Social Sciences Course Evaluation for Kastart, Wynand POL SCI 159 LEC B (67450), Spring Qtr 2020

Responses: 16/16 (100%)

COURSE / INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

8. When requested, I received feedback on my work that was:

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

9. The fairness of the grading criteria used by the instructor was:

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

10. *Using the above criteria, overall I would rate this instructor as:*

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

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

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

12. The usefulness/effectiveness of labs or discussion sections (if any) was:
 9 0 (N/A or Unsure)
 1 1 (Among Worst)
 0 2
 1 3
 0 4 (OK or Average)
 3 5
 0 6
 2 7 (Among Best)

13. The usefulness/effectiveness of the course readings was:
 0 0 (N/A or Unsure)
 0 1 (Among Worst)
 1 2
 1 3
 2 4 (OK or Average)
 3 5
 4 6
 5 7 (Among Best)

14. The usefulness/effectiveness of teaching assistants in this course was:
 12 0 (N/A or Unsure)
 0 1 (Among Worst)
 0 2
 0 3
 0 4 (OK or Average)
 1 5
 1 6
 2 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)
 1 1 (Among Worst)
 1 2
 1 3
 1 4 (OK or Average)
 3 5
 3 6
 4 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)
    2   2
    1   3
    0   4 (OK or Average)
    3   5
    2   6
    7   7 (Among Best)

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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

20. What is your major school?
    12   Social Sciences
    3   Other
    1   Unaffiliated/Undeclared

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

22. By the end of last quarter, how many units had you completed?
    1   0 to 20
    2   21 to 50
    4   51 to 100
    6   101 to 150
    3   Over 150

23. What is your approximate GPA?
    - **0**   less than 2.0
    - **1**   2.0 to 2.5
    - **3**   2.51 to 3.0
    - **5**   3.01 to 3.5
    - **7**   3.51 to 4.0

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

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

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

27. COMMENTS

    1. A. What were the strongest points of the course?
       - Good and clear structure and consistency
       - he knew what he was talking about in subject mattter & the organization of the class was well done
       - I liked how the emphasis in the assignments was on understanding the material; they helped me better understand the readings. I also liked how the professor was enthusiastic about the course and I found it even more interesting because he was actually from an EU country, so he could add in details about how his country was impacted by EU decisions.
       - it is a challenging course the course toppings are relevant and interesting professor is extremely knowledgeable on the subject
       - Nothing. This was literally the worst class I've ever taken at UCI.
       - 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 organized lectures and slides.
       - The professor is very enthusiastic and works hard. His teaching is amazing. He prepares and organizes the class very well.
       - The professor is very knowledggabele. Moreover, he made very reasonable adjustments given the present global situation. Additionally, he also responded to my emails swiftly, his responses were thoughtful and considerate.
       - 7 blank answer(s).

    2. B. What were the weakest points of the course?
       - An extremely unengaging professor, did not create a course the reflected what I had signed up to learn. This was hardly a "politics of the EU course" and more of a history of state formation and confusing introduction to the construction of the EU itself. The readings were scattered, the lectures impossible to follow along and engage with, and the tests were more complex than the professor prepared us for.

- he is so boring that it's so hard to sit in class & listen, and he has no respect for his students and how we are feeling during all of during COVID and now with protests!!! He literally had class on memorial day WHICH IS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY like i deserve a break after all ive been through in my 4 years of college and its hard to get caught up ON THE MOST BORING CLASS IN THE UNIVERSE! and i am interested in politics and the European Union so it's not that i'm no interested in the subject matter so please i need to pass this class or else i will have a mental breakdown ALSO it feels as if his class is very readings based and not knowlege based at all, mainly memorization. I feel like when I do the assignments I answer based on what i critically think and he always marks me off or with a very low grade and its so dismotivating because i'm doing the best i can and answering to the best of my knowledge

- i feel the course would have been much more enjoyable in person but that is not the professor nor my fault.

- I found that during the lectures sometimes too much time was spent on answering students questions that weren't necessarily relevant to the material and in a 50 minute class it took up sometimes 15 minutes. This often caused the class to go much over the scheduled class time in the beginning of the quarter, although it didn't happen towards the end.

- No discussion forums.

- Sometimes hard to follow

- Sometimes he will exceed the class' regular time.

- The grading is badly designed.

- 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.

- 7 blank answer(s).

3. C. How could the course be improved?

- Engage with your students!! There are so many more ways to teach than blandly talking through 5 slides every class. I don't understand the European Union any more than I did prior to starting this class. You repeatedly stated how your course is different than most EU courses and I don't believe that is a good thing. This was an unfortunate waste of my time and money.

- 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.

- Greater space for discussion, perhaps by extending the length of the course in order to balance lectures and greater studious inquiry. This limitation is merely felt by the quarter system more than anything. Otherwise, given the time and the present circumstances, the class was close to perfect.

- I liked the idea of doing only three out of four of the assignments, but I felt that for each assignment it felt like there were almost too many questions, as each answer required about 200 words and it took a lot of time. The first three assignments and the midterm were almost due a week after each other which did not leave much time to prepare. Also, although it was said that students wanted more contact with the professor through the Zoom lectures, not many people showed up to each live lecture-I feel it was unnecessary on the remote learning platform to have three lectures a week, I think two would have been more manageable.

- maybe spend a bit more time explaining the assignments?

- Not sure

- Teach enough information in the class-time limit.
- The course could be more knowledge & critical thinking based instead of based on readings
- The questions assigned rely on both the readings assigned as well as our own opinions so long as they are backed. However, the professor chooses to debate a student's answer with his own opinion, where he ultimately gets the final say afterall. Where he doesn't agree, he'll deduct points in a harsh manner to the point where it damages a student's grade. I recommend not asking for people's opinions, where they back them up with facts, if you're just going to disregard everything the students say because you already have an answer. Just be more specific on what you're looking for.
- 7 blank answer(s).