



THE STUDENT ASSESSMENT OF INSTRUCTION SYSTEM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE			
Political Science 463	Sec # 29603 (CLAS)	Matthew J. Buehler	
Contemp Middle East Politics (CLAS)	Spring 2015	Form A	# of Students: 17



Questions	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Item Mean
1. Course as a whole	10 (59%)	3 (18%)	3 (18%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.29
2. Course content	8 (47%)	7 (41%)	2 (12%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.35
3. Instructor's contribution to the course	12 (71%)	2 (12%)	2 (12%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.47
4. Instructor's effectiveness in teaching material	11 (65%)	2 (12%)	4 (24%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.41
5. Course organization	12 (71%)	1 (6%)	3 (18%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.41
6. Clarity of instructor's voice	11 (65%)	4 (24%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.47
7. Explanations by instructor	10 (59%)	2 (12%)	5 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.29
8. Ability to present alternative explanations	10 (59%)	2 (12%)	3 (18%)	2 (12%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.18
9. Use of examples and illustrations	9 (53%)	6 (35%)	2 (12%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.41
10. Quality of questions/problems raised by instructor	13 (76%)	1 (6%)	3 (18%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.59
11. Students' confidence in instructor's knowledge	13 (76%)	1 (6%)	3 (18%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.59
12. Instructor's enthusiasm	12 (71%)	4 (24%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.65
13. Encouragement given to students' self expression	12 (71%)	2 (12%)	2 (12%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.47
14. Answers to students' questions	8 (47%)	4 (24%)	4 (24%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.12
15. Availability of extra help when needed	9 (56%)	2 (12%)	4 (25%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.19
16. Use of class time	9 (53%)	3 (18%)	5 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.24
17. Interest in whether students learned	11 (65%)	1 (6%)	4 (24%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.29
18. Amount you learned in the course	10 (59%)	3 (18%)	3 (18%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.29
19. Relevance and usefulness of course content	9 (53%)	4 (24%)	3 (18%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.24
20. Evaluative and grading techniques	10 (59%)	4 (24%)	2 (12%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.35
21. Reasonableness of assigned work	10 (59%)	2 (12%)	1 (6%)	3 (18%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	4.00
22. Clarity of students' responsibilities/requirements	12 (71%)	3 (18%)	2 (12%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4.59

Relative to other college courses you have taken	Much Higher		Average				Much Lower	
23. Do you expect your grade in this course to be:	2 (10%)	8 (50%)	3 (20%)	4 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
24. The intellectual challenge presented was:	5 (30%)	8 (50%)	3 (20%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
25. The amount of effort you put into this course was:	7 (40%)	4 (20%)	5 (30%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
26. The amount of effort to succeed in the course was:	7 (40%)	6 (40%)	3 (20%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
27. Your involvement in this course (asgn, atnd, etc) was:	9 (50%)	5 (30%)	3 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

28. On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this course, including attending classes, readings, reviewing notes, writing papers, and any other course related work?

Under 2	0 (0%)
3-4	1 (6%)
5-6	4 (24%)
7-8	2 (12%)
9-10	3 (18%)
11-12	5 (29%)
13-14	0 (0%)
15-16	1 (6%)
17-18	1 (6%)
19-20	0 (0%)
21-22	0 (0%)
22 or >	0 (0%)

29. From the total average hours above, how many do you consider were valuable in advancing your education?

Under 2	0 (0%)
3-4	2 (12%)
5-6	2 (12%)
7-8	3 (18%)
9-10	2 (12%)
11-12	6 (35%)
13-14	0 (0%)
15-16	1 (6%)
17-18	1 (6%)
19-20	0 (0%)
21-22	0 (0%)
22 or >	0 (0%)

30. Expected Grade

A	10 (59%)
B+	5 (29%)
B	2 (12%)
C+	0 (0%)
C	0 (0%)
D	0 (0%)
F	0 (0%)
S	0 (0%)
NC	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)

32. Class Composition

Fresh	2 (12%)
Soph	2 (12%)
Junior	5 (29%)
Senior	8 (47%)
Grad	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)

31. Course Was

In major	13 (76%)
In minor	3 (18%)
Dist. Req.	1 (6%)
Elective	0 (0%)
Other	0 (0%)

33. Wanted to take course

Yes	16 (94%)
No	0 (0%)
Neutral	1 (6%)

### Student Responses to Open Ended Questions

#### Question #1: Was this class intellectually stimulating? Did it stretch your thinking?

- The class exposed me to a tremendous wealth of knowledge. Each week, course afforded me the opportunity to read and analyze many different sources surrounding many different issues related to the course.
- Yes! Class was challenging in that you had to analyze all material read and questions presented and discussed in class.
- Yes, a lot
- This is the best class I have ever taken at UT. I thought about the Middle East in ways that I never had before and I was always excited to come to class. The style of the class was set up like a discussion and we all communicated our thoughts as a whole.
- This class was highly intellectually stimulating. It helped me to see a great deal of things in a different light and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to take this course!
- Yes. It posed new questions and possible explanations that I had never considered before.
- Yes. Very well organized course that forced me to re contextualize my understanding of the middle east.
- I was not very familiar with the topics discussed in the class so over time and learning them the class became better and stimulating to my mind and stretched my thinking.
- The class was stimulating, because the topic of the Middle East is certainly interesting. It did give me a very well-rounded view of democratization in the Middle East and presented several contrasting views from which to form a perspective. However, I think it would have been more stimulating if the discussion format (which makes up the entirety of the class) were intermingled with some sort of lecture. It's the first purely discussion-based class I have taken, and I really wish we learned more facts about the Middle East instead of only doing opinion-based readings.
- yes
- Yes, this is by far the most meaningful class I have ever taken at the University of Tennessee. It challenged me to think critically and assess how concepts each week related to one another. I have learned more in this class than my entire three years at the University.
- Absolutely, the amount of reading and set up of the course created a highly engaging and intellectually stimulating course.
- This class gave me the opportunity to explore a society that is playing a major role in the modern international affairs. It allowed me to view the society with an objective perspective despite my subjective background.

#### Question #2: What aspects of this class contributed most to your learning?

- I was required to participate orally in the class, which allowed me to communicate ideas, questions, comments outside of just writing them for the assignments.
- Articles and discussions. Dr. Buehler required everyone to participate and was adamant on what he expected of his students.
- Our discussions were great, and the selection of articles was very good
- The summary papers we had to do before class helped
- I think that the reading were good and Dr. Buehler had so much experience, not only knowing things about the Middle East, but also the authors that we were reading. I think having him as a prof was extremely helpful in my learning and I cannot wait to take more of his classes.
- The in class discussions helped me to retain and participate the most.
- The summary papers and the in-class discussions were a huge part of what contributed to my learning.
- Instructor commitment, knowledge and enthusiasm.
- With the events we discussed being current they opened my eyes to wanting to be more up to date with current middle eastern events.
- Discussions in class and cultural videos presented by the professor helped me, but it would have been a lot better with some lecture material.
- class discussions
- Every aspect of this class contributed to my learning. I have never taken a class where the professor actually knew my name, valued my input, or took the time to actually care about furthering my knowledge of the subject matter. I took this class because a friend of mine recommended it. He said that I could not graduate from the university without taking one of Dr. Buehler's classes because his teaching is THAT impactful. I look forward to going to class everyday. I always do the assigned reading because not only is it interesting and relevant but I want to be prepared and have soemthing to contribute to class discussion. That is saying a lot coming from someone who usually never speaks in most classes. I only wish that every student who attends the University has the opportunity to take a class taught by Dr. Buehler. It truly is a special experience and changed my entire outlook on what college could be like, what college is supposed to be like. Dr. Buehler is a huge asset to the University and I cannot wait to take another one of his classes next semester!
- The way Dr. Buehler set up the class, almost as if it was forced. His style of lecture is probably created the most intellectually stimulating course I've had at UT.
- The discussion basis of the class gave me the opportunity to ask questions as well as hear other classmates' opinions that all together gave me a wider perspective on the subject matter.

Question #3: What aspects of this class detracted from your learning?
• Nothing detracted.
• N/A
• maybe just a few too many summary papers; it gets hard to keep up with them after a while
• I think the length of the articles would make me unfocused, but they were all very useful in the course.
• Not a lot detracted me for learning
• The videos we occasionally watched seemed unnecessary.
• Sometimes, the professor's seriousness detracted from my learning.
• Nothing
• I can't think of anything. I really got a lot out of this course.
• The heavy course load was difficult to maintain at first, however, it ended up being the most important aspect of the class because it forced me to participate daily in the course matter.

Question #4: What suggestions do you have for improving the class?
• I would have loved for my summary papers to have been returned to me. Other than that minor suggestion, class was great.
• N/A
• I honestly loved this class and the way that it is set up.
• I feel like if anything in the course was changed it wouldn't work.
• I would recommend updating your syllabus dates and not using the exact same one from the previous semester. It gets a little confusing when you try to figure out which readings to do when you have lost track of which class number you are on and the dates for the classes are from the previous semester.
• More visuals such as videos and displays better explaining certain topics in the course
• Add a lecture portion that is sizable.
• half of the class a lecture that discusses the context of the article and the other half discussion on the article
• None, this class made the biggest impact on my college career.
• As mentioned this course was probably the best and most rewarding classes I've had at UT. Dr. Buehler's vast knowledge of Middle East politics, society, and culture created a challenging, yet rewarding experience. I suppose if I was to make any suggestions it would be to maybe implement a research paper.
• None. One of my favorite classes since I have been in college.