



PLSC 28457 1, PLSC 38457 1 - Making, Breaking, and Shaping Foreign Policy - Instructor(s) - Emily Tallo

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **15**

Number of Responses: **7**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

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

Comments
The importance of interrogating the methods of study, how to formulate a strong research question, and analytical reading of dense articles
The different Domestic factors that influenced foreign policy.
The influence and considerations of domestic actors in shaping foreign policy, as well as writing research proposal

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

Comments
The seminars were really helpful especially when Prof. Tallo drew diagrams to breakdown dense readings. You can tell this is someone who knows how to teach and does not expect her students to be experts which is really refreshing! She always welcomes questions and critiques.
the lectures during seminar time were useful when there were readings that were difficult to understand. emily explained things clearly.
Discussions are easy to follow as we walk through the readings, making sure we understand the key points
Lectures were incredibly helpful, Emily really knows how to break down all the information.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	80.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This was a wonderful course, it would be help to take an IR related course before it and be prepared for some heavy weeks of reading
Super interesting topic and Emily was super excited to teach the class! The organization of readings based on different actors is also very helpful to draw connections and see the bigger picture down the quarter. Including examples from outside of the US also helped expand the perspective and generalization of the theories
10/10 recommend. Class was challenging at times, but very rewarding, Emily's great!
If you are expecting the concepts covered in this course to be similar to concepts covered in Mearsheimer's American Grand Strategy and Seminar on realism, you are in for a rude awakening. This class is all about reading absurdly complex, difficult-to-parse, and tedious research studies. If that is something you are good at that, I would encourage you to take this course. However, if you are not interested in both doing and evaluating research, I would advise you to stay away.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	20.00%	80.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	20.00%	80.00%

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

Comments
The time she spent creating the reading order was very obvious that she cares deeply about the subject and making others passionate too! Again, the breakdown of difficult readings and she's genuinely approachable really engage with her as a resource for thesis development or future research, she's a wealth of knowledge
We really went through the readings in detail so I got a very good grasp on those.
the aspects of the seminar where we actually worked to apply the course readings to situations (real and hypothetical) were by far the parts that I enjoyed most. I felt that it really helped people to engage with the readings in a way that just going through the articles didn't. in those parts of class, I could totally see what the course objectives were and why the readings were useful – otherwise, it all just felt a bit abstract.
emily was also really good at clearly explaining the difficult bits of the reading and at breaking down the articles, especially the methodology.
Emily is super helpful in walking through the readings in class, as well as being available outside of class and sharing event opportunities that are related to the class
Emily was always very clear with what she wanted us to get out from the readings and what she expected from assignments. This clarity will really help any student succeed in this class

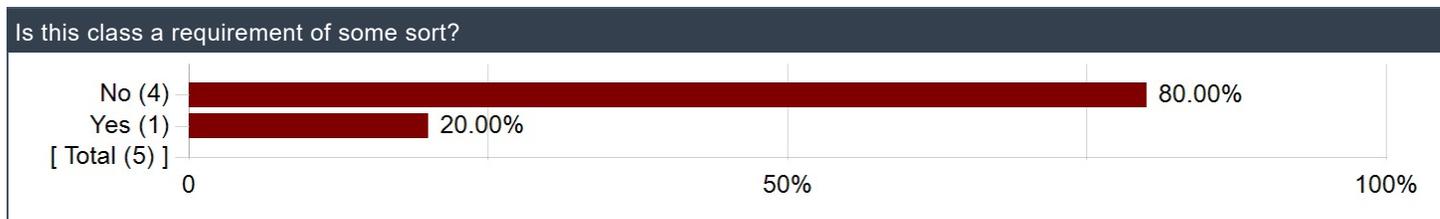
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think spicing up class a bit more and not just going through the readings would make it more enjoyable. It felt like people stopped reading after the first few weeks because there was no point if we were just going to run through them in class. Also, I thought some of the readings might have been better chosen, since there were a few times when we got through discussion of the day's material and Emily admitted she didn't like it much—why assign it then? Lastly, I think it was difficult to teach a class for the first time but it felt like when students talked Emily would sort of lean back look down and fidget with her hair, not really encouraging students, and would often only speak after they had spoken if she thought what they said was wrong.
I think splitting class time down the middle with one half spent reviewing the articles/explaining the methodology & theory and the other talking about how these articles can be practically applied/linking them to other readings/doing group work would be a much better use of class time. spending 1hr50 going over two articles did not really help me learn because I always felt that emily was looking for such specific answers that if you didn't understand the reading but you could rephrase what the article said then you'd get the question right. the few times that we were in groups really helped me think much more deeply about what the articles were saying in practical terms and so I came out of those classes really feeling like I'd learned something.
Provide more information and policies (including opportunity for revisions) on the assignments earlier in the quarter, and more engaging or small group discussions (like the case study!)

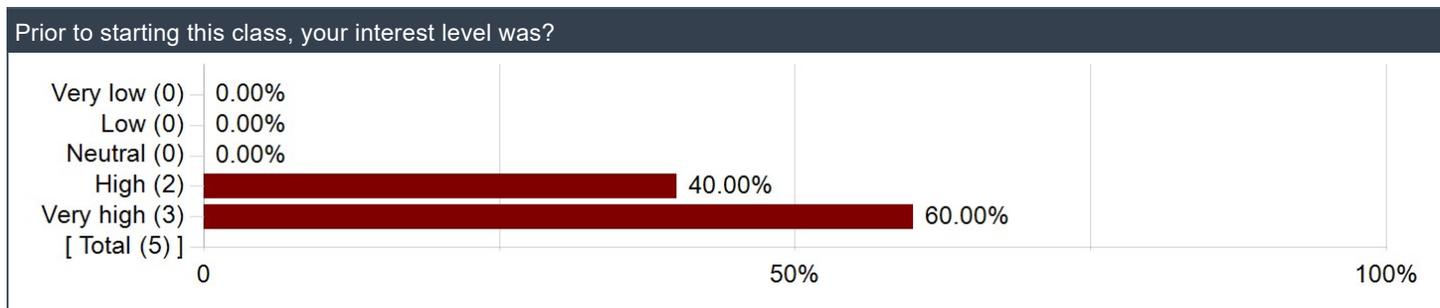
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	20.00%

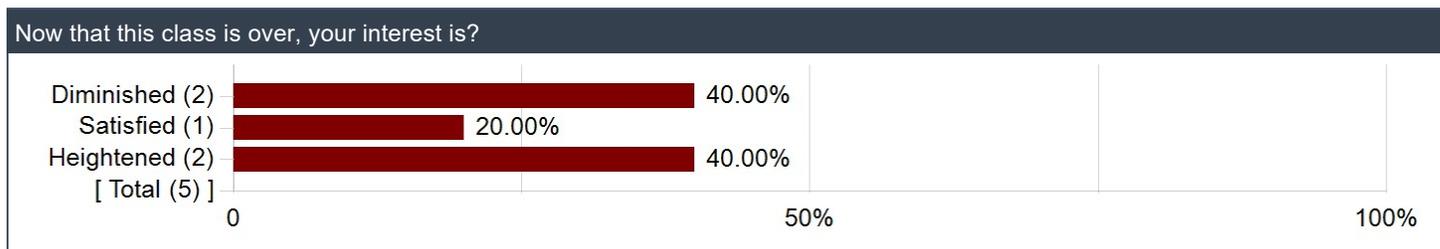
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



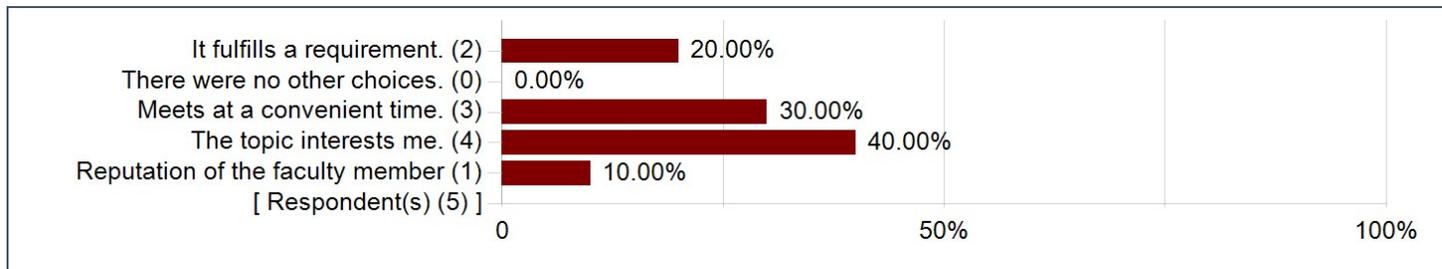
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



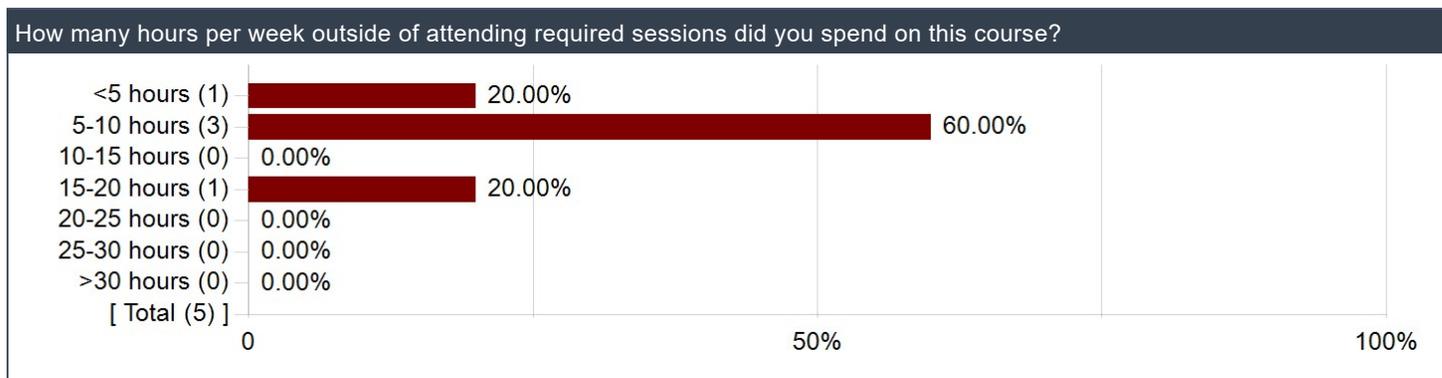
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



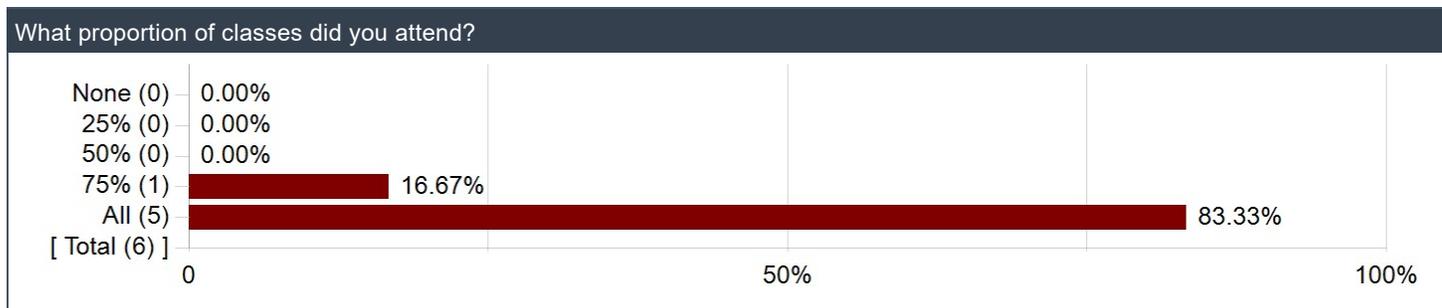
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
Not extremely difficult, just try and read its obvious when you dont
the content was theoretically basic but methodologically intermediate. despite the stated requirements I don't think that prior experience in ir/polisci was particularly necessary for this course given that we had to go over most things anyway
The readings can be dense at times, but overall the class was very enriching, I would recommend 100%