

**Teaching Evaluation Instructor Report - Fall Term 2017/18**  
**Faculty of Public Affairs**  
**\* Designated \***

**PSCI2701B / 134 / Michael Gavin**

Question Number	Poor (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Excellent (5)	No Opinion	Total Response	Mean	Std.Dev.	Mdn.
1		1	9	24	33		67	4.33	.77	4
2			11	20	35	1	67	4.36	.76	5
3		2	11	17	37		67	4.33	.86	5
4		2	4	28	32	1	67	4.36	.74	4
5		3	13	19	32		67	4.19	.91	4
6			7	22	38		67	4.46	.68	5
7	3	4	7	23	28	2	67	4.06	1.10	4
8		1	6	25	33	2	67	4.38	.72	5
9		1	1	22	36	7	67	4.55	.62	5
10		1	5	14	47		67	4.60	.70	5
11			1	17	49		67	4.72	.49	5
12			1	15	50	1	67	4.74	.47	5
<b>Total 1-12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>4.42</b>	<b>.77</b>	<b>5</b>
13		2	6	25	34		67	4.36	.77	5

How do you assess your instructor's performance:

1. in making clear the objectives of the course?
2. in organizing the course so as to meet the objectives?
3. in imparting the course materials in his/her role as /lecturer/seminar leader/tutorial leader/workshop leader/language instructor?
4. in answering questions and/or solving problems related to the course material?
5. in assigning readings, essays, seminar topics, etc., which are relevant to the course?
6. in assigning a workload related to the course objectives?
7. in marking and commenting on assignments and tests fairly?
8. in returning tests and assignments promptly?
9. in being available for out-of-class consultation?
10. in speaking audibly and clearly?
11. in beginning and ending classes promptly?
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13. How do you evaluate the instructor?

## Michael Gavin (PSCI2701B - Intro Res Methods in Pol Sci )

I really appreciated how much he simplified the material and normalized the fact that it can sometimes be hard to grasp material right away. I also appreciated how he encouraged us to go to his office hours, but he explained things so clearly I honestly didn't need to go to them! I don't think he needed to boost marks though, it was a really thoughtful action, but think that sometimes it can reinforce poor study habits when people anticipate a boost

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Course material not the most interesting, but that is research methods. Assigns interesting materials. Should maybe slow down to be more understandable

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Professor Galvin conducts himself in a manner one would expect of a much more experienced instructor. He clarifies all questions, and makes ample time for the students to get extra help. This course material is very dry and he was able to present it well.

I would have preferred had he posted the lecture slides prior to the class so i could concentrate more on the material as he discussed it. Excellent work and i would take another poli sic course from him again.

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He's a new professor and it shows. Lectures are easy to follow but they're so repetitive that I get bored easily. He spends so much time repeating the same concepts that I don't feel prepared to actually engage with the material in any substantial way outside of the class. There were some instances of real world example which were great, but I think more would have been better. Overall a good prof and very approachable in office hours.

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Loved your classes. They were very well structured and easy to follow. I appreciated the consideration given to allowing us to write the notes down.

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You said today that this was the first class you've taught, and I would like to say congratulations. I can't imagine that being a student yourself had made teaching this any easier. I appreciate all the time and effort you put into making the slides, and being available for office hours. The cohesion between the lectures and the tutorials was great. One thing I would change though is use the chalkboard more to breakdown complex topics. It really did help more to see the process of the variables or research being shown, rather than it just being on the screen. As well, for more "difficult" topics it would have helped to have it explained a little more clearly, for example when we were learning about spurious relationships, it would have been helpful to see it using a real life example and not just A's and B's and X's. I wish you good luck with your other classes! Thanks for a great semester.

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For this being your first class teaching, I was very surprised. I have had and still have profs. who have been teaching for 1-3 semesters only and you are a much better prof than they are in these ways: relating course material to practical + well-understood examples, relating material to real-world problems + relevant personal anecdotes. You explain tricky material very well. Maybe take a bit more time explaining fundamentals, relating topics to other topics in order to make connections. Powerpoints are very well set-up and easy to understand. Course material including slides, assignments, and tutorial articles are always posted/emailed on time and organized. Assignment questions are generally good + clear + concise. Often new profs I've had are very shy + have trouble being there for students, but from what I've heard that's not the case here. For a very new professor, you teach like you've had experience.

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He has an authoritative knowledge on the subject. Given his age, humility and willingness to cooperate with

students, he in the future will stand in a good stead as a prominent professor in political science.

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This professor is proof of how he wants to see his class excellence. He is great during office hours and engages with the class. When I first came to his class I was scared about the content, but during class and during his office hours he made me feel really comfortable with the subject and is a big reason why I am excelling in this course. Professor Gavin truly cares about his students and he is not there just for the sake of lecturing. My favorite professor at Carleton so far.

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Assignment questions can sometimes be confusing and unclear.

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Professor Gavin is a great teacher who presents the material in a concise format that is generally understandable. The questions presented in assignments and exams could be clearer in intention but is good overall. He does have some presentation issues though as he can adopt a overly paternalistic attitude. Although this works with some students learning, others my find it slightly degrading or be resistant to the overall message, as a result of it. A good way of overcoming this would be to change some speech mannerisms. All this being said Professor Gavin, especially for his first time teaching, is a friendly, honest professional who has extraordinary potential has a professor.

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I was extremely shocked to hear this was his first year teaching. He does an excellent job in explaining concepts clearly and ensuring everyone understands, and he makes it very clear he is always available for office hours. He is an amazing proff!

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Materials which were taught in class were well taught. However, the application of these materials to assignments was weak sometimes. Assignment often didn't clarify pertinent information. Questions of assignment were often vague making it difficult for students to achieve all marks. For example, TA's would sometimes expect tables for further explanation when the prompt only asked for an explanation.

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Sometimes you skip through the slides too quickly.

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This was the first class this professor taught and it was very obvious that this was the fact. I found that he had trouble gauging difficulty of course material throughout the entirety of the course and the course average suffered because of it. Also, after speaking with many of my fellow students, we all went into assignments and tests thinking that we knew what we were doing yet we received horrible marks. Clearly there was a gap in the information that was communicated to us and the actual material. I also found that he had very little grasp on the work of his TA's and was unaware of the issues in grading and their inability to answer questions. When I would ask my TA for feedback their response was "it's just wrong". This isn't math, you can't simply be wrong, there is a reason why it is wrong and if you can't answer that you shouldn't be taking marks away or you shouldn't be teaching the class. And I feel that it is up to the professor to be monitoring the work of the TA's to avoid these issues. There were also many conflicting answers to questions between the professor and the TA which left me and other students confused as to what was correct. Overall, my experience in this course was a horrible one.

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Michael is very clear, thorough and comprehensible. He did everything in his power to making learning and understanding comprehensible and consistently strived to find the right balance between too easy and too hard. My only suggestion would be to test predominantly on course material rather than specific textbook lines, but overall this class was very enjoyable and I did not mind attending this 8:30am Friday morning class at all.

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Amazing prof- especially because this is his first year teaching. Very approachable, friendly and truly cares about his students. Assignments and evaluations were fair for the most part. I feel like the first 2 assignments should've been formatted like the last one for clarity purposes. Overall, great though.

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He is a fun professor and very considerate. He is always available for consultation.

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This was one of the best courses introducing the concepts of Research Methods, qualitative and quantitative that I ever had in my career (as a student). He is extremely approachable, always wants to help every student, there were misunderstandings due to of lack of technical support on his side regarding email boxes - via which students may be able to reach Mike.

After those were fixed, it was a really responsive and caring instructor.

I very much hope that PoliSci continue to employ this instructor for this particular course. His teaching methods are outstanding - while I hope for a bit more fitting books or reading material for the next course Mike teaches and, possibly a bit background info as to the material that gets uploaded on Ares. I believe that was overlooked not found by most undergrads.

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Amazing Prof. Amazing T.A. Viktoriya

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Professor is a very abstract thinker. This was an obstacle for some students.

Practical teaching and material. Good insight.

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Despite being given the early Friday time-slot and having rather dry course material, I found that you made the class both interesting and enjoyable. I was surprised to learn it was your first time lecturing a class because it came across as quite effortless and natural.

That being said, I felt like the lectures, slides and even the textbook somehow didn't even prepare me enough to answer some of the assignment questions. The assignments definitely felt more like logic puzzles where I was generally well rewarded in marks when I focused on semantics instead of answering a question as a whole. Each assignment contained at least one trick question that didn't make me fully comfortable answering either way. Besides the assignments, the rest was very well done and delivered.

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Thanks for teaching me this course Sir. God bless.

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Particularly for a first time prof he was really great. The material he taught was hard for many to grasp but he was very willing to give extra explanations and help. Some of the material I had gone over in previous courses but I found that Michael Gavin explained many of the concepts more clearly than my previous profs.

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The structure of the course and order in which information is presented is great. I like the idea of best 2/3 for the assignments. Sometimes I find the slides went a bit quickly but perhaps because I was taking notes by hand. I think the evaluations in this class are fair.

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1. The material was fair, but the assignments were hard. They were hard compared to the lectures.

2. the slides went by really fast, so i did not have enough time to take notes, and also digest what was in each slide.

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Professor Gavin has made research methods much more of a delightful class than expected. Lectures were very entertaining and helpful despite being at 8:30 am. He was also very approachable and it was clear that he wanted each student to succeed. Amazing professor, good readings, and clear objectives. Professor Gavin made research methods much easier to grasp than expected.

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Best prof ever!!! He is amazing, and does a great job at teaching. I do not miss a lecture because he always makes sure when lecturing that students are understanding each concept. He is very fair and approachable. I always feel comfortable seeing him during his office hours when I have a question because he answers straight to the point while being very clear. I would definitely recommend students take a class with him!

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I think you did a great job breaking down and simplifying a somewhat difficult subject. You are great at explaining things, and I am very surprised people did not do better on the assignments or midterms considering everything you taught was directly on them. Assignments were very relevant to the midterm and I'm assuming the final as well. Great Job all around.

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takes forever on terms and definitions that are easy to understand, and doesn't leave any time for the important examples at the end of ppt. also speaks monotonously and the lectures are quite boring. textbook cost too much, and was totally useless.

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Class was fair and enjoyable enough to show up to at 8:30 in the morning

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Thanks for a good semester! The course organization was well done as well. The only thing is many students would benefit if you uploaded your slides prior to the class and used powerpoint, not pdf. Also, your office hours were very helpful.

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Amazing prof! Hard tests

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Having this class on Fridays at 8:35 a.m. certainly did not help make the course interesting. The assignments were generally straightforward, but the midterm was unnecessarily hard.

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I enjoyed the class. It was very well organized, and during office hours anything unclear was explained perfectly. The assignments also helped me understand the material.  
Thanks!

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I enjoyed this class very much! Lectures were very helpful and it was evident that you cared about the success of your students. If I had one suggestion it would be to post the lecture slides before class so that we can follow them on our laptops.

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Good course, I respect the level of effort and patience put in by the instructor. I did not like all the contradictions in the textbook, when we are paying so much for the book it would be appreciated if the instructor had read the

book beforehand in relation to the course material. Slides were good and informative but he went fast and sometimes it was hard to get everything down. I found that he stuck very closely to what the slide said and did not verbally provide a lot of extra material (except when answering questions). Awesome amount of help outside of class, overall good preparation for lectures and ability to deliver information to students cohesively and explain concepts thoughtfully. I enjoyed this class and liked the professor.

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Professor Michael Gavin is a fantastic professor. The class was very engaging, and I found the way he taught very useful. I learned a lot this semester, definitely the class I learned the most in all semester. The slides were extremely helpful! And the professor was available during class breaks and was willing to stay after class if needed; which was very helpful. Also, hosting weekly office hours. As well as going above and beyond, by posting practice tests and holding additional office hours closer to exams. I thoroughly enjoyed this class this semester! Thanks for a great semester.

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We had difficulty understanding his examples and explanations to our questions.

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You did a good job of communicating and explaining course material, and your assignments were well thought out and could be easily completed if one paid attention to course material.

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**Teaching Evaluation Instructor Report - Summer Term 2018**  
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**PSCI2701A / 32 / Michael Gavin**

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6	1		1	6	6		14	4.14	1.10	4
7		1	2	3	6	2	14	4.17	1.03	5
8			3	4	6	1	14	4.23	.83	4
9				5	7	2	14	4.58	.51	5
10			1	3	10		14	4.64	.63	5
11		1	1	3	9		14	4.43	.94	5
12	1	1	2	4	6		14	3.93	1.27	4
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## **Michael Gavin (PSCI2701A - Intro Res Methods in Pol Sci )**

It's very hard to work in the class where the teacher is absent 3 times in the row, especially in the summer course where you only get 6 weeks of class, while the person who's marking is a TA that from my experience has the different idea of the rubric criteria than our teacher, the midterm average grade is a perfect example of my comment.

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He didn't teach the application of the content and should have. Many did less well than hoped on midterm due to this. He curved the marks which was the appropriate response at least. Also missed three classes in a row. Provided online material but we have paid for in class time. Nice guy, but needs to do better in the above areas!

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Great prof, did his best to make a boring subject enjoyable. He missed a few lectures (for good reasons), he always made sure to post a video of him explaining the missing lecture material. It was a genius use of technology, and I've never had a prof do that before. Great prof, would recommend 10/10

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Great Professor, Excellent Teaching Style. Very Knowledgeable

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He is a great prof! This was not an easy course and he really took his time out to help us understand better. One of the best profs I have had in Carleton so far!

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