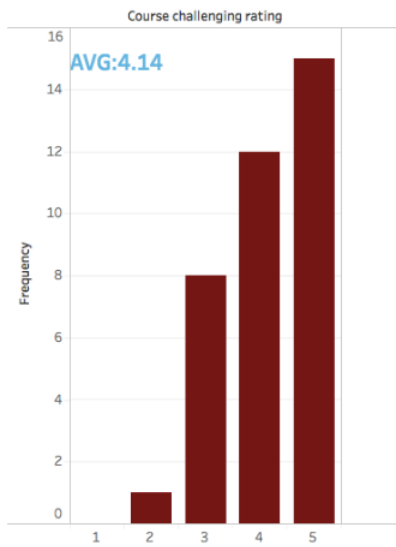
Did the instructor convey the material in an interesting way?



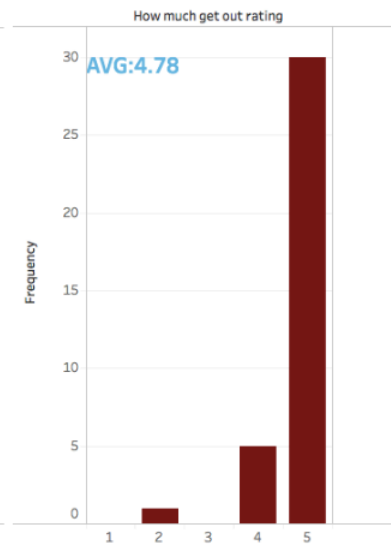
Did the instructor provide instructive feedback?



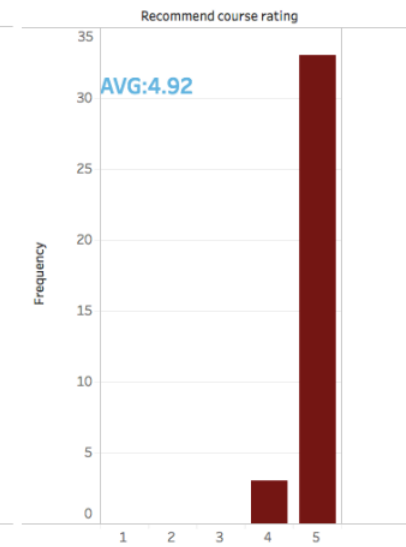
Given the objectives of this course, did the course challenge you?



How much did you get out of the course?



Would you recommend this course to other students?



Course Strength/Weakness	Improve Course	Instructor Strength/Weakness
Very knowledgeable on the issues, fosters discussion and makes thought-provoking arguments and does a great job and be inclusive.	Have more sections so everyone can take it.	Absolutely incredible. Far and away the best instructor I've had at Harris.
Doug was really good at breaking down the laws, statutes, policies etc. to what is relevant to policy students.	NA	Doug is fantastic! I wish he was a permanent professor at Harris. Having both the law and policy background, he was able to tailor the class to what would potentially be important legal issues to understand in order to shape policy.
Critical information for an informed citizenry delivered clearly	NA	Doug is great. Super interested in engaging with students.
Discussions in class regarding the topics were a huge strength. A lot of the discussions we had really picked apart the different issues we were reading about. I guess the only weakness is that there was a lot of law language I was not familiar with so I would have to take some extra time to get familiar with it.	I thought the class was great, I wouldn't change much. The assignments were fair, class lectures were a great mix of discussion and lecture and I learned a lot about how courts work that I didn't know previous to this class.	Doug Spencer is an amazing instructor. I have no previous experience in law and have never taken a law class previous to this but he really made it accessible to everyone. He facilitates great student participation and challenges students to really think critically about the concepts/readings we did for class. He's also very approachable and willing to talk to students when necessary.
All great	I wouldn't change anything.	Doug Spencer is easily one of my favorite professors at Harris. He's very engaging and friendly. He knows his stuff, responds well to questions, challenges students, and seems very invested in his class and students.

NA	NA	Doug Spencer is one of the best professors I have had at Harris. He cares about his students as people, first, and very clearly wants us to understand and analyze the information to have informed discussions, rather than regurgitate what is taught in class.
NA	NA	Doug Spencer is the best professor at Harris. Has a perfect (yet still challenging) workload, but also completely understands students have a life outside Harris and is very understanding and respectful. Harris more professors like this
NA	NA	Engaging and fun. Definitely knows his subject. Does a decent job connecting policy and law.
NA	NA	Great professor all around
This course was very helpful in terms of understanding the legal aspect of public policy. The assignments were great in helping us understand the course topics. My favorite Harris course!	More use of the PolIEv software in class discussions, and small group discussions to encourage participation and make the class a bit more interactive.	Harris should keep Professor Spencer. Professor Spencer did a great job in walking us through legal concepts, and understanding Supreme Court case decisions. Very engaging class.
NA	NA	I found this class very interesting and liked the teaching style of the Prof. I would definitely recommend.
NA	NA	Instructor is great! Very engaging and approachable
Major strength was the professor. Very engaging and capable of connecting material to the world and current state of events. Con law is what you make of it and the professor made it really interesting	I honestly wouldnt change anything . the class structure was great and allowed students to really engage and interact with the law	My favorite class at Harris by far! Professor Spencer was great and it was so great to be a student in his class. No weaknesses really, the material was interesting and engaging and the work outside of class was manageable too.

NA	NA	NA
NA	I would like to hear more feedbacks of my assignments!	NA
Very well structured and great discussion	NA	One of the best instructors I had at Harris. Prof. Spencer learned everyone's name and made everyone feel that their contributions were valuable. He is great!
Strengths - Professor and Readings.	None.	Prof Spencer is awesome!
NA	Inclusion of portion on what makes a judge-understanding the ethical and professional parameters of these institutions.	Prof Spencer was truly stellar- the classes were dynamic and the whole class engaged.
Too short! I'd love to take more classes from Prof. Spencer for more time to ruminate and dive into this subject matter.	Nothing.	Prof. Spencer was engaging and able to convey the information in an interesting way. I learned more about the law in this class than in the entirety of my schooling up until this point, including other classes at Harris taught by lawyers. He's obviously well-versed in the subject matter, but also encouraged us to think critically and go beyond just reading opinions from justices.
This course is an excellent introduction to law, and how it should be considered from a policy perspective.	Professor has very liberal beliefs - might consider presenting material in a more balanced way. The requirements for the course are also on the easy side for a Harris course.	Professor is excellent - very clear, knoweldegable, engaging, and kind as well.

NA	Introducing a 5-10 minute debate element would be useful, forcing students to argue for or against a topic each lecture. Doing so would increase accountability for course readings and compel more students to participate in class.	Professor Spencer does an excellent job in presenting legal concepts and philosophies in a clear, easily digestible manner. While focused on American politics and the judiciary, the material would be accessible for non-American students to comprehend.
The course was a great introduction to important concepts of the constitution, administrative rules, and the ongoing political/legal debates of some of society's most pressing issues!	This course should be baked into the policy school toolkit. If we are to become policymakers, important to understand how policy interacts with law!	Professor Spencer has been the best teacher at Harris so far. He clearly cares about his students, the community, and the material he is teaching. He valued our insights and welcomed questions and feedback throughout the course. No weaknesses – he was awesome and should be hired to be at Harris full time!
NA	NA	Professor Spencer is engaging and knowledgeable and is invested in the students' learning. His class was informative, supportive, and interesting.
NA	NA	Professor Spencer was a very engaging lecturer and really cared about his students learning
The discussions were really engaging and I liked the writing assignments.	The course is really good as-is.	Really no weaknesses at all. He facilitated the discussions well and was a very clear and engaging lecturer.

Strengths: A good intro level course for understanding the federal courts and the Supreme Court. Provides thoughtful discussion and analyses of the role that the judicial system plays in policymaking. / Weaknesses: Attempts were made to try and provide a balanced view of law, but I felt that most of the perspectives discussed in class tended to lean politically left. I did not feel like politically right leaning viewpoints were always given a fair shake. Given the nature of the content, some level of bias is unavoidable.

NA

Strengths: Cares a lot about the students in the class. Showed a genuine interest in students' professional development. Feedback on assignments were some of the most thorough and helpful comments I've gotten while at Harris. / Weaknesses: Nothing really sticks out at the moment.

Strengths: Everything, really. The course was well-organized, the assignments were appropriately challenging, and everything was timed well for a 10-week quarter. The material was undeniably legal without being too dense, and the course dares to do something fresh and new by combining court analyses with policy strategizing. Additionally, the course is much more 'graduate' than others at Harris; there was an appreciation for individual work and accountability, and a sophisticated balance with discussion. There were no gimmicks or forced encounters.

My only 'complaint' is that it went by too fast. Perhaps, if Professor Spencer visited again, he could offer a Part 2/'sister' course to this one.

Strengths: Professor Spencer is a fantastic and engaging speaker, he offered organized and accessible slides and course materials, challenged the discussion without intimidating students without legal exposure, and created a welcoming and exciting classroom dynamic. He also was very responsive to emails, inclusive of alternative perspectives, and offered helpful and encouraging feedback on assignments. / Weaknesses: I cannot think of any.

I thought the class was excellent. There were moments where I felt students in the class and I were blown away by the content especially when we discussed affirmative action and the Equal Protection Clause. Students were highly engaged in the course. I found it challenging in a good way and felt like I received an interesting perspective on how law and policy interacted with one another. I can't really think of any weaknesses in this course.

N/A

Strengths: Professor Spencer was a great instructor. Engaging lecturer, who pushed the class to think about the issues. / Really no discernible weakness

I love that this was a "law-lite" class. However, it should have been conducted more like a law class. Students should have been held more accountable and topics should have been covered more thoroughly. Even if this made the class much more difficult less of a seminar, we all came to grad school to be challenged.

I would make this course harder!! I loved the material, but I think treating it like any other Harris course cheapens it. Harris needs more courses like this and more professors like Doug Spencer!!

The professor is amazing. Clearly very very smart, and passionate about teaching and the material. However, he let class participation get out of hand. The same few students would always raise their hands and pretty much just talk about how they felt about whatever subject we were discussing. This would often take up 30-40 minutes of the entire class. It really dissuades other students from wanting to participate.

Discussion and course materials.

More assignments to help us internalize the material.

There are not enough words to describe how awesome of a professor Doug Spencer is. Thought provoking, challenging, and intellectually stimulating is how I would describe his presence. Do not change a thing and keep up the amazing work at the next University you are at.

The second assignment (policy memo) was, to me, the most interesting opportunity for independent thought and analysis (of the three assignments). I would have liked more assignments like that.

NA

Thought-provoking presentation of the material; willingness to challenge students to think deeply during class discussions; true understanding of the public policy angle/the instruction we receive in our other classes to effectively make connections between the cases and policy

the course content is very interesting and informative to students without backgrounds in law

more constitutional amendments can be covered, as there are some other interesting amendments

very good presentation of course materials
