



Course and Instructor Evaluation Summary Department of Political Science

Elgin, Samuel Zincke
POLI 27 - Ethics And Society I (A)
Winter Quarter 2021

Number of Students Enrolled: 256
Number of Evaluations Submitted: 102

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Your class level is

0 (0.0%): Freshman
20 (19.6%): Sophomore
60 (58.8%): Junior
22 (21.6%): Senior
0 (0.0%): Graduate
0 (0.0%): Extension
0 (0.0%): Visitor

2. Your reason for taking this class is

0 (0.0%): Major
0 (0.0%): Minor
98 (98.0%): Gen. Ed.
2 (2.0%): Elective
0 (0.0%): Interest
2: [No Response]

3. What grade do you expect in this class?

57 (57.0%): A
22 (22.0%): B
0 (0.0%): C
0 (0.0%): D
0 (0.0%): F
21 (21.0%): P
0 (0.0%): NP
2: [No Response]

GENERAL QUESTIONS

4. I learned a great deal from this course.

2 (2.0%):	Strongly Disagree
5 (5.1%):	Disagree
10 (10.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
48 (48.5%):	Agree
34 (34.3%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

5. How many hours a week do you spend studying outside of class on average?

19 (19.0%):	0-1
28 (28.0%):	2-3
24 (24.0%):	4-5
17 (17.0%):	6-7
6 (6.0%):	8-9
2 (2.0%):	10-11
1 (1.0%):	12-13
2 (2.0%):	14-15
0 (0.0%):	16-17
0 (0.0%):	18-19
1 (1.0%):	20 or more
2:	[No Response]

6. How often do you attend this course?

10 (10.0%):	Very Rarely
24 (24.0%):	Some of the Time
66 (66.0%):	Most of the Time
2:	[No Response]

COURSE MATERIAL POLI 27

7. The course material is intellectually stimulating.

4 (4.0%):	Strongly Disagree
6 (6.1%):	Disagree
9 (9.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
40 (40.4%):	Agree
40 (40.4%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

8. Assignments promote learning.

3 (3.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.0%):	Disagree
12 (12.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
47 (47.0%):	Agree
34 (34.0%):	Strongly Agree
3 (3.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

9. Required reading is useful.

2 (2.0%): Strongly Disagree
13 (13.0%): Disagree
16 (16.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
40 (40.0%): Agree
29 (29.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
2: [No Response]

10. This course is difficult relative to others.

7 (7.0%): Strongly Disagree
29 (29.0%): Disagree
36 (36.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
20 (20.0%): Agree
8 (8.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
2: [No Response]

11. Exams are representative of the course material.

2 (2.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
10 (10.0%): Neither Agree nor Disagree
29 (29.0%): Agree
24 (24.0%): Strongly Agree
35 (35.0%): Not Applicable
2: [No Response]

12. Do you recommend this course overall?

83 (83.0%): Yes
17 (17.0%): No
2: [No Response]

13. Course POLI 27:

- Somewhat similar to Politics 13, but still very interesting and engaging
- Doesn't get into meta-ethics, the interesting part of ethics
- The course explores many ethical questions and there is no homework besides reading so it is not too tough
- The course itself is completely doable! Standard essay-writing course. There are 3 exams based on the topics discussed in class. You will be given the option to choose between 3 prompts, and given 10 days to write the essay. I will say that the class is doable by only reading the papers or only watching the lectures.
- The material was interesting, but as a 3rd year Poli Sci major, a lot of the subject material overlapped, but I was completely fine discussing these materials once more. (I took Political Theory)

- Very interesting all the different theories that make up political science thus far. A very interesting class that provides the basics of political science theory
- its good
- Just doing it for a gen requirement. Very boring except for the philosophers section (So Crates, Plato, Arianna Stotle) Didn't do any of the readings, still have an A
- Intellectually stimulating class. Made me question and reflect upon a lot of things. Not too difficult, though material may be hard to comprehend sometimes.
- I was pleasantly surprised with this class and the professor.
- course is intellectually stimulating. lectures hold your attention. you are encouraged to have an opinion.
- I loved this course! The material was so stimulating, so relevant, and involved topics that students actually care about.
- A lot of reading was assigned only for there to be 2 assignments that actually counted towards the grade.
- the course is really interesting and the ethics are interesting to talk about and discuss in class
- A very interesting class.
- interesting topic, feels kind of robotic as a course overall in terms of structure etc.
- I think the course was not worth my time. I think warren needs to incorporate other ges that students are actually interested in. This course was miserable for many students who had no interest at all. My TA was very helpful and graded fairly. However, this class was not intellectually stimulating to me because the professor would just babble for 50 minutes, but wouldn't induce discussions. Too much information was crammed in a short amount of time
- Very interesting course.
- Poli 27 was a very interesting class that covered a wide range of topics.
- The course is organized by topic. The content is pretty interesting. You don't need to have much background knowledge in any topic to have a really engaging discussion about it.
- Many of the topics are intellectually stimulating for me and I enjoy having philosophical debates that are not political. Political debates can sometimes get emotional or heated which I do not enjoy.
- Prof Elgin is brilliant in teaching this class. TA's also played a big role during and after lectures.
- This class gives a good foundation for ethics and political philosophy. It is the first class I have had that requires me to think very abstract and theoretical.
- This course goes over a lot of moral and ethical decision making. The discussion of what goes behind the choices and thinking is very interesting to learn about.
- Your experience in this class is highly dependent on your professor. Make sure you participate in the discussion section.

14. Exams/Quizzes/Papers:

- Always based on lectures/readings so very reliable
- Papers were about 6 pages and somewhat difficult. Depending on your TA this course was easy or hard.
- Papers were graded very fairly, and did a great job of simply encouraging students to develop critical thinking skills, which is ultimately the point of the class.
- Papers were an absolute breeze when paired with the lectures and everything that was taught in class. Very fair grading and rubrics were very straightforward :)
- The paper are a bit lengthy but doable
- The papers were representative of the course material, but I sometimes had trouble having to fill the 6 page limit.
- 2 papers a quarter, then there's a final.
- They need to work on the rubric. Add examples papers. WCWP classes had examples of A papers and B papers. Also what the heck is supposed to go on a cover page. bruh
- Papers are fun if you manage your time well.
- Prompts were decent but the requirement of about 6 pages seemed too much for some of them.
- The papers are quite long.
- the papers are really open ended, and i wish there was a little more of a guide since they are broad but also need to be 6-8 pages
- The papers have good topics to choose from. I wish there was a way to peer review the papers before the final submission.
- Papers are open-ended, so it can be difficult to get started on them, but lectures usually elaborate on what to focus on for a specific prompt.
- papers are long but can be fun to write. you are given the option of answering one of three prompts which is nice.
- Papers are not too bad and are manageable.
- The papers ensured we could use sources to create a relative argument and write effectively.
- Warren GEs make no sense. It seems so easy to have students submit a first draft half way through the quarter, get feedback, and if they thoroughly complete the feedback then they usually get an A. Instead I have gone through 3 quarters of classes to learn almost nothing about writing and have only realized that writing class in college is no different then high school, grades just depend on the teacher or teaching assistant. Feedback from office hours or additional sources such as the writing hub do not help because the grading system is so subjective.
- Each midterm is given after 3 loosely related topics are discussed and you get to choose which topic you want to focus your papers on, which is really nice. The papers themselves are pretty lengthy, but it'll be easy to find content to write about through the readings. You never need to find outside sources and as long as you show you know what's going on in the class and have some opinion about it, you should get a decent grade.

- Estimating papers to write.
- fair
- papers have interesting topics and I enjoy that we have some reign in deciding which prompt we do. It might be nice to have more formal standards for what is expected though.
- Papers were fair and representative of what we were learning in class, I also appreciate that we were given choices for our prompt!
- It consists of two papers and the final.
- Papers are very doable! Grading is generous and constructive and completely anonymous.
- Very straight forward and I loved having the option to go to live section or do an online discussion post.

15. Reading [title(s) and comments]:

- the readings are useful if you need more explanation or to use it in papers
- A bit lengthy for my taste, but really helped you prepare for what Prof was going to talk about in the next lecture and helped for essays.
- Overall the readings were really helpful. Some were way too long in my opinion, but if they were important, it might have just been nice to have a heads-up that it was going to be a long one so I could work on getting it done over a couple of days instead of all the night before lecture. They were pretty interesting and definitely helpful in writing the essays. I also liked how the readings didn't steer your opinion one way or the other, but rather just presented different ideas to consider.
- Some of the readings were manageable, while others tended to be overwhelming (the readings that were 40+ pages). Even though we might have had the weekend to read it, it was a lot. It might have been helpful to assign the reading, but then suggest parts of the reading that were relevant to lecture, if possible.
- The readings are very detailed.
- //
- Lots of readings, some overly superfluous and lengthy. Many of the writers come off to me as haughty and pretentious but the more recent articles were interesting reads.
- The reading are long
- the readings are super interesting
- readings are interesting and relevant to the class.
- You aren't expected to annotate any readings. You can easily skim through the readings weekly and then revisit them in-depth to write your papers. Each weekly topic has 2 assigned readings that go w them. Some of the reading's could be more interesting. Some of them don't really offer you that much content and are just random online articles. But overall, they're easy to tackle and shorter readings balance out with longer ones of the same topic.
- I honestly did not always do the reading, but I was still able to keep up in class and perform well on my papers

- Readings were a hit or miss, sometimes interesting other times not so much.
- sometimes a bit wordy and not useful
- The readings were a little long and the lectures seemed to be summaries of the readings, so it was a little redundant sometimes.
- Interesting readings, though sometimes long. One of the few classes that I actually liked the readings for.
- The reading were insightful and thought-stimulating.
- Good amount of reading.
- never did the readings. Only read when I needed sources for my paper
- useful and connect straight back to lectures

INSTRUCTOR Samuel Elgin

16. Instructor displays a proficient command of the material.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
4 (4.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
16 (16.3%):	Agree
78 (79.6%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
4:	[No Response]

17. Instructor is well prepared for classes.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
3 (3.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
18 (18.0%):	Agree
79 (79.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

18. Instructor's speech is clear and audible.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
5 (5.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
16 (16.0%):	Agree
79 (79.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

19. Instructor explains the course material well.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.0%):	Disagree
5 (5.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
19 (19.0%):	Agree
75 (75.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

20. Lectures hold your attention.

2 (2.0%):	Strongly Disagree
6 (6.0%):	Disagree
13 (13.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
23 (23.0%):	Agree
56 (56.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

21. Instructor's lecture style facilitates note-taking.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
8 (8.0%):	Disagree
17 (17.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
27 (27.0%):	Agree
48 (48.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

22. Instructor shows concern for students' learning.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
9 (9.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
27 (27.0%):	Agree
64 (64.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

23. Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
2 (2.0%):	Disagree
7 (7.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
26 (26.0%):	Agree
65 (65.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

24. Instructor is accessible outside of class.

1 (1.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
10 (10.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
28 (28.0%):	Agree
50 (50.0%):	Strongly Agree
11 (11.0%):	Not Applicable
2:	[No Response]

25. Instructor starts and finishes class on time.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (1.0%):	Disagree
4 (4.0%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
27 (27.3%):	Agree
67 (67.7%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

26. Instructor is effective in promoting academic integrity.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
5 (5.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
26 (26.3%):	Agree
67 (67.7%):	Strongly Agree
1 (1.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

27. The instructor practiced effective teaching strategies that acknowledged and valued differences among students, including differences of race and gender identity.

0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
6 (6.1%):	Neither Agree nor Disagree
26 (26.3%):	Agree
66 (66.7%):	Strongly Agree
1 (1.0%):	Not Applicable
3:	[No Response]

28. Instructor Samuel Elgin:

- He is really passionate about the class and really cares about students' well being, especially during the pandemic.
- Sam is great, he is clearly very passionate about this and he teaches really well. he cares about his students and wants to make sure they understand the material that is being discussed.
- Very engaging teaching style during lecture and gives good overviews of the readings that we need to know for our discussion and/or papers.
- Great professor, holds stimulating lectures and explains content well. Extremely responsive to students and provides great feedback and extensions to people who need it.

- I think he was an okay professor. I just don't think there was enough class discussion and he tried to speed through every lecture in order to ensure he covered the material, but it was just hard to concentrate especially over zoom
- Professor Elgin made the class easy to understand and follow along to.
- Professor Sam really seems like he cares about his students! He is considerate about how well we are doing and is very generous.
- Really knows what he is talking about! Goes over a lot, but is clear, concise (at times), and makes it easy to digest. Super fun listening to him.
- Honestly, the professor's class is the only one I really enjoyed this quarter. He gives many examples during lecture to highlight the differences between different moral obligations, and lectures are pretty easy to follow. I appreciate how organized the class is in terms of knowing where the readings and slides are.
- great professor! Would love to take another class with him/.
- Seems like a very nice person but the class feels so detached from him at the same time. It's not very personable and very much focused on just delivering the material so it's available for the paper so classes often feel rushed and like we're not a live audience really. I do enjoy his attempts to add more interactive items but it fell short for me. Also, very understanding professor and I think he does a good job of listening to feedback to accommodate to student needs which is more than you can ask for in that respect.
- Prof Elgin is a great teacher.
- An absolutely amazing prof that shows great knowledge in the realm of political science. Such an accommodating prof and genuinely cares for his students and their learning! Thank you Prof Elgin :)
- Awesome Professor! Cannot believe it was his first time teaching. Made everything easy to comprehend. Very caring about student success and seemed passionate about the content.
- He is a smart and kind professor! He does speak quickly a lot of the time but I can still understand what he is saying in his lectures.
- I really enjoyed professor Elgin and hope to see more of him.
- He displays very great command of the material and is very great at explaining it. The examples of application of the concepts he discusses during the lecture are very helpful for understanding them.
- professor holds a strong command of material. he is young, ver knowledgeable and easy to understand
- Sam's lectures are super clear and interesting! He breaks down the material really well and encourage discussion of class material
- Extremely knowledgeable! Doesn't waste any time in class and always open to questions
- Sam goes over a lot of content each course. You'll probably need to rewatch lectures to get all your notes in. His lectures are pretty organized and each point he discusses flows from one to another. He holds a lot of polls in class. Also, he's really helpful if you have any questions.
- very good
- Good teacher, bad class.

- His lectures seemed a bit rushed in the second-half of the quarter simply because some topics went on longer than expected. Overall, he explains hard-to-understand theories and philosophy clearly. It is helpful when things are very abstract.
- I really, really enjoyed Professor Elgin. His lectures were extremely interesting, and while they did sometimes run over time just a little bit, he was always apologetic and never reprimanded students for leaving at class' end time. He was the most accommodating professor I had the entire quarter, pushing due dates back for everyone in order to give us all more time to work, especially with all the crazy things going on this quarter. Additionally, he was extremely accessible outside of class - I emailed him twice about some random, logistical things, and he responded each time within less than 24 hours.
- I think this is his first class? He did really well and made sure that everyone understood the material. He was always open to questions.
- Professor Elgin was a very detailed lecturer and showed a great deal of concern for students. Because of this difficult online learning circumstance, he was understanding and gave extensions to students who were struggling. I appreciated his efforts to make this experience as stress-free as possible for us.
- Understood the materials well, was a bit quick in delivering them but given the grandiosity of the concepts and how little time was in lecture its to be expected.
- Extremely prompt at replying to emails! Very understandable and willing to accommodate students.
- The instructor knows the material well
- Thank you for a great quarter! I really enjoyed your teaching style and the interactive discussion sections.
- I really enjoyed having Professor Eglin, and I look forward to taking Poli 28 with him next quarter! Sam is always very prepared for class and gives thoughtful lectures that are very helpful for assignments! He was also very understanding about everything going on right now, and all students really appreciate that. Sam is a wonderful addition to the Political Science department and a great instructor! Nothing but good things to say.
- Professor Elgin is great at making the material interesting and keeping the class involved. He clearly loves the subject and talks about it with such passion that it makes it fun.
- Professor Elgin is a great professor who is able to lecture effectively and convey the information we need to know for the course.

29. Do you recommend this professor overall?

97 (97.0%): Yes
 3 (3.0%): No
 2: [No Response]

Custom Question 5

30. Please provide examples of the ways the instructor did or did not create a learning environment that welcomed, challenged, and supported all students.

- Available during and outside of class, always understanding about everything going on right now in the world! Encouraged class participation with polls, and lectures were meaningful!

- Everyone was welcomed and this was demonstrated through the class polls. Everyone was challenged and supported and this can be seen through the discussion sections.
- Prof Elgin always was open to any questions related to the material and was very open-minded to anything students asked or believed in. Was super accessible outside of class and even through email for any questions big or small :)
- he always asks for questions and answers them very kindly and informatively
- Easy to reach outside of class and makes accommodations based off student needs
- Instructor was interesting, nice, and supportive.
- The professor was very understanding and compassionate towards students. He gave students extra time to work on papers is we were under difficult circumstances.
- very kind
- He never put his personal opinions and biases in the way of learning the different moral concepts. He seemed to be thoughtful about the students' different backgrounds and opinions when he taught a class very much about theories of right vs. wrong. He did not try to push one thing being more correct than another.
- He was ultimately just very kind, thoughtful, and accommodating.
- idk
- He really shares his enthusiasm during lectures.
- He was the best vibes!!!!<3 Always was welcoming and able to promote learning through interactive parts of lecture.
- //
- Promoted discussions amongst students that didn't really have a correct answer but instead relied upon course material to help argue ones point.
- Professor Elgin was very tactful and open with his discussion questions and in how he presented the material. All topics felt very academic and lectures where given from a very neutral position.
- He frequently asks us to participate in poll like questions during lecture which keeps us all involved. The only thing that is frustrating is that because we have so much to cover he spoke pretty fast which didn't give me enough time to write down some notes.
- I really appreciated that in these times, how Professor Elgin helped to accommodate students by allowing extensions on essays, for example. He was overall very understanding of other students' situations.
- He offers many options and alternatives to assignments such as discussions. He also is very willing to answer extra questions during lectures and is very supportive of his students.

Please note that any responses or comments submitted by evaluators do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, Political Science, Academic Affairs, or UC San Diego. Responses and comments are made available without auditing or editing, and they may not be modified or deleted, to ensure that each evaluator has an opportunity to express his or her opinion.