



WashU Spring 2019 Instructor Report for SP2019.L32.Pol Sci.332.01 - Topics in Politics: Politics Risk and Banking Crises (Michael Gavin)

Project Title: **WashU Spring 2019 Course Evaluations**

Courses Audience: **6**

Responses Received: **4**

Response Ratio: **66.67%**

Report Comments

Welcome to your Instructor Report for WashU Course Evaluations. Below you will find response data from the specified course section. Responses to personalized questions appear at the bottom of the report.

The intention of this report is to provide feedback, and also to prompt improvement in areas that may be lacking. This report is accessible to appropriate department level and school level users, as determined by your school. We appreciate your dedication to our learning community at Washington University.

If you have questions about this report, please contact evals@wustl.edu

Creation Date: **Monday, May 20, 2019**

Course and Instructor Evaluation

Past research shows that the students' answers to any one question can be noisy, more prone to biases, and provide less useful data for evaluating courses and instructors. Since interpreting individual questions, including their relative highs and lows, can easily lead to inaccurate conclusions due to low reliability, individual question responses are not available in any standard report.

However, combining students' responses to several questions aimed at measuring the same underlying attribute can improve the quality of the measures. Therefore, the statistics displayed for each attribute (mean, median, mode, and standard deviation) are calculated from the grouped responses to all the questions in each topical block.

All questions below use a 5-point response scale: 1-strongly disagree to 5-strongly agree

Learning

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.63

Organization

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.58

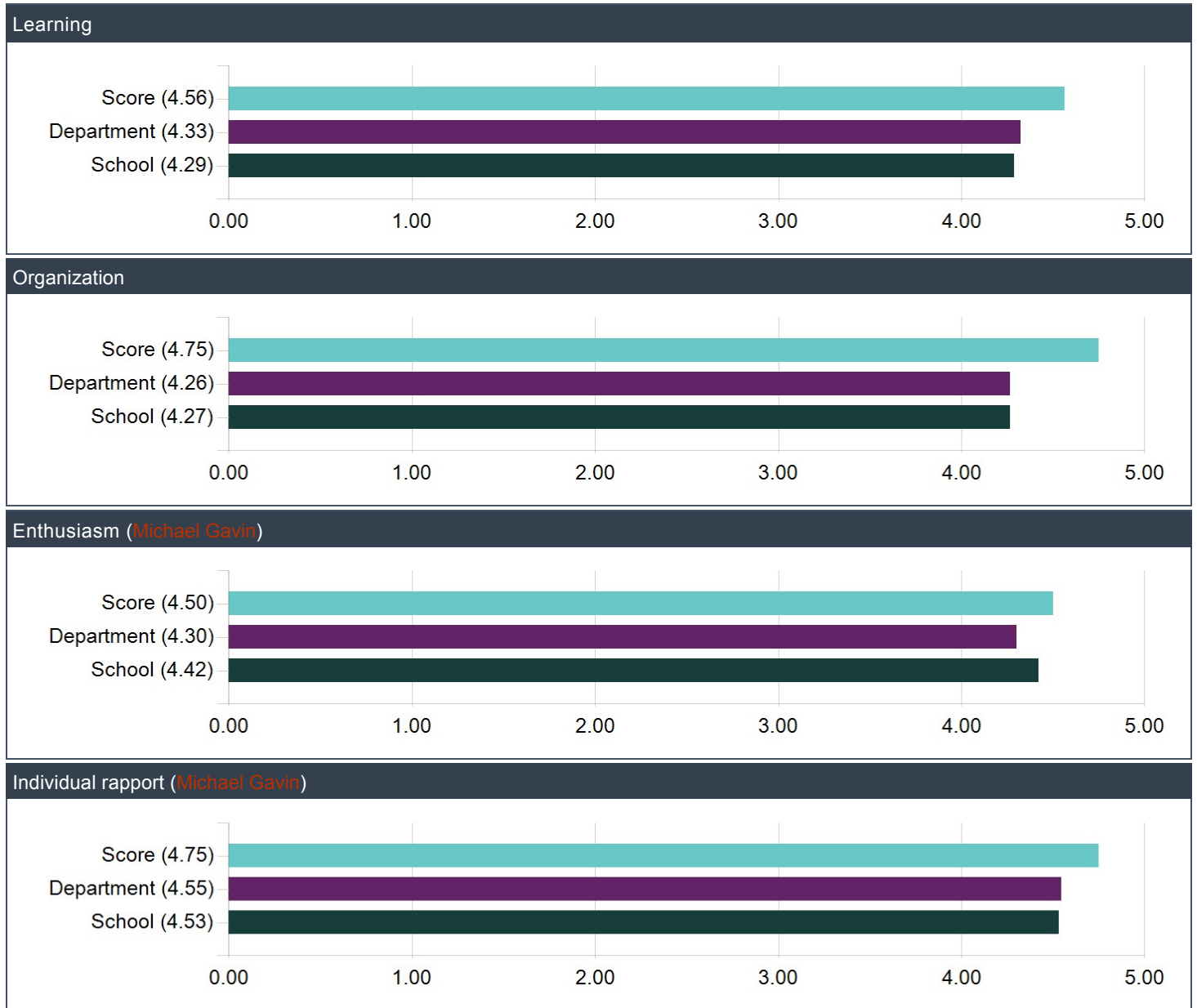
Enthusiasm (Michael Gavin)

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.73

Individual rapport (Michael Gavin)

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.45

Comparison Detail for Course and Instructor Evaluation

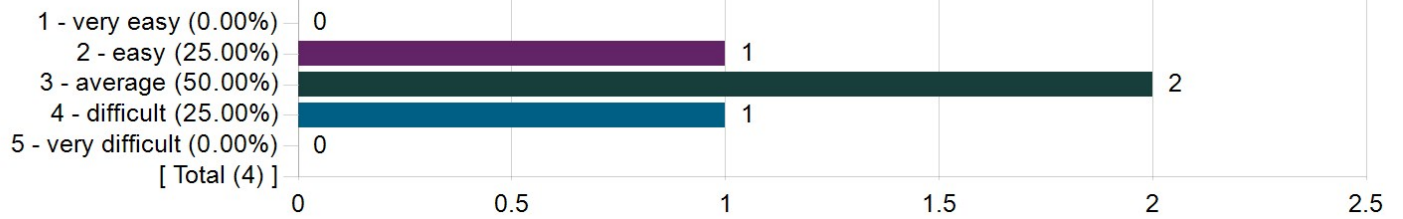


Varied Rating Scale Responses

The varied rating scale responses are statistically reliable as individual questions.

Course difficulty relative to other courses was

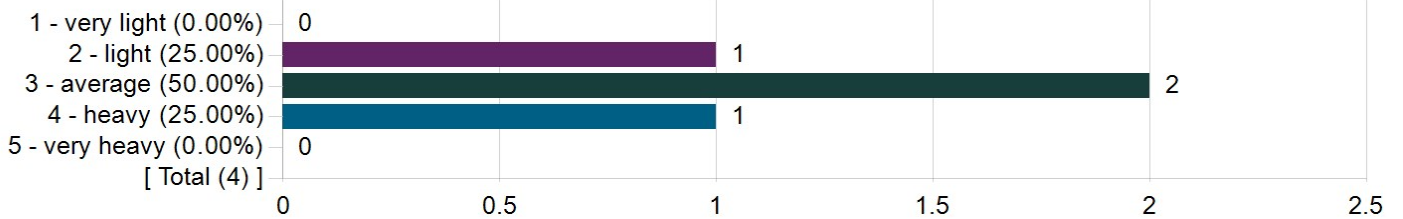
1. Course difficulty relative to other courses was



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.00
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.82

Course workload relative to other courses was

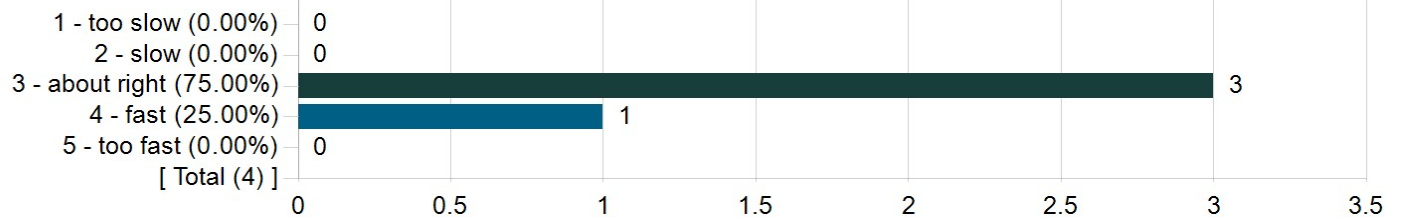
1. Course workload relative to other courses was



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.00
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.82

Course pace was

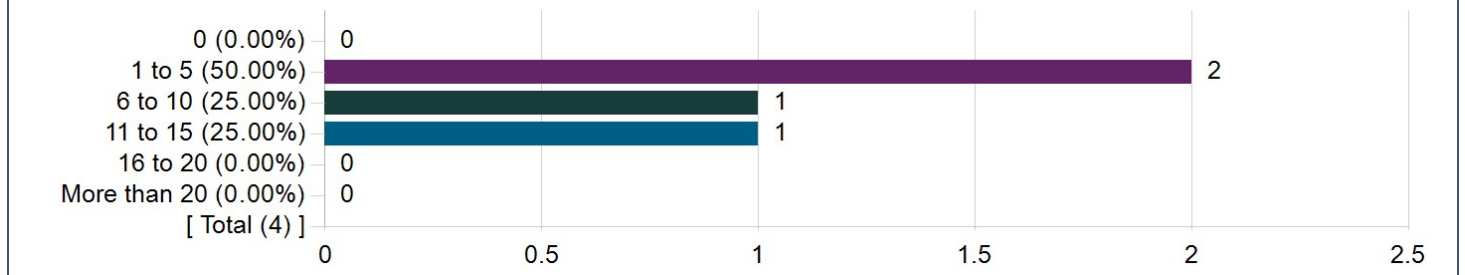
1. Course pace was



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.25
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.50

Hours per week required outside of class

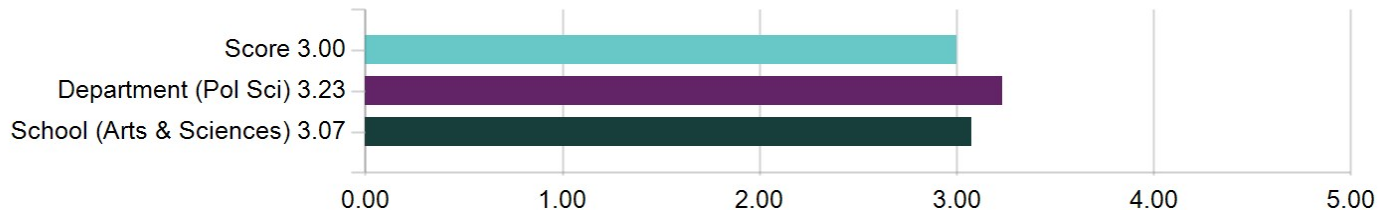
1. Hours per week required outside of class



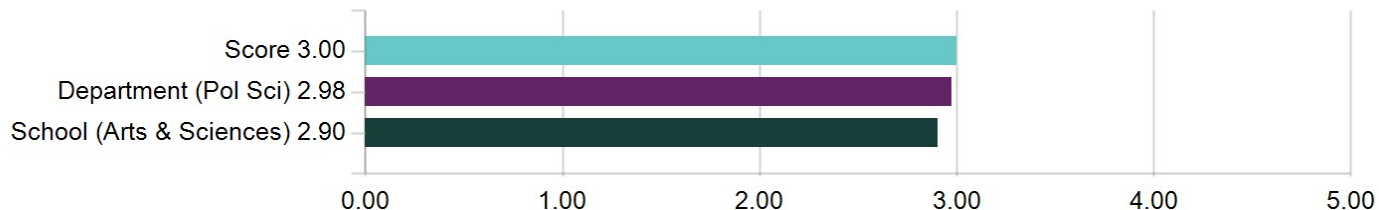
Statistics	Value
Mean	2.75
Median	2.50
Mode	2
Standard Deviation	0.96

Comparison Detail for Varied Rating Scale Responses

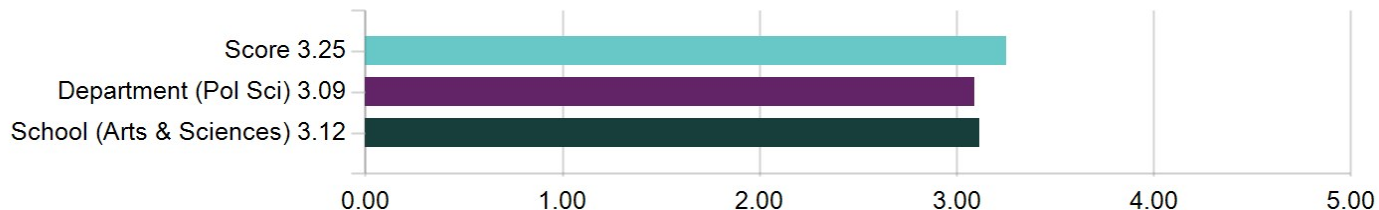
1. Course difficulty relative to other courses was



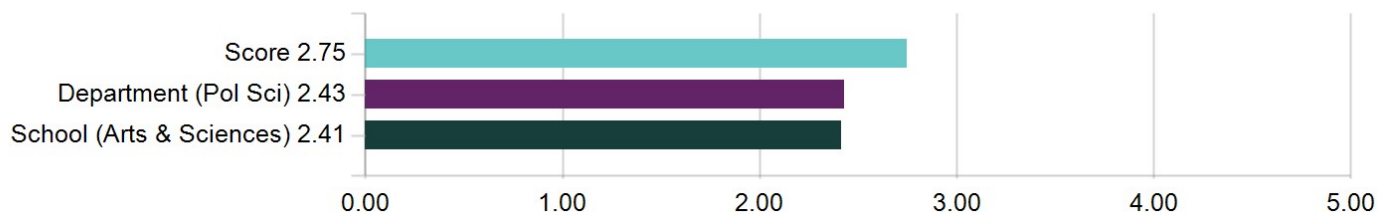
2. Course workload relative to other courses was



3. Course pace was



4. Hours per week required outside of class



Short Answer Responses

What would you like to tell other Wash U students thinking about taking this course?

Comments

The course subject matter is very interesting at face value, but the execution of the course was slightly less interesting and a bit more focused on history than political economy in my opinion.

He was a very good lecturer and was very intelligible about every topic he covered. The professor gave very clear and concise explanations about all topics in class. He made the material very interesting and was very helpful during office hours.

This is a great course because Professor Gavin was a great professor. He helped individual students make sure that they understood most of the material

Describe at least one thing about this course that helped you learn.

Comments

Presentations and having discussions about our final papers was helpful for staying on track with the course. Having flexibility with grading options and assignments was also helpful for determining engagement with the course material. Lecture slides were text heavy but served as a good substitute for the lecture if unable to attend.

Utilizing the professor when I didn't understand something.

Office hours and the class community.

Describe at least one thing that could be changed about this course to help you learn.

Comments

Readings need to be available to students realistically if we are expected to do them (books were typically only "on reserve" at various libraries in only one copy). Having more interactive/engaging lectures (beyond just answering questions on material presented) would also be helpful.

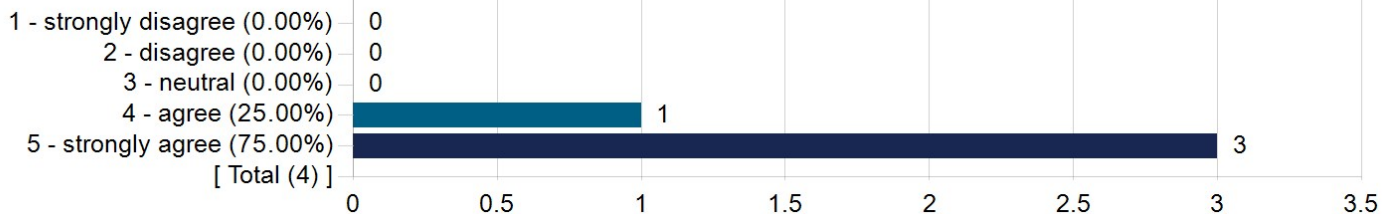
I would say include some more textbooks rather than articles.

I think just to make sure the class structure was a bit more defined.

Classroom Environment

The instructor **Michael Gavin** promoted an inclusive learning environment with regard to the diversity of student personal backgrounds and identities.

1. The instructor **Michael Gavin** promoted an inclusive learning environment with regard to the diversity of student personal backgrounds and identities.



Statistics

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.50

Where relevant, please give specific examples to explain your answer above.

Comments

He was always asking us to participate and made sure we felt welcome.

Personalized Questions

Were the models from early in the semester useful?

Comments

I think they were useful but maybe needed a little more context and scope for why we would use the models and what we could learn at the end of working through them at the end.

The models were difficult, but I enjoyed learning about them and found them very applicable to other courses I have taken.

They were confusing at first but did help explain certain material

I think the models were a little dense. Algebra with eight variables can kind of blur the meaning of the result. I think building up to the models a little more can be helpful.

Was the course too technical? Not technical enough?

Comments

It was a good amount technical in terms of the economic concepts. I think having a lecture on modern banking and financial systems (beyond banking origins and then system risk) would have been helpful, even if Prof. Gavin assumed we had a lot of background knowledge (true to varying degrees). In terms of quantitative expectations, we didn't really get a lot of this from the literature, only in questions during lecture.

The course was just about the right part of technical and theory based as I had a good time going through most of the curriculum.

I the class had a good balance and helped explain the material.

How were the lecture slides?

Comments

Very helpful as notes.

The lecture slides were good for the most part just change up the style to make it more colorful.

I liked how detailed the slides were and how I can go back later and understand them.

I think 80 straight minutes of lecture is a little too much. If you were to break the class up into 2–3 parts, it would pair better with our generation's shortening attention spans