

Spring 2014 Course Evaluations - Arts and Sciences and Engineering

Sp14-PS-0188-44-Topics In Intern'l Rel, Sp14-PS-0189-19-Sem In Int'l
Relations

Michael Beckley

Results of survey

Started: April 22, 2014

Ended: May 1, 2014

Reply rate: 57% (16 / 28)

Spring 2014 Course Evaluations - Arts and Sciences and Engineering

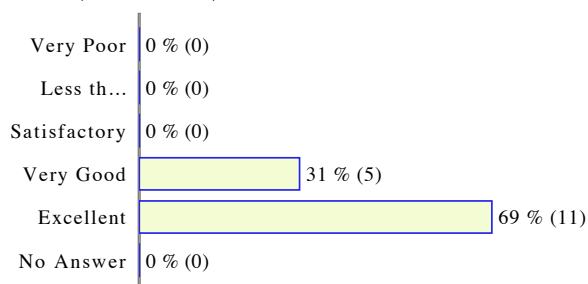
Course Items:

Student Course Evaluations play an important role in the effort to assess and improve teaching at Tufts. Your honest, constructive, and detailed feedback not only is essential for evaluating the courses you are taking now, but also will benefit future students. Responses are confidential, and instructors will gain access to anonymous results only after final grades are posted. Thank you for your participation.

Course Questions

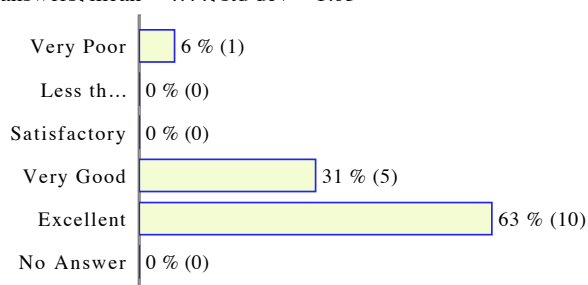
1. How would you rate the success of the course in accomplishing its objectives as stated on the course syllabus?

16 answers, mean = 4.69, std dev = 0.48



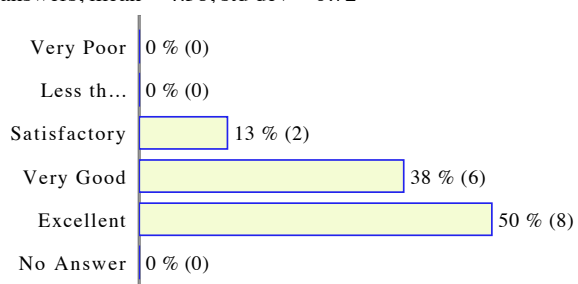
2. How would you rate the use of class time (lectures, discussions, demonstrations, labs, etc.) to promote your learning?

16 answers, mean = 4.44, std dev = 1.03



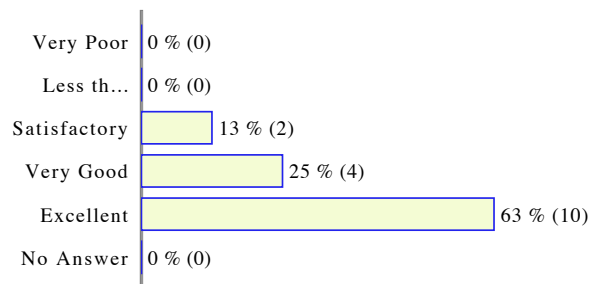
3. How would you rate the use of out-of-class activities (reading assignments, homework, papers, projects, etc.) to promote your learning?

16 answers, mean = 4.38, std dev = 0.72



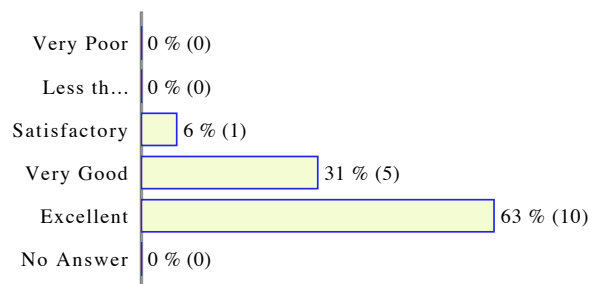
4. How would you rate the way the course engaged your interest?

16 answers, mean = 4.50, std dev = 0.73



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

16 answers, mean = 4.56, std dev = 0.63



6. In what ways has this course made you think differently or more deeply? Please provide examples.

- We consistently explore deeper themes of Chinese development and always frame ideas in the context of China's history rather than rote recitation.
- It has allowed me to see things from both a foreign and domestic interpretation of the American system
- This course helped me understand the connections between China's politics, development, and economy. It helped to round out my knowledge of China's recent history/present day life.
- Improved critical thinking, broad themes overarch the course and provide a good framework
- It gave me a better understanding of China's history from the PRC onward and how that has affected and shaped China's current economy/situation.
- This course was fantastic. In doing international relations I tend to focus a lot more on foreign policy so this class was a great bridge between foreign and domestic policy. I learned how to look at what is happening within our own government and apply how that could affect the US internationally.
- Great course! Very challenging to complete the weekly readings and more challenging still to figure out a way to balance the semester's research paper with the weekly assigned work.

7. What aspects of this course worked best to

facilitate your learning?

- Listening to the lecturer's arguments given the raw data he presents
- The lectures.
- Class discussion
- Professor Beckley is a great lecturer. I really enjoyed the things eh covered in the class and that helped me learn.
- lectures
- The lectures were very informative and the readings were interesting. The readings can be too long sometimes.
- The round table type discussion was great. Professor Beckley always asked the right questions at the right time and that facilitated class discussion very well.
- Responding each week to my classmates' papers forced me to apply the weekly readings even before class. It was a great opportunity to read other students' written work, too.

8. What suggestions do you have for improving this course?

- While slideshows of just images do force us to take our own notes and pay attention, spending half an hour talking over one image causes our attention to wander. In US Foreign Policy Toward Asia, I felt that more pictures were used in general and my attention wandered proportionally less often.
- Not so much emphasis placed on the authors opinions and how the authors would interpret an idea. I would prefer we spend more time using the authors ideas to facilitate our own thinking and have conversations about our own opinion not the others opinion
- I would have liked to have heard the Professor's take on the issues and concepts we discussed in class.
- Get rid of some heavily economic theory-based reading, and add readings that are more user-friendly.
- cut down on readings just a little
- Sometimes it can be hard to follow the lecture when the powerpoint shows only graphs. I think it will be beneficial to have bulletpoints for students to follow the lecture. Before the midterm and final it'll also be helpful to summarize/tie in how everything that was covered connects with one and another.
- I honestly cannot think of one thing that would make this class better than it already was. Having taken multiple seminars before, this was the first one in which I felt everyone participated almost equally and at a similar, high level of understanding and respect. Fantastic students and a fantastic course syllabus.
- Provide a bit more structure and encouragement with regards to the research paper. Otherwise a phenomenal course!

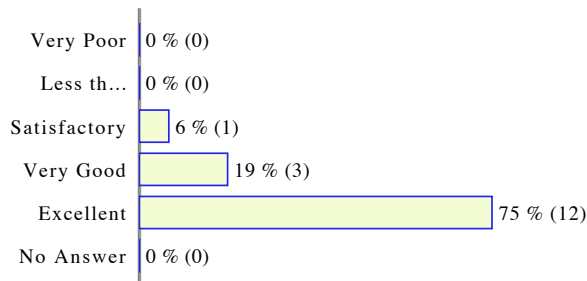
- My only suggestion is to do everything you can to retain Professor Beckley. One of the best professors that Tufts has.

Instructor/Evaluated: Michael Beckley

Instructor Questions

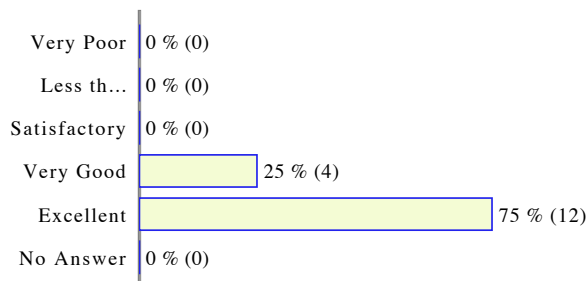
9. How would you rate the instructor's organization of each class?

16 answers, mean = 4.69, std dev = 0.60



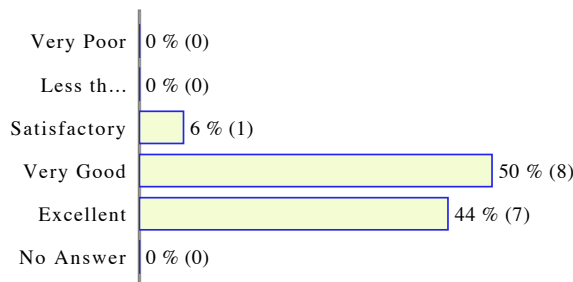
10. How would you rate the instructor's success in explaining concepts and ideas?

16 answers, mean = 4.75, std dev = 0.45



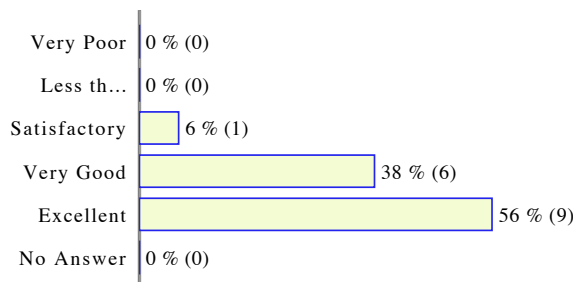
11. How would you rate the timeliness of the instructor's feedback on assignments, exams, and other work?

16 answers, mean = 4.38, std dev = 0.62



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

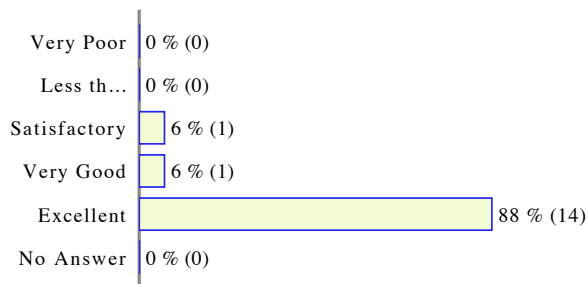
16 answers, mean = 4.50, std dev = 0.63



13. How would you rate the instructor's success in

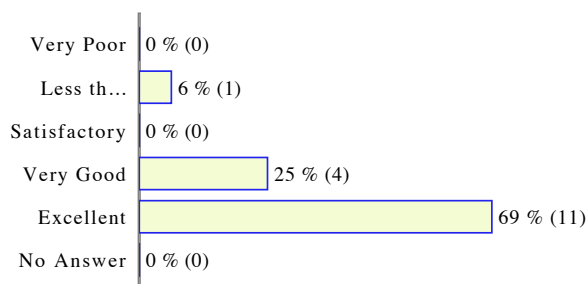
creating and maintaining an inclusive class, respectful of all students?

16 answers, mean = 4.81, std dev = 0.54



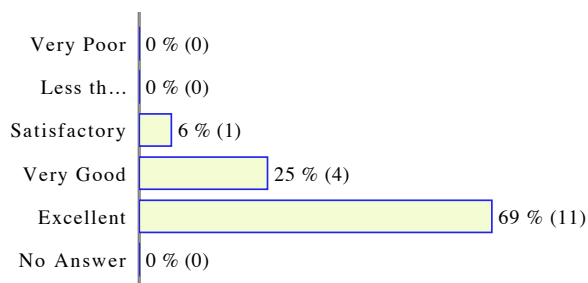
14. How would you rate the instructor's communication with you outside of class?

16 answers, mean = 4.56, std dev = 0.81



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

16 answers, mean = 4.62, std dev = 0.62



16. Please provide any additional comments regarding the instructor.

- Someone needs to let him know it's not ok to end every lecture 20 minutes early. Like once or twice is understandable but every lecture? This is not what I'm paying for at Tufts. Also what professor has 1 office hour a week?
- You teach like a ten-year veteran, Professor. Another class, another flawless victory (on your part; we'll see what happens on the final).
- Assigning some documentaries on China's political economy to supplement the course reading might be helpful in deepening student's understanding of the material and making the time students spend on preparing for the class more enjoyable.
- I really enjoyed taking this class with Professor Beckley. He knows SO much about China and he knows exactly how to

convey that information to you in lecture. His tests were perfect for testing student knowledge (rather than what most college tests do which is to test your memorization skills *cough cough Bio 13*). Professor Beckley does a good job at keeping students engaged in class and he is very relatable and friendly if you even need to talk to him about class material.

- Prof. Beckley did a great job this semester, tough class to teach but he did it very well. I just wish that he would slow down a little bit when he lectures
- I really enjoyed this class and am glad I chose to take it! I really felt like I learned a lot from it. Thank you for a great semester!
- Professor Beckley is hands-down the best professor I have had at Tufts. He is highly intelligent, funny, and engaging. He was respectful of our views and always challenged everyone to explain why they thought the things they thought. Although we couldn't solve all of the United States' pressing issues during our 2-3 hour seminars, he definitely made us try! Tufts should probably do anything it has to keep Professor Beckley here for a long time.
- Professor Beckley is an excellent professor and I am very glad that I was able to take this class. I think he'll be a force in political academia in the coming years and I believe Tufts would be wise to do all it can to hold on to him.
- Excellent course. Huge fan of Prof Beckley.
- Great professor! Wish I had had the opportunity to be in a class with him sooner. I really enjoyed his style of leading the seminar and I feel like I got a great deal from the course.