



Instructor with Comments Report

2017-11-30 - 2017-12-13 Report ID: MSR04734

Instructor: Baltz, Samuel

POLSCI 391 007 - CMPLXSYS 391 007

	Responses from your Students**							Other Users of This Item*			School/College		
	5	4	3	2	1	Your	University Wide			75%	50%	25%	
	SA	A	N	D	SD	NA	Median	75% Above	50% Above	25% Above	75% Above	50% Above	25% Above
4 I had a strong desire to take this course.	7	3	1	1	1	0	4.57	3.70	4.17	4.63	4.00	4.33	4.63
891 As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier).	1	2	5	5	0	0	2.80	2.80	3.10	3.40			
1631 This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.	8	4	1	0	0	0	4.69	4.10	4.42	4.73			
1632 My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.	9	3	1	0	0	0	4.78	3.75	4.17	4.63			
1633 I knew what was expected of me in this course. (SA=Almost Always, A=Frequently, N=Sometimes, D=Occasionally, SD=Hardly Ever).	8	2	3	0	0	0	4.69	4.00	4.36	4.68			
230 The instructor seemed well prepared for class meetings. (SA=Almost Always, A=Frequently, N=Sometimes, D=Occasionally, SD=Hardly Ever)	9	3	1	0	0	0	4.78	4.53	4.81	4.93			
199 The instructor explained material clearly. (SA=Almost Always, A=Frequently, N=Sometimes, D=Occasionally, SD=Hardly Ever)	7	5	1	0	0	0	4.57	4.25	4.67	4.88			
217 The instructor treated students with respect.	9	4	0	0	0	0	4.78	4.70	4.87	4.95			
1 Overall, this was an excellent course.	8	5	0	0	0	0	4.69	3.88	4.30	4.70	4.00	4.48	4.69
2 Overall, the instructor was an excellent teacher.	7	5	1	0	0	0	4.57	4.33	4.75	4.90	4.40	4.75	4.89
3 I learned a great deal from this course.	9	3	1	0	0	0	4.78	4.00	4.38	4.70	4.10	4.50	4.73
140 I deepened my interest in the subject matter of this course.	8	4	1	0	0	0	4.69	3.88	4.25	4.63			
201 The instructor gave clear explanations.	8	5	0	0	0	0	4.69	4.22	4.64	4.83			
203 The instructor stressed important points in lectures/discussions.	8	5	0	0	0	0	4.69	4.33	4.70	4.88			
207 The instructor appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the subject.	9	4	0	0	0	0	4.78	4.67	4.86	4.94			
219 The instructor was willing to meet and help students outside class.	8	4	0	0	0	1	4.75	4.50	4.79	4.90			
222 One real strength of this course was the classroom discussion.	7	1	2	3	0	0	4.57	3.70	4.17	4.63			
229 The instructor used class time well.	6	4	3	0	0	0	4.38	4.23	4.65	4.83			
232 Work requirements and grading system were clear from the beginning.	6	7	0	0	0	0	4.43	4.00	4.33	4.67			
241 The instructor set high standards for students.	6	6	1	0	0	0	4.42	4.25	4.59	4.80			
319 Writing assignments were interesting and stimulating.	4	4	4	0	0	1	4.00	3.80	4.07	4.50			
323 Writing assignments were relevant to what was presented in class.	5	6	1	0	0	1	4.33	4.13	4.31	4.58			
325 Writing assignments were returned promptly.	3	5	5	0	0	0	3.80	3.75	4.25	4.71			
329 Reading assignments required a reasonable amount of time and effort.	4	7	2	0	0	0	4.14	3.93	4.13	4.38			
391 The instructor suggested specific ways to improve written work.	5	6	0	0	0	2	4.42	4.03	4.50	4.75			
392 The students seemed well prepared for each class.	4	5	2	1	0	1	4.10	3.67	4.00	4.13			
393 Students frequently contributed to class discussions.	5	4	4	0	0	0	4.13	3.79	4.08	4.32			

Written Comments

900 Comment on the quality of instruction in this course.

Student 1

Samuel has been an awesome GSI and he always provides students new angles to think more in-depth about the models. It will be more helpful if he can prepare slides or handouts for students to review the class materials.



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Thank you Samuel for the awesome semester!

Student 2

I feel that the discussions for this class needed to be longer. Also, it took a few weeks before Samuel got rolling smoothly. Just as the students have to be present in order to avoid getting behind, so does the gsi.

Student 3

Sam is responsive.

Student 4

NA

Student 5

Samuel was fantastic as a first time instructor. The material was difficult and with the 50 minutes we had each week, he did a great job of preparing us for as much as possible. A few pieces of advice:

- 1. don't waste time with writing an outline on the board or writing out definitions, just use slides or say it*
- 2. especially with this class, send out a survey before section to see what we need help on. sometimes we'd review the simplest parts of the models and that wasn't particularly helpful*
- 3. figure out a way to review EVERY model, I know time was difficult, but it would've been helpful to somehow have 10-15 minutes on every model*

Overall though you were extremely helpful and made my 391 experience more enjoyable and I definitely learned more from you.

Student 6

NA

Student 7

The discussion section really helped me to understand materials presented in the lecture. What I think was great is that the section helped my understanding by presenting other ways of understand the material that wasn't a exact copy and paste of a lecture. I think increasing the discussion time to two hours a week would be more helpful because there were a lot of materials presented in the lecture. I think the discussion session would have been even better if it had devoted a little bit of time every time to make assumptions of the model very clear.

Student 8

Samuel was GREAT. For a first time GSI, he seemed like he taught this course for decades. He grasped the concepts really well, and was extremely aware and sensitive of students' confusion and struggles with the course material. Samuel is undoubtedly extremely intelligent in this subject area, and without knowing the lecture material before us, he was able to turn around the next day and clarify the material really well. Oftentimes, everything seemed to make sense during the lecture and then I would leave class thinking "wait what." Samuel helped to fill in the cracks and smooth out the material, if that makes sense. I felt that Professor Page's lectures often lacked the signposting I needed to make sense of the model(s) and other material presented. Samuel was able to clarify my understanding through his explanations and course activities. I certainly would've enjoyed more time doing Samuel-led problems during discussion but his lecture-style discussion sections were often necessary (there just wasn't enough time!). I owe a decent amount of my grade to Samuel and his hard work and his willingness to explain things and meet with us when needed--would HIGHLY recommend that anyone in this course take it with Samuel; I couldn't imagine understanding the content like I do without him. 10/10

Student 9

NA

Student 10

NA

Student 11

NA

Student 12

Baltz is great, especially in comparison to what I heard about Jason (sorry). He tried very hard to give good background knowledge about course topics, since lectures could be somewhat overwhelming and it helped to understand basic principles underlying applications.

One thing to recommend - if he talked a bit less about time management during section, he'd save five minutes and actually manage time better. Writing out the outline of what section would be about on the board is useful.



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Talking about it - less so.

Overall - great GSI, very knowledgeable, loves Canada, provides lots of interesting references to other polisci works and scholars, very helpful and available in office hours.

Student 13

It seems as though discussion needed to be longer to get a real understanding of the material. Samuel was an excellent aide to the course he was very knowledgeable in his teaching. I did not care for the midterm study session. I would rather get the explanation from the person who teaches as apposed to the students. I left early because it was to difficult to follow.

* The quartiles are calculated from Fall 2017 data. The university-wide quartiles are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college quartiles in this report are based on upper division classes with an enrollment of 16 to 74 students in Division of Social Sciences in the College of LS&A.

** SA - Strongly Agree, A - Agree, N - Neutral, D - Disagree, SD - Strongly Disagree, NA - Not Applicable.