



## GOV 200 Lecture 01 - Scott LaCombe S22

Project Title: **Course Feedback Questionnaire Spring 2022**

Courses Audience: **33**

Responses Received: **26**

Response Ratio: **79%**

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Creation Date: **Wednesday, July 13, 2022**

## Reflection

**Q 1: What would you say are the top two or three things (ideas, skills, perspectives, etc.) you personally gained from this course?**

Comments
critical thinking skills, writing skills, and understanding of American government
comprehensive writing in a specific style, new terms about government, more clear ideas about how systems of government work
More knowledge of American politics and more concise writing abilities
American history, political history, political understanding
I feel I know a lot more about American Government now than I did at the beginning of the semester.
I gained a lot of knowledge about the US Political System as well as how democracies differ around the world. Additionally, I learned a lot of legal jargon which helps me understand what is going on better if I am watching a court case or the legislature debate.
There is no one right or wrong answer to American government questions. The U.S. is becoming increasingly more polarized. I have also learned how to write concise papers structured in a scholarly way.
How to better understand the government of the society around me, which encourages my political participation. How to read statistical journal articles, and how our American systems work and serve the people.
I learnt how American politics work, such as the meaning of liberty and democracy, and the political culture in the US (individualism...) and how these things make the US different from my home country.
Comparing the US and its institutions to other countries, approaching government in a more stats driven way
A broad overview of American Gov including many aspects such as congress, gerrymandering, presidential powers, founding principles, and more.
1) I learned about the foundations of U.S government and how politics work 2) I learned that the U.S political parties are extremely polarized which leads to a lot of additional conflict within politics.
– fundamentals of our government (checks and balances, power dynamics, etc.) – how does the public interact/respond to the government
Breakdown of American government, definitely learned more about things like gerrymandering and packing the courts
The foundational structures of American government (three branches, constitutional legitimacy, political parties, etc.) How politics in America influence the public and vice versa Tensions in American government and politics, ways in which we can evaluate and think about changing it for the better
Some top things I gained from this course were the prospectives of minorities through our Moodle readings and the skills of looking at the government from a essentially neutral stance when it comes to things like the Supreme Court or Congress and the issues that surround them.
Viewing American politics through a quantitative lens—so much of American politics is polarized because it is solely ideas
Concision on Papers—definitely improved getting my ideas across faster and more to the point
This course really helped me with learning how to write good concise government papers. I know the syllabus was designed so that we wouldn't have to do them all back to back, but I actually found having to write a fairly low stakes, short paper with clear expectations every week for five weeks in a row very helpful. It definitely made me a lot more comfortable with writing papers for gov classes
A skill I gained from this course is writing quick argumentative papers, it used to take me several hours to write the papers we have in class and now I can do it under two hours. I also think I have a much deeper understanding of US government then I had before which is the main goal of the class.
A greater ability to understand and analysis complex political data/research. A general better understanding of American politics from a historical point in time to modern day, and the ability to connect key concepts throughout time.
How to think critically about topics we're learning, being more involved in classes, and how to write better papers in terms of organization and thesis.
1. I learned how to accurately and concisely relay ideas in both my writing and in class discussion. The importance of being clear was really emphasized in this class, and I feel like I can argue and support my own ideas so much better.
2. I learned how complex and multi-faceted American society really is. Even after living here my whole life, I never realized how deeply integrated different political and societal aspects are. This introduced a whole new passion to me, and opened the doors for me to intern in American politics this summer.
How to strongly structure my writing, Foundations of American politics, and how to connect and apply U.S. History to domestic politics and current events.

## Comments

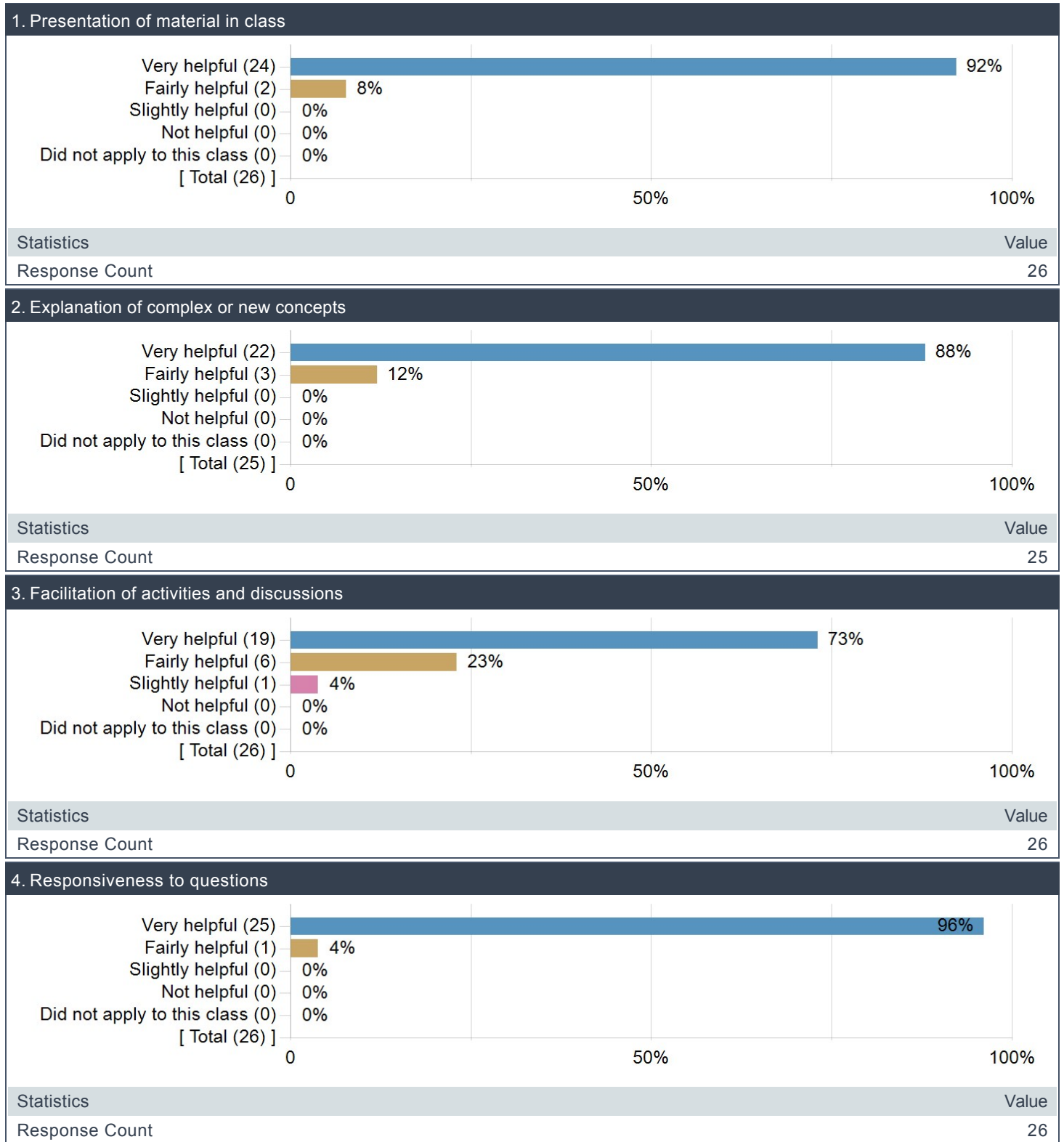
Academic writing skills for political science, comparative perspective that contributed to understanding of core concepts, how to think about institutions and institutional reforms.

I learned way more about American Government than I initially anticipated at the beginning of Spring! From presidency and justices to dabbling foreign policy, I learned so much!

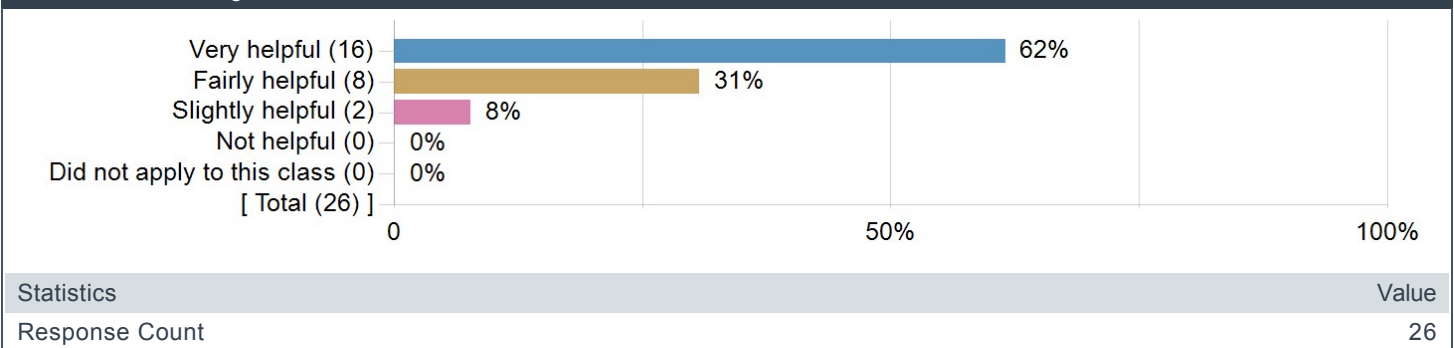
I learned a better understanding of the judicial system, the branches of government and their roles/importance, and how our government works to implement policy/serve the people.

## Teaching Methods

Q 2.1: Please indicate how helpful my teaching methods were in furthering your own learning in this course



## 5. Feedback on assignments and work

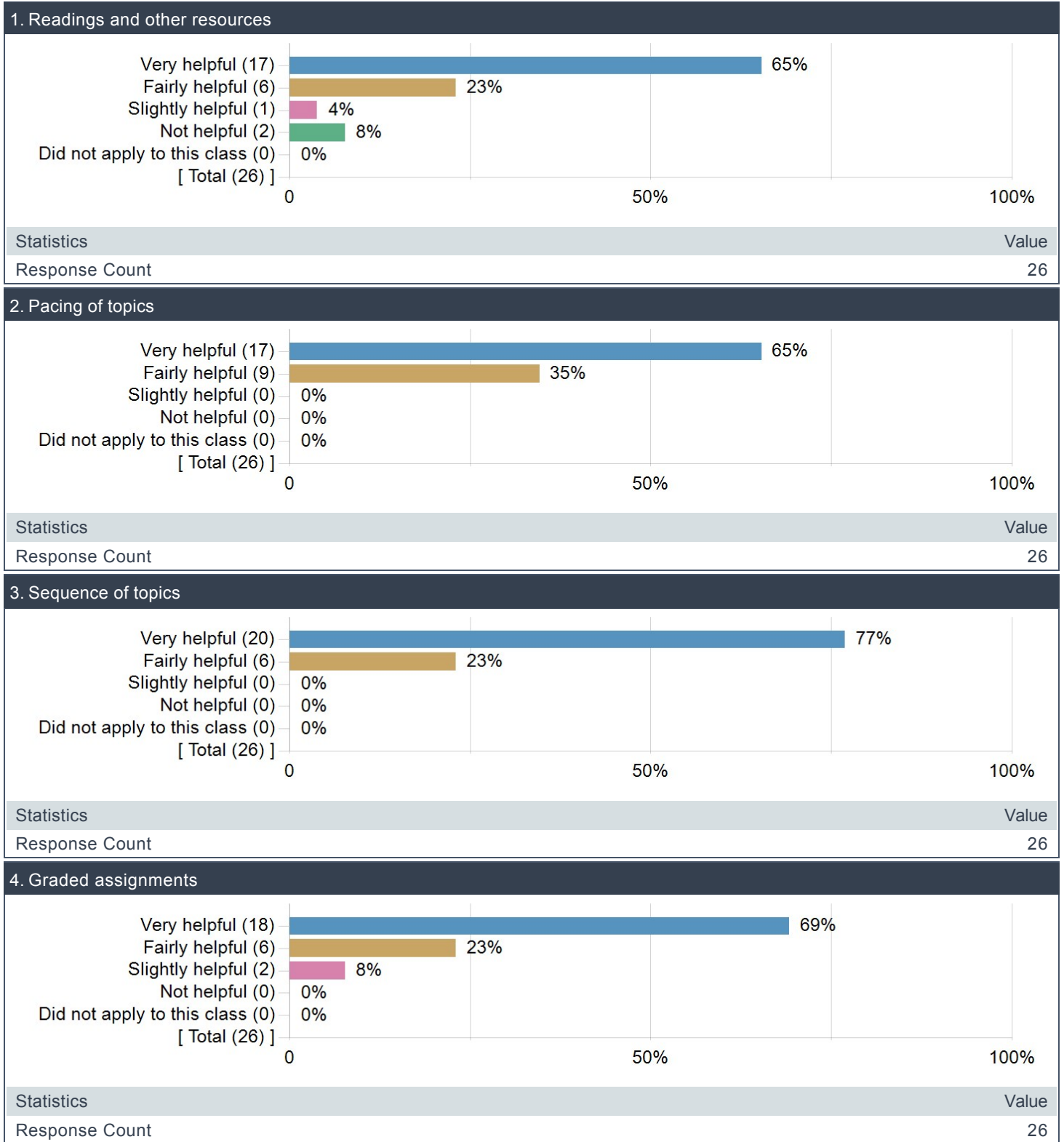


## Q 2.2: Please elaborate on any of your responses above and/or tell me anything else that you want me to know about my teaching methods.

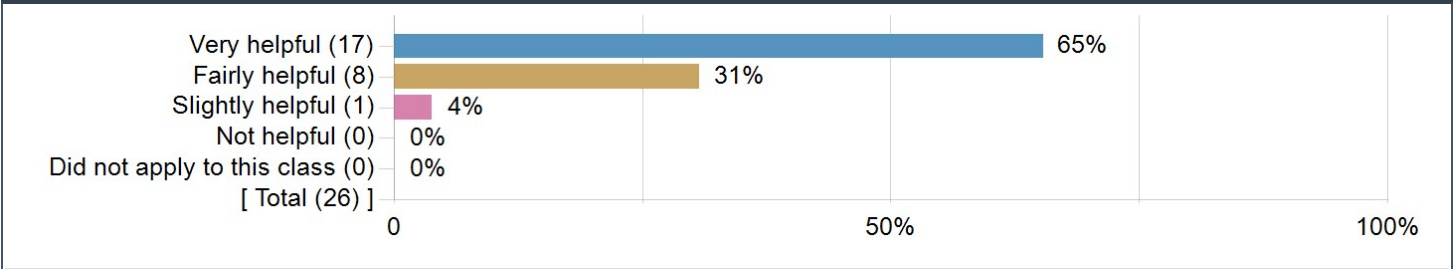
Comments
Sometimes I was a little confused by feedback on assignments or the feedback felt too vague to take action on
I thought that the way ideas were presented in class was really engaging and I liked the way ideas were portrayed in a very dynamic way
You are an engaging lecturer and I enjoyed your poll surveys.
I thought this course was very straightforward and intellectually rewarding. No complaints
you do a really good job of answering questions
I like your lecture! They are easy to follow and you are always so patient to every of my (stupid) questions.
I really liked the slack responses; they usually helped me with my reaction papers and understanding of class material. I also think you explain concepts very clearly and appreciate the thoroughness of your answers to questions.
Always so thoughtful and understanding, Professor LaCombe is always so organized and transparent. Students know what to expect for class coming in and what the semester will look like
Everything from feedback on reaction papers to the lectures you gave, it was very clear and well done and the discussions in class were also very informative and helpful when it came to engaging with the readings and other material on Moodle.
The feedback on my papers was always helpful and something I looked out for in the next reaction paper—I think it was so helpful because there were a decent amount of reflections, so I could just improve the next one using the feedback from the old one.
I wasn't a huge fan of the way discussions were run, though I get the benefits of having them. But I do want to say I was always really impressed whenever someone asked a question in class and Professor Lacombe almost always had not only an answer, but an apt example that helped explain a concept even further, even when the question was only tangentially related to what we were discussing. I also really liked the follow up on Slack whenever there was a source mentioned in class.
I think you did a great job through out the semester, you always answered questions throughly in a way that was easy to understand, I don't I ever needed any clarification on how you answered anything. Your feedback on assignments always made sense and it was easy for me to look back on previous feedback to improve on my next assignments. If you gave me anything lower than an A, it always felt justified because you explained exactly where I took a misstep and how I can approve in the future.
I loved how you structured class lectures and discussion it was very helpful and I felt I learned a lot from it. Also your lectures were very engaging.
This class was so organized and I really valued and appreciated the feedback I got on all of my work. Professor LaCombe was very welcoming and made complex information so much more accessible.
I really appreciated the detailed feedback on every assignment including the reaction papers – I feel like it was really beneficial to me improving my writing every assignment I did.
Lectures go really well with the slides and make it necessary to come to class. Repeating definitions is very helpful, and the videos do add to learning and make class more interesting. Feedback, especially with the first two papers was very helpful. Slack was a good way to communicate with the class so important information could be shared with everyone.
Professor LaCombe gives AMAZING feedback. If you need a question answered, he will respond on slack within the same hour (often way sooner). If you need something rephrased, he will never hesitate to help and rephrase it. He is responsive to questions in class and is amazing at explaining complex ideas thoroughly.
Professor LaCombe explains things thoroughly, answers questions with clear explanations, gives descriptive feedback, and facilitates discussions in a way that is beneficial to my learning.

## Course Structure and Format

Q 3.1: Please indicate how helpful the following structural aspects of the course were in furthering your learning:



### 5. Activities and discussions



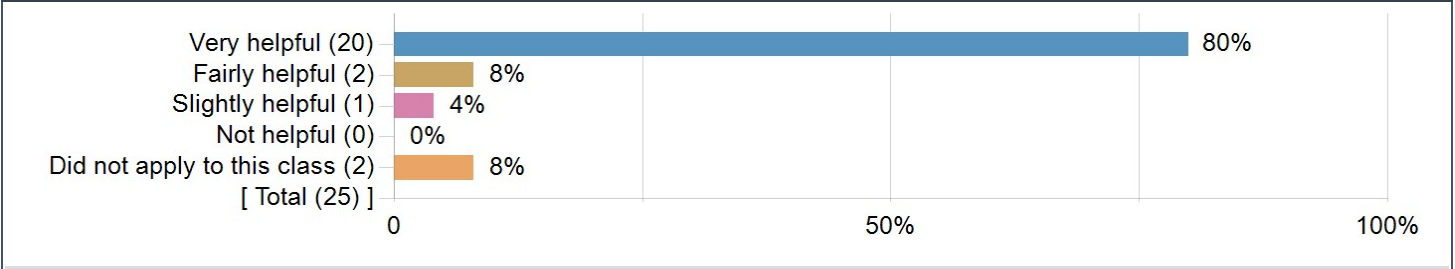
Statistics

Value

Response Count

26

### 6. Availability outside of class



Statistics

Value

Response Count

25

**Q 3.2: Please elaborate on any of your responses above and/or tell me anything else that you want me to know about this course's structure and format.**

Comments
I really liked most of the supplementary/outside readings included, but the American Difference chapters often felt boring and a little surface level. I know there's a need to fill in various knowledge gaps for students, but I wish there was a greater variety of sources for many of the topics.
I appreciated the consistency of the structure and format of this course.
Professor Lacombe makes himself very available to students and has a clear and concise teaching plan. However, I felt like I was able to get all of the information I needed for tests through his lectures, and did not have to review my readings at all.
the in class summaries of the readings were especially helpful
I think everything work well!
I liked it when we read "real" political science articles to give a taste of the real world
I thought the exams and response papers were directly relevant to course material and helped me solidify my own knowledge. Big fan of take-home exams for this class.
I found there to be nothing special about the pacing of the topics. Sometimes I found it fast but i was always manageable but overall not extremely helpful for my learning. I enjoyed the readings because they gave me a good foundation of knowledge for each unit. I liked the discussions because I learned a lot from other students and what they had to share. For graded assignments I found the response papers to be helpful but I did not really find the exams to be helpful. I guess with the exams I was able to showcase my knowledge but I do not think they furthered my learning.
Some readings were really dense, maybe it would be nice to have a guiding question or something.
Towards the end of the semester we tried to cover really big topics in a short amount of time which is just how it goes, but I wish those last weeks could have been devoted to other topics that were more central to the foundation and structure of politics
There is easy access to help outside of class from office hours or just a quick email, and the way that all the lectures flowed and all connected to one another was very helpful. The pacing was good since it all connected to one another and tracked back into other lectures.
Sometimes I thought the course was a little fast, but I also knew I could always go back and look at anything I missed in the lecture with the recording or powerpoint. Discussions were helpful because I got to see my peers perspectives, but by the end could sometimes feel a little redundant in the last minute or two.
something I really liked about this class was that, as opposed to a lot of other gov classes where you have two or three big papers and that's it, there were a lot more frequent and lower stakes opportunities to get a check in on how you were doing and following along. That kind of structure, in my opinion, really helps a student feel like they're getting a lot out of a class without it being too much pressure.
You're very fast at responding to emails and give us multiple ways to communicate to you.
A lot of the reading material from American Difference felt very dense and confusing, and we didn't cover that material as much in class. It didn't affect my understanding of the lecture material negatively, but since it could've been applied to reading responses I think it would've been worth going over in more depth
The pace was great and I felt you covered a lot.
I never felt isolated in this class-- if I needed help, I knew it was available to me.
Professor LaCombe makes himself very available outside of class. He is welcoming to those needing time in office hours, and enjoys discussing anything you may need help with. The readings were always available on Moodle, and the reaction papers were posted with tons of time in advance.



## Motivation and Learning Efforts

### Q 4.1: Why did you take this course?

#### Interested in the topic

%	Count
77%	20

#### Interested in taking a class with this instructor

%	Count
46%	12

#### Heard good things about this course

%	Count
15%	4

#### Wanted to challenge yourself to expand your horizons

%	Count
15%	4

#### Needed the course for your major, minor, concentration, professional school, etc.

%	Count
81%	21

#### Wanted to fulfill a Latin Honors requirement

%	Count
0%	0

#### Other (Needed the credit, for the research experience, time was convenient...)

%	Count
0%	0

**Q 4.2 What general learning strategies or study methods did you find most useful in this course?**

**Doing class assignments (reading, etc.)**

%	Count
100%	26

**Engaging actively in class discussions and activities**

%	Count
85%	22

**Going to faculty office hours and/or optional help sessions**

%	Count
42%	11

**Studying with peers outside class**

%	Count
8%	2

**Asking for feedback on work-in-progress before the deadline**

%	Count
23%	6

**TAs/Tutors**

%	Count
0%	0

**Labs/Research**

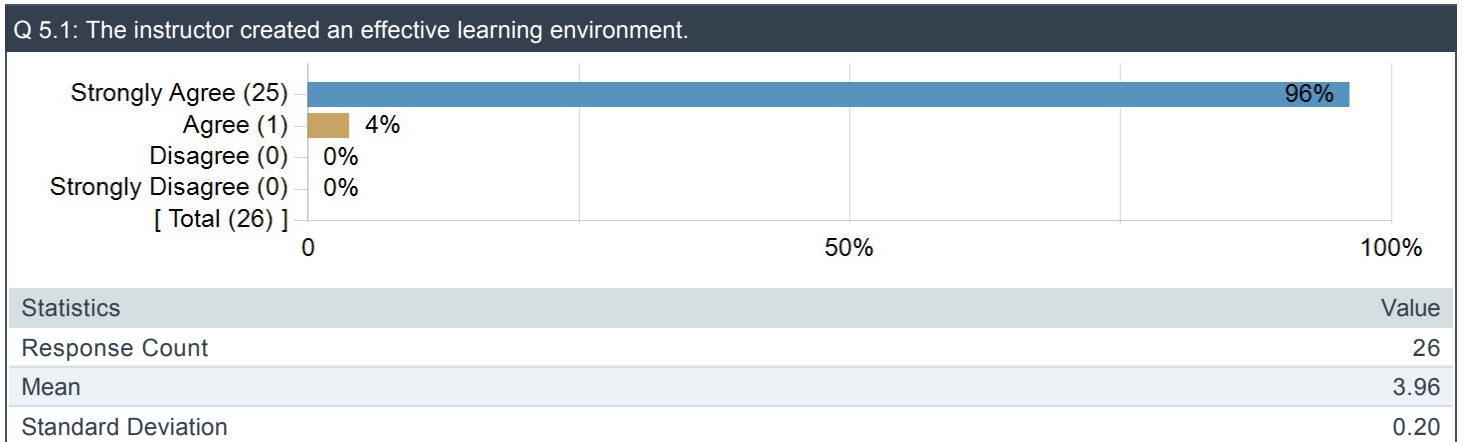
%	Count
0%	0

**Other**

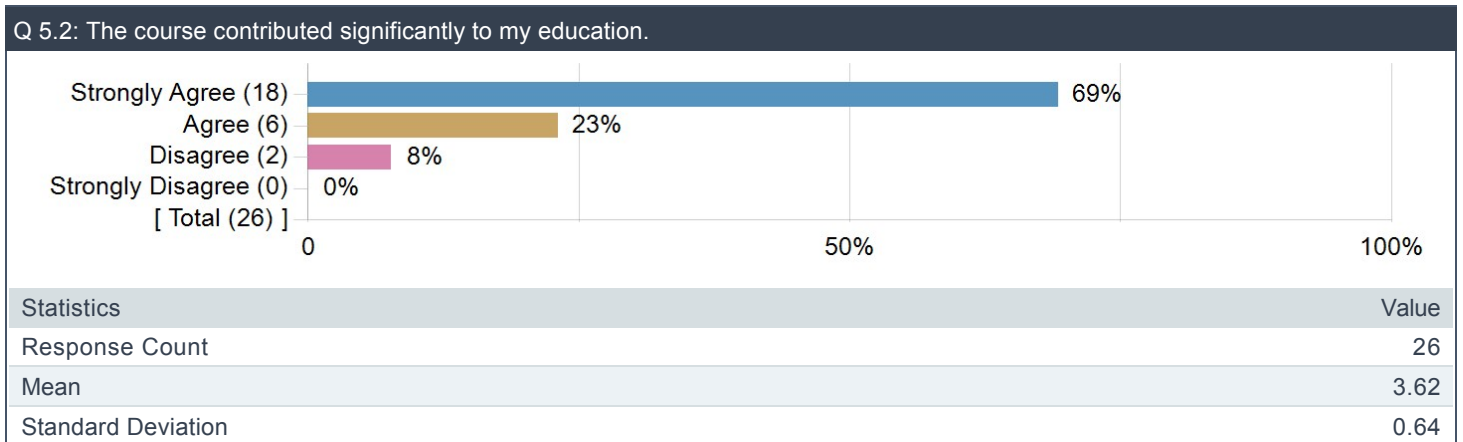
%	Count
0%	0

## Effective Learning and Contribution to Education

### Q 5.1: The instructor created an effective learning environment.



### Q 5.2: The course contributed significantly to my education.



### Comparison Q 5.1: The instructor created an effective learning environment.

Mean	Resp	Dept Average	Dept Response	College Average	College Response
3.96	26	3.76	219	3.65	6741

### Comparison Q 5.2: The course contributed significantly to my education.

Mean	Resp	Dept Average	Dept Response	College Average	College Response
3.62	26	3.62	221	3.56	6782

## Comments for Sharing with Other Students and Me

**Q 7: What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future? What strategies would you recommend to future students to make the most out of this class?**

Comments
Do a lot of the early reaction papers so that you can get feedback and improve your grade. Also participate in class and be active on slack because that will help your grade.
Do your reaction papers as early as possible and makes your life easier in this class and others.
Participation in class makes it more interesting, the professor is very knowledgeable and engaging
This course gives you a basic and fundamental base of knowledge of American Government. It is a useful and interesting course and you will begin to understand the political system of the country. I highly recommend. I recommend finding a classmate who is comfortable in dividing the readings and sharing notes, it's a huge help.
This class is informative and has relatively low stakes. Professor Lacombe is very friendly and approachable. If American Government is your jam, this feels like a great crash course because it stays broad while making you feel like you're getting into the nitty gritty. It is also a really good history course if you like American History.
really good professor, definitely take if interested in government
This is a really interesting course that will make you want to participate more in your government and become a better political citizen. Take it if you're interested in how our government functions and how this ties in to current events.
If you are an international student, take this class. This class will teach you a lot about America and will probably help you explain things around you that you might find different in your home country!
Do the readings and ask questions
I personally didn't use the slides to take notes. Instead, I just listened to what Professor Lacombe lectured about and wrote that down, which was very helpful.
Know that the writing load is going to be high. I feel like there were too many reaction papers throughout the course of the semester, and you need to plan your time to get all of them done because they take a while. Participation is also really important but don't be afraid to use the slack option.
OMG I cannot say enough good things about Professor LaCombe! Seriously one of the best professors in the GOV department, I wish every professor was just as organized and engaging as him, he is great! Doing the assignments is the most important thing, but also taking really good notes helps you in the long run with exams. Come to class ready to participate and don't be afraid to ask questions
Take this class! It is very informative, a safe learning environment, very supportive, and one strategy I would say is take lots of notes and use office hours as a resource.
Go to office hours to discuss reaction paper outlines, it proves to be very helpful especially on ones you're not super confident about. Take good notes off the powerpoint, and ask questions!!
I highly recommend this class. The assignments are consistent and manageable. The prof explains how to be successful in the class within the first week of school, and I highly recommend listening to what he has to say regarding that. I recommend not waiting until the end of the semester to do your reaction papers, try to get as much done before spring break. He is a really fast and fair grader and he is my only prof that actually has my grades updated in Moodle. His class is overall very engaging and it's easy to tell how much he knows about this subject.
You're a great teacher and I liked taking your class this semester.
Even though this class seems broad and like an introductory course to American politics, it will take a substantial amount of your time and effort. You will need to manage your time well. But, if you do the readings and stay engaged in class, you will gain so much insight and become excited about the material. It's hard to enjoy this class if you're behind, so stay ahead, and it can be so interesting and fun! At the beginning of the semester, Professor LaCombe advised that we section out time during the week to work on this class's work, specifically. That really helped me manage the coursework without feeling overwhelmed.
The readings are important, but most importantly go to class. Professor LaCombe will emphasize exactly what you need to know for the exam. Take active notes in class and definitely do the additional non-textbook readings per week.
As a professor, Professor LaCombe is very professional and accomodating to those who need help. As a person, he's caring and genuinely wants to see his students succeed. I would definitely recommend this class, as I've learned more about American politics and policy than ever before, and as a Gov major I appreciate his knowledge and real life experiences.
Definitely worth taking! Read the textbook/readings in order to be prepared for exams and get the most out of class discussions. Go to office hours if you need to! A really interesting class to take.