



2017F Instructor Report for HOD 2700 05 - Public Policy (Christopher Marsicano)

Vanderbilt University Course and Teaching Evaluations

Project Audience 18
Responses Received 9
Response Ratio 50.0%

Report Comments

The following is a report for an individual section of a class. Please do not distribute, print, or share this report except for administrative purposes.

Project Audience - Total number of students enrolled

Responses Received - Number of evaluations submitted by students

Response Ratio - Percent of enrolled students who submitted evaluations

If you have any questions about the evaluation system please contact course.evaluations@vanderbilt.edu.

Prepared by Vanderbilt University Course and Teaching Evaluations

Creation Date Mon, Jan 01, 2018



Questions about the Instructor (**Christopher Marsicano**):

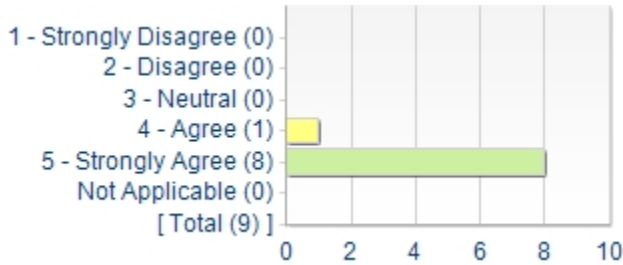
Question	This Class Section		Department (DLPO)		School (PBDY)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
The instructor helped me understand the core ideas and issues in this subject.	4.89	0.33	4.46	0.82	4.45	0.81
The instructor explained what was expected of me in the assignments and assessments for this course.	4.89	0.33	4.23	1.02	4.26	0.99
The instructor encouraged critical, original, or creative thinking.	5.00	0.00	4.48	0.84	4.46	0.84
The instructor demonstrated interest in students' learning.	5.00	0.00	4.62	0.72	4.61	0.72
The instructor used class time productively.	4.89	0.33	4.25	1.01	4.25	1.01
The instructor created a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment.	5.00	0.00	4.59	0.73	4.61	0.74
Overall, the instructor (Christopher Marsicano) was:	4.89	0.33	4.25	1.00	4.27	0.93

Questions about this Course (**HOD 2700 05**):

Question	This Class Section		Department (DLPO)		School (PBDY)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.	4.89	0.33	4.30	0.99	4.37	0.89
The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.	4.89	0.33	4.38	0.88	4.38	0.84
The feedback I received during the course was helpful.	5.00	0.00	4.02	1.12	4.14	1.02
I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.	5.00	0.00	4.48	0.83	4.41	0.86
This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.	5.00	0.00	4.45	0.86	4.48	0.81
Overall, the course (HOD 2700 05) was:	4.89	0.33	3.96	1.04	3.99	0.96
Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:	4.44	1.01	3.58	1.08	3.56	1.02
Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:	3.00	0.50	3.35	0.83	3.33	0.86

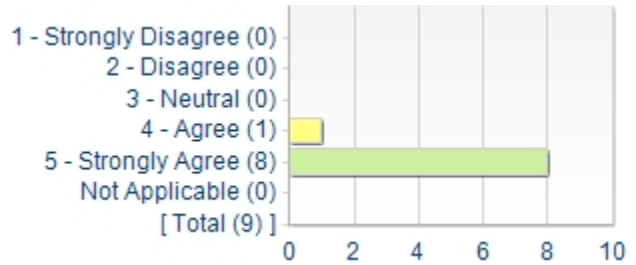
Please respond to the following questions about the instructor (Christopher Marsicano).

1. The instructor helped me understand the core ideas and issues in this subject.



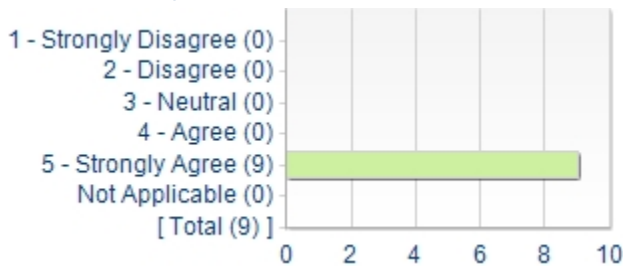
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.33

2. The instructor explained what was expected of me in the assignments and assessments for this course.



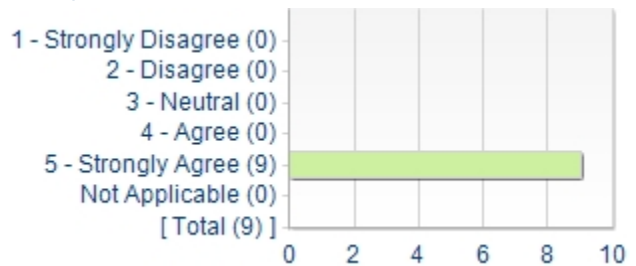
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.33

3. The instructor encouraged critical, original, or creative thinking.



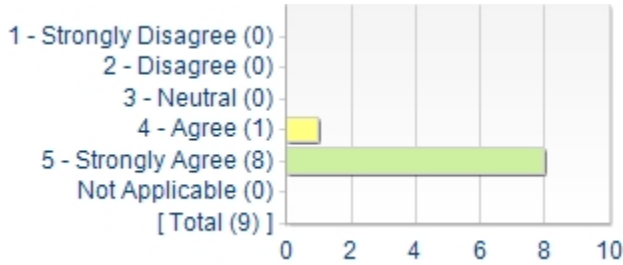
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

4. The instructor demonstrated interest in students' learning.



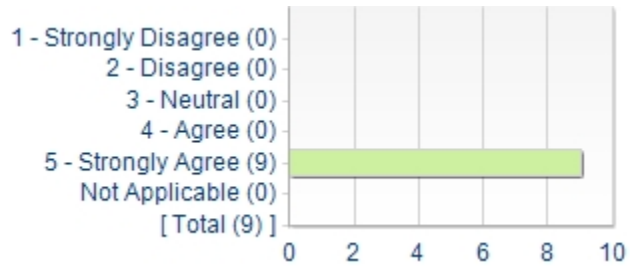
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

5. The instructor used class time productively.



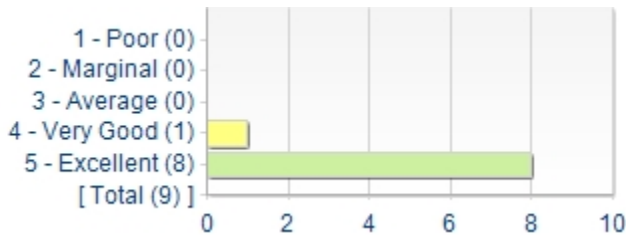
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.33

6. The instructor created a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

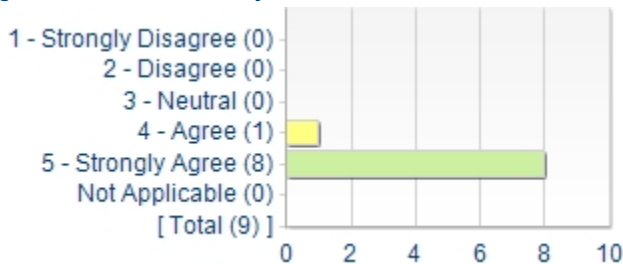
Overall, the instructor (**Christopher Marsicano**) was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.33

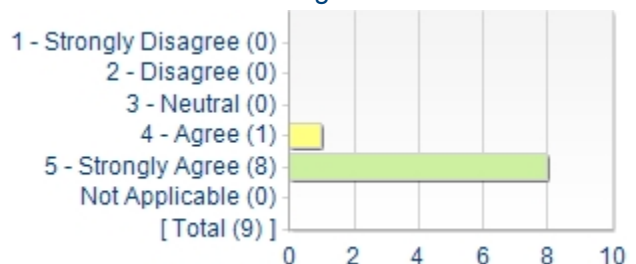
Questions About This Course (**HOD 2700 05**):

1. This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.



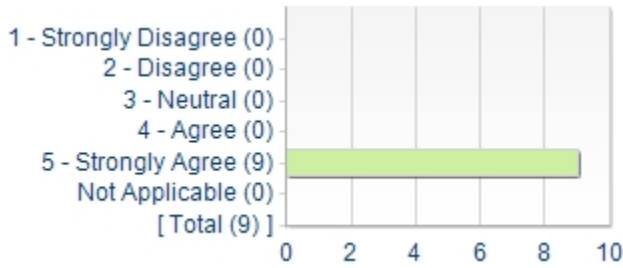
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.33

2. The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.



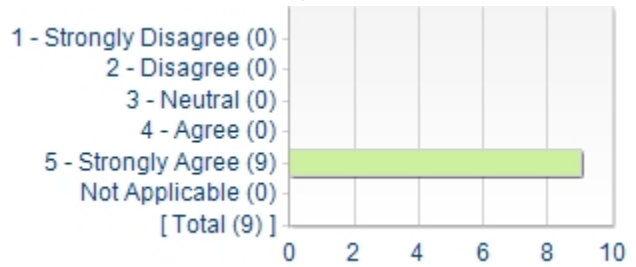
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.33

3. The feedback I received during the course was helpful.



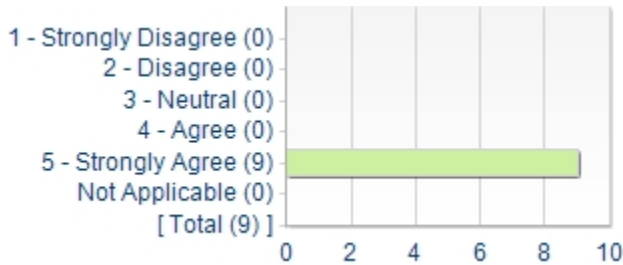
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

4. I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.



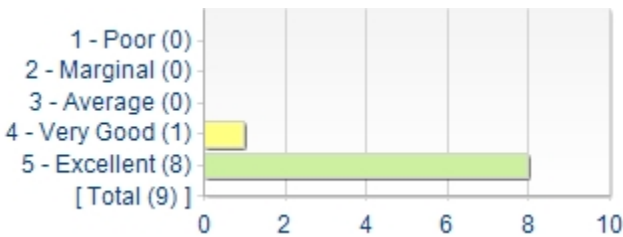
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

5. This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

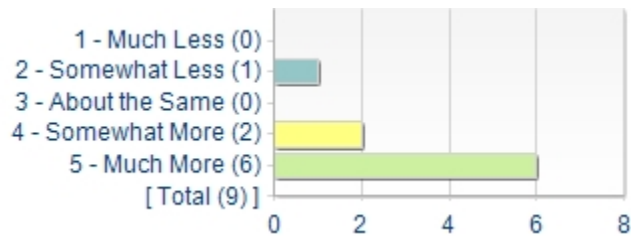
Overall the course was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.33

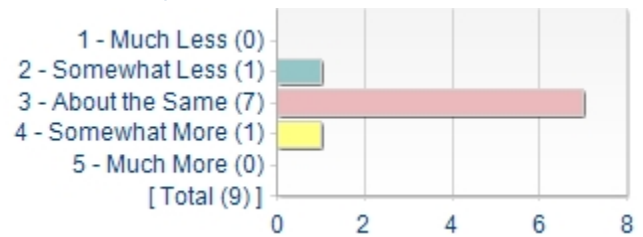
Questions About This Course (HOD 2700 05):

1. Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.44
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.01

2. Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.50

What elements of the course (HOD 2700 05) most contributed to your learning?

Comments

- memos
- 48 hour memo for Belfast
- Final client project

discussing current policy issues allowed me to apply the course material to a real life situation.

I loved how we talked about current events and policies that were applicable to issues we face as college students as well as young Americans. I learned so much more than I would have from another section of this course and I am so glad I had the opportunity to be your student. This was one of, if not my favorite course thus far.

I liked how the content of the course could change day to day if current events seemed particularly important.

Professor Marsicano just knows so much. He is easily one of the most intelligent and knowledgeable professors I've ever had and I appreciate him telling us everything he knew on the topics we covered, from the small facts he mentioned to the bigger themes we talked about.

I always felt that Professor Marsicano made himself as available as possible to students and had such a strong passion for teaching and learning and was extremely engaging as a lecturer. I appreciated Professor Marsicano bringing his own varied career experience into class and giving me a greater idea of what careers in public policy could be like. I enjoyed all of our exercises from admissions to minimum wage, very real, applicable topics.

The style of the course - love the hands on experience i could put on my resume

The cold calling initially scared me, but it motivated all students to read the course material and to come to class prepared for discussion. He encouraged a very open environment regarding discussions. If there was a current event in public policy, he would direct the class content for that day to discuss that policy event because he felt it was important for us to know about it. He opened my eyes to the field of public policy and made content that is definitely dry fun, relatable, and enjoyable. I feel that any individual that can teach dry material in a way that makes it interesting for their students a superior professor. He also did not take any political biases when discussing policy, which I think the entire class appreciated as we felt we could discuss a certain policy on all ends of the political spectrum. If someone were to argue something super liberal, he would ask the class to try and challenge it. The same goes if someone said something very conservative. This contributed to a very open, creative, and mindful discussion every class.

Learning how to write a brief, coherent memo is an important skill that the class did a great job teaching! While the final client project was less helpful for me, my understanding is that for many other students it reflects what they'll be expected to do in the future and was a helpful project. Overall I liked the class a lot! While all the subject matter days were good, education policy was the best.

Professor Marsicano was definitely the most engaging, passionate teacher i have had at vanderbilt. his pure excitement was amazing. i also think his willingness to not really use a textbook but rather online articles and videos helped me learn. i also really appreciated his transparency and flexibility, especially when scrapping a lesson plan to spend a whole class talking about current policy events, explaining the tax deal, and other major issues that other teachers tend to shy away from

I think the way Professor Marsicano runs his class is a tremendous factor into the efficient and welcoming learning experience I received this semester. The combination of relating class concepts and readings to discussions about real life current events allows us to expand our knowledge while applying it to real events as we learn.

What improvements to the course (HOD 2700 05) would you recommend?

Comments
none
I would recommend starting the final project at the end of the semester rather than half-way through.
This isn't necessarily an improvement I fully believe in. Part of me wishes the class had more of an arc in content. As in, the content would follow some sort of progression as the class went on but I also really enjoyed the structure of the class we had as aforementioned, so I'm 50/50 on this comment.
Also I wish we were given our assignments back earlier to read feedback before writing our next assignment.
Another point that may be hard to change: I really enjoyed debriefing current events in class and forgoing the content scheduled on the syllabus. However, I wish there was a way for Professor Marsicano to let students know that he may change his plans prior to class, so that I can better time my studying/homework. While the readings were definitely interesting, there were quite a few that I read and then needed class time/discussion to understand and debrief but never had.
Learning based on class interest and more current event work
The only thing I can think of is to teach us how to format long memos!
I didn't really think the Peters textbook added much to the class. I would prefer to either not use it at all, or
I would consider restructuring the layout of when the individual memos and final project are due.
No improvements . Professor Marsicano runs an excellent course.

Do you have any other comments?

Comments
My favorite class I have taken here at Vandy.
Thanks for a great semester! I hope you teach again soon.
This is one of the best classes I took at Vanderbilt. The class went by so quickly because we we're always having such interesting and engaging conversation. I would always go home to my friends and tell them everything I learned.
Loved your class going to miss not going to it every week
Professor Marsicano was absolutely my favorite professor this semester and public policy was my favorite class this semester. Prof. Marsicano actually is my favorite professor I have had at Vanderbilt, and he is just a PhD candidate! This goes to show how successful he will be should he ever teach full time. He is impressive both in and out of the classroom with years of experience well beyond his age. I plan on keeping in touch with him closely as he has made me consider practicing public policy as a possible career. I cannot stress enough what an amazing individual and professor that Marsicano was. Truly a standout gentleman that has already gone and will continue to go so far in his endeavors.
Thanks for an awesome semester
Professor Marsicano's Public Policy class has inspired me To pursue a career in the public policy/governmental industry. His use of using expertise and knowledge to relate class readings to what we see on the news today is the most efficient and engaging method of teaching I have been a part of.