

Spring 2015 Course Evaluations - AS and E - additions

Sp15-PS-0188-12-Topics In Intern'l Rel, Sp15-PS-0189-19-Sem In Int'l
Relations

Michael Beckley

Results of survey

Started: April 30, 2015

Ended: May 8, 2015

Reply rate: 46% (19 / 41)

Spring 2015 Course Evaluations - AS and E - additions

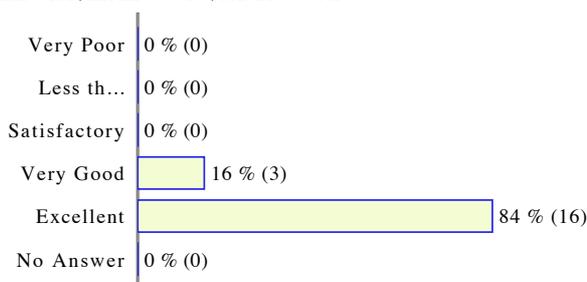
Course Items:

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

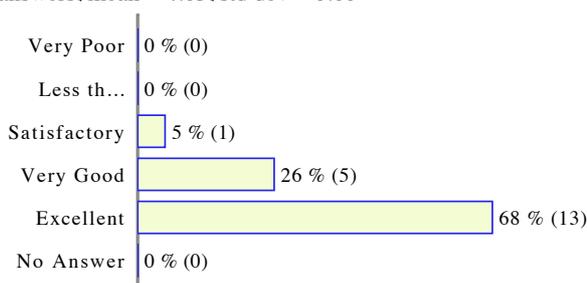
1. How would you rate the success of the course in accomplishing its objectives as stated on the course syllabus?

19 answers, mean = 4.84, std dev = 0.37



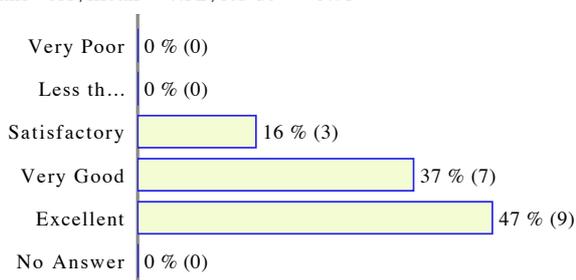
2. How would you rate the use of class time (lectures, discussions, demonstrations, labs, etc.) to promote your learning?

19 answers, mean = 4.63, std dev = 0.60



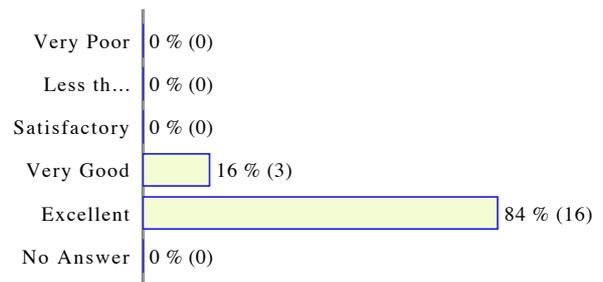
3. How would you rate the use of out-of-class activities (reading assignments, homework, papers, projects, etc.) to promote your learning?

19 answers, mean = 4.32, std dev = 0.75



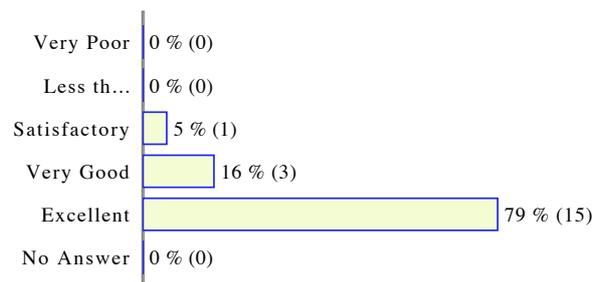
4. How would you rate the way the course engaged your interest?

19 answers, mean = 4.84, std dev = 0.37



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

19 answers, mean = 4.74, std dev = 0.56



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

- How all the political, military, economic actions of the state are all centered on a few primary goals, which includes the maintaining of the central regime.
- I have always been focused on foreign politics, but this course provided a phenomenal overview of the issues currently facing the US today.
- I didn't know much of anything about China before this class so I learned a ton
- The debates presented an interesting way to think of subjects; 2 sides were presented and made me think of the pros and cons of each argument. I was forced to think of topics from 2 different angles which forced me out of my comfort zone.
- The readings were very broad in their approaches to critical topics. For the most part, one position paper we read was balanced by an opposing position. The lectures synthesized background information for the readings to make them more accessible.
- Presents chinese foreign policy from a non-western view, which was very important/interesting when looking at China's motives and goals behind its actions. It made me think differently about East Asian relations, as well as the characteristics/struggles of rising countries.
- I have really come to understand more about the dynamics of the international system and how China fits into it. By using

the case study of China, I understand better the impetuses of diplomatic choices not only of China, but for other nations, from the way that Professor Beckley worked through the course.

- The course was well structured, I felt like the lectures really built on each other. Rereading my notes, I was excited to see that the broader themes discussed during the first two lectures were covered in depth during the semester.
- This course placated some of my wariness around China's growing influence in the world, and highlighted the inter-connectivity of its global ambition.
- really great, comprehensive history of China's relations with other countries
- I really liked the mix of perspectives in the class, and I thought that Prof. Beckley did a really good job of playing devil's advocate and of simplifying rhetoric.
- This course has taught me how different people's opinions can be, but at the same time still manage to come to an agreement. Hearing everyone's opinions in detail and utilizing the seminar format helped me think this way.
- Great discussion. Interesting readings.
- thinking about foreign policy from a chinese perspective was definitely different for me

7. What aspects of this course worked best to facilitate your learning?

- The question and discussion segments of the course, as I was able to gauge not just a more specific analysis on maybe some material I was struggling with, but also to access what my other classmates were wondering, and maybe where I should devote some of my attention when studying or looking over notes.
- The seminar discussion was outstanding. Also the debates forced you to delve deep into the issues (and provided an overview of those issues for students who were confused by or didn't complete the readings).
- Good lectures
- The lectures
- The discussion we had after the debates. This forced me to back up my opinions.
- Professor Beckley is just a great great lecturer, and presents really complicated topics in an engaging and easy to understand way.
- Deeply informational lectures every week were very valuable to me.
- The lectures and the accompanying readings.
- Lectures were fast paced and full of information. Not having writing on the powerpoints was more helpful than I expected

on encouraging class attention and attendance.

- Great lecturing
- The class discussions
- Definitely the conversation. That's all we did anyway, but we still managed to learn a lot.
- Accessibility of material and general openness to different views.
- lectures were amazing to help tie everything together

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

- none.
- maybe more involvement from the audience during the debates?
- Sometimes the reading was too much and got too detailed
- More in-class discussion based on the readings
- Maybe add a couple of opportunities for reading responses online on Trunk.
- Some take home papers or research projects would have gotten me more invested in the class.
- --It would be helpful if Professor Beckley posted his slides or lecture notes online, as sometimes its hard to catch everything in class.
- I felt that the lectures were more integral to my learning than the readings. While the ideas presented in the readings complemented the main bulk of information in the lectures, I felt that some might have been unnecessary.
- It would have been nice to have a component of the course that was more interactive. The lectures were phenomenal but I would have enjoyed class discussions as well.
- Each class we had 15 minutes at the end for questions. This time was sometimes used effectively, and sometimes not, and we ended up leaving 15 minutes early if no one had questions. We also rarely discussed the readings in class directly. Encourage students as part of the participation grade to ask reading questions during this time, even if they are more thought provoking than issues they had understanding the readings.
- more time for class questions/ potential discussion activities among the class
- It would be cool if people came into every class with some extra information that they had researched independently from the readings. Especially at the beginning, this could have led to more up-to-date analysis of foreign policy trends. Also having drafts due for the paper would be really helpful.

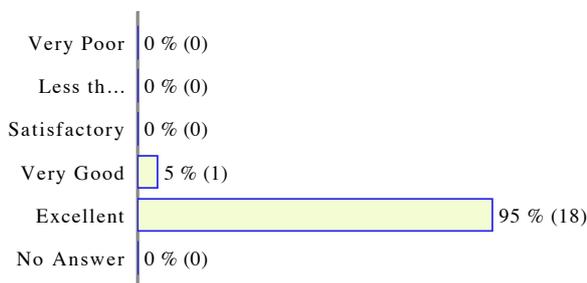
- I would recommend changing the time slot to a time that's not dinner. My meal schedule was messed up a bit because of this class.
- It's great!
- i would honestly say more graded assignments. im not and never have been one to perform well on exams so i think other opportunities to show my understanding wouldve been good

Instructor/Evaluatee: Michael Beckley

Instructor Questions

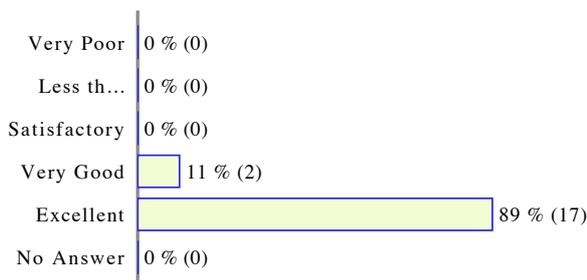
9. How would you rate the instructor's organization of each class?

19 answers, mean = 4.95, std dev = 0.23



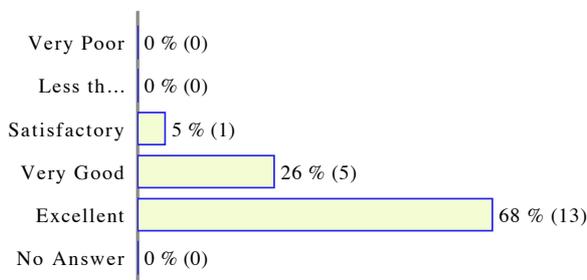
10. How would you rate the instructor's success in explaining concepts and ideas?

19 answers, mean = 4.89, std dev = 0.32



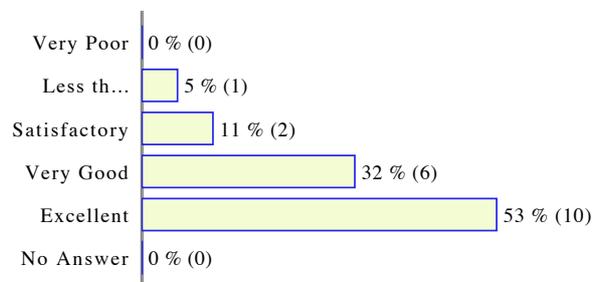
11. How would you rate the timeliness of the instructor's feedback on assignments, exams, and other work?

19 answers, mean = 4.63, std dev = 0.60



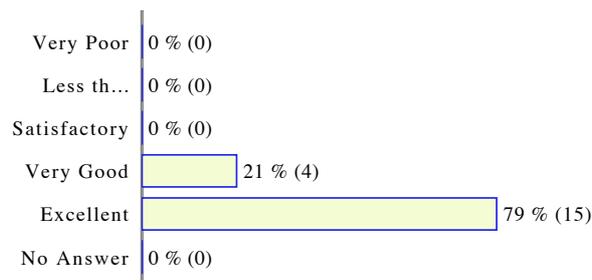
12. How would you rate the usefulness of the instructor's feedback on assignments, exams, and other work?

19 answers, mean = 4.32, std dev = 0.89



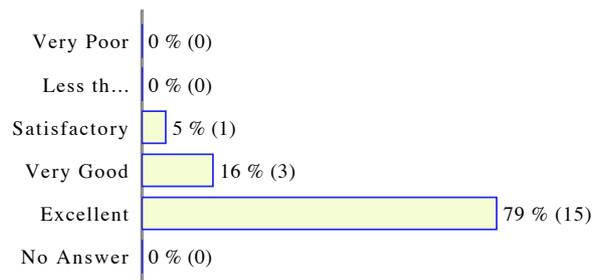
13. How would you rate the instructor's success in creating and maintaining an inclusive class, respectful of all students?

19 answers, mean = 4.79, std dev = 0.42



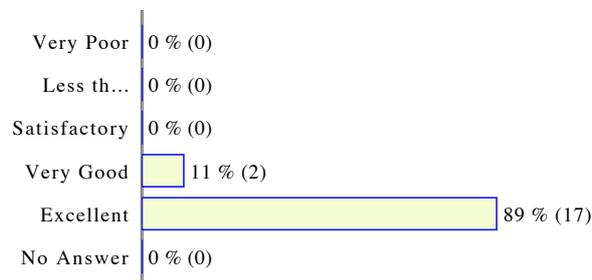
14. How would you rate the instructor's communication with you outside of class?

19 answers, mean = 4.74, std dev = 0.56



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

19 answers, mean = 4.89, std dev = 0.32



16. Please provide any additional comments regarding the instructor.

- amazing semester.
- Best professor I've had at Tufts (and I'm a senior)
- Amazing instructor, being in this class improved my Tufts experience.
- Absolutely incredible professor--it's hard NOT to learn a ton if you attend class.

- Excellent class, really opened my eyes to a new perspective of IR. Hope to take another class with Beckley in the future.
- Cheerful and pleasant attitude was nice. You rarely stopped smiling or including amusing side notes on serious points. Thanks for a fun class!
- greatest lecturer I've had so far at Tufts
- Great professor! I really enjoyed the class
- I really liked the blue striped oxfords you wore on the last day of class, but I felt like asking you where you got those shoes after that speech would be a little awkward.
- Excellent discussion facilitator. Very knowledgeable and encouraging.
- A truly fantastic and engaging professor, who cares deeply about his students' learning and success.
- Even though i probably didnt perform very well grade-wise i really enjoyed this class and learned a lot. Thank you