Title: **Fall 2016 A&S Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **12/05/2016 - 12/16/2016**
Course: **POLSW3222_001_2016_3/THE AMERICAN CONGRESS**   Responses**: 24/64 - 37.50%**
Instructors: **Gregory J. Wawro**   Number of Participants: **64**
Enrollment of All Students: **64**

Graph Course Questions

1   What percentage of the work (including reading) assigned for this course did you complete on schedule?   N=24

1	This question is not applicable	**0** (0%)
2	Some	**6** (25%)
3	Most	**12** (50%)
4	All or almost all	**6** (25%)

Median **3** Interpolated Median **3.00** Mean **3.00** Std Dev **0.72**

2   What is your overall assessment of the course?   N=24

1	Poor	**1** (4%)
2	Fair	**0** (0%)
3	Good	**10** (42%)
4	Very good	**7** (29%)
5	Excellent	**6** (25%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **3.64** Mean **3.71** Std Dev **1.00**

3   Would you recommend this course to another student?   N=24

1	Definitely not recommend	**1** (4%)
2	Probably not recommend	**0** (0%)
3	I'm not sure I'd recommend	**5** (21%)
4	Yes, probably recommend	**10** (42%)
5	Yes, definitely recommend	**8** (33%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **4.10** Mean **4.00** Std Dev **0.98**

4   How does the workload in this course compare to Columbia courses with a similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar, laboratory, or language course)?   N=24

1	No basis for comparison	**0** (0%)
2	Much lighter workload	**0** (0%)
3	Lighter workload	**4** (17%)
4	Similar workload	**17** (71%)
5	Heavier workload	**2** (8%)
6	Much heavier workload	**1** (4%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **3.97** Mean **4.00** Std Dev **0.66**

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Enrollment of Registered Students:**64**

Enrollment of All Students:**64**

Comments Course Questions

Q1 What did you learn - in terms of knowledge, skills, or perspectives - in this course?

- Basics of American Congress from foreign policy work to the historical foundations of American legislature.

- The history, details, and real makeup of American Congress.

- all about the American Congress!

- American Congress

- I learnt basically everything not covered in Intro to American Politics, How the Congress functions currently, how it has functioned since 1776, the role of the Executive and Judiciary branches of government, party politics, how to interpret PoliSci graphs etc.

- internal working of congress

- I learned a great amount about our Congressional theories and how crazy and complicated our system of government is.

- I learned a much more in depth analysis of the American Congress.

- in depth perspective as to how political science works, and how theories are measured

- how congress works in itself and relation with the other branches of government and other actors

- I learned a great deal about everything there is to know about Congress, from its history to its role in US domestic and foreign policy. This course also encourages critical thinking skills with the essay (though not as much on the exams).

Q2 What is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths? In what ways might it be improved? In answering this question, you might address the value of readings and assignments, the structure of the course (including the relationship of sections to lectures), the contribution of the course to your knowledge of the subject matter and to the development of your analytical and reasoning skills, etc. We encourage you to use specific examples where possible.

- Loved it, a lot of readings but the class was interesting. would have loved more focus and insight on how to best prepare for the midterm and final beyond a review session 2 days before the exam...

- The strengths of this course lies within Professor Wawro who was an extremely knowledgeable lecturer. However, his lack of online notes meant that if I didn't manage to focus for the entire class, I would miss out on certain things and have no means of finding a way to understand them.

Comments Course Questions

- This course is great as a political science major because you will take away real knowledge about Congress that you would need to know if you plan to pursue a career working with the legislative branch. Wawro lectures without any PowerPoint, which I find I take the most from because there is nothing to distract you from the points that he makes.

- I think the course does a great job doing what it is supposed to do -- teaching you everything there is to know about Congress. While some may argue that it is a pretty one-dimensional course, Wawro does a good job teaching the topic in a comprehensive way that includes a great deal of political science theory.

- In the end, the topic is too broad for us to really engage with certain materials. This makes lecture sometimes feel stale or like a history class. Nevertheless, I think Professor Wawro does a great job keeping it relevant to current events.

- Great course, sometimes hard to see how reading dovetails with lecture, would be nice if some of the less interesting readings were cut, some were very useful/interesting but some were very dense and not very rewarding, though these were in the minority. The course definitely contributed to my knowledge of the subject matter. As a senior, I did not find the course particularly helped me develop analytical and reasoning skills, nor did I expect it to, but the extensive feedback given, and outling of expectations and advice in lecture, could be very beneficial to younger students. Professor Wawro goes above and beyond in this respect.

- I enjoyed how the course focused on one subject at a time which made it less confusing. Also I liked how flexible the schedule was that allowed for more time on difficult subjects. I wish we would have had more time to talk about foreign policy and Congress.

- the connections between the lectures, readings, and tests were unclear

- straightforward survey course. good for learning the ins and outs of Congress and an introduction to the different theories describing its functions and systems of organization. nothing earth-shaking, but solid and would recommend for anyone interested in the machinations of American government.

Q3 Please qualify your recommendations if you wish:

- I learned a lot and loved professor Wawro!

- It's a fairly engaging class and even though the material could get boring, I do genuinely think I came away learning something about Congress.

- only to someone really interested in the field of political science, not just someone who wants to learn about how Congress works

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Comments Course Questions

Q4 **How many hours a week did you devote to this course? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including class time, discussion sections, readings, assignments, studying, etc.)**

- 4-6

- 5-6 normally and then more for the paper and exams

- 12-16 hours

- About 4-6 per week

- 3 hours on average. Fairly light workload. I know many kids in the class haven't done any of the readings (or even bought the book!)

- 6

- 6

- 5

- 5 hours

- with class and reading maybe 5 hours

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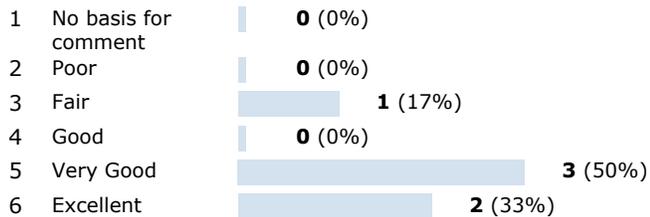
Number of Participants: **64**

Enrollment of All Students: **64**

TA Graph Report for: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**

1	**What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the teaching assistant?**	**N=6**

1	No basis for comment	**0** (0%)
2	Poor	**0** (0%)
3	Fair	**1** (17%)
4	Good	**0** (0%)
5	Very Good	**3** (50%)
6	Excellent	**2** (33%)

Median **5**   Interpolated Median **5.17** Mean **5.00** Std Dev **1.10**

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TA Comments Report for: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**

Q1 What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader, or other assistant) as an instructor, and how might his or her teaching be improved?

- Joe is great - always provided advice and feedback on our work or questions about the paper and exams. Also very friendly and approachable.

- Had limited interactions with them but they seemed really smart and great!!! review sessions were bomb