Social Sciences Course Evaluation for Kastart, Wynand POL SCI 149 LEC C (67315), Spring Qtr 2020

Responses: 20/27 (74.07%)

COURSE / INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

1. The instructor's ability to communicate clearly in this course was:
   - **0** 0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **0** 1 (Among Worst)
   - **0** 2
   - **2** 3
   - **6** 4 (OK or Average)
   - **1** 5
   - **5** 6
   - **6** 7 (Among Best)

2. The class preparation and organization was:
   - **0** 0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **0** 1 (Among Worst)
   - **0** 2
   - **3** 3
   - **3** 4 (OK or Average)
   - **4** 5
   - **4** 6
   - **6** 7 (Among Best)

3. The emphasis on understanding rather than memorization was:
   - **0** 0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **0** 1 (Among Worst)
   - **0** 2
   - **2** 3
   - **3** 4 (OK or Average)
   - **3** 5
   - **7** 6
   - **5** 7 (Among Best)

4. The instructor's ability to stimulate thinking and interest in the subject was:
   - **0** 0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **1** 1 (Among Worst)
   - **0** 2
   - **1** 3
   - **6** 4 (OK or Average)
   - **2** 5
   - **6** 6
   - **4** 7 (Among Best)

5. The match between stated course objectives and actual outcome was:
   - **0** 0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **0** 1 (Among Worst)
   - **1** 2
   - **0** 3
   - **5** 4 (OK or Average)
   - **5** 5
   - **3** 6
   - **6** 7 (Among Best)

6. The instructor's ability to express his/her knowledge and understanding of the course's concepts, theories and information was:
   - **0**   0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **0**   1 (Among Worst)
   - **0**   2
   - **0**   3
   - **4**   4 (OK or Average)
   - **3**   5
   - **6**   6
   - **7**   7 (Among Best)

7. The instructor's ability to teach content that I will remember after the final was:
   - **0**   0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **0**   1 (Among Worst)
   - **0**   2
   - **4**   3
   - **2**   4 (OK or Average)
   - **2**   5
   - **6**   6
   - **6**   7 (Among Best)

8. When requested, I received feedback on my work that was:
   - **3**   0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **0**   1 (Among Worst)
   - **0**   2
   - **1**   3
   - **2**   4 (OK or Average)
   - **3**   5
   - **5**   6
   - **6**   7 (Among Best)

9. The fairness of the grading criteria used by the instructor was:
   - **1**   0 (N/A or Unsure)
   - **1**   1 (Among Worst)
   - **0**   2
   - **2**   3
   - **4**   4 (OK or Average)
   - **2**   5
   - **4**   6
   - **6**   7 (Among Best)

10. *Using the above criteria, overall I would rate this instructor as:*
    - **0**   0 (N/A or Unsure)
    - **0**   1 (Among Worst)
    - **0**   2
    - **3**   3
    - **3**   4 (OK or Average)
    - **2**   5
    - **4**   6
    - **8**   7 (Among Best)

11. *Overall, the value of this course was:*

0   0 (N/A or Unsure)
0   1 (Among Worst)
0   2
2   3
5   4 (OK or Average)
2   5
5   6
5   7 (Among Best)

12. The usefulness/effectiveness of labs or discussion sections (if any) was:

    13   0 (N/A or Unsure)
    0   1 (Among Worst)
    0   2
    0   3
    3   4 (OK or Average)
    2   5
    2   6
    0   7 (Among Best)

13. The usefulness/effectiveness of the course readings was:

    0   0 (N/A or Unsure)
    0   1 (Among Worst)
    0   2
    1   3
    6   4 (OK or Average)
    7   5
    3   6
    3   7 (Among Best)

14. The usefulness/effectiveness of teaching assistants in this course was:

    15   0 (N/A or Unsure)
    0   1 (Among Worst)
    0   2
    0   3
    2   4 (OK or Average)
    1   5
    1   6
    1   7 (Among Best)

15. The usefulness of this course in developing skills for use in my career or future life was:

    2   0 (N/A or Unsure)
    0   1 (Among Worst)
    1   2
    1   3
    6   4 (OK or Average)
    5   5
    3   6
    2   7 (Among Best)

16. The instructor's enthusiasm and interest in the course and subject matter was:

0 0 (N/A or Unsure)
1 1 (Among Worst)
0 2
0 3
3 4 (OK or Average)
4 5
3 6
8 7 (Among Best)

17. The instructor's willingness to meet with and help students outside of the classroom was:
    5 0 (N/A or Unsure)
    0 1 (Among Worst)
    0 2
    1 3
    3 4 (OK or Average)
    3 5
    1 6
    7 7 (Among Best)

18. The instructor's ability to encourage discussion and debate of course topics was:
    4 0 (N/A or Unsure)
    1 1 (Among Worst)
    0 2
    2 3
    4 4 (OK or Average)
    1 5
    3 6
    5 7 (Among Best)

19. The course workload was:
    1 1 (Light)
    0 2
    4 3
    2 4
    9 5
    2 6
    2 7 (Heavy)

GENERAL INFORMATION

20. What is your major school?
    14 Social Sciences
    4 Other
    2 Unaffiliated/Undeclared

21. What is your class level?
    0 Freshman
    4 Sophomore
    10 Junior
    6 Senior
    0 Graduate

22. By the end of last quarter, how many units had you completed?
    0 0 to 20
    1 21 to 50
    5 51 to 100
    5 101 to 150
    9 Over 150

23. What is your approximate GPA?
    - **0** less than 2.0
    - **3** 2.0 to 2.5
    - **6** 2.51 to 3.0
    - **5** 3.01 to 3.5
    - **6** 3.51 to 4.0

24. What is your MOST IMPORTANT reason for taking this course?
    - **5** Interest in subject
    - **7** Need for major
    - **5** Relates to major
    - **1** Breadth requirement
    - **2** Need units

25. Did your instructor encourage you to complete the evaluation?
    - **20** Yes
    - **0** No

26. If applicable, is attendance in your discussion/lab section mandatory?
    - **3** Yes
    - **15** No

27. COMMENTS

    1. A. What were the strongest points of the course?
       - Clear points Easy to comprehend
       - Definitely very informative
       - Explained information well
       - Going in depth in explaining and breaking down difficult concepts in the course.
       - i loved the way professor organized his slides and he delivered the topic in a way to make students easily understand
       - It was made extremely accessible, flexible, and easy to take, give the circumstances that surrounded us with the pandemic.
       - Organization
       - Solely going on the name of the course, I didn't expect it to be theory-heavy. Since I know that I struggle with theories, I got a bit more apprehensive about the course and the weeks went along, and not doing so well on one of my assignments definitely knocked me back. But, being able to go back through the lecture slides and rewatching lecture videos were especially helpful. I also think that the professor really did his best, given the current circumstances.
       - Strongest points of the course is defiantly the professor. He does a great job during his lectures and sounds engaged in the topics which is helpful in keeping us engaged. He is clear on what he wants and is always open to help us. HIs response time for emails is also very fast and you can tell he cares about his class.
       - The course has been supplemented with terrific readings that were all very interesting and engaging. The assessment tasks were fair and I believe accurately reflect if the readings have not only been read, but also critically thought about. I am not a fan at all of online learning and watching recorded lectures (I had to out of necessity due to time zone differences), but the content and the enthusiasm of Wynand made watching the recorded lectures bearable. Also, Wynand is very open and generous in his time in responding to emails.
       - The instructor was very knowledgeable about the subject field. He presented very clear and detailed lectures that followed along very well with the assigned readings.

- The lectures were good supplements to the readings, made them more understandable. The professor encouraged students to ask questions during lectures and was available after them.
- The strongest points would have to be the lectures.
- 7 blank answer(s).

2. B. What were the weakest points of the course?

- Considering the current world situation, I think that the course didn't have weak points, it was clear from the beginning what was expected of the students.
- Constantly dwells on information instead of continuing to move forward, assignments were not explained very well
- Etiquette of the teacher is poor
- I think I lost out on having that in-person experience with this class.
- it is a bit heavy on reading.
- It was hard to grasp concepts within the course with so much going on
- N/a
- Online learning portions, it is difficult to have a discussion on a topic because of limitations of online learning.
- Sometimes hard to understand the instructor. Organization could use some help. Clarification is needed.
- So much material to cover, so little time.
- The reading load was a little heavy, but definitely still doable.
- Through no fault of the course, the weakest point of the course is the inability for me to network and connect with other students in the course. I also believe that the only way for someone to achieve an A+ in this class is through an optional extra research component to the course is not entirely fair. I am taking two of Wynand's classes this quarter and they both have the same requirement. Completing two research components would frankly be impossible, and something Wynand himself has recommended against.
- transition to remote learning
- Very boring lectures, not at all engaging, adds little to the powerpoint presentations. Makes it very difficult to stay interested in the class even though the course topic was why I was interested in taking this in the first place. Also offers the WORST extra credit opportunities... 1200 word summary EC for EACH assignment?? Might as well tell students you don't want us to do it. Many students are overwhelmed with other writing assignments, so while we don't expect freebie points, at least make them REASONABLE. Also the extra credit points you offer for the final EC is so ridiculous... there have been professors in more difficult courses and higher credentials who would not even imagine assigning such extra credit material. Props to the students who have the time to complete these extra credits, but man do you need to re-evaluate your expectations.
- Weakest points of the course I would say are the readings are very long and drawn out. Having to do 3 extremely long readings before a lecture can often times feel repetitive and its hard to retain the content of this information.
- 5 blank answer(s).

3. C. How could the course be improved?

- Following from my point about the difficulty in achieving an A+, I believe that if a student has completed the all parts of the course that are mandatory to an A+ standard, they should be able to achieve an A+ grade.
- i loved this course! keep doing what you're doing professor :)
- I would say just the readings could be cut down in order for the student to retain more of the readings.

- Keep the attendance policy for this course in future classes, even when in person class starts. This means that do not have mandatory or graded attendance. It just would make people think of you as uncompromising and strict, regardless of whether or not your intentions are in the right place. Keep the class structure to 3 mandatory assignments and a final. In this structure, each assignment will cover 2-3 weeks of individual material, and the final will also cover between 2-4 weeks of material, instead of being cumulative. Since this is a reading heavy course, I feel it would be best to space the class out a bit.
- Maybe attach a discussion section where students can discuss particular sub-topics of the course and be provided for more time of dialogue.
- more group discussions if possible
- N/A
- N/a
- Not much could be done, it is simply the online environment.
- One thing that has been helpful to me personally was that some of my classes had prerecorded lectures and the videos were several but short so that we could focus better. Then, to make sure we did the readings and understood them, we had weekly assignments, such as a response to the chapter, answering a question given, or biweekly reading quizzes. Because this class requires a lot of reading, this may be useful in the future.
- Professor can be more enthusiastic and be more empathetic towards students
- Relax with the unimaginably stringent structure of the course.
- To be quite honest, I think that the professor was quite generous in giving us a midterm study guide and compromising with us. I think it would be selfish(?) or irresponsible(?) for me to say that there is something major that I would want to be improved.
- Try summarizing your points clearly and concisely.
- 6 blank answer(s).