



WashU Spring 2019 Instructor Report for SP2019.L32.Pol Sci.334.01 - Topics in Politics: The International Political Economy of Finance (Michael Gavin)

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

Courses Audience: **42**
Responses Received: **10**
Response Ratio: **23.81%**

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	3.85
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.35

Organization

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	3.98
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.19

Enthusiasm (Michael Gavin)

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	3.68
Median	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.44

Individual rapport (Michael Gavin)

Competency Statistics	Value
Mean	4.58
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.68

Comparison Detail for Course and Instructor Evaluation

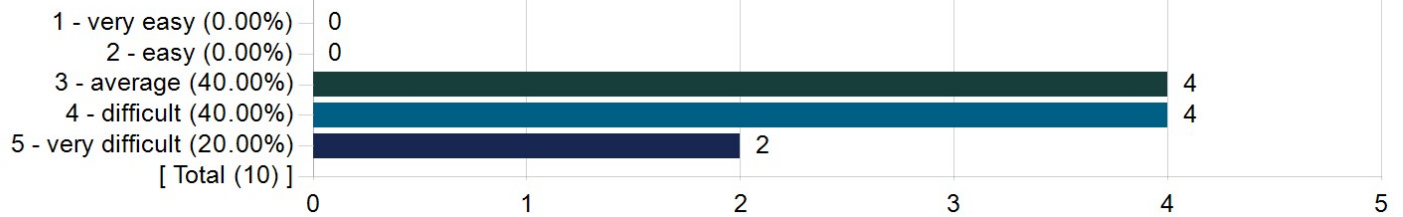


Varied Rating Scale Responses

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	3.80
Median	4.00
Mode	3, 4
Standard Deviation	0.79

Course workload relative to other courses was

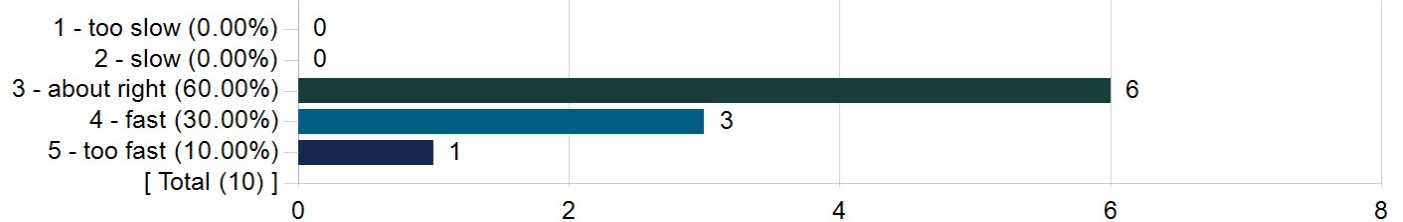
1. Course workload relative to other courses was



Statistics	Value
Mean	2.70
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.82

Course pace was

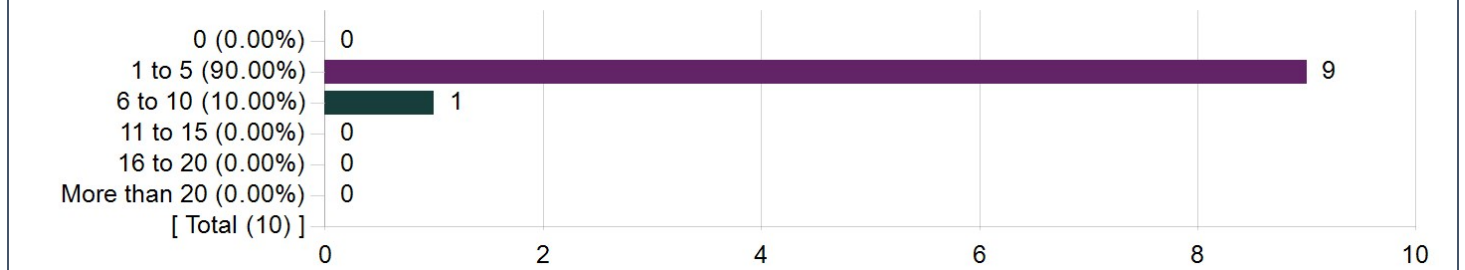
1. Course pace was



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.50
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.71

Hours per week required outside of class

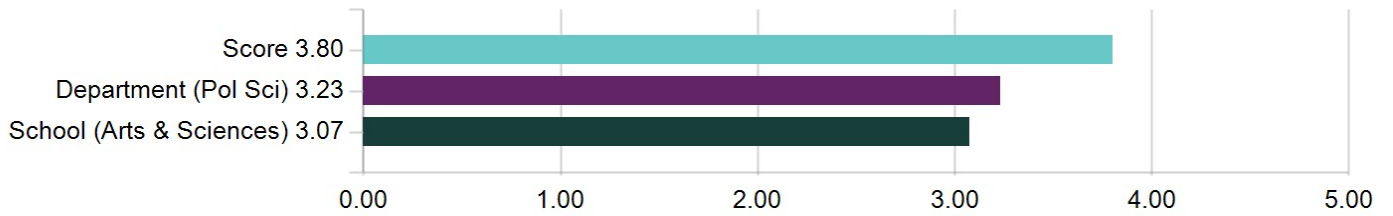
1. Hours per week required outside of class



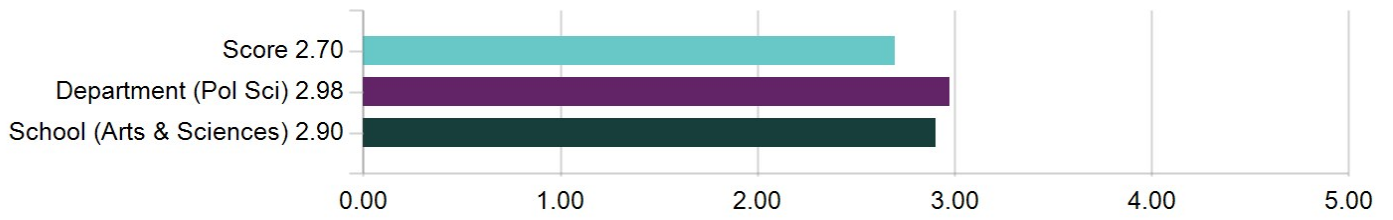
Statistics	Value
Mean	2.10
Median	2.00
Mode	2
Standard Deviation	0.32

Comparison Detail for Varied Rating Scale Responses

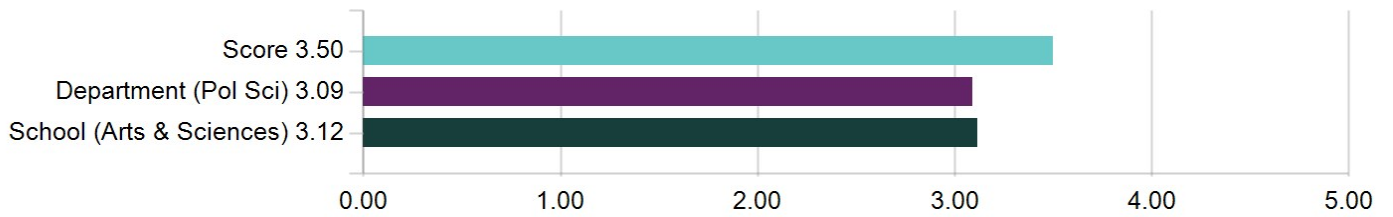
1. Course difficulty relative to other courses was



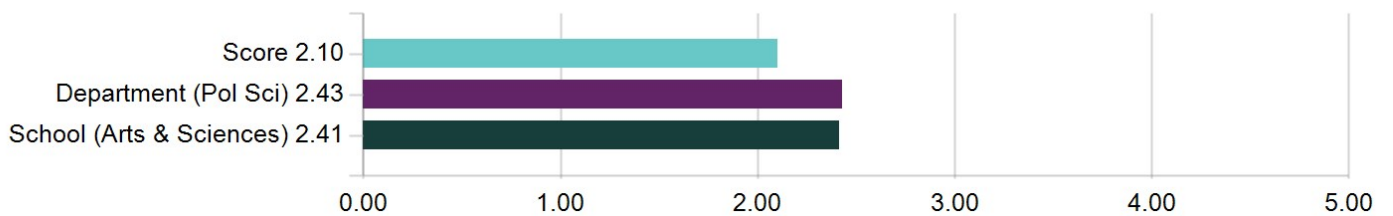
2. Course workload relative to other courses was



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
It's not a lot of work but it can be conceptually pretty difficult to understand concepts if you're not already familiar with them.
This course is difficult, but it has a light workload. The readings are essentially optional, and all of the slides are posted online. While the course is easy in this sense, there are few grades in the class meaning that there is high pressure to do well on the limited assignments and exams.
Professor Gavin is super engaging and really nice and helpful during office hours. I also really liked that I learned a lot of practical stuff, and I feel like I understand things happening in the economy now!!!
If you don't have any econ background, be prepared to teach yourself. I feel like this class is a breeze to those studying econ, but is challenging to those who have no background. More than half of the class doesn't go, and they aren't missing out on much. Everything you need to know are on the slides, which are posted after class. You go to class to hear the professor read from the slides, correct his mistakes, and not answer questions. He has told us on multiple occasions that if we go over the slides on our own, we will get the confusing material. Aren't we paying you to teach us? Instead of telling the class to learn on our own, why can't you take more time to explain things that are challenging? I feel like my tuition was wasted– I taught myself everything.
Graded very difficult. Be prepared to study extensively outside of required assignments
Don't take it. This course was the worst course I have ever taken at WashU.
I'm not sure how long Gavin will be teaching at WashU, but he has put together a great course on the political side of finance and is an expert in explaining the material. Highly recommend the course if available
Interesting content, the teacher was too fast and had bad slides that made it difficult to study from. you have to meet with him to learn anything and you can't figure out what he wants from you in an answer until after

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

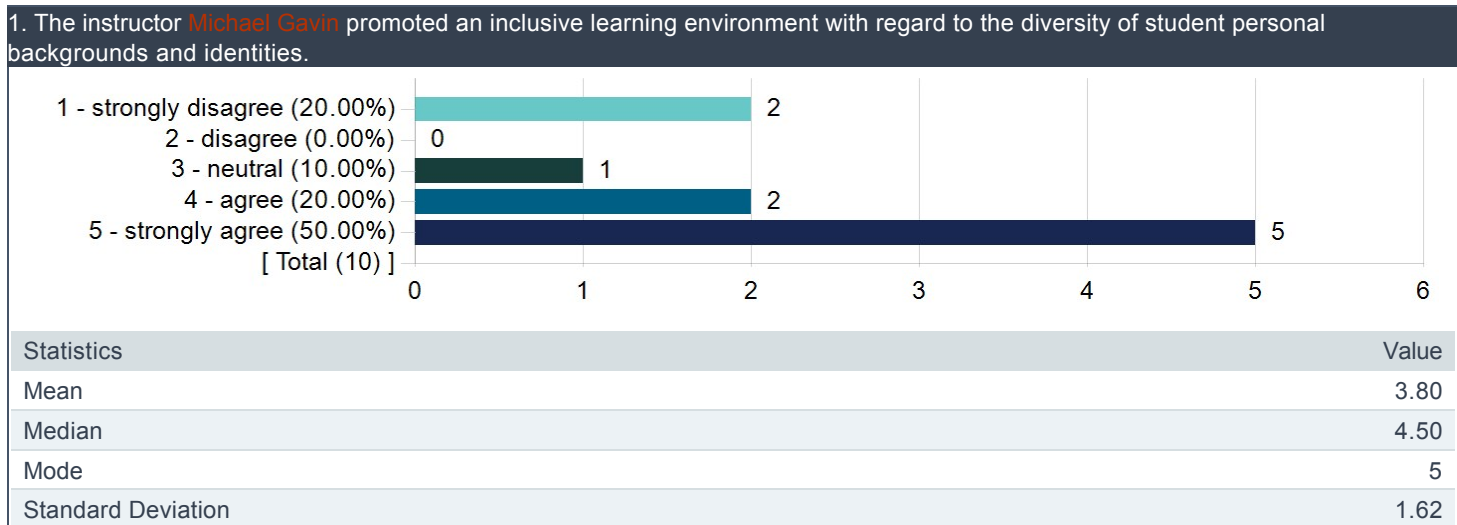
Comments
All of the slides were posted on line, facilitating easier review of material.
Professor Gavin's notes are easy to follow and take down.
Great lectures, great office hours
Going over the posted slides before the exams.
Slides on blackboard, but then again, why was it on blackboard? He's a new professor who should have used Canvas. Made no sense to begin the year with a new course on an obsolete website.
Gavin held office hours very often and was great at answering questions both in and outside of class.
studying with friends

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

Comments
Smaller homework assignments more often to help ingrain important concepts into my head
Professor Gavin could be a little more succinct in how he explains concepts, as many times he is thinking out loud in class while trying to explain things.
Honestly nothing, had a great time
Somehow make it more engaging. I know the material isn't necessarily the most exciting, but there needs to be a way to keep my attention. Instead of rushing through things, take the time to explain challenging concepts.
This course was horrible, and the fact that there were no mid semester evaluations made it even worse. I have never been in a more unenjoyable course. First, the professor has no idea what he's doing. His whole grading scale was in the Toronto style! That's how detached he was. He finally figured it out, but it made him look very stupid and not a part of the WashU community at all. The course itself is extremely boring— so much so that only about 25% of the students show up. I have learned nothing in this course and on the exams and assignments, just regurgitate the information that he has provided. It is an unenjoyable class. It is all lecture and provides no opportunity for discussion or questions or interaction with peers. It is him talking for 80 minutes straight. Not fun. Very boring. I would never take this course again. I actually feel like he'll be fired so there's no point in writing this. I am very disappointed in WashU for hiring this professor. The money my parents spent on my tuition was not worth it.
Possibly removing some material from presentations to avoid rushing through concepts.
a different teacher with BETTER SLIDES

Classroom Environment

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



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

Comments
He never interacted with students. The course was designed in such a way where no one asked questions or interacted at all. Sooooo boring and no one learned and not productive.

Personalized Questions

Was the course too technical at times? Not technical enough?

Comments
Just right in terms of technical/conceptual difficulty (which was pretty high in my opinion)
I believe the entire first half of the course was too technical. And then, assuming these concepts will remain pertinent on the final, they were not integrated well into the second half of the semester.
it was a good level
good balance of technical and not technical stuff. I think one thing that I always kind of struggled with was the impossible trinity, but I also feel like you explained that so many times so maybe not your fault haha
Yes. I have no background in econ so at times I felt like I was struggling to grasp concepts that were rushed and glossed over.
too technical
Too technical at some times (it is hard to gauge given varying backgrounds of students/education paths)
No.
Course was a bit too technical at the end with recent events, but overall not too technical coming from a poli sci major with a minimal finance background.
too theoretical

Which section of the course did you learn the most from? Concepts, theories, or historical?

Comments
Concepts
I learned the most from the theories section of the course, because this was the easiest to internalize. The concepts were blown through too quickly, and the history also could have used more time.
theories were nice to understand different schools of thought but historical provided the necessary context to understand broad concepts. each section complemented the others nicely
I definitely enjoyed the lat section, where we talked about various financial crises the most—I liked taking things we learned in pt. 1 and applying it to crises that I vaguely knew of and now understand much better
Historical.
Concepts
None. I learned nothing.
I learned the most from historical material, but also a lot from concepts. Poli sci theories were fairly familiar
the historical part – I think there needs to be more clearly the bridge between the theories and the historical part of it or at least guidance on how students should do it. i often felt lost

How were the lecture slides? Did they help you study?

Comments
They did help me study; I found them very useful
The lecture slides are good, and they do help with studying. While they can be streamlined, the lecture slides are the best study aid in the course.
Yes, they were easy to follow if I missed the lecture and were good study material for the exam.
Great slides, very helpful for studying
Yes. They were a bit wordy and the bullet points were paragraphs. But, they were my main study material.
They were beautiful; I liked them
Yes. They were great.
Lecture slides were great, especially for studying, but some lectures felt too stretched for time because there were too many slides in a day.
no they were not detailed enough and confusing to follow sometimes. also they should be posted before class not after