



Cammack, Daniela (POL SCI 212A SEM 001 HISTORY POL THOUGHT) - Fa 2019 (Instructor Version)

Project Title: **Fall 2019 Evaluations**

Courses Audience: **17**
Responses Received: **13**
Response Ratio: **76.47%**

Subject Details

Name	POL SCI 212A SEM 001 HISTORY POL THOUGHT
DEPT_NAME	POL SCI
DEPT_FORM	POL SCI
EVALUATION_TYPE	F
First Name	Daniela
Last Name	Cammack

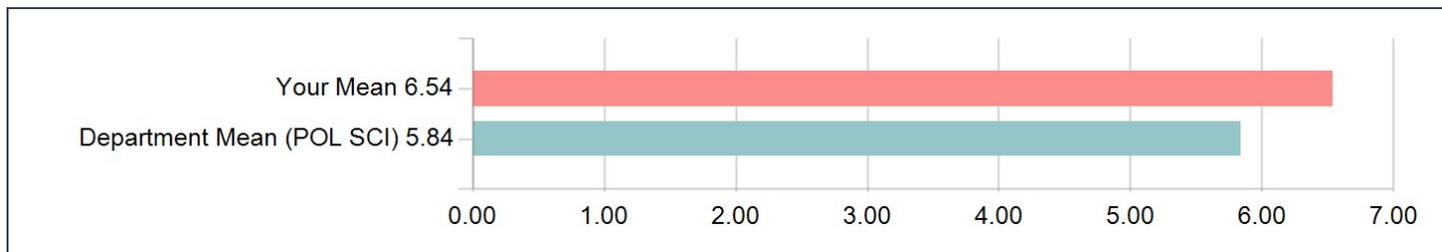
Creation Date: **Friday, January 10, 2020**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Please note that "Department Average" for each rating question is calculated using all sections in your department. This may include both Faculty and GSIs depending on whether the department has selected a question item to be used for both.

UNIVERSITY WIDE QUESTIONS (QUANTITATIVE/RATING):

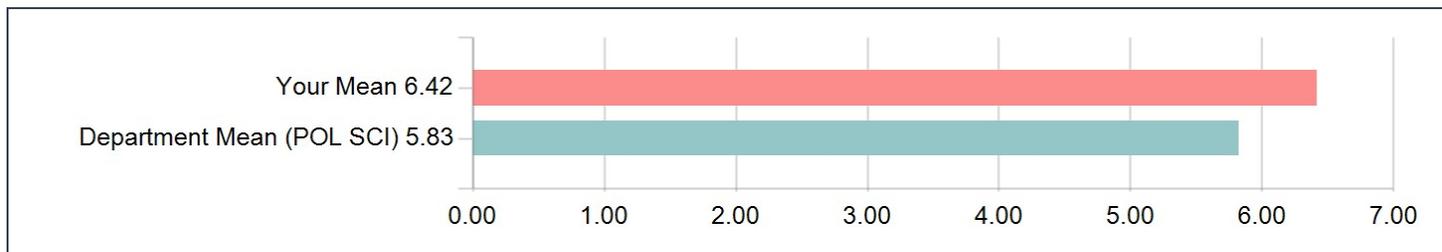
The items in this section are asked across all courses at Berkeley.

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this instructor?



Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this instructor?		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	0	0.00%
5	2	15.38%
6	2	15.38%
7-Extremely Effective	9	69.23%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		13
Mean		6.54
Median		7.00
Standard Deviation		0.78

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this course?



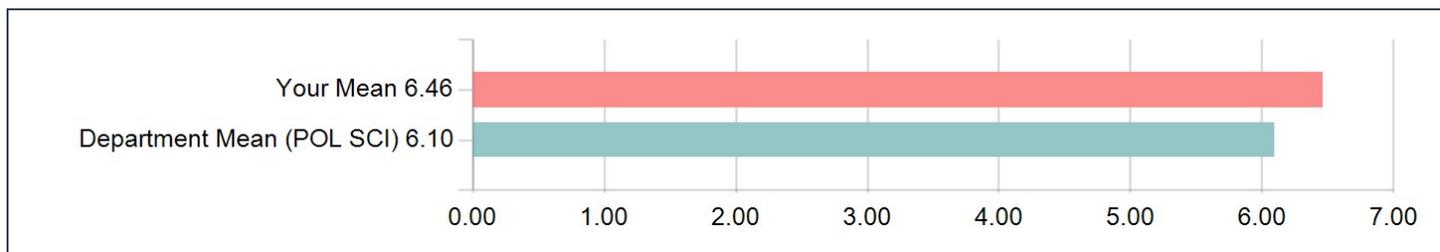
Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all Effective	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Moderately Effective	1	8.33%
5	1	8.33%
6	2	16.67%
7-Extremely Effective	8	66.67%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	12	
Mean	6.42	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	1.00	

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED INSTRUCTOR QUESTIONS:

Items in this section were selected by POL SCI for inclusion on this evaluation.

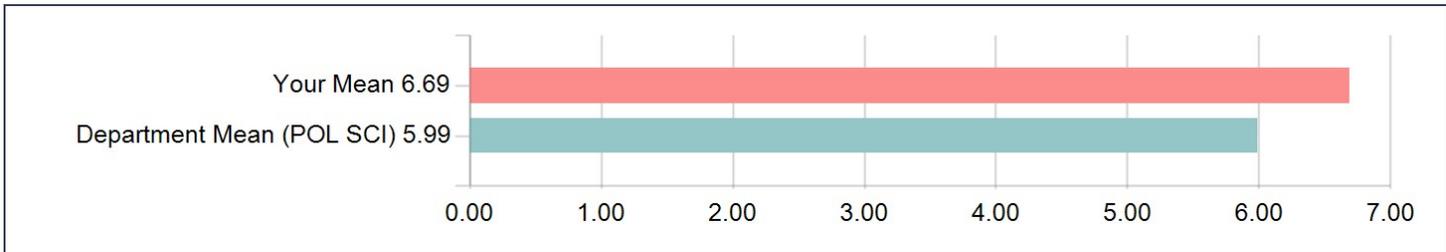
The instructor presented content in an organized manner.



The instructor presented content in an organized manner.

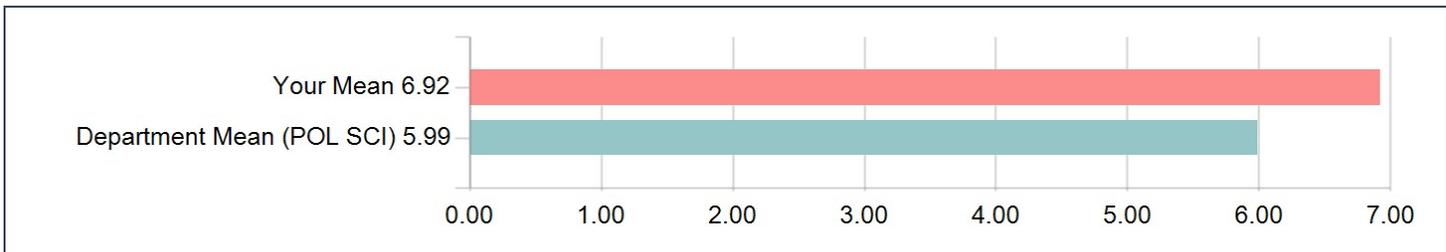
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	2	15.38%
6	3	23.08%
7-Very	8	61.54%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.46	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.78	

The instructor explained concepts clearly.



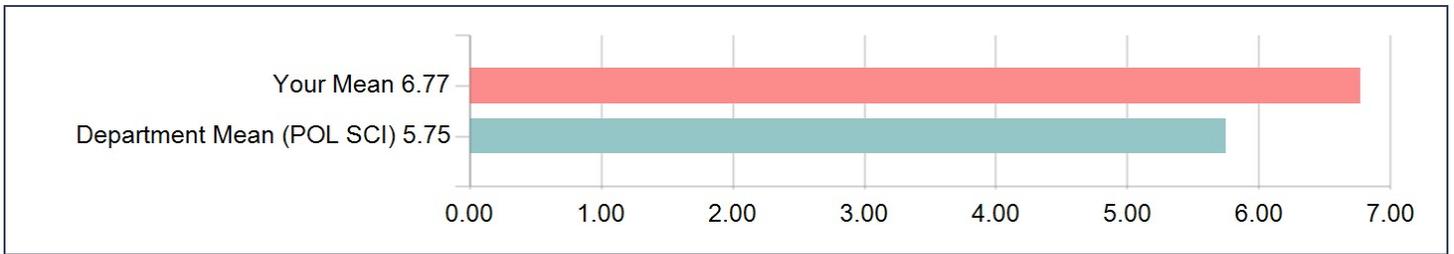
The instructor explained concepts clearly.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	4	30.77%
7-Very	9	69.23%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.69	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.48	

The instructor was helpful when I had difficulties or questions.



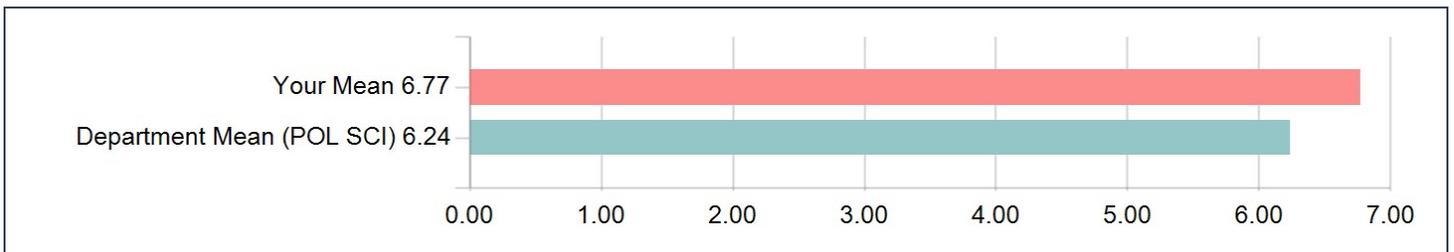
The instructor was helpful when I had difficulties or questions.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	1	7.69%
7-Very	12	92.31%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.92	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.28	

The instructor provided clear constructive feedback.



The instructor provided clear constructive feedback.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	1	7.69%
6	1	7.69%
7-Very	11	84.62%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.77	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.60	

The instructor encouraged student questions and participation.

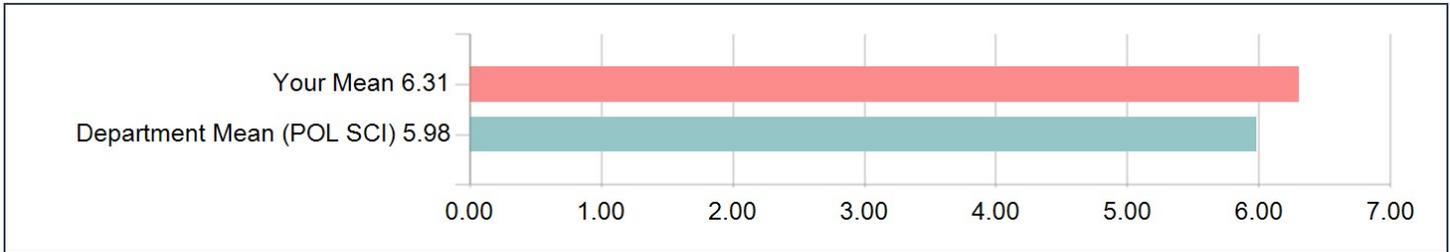


The instructor encouraged student questions and participation.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	0	0.00%
5	0	0.00%
6	3	23.08%
7-Very	10	76.92%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.77	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.44	

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED COURSE QUESTIONS:

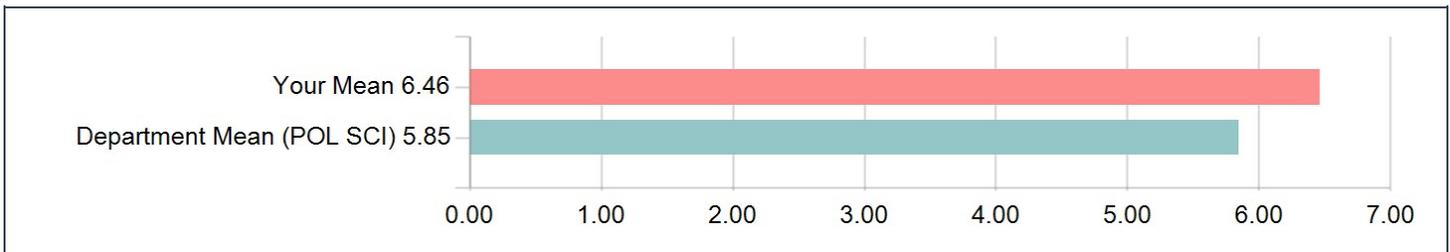
Items in this section were selected by POL SCI for inclusion on this evaluation.

The course was effectively organized.



The course was effectively organized.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	1	7.69%
5	2	15.38%
6	2	15.38%
7-Very	8	61.54%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.31	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	1.03	

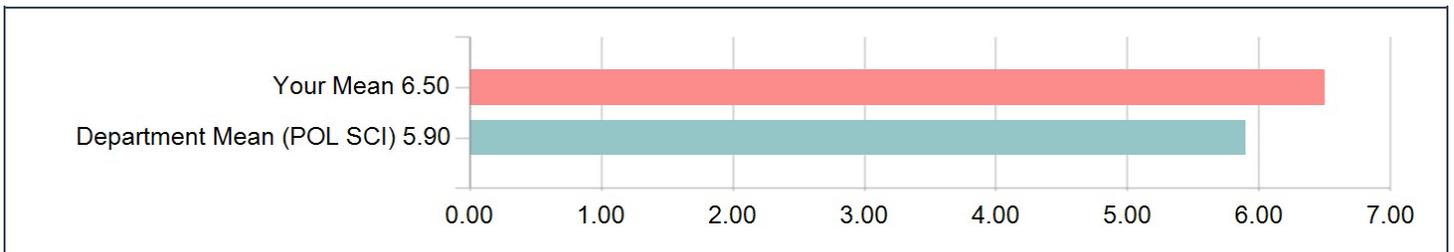
The course developed my abilities and skills for the subject.



The course developed my abilities and skills for the subject.

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	1	7.69%
5	1	7.69%
6	2	15.38%
7-Very	9	69.23%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.46	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	0.97	

The course developed my ability to think critically about the subject.



The course developed my ability to think critically about the subject.

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	0	0.00%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	1	8.33%
5	1	8.33%
6	1	8.33%
7-Very	9	75.00%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	12	
Mean	6.50	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	1.00	

Please identify what you consider to be the strengths of the course (or section).

Comments
Instructor was extreme knowledge of the subject.
how passionate about the subject the instructor and how approachable and engaging she is with the students
I really enjoyed the in class discussion
Excellent presentation of material. Very receptive to student questions, and encourages student participation.
It is very participative and Daniela is very attentive to students' comments and questions.
Well taught course, engaging, and absolutely loved the freedom of thought that the course encouraged. The paper assignments truly made it feel intellectually engaging. I felt like I could really explore anything I was interested in. Of course, the professor is very knowledgeable and a great communicator.
The professor made herself available for questions and assistance to an unusual degree. Her attention to written work was among the most through I have seen an instructor provide. Meetings with regard to course content were easy to schedule and remarkably helpful both in conceiving of a question and determining the best way to approach it. She clearly takes her responsibilities as an academic and as a professor seriously—and, indeed, her clear enjoyment for the work she successfully transmits to her students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– professor's prowess in the field of specialty– willingness to explain difficult concepts and answer questions– very receptive to student needs
The professor encourages her students to ask a lot of questions, is extremely supportive and responsive, and is always available for office hours.
There was a great emphasis on the historical, linguistic, and philosophical strands behind the different thinkers that we studied. I enjoyed the breadth of knowledge the professor brought to the course every week, and I was thoroughly engaged and challenged as both a student and a thinker. The readings were selected carefully, and I appreciated to see how the themes of the course were presented in a very organized manner. Overall, this course developed my critical thinking skills and has given me a greater appreciation of ancient and medieval political thought.
The small size of the class made it very conducive to discussion. The instructor was also clearly very knowledgeable about the relevant material.
I thought the breadth of readings and the instructor's passion for the subject material were the main strengths.
The professor provided helpful historical information and readings of the text, and guided class in such a way as to allow for interesting discussions and going deeper into the ideas.

Please identify area(s) where you think the course could be improved.

Comments
N/A
fewer people in the class
Discussion time management to make sure everything is covered in sufficient detail.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly response paper comes across as a rather heavy burden. Maybe make it biweekly? 2. Would love to focus on a few themes sometimes and go deeper into a specific theme or two.
<p>Basically, there were three issues with the course:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next time, I think it would be nice to schedule the class twice a week. Maybe one, lecture style, to provide historical background and a second lecture for close reading. This would have better situated the content. 2. Sometimes, a particular student would dominate discussion. I think the Professor tried to manage this admirably, but ultimately I am here for the professor and the participation of a collection of classmates. It's not fun to sit in a class where a student is almost forcibly trying to co-teach the course. It chilled participation quite a bit, and made me feel uncertain about how to contribute at times. 3. This is quite a general issue (as I've experienced in other seminar classes), but sometimes it can feel like we are so caught in the weeds of close reading that there are not clear narratives drawn across texts. Obviously, there is an extent to where a professor wants to encourage one's own thinking. But it would have been valuable to hear how the professor understood these texts together in more clear ways. Broad themes of intellectual history are really interesting, and I would have loved to hear more.
<p>This being the first iteration of this course, there are of course a number of minor details that were being worked out. These were, however, by and large administrative and the professor made a point of discussing them with the students throughout the course. As to content—though the course was listed as a graduate seminar, the majority of students were undergraduates, which required a good deal more exposition that would have been necessary at the graduate level. This is not a reflection on the course itself so much as it reflects the extent to which it would be fruitful to give the seminar in tandem with an upper-division undergraduate lecture course to provide context for the benefit of both undergraduates and graduates, which I understand the professor has in mind for the next time this course is given.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – potentially more structure but not necessary at all – potentially notes or more guidance hand-outs with the reading (again, not necessary esp for a grad level course)
Essay could be worth a little less
The readings were a bit lengthy, but that might be warranted considering it is a graduate level course. Perhaps delving deeper into the material would have been better (quality vs quantity). I would have appreciated studying three thinkers, for instance, in very great detail instead of surveying all of the thinkers we covered.
Perhaps a tighter control on where the discussion was going would be good.
<p>If this course is offered as designed in the future, it should either be a proseminar that meets at least twice a week or a MWF upper division undergraduate course. Covering the sheer amount of material we were covering in once a week meetings led to what I thought was superficial/cursory readings of the texts.</p> <p>Also, I think the course should be more tailored around a more particular theme running through all these texts. This is essentially a survey course of the major political works written in Europe between antiquity and the late medieval period. That is sort of a huge scope for a single course.</p>
A very large portion of the class was spent on Plato and Aristotle, so it might be interesting to have a bigger variety of readings (although I understand this was in part due to the power outages).

What advice would you give to another student who is considering taking this course?

Comments
Get the writings done early.
Be ready to read and talk!
Explore your intellectual curiosity!!
This course is focused on ancient texts, which are both extremely difficult and extremely rewarding. If you do not pay close attention to the texts, or have no interest in sustained engagement with them, you will neither enjoy the course nor do well in it. You will, however, have ample guidance and assistance from the professor along the way. If you are willing to put in the effort, it will be rewarded.
– have enough time to dedicate and challenge yourself with the material; do close but smart reading
Prepare to read very carefully, and take care of every single detail included in your essays !
Commit to spending lots of time reading through the material every week and coming with questions and or concerns based on the readings.
For any undergraduates taking the course, keep in mind that this is a graduate–level course, so the expectations will be different.
Don't take this course alongside an otherwise heavy load of courses.
Attending office hours was very helpful for going deeper into the texts and for planning ideas for the papers.

DEPARTMENT PROVIDED STUDENT INFORMATION QUESTIONS

Items in this section were selected by POL SCI for inclusion on this evaluation.

On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this course, including attending classes, doing readings, reviewing notes, writing papers, and any other course-related work?

On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this course, including attending classes, doing readings, reviewing notes, writing papers, and any other course-related work?		
Options	Count	Percentage
3 or fewer	0	0.00%
4-6	2	16.67%
7-9	4	33.33%
10-12	4	33.33%
13-15	0	0.00%
16-18	1	8.33%
More than 18	1	8.33%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	12	
Mean	1.00	
Median	1.00	
Standard Deviation	0.00	

How many class (or section) sessions did you attend?

How many class (or section) sessions did you attend?		
Options	Count	Percentage
None	0	0.00%
Fewer than half	0	0.00%
About half	0	0.00%
More than half	4	30.77%
All	9	69.23%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	1.00	
Median	1.00	
Standard Deviation	0.00	

How satisfied were you with your effort in this course (or section)?

How satisfied were you with your effort in this course (or section)?		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not at all	0	0.00%
2	1	7.69%
3	0	0.00%
4-Somewhat	1	7.69%
5	1	7.69%
6	3	23.08%
7-Very	7	53.85%
Statistics	Value	
Response Count	13	
Mean	6.00	
Median	7.00	
Standard Deviation	1.53	