



University of Connecticut

Student Evaluation of Teaching Fall 2014

Individual Report for PP-5340-H01-HRTFD- Introduction to Public Policy

Instructor: **Douglas Spencer** (SET Primary Instructor)

Response Table

Fall 2014 Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET)	
Raters	Students
Responded	17
Invited	17
Response Ratio	100%

Section 1. Summary

Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.

Question	Course	Department	School
	Median	Median	Median
The instructor presented the course material clearly.	5.0	4.7	4.5
The instructor was well prepared for class.	5.0	4.8	4.6
The instructor responded to questions adequately.	5.0	4.7	4.6
The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.	5.0	4.5	4.6
The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.	5.0	4.8	4.7
The instructor gave clear assignments.	5.0	4.5	4.5
The instructor was accessible to students.	5.0	4.8	4.7
The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.	5.0	4.6	4.5
The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.	5.0	4.9	4.5
The instructor used class time effectively.	5.0	4.8	4.5
The instructor treated all students with respect.	5.0	4.8	4.8
The instructor graded fairly.	5.0	4.7	4.7
The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.	5.0	4.6	4.5

What is your overall rating of Douglas Spencer's teaching?

Question	Course	Department	School
	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	5.0	4.4	4.2

Please respond to the following question about the course.

Question	Course	Department	School
	Median	Median	Median
The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.	5.0	4.6	4.5
The course content was well organized.	5.0	4.6	4.5
The course objectives were clear.	5.0	4.7	4.6
The course objectives were met.	5.0	4.6	4.5
The textbook made a valuable contribution.	5.0	4.1	4.3
The other course materials made a valuable contribution.	5.0	4.5	4.5
The pace of the course seemed appropriate.	5.0	4.4	4.4

What is your overall rating of the course?

Question	Course	Department	School
	Median	Median	Median
What is your overall rating of the course?	5.0	3.9	4.0

Section 2. Student Information

What is your Academic Level?

Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0%
Sophomore	0	0%
Junior	0	0%
Senior	3	18%
Graduate	13	76%
Other	1	6%

What is your expected grade in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
A	12	71%
B	5	29%
C	0	0%
D	0	0%
F	0	0%
Pass	0	0%
Fail	0	0%
Other	0	0%

What is your cumulative average (GPA)?

Options	Count	Percentage
3.5 and above	4	44%
3.0-3.4	5	56%
2.5-2.9	0	0%
2.0-2.4	0	0%
< 2.0	0	0%

How many times did you miss this class?

Options	Count	Percentage
0-2	16	94%
3-4	1	6%
5-6	0	0%
> 6	0	0%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

On average, how many hours a week did you spend outside of class preparing for this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
0	0	0%
1-3	12	71%
4-6	3	18%
7-9	2	12%
10-14	0	0%
15+	0	0%

Which best describes this course for you?

Options	Count	Percentage
Requirement for my major	14	82%
General Education Requirement	1	6%
Other Requirement	2	12%
Elective	0	0%
Elective for major	0	0%

My desire to take this course was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	4	24%
More than most courses	4	24%
About the same as most courses	9	53%
Less than most courses	0	0%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

For me, the level of difficulty of the course content was:

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	0	0%
More than most courses	0	0%
About the same as most courses	11	65%
Less than most courses	5	29%
Much less than most courses	1	6%

Section 2. Student Information (continued)

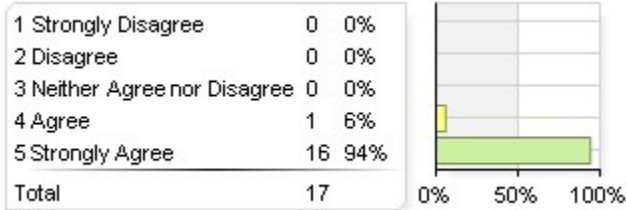
Overall, how much do you feel you've learned in this course?

Options	Count	Percentage
Much more than most courses	4	24%
More than most courses	8	47%
About the same as most courses	5	29%
Less than most courses	0	0%
Much less than most courses	0	0%

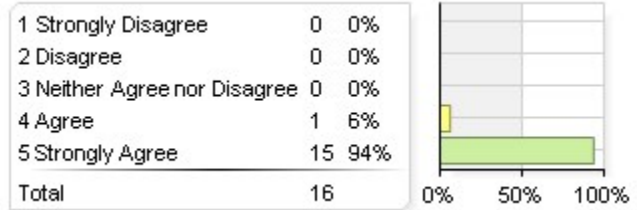
Section 3. Questions About the Instructor

Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.

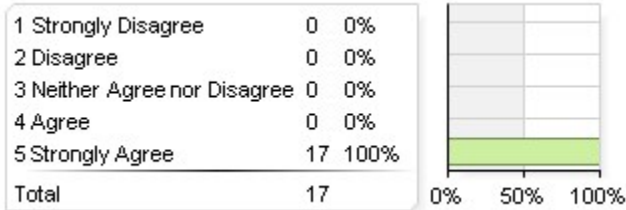
1. The instructor presented the course material clearly.



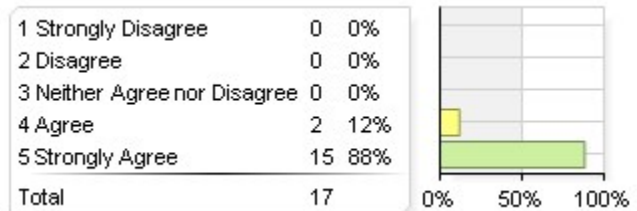
2. The instructor was well prepared for class.



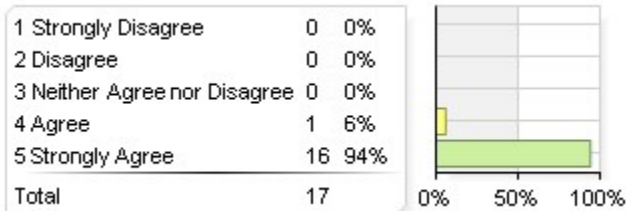
3. The instructor responded to questions adequately.



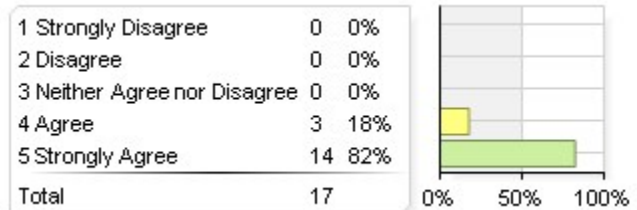
4. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject.



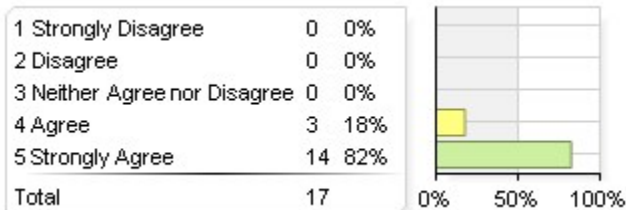
5. The instructor showed interest in helping students learn.



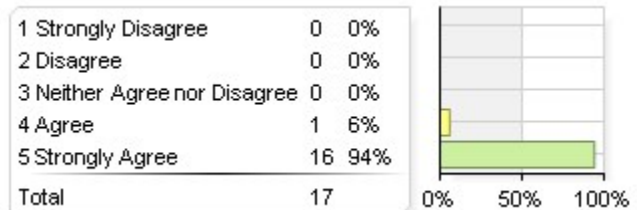
6. The instructor gave clear assignments.



7. The instructor was accessible to students.

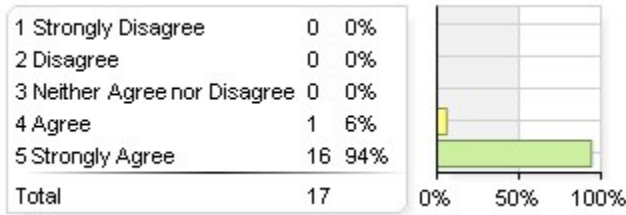


8. The instructor gave useful feedback on my performance.

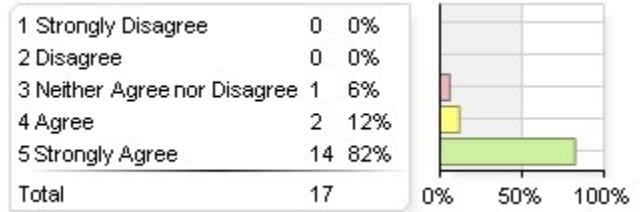


**Please respond to the following question about instructor Douglas Spencer.
(continued)**

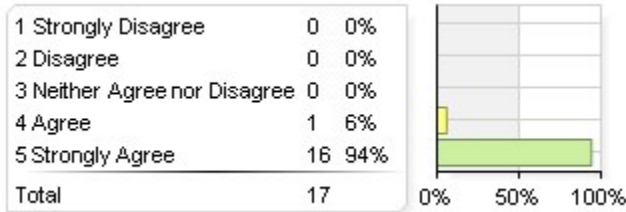
9. The instructor returned graded work in a reasonable amount of time.



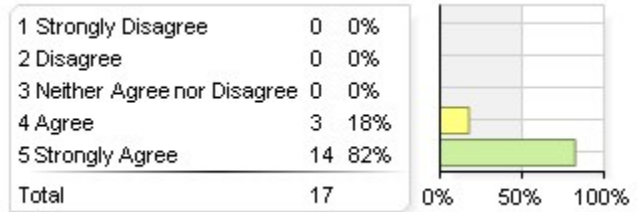
10. The instructor used class time effectively.



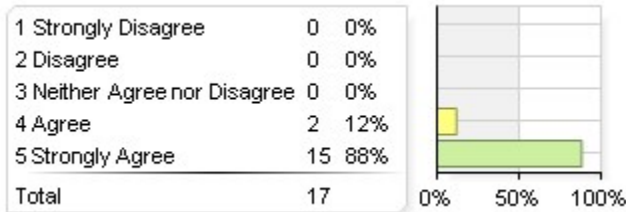
11. The instructor treated all students with respect.



12. The instructor graded fairly.



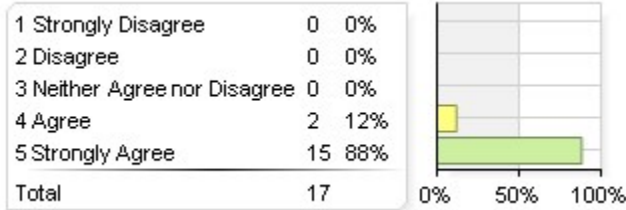
13. The instructor's teaching methods promoted student learning.



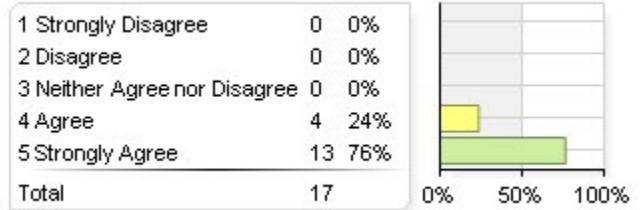
Section 4. Questions About the Course

Please respond to the following question about the course.

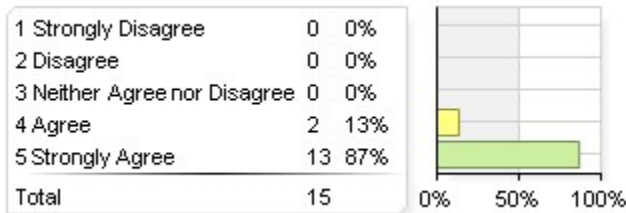
1. The methods of evaluating student learning seemed appropriate.



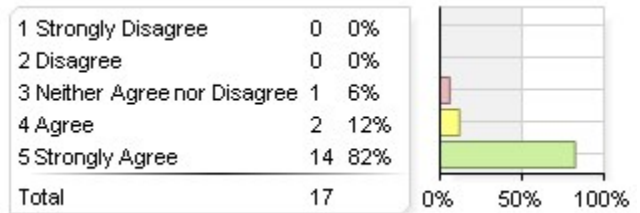
2. The course content was well organized.



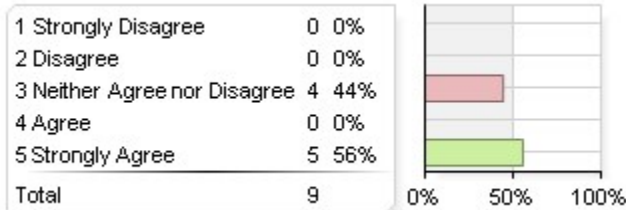
3. The course objectives were clear.



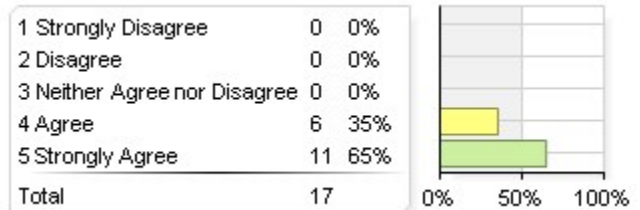
4. The course objectives were met.



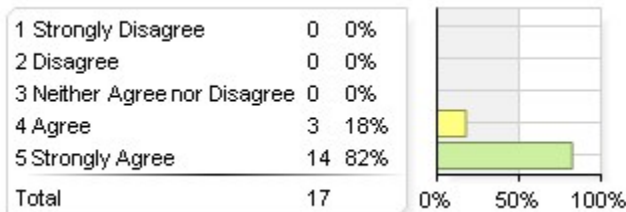
5. The textbook made a valuable contribution.



6. The other course materials made a valuable contribution.



7. The pace of the course seemed appropriate.

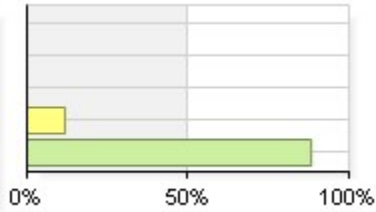


Section 5. Aggregate Report on "Overall Questions"

Overall Rating

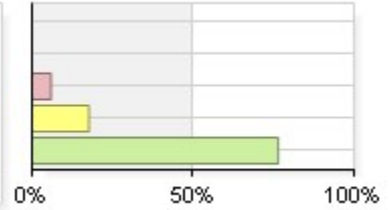
1. What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?

1 Poor	0	0%
2 Fair	0	0%
3 Good	0	0%
4 Very Good	2	12%
5 Excellent	15	88%
Total	17	



2. What is your overall rating of the course?

1 Poor	0	0%
2 Fair	0	0%
3 Good	1	6%
4 Very Good	3	18%
5 Excellent	13	76%
Total	17	



Overall Rating

Question	Good, Very Good & Excellent	Very Good & Excellent	Excellent
What is your overall rating of the instructor's teaching?	100%	100%	88%
What is your overall rating of the course?	100%	94%	76%

Section 6. Comments

What was the most positive aspect of the way in which this instructor taught this course?

Comment
The instructor was able to spark discussions with the class to get us prepared for the memos. He also thoroughly explained why we are doing what we are doing in the class.
Professor Spencer was very engaging and gave the appearance that he cared about the students and the material presented.
Enthusiastic
very engaging, friendly, and accessible
one of the best professors thus far in the MPA program
Passion for the subject
I think Professor Spencer is awesome and interesting.
Professor Spencer is very enthusiastic and an excellent speaker. He knows how to answer to questions and how to comment diplomatically. He is very talented in leading and managing group discussions and encouraging enthusiasm.
I think his I think his feedback on the memos helped me tremendously and I really liked his lecture on making professional power points. Overall, I am happy that I took this course. I feel like I am more prepared to write and present professionally. UConn needs more courses like these for all degrees.
The instructor is highly organized and makes his points clear
He was approachable, humble, and sincere. He was able to simplify things that I didn't understand sometimes.
Concrete examples
He was always engaging and made connections to current events.
Professor is very engaging. Encourages students to share their idea and really get conversation going.
Dr. Spencer was extremely positive and passionate about the course content.
I liked the guest speakers because they demonstrated that what we are learning is actually useful in the real world.
Doug kept the mood light, which really helped to foster student interaction and engagement.

What can this instructor do to improve teaching effectiveness in the classroom?

Comment
None, great class!
Nothing comes to mind
N/a
make memo objectives more clear. Do we need to cite other sources? How much detail is needed? Give more examples of real professional memos. Often felt as if I was doing the assignment correctly, but was unclear about how to make it as professional as possible.
Prefer to have an actual text book , not just readings online. I understand the cost
Nothing
Unfortunately, a very real reality for many of us is that we work and do not always do the readings. If the readings are supplementary and are not really necessary for graded work, we don't consistently read the assignments. I found that when we know that we have to get in groups to discuss the readings, more people prepare before class.
It might be good to add more federal level and international issues in the cases

Class time was used effectively most of the time. There were one or two classes that I felt could have ended early as an option and those who had questions or wanted to socialize could have stayed.

Make it more challenging

More time to peer review

Allocating more time for peer evaluations or other smaller group discussions. While the lecture material was important, it was material we have in our other classes. Talking about these policy issues and hearing different perspectives of classmates was the most useful learning tool for this course in my opinion.

The course was extremely effective. Maybe an extra memo could increase the amount of grades collected, lessening the total percentage each was worth.

I felt like the readings most weeks were unnecessary. I would either get rid of them or use different ones.

There were times that the course readings didn't seem to clearly tie in with the course instruction.

Please write any comments you have about the course or course materials.

Comment

n/a

Great course

Continue the great teaching. I wish I could take him in other courses.

To improve:

1. I think next semester it would be helpful for there to be more than 3 cases to choose from for the final presentation.

2. I am very happy with my progress on memo-writing. I think this is in part to the fact that we had to write them so often. However, even though the lecture on professional power points was very helpful, I don't know if I feel as comfortable with having only the feedback on professional presentations from the end of the semester. I think it would be great for future students to do more than one presentation. Perhaps groups can do brief presentations on the readings and then do a larger case study presentation (like the one we are doing right now) for the final.

What I liked: I think Professor Spencer did an excellent job with power points and I enjoyed listening and taking notes on them. I also liked the website where the class would vote their opinion on a particular issue.

The course is a great introduction to policy and memo writing

One of my favorite courses.

I wish he taught more PP classes.

I really enjoyed the course and thought it was really helpful. I also really like how this course forced you to get to know everyone and fostered a community environment. I would love to take another course with Doug!

For courses with laboratory and/or discussion sections: were the laboratory/discussion sections helpful to your learning?

Comment

N/a

N/A?

N/a