2020F Instructor Report for PSCI 8356 01 - Statistics for Political Research I (Nicholas Bednar)

Project Title: **Vanderbilt University Course and Teaching Evaluations**

Course Audience: **10**
Responses Received: **4**
Response Ratio: **40.0%**

Report Comments

The following is a report for an individual section of a class. Please do not distribute, print, or share this report except for administrative purposes.

Project Audience - Total number of students enrolled
Responses Received - Number of evaluations submitted by students
Response Ratio - Percent of enrolled students who submitted evaluations

If you have any questions about the evaluation system please contact course.evaluations@vanderbilt.edu.

Prepared by: **Vanderbilt University Course and Teaching Evaluations**
Creation Date: **Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

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Questions about this Course (PSCI 8356 01):

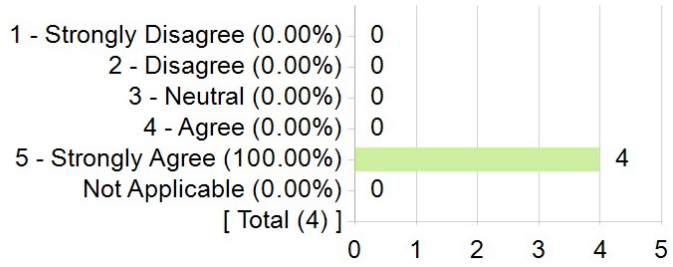
Question	This Class Section		Department (PSCI)		School (A&S)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.	5.00	0.00	4.59	0.72	4.31	0.96
The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.	5.00	0.00	4.43	0.85	4.41	0.86
The feedback I received during the course was helpful.	5.00	0.00	4.07	1.08	4.15	1.06
I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.	5.00	0.00	4.30	0.96	4.31	0.97
This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.	5.00	0.00	4.55	0.75	4.25	1.00
Overall, the course (**PSCI 8356 01**) was:	4.75	0.50	4.29	0.87	3.96	1.04
Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:	3.25	0.96	3.72	0.98	3.62	1.02
Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:	2.75	0.50	2.90	1.06	3.31	1.02

Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this teaching assistant (**Nicholas Bednar**)?

Question	This Class Section		Department (PSCI)		School (A&S)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this teaching assistant (**Nicholas Bednar**)?	4.75	0.50	4.46	0.82	4.26	0.94

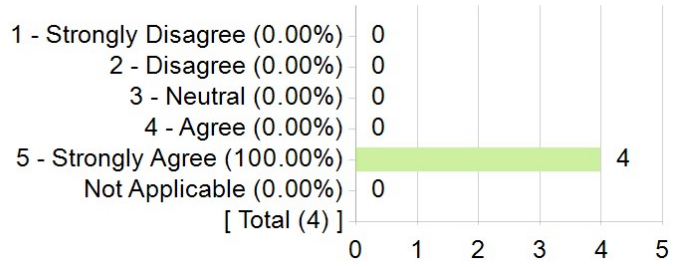
Questions About This Course (PSCI 8356 01):

1. This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.



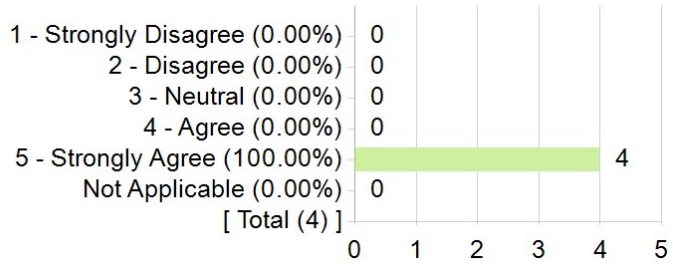
Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

2. The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.



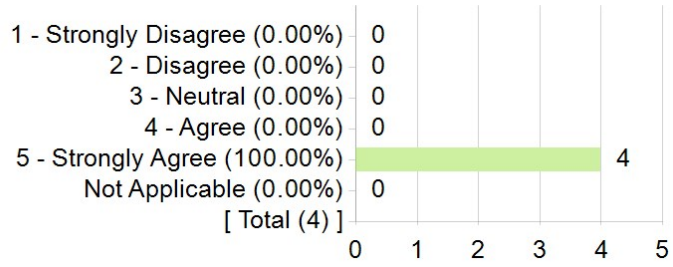
Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

3. The feedback I received during the course was helpful.



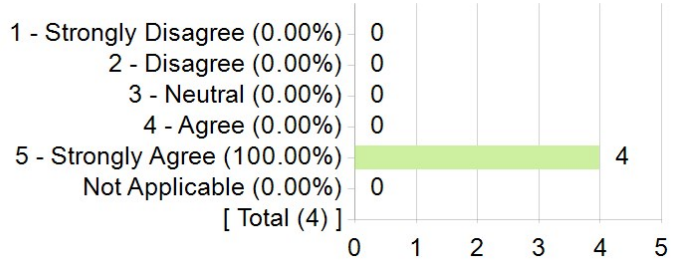
Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

4. I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

5. This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

Overall the course was:

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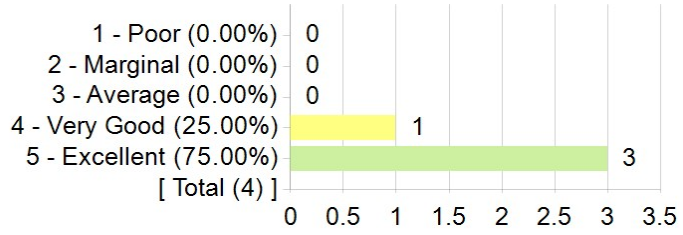
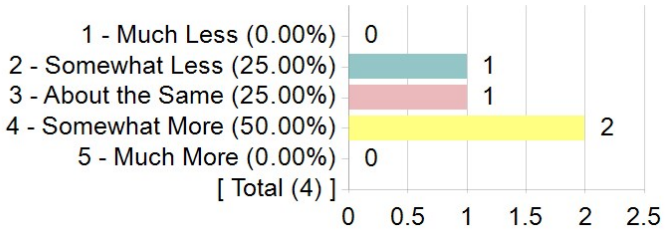


Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.50

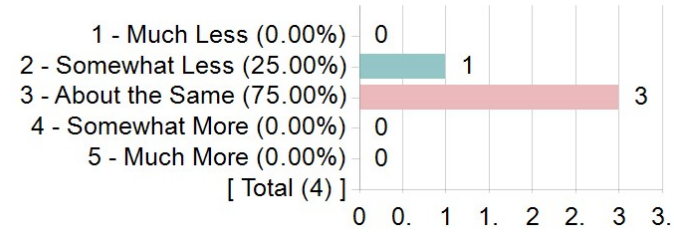
Questions About This Course (PSCI 8356 01):

1. Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	3.25
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	0.96

2. Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	2.75
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.50

Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this teaching assistant (Nicholas Bednar)?

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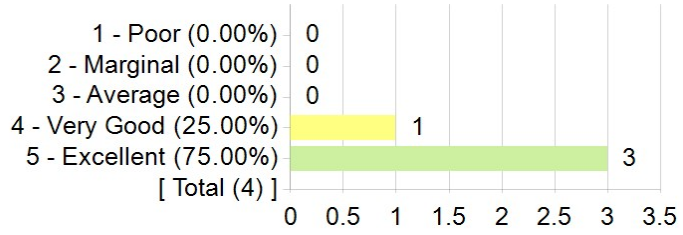
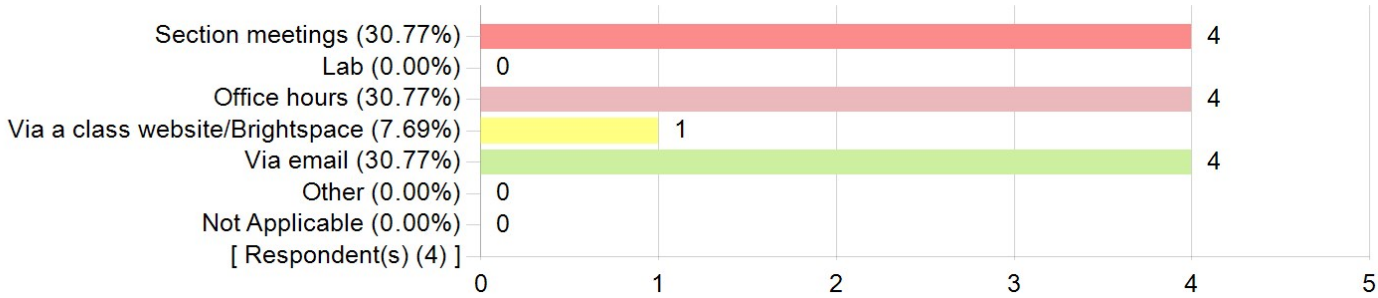


Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.50

In what way(s) did you interact with this teaching assistant (Nicholas Bednar)?



What aspects of this teaching assistant's (Nicholas Bednar) teaching were most helpful to you?

Comments
Nick was always available, quick to respond, and great at explaining advanced material.
I am so grateful to have had Nick as the TA for this course. As an aside, the fact that he also led math camp (along with two of his capable peers) made him really approachable for assistance throughout the semester (I hope future cohorts benefit from the same set–up!). I appreciated that Nick planned effective section meetings where we had plenty of opportunity to ask questions and engage with material from lecture. I also am grateful that Nick was always readily accessible via email. I know he has many things on his plate, so I want to doubly express my gratitude. He is an ideal TA and (if he so desires) will make an excellent professor in the future. During a section meeting, I asked Nick a question, which he addressed well enough to satisfy my curiosity. What stood out to me is that he then reiterated that question during lecture to Dr. Larson so that we could all hear her answer. This really exemplifies his willingness to go above and beyond to ensure students are engaged in the course and all benefit from shared knowledge. The same goes for his willingness to adapt the section meetings so that he offered two during the week so as to accommodate the schedules of all students in the class.
Nick was ALWAYS available to answer questions, even those that didn't stem directly from this class. He was very patient and thorough as he helped me think through ways to apply concepts from Statistics to projects I was working on in other classes. Additionally, his ability to help us trouble shoot our programming in R was invaluable as we learned to do basic data analysis using statistical software. The additional practice problem sets and incredibly detailed notes he published for us made really made a difference in my learning of the material.
Nick was very good at answering questions, as well as being flexible during section to cover the course material that was most helpful to us. He was very responsive when answering emails and always got back to me in a reasonable amount of time. He was also always around to help us with general graduate school questions in general, which I appreciated during these weird covid and online class times as a first–year student.

How can this teaching assistant's (Nicholas Bednar) teaching be improved?

Comments
I am not sure. Nick did great and was always there to help when we needed it.
I think Nick is an excellent teaching assistant, so I would have liked to see him lead at least one lecture, rather than just section meetings. I do not have any substantive suggestions for how he can improve his teaching in the online format.
Aside from meeting in person, I wouldn't have asked for anything more from Nick. His partnership with Prof. Larson in the course was superb from my perspective.
No comments, Nick is an excellent TA.