SFU

Individual Report - Fall 2018 (1187) for POL 253 D100 - Introduction to Public Policy (Anil Hira)

Report Comments

This report contains the results of responses from students in the above course to the Institution-Wide, Faculty, Department and Instructor-selected questions.

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NOTE:
The responses to the Instructor Selected Questions are only reported to you as the instructor of the course. Your supervisor does NOT have access. If you would like to share this information with your supervisor or review committees, you may present it to them.

Creation Date: **Tue, Jan 08, 2019**

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INSTRUCTOR REPORT

Response Rate

Raters	Students
Responded	28
Invited	48
Response Ratio	58.3%

Section 1: Instructor Information

Note that this section only displays if you have submitted contextual information, otherwise this section may be empty.

Section 2: Summary of Results - Part 1. Institution-Wide Questions

Please note the following is the scale used for all questions in this report unless indicated otherwise:
Scale used: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=No Opinion, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree

Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was …

Scale used: 1=Very Poor, 2=Poor, 3=Fair, 4=Good, 5=Very Good

Mean	SD	Resp
4.14	0.85	28

I attended class...

Scale used: 1=Never, 2=Rarely, 3=About half of the time, 4=Most of the time, 5=All of the time

Mean	SD	Resp
4.71	0.53	28

How easy was this course?

Scale used: 1=Very Hard 2=Hard, 3=Medium, 4=Easy, 5=Very Easy

Mean	SD	Resp
2.46	0.58	28

Experience with the instructor

	Mean	SD	Resp
The course instructor explained course concepts clearly.	4.32	0.61	28
The course instructor explained grading criteria clearly.	3.61	1.23	28
The course instructor created a respectful learning environment.	4.54	0.69	28
The course instructor was approachable when students asked for guidance.	4.64	0.49	28

Experience with the course

	Mean	SD	Resp
The different course parts/activities (lectures, labs, tutorials, online forums, discussions, etc.) were connected.	3.68	1.22	28
Course materials (textbook, readings, handouts, assignments, etc.) improved my understanding of the course content.	3.96	1.00	28
The assessments in this course (tests, assignments, essays, etc.) allowed me to demonstrate my understanding of the course content.	4.11	0.83	28
Course activities (lectures, discussions, group work, labs, etc.) were engaging.	4.18	0.90	28

Section 2: Summary of Results - Part 2. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Questions

Please note the following is the scale used for all questions in this report unless indicated otherwise:
Scale used: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=No Opinion, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree

When explaining course concepts, the instructor connected the concepts to the major themes of the course.

Mean	SD	Resp
4.61	0.57	28

The course instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn in the course.

Mean	SD	Resp
4.14	0.93	28

My experience in this course has motivated me to learn more about the subject.

Mean	SD	Resp
3.82	0.86	28

We are interested in knowing to what extent courses promote critical thinking. To think critically means to carefully evaluate an idea or hypothesis on the basis of the available evidence, and to try to reach a justifiable conclusion using rational analysis within the context of a specific discipline. My experience in this course has encouraged me to think critically.

Mean	SD	Resp
4.46	0.69	28

Section 2: Summary of Results - Part 3. Political Science Questions School/Department Questions

Please note the following is the scale used for all questions in this report unless indicated otherwise:
  Scale used: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=No Opinion, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree

This course encouraged me to be more politically engaged

Mean	SD	Resp
4.18	0.86	28

Attending lectures/seminars enhanced my understanding of the subject matter of the course.

Mean	SD	Resp
4.32	0.72	28

Section 3: Detailed Results - Part 1. Institution-Wide Questions

Notes:

- *"NRP" in the following tables indicates that there is no score value for a response of **Not Applicable***

- *In the comparison table, the information is displayed in the following order: **Mean, Count, Standard Deviation***

Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was …

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Very Good	5	10	35.7%
Good	4	14	50.0%
Fair	3	2	7.1%
Poor	2	2	7.1%
Very Poor	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			28
Mean			4.14
Standard Deviation			0.85

Comparison of Mean Scores

| Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
Overall, the quality of my learning experience in this course was …	4.05	598	0.96	3.98	4539	1.02	3.92	16733	1.07

Course	4.14
Department (POL)	4.05
Faculty (ARTS)	3.98
Institution (SFU)	3.92
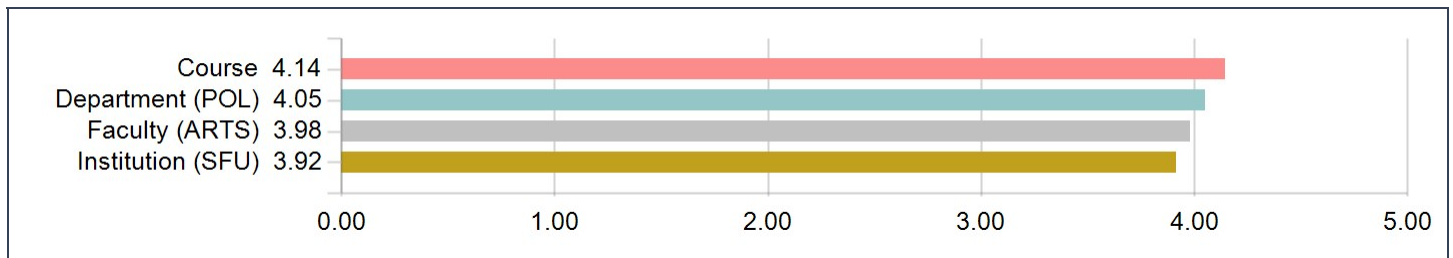
I attended class...

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
All of the time	5	21	75.0%
Most of the time	4	6	21.4%
About half of the time	3	1	3.6%
Rarely	2	0	0.0%
Never	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			28
Mean			4.71
Standard Deviation			0.53

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
I attended class...	4.59	594	0.62	4.57	4464	0.66	4.63	16521	0.65
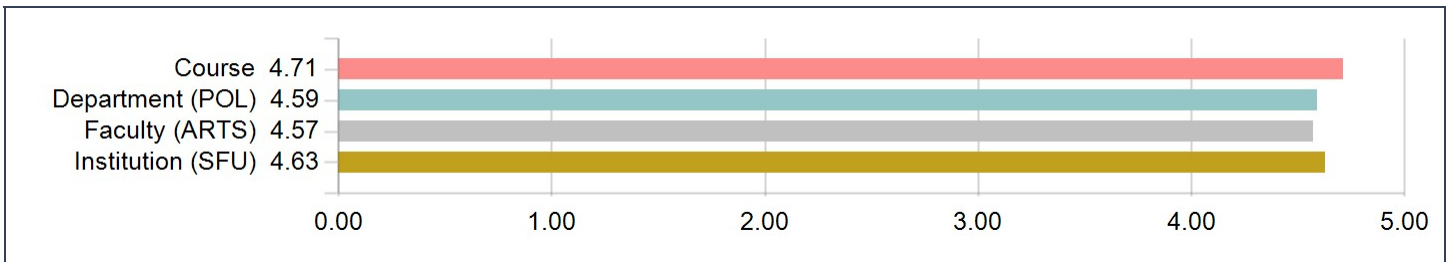
How easy was this course?

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Very Easy	5	0	0.0%
Easy	4	0	0.0%
Medium	3	14	50.0%
Hard	2	13	46.4%
Very Hard	1	1	3.6%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			28
Mean			2.46
Standard Deviation			0.58

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
How easy was this course?	2.78	593	0.76	2.75	4462	0.81	2.68	16518	0.86
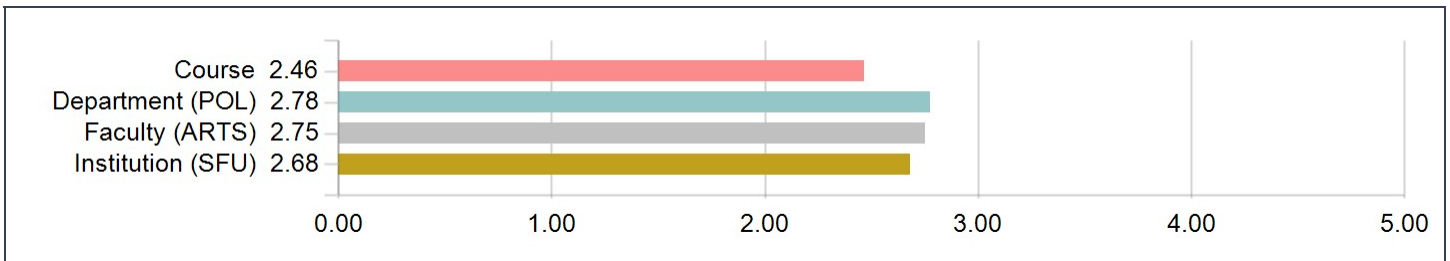
The course instructor explained course concepts clearly.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	11	39.3%
Agree	4	15	53.6%
No Opinion	3	2	7.1%
Disagree	2	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			28
Mean			4.32
Standard Deviation			0.61

Comparison of Mean Scores

| Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The course instructor explained course concepts clearly.	4.20	598	0.92	4.11	4540	1.03	4.05	17002	1.10

Instructor	4.32	
Department (POL)	4.20	
Faculty (ARTS)	4.11	
Institution (SFU)	4.05	

0.00 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 5.00
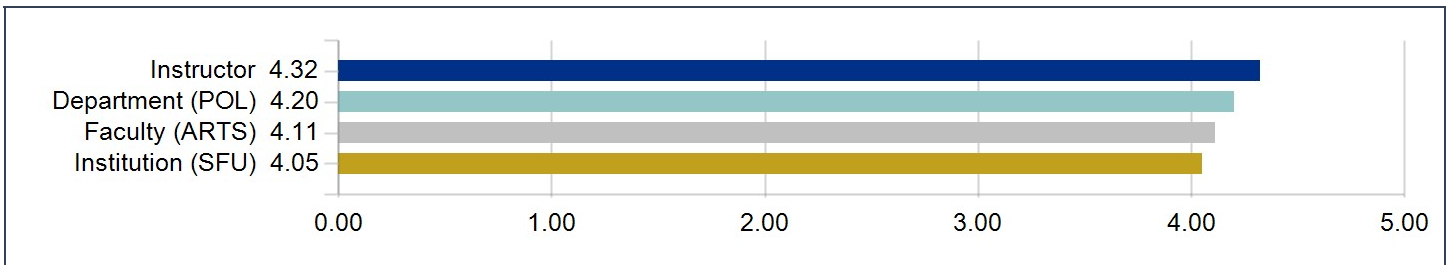
The course instructor explained grading criteria clearly.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	8	28.6%
Agree	4	10	35.7%
No Opinion	3	1	3.6%
Disagree	2	9	32.1%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			28
Mean			3.61
Standard Deviation			1.23

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The course instructor explained grading criteria clearly.	4.07	591	1.05	4.10	4488	1.07	4.07	16787	1.09

Instructor 3.61
Department (POL) 4.07
Faculty (ARTS) 4.10
Institution (SFU) 4.07
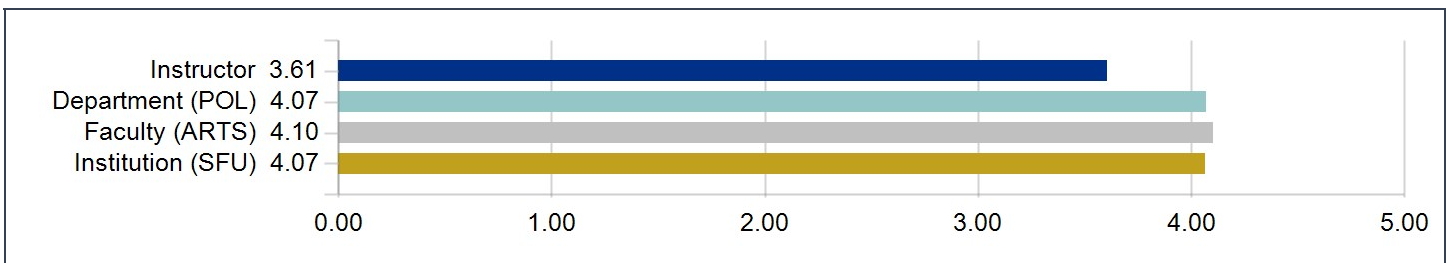
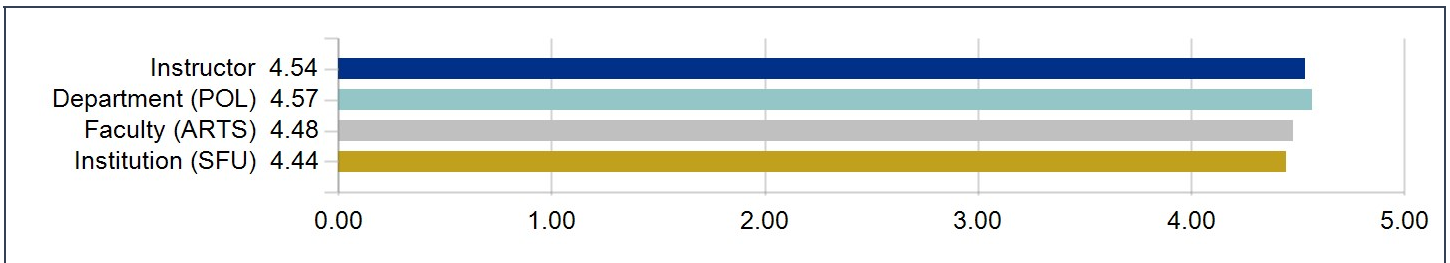## The course instructor created a respectful learning environment.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	17	60.7%
Agree	4	10	35.7%
No Opinion	3	0	0.0%
Disagree	2	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			28
Mean			4.54
Standard Deviation			0.69

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The course instructor created a respectful learning environment.	4.57	588	0.69	4.48	4491	0.77	4.44	16798	0.83

Instructor 4.54
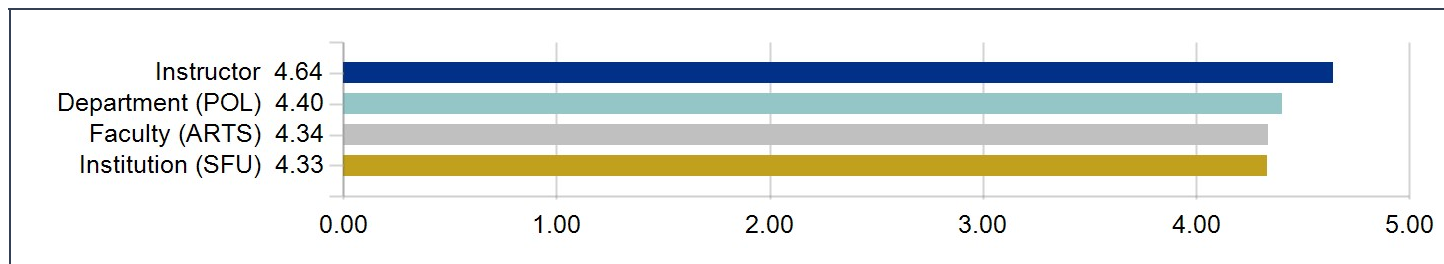Department (POL) 4.57
Faculty (ARTS) 4.48
Institution (SFU) 4.44

The course instructor was approachable when students asked for guidance.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	18	64.3%
Agree	4	10	35.7%
No Opinion	3	0	0.0%
Disagree	2	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			28
Mean			4.64
Standard Deviation			0.49

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The course instructor was approachable when students asked for guidance.	4.40	584	0.87	4.34	4444	0.89	4.33	16657	0.93

Instructor	4.64
Department (POL)	4.40
Faculty (ARTS)	4.34
Institution (SFU)	4.33

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

The different course parts/activities (lectures, labs, tutorials, online forums, discussions, etc.) were connected.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	8	28.6%
Agree	4	11	39.3%
No Opinion	3	2	7.1%
Disagree	2	6	21.4%
Strongly Disagree	1	1	3.6%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			28
Mean			3.68
Standard Deviation			1.22

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The different course parts/activities (lectures, labs, tutorials, online forums, discussions, etc.) were connected.	4.11	593	0.98	4.21	4394	0.92	4.16	16337	0.98
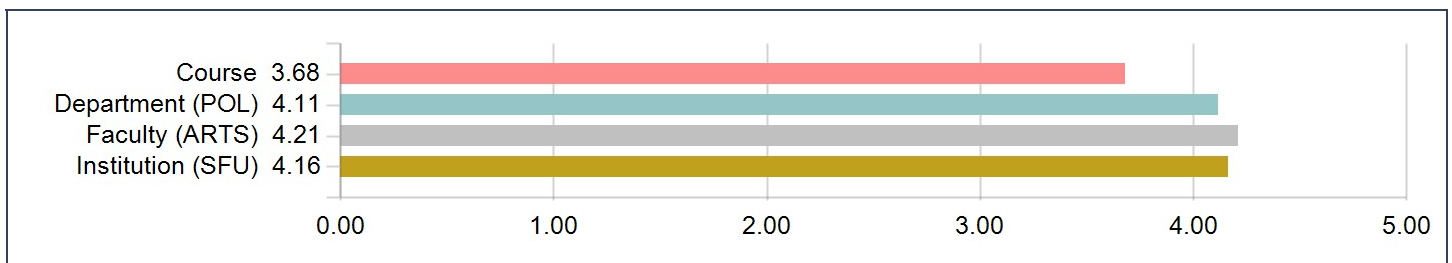
Course 3.68
Department (POL) 4.11
Faculty (ARTS) 4.21
Institution (SFU) 4.16

Course materials (textbook, readings, handouts, assignments, etc.) improved my understanding of the course content.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	10	35.7%
Agree	4	10	35.7%
No Opinion	3	5	17.9%
Disagree	2	3	10.7%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			28
Mean			3.96
Standard Deviation			1.00

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
Course materials (textbook, readings, handouts, assignments, etc.) improved my understanding of the course content.	4.00	594	1.01	4.09	4495	1.02	4.04	16461	1.04
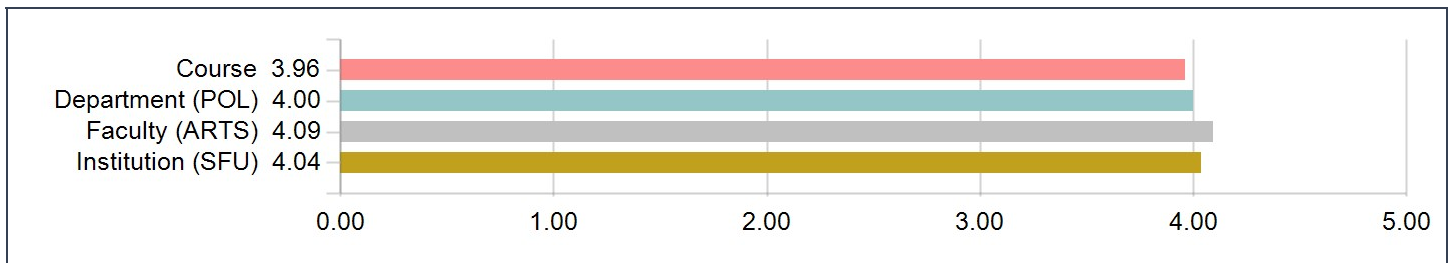
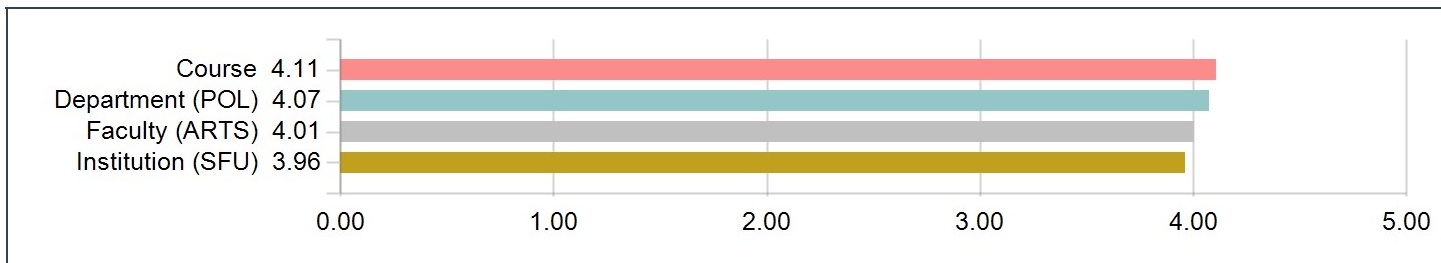|		
Course	3.96	
Department (POL)	4.00	
Faculty (ARTS)	4.09	
Institution (SFU)	4.04	

The assessments in this course (tests, assignments, essays, etc.) allowed me to demonstrate my understanding of the course content.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	9	32.1%
Agree	4	15	53.6%
No Opinion	3	2	7.1%
Disagree	2	2	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			28
Mean			4.11
Standard Deviation			0.83

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The assessments in this course (tests, assignments, essays, etc.) allowed me to demonstrate my understanding of the course content.	4.07	596	0.95	4.01	4488	1.06	3.96	16527	1.10

Course 4.11
Department (POL) 4.07
Faculty (ARTS) 4.01
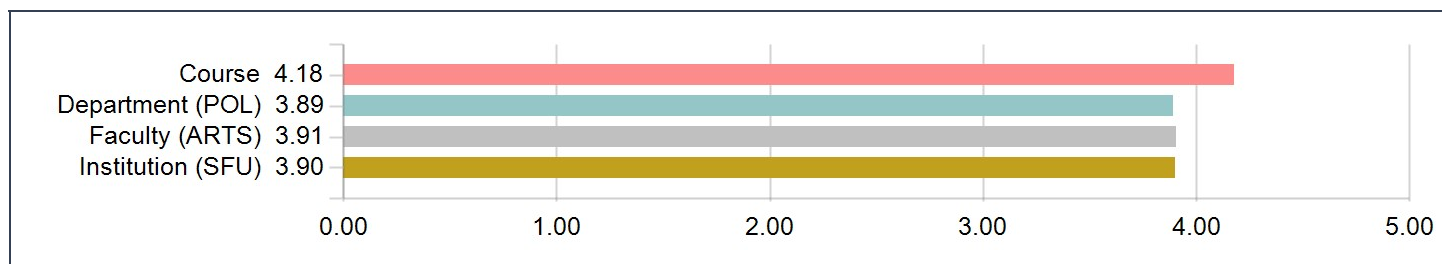Institution (SFU) 3.96

0.00 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 5.00

Course activities (lectures, discussions, group work, labs, etc.) were engaging.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	12	42.9%
Agree	4	11	39.3%
No Opinion	3	3	10.7%
Disagree	2	2	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%
Statistics			**Value**
Response Count			28
Mean			4.18
Standard Deviation			0.90

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)			Institution (SFU)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
Course activities (lectures, discussions, group work, labs, etc.) were engaging.	3.89	587	1.12	3.91	4458	1.14	3.90	16393	1.15

Course 4.18
Department (POL) 3.89
Faculty (ARTS) 3.91
Institution (SFU) 3.90

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

## Section 3: Detailed Results - Part 2. Arts and Social Sciences Questions Questions

When explaining course concepts, the instructor connected the concepts to the major themes of the course.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	18	64.3%
Agree	4	9	32.1%
No Opinion	3	1	3.6%
Disagree	2	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Comparison of Mean Scores

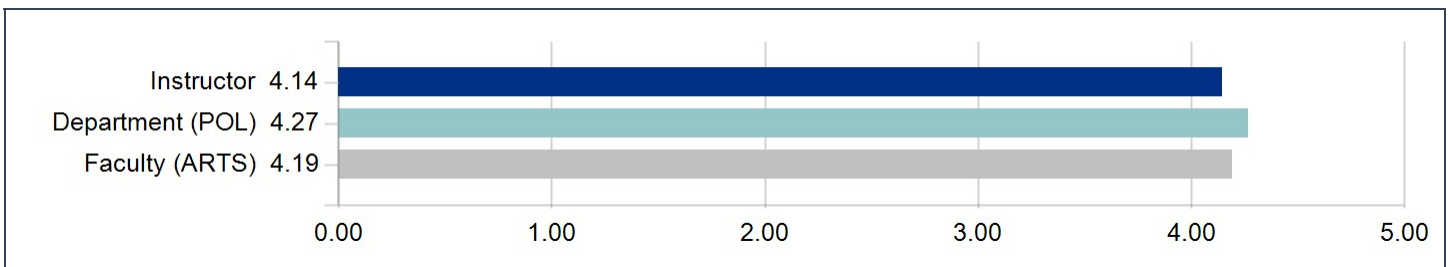| Question	Instructor			Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
When explaining course concepts, the instructor connected the concepts to the major themes of the course.	4.61	28	0.57	4.43	594	0.75	4.33	4469	0.85
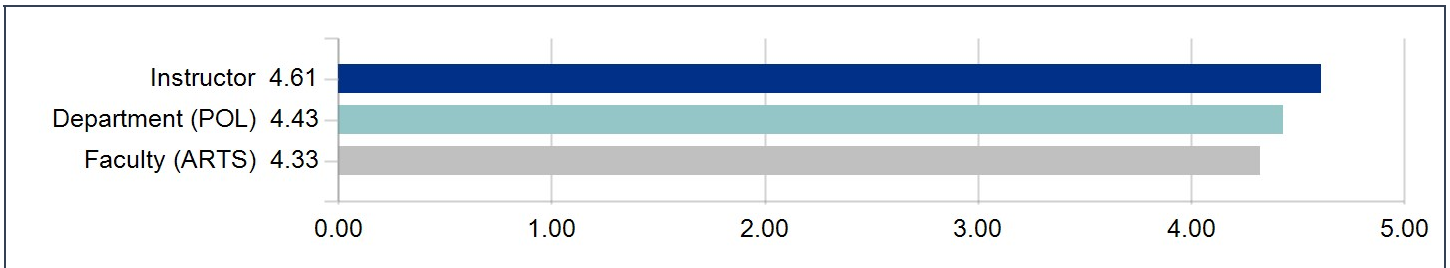
The course instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn in the course.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	12	42.9%
Agree	4	10	35.7%
No Opinion	3	4	14.3%
Disagree	2	2	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Instructor			Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
The course instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn in the course.	4.14	28	0.93	4.27	595	0.92	4.19	4473	0.97

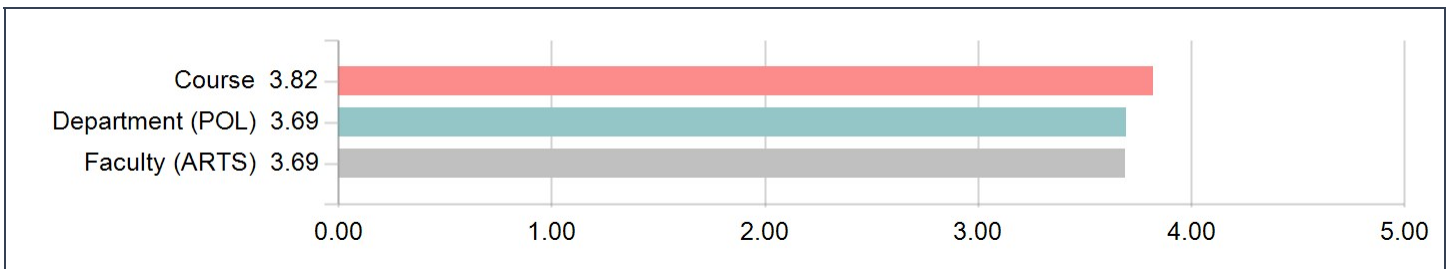|	Mean		
Instructor	4.14		
Department (POL)	4.27		
Faculty (ARTS)	4.19		

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

My experience in this course has motivated me to learn more about the subject.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	6	21.4%
Agree	4	13	46.4%
No Opinion	3	7	25.0%
Disagree	2	2	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Comparison of Mean Scores

| Question	Course			Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
My experience in this course has motivated me to learn more about the subject.	3.82	28	0.86	3.69	592	1.20	3.69	4472	1.20

We are interested in knowing to what extent courses promote critical thinking. To think critically means to carefully evaluate an idea or hypothesis on the basis of the available evidence, and to try to reach a justifiable conclusion using rational analysis within the context of a specific discipline. My experience in this course has encouraged me to think critically.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	16	57.1%
Agree	4	9	32.1%
No Opinion	3	3	10.7%
Disagree	2	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Course			Department (POL)			Faculty (ARTS)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
We are interested in knowing to what extent courses promote critical thinking. To think critically means to carefully evaluate an idea or hypothesis on the basis of the available evidence, and to try to reach a justifiable conclusion using rational analysis within the context of a specific discipline. My experience in this course has encouraged me to think critically.	4.46	28	0.69	4.13	594	0.92	4.04	4476	0.99

Course	4.46	
Department (POL)	4.13	
Faculty (ARTS)	4.04	
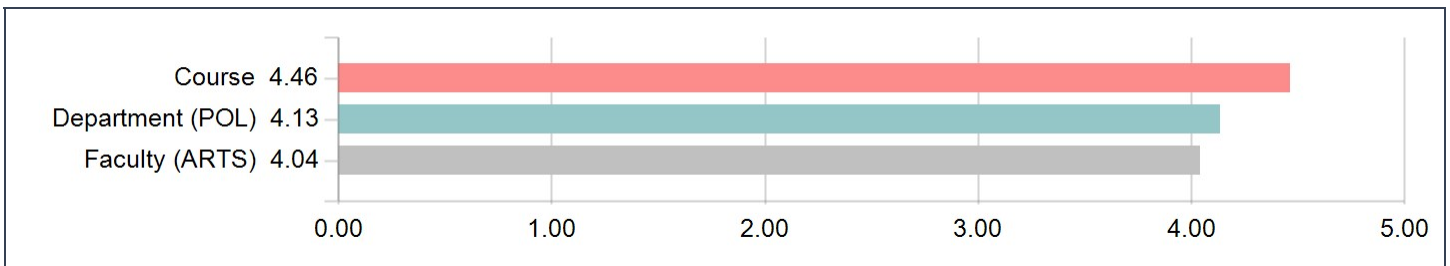
Section 3: Detailed Results - Part 3. School/Department of Political Science Questions

This course encouraged me to be more politically engaged

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	11	39.3%
Agree	4	13	46.4%
No Opinion	3	2	7.1%
Disagree	2	2	7.1%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Comparison of Mean Scores

| Question	Course			Department (POL)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
This course encouraged me to be more politically engaged	4.18	28	0.86	3.78	594	1.02
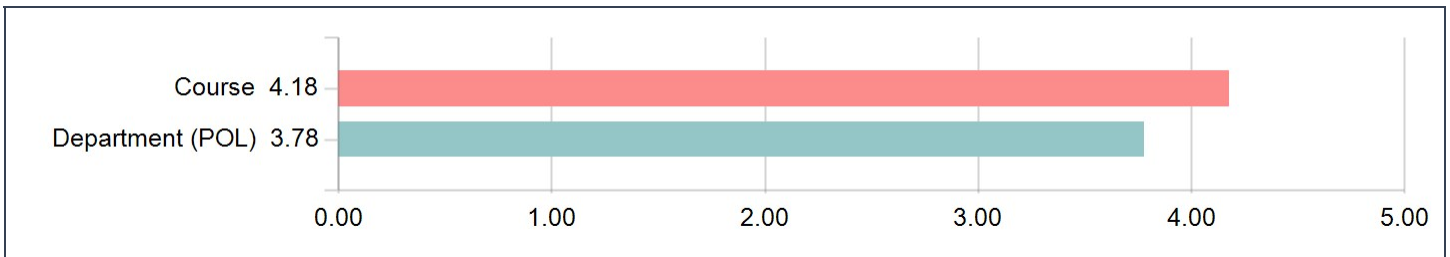
Attending lectures/seminars enhanced my understanding of the subject matter of the course.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	12	42.9%
Agree	4	14	50.0%
No Opinion	3	1	3.6%
Disagree	2	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Comparison of Mean Scores

Question	Course			Department (POL)		
	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Response Count	Standard Deviation
Attending lectures/seminars enhanced my understanding of the subject matter of the course.	4.32	28	0.72	4.11	593	1.06

Overall

Course 4.32
Department (POL) 4.11

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00
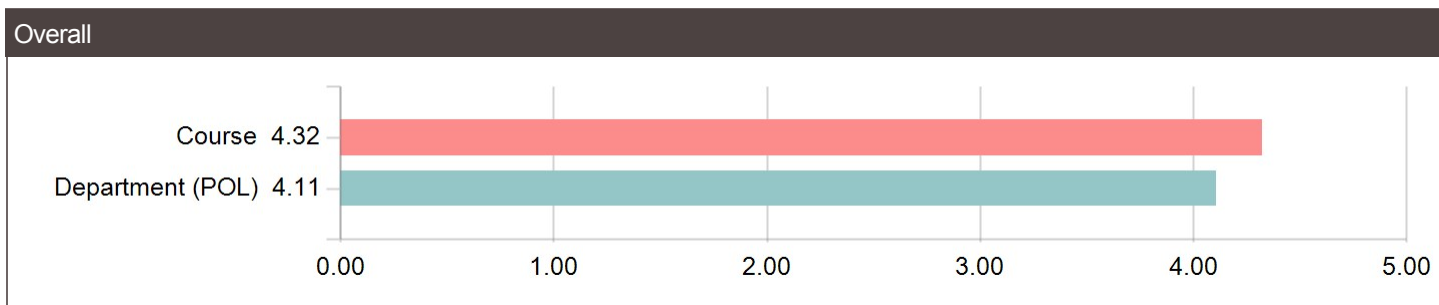
Section 4: Instructor-Selected Questions

Please note the following:

  - The responses to these questions are only reported to you as the instructor of the course. Your supervisor does NOT have access. If you would like to share this information with your supervisor or review committees, you may present it to them.

  - Only the questions that you selected are displayed, otherwise this section may be empty.

The course encouraged me to think critically about the subject, develop new ideas, and think more broadly.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	12	42.9%
Agree	4	14	50.0%
No Opinion	3	2	7.1%
Disagree	2	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Mean	SD	Resp
4.36	0.62	28

The course instructor provided opportunity for group activity and discussion in class.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	14	50.0%
Agree	4	11	39.3%
No Opinion	3	2	7.1%
Disagree	2	1	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Mean	SD	Resp
4.36	0.78	28

The course instructor related course concepts to current issues or real-life situations.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	24	85.7%
Agree	4	3	10.7%
No Opinion	3	1	3.6%
Disagree	2	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Mean	SD	Resp
4.82	0.48	28

The knowledge and skills instilled by this course are applicable to other courses.

Distribution of Responses

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree	5	18	64.3%
Agree	4	9	32.1%
No Opinion	3	1	3.6%
Disagree	2	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.0%

Mean	SD	Resp
4.61	0.57	28

Section 5: Comments

Do you have any further comments?

Comments
course content was difficult at time but teaching was very high quality.
Hira's lectures were very engaging, and better facilitated my understanding and engagement of the course's subject matter– which I appreciated, as this course isn't my particular area of interest. His encouragement of class participation resulted in my being more intellectually active and focussed in the lecture itself, often thinking critically and being thoughtful in response to his lectures. Very knowledgable and organized–– I appreciated him as a teacher.
Dr Hira was an excellent prof, his classes were engaging and covered many topics in depth with language that was easy to follow along. He is always asking students (at random) questions relating to the material, which is scary sometimes (especially if you really don't have an answer) but it keeps people engaged and encourages conversation among students. I wish the online quizzes he did at thee start of classes were 100% participatory marks. I also wish that he had given us clear instructions for the term paper. On canvas there is mention that the paper should be 5–7 pages but in class he said 8–10. Having a file on canvas with the requirements would be really helpful. I had no interest in policy before this class but now I see the importance of it. Dr Hira comes off a little intimidating at first, but you can see he really cares for the students and just wants them to learn as best they can.
Despite the course content not being the easiest to understand at a first glance, especially for an environmental student, Anil really tried to related everything to current issues so we could understand. He really cares about his students understanding and being able to ask questions when we want.
Amazing class! I greatly appreciated your ability to apply course concepts to modern issues (ie. TMX in particular)
Really interesting class. Probably my favourite class this semester. All the topics are interesting and relevant. He also is really good at comparing ideas to concepts that make sense. Also super fair guy and very approachable!
I liked that Dr. Hira would randomly ask people to answer a question during lecture, it made sure we were paying attention in class, although he did it in a manor that did not embarrass anyone if they were wrong or not paying attention we would kindly move on to asking someone else to answer the question–I view this as a great mechanism to ensure participation in a non–stressful manor. The quizzes were a great way to ensure I did the readings. Since they were not worth a whole lot and you got marks just for participation it was a fair way without asking to much of students to make sure they at list covered the readings each week. Thank you Dr. Hira for a wonderful educational experience. Only shortcoming of the class was the lack of connections between the tutorial and the lecture–tutorials were poorly structure by Mr. Shamim as he was often contused on the agenda of the day and did a poor job of clarifying questions on course material.
For the essay I think it would be a good idea to submit an outline and make that 5% of the grade. Dr. Hira mentioned how important an outline is when writing a paper so I think this exercise would help students: 1. learn to write a good outline and how it helps form a paper, 2. not procrastinate on their topic, 3. Give a good idea as to whether or not they are on the right track.
Excellent instructor. Dr. Hira went above and beyond to be accessible to his students and promote full comprehension of the subject material.
Dr. Hira is one of the best professors I have had, he is not only passionate about the subject he is passionate in teaching it to students and seems to genuinely care about our education. Unfortunately, the TA for this class was the downfall as the tutorials adding nothing to the class.
Really great prof, will recommend this class as well as the professor to other
I enjoyed the course and I thought Andy was a very fair professor. I would be happy to take more courses with him. He clearly has a passion for the subject and he made it clear that he was always willing to help students outside of class. I thought that the readings were fair – both the amount and the difficulty. Although I'm a upper–level undergraduate student so maybe I'm just more used to them. A lower–level student might have thought the quantity was a bit too much. But, I struggled a bit with the course quizzes. When I read materials for a class like this, with an understanding that I'll need to know the main concepts for the final exam, I read more closely for the argument, main points, and evidence. I

Comments
found that the quizzes were a bit more abstract in what they tested on. Some weeks were easier than others but overall, I thought they were a bit too difficult considering they're supposed to test that we've read the materials. Additionally, I did not enjoy the tutorials. Shamim is a nice person, but he was a trainwreck TA. The experience might have been improved if he had a plan for tutorials going in and stuck with it. He also could have been helped if he had bothered to get an adaptor for his computer to connect to the screen. It seemed like most weeks he wanted to show us information (like the study guide, exam questions, or an Occupy video) but he couldn't because he never connected his computer to the screen. He also didn't have the correct answers to student questions and rather than get back to us with an answer he made one up. I also might have appreciated receiving a midterm grade for our tutorial participation, just to make sure I was on track. This would give students the ability to improve if they knew they were struggling. Besides that, my only other tip for lectures would be to maybe go a bit more slowly. Some the concepts can be a bit tricky to grasp right away and sometimes it felt we were speeding through them. Even though we've read about them we haven't totally grasped them yet and the explanations Andy gave us were great in connecting it all – it just takes a bit of time.
I really appreciated this course as a health science student, looking to go into public health and policy work! It was extremely difficult to understand how to write the essay/exam as a student from a difficult faculty, and I got lower grades than I am used to, even with all the readings and attending all classes. However, there was substantial help offered, which made a big difference. This course will definitely be helpful across other classes and into career work, so I really appreciate that. Thanks for a great semester!
He was a great professor. He connected many of the course concepts to real life issues and encouraged us to question the theories that we learned and were presented to us. This helped to promote critical thinking. The course was, overall, very engaging and I am more interested in learning more because of it.
I grew to like the way that you run your lectures, they were very engaging. It was difficult and frustrating at at the beginning of the semester because of my limited knowledge on the topics (I think their should be a pre–req course which allows students to gain a broader knowledge on political issues before going into POL 253). The course forced me to read academic papers and be thorough in my annotations, however at times it was simply too difficult to balance the readings from POL 253 with other courses. I think if the course continues to be open to all students, that there should be a slower start to the course content. This would allow students to focus on understanding the basics of political science before looking at theories of politics. Also, the allotted time given to write exams is extremely challenging, the short period of time left me feeling that I was unable to express my knowledge on the course content. Lastly, the weakest part of the course was tutorials. I don't necessarily think it was our T.A's fault, but the tutorials rarely engaged and provoked my critical thinking skills on the course content. I believe there was a disconnect in the communication of the tutorials agenda(specifically in how you wanted our T.A to conduct tutorials). Our T.A did well with what material he was given, but I believe that at times he was unsure of what you expected (or how you expected). Sometimes tutorial content was unrelated to lectures and confused students. I think better communication, or your oversight of tutorials would benefit the course. Overall I was surprised by how engaged I ended up being in the topics. Maybe just a couple changes in curriculum, tutorials, and exam length would aid the student learning process. Thank you for your time!