



GOV 1006
Models

Comments



What were the strengths of this course? Please be specific and use concrete examples where possible.

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

1) the material - I really enjoyed looking at academic papers. It has completely changed the way I understand and engage with material in other classes. I.e. when they bring up academic papers I now am able to quickly analyze the claim and think about how the study was done / what techniques and data they could have used. 2) atmosphere - a product of good leadership, this is one of the few (possibly the only one) classes that I became friends with my classmates and got to know them very well. Also generally looked forward to coming to class and hanging out with the group. This definitely led to more interest and effort being put into the class.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Went in-depth on the survey sent out before the end of class. Don't see the need to rehash all that here!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Good work week to week Feel like I learned a lot about replicating work

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Amazingly dedicated instructor and great TF, excellent course concept and interesting topic selections, small setting, and encouraging atmosphere.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

great group of students, comfortable seminar style, great faculty.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This course is a high-level but practical introduction to a wide selection of material and is great preparation for academic work in political science.



How could this course be improved? Please use concrete examples where possible and provide constructive suggestions.

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

I think that while I was able to grasp the more basic modeling techniques, I struggled in this area. I think that the textbook is very dense, and wonder if there is a better way to learn this material. With that said, don't take this to mean that the course should have a bigger focus on modeling (I really liked the current balance and time spent reading and looking at applications of modeling in papers).

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

See above.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Better deadline and submission schedule

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

This course would be even better if it were more focused: spending more time on Gelman and Hill OR replications/understanding papers OR statistics. It tried to do everything and as a result I felt we didn't get to really master any particular aspect.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

preceptor could teach more technical skills as they pertain to the problem sets we completed.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

More instruction on statistics! Preceptor, you have a very very good TF, and it seems he is more comfortable with much of the statistics than you are -- let him teach more often! (also, watching debates between you two is very helpful)



Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.) — Add Comments?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.): **2 (fair)**

reading (Gelman and Hill) was too complex.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.): **5 (excellent)**

I liked Gelman and Hill, but it's at a fairly high level. It took a while to get through and I think many people (especially those with less of a statistics background) never did any of the assigned readings.



Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.) — Add Comments?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.): **4 (very good)**

There were many moving targets in the course (but I know that's the nature of a new course). It would be helpful to nail down clear expectations for every assignment (and due dates, though I really appreciated the flexibility!).

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.): **4 (very good)**

problem sets were exciting and fun.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.): **4 (very good)**

Replication-based problem sets will probably be better than just doing replications, although the task of working through a complicated, confusing, and ambiguous task is sometimes a good thing.



Feedback you received on work you produced in this course — Add Comments?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Feedback you received on work you produced in this course: **5 (excellent)**

I enjoyed the easy grading. This course is about learning at your own pace (especially because there is such a wide variety of backgrounds).



In your opinion, what preparation or background is necessary to take this course?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Gov 1005, a CS background, or previous r coding experience

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

1005 is basically essential.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Solid R skills or excellent coding skills (working with data) and a willingness to take R. You also should have taken at least one or two statistics courses or you won't understand the paper results. A political science/gov course is helpful background too.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

stat and gov 50

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

A background in statistics, R, and political science is helpful, although none of them are required.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Coding/statistics background is definitely helpful.

What would you like to tell future students about this class?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Extremely interesting and well taught. You###ll learn a valuable skill set that will help in many research positions or generally with anything involving data (also just a better general understanding of a lot of the academic papers you hear about). Be prepared to spend a lot of time working on the replications and projects, especially if you have a weaker background.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

If you're interested in seeing how the concepts you learned in 1005 translate in academia, definitely take this class! Preceptor and Mark are great at teaching you how the whole paper-industrial complex works, and replicating the papers is normally really cool!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

It's a good course, but next year it is changing so much that it is hard to tell you anything. Kane is a good instructor.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Preceptor is one of the most dedicated instructors I've ever had. Mark is a great TF and always willing to help. The course content was often in flux and sometimes scattered (as expected with a first-time course) but the topics are all excellent. We just tried to cover a little bit too much given the available time, but I still learned a huge amount. You should have taken 1005 and have some stats background before taking it or you won't get much out of the paper replications. Would highly recommend for anyone interested in getting an introduction to quantitative political science. Only will get better in future years!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Preceptor (David Kane) is extremely willing to teach his students new tricks to the Rstudio trade and is excited to bring in new students into the field. Given that this class was taught for the first time this semester, next semester's version will surely be worthwhile.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This class will probably be very different next year, so take this with a grain of salt. This is a great class if you subscribe to self-teaching model of learning. There are good resources provided (especially the TF Mark, who was one of the greatest strengths of this class), but at the end of the day you have to be willing to do all the work yourself. If you don't mind spending hours of your own time learning things that are not directly applicable to this week's assignment, you will do well and get a lot out of the class. If you put in less time, you will get a lot less out of the course. Think of this class as a skills workshop where everyone is collaborating to get better in several different aspects of political science research.



What did you learn? How did this course change you?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Learned a lot more about data!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

We learned how to replicate some papers.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Got a terrific introduction to quantitative methods for political science and much more experience with R. I loved it!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

broadened my understanding of quantitative analysis and pushed me to challenge my coding knowledge.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This course gave me a foundation in R and confidence using R to analyze data in high-level academic contexts.



Please comment on this person's teaching.

Kane, David D

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Instructor overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Does by far the best job of creating a positive classroom environment of all of the teachers I###ve had. Very accessible outside of class. Teaches applicable, real world skills (even when they don###t relate to the subject matter). Has a thorough understanding of the material he teaches. Would highly recommend.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Instructor overall.: **4 (very good)**

Preceptor: quirky but effective!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Instructor overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Good job

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Instructor overall.: **5 (excellent)**

One of the most dedicated and enthusiastic instructors I've ever had. Lots of fun and always trying to push his students to do their best work. Thank you!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Instructor overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Preceptor's teaching style is not for everyone, but at the end of the day he will put in the time to make sure that you understand what is going on and feel comfortable in class. As he gets more experience teaching this class, he'll get better at presenting content -- but it's his willingness to work hard and his dedication to his students that makes him a great teacher.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Instructor overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Preceptor is one of the best teachers I've had at Harvard. He makes students participate without making them feel awkward about it. He ties everything you learn in class into real-world lessons. The work is not easy but it's worth it; he genuinely cares and wants everyone to do well.



Please comment on your Section Leader's teaching.

Hill, Mark Andrew

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Very knowledgeable / insightful. Gave quick and helpful feedback. Was a great resource on the final project.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Spectacular TF. Very knowledgeable and willing to teach. Awesome feedback on assignments.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Mark is great!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

A great TF and always willing to help. It would be nice if he got more chances to add to class discussions! His explanations always clarified the subject matter.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This class would not have been nearly as good without Mark, whose experienced and patient advice in office hours helped me enormously. Mark is very knowledgeable and a great teacher.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Mark is awesome! Always very thorough and clear in his answers to questions and always willing to help out in and outside of class.



Which snack was your favorite?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

The little pretzel snacks were pretty addictive.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Brownies against the patriarchy.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

The cake pops were so fucking good.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

The peanut brittle thing probably? Thank you Dr. Kane!!!!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Fighting Against Patriarchal Standards of Behavior Brownies!!!!!!!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

The chocolate pretzels. In general, the more elaborate a snack was, the worse it tasted.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

All of them!!!



How much should I worry about ensuring that students have peers to work with? Or should I just let students figure it out themselves?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Probably even moreso than this semester. Having peers to work with helps students to learn new things and save inefficient time but I know that I personally worked alone most of the time.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

I think there###s some benefits from forcing people to work together. A great aspect of this class is meeting new people and having a community. Possibly forcing teams with shared repos for the first 3 replications then going to individual repos could be a good way to approach things. Also mix up the teams once or twice during the shared repo stage. Just a suggestion but could be an interesting way for people to see who they like working with, to meet other people in the class early on, and to have a bit of a helping hand when the class is just getting started (the replications can initially be a bit intimidating)

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Definitely bring it up at the beginning of class, but if the students have people they want to work with, don't override that. But make sure everyone has someone to do that first replication with (even if both of those people drop the class because of it haha).

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

People will find partners if you require it. Mixing up partners regularly is a good idea, though! I think assigning partners is good to start though.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

I didn't mind working mostly on my own, but it could be helpful for some people. You could sort everyone into groups early on and then let people figure it out themselves.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

I personally benefitted from working in a larger group in this course. So I would recommend that you encourage students work together, unless they really don't want to for whatever reason. We are always learning from each other!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Emphasize it in the first few weeks (perhaps by having the first few assignments be joint submissions), then let people figure it out themselves.



Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Strike a balance. Make sure people have groups but if they choose not to work with those groups then that's on them. If a student wants to work more with their group and the feeling is not mutual and they express concern then change their group/handle it case by case.