PLSC 22711 1 - American Elections: A Scientific Approach - Instructor(s): Shu Fu

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2023**

Number Enrolled: **14**
Number of Responses: **9**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Friday, June 16, 2023**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
I learned a lot about how to analyze studies and academic literature in the political sciences.
Effective reading of social science papers and intricacies of American voters and elections
so much. favorite class ever at Chicago
We analyzed a wide range of topics on how American elections work through various studies. Not only do I now have a better understanding about how political scientists research American elections, I also have a better understanding of how a proper study is conducted. The class was very data oriented and provided a small foundation for how to do some sort of data analysis, and even gave us an introduction to statistical models. The class lived up to its scientific approach name.
Different methods for analyzing data in political science, how to effectively read complex academic literature and critique it from a scientific perspective. Extremely interesting class with lots of great readings that have taught me a lot.
Advanced statistical models, various topics in American elections and debates in the field of empirical analysis of elections

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Lectures and discussions were very helpful
reading reports made me understand the readings and really grasp the topics.
The first half of the class was Professor Fu giving us a lecture on the topic we were analyzing. Fu always had a lot of energy and made these lectures both interesting and informative. Then we had student presentations on the reading of the day–these were actually very high quality presentations and helpful (one of the biggest surprises of the class). Finally, for the last half of the class we had a discussion on the reading for the day. The discussion questions presented by Fu were helpful and some of the discussions we had were very fun and or challenged us to think.
Professor Fu was an excellent lecturer. He was very concise and you can tell how much he cares about his students and their learning. His passion for American Politics made the course feel dynamic and exciting. Shu is truly my favorite professor from my three years at UChicago, and I'm sad he will be leaving.
Lectures by Professor Fu were extremely informative, readings were challenging but very interesting and informative.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	88.89%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I felt respected in this class.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	88.89%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Fu was great! One of the most fun classes I had all year and it is a shame that he is leaving from this University. This class was very informative and should be done again. Shu Fu provided a great foundation for a field that is very extensive and which we have a lot of current professors actively contributing to said field. The university should absolutely consider making this course a permanent fixture.
Wish he was still teaching here.
Amazing course. Professor Fu is great, content was super interesting, and grading was fair.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Shu did a great job explaining the study techniques and analytical tools.
Shu was very helpful during office hours and was very responsive via email, which I really appreciated.
Prof Fu was excellent! He was always enthusiastic and excited about the material and extremely knowledgeable about the course content.
shu has been my favorite prof at uchicago. he cared about whether the students were learning rather than grades or being tough. he was always willing to help students and was so passionate about the subject. he did a great job designing the course.
Professor Shu did a great job at making the goals of each class easy to understand and attainable. He also had great energy that translated to a really fun class experience every single time.
His passion and vast knowledge about American elections. This made the class feel very exciting and extremely relevant. Shu is also very compassionate and really cares for his students.
Lectures, quizzes, discussions

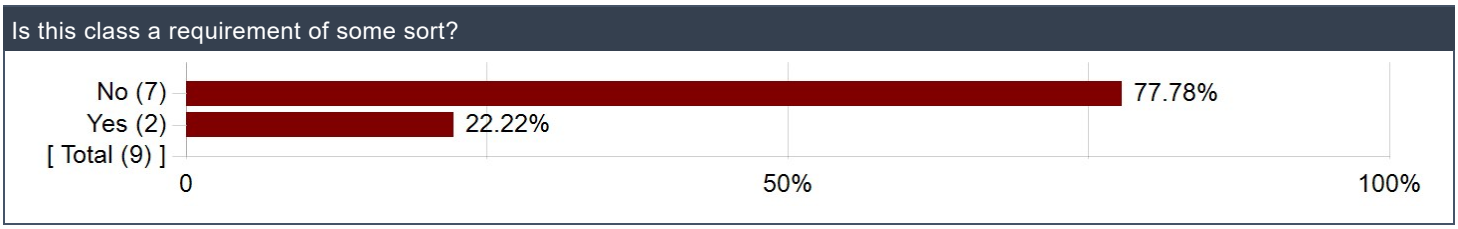
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The quizzes caused a lot of unnecessary stress. It may have been better to replace them with a single larger assignment.
Shu is a really nice guy, and was very supportive throughout the course. I did feel, however, that there was an emphasis on the "scientific approach" part of this course during our discussions, while I would've preferred more discussions that were less data–heavy so that more voices that aren't as well–versed in scientific studies and data could've been heard. I also feel like there was never really a good vibe amongst the students in the class. Our discussions got kind of tense at times, so I think there should have been more efforts to make this class feel like a more inclusive and positive space.
Shorter lectures and more discussion
Nothing, I enjoyed the class thoroughly.
Nothing, really. I just wish we had longer discussion sections!
Perhaps more direct lecturing on complex statistical topics

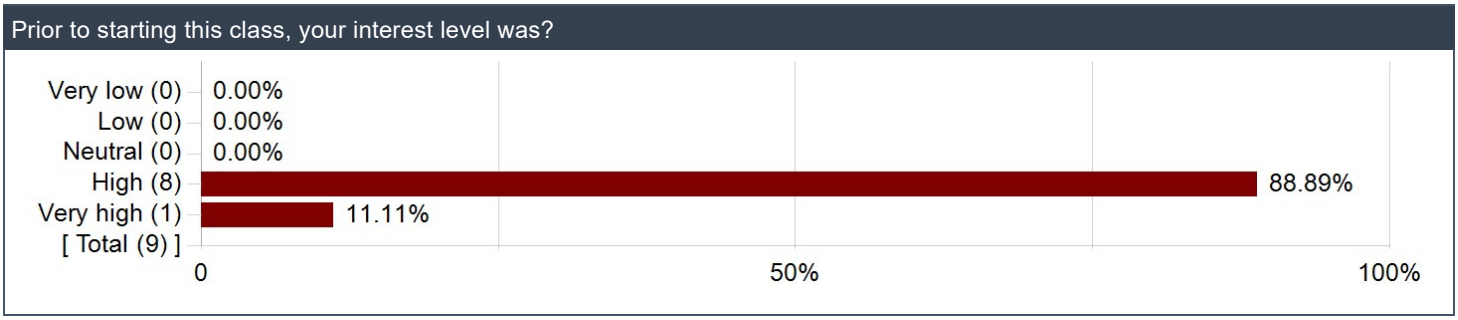
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	77.78%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%

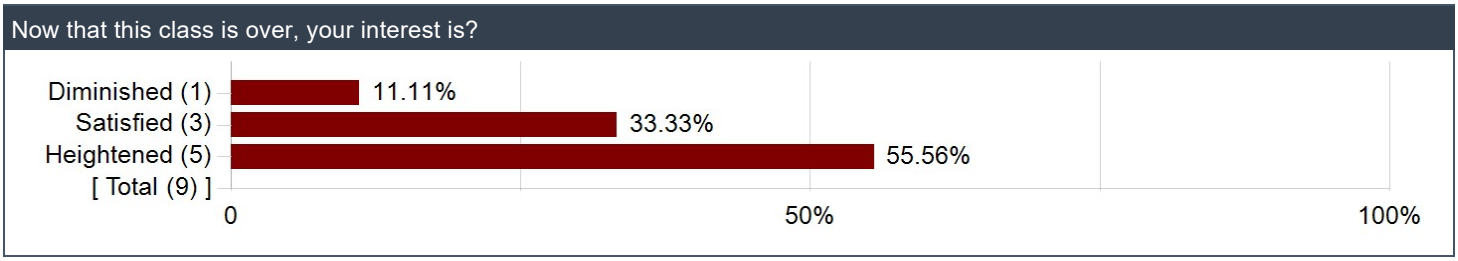
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



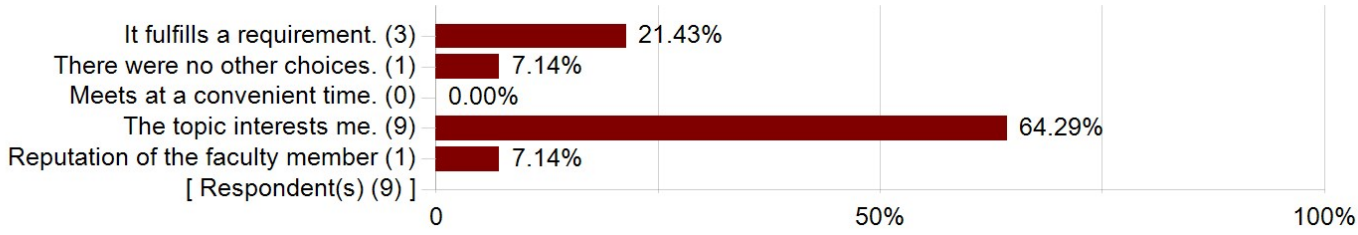
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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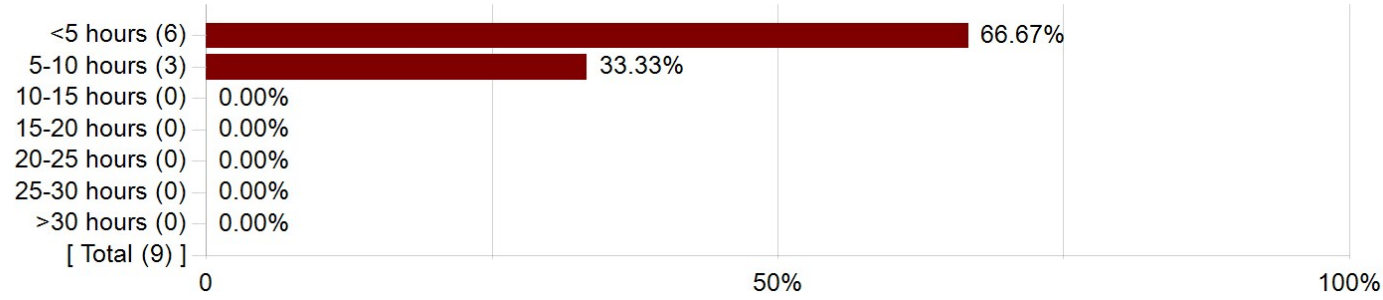

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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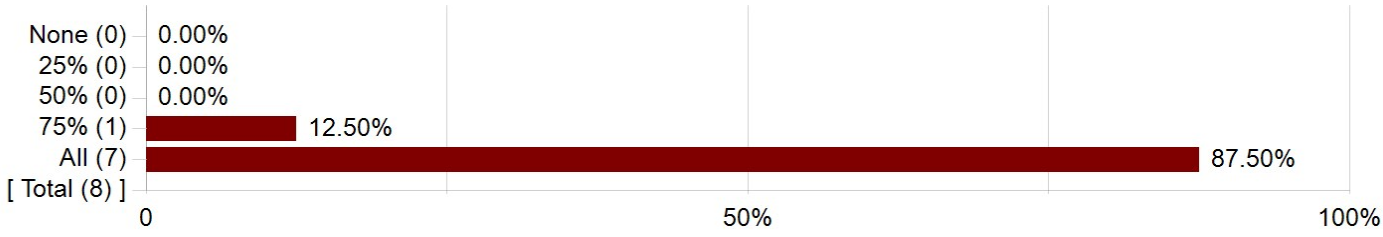

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
The class was relatively difficult for someone not experienced in working with studies, but all the work was managable and I was still able to learn a lot.
not difficult at all, just do the reaadings and you will learn so much. I'm so sad shu will not be back next year.
The class does not require you to be familiar with statistics or any other form of quantitative methods.
Not difficult but very engaging and interesting. Learning in this class was fun.
Readings were definitely challenging and at times hard to grasp, but grading was very lenient. We had weekly quizzes but Professor Fu made sure we all did well overall. Participation is easy if you're interested in the topic. Reading reports and presentation are easy.