SFU

Instructor's Report - Fall 2020, POL 200W D100 - Investigating Politics: Research Design and Qualitative Methods, Sanjay Jeram

About the Instructor's Report

This report is for the instructor of the course only. It uniquely displays results from the university question set for remote learning as well as the questions that you selected or created for your course.

For the Fall 2020 term, your Department Chair or Program Director will **not** receive a report from SETC program. This decision was made to support instructors amid the remote teaching and learning challenges they may currently be facing. You are welcome to share your report as you see fit.

The intention of this report is to provide an overall summary of student's experiences of teaching, learning, and course delivery to inform understanding and reflection on teaching practice. It is not a direct measure of teaching effectiveness for promotion or tenure. This report cannot be used to reasonably rank or highlight differences between individual instructors as it lacks contextual information (e.g. class size, student demographics, etc.).

For more information about SETC reports, please visit our website.

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Notes:

Statistics: This report only shows descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, frequency of scale options, and response count for each question) aggregated at a course level to protect student confidentiality.

Scales: The following scale is used for all questions in this report unless otherwise indicated:
  1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree

NRP: A value of "NRP" indicates that there was no response provided for a question.

Low Response: if less than 5 students responded to the *overall* course evaluation, your report will show limited information. This is to protect student confidentiality. On a question-by-question basis, you can still see full information even when less than 5 student responded to a particular question.

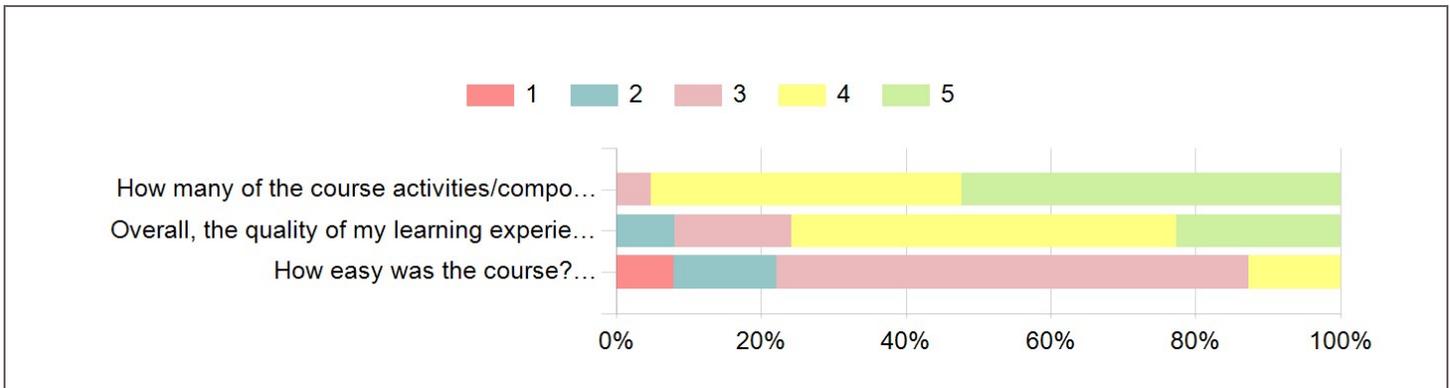Creation Date: **Wednesday, December 23, 2020**

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Section 1 – Who Responded?

This section gives some information about respondents. It is intended to help you understand the limits and generalizability of the statistics presented. Click here for more information about how response rate, perceived course difficulty, course engagement, and students' overall experience impact evaluation responses.

Raters	Students
Responded	63
Invited	70
Response Ratio	90%

Question	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
How many of the course activities/components (i.e. watched lectures, contributed to discussions, assignments) did you complete? Scale used: 1=None, 2=Not very many of them, 3=About half of them, 4=Most of them, 5=All of them	63	4.48	0.59
Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was.... Scale used: 1=Very Poor, 2=Poor, 3=Fair, 4=Good, 5=Very Good	62	3.90	0.84
How easy was the course? Scale used: 1=Very Hard, 2=Hard, 3=Medium, 4=Easy, 5=Very Easy	63	2.83	0.75

Response Distribution

Section 2 – Teaching Narrative and Questions

This section displays your teaching narrative and the responses to the questions you selected/created. If you did not submit a narrative or questions, this section will be blank.

Did you design the course?

No response.

Teaching Narrative

No response.

Instructor Questions

This section will be blank if you did not submit any questions or you only submitted comment questions. You can find the responses to your comment questions in Section 4.
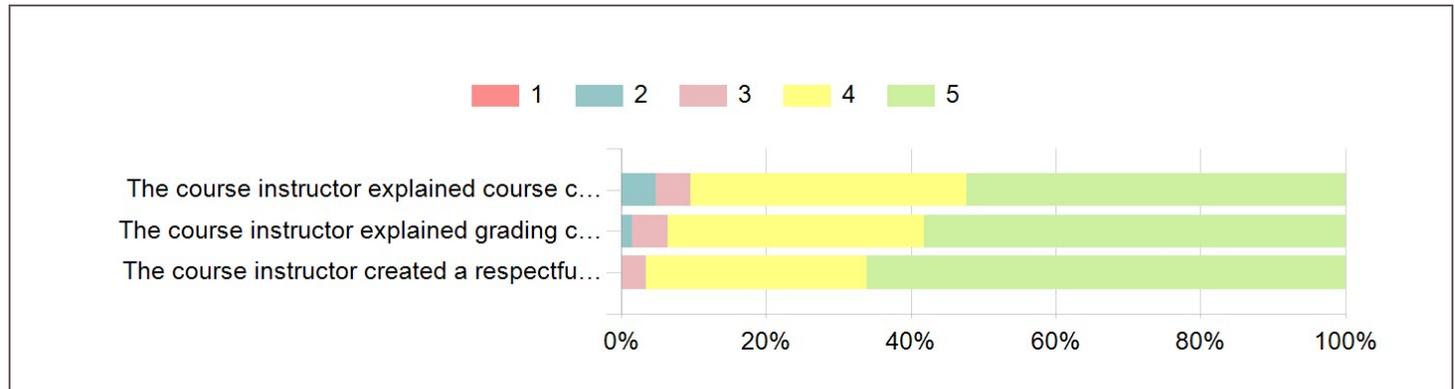
Section 3 – University Questions for Remote Learning

These questions appear on every SETC form and have been updated to refer to remote instruction and learning. Responses to the university comment question can be found in Section 4.

Part 1 – Students' Experience with the Course Instructor

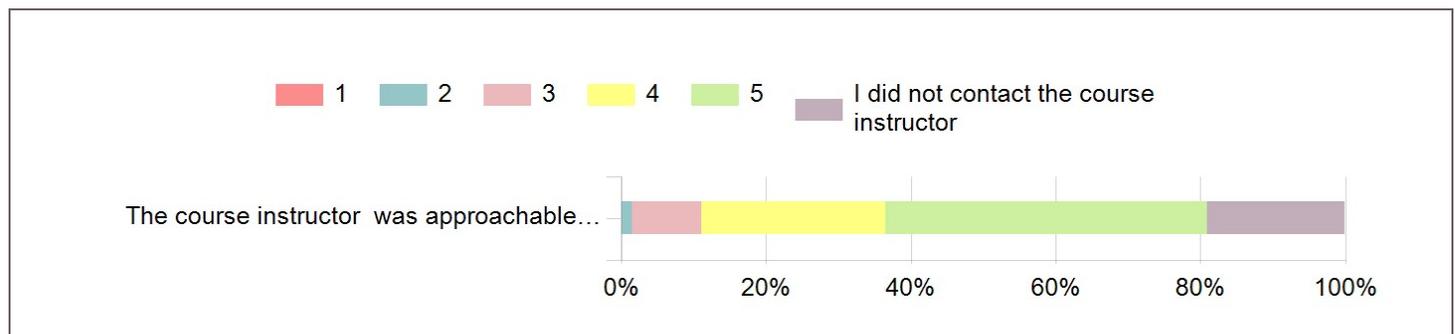**To what extent do you agree with the following statements about your experience with this course instructor:**

Question	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course instructor explained course concepts clearly.	63	4.38	0.79
The course instructor explained grading criteria clearly.	62	4.50	0.67
The course instructor created a respectful learning environment.	59	4.63	0.55

Response Distribution

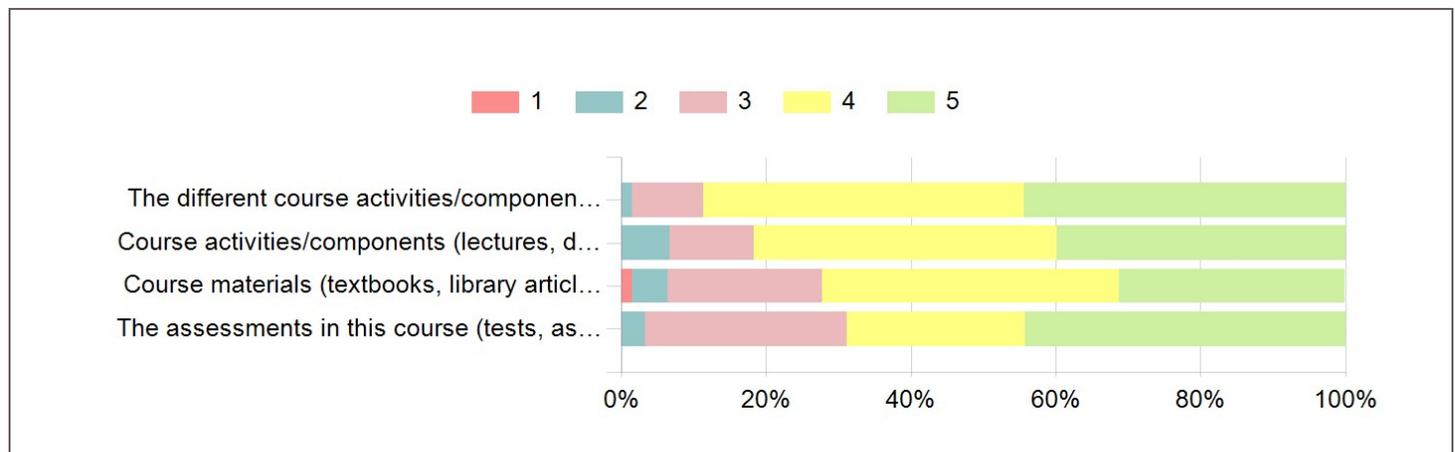| Question	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
The course instructor was approachable when I needed help. Scale: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree; I did not contact the course instructor	51	4.39	0.78

Response Distribution

Part 2 – Students' Experience with the Course

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about your experience in this course:

Question	Response Count	Mean	Standard Deviation
The different course activities/components (lectures, discussions, assignments, etc.) were connected.	61	4.31	0.72
Course activities/components (lectures, discussions, assignments, etc.) helped me learn.	60	4.15	0.88
Course materials (textbooks, library articles, and website links) improved my understanding of the course content.	61	3.95	0.94
The assessments in this course (tests, assignments, essays, etc.) allowed me to demonstrate my understanding of the course content.	61	4.10	0.93

Response Distribution

Section 4 – Comments

This section displays responses to all comment questions.

Instructor Selected Comment Questions

None selected.

Do you have any further comments?

Comments
Really enjoyed the course overall, I feel like this course set me up well for further exploration and practices of qualitative research methods for Political Science. Aside from this, I have found that on multiple occasions, grading standards on the professors end and my T.A's end were different. I think this leads to a misrepresentation of student's capabilities and grades in the class. I know that the T.A and professor are well connected, so I'm purely basing this off of what I see from other students when comparing grades. I think further communication between the T.A and professor would be something to improve upon for future classes of POL200W. Thanks so much!
I strongly believe that Sanjay made his best effort to create a safe and open environment to which students could participate in office hours and discussions. The syllabus and course flow was exceptional and there was always help available when needed, either through Sanjay or my TA. I am happy that I was given the chance to be apart of this course and to have had the privilege of learning and developing skills from both Sanjay and my TA.
I appreciate the mixed style of synchronous and asynchronous components. I also believe the activities we do in tutorials are a very effective way to practice and test our knowledge.
I feel like this course is very hard to follow up specially with online learning. So, maybe having sample papers will help us guide better and score high on them.
Great online prof! You were very organized and your instructions were super easy to follow, making this semester more manageable than I thought it would be (given the tough transition from in–person to online.) Thanks for a great semester :)
I felt that the lectures were hard to follow sometimes–there were big words used that I had to look up in the dictionary in order to understand what was being explained. (I think that might have slightly hindered my learning speed, but overall I thought concepts were explained thoroughly.)
I felt the assignments were marked a little too toughly
Really appreciated the extra detailed rubrics and assignment specific modules especially. I also loved that the platform lets you listen to lectures on 1.4x and 1.6x speeds. Thought it was a good balance of lectures and assignments – had to keep up (which isn't always the case online) but also not too overwhelming. Thank you!
no
Tutorials were brutal and participation was low. I often would attempt to get a conversation going based on the given assignment or discussion topic, only to be met with complete silence, making the 2 hour long tutorials feel needlessly long.
Overall I learnt a lot in the class, however I found that the tutorials weren't the best led. Ester is very friendly and approachable, but they just didn't run very smoothly and she couldn't really generate any discussion. I think if the tutorials were better I would have done better on the assignments. I believe I have a good understanding of the course content but I wasn't able to demonstrate that in the assignments. An example of the assignments would have been nice so I could understand the format required, what kind of key words to use, and how to better answer what was being asked. It wasn't very clear what Ester was looking for in the assignment based on the rubrics, because I felt like I met the requirements, but it didn't reflect in my grade. Overall some specifications and clarity on what was being looked for in the assignments would be an improvements. In the asynchronous I felt like Sanjay did a good job of explaining the concepts and provided a bunch of examples. I think what Sanjay asked for and what Ester looked for in the assignments were different. I liked the class but I think there needs to be some more clarity on what is being asked in the assignments because it was clear what I needed to do, but apparently there is some disconnect between that and what was being looked for.
I enjoyed this class a lot. Its easier to take a course when the prof is genuinely passionate about what they're teaching and not reading off their slides or a script. I've taken your POL100 class before and chose to pursue political science from it. Thank you for a great class!!
I liked how he was able to teach the course through a limited learning environment and was able to communicate with his students quickly.
I found that the course material was very easy to understand despite it being online.

Comments
Thank you for all your work this semester, I found the assignments very helpful for understanding course concept.
Thanks for a great semester! I loved the course organization and how we were given weeks off when assignments were due, it was really helpful. The assignments were a little difficult, but I actually learned a lot from them. The only complaint I have is the lecture and tutorial formal. With online learning, it is much harder to stay focused and motivated and do the same things we did while in–person. I would recommend having multiple shorter lectures instead of one big one. In addition, the tutorials don't seem to be working. I could see how they would be beneficial in person, but the two hours was a long time online, and it sometimes seemed unnecessary. One time, I was left in a breakout room for thirty minutes and all I had to do was share with my partner. I've noticed this with other classes too, tutorials are just not as effective. Other students also don't really talk much as compared to in–person. I would suggest looking at a different way to do the tutorial next semester, or reducing it to one hour!
I was fearful of taking another research design class, however although it wasn't an easy class, Sanjay's lectures and course material really made it quite simple and easy to follow along. I really appreciated the flow of the class, everything felt like it was it was going in an orderly fashion and I was able to maintain understanding. I feel as though the course concepts are really stuck with me and I will have knowledge of them in the future as well, instead of simply for the duration of the course. I never contacted Sanjay directly, but I did attend one group office hour. It was very helpful and Sanjay was very kind as well.
Professor Jeram did a very good job explaining course concepts. All of the activities were connected and improved my understanding. Expectations were clear in regards to assignments and the midterm. Grading itself was also fair.
The worst thing by far in most courses regarding political science is grading. There does not seem to be any sort of control when it comes to grading. One TA could give you a failing grade while another gives you an A.... It really seems to be whatever the TA or instructor is feeling that day. Most importantly the teacher and TA must remember that you are playing with people's livelihoods. Trying to create assignments that are challenging in reality just makes them confusing. It is hard to hit all multiple points while also freshly having learned the material.
I felt that I was not able to show my learning in a fair way. I felt like the grades to my assignments did not accurately represent my knowledge to this course. I have taken three research methods class prior to this and never have I gotten a grade this low before. I feel like I put in the effort but it was not recognized.
Thanks for making this course as enjoyable and understandable as possible. I hope to take an in person class with you one day!
I thought the scheduling for lectures/quizzes/assignments worked really well, and I also appreciated having access to all the assignments/schedules at the beginning of the semester. I also really enjoyed the variety of the assigned readings and found them helpful to contextualize everything.
Professor Jeram did well to explain the key components of each section in detail and then allowed us to demonstrate our learning in challenging, but fair assignments. I enjoyed the challenge they posed as it made me reflect on the content we went over and apply it to the best of my ability.
The quality of my learning experience was fair instead of good solely because of the shift to online. Sanjay also mentioned a few times in the recorded lectures that the discussion aspect of this course was very beneficial and at a certain point he would stop and pose a question to the class. I feel that is something the tutorial could not replace. I'm not sure if tutorials could be facilitated better or if there is something else to supplement this loss of discussion. I really feel like discussion helps many students, including myself, learn better.
The online format was difficult. I feel like for this kind of class, in person or synchronous instruction would have been better. It would have been beneficial to be able to ask questions live instead of waiting for office hours or tutorials.
This class is really hard. I'm only taking it because I have to as the requirement for my degree.
I think the lectures would have been better if they were live (ie. through zoom at a set upon time with everyone present at the same time). I think it would have been better to have that kind of environment and be able to do discussion with people in lecture.
This is the second course I've taken with Sanjay and I thoroughly enjoyed it! He takes his time to explain concepts clearly, he is available pretty much all the time to help with any questions, and has responded to my emails within a couple hours every time I've reached out. The course was very engaging and I truly learned a lot, which is indicative of Sanjay's compassion and care for his students. He was flexible if we were struggling, was very helpful during office hours, and made sure to keep us updated had there been any changes to the course throughout. I really enjoyed my time in POL200W, and I commend Sanjay for being such a great prof and overall good person during a time of struggle for all of us :) Thank you, Sanjay!!