

Fall 2014 Course Evaluations - Arts and Sciences and Engineering

Fa14-PS-0061-01-Intro International Rel, Fa14-PS-0188-13-Topics In
Intern'l Rel

Michael Beckley

Results of survey

Started: November 28, 2014

Ended: December 10, 2014

Reply rate: 64% (117 / 183)

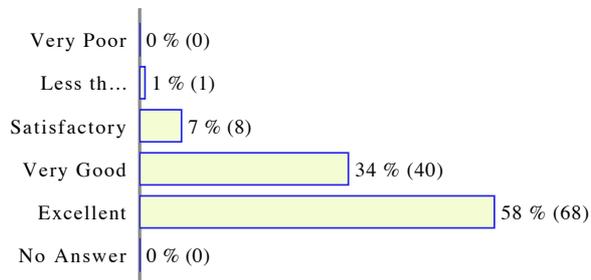
- I loved it the way it was!

Instructor/Evaluatee: Michael Beckley

Instructor Questions

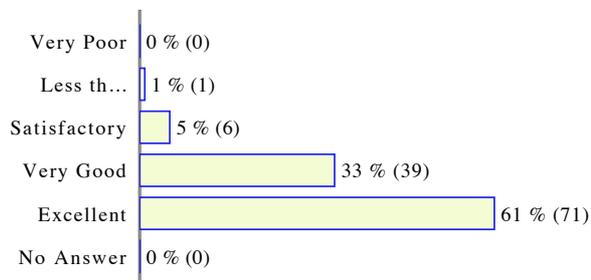
9. How would you rate the instructor's organization of each class?

117 answers, mean = 4.50, std dev = 0.66



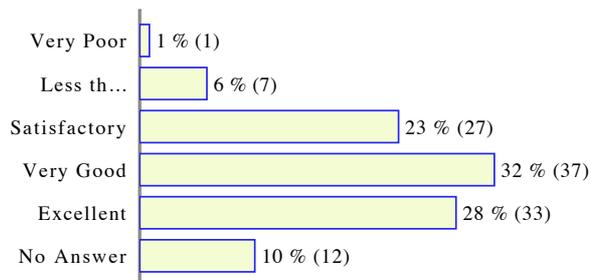
10. How would you rate the instructor's success in explaining concepts and ideas?

117 answers, mean = 4.54, std dev = 0.64



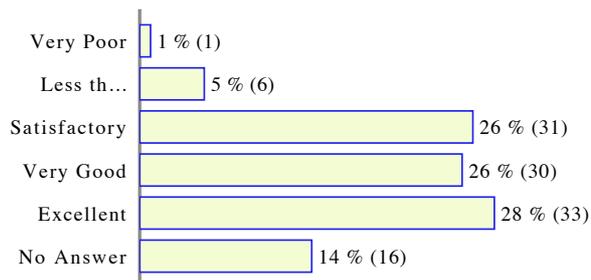
11. How would you rate the timeliness of the instructor's feedback on assignments, exams, and other work?

105 answers, mean = 3.90, std dev = 0.96



12. How would you rate the usefulness of the instructor's feedback on assignments, exams, and other work?

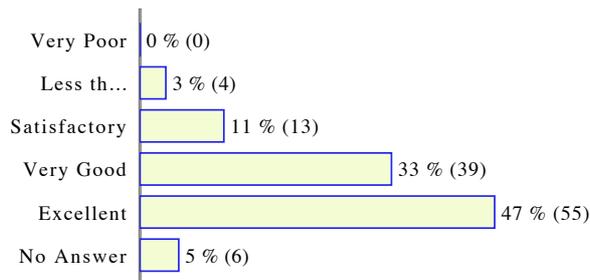
101 answers, mean = 3.87, std dev = 0.98



13. How would you rate the instructor's success in creating and maintaining an inclusive class,

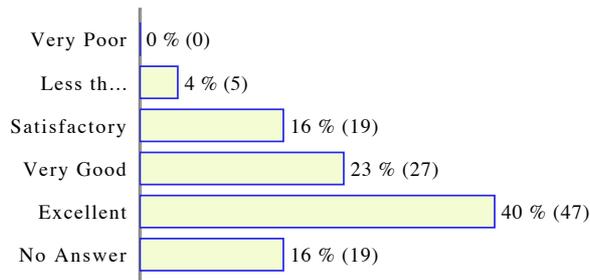
respectful of all students?

111 answers, mean = 4.31, std dev = 0.82



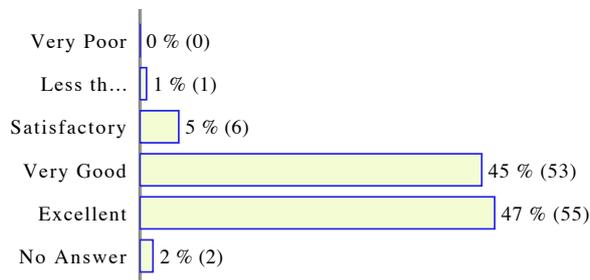
14. How would you rate the instructor's communication with you outside of class?

98 answers, mean = 4.18, std dev = 0.92



15. Based on your answers above, and any other factors you consider important, please provide an overall evaluation of the instructor.

115 answers, mean = 4.41, std dev = 0.63



16. Please provide any additional comments regarding the instructor.

- Prof. Beckley is the best!
- Professor Beckley was great and I have no complaints about him whatsoever. He is extremely approachable, caring, clear, and kind. I will say however, that the TA who graded my midterm exam was not as kind. She actually cursed at both me and my exam when I set an appointment to individually meet with her to review my test. I wanted to talk to my TA (Ches was my TA, who was both fascinating and very concise), but the head TA sort of indirectly discouraged students to bring up concerns with superiors and/or other TAs. This was both frustrating and intimidating. Otherwise, Professor Beckley (plus my TA Ches) was great!
- Professor Beckley is very skilled at teaching what is generally very dry content in an interesting way. He is funny and easy to talk to, and really makes sure his students understand the material. He is a great and fun teacher, and look forward to taking some of his other classes in future

semesters.

- Though I don't think I'd agree with him on a lot of issues, I have to say Prof. Beckley is a stellar professor. Accessible lectures, well-organized class, very fair work load. You could feel yourself learning in every class. The glib jokes about nationality and violence (though common in this field) were a bit insensitive and odd, but that would honestly be my only complaint. Definitely one of the most educational classes I've ever taken!
- Professor Beckley explains concepts really thoroughly in class and though the pace is a little fast I really enjoy Beckley's lecture. There's never too much to learn in this class.
- None
- engaging, often moves quickly
- N/a
- Professor Beckley is eloquent, considerate, sweet and attentive. I think it's naturally difficult with such a large body of students to connect individually and so it is unfortunately hard to manufacture a relationship with him in that context.
- explain the key concepts in more details
- Professor Beckley was a captivating lecturer and I enjoyed his class bi-weekly. The recitation were not as enjoyable and could have been better.
- Professor Beckley is an excellent lecturer and his class kept me fully engaged because he made the material seem really interesting while we were learning it.
- explained everything in detail, lectures were extremely well done and the best professor I have had at Tufts
I will miss this class! all of the reading was worth it
- Professor Beckley was a very good lecturer, and was always well prepared and clear during class. I did not personally see him outside of class, but often saw my TA (Ivan Rasmussen) for questions, clarifications, and discussions, who was incredibly helpful and a wonderful TA.
- I found the lectures to be engaging and interesting. I also really liked my recitation leader, Ms. Chindea, she did a very good job of explaining the readings and encouraging us to participate.
- Loved the dynamic lectures and Andrew Taffer, the TA was very helpful!
- Beckley is a wonderful professor. His lectures were so clear and retainable. The tests were hard but he explains things well enough that you just have to study to try and keep up!
- My TA recitations were absolutely useless, we did not do anything and it was just a waste of time. But Beckley was a great lecturer and I enjoyed lecture.
- He was really entertaining in lecture which helped me pay attention.
- Beckley was life changing. If I had taken this course with him as a freshman, my whole experience at Tufts would have been different. My only complaint is I wish the lectures took the full time. He would let us out early at the beginning, so students expected it, and would start to pack up often times before class was done.
- Beckley did a great job teaching on a new subject every week. Unfortunately, I think I would've gotten a lot more out of the course had I had another TA. Mine made the students feel like any answer we offered was incorrect but in a harsh way. Eventually I stopped answering questions because no matter what she would consider it incorrect. Still I came to every recitation and actively listened.
- The instructor was excellent, and very clear. He was very accommodating outside of class and clearly respects his students.
- He should start his own fashion blog.
- Your lectures were very helpful! Thank you!
- Although I had issues with the class, I love Professor Beckley. He really knows his stuff and was engaging and funny and I would definitely take another class with him. Yay for Casual Thursdays, loving those Vans.
- Professor Beckley does a great job of engaging a large class - he explains concepts clearly, and lays out each lecture clearly. I understand that he encourages us to take notes, but I think it would be helpful if there were a couple of salient points from the lectures on the slides, and not just images, especially since there is so much content.
- I found it really great that Professor Beckley fixed his way of instruction throughout the semester. At first, he sped through the information and finished lectures early. But, after some of the students complained about the pace of the lectures, he changed his pace and speed at which he talked, making it more comfortable for the majority of students.
- Professor Beckley was the best professor I have ever had. He managed to make lectures concise, but interesting at the same time. I would recommend this class to anyone, solely on how great the lectures were. I enjoyed it thoroughly.
- Professor Beckley was a very good instructor, however we didn't speak in our classes, as he would just give us the material and we had to take notes on them, so there was no interaction between us. Thus, there are some questions that don't apply to him.
- Beckley is a good lecturer and he had the unenviable job of making a broad course interesting.
- Thank you Professor Beckley! Your warm, calm demeanor made the lectures infinitely better.

- my instructor it really should be TA, because they are the ones who did the grading and met with you when you needed help. having said that, the TAs were awesome. <3 ches and irina

- As I stated earlier, posting the lectures on trunk or something would have been awesome.

- The one thing that annoyed me about Prof. Beckley was his tendency to turn to certain students as representative of their home nations. We would never assume that one American student represents every American viewpoint, or even the majority viewpoint, on an issue, so why did he assume one Australian, Japanese, or Taiwanese student represents the entire opinion of their home nation? This was especially frustrating in regards to nations where other students have focused their study on that nation and may, in fact, have a better and more cohesive view of that government's and/or people's perception of the issue at hand.

Beyond this bias, however, I found Professor Beckley a very interesting lecturer who structured his courses well and had relatively realistic expectations.

- none
- Beckley is one of my favorite professors at Tufts-- keep up the good work Prof!
- the lectures were a little disorganized-it was all talking, and the powerpoint slides should be more focused
- Beckley was great. Very good lecturer, always kept the class engaged and interested, and was very clear in his points. The difficulty of exams was at the right level I think.
- Lectures were the right balance between funny/engaging and informative. Hopefully I can take another class with Professor Beckley.
- He spoke way too fast at a constant flow and should have provided us with some slides. In a class that big it's hard to necessarily listen to every thing and not having any material to review from class made it really difficult to feel like I was adequately prepared for the exams.
- I love Michael Beckley! His lectures are clear and concise, and his lesson plans for each class are well-organized. Great professor!
- Occasionally I found the lectures a little too politically correct. For example, I remember during a lecture you mentioned the current clash of civilizations between the western and muslim worlds, and then said, that's all I'm gonna say about that. I know it is a contentious issue, but it is also very interesting, and I would have enjoyed a brief discussion about it. Besides for that though a really liked the lectures.
- Professor Beckley is a truly incredible teacher. He is an interesting and engaging lecturer. His facilitation of class discussion was excellent. He is truly an asset to the Tufts

International Relations/Political Science department.

I did not find the TA helpful in any capacity. He lacked confidence in leading review sessions and was not particularly helpful in answering questions.

- Great enthusiasm and very funny, knew how to get across to college students
- Thank you Professor Beckley! Totally enjoyed your lectures. You were practical and straightforward in your lectures and that made it a pleasure to be in your class:)
- My favorite parts of the class were that times Beckley went off script. I know it was his first time teaching the class and there is a huge amount of material to go over, but the whole class could tell he was an interesting, personable guy that we only saw for very brief periods. Him reading a prepared script was just boring, and very difficult to pay attention to. I guarantee that more people would pay attention and therefore learn more if some material was left out (or assigned to read - literally just hand out your script) and then Beckley could be more lively during lecture.
- Michael Beckley is extremely knowledgeable about this subject and is able to really convey that in his teaching. He also is funny and able to keep the class engaged. I really looked forward to this class!!
- Professor Beckley is not primarily an intro to IR professor and although he was very engaging, his preference for teaching different courses showed.
- My TA, Irina, was very helpful in explaining confusing concepts and going over material during recitation. However, I feel like there could be a longer amount of time allocated to discussion the week's topic rather than going over the readings
- Beckley was incredibly well spoken and entertaining. He presented masses of material in a very comprehensive manner
- Prof B makes the best analogies!