2021S Instructor Report for PSCI 8357 01 - Statistics for Political Research II (Nicholas Bednar)

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

Course Audience: **8**
Responses Received: **7**
Response Ratio: **87.50%**

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: **Tuesday, July 13, 2021**

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Questions about this Course (PSCI 8357 01):

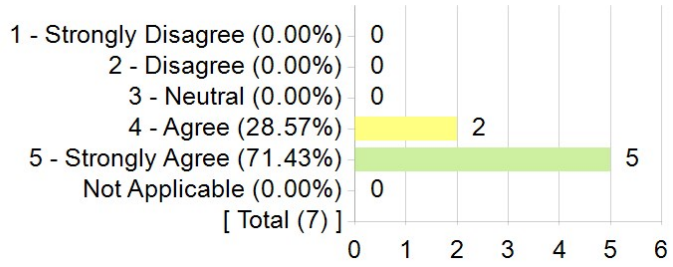
Question	This Class Section		Department (PSCI)		School (A&S)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.	4.71	0.49	4.63	0.70	4.43	0.88
The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.	4.86	0.38	4.65	0.65	4.50	0.81
The feedback I received during the course was helpful.	5.00	0.00	4.35	0.99	4.27	1.01
I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.	5.00	0.00	4.48	0.83	4.43	0.90
This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.	5.00	0.00	4.59	0.73	4.37	0.94
Overall, the course (**PSCI 8357 01**) was:	4.71	0.49	4.33	0.82	4.10	0.99
Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:	4.14	0.90	3.82	0.90	3.68	1.01
Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:	3.29	0.76	3.20	0.90	3.26	1.00

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**)?	4.86	0.38	4.44	0.84	4.37	0.88

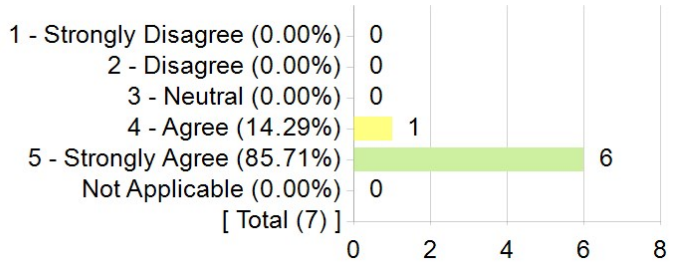
Questions About This Course (PSCI 8357 01):

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



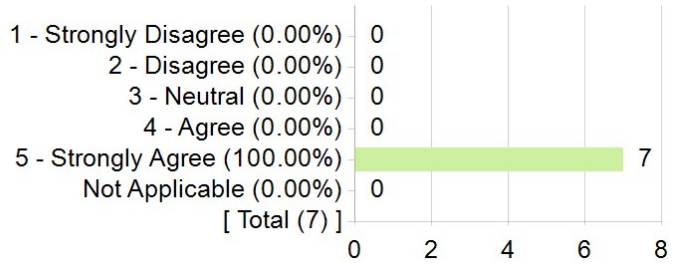
Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.71
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.49

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



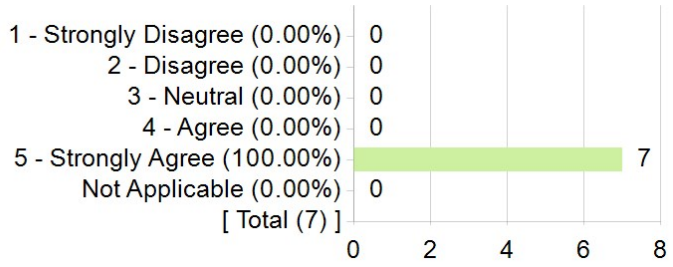
Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.86
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.38

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



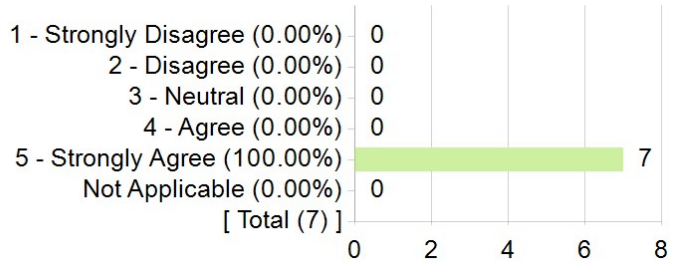
Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

4. I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
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	7
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

Overall the course was:

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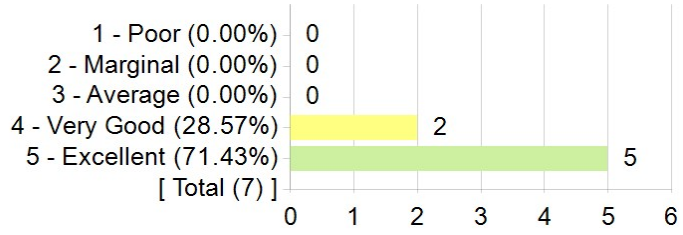
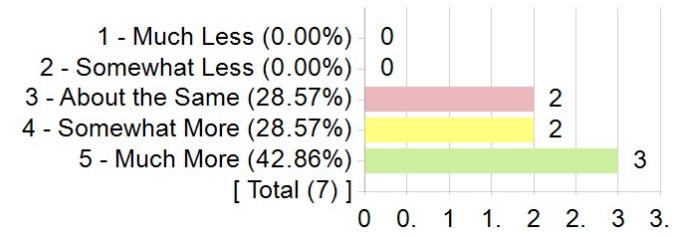


Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.71
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.49

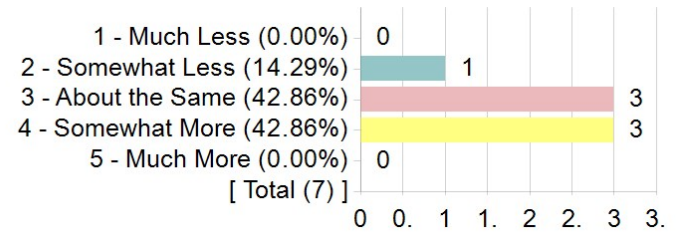
Questions About This Course (PSCI 8357 01):

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.14
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.90

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	3.29
Mode	3, 4
Standard Deviation	0.76

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

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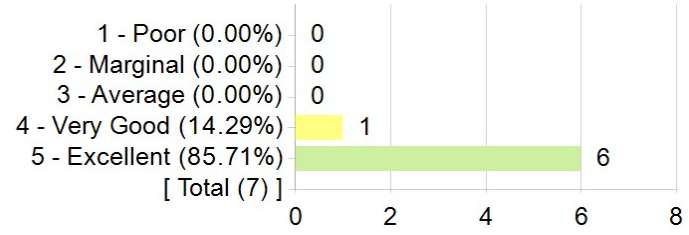
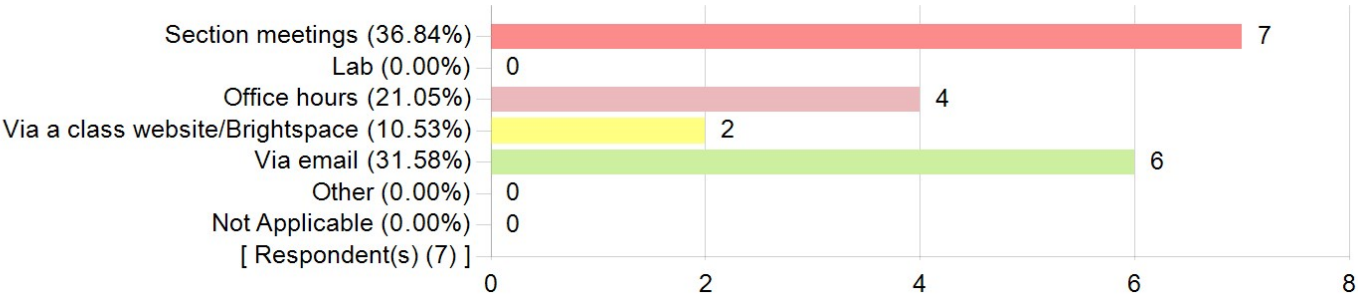


Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.86
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.38

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 very good at answering questions and was available often to provide clarification on the course material.
I am so grateful that Nick continued to be the TA for the second statistics course. His guidance last semester continued throughout what I would consider to be a much more challenging class and semester overall. Nick effectively planned the use of recitation time to apply lessons from the course to working with data in R. Beyond his ability to enhance the course, Nick also served as a mentor to students in the graduate program by offering advice and suggestions about topics ranging from refining papers to interacting with professors. Although I had a consistent scheduling conflict and could not make his office hours, Nick was also accessible via email and committed to making sure students were comfortable and confident in the knowledge they built over the course of this semester. Nick is an excellent TA and a true asset to this department, especially when it comes to mentoring first year cohort members who in most cases have little opportunity to develop strong connections with older peers who they have not met in person.
Nick was incredibly helpful in his office hours and email communications; he could respond to complicated questions with clear answers and was always willing to decipher R code. Office hours were a great place to figure out assignment problems, and Nick would always challenge us to take things a step farther and learn more. He knew the material very well.
Nick is incredibly patient and thorough when working one–on–one with us. He spent an incredible amount of time helping me think through my coding in R to make my processes smoother and more efficient. Additionally, he provided detailed and constructive feedback on my paper to help me organize my content and ensure I was applying the correct models and techniques to each problem. His attention and support were instrumental to my success in this course.
Really appreciate his constant support and sincere effort to teach and help understand – His availability for clarifying doubts, help with tough concepts during and off recitation and office hours. Really hoping he is our TA for Stats III as well.

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

Comments
Last semester, I felt much more engaged in recitation. I think this could be a result of a number of factors – Zoom fatigue, the intensity of the course and this semester more broadly, and the content of recitation all being potential explanations. It also appeared to me that Nick had a little less agency in planning recitation this semester because of specific goals for each recitation. This makes sense in the context of the course and delivering upon Brenton's expectations of what we learn each week, but I think it came across in Nick's approach to recitation. Recitation went well and was useful overall, but Nick made it his own each week last semester and I think that is what made the difference in how I engaged more each week with recitation last semester.
Nick was an incredibly understanding and helpful teaching assistant, and I cannot think of any ways for his teaching to be improved. He was a great asset to this class.
I honestly wouldn't have changed anything – he provided exactly the kind of help I needed outside of class.
In my opinion Nick is really doing everything and more than what I believe TAs do.