

Spring 2021 Individual Instructor Aggregated Report Final for CPO3403: Politics Middle East (Patricia Sohn)

Project Title: University of Florida GatorEvals - Spring 2021

Courses Audience: **44**Responses Received: **21**Response Ratio: **47.7**%

Instructors Audience: 44
Responses Received: 21
Response Ratio: 47.7%

Report Comments

INTRODUCTION

Teaching is a fundamental purpose of the University of Florida and the dissemination of new knowledge in our classrooms, studios, and clinics enables our students and trainees to fully explore their intellectual boundaries. Assessment and evaluation of our courses are designed to enhance instruction and maximize learning to meet the mission of the university. This report contains the results gathered through the new GatorEvals system. Students were invited to share their feedback on the teaching and course material. We invite every faculty member to examine the analysis in the report and utilize the resources provided in the report. Thank you for your continued great work!

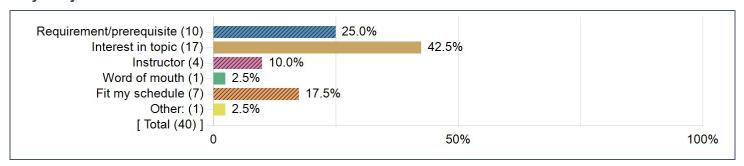
Chris Hass, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs



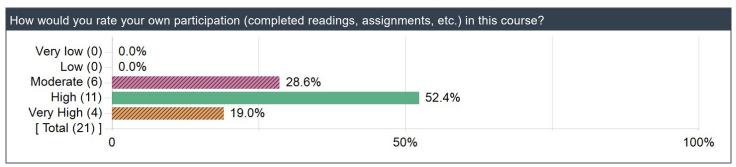
Creation Date: Friday, October 15, 2021

Student Self-Evaluation Questions

Why did you take this course?



How would you rate your own participation (completed readings, assignments, etc.) in this course?



Comparative Evaluation Results

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	47.7%	4.62	4.75	4.60	4.78	4.42	4.67
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	47.7%	4.43	4.55	4.26	4.62	4.21	4.54
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	47.7%	4.43	4.55	4.40	4.68	4.37	4.63
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	47.7%	4.48	4.75	4.33	4.66	4.29	4.59
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	47.7%	4.24	4.55	4.11	4.55	4.15	4.50
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	47.7%	4.57	4.80	4.21	4.61	4.08	4.48
Overall	47.7%	4.46	-	4.32	-	4.25	-

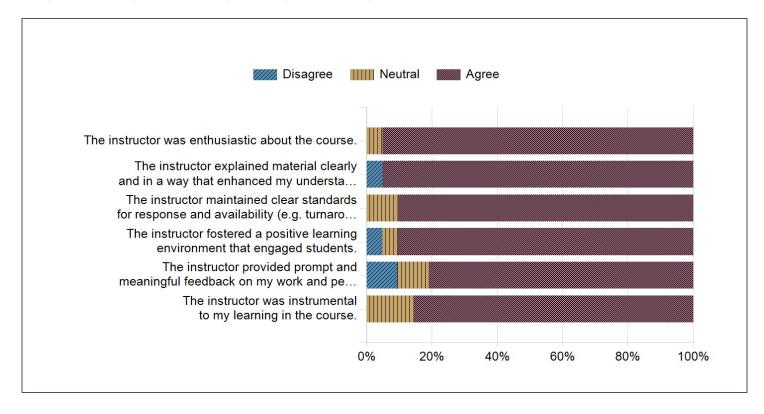
University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	Response Rate	Mean	IM	DPT Mean	DPT IM	College Mean	College IM
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	47.7%	4.67	4.80	4.33	4.52	4.23	4.35
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	47.7%	4.43	4.63	4.02	4.27	3.91	4.13
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	47.7%	4.57	4.80	4.16	4.38	4.16	4.31
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	47.7%	4.57	4.75	4.28	4.55	4.18	4.36
Overall	47.7%	4.56	-	4.20	-	4.12	-

Aggregate Evaluation Results

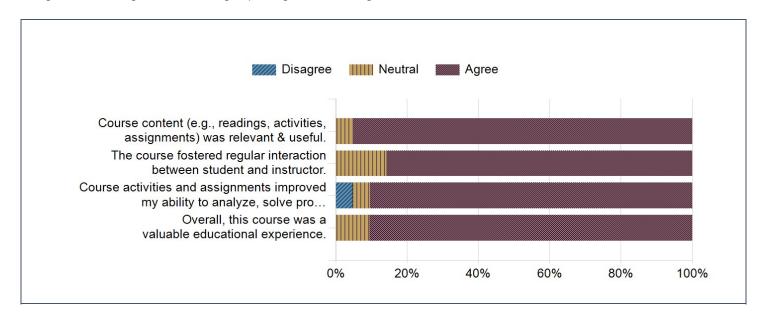
University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



University Core Course Evaluation Questions - Aggregate Chart

Note that in the following aggregate chart "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" have been grouped together as "Agree" while "Strongly Disagree" and "Disagree" have been grouped together as "Disagree".



Percentages Evaluation Results

University Core Instructor Evaluation Questions

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree				
	1	2	3	4	5	Count			SD
The instructor was enthusiastic about the course.	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	28.6%	66.7%	21	4.62	5.00	0.59
The instructor explained material clearly and in a way that enhanced my understanding.	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%	42.9%	52.4%	21	4.43	5.00	0.75
The instructor maintained clear standards for response and availability (e.g. turnaround time for email, office hours, etc.)	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	38.1%	52.4%	21	4.43	5.00	0.68
The instructor fostered a positive learning environment that engaged students.	4.8%	0.0%	4.8%	23.8%	66.7%	21	4.48	5.00	0.98
The instructor provided prompt and meaningful feedback on my work and performance in the course.	0.0%	9.5%	9.5%	28.6%	52.4%	21	4.24	5.00	1.00
The instructor was instrumental to my learning in the course.	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	14.3%	71.4%	21	4.57	5.00	0.75

Individual Instructor Aggregated Report for CPO3403: Politics Middle East Patricia Sohn

University Core Course Evaluation Questions

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree				
	1	2	3	4	5	Count			SD
Course content (e.g., readings, activities, assignments) was relevant & useful.	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	23.8%	71.4%	21	4.67	5.00	0.58
The course fostered regular interaction between student and instructor.	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%	21	4.43	5.00	0.75
Course activities and assignments improved my ability to analyze, solve problems, and/or think critically.	0.0%	4.8%	4.8%	19.0%	71.4%	21	4.57	5.00	0.81
Overall, this course was a valuable educational experience.	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	23.8%	66.7%	21	4.57	5.00	0.68

For additional information and resources in each of these question areas, please visit the GatorEvals Website at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/resources--policies/question-set/

Free Response Section

Please identify the instructor's strengths that contributed to your learning in the course.

Comments

Has an amazing ability to display positive and instrumental feedback on course.

The instructor is well-versed in the Middle East and has the ability to foster deep conversation or invite open discussion.

Very passionate and knowledgeable about the politics of the middle east.

Dr. Sohn was great about making deadlines and opportunities known to the students. She was very communicative and willing to help when students presented questions or complications. She is very knowledgeable concerning Middle Eastern politics and culture. I enjoyed the flow of the class and the material that Sohn picked out for us to cover. Especially the texts that dealt with the historical aspect of politics in the Middle East. I enjoyed the writing assignments and the presentations. And, I really appreciated the formatting style guide. Since last semester, I have actually been referencing that when writing most of the papers in all of my classes.

Patient and Understanding of Students

The instructor facilitated interesting discussions in class through giving probing and thought–provoking questions and prompts. She did lectures that greatly enhanced my understanding of the material. The instructor gave me good feedback on my written assignments which help me improve my writing over the course of the semester.

The instructor was very helpful in answering all questions, and made her availability known and encouraged students to come by with any concerns. She was very thorough in her explanations and always made sure to listen to the students and understand things from their perspective.

The instructor pushes you to engage with the material to your fullest. She is very engaging and supportive of student's in–class comments.

Dr. Sohn is a fantastic professor that really has a mastery of the topic that she teaches. She is compassionate, caring, and knowledgeable. One of the best professors at UF.

Seemed very knowledgeable about the subject, which initially made me excited to be learning from her.

Professor Sohn did her best during these trying times at conveying the course readings, content, and creating a valuable educational environment. Through zoom breakout rooms, she promoted effective discussion. She was clear in her grading and expectations. She is a good, objective viewpoint on the politics of the middle east and clearly knew what she was talking about and thusly added perspective which could not be found through just readings alone. We went through the course readings thoroughly and she made sure students really understood the content without being unnecessarily redundant. I think she's an invaluable asset for the poli–sci department and an instructor who does teach well in addition to her research.

Patricia Sohn is a very enthusiastic and caring professor. Any time I had concerns or questions about my assignments and my grades, she was more than happy to help and gave very great feedback and encouragement. Overall a very sweet and compassionate professor.

She's very passionate about the course and is knowledgeable on many topics.

Dr. Sohn was enthusiastic about the subject and this was reflected in her teaching.

Dr. Sohn is a fantastic teacher, in particular she does an exemplary job facilitating discussion in the classroom. Additionally the large amount of knowledge she has and her articulate style allows her to explain complicated topics in an understandable vernacular.

Please identify the instructor's strengths that contributed to your learning in the course.

Note: The table below analyzes all student free responses by using data dictionaries to group the comments into themes and attributes. A minimum of ten responses must be received in order for the text analytics table to display.

Attributes [No. of comments]	Overall [15]
POSITIVE - GENERAL	53.3 %
KNOWLEDGEABLE	46.7 %
HELPFUL / SUPPORTIVE	40.0 %
ENTHUSIASTIC / DEDICATED	26.7 %
ENGAGING	20.0 %

What additional constructive feedback can you offer the instructor that might help improve the course?

Comments

Perhaps recording lectures to be able to for students to look back and reflect.

I like the way that you pose questions for discussion in class, but I think that fewer people should be dominating the conversation. nothing.

I really don't have any suggestions for how Sohn might improve the class.....I do have to say that I still don't think that it was necessarily fair that that one girl, Lorraine, got called out and humiliated in front of the class because she couldn't get her WiFi stable and was having a hard time getting her presentation to screen share. For most of the class, it was pretty obvious that she was having internet problems the way her mic was cutting out, and she couldn't hear in the first place, let alone trying to send an email so the professor could share it. As someone who lives out in the middle of the "boonies", literally, I know what it's like to have crappy internet. So, I thought that was rough the way it went down for her and that the whole class was notified that she'd be receiving a zero and was wasting class time. In all honesty, I was fully expecting understanding or some form of accommodation for her, maybe even just telling her that she needed to reschedule and do a different chapter. I don't know everything, but that's all I had to say.

More in depth lectures about the background of the course content might enrich the experience more.

My only suggestion would be to make the lecture a bit more question/answer based to include the students, as sometimes the instructor would go off on a tangent.

There are no recommendations at this time.

I'll try and make this as conscience as possible while hopefully respectfully getting my point across. Some days you were truly warm, pleasant, and understanding towards students. Other days the students had to walk on eggshells during class to avoid damaging your view of them and possibly even their grade. I don't remember her name but the example that really stuck out to me was when you yelled at a student in front of the entire class while she was struggling to present when she was clearly having technical difficulties. I don't know if this situation got rectified, or if you were just having a bad day, but making a student cry in front of her peers and then giving her a zero on the assignment for something that was out of her control still baffles me. This is my third year of undergrad and I've never been so shocked by how a professor treated a student. While that was the most extreme example of what I'm trying to say, this kind of "back and forth" environment made me dread attending your class every day.

None

N/A

There were times that I wanted to participate but couldn't because she had a weird way of picking people to participate. It was a little messy and it often led to the same people talking over and over again. Also, I would like it if she answered emails faster. I had questions about things about an upcoming class that got answered after that class passed, which wasn't very helpful.

I feel that Dr. Sohn was not as understanding of any technical difficulties that students may confront due to the online setting of the course. Although I do not believe that this course would be held online again in the future, I would suggest that the instructor be a bit more considerate.

I think the only flaw in this course was that there were many classes where we had to watch several presentations one after the other that were on the same topic. I am aware that there were many students that needed to present individual presentations and only so many class periods, even so some days we had 4–5 presentations in a row and it felt like a waste of time. Maybe in the future if the class is so large there should be a limit of 2 presentations on the same topic and you can implement the plan you had at the last few classes where students covered other chapters from the book.

What additional constructive feedback can you offer the instructor that might help improve the course?

Note: The table below analyzes all student free responses by using data dictionaries to group the comments into themes and attributes. A minimum of ten responses must be received in order for the text analytics table to display.

Attributes [No. of comments]	Overall [13]
NEGATIVE - GENERAL	23.1 %
DIFFICULT	23.1 %
NOT WORTHWHILE	15.4 %
KIND / PERSONABLE	15.4 %
HELPFUL / SUPPORTIVE	7.7 %

What constructive suggestion(s) do you have for improving the course materials, organization, and assignments?

Comments

Possibly recording lectures. I enjoyed the discussion and group projects perhaps adding more.

I very much enjoyed the writing assignments, and the fact that they are not due till the end challenges us to be self–driven. I do wish there were a few examples of good essays, however.

nothing.

Again, I like the way the assignments were organized for this class. I liked the way the lecture room was facilitated and I enjoyed working with my peers and learning from them as well. To be quite frank, I chose to take this class partially because I knew how Dr. Sohn was going to organize it and that really appealed to me. I love writing and I love articulating new political and historical findings into my writing, so that was something I knew this class would offer. Plus, I thought that Dr. Sohn was super great last semester and I liked her teaching style a lot, so I was more than happy to take another class with her.

More constructive lectures on readings.

I think allowing more time to complete the abstracts and journals would be beneficial. Like allowing people to take in the discussion for the chapter/topic before having to write about it. Perhaps have any journals or abstracts for any particular chapter in the week be due at the end of the week like Friday or Saturday.

I would suggest maybe making more assignment (more journals and abstracts) so that the grade isn't heavily concentrated on only a small number of performances throughout an entire semester.

I love the structure and organization of the course. It allows for the immersion in the material and constructive interactions between the students.

I would have appreciated the incorporation of more lectures into the course, as sometimes I felt like I was teaching myself the material. I also think that making students write a journal or an abstract for each book, rather than giving them complete freedom, would enhance the learning experience. With the exception of Qutb's chapter 7, I felt that this was an appropriate amount of reading and for a course. However, I would have appreciated a midterm assignment or something similar in order to gauge my retention and know how to better prepare for the final.

None, good variety of viewpoints in readings. The readings were informative and unexpected which added to the enriching process of the class. This was not some state department dribble. The readings were academic, less biased, professional, and inclusive. The syllabus clearly defined the course organization and the organization was a good variety of assignments that challenged different skills for students. I also found grade distribution was fair and grades clearly justified.

N/A

I think that with the abstracts and journals, there should be something saying that you need to submit at least 1 for each book. By doing it this way, it makes sure that nobody is turning it in last minute. Also, it would be helpful if there were weekly quizzes to make sure that the material is well–understood.

I feel that the course was structured pretty well. I do feel that it would have been beneficial if the assignments were due throughout the semester rather than all on the same day to ensure that students do not miss deadlines. I would also have liked it if the professor reserved more time in class lecturing on the course material.

I do not have any, I like the assignments and course materials Professor Sohn

What constructive suggestion(s) do you have for improving the course materials, organization, and assignments?

Note: The table below analyzes all student free responses by using data dictionaries to group the comments into themes and attributes. A minimum of ten responses must be received in order for the text analytics table to display.

Attributes [No. of comments]	Overall [14]
POSITIVE - GENERAL	42.9 %
HELPFUL / SUPPORTIVE	28.6 %
ORGANIZED	28.6 %
ENJOYABLE	21.4 %
IMPORTANT / RELEVANT	21.4 %

Please identify the topics and/or skills you learned in the course that you believe will have the highest application for future courses or professional growth.

Comments

The topics would be to having a greater knowledge on the Middle East/MENA region based on readings from nationals and people of culture versus harboring an opinion based on Western/American propaganda.

I learned how to analyze an author's argument by taking it piece—by—piece and assessing the text's larger message. I have never had a course challenge me to write in such an analytic perspective within restricted space; It has been a very valuable and challenging learning experience.

Learned about writing in chicago style, as well as writing concise and through a personal and objective manner.

I really appreciated the critical thinking dimension of this class. I liked being challenged to write in a format that was concise, formal and academic, and meaningful. I found it very useful to learn about the rest of the countries surrounding Israel and how they organize their political systems. I found the historical aspect of politics in the Middle East to probably be the most fascinating and knowledge enhancing for me personally. I have learned that much of the great understanding of modern times would not be possible without first understanding the history.

Critical thinking and communication skills

I think I have better learned to parse dense material and understand its nuance while still being able to succinctly parse out and describe its essential meaning. I have also gained an ability to better separate and improve on the two main styles of writing in this course, personal and impersonal. This will help me in my future courses and job prospects as these are important skills when writing in any field and class.

I believe the main skill I learned in this course was the ability to parse through large quantities of information and obtain only the key points. I was forced to shorten the length of my papers and presentations, so it was important for me to convey only the most relevant information. I think this is an important skill to have because it strengthens my analysis skills and also helps me not ramble so much on things that may not be as crucial to the assignments.

This course has expanded my writing, critical thinking, and public speaking skills. It has also expanded my knowledge of the material in the course.

Out of all the things I learned in this class, I can't even begin to explain how much I appreciated your style guides and MLA guides. Not as to diminish the actual content I learned in this class, as obviously a majority of this will be useful in my future. However, the last time I was ever given any type of guidelines for "formal" writing was in middle school, and I know that a lot of my peers have similar experiences. As a result, most of the points that I would lose on papers would be due to style and citation issues. Yes, I've been to the writing lab, but honestly, they don't do much other than basic proofreading. Your style guides were so concise and informative, that I actually write all of my papers with Chicago formatting as opposed to the MLA style I have been using since grade school.

I can't really condense it here, but I am a better writer having taken this course. I feel like I have learned a great deal about the middle east and helped put into perspective how little I still know about the region. I practiced presenting and public speaking.

Although this class is no longer a requirement for me since I changed my major, it greatly aided in my ability to critically think and analyze course readings and write analytically neutral essays, which will greatly benefit my future endeavors of law school.

I really liked seeing the idea of superiority in regimes in the Middle East. That was very interesting to me, and how intimidation and fear was used to establish differences between rulers and those below them.

This class offered me a more elaborate understanding of Middle Eastern politics. Further, it allowed me to trace the historical roots of politics in the Middle East today, from the Ottoman Empire to the Arab Spring.

Professor Sohn has helped me work on my analytical skills and expanded my knowledge of politics and Islam. All of which I believe are valuable skills for my professional growth.

Please identify the topics and/or skills you learned in the course that you believe will have the highest application for future courses or professional growth.

Note: The table below analyzes all student free responses by using data dictionaries to group the comments into themes and attributes. A minimum of ten responses must be received in order for the text analytics table to display.

Attributes [No. of comments]	Overall [14]
IMPORTANT / RELEVANT	28.6 %
DIFFICULT	21.4 %
ORGANIZED	21.4 %
POSITIVE - GENERAL	21.4 %
HELPFUL / SUPPORTIVE	21.4 %

Supplemental Questions (Online)

