



2022S Instructor Report for PSCI 2256 01 - Politics of Public Policy (Nicholas Bednar)

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

Course Audience: **51**

Responses Received: **19**

Response Ratio: **37.25%**

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: **Friday, May 13, 2022**

Questions about this Course (PSCI 2256 01):

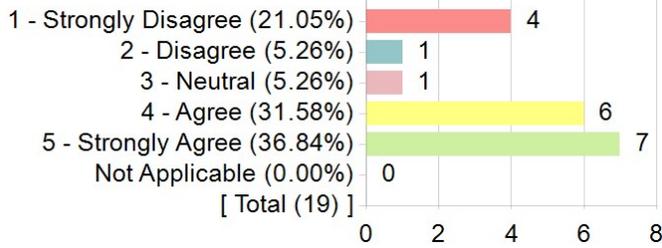
Question	This Class Section		Department (PSCI)		School (A&S)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.	3.58	1.57	4.51	0.82	4.39	0.92
The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.	3.95	1.27	4.50	0.83	4.48	0.83
The feedback I received during the course was helpful.	3.95	1.18	4.27	1.03	4.29	1.00
I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.	3.89	1.05	4.44	0.86	4.46	0.88
This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.	3.89	1.29	4.53	0.77	4.36	0.96
Overall, the course (PSCI 2256 01) was:	3.05	1.39	4.16	1.00	4.09	1.02
Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:	3.05	0.97	3.84	0.97	3.71	1.03
Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:	2.89	0.57	3.23	0.98	3.23	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)?	4.16	1.01	4.07	1.02	4.32	0.94

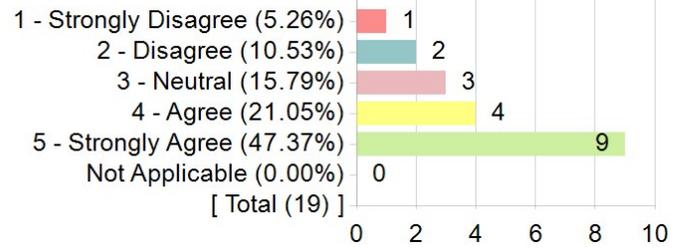
Questions About This Course (PSCI 2256 01):

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



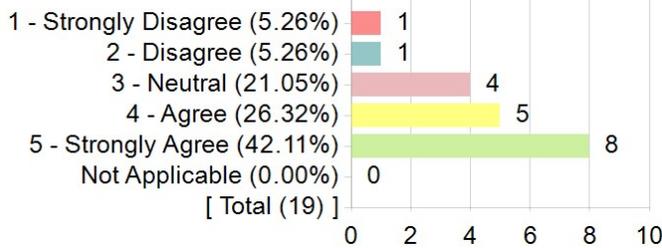
Statistics	Value
Response Count	19
Mean	3.58
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.57

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



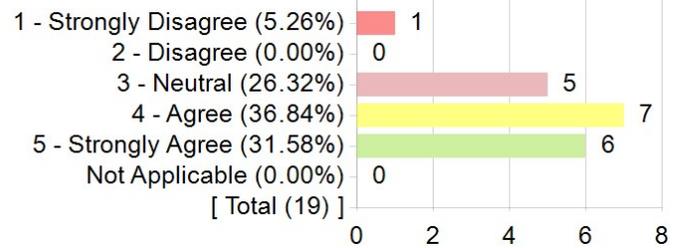
Statistics	Value
Response Count	19
Mean	3.95
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.27

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



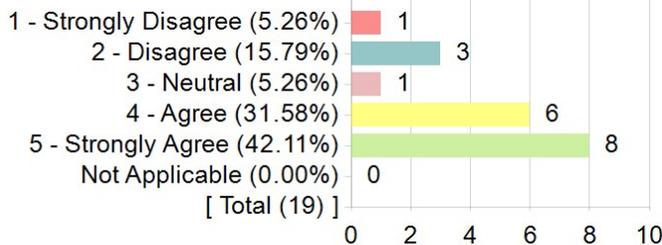
Statistics	Value
Response Count	19
Mean	3.95
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.18

4. I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.



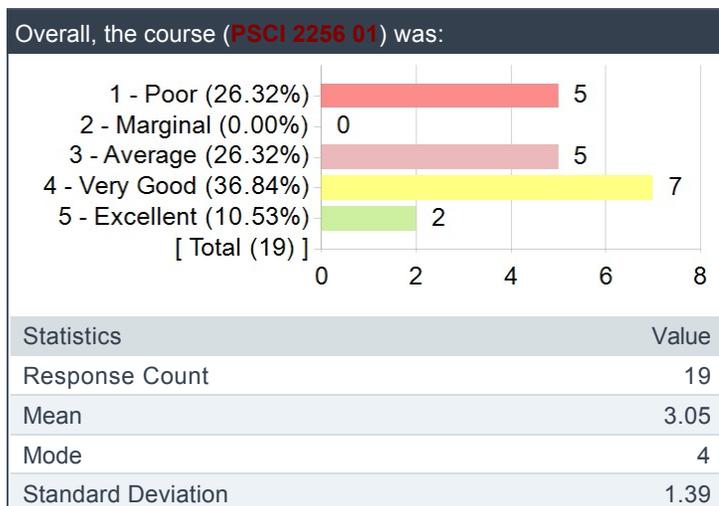
Statistics	Value
Response Count	19
Mean	3.89
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	1.05

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

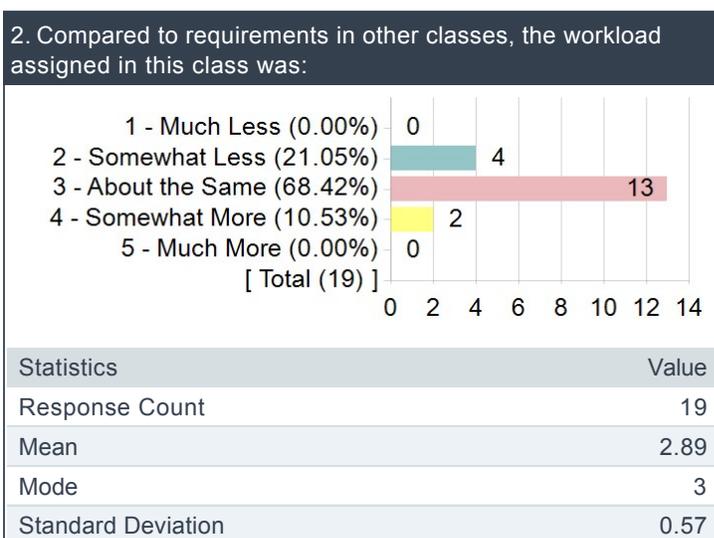
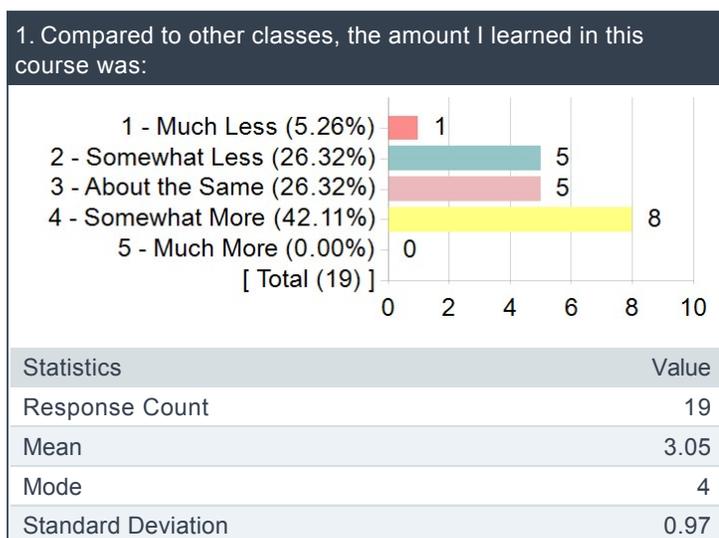


Statistics	Value
Response Count	19
Mean	3.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.29

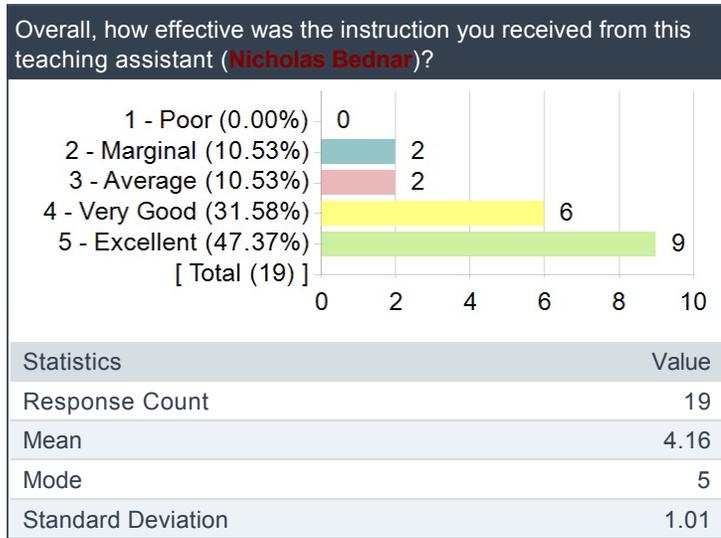
Overall the course was:



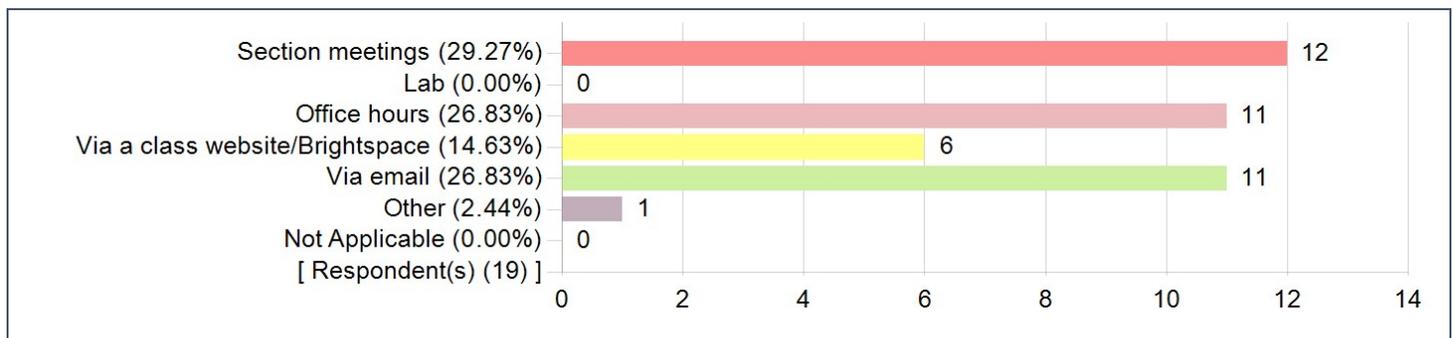
Questions About This Course (PSCI 2256 01):



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



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
Very thorough feedback on memos and excellent teaching during the agency/Post Office lecture.
I found his feedback in office hours to be helpful.
He was extremely helpful during policy memos and the classes he taught were really great
Nick provided very helpful feedback on the memos and quizzes and was very invested in helping teach the course. His lecture style is also very engaging. He is one of the best TAs I've had at Vanderbilt.
He was available for office hours and open to answer my specific questions.
He definitely takes the time to answer question WHEN you ask them.
He was able to meet in office hours. But he gave me contradictory messaging for my policy memo which ultimately led me to get a lower grade. He told other students other information that led them to receive an overall higher grade.
Super great feedback that was really helpful and always available
Nick was a great TA who gave us detailed feedback on our policy memos and quizzes. He always showed up to our lectures and is one of the most engaged TAs I've had.
His lecture was very engaging and really interesting, it helped me understand the content of that topic very well.
I found Nick's guest lecture to be very interesting and useful, especially for the policy brief.
Very straightforward lecture style and gave really clear feedback on assignments and during office hours.
Detailed feedback on memos was very helpful!
His lectures were better than the professor.
Nick was very accessible and helpful during office hours. His feedback on my policy memos greatly improved my understanding of the requirements. His lecture when he taught was very engaging.

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

Comments
N/A
There was some inconsistency in the grading of our assignments where I received the same grade for two assignments but received far more "exemplary" and "good" scores on the second assignment. I feel there should have been a difference in these grades.
n/a
The TA could definitely do a better job at providing solutions instead of just problems. When discussing common mistakes on the MELA policy memos, he talked almost solely about what students did wrong without providing any clarification on what to do to improve.
I would recommend he works on clarity and consistency in grading.
N/A
His grading
N/A
not much—at times the criteria for the memos seemed a bit arbitrary (like why do you hate passive voice with such a passion?), but the clear feedback made up for it.
Not be as condescending to students and be clear about assignment expectations. Assignments were explained heavily in class but then graded super harshly on seemingly arbitrary criteria that was not discussed at all.