

TEACHING EVALUATIONS

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In this document, I collect summary statistics as well as selected student statements from student evaluations of classes for which I have been the primary instructor during my time at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as two semesters in which I was TA and taught the lab component of the second course of the graduate methods sequence. Please feel free to reach out for additional information, including full evaluations. I am teaching or have taught the following classes:

- POLI 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- POLI 281: Data in Politics I: An Introduction
- POLI 291: Undergraduate Learning Assistant Practicum¹
- POLI 784: Regression Models (Lab Component)

Summary of Numeric Evaluations

In student evaluations, UNC asks students whether they agree or not with a series of statements about the course and about the instructor. All questions are on a 1-5 scale, where 1 indicates “Strongly Disagree” and 5 indicates “Strongly Agree.”²

Question	SSII 2018 POLI 130	SP 2019 POLI 784	SSII 2019 POLI 130	FA 2019 POLI 130	SP 2020 POLI 784	FA 2020 POLI 130	SP 2021 POLI 281
Overall, this course was excellent	4.27	4.9	4.23	3.9	4.67	4.22	4.03
Overall, I learned a great deal from this course	4.36	5	4.54	4.14	4.47	4.26	4.33
Overall, this instructor was an effective teacher	4.27	4.9	4.67	4.46	NA	NA	NA
Demonstrates enthusiasm about teaching	4.82	4.9	4.85	4.69	NA	4.89	4.87
Promotes a climate of mutual respect	4.82	NA	4.92	4.72	NA	4.59	4.77
Encourages student questions	4.73	NA	4.77	4.69	NA	4.56	4.77
Is well-prepared for instruction	4.8	NA	5	4.57	4.93	4.74	4.79
I know significantly more about this subject than before I took this course	4.55	NA	4.77	4.29	NA	NA	NA
% Responded	84.62%	76.92%	86.67%	69.05%	88.24%	62.79%	90.91%
Total Number of Students	13	13	15	42	17	43	33

Selected Student Comments

POLI 130: Introduction to Comparative Politics

- The use of the Thursday current political events are a fantastic way to flesh out and apply the themes of the course to the real world. It really supplements the apt case studies given in class, but in a more

¹No evaluations available because I am teaching it for the first time this semester.

²There are some NA values in the table because UNC has used a variety of instruments over the past five years, and not all questions were consistently asked. Where possible, I re-labeled similar questions.

expedited and summarized way. Fantastic organization of the syllabus. The knowledge disseminated builds and compounds upon each other leading to an excellent framework for understanding democratization on your own.

- He is an excellent communicator. Very personable and I really enjoy his teaching style. He treats everyone fairly. he also takes the time to explain theories during and after class.
- Very passionate, open, and knowledgeable. truly cares about teaching.
- He truly enjoys teaching this subject and knows a great deal about it.
- I feel like the essay assignments provided an excellent opportunity to apply our learned knowledge and receive feedback on our progress. Additionally, the lectures helped in summarizing the most important parts of the readings.
- This course is very informational and interesting. I loved taking this course and it made me very interested in the concept of comparative politics.
- I think the time we spend going over the readings in class is excellent. Specifically because we don't only summarize the readings but apply them to what we're currently learning. The paper also does a great job at encouraging us to apply what we've learned, and definitely through the writing process has helped me get a better grasp on the subject material.
- I think that Simon communicated the topics and concepts of this course in such a manner that someone like me, who is not a political science major and is taking their first political science class, was able to clearly understand. Additionally, the feedback I received from each essay assignment was tremendously helpful in shaping how I wrote the next essay.
- The flow of the class has been very clear throughout the entirety. This has been imperative due to the fast pace of summer courses. The clarity has also helped when asking questions and participating in class discussion. Providing much support, the teacher is incredibly helpful during class and in office hours.
- Mr. Hoellerbauer makes for an excellent professor. He makes all the information in the course easy to grasp and if not he is ready to help. Understands the needs of the students and makes the class very interesting.
- Simon is a wonderful instructor. I strongly admire how encouraging he is. He creates an environment in which students are not afraid to participate and be wrong. I have had instructors before that make students feel bad for not saying the "right" thing, but Simon does the opposite of this. Even if what we say is a little off-target, Simon is continuously supportive. He also makes himself readily available to us if ever we have questions. I have found his office hours to be extremely helpful. He really is a great instructor!
- Simon was a very good professor. He was very knowledgeable and organized, and was excellent at answering questions. Simon also provided brought professional enthusiasm to the course which made each of the lectures more enjoyable.
- Simon is an incredible teacher who truly brings every ounce of his comparative politics passion into the course. Although his field of study as a grad student is very specialized, Simon expresses clear interest and excitement for all aspects of comparative politics. Even with the setback of many uninterested or non-major students, Simon manages to keep everyone participated and learning about political science. By focusing on case studies and different aspects of democratization, students get a far broader understanding of one of the most important aspects of comparative politics, while simultaneously getting real-world examples that make it easier and easier to deeply analyze current events across the world, which Simon makes a priority in the class through a wonderfully open and creative essay prompt and biweekly current events.
- Really enjoys what he is doing and talking about. Very easy to talk to and makes sure he is available as much as possible.
- Simon is a great instructor. You can tell he really loves comparative politics and is always able to answer your questions. Even when it's like pulling teeth to get people to talk, he's always encouraging us to share our thoughts and check our understanding of the material through class participation. He also promptly responds to emails and will follow up via email if you have questions he didn't have time to fully answer after class/you can't make office hours.
- Simon is very enthusiastic about teaching. He is always friendly, helpful, and willing to help students

learn. One thing that stood out to me is the way that Simon corrects students. He never belittles students or discourages them from talking again, he gives praise on correct aspects of an answer and prevents students from feeling dumb for answering wrong in front of a class. Simon is a great teacher and he greatly facilitates the learning of his students.

- A very approachable and kind instructor. Very constructive in lecture, and encourages participation, even if you say the wrong thing he tries to help you understand and doesn't criticize or embarrass you. Overall wants students to succeed in the class.
- Very available! Definitely my favorite instructor during my time here. Hoellerbauer is very understanding and supportive, and has been an excellent teacher.
- Simon Hoellerbauer taught in an effective manner and allowed input from students. It was not just a constant hour and fifteen minutes of lecture, which I appreciated it.
- Mr.Simon is very patient and supportive. He would like to help his students to succeed. The course is a little bit harder than I thought. I was overwhelmed in the beginning. However, I got relieved when I got some very useful suggestions about the two papers and exams from Mr.Simon. I really appreciate his ever help.
- He was consistently available via office hours or email. He expressed near infinite patience for questions and encouraged students to ask them, as well as took the time to explain things thoroughly using either an online whiteboard or elaborating on various subjects.
- He is very patient and can explain difficult concepts very well. He is also very supportive. He gives students a lot of opportunities to ask questions. He is quite responsive to emails. In short, Mr. Simon is one of the best instructors I have met at UNC.
- excellent! very organized and clear. so easy to work with and he is so kind and understanding. I could tell he really wants his students to succeed and understands the crazy outside world can affect our education right now.
- Enthusiasm for the subject, helpful, and timely responses to questions via email, timely feedback on assignments, put a lot of energy and effort towards feedback on assignments so students understood their grade and could improve.
- Simon is an understanding instructor and his lectures are easy to follow. Not only does he draw diagrams/come up with simple scenarios that relate to specific theories, he also explains case studies of different political systems and various semocratization paths to show how those theories are relevant. Simon gives excellent feedback as well. His comments are pretty straightforward and they tell me exactly what I'm missing in my paper.

POLI 281: Data in Politics I: An Introduction

- Professor Hollerbauer consistently encouraged engagement on Piazza and in class, making the discussion feel a bit more normal than other remote classes have been so far. He also utilized different methods of teaching through the textbook, Datacamp, and homework assignments.
- He taught in multiple ways and was SO flexible with answering questions, office hours and lending himself to students in any way he could.
- Provided plenty of resources from which to get help and feedback, such as in Piazza or through returned assignments. All slides and recordings were available and useful. Many different avenues for absorbing the necessary information such as Datacamp, lectures, textbook, exercises, and assignments.
- Simon could explain some difficult concepts or questions very well. When I asked him questions, he always tried to guide me to the right track with a lot of patience. Moreover, he always encourages his students to ask questions. He has dedicated a lot of time and efforts to help students. He is also very flexible with deadlines and very responsive to emails. The course is definitely extremely difficult. Fortunately, Simon is a life saver! Without his support and help, I would have failed in the course.
- He's very understanding of his student's limitations and understood extensions. He gave good explanations and provided a lot of help in office hours. It is obvious that this is a course that Simon is passionate about and cares about his students caring about his field

POLI 784: Regression Models (Lab Component)

- Simon has so many strengths as a TA, that the space here is inadequate to fully describe the full extent of what incredible of a TA he has been in 784 – but I shall do my best. First, Simon is one of the most patient people I have met, which is so important for a TA in a methods course. He is willing to sit with any student for a half hour to walk through issues with R, etc. He is incredibly responsive when students ask for help – whether it his immediate response to emails (no matter what time of day it is), his willingness to spend time after lecture to discuss issues with problem sets, or allowing us to set up extra office hours with him, since his office hours are always full. One of his greatest strengths – which was critical to his success as a TA – was that he always made students feel comfortable to ask him questions, no matter how basic we thought the question was. He made sure that we never felt incompetent by asking him questions, which is one of the reasons his office hours were always packed. It's a true testament to his teaching ability and his quality of character that the students always felt that we could go to him for questions. He made going through an intense course so much more manageable. I am incredibly grateful to have had him as a TA and could not have asked for a better TA. He consistently went above and beyond the call of action to support our learning.
- Also the instructor was the biggest strength! Simon is an absolutely fantastic instructor. He was always available outside of class – he met out of office hours and was incredibly accessible via email. He went above and beyond what was necessary to ensure we learned the material and were successful in our assignments.
- Simon is extremely helpful in office hours. Especially when we struggle with the math, he makes sure we understand the course material. He would not discriminate people based on their arithmetic abilities, as he will slowly walk us through if we do not understand the math. He is willing to host voluntary, additional office hours too if we could not make it to the regular ones, or if there are too many people in the office hours.
- Simon's extensive knowledge of not only the application of statistics in R but, more importantly, what's going on under the hood is the course's greatest strength.
- Simon was an incredible TA and deserves a teaching award. He was always willing to meet with us outside of his office hours and on very short notice. He greatly enhanced my understanding of the course material. He was able to effectively explain complicated topics in a very accessible way. He also was extremely patient and found multiple ways to explain the same topic until I understood it, which often took a few tries. He had more patience with me than I had for myself at times. When we had an issue with our R code, Simon also made sure that we could explain what was going wrong, which me less likely to repeat the same mistakes.
- Simon is the most accessible instructor that I've had. He goes above and beyond to work with students, including going over-time for office hours and constantly available over email. He cares deeply about the material and helping us learn new methods to approach statistics. He goes beyond the basics.
- Simon is amazing. He is incredibly accessible outside of class. Simon has a talent for making complicated concepts accessible. Overall, Simon is unquestionably the most helpful teaching assistant of my academic career.
- Simon did a great job both early in the semester and later in the semester when having to adapt the course. The labs provided a great resource, both for the assignments and for my future research. I have referenced the material multiple times throughout the semester for my own research. Further, Simon was always strong at having a pulse on issues students were struggling with and made sure to address those issues during lab in a productive way while also getting to the other material.
- Simon was always enthusiastic and available for help responding to emails no matter the time. Simon is a very encouraging instructor that shows passion for the subject matter.
- Simon was always extremely generous with his time, and always made himself available for questions when needed. He has a true talent for explaining things in a way that would make the most sense to that specific audience, given their background and experience with the topic at hand. He never made us feel as though we were asking obvious questions or wasting his time, which was particularly

comforting given the difficult nature of the course material.

- Simon went above and beyond the call of duty in helping us with the materials. Office hours almost always ran over time, and Simon always helped us work through complicated proofs and detailed examples to bolster and build on our understanding of the subject matter.
- He literally is the reason we all survived this class. Made every effort to help us learn both over email and in office hours.
- Simon is the best lab instructor I have ever had. Aside from his incredible ability to make highly complex topics seem simple, Simon went out of his way to help students in the class.
- Simon did a great job both inside and outside the classroom. He went above and beyond for all students and was an incredible resource throughout the semester. The labs he provided were clearly written in a way that they can serve as a template for future research we are all doing. A really great job by someone teaching a difficult subject in a form (online) that is nearly impossible to teach in.
- Simon's energy and clear enthusiasm for the subject matter make him a wonderful resource for this class – not to mention his vast knowledge of the material and talent for relating it in a comprehensible way. I cannot overstate the value of his help and support throughout the semester.