Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Course: **POLSW1211_021_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POL DISC**   Responses**: 8/15 - 53.33%**
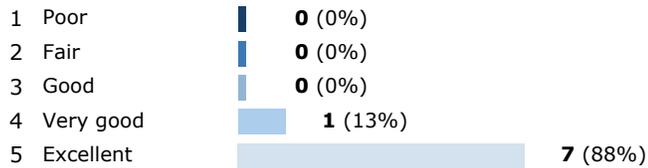
Instructors: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**   Number of Participants: **15**

Enrollment of All Students: **15**

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

1	**What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the instructor?**		N=8
1	Poor		**0** (0%)
2	Fair		**0** (0%)
3	Good		**0** (0%)
4	Very good		**1** (13%)
5	Excellent		**7** (88%)

Median **5**   Interpolated Median **4.93** Mean **4.88** Std Dev **0.35**

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1211_021_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POL DISC**

Instructors: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses**: 8/15 - 53.33%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**15**

Enrollment of All Students:**15**

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

Q1 **Please evaluate your faculty instructor. What are the instructor's strengths? In what ways might his or her teaching be improved? In answering this question, you might address the clarity of the lectures or presentations and their relationship to the other elements of the course, the ability of the instructor to generate enthusiasm and facilitate discussion, the quality of feedback, availability, the timeliness of the return of assignments, etc.**
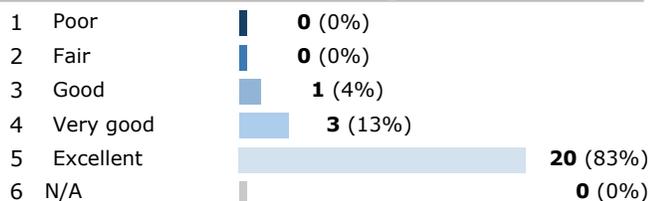
- enthusiasm, depth and breadth of knowledge, guidance in exam preparation, answers questions very well and guides discussion/frames questions for us to answer very well

- Joseph Sutherland was one of the most impressive instructors I have come across to date, TAs and professors alike. Not only is Mr. Sutherland incredibly knowledgeable in the field of American politics, but he also possesses the special skill of presenting these concepts in a fascinating, relatable, and clear manner to his students. If Mr. Sutherland taught his own course, I am confident that those fortunate to have experienced his seminar lectures would be the first to enroll. I highly recommend him to anyone looking for an instructor who is both brilliant and accommodating.

- My instructor was very knowledgeable and always very enthusiastic. His energy was contagious, and I am very grateful to have had him as my TA. He always responded to my emails in a timely manner and was willing to meet with me multiple times outside of class to help me understand the material better. He connected lecture material to current events, which I thought was fascinating and very pertinent.

- Joe was a very helpful teacher. He was always very productive in our discussion classes and made himself available to individually meet with students.

- The instructor was amazing. He actually retaught the material just to make sure everyone understood what was going on. On top of that, he brought in references from outside materials to further our knowledge of the working of American politics. I think it is safe to say that his teaching ability helped everyone in class do better than our peers when comparing. In a class that went through so much material he also pointed out what is relevant for the exams, and overall good knowledge to have as we all partake in voting and politics. Overall, Professor Sutherland was one of the best teaching assistants I have come across.

- Joseph Sutherland is a fantastic instructor. He is a very intelligent guy who does a great job at explaining every inch of the material very clearly. He is very easy to approach and always helps you if you have a question. Every discussion section is interesting because he brings in relevant information from our current political state as examples, and it really helps us to understand how the political system works. His teaching style is very affective and he makes it easy to learn important points in the material.

- Joe was a fantastic instructor. He provided great insight into the material, and was very helpful in terms of understanding the material better. He was also very approachable in person and by email, and was both efficient and thorough in class.

- Phillips is a great lecturer, always upbeat despite the early morning

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**

Responses**: 176/360 - 48.89%**

Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

Number of Participants: **360**

Enrollment of All Students: **360**

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

1	**What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the teaching assistant?**		**N=24**
1	Poor		**0** (0%)
2	Fair		**0** (0%)
3	Good		**1** (4%)
4	Very good		**3** (13%)
5	Excellent		**20** (83%)
6	N/A		**0** (0%)

Median **5**   Interpolated Median **4.90** Mean **4.79** Std Dev **0.51**

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**

Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses: **176/360 - 48.89%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

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?

- Joseph Sutherland is absolutely amazing. Whenever we have discussion sections, he does his best to go over the most relevant concepts and information from lecture. His sections always flow very naturally and are very conducive for discussion. I didn't do particularly well on the first exam and was very upset about it, but he was very encouraging and made himself available for me to interact with him outside of our discussion section, which motivated me to improve as the semester went along.

- He was good at explaining things and was always very excited to teach

- Joe was a great TA! He was very knowledgeable and open to answering any questions that came up no matter how specific and far from the material in lectures. Sections were laid back, but they weren't lecture, so some participation was expected which I think was important to better engage with the material and think through the concepts, ideas, and questions. I also liked that we always went over the important points and questions of each topic on the exams and the relevant readings the section before the exams. These reviews were very helpful and I always felt better prepared going into my exam studying because of them. Overall, I definitely think that sections helped me to better understand and think through the lectures and readings and I appreciated Joe's insight and explanations on the material. Thank you!

- Joe is an amazing TA! Always went over the lecture material in detail and applied it to the framework of the course so that we fully understood it for the test

- Joe was a fantastic TA. He was very attentive to the questions the class had, and explained concepts in ways that made them easily understandable. I enjoyed attending discussion every week, and always felt as though I left with a better understanding of the material.

- He is very clear and great at explaining concepts in a discussion based setting

- Helpful but sometimes goes on tangents. Also we didn't have a lot of structure in our section.

- He was a great TA and really helped us to review information discussed in class. He asked all the right questions to help us develop our thinking to further understand the material than what was just in lecture.

- .

- He was able to engage the class and always brought insightful perspectives. He has a wealth of knowledge on the subject matter. He is an amazing TA! He was always willing to meet with me during office hours, and he always answered my questions thoroughly.

- Does a good job of answering questions ans explaining anything that was a little more complicated in lecture. Also did a great job helping prepare us for tests.

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**

Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses**: 176/360 - 48.89%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

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

- Joe is a very good TA. He is very knowledgable and is able to convey the concepts from lecture clearly. Joe always responds to emails very quickly and is a fair grader. I learned a lot from Joe's section, which was necessary because of the speed of lecture. I am thankful to have been placed in his section.

- Fantastic discussion leader, super engaging, helpful and interested in the content. Highly recommend.

- Joseph Sutherland was a very knowledgable and helpful teaching assistant. He went over many of the important concepts and topics during discussion sections to ensure our understanding of each. He is clearly very enthusiastic about the subject and related material which made the class much more engaging and enjoyable.

- Moderated class discussions well and demonstrated enthusiasm for and profound knowledge of subject-matter. Provided concise and helpful explanations of concepts. Slightly harsh with grading--but overall, excellent.

- Joe was a great TA. He understood and taught the material extremely well. Discussion sections were very effecient.

- My TA was great. He was willing to answer questions, present information/material in a different way, and was approachable and friendly.

- Jospeh Sutherland was an excellent teaching assistant. He kept the students informed through email and during class and helped apply the material taught by Professor Phillips. He made himself available when in need.

- Throughout the course of the semester, Joseph always came prepared for our discussion sections and led us in thoughtful conversations. I really enjoyed that he did not regurgitate information we had already discussed in classes, but rather chose to cover the content from external readings or go more in-depth on topics that were mentioned in lecture but not fully explained. He did a great job of applying models or broad themes we learned to more specific instances in the current political sphere. Logistically, he was great at responding quickly to emails regarding any questions we had. My only suggestion would be to continue to apply content we learn in class to present-day events, policies, etc. One idea would be to choose a recent article each week related to the material we plan to cover and assign one student to read it on their own and summarize it to the class.

- Joseph was a very good TA who took care to make sure that everyone was on the same page and understood the material before any further teaching was done. He was a very good teacher in class who kept people engaged and covered all of the relevant information that we needed. He was very on top of things with grading as well and was fair and helpful with his corrections and assessments of your work.

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

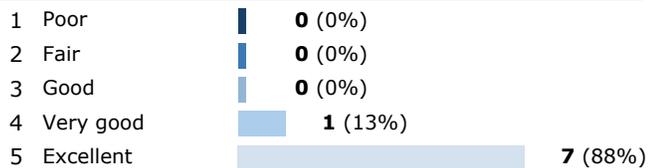Course: **POLSW1211_014_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POL DISC**   Responses**: 8/17 - 47.06%**

Instructors: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**

Number of Participants: **17**

Enrollment of All Students: **17**

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

1	**What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the instructor?**		**N=8**
1	Poor		**0** (0%)
2	Fair		**0** (0%)
3	Good		**0** (0%)
4	Very good		**1** (13%)
5	Excellent		**7** (88%)

Median **5**   Interpolated Median **4.93** Mean **4.88** Std Dev **0.35**

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1211_014_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POL DISC**

Instructors: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses**: 8/17 - 47.06%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**17**

Enrollment of All Students:**17**

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

Q1 **Please evaluate your faculty instructor. What are the instructor's strengths? In what ways might his or her teaching be improved? In answering this question, you might address the clarity of the lectures or presentations and their relationship to the other elements of the course, the ability of the instructor to generate enthusiasm and facilitate discussion, the quality of feedback, availability, the timeliness of the return of assignments, etc.**

- My TA was wonderful. He was approachable and knowledgeable and always wiling to help

- He was very engaging

- Joe is a fantastic instructor, really eager to help and he shows a great understanding of the course's content. Would definitely recommend.

- Good at answering questions and better explaining things that were more complicated topics covered during lectures, also did a great job of preparing students for tests.

- Jospeh Sutherland was an excellent instructor. He made himself available in class and/or responding via email. He was always very helpful.

- I was really impressed with Mr. Sutherland. As mentioned in the evaluation for the course, having him as the TA was one of the biggest strengths. Mr. Sutherland is incredibly knowledgable on the subject matter and also has the ability to expand beyond it. For example, I had a very specific question about something semi, but not entirely, related to the course material and he had the answer because he had done research on the matter. Being able to use specific examples to explain the bigger picture of the course really helped make sense of the material.
Mr. Sutherland always came to the session prepared with material, so if we did not have any questions, he would be able to take lead. He would ask questions in a way that made the course completely cohesive. His method allowed the students to participate in a way that encouraged application, not memorization.

- Joseph Sutherland is absolutely amazing. His discussion sections are always very clear, flow naturally, and help you retain the most relevant concepts/ideas from the course.

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

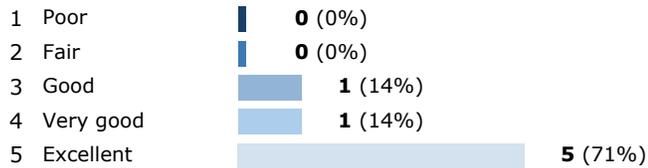Course: **POLSW1211_015_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POL DISC**   Responses**: 7/17 - 41.18%**

Instructors: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**   Number of Participants: **17**

Enrollment of All Students: **17**

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

1	**What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the instructor?**	N=7

1	Poor	**0** (0%)
2	Fair	**0** (0%)
3	Good	**1** (14%)
4	Very good	**1** (14%)
5	Excellent	**5** (71%)

Median **5**   Interpolated Median **4.80** Mean **4.57** Std Dev **0.79**

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1211_015_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POL DISC**

Instructors: **Joseph Lyons Sutherland**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses**: 7/17 - 41.18%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**17**

Enrollment of All Students:**17**

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

Q1 **Please evaluate your faculty instructor. What are the instructor's strengths? In what ways might his or her teaching be improved? In answering this question, you might address the clarity of the lectures or presentations and their relationship to the other elements of the course, the ability of the instructor to generate enthusiasm and facilitate discussion, the quality of feedback, availability, the timeliness of the return of assignments, etc.**

- Joe Sutherland is a very knowledgable and helpful TA. He clearly communicated the complex concepts covered quickly in lecture, which was very necessary. He was very responsive and encouraged questions. His sections were always insightful and I never left with an unresolved issue. i am thankful that Joe was my TA as he helped me greatly understand the material in this course.

- Moderated class discussions well and demonstrated robust knowledge of and enthusiasm for subject-matter. Clearly communicated key concepts. Slightly harsh on grading--but overall excellent.

- Good overall. Could be more specific.

- Clearly very knowledgeable, I appreciated his organized approach to helping us understand the lectures and readings, great t.a. that encouraged us to ask questions.

- Joseph clearly has a strong foundation in the subject, and was able to evidence this clearly and effectively to a class. At a difficult time for students' attentions (7pm on a Wednesday), Joseph created an engaging environment in which students benefitted from being able to a ask and discuss questions posed by himself and the class itself. These were always moderated and clarified efficiently by Joseph.

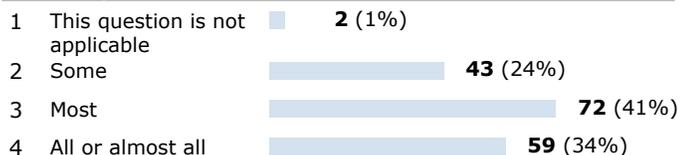Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**
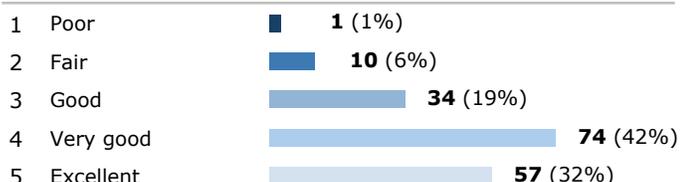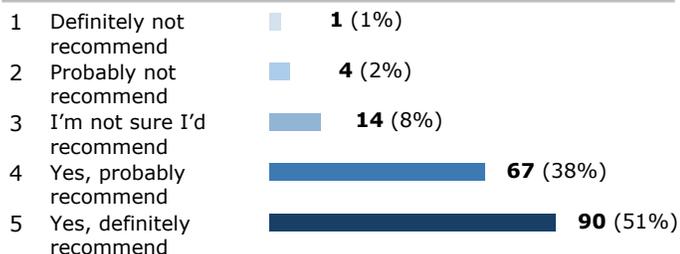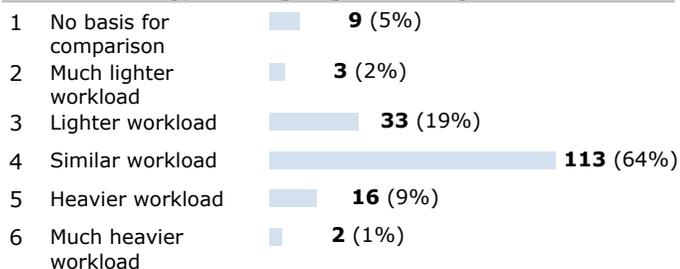Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3/INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS** Responses**: 176/360 - 48.89%**
Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**   Number of Participants: **360**
          Enrollment of All Students: **360**

Graph Course Questions

**1   What percentage of the work (including   I=176
reading) assigned for this course did you
complete on schedule?**

1	This question is not applicable	**2** (1%)
2	Some	**43** (24%)
3	Most	**72** (41%)
4	All or almost all	**59** (34%)

Median **3** Interpolated Median **3.10** Mean **3.07** Std Dev **0.79**

**2   What is your overall assessment of the   I=176
course?**

1	Poor	**1** (1%)
2	Fair	**10** (6%)
3	Good	**34** (19%)
4	Very good	**74** (42%)
5	Excellent	**57** (32%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **4.08** Mean **4.00** Std Dev **0.89**

**3   Would you recommend this course to   I=176
another student?**

1	Definitely not recommend	**1** (1%)
2	Probably not recommend	**4** (2%)
3	I'm not sure I'd recommend	**14** (8%)
4	Yes, probably recommend	**67** (38%)
5	Yes, definitely recommend	**90** (51%)

Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.52** Mean **4.37** Std Dev **0.77**

**4   How does the workload in this course   I=176
compare to Columbia courses with a
similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar,
laboratory, or language course)?**

1	No basis for comparison	**9** (5%)
2	Much lighter workload	**3** (2%)
3	Lighter workload	**33** (19%)
4	Similar workload	**113** (64%)
5	Heavier workload	**16** (9%)
6	Much heavier workload	**2** (1%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **3.88** Mean **3.74** Std Dev **0.89**

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**

Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses**: 176/360 - 48.89%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

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

- The concepts, facts, and history of American Politics

- This course uses the rational choice framework to analyze the logic that governs American politics. This lens emphasizes how the government and its institutions work to overcome collective action problems. It is very helpful for gaining a working understanding of the characteristics and connections between the most important topics in American politics (such as the three branches of government, public opinion, and interest groups). I also strengthened my knowledge of American electoral, judicial, and institutional history through this course.

- About the basic structures and institutions of American politics.

- Driving forces in political logic coupled with how those forces work in the American government.

- logic of American politics

- I primarily learned about the basics and complexities of American politics. This course gave me a new perspective ON how American government works.

- I learned how to view American politics through the framework of Logic (the textbook assigned).

- basic theories of political science and structure of american government

- This course gave a concise yet detailed insight on American politics in general, by focusing on the logic (collective action problems), the nationalization (Constitution, federalism, civil rights, civil liberties), the institutions (Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, federal judiciary), and the public's influence on national policy (public opinion, elections, political parties, interests groups, interest groups, news media).

- Prof Phillips is a great lecturer and teaches the information in an understandable way. We learned essentially about the entire American political system in 14 weeks.

- I learned a good deal about how the United States government was formed and why it is the way it is today. I learned how the government works as well and have gained a better understanding of politics and how to think about them from an informed standpoint.

- All of the complex but introductory things you need to know about American Politics: Congress, elections, ideas of the Framers...

- I learned about the problems involved with collective action and how that applies to american politics through America's founding of the constitution, structure of the government, and foundation of political parties. We were offered some perspectives when discussing the secondary readings such as the federalist and anti-federalist papers and origins of polarization.

Comments Course Questions

- I learned a lot about theories behind politics, something I've never thought about before. It taught me to understand political science as not only a myriad of facts, but as theoretical.

- I learned about American politics in a new framework than how I'd previously done, as well as being able to connect different aspects of politics in ways I hadn't done before.

- how the American political system works

- Why polarization happens in America, why political parties and the electoral college is important, how the bureaucracy is set up and functions, the paradox of the presidency

- The fundamentals that underlie who, what, how, and why the American government exists how it does today.

- I learned basic aspects of the American Politics

- I learned a lot about the political hierarchy and structure of American government, from the founding until the present.

- So much about the structure of the American political system as well as all the agents that play a role in shaping it.

- I learned American Politics.

- This course taught me a comprehensive narrative of American political history. Eventually leading to contemporary politics.

- Transaction costs, information costs, conformity costs, the necessity of a two party system in a pluralist system.

- Foundations of political thinking - foundations of American government and the system it has in place now

- Really good coverage and explanations on the basics of American Politics. A good mixture of contemporary politics and historically relevant movements and events.

- More detailed knowledge of how the American political system works.

- I learned how the United States government works and learned about how the framers formed the government. I also learned how what the framers did affects where we are today. I learned about different factors that affect how the government works.

- Basic understanding of how the American government functions

- I learned basic terms of American politics throughout history, ranging from the founding fathers' principles to modern day application of political logics.

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Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**

Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

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Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- Learned about the American Political system

- I learned about american politics.

- I learned about the basics of the structures of the American politics-- how it was created, how it functions (or malfunctions), how it's influenced, etc.

- The main structure of American government and the factors that it took to create it and the why. the basic roles of each branch of government along with political parties, bureaucracies, elections, media, and public opinion

- American government and politics

- I learned about the overall function of American politics — that is, the different components that go into how it all works.

- - a rather rosy outlook about the foundations, institutions, and political behavior of American politics
  - helped put into perspective a lot of current political events, both American and international

- The framework of the American political system, the different branches and their roles as well as public opinion, voting and the like. There is a heavy emphasis on understanding the material in terms of collective action and its tradeoffs.

- I learned a lot about different theories of political science and the basics about the structure of government, the legal system, constitution and also a little about public opinion in regards to American Government

- I learned about the logic of American Politics, and how our political system is set-up and how it works.

- I learned the basics and foundation of American Politics.

- alot

- How to apply principles of American government in the framework of collective action problems

- The origins of political institutions in the United States and the major concepts explaining the logics of American politics (a thorough examination of what collective action means), the power of the Constitution as a challenge for the branches of the government, the role of the judiciary branch, the major concepts to understand political parties and public opinion.

- I learned the basics of American Politics

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Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- This course taught me about the functions and institutions of the three government branches, and the bureaucracy, as well as about public opinion, political parties, interest groups, campaigns, the ideology behind the US Constitution, and major historical trends in US government history.

- I feel that I learned a great deal not only about the structure of the American government, but also about what fuels politicians and American citizens to act the way they do. I gained the skills of being a critical thinker, tying in current events to the history of our government and the way it works. I also gained a new perspective of the American government system and its complexities. I learned a great deal in this course and definitely recommend it for political science majors.

- The foundations of the American political system and culture

- I learned an overview of the workings of government in the framework of collective action problems.

- I learned so much in this class. I deepened my knowledge on topics of government and the Constitution, and learned a lot about the principles and theories regarding decision making and action.

- This is a purely informational course about American politics from the very beginning to how it's evolved into today's system (and how it's still changing.) There is no normative discussion about politics, which I appreciated. Learning more fully and concretely the foundations of American government and our brand of democracy really builds a strong framework to perceive current events in politics today, rather than simply a heated opinion based loosely off of a few facts you saw on Facebook. Arguments you and your friends had over social media will now just seem frustratingly misinformed, after you actually learn about partisanship, the party system, judicial review, the dilemma of the presidency, etc.

- The organization and players in the American political system

- Learned the framework of American politics, and how it has shaped the American government from its founding to today.

- I really learned the foundations of American Politics and what influences our government.

- I learned about the fundamentals of the American government and understood some of the holes that exist in this democracy.

- Overall understanding how the different branches of American Government work

- You will learn about the system by which the American Government functions.

- The basics of the logic of political science and the American government.

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Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- I learned a lot about political science and the American system of government. My perspective on how politics worked was greatly changed by this course, and I feel like I have a much better understanding of political science.

- I feel that I got a solid broad overview of American Politics as a whole from both its creation to its inner workings.

- I learned about elections, campaigns, the presidency, collective action, the bureaucracy, and Congress.

- I learned a lot more about American politics and the ins and outs of why every institution was developed. It makes me think a lot differently about the government and its flaws.

- A lot about american politics - it was a good intro course

- I learned about the way government functions in the United States, and the motivations behind government action. I also learned about the different theories political scientists have to describe the way politics work in this country.

- Basic introductory course on American politics.

- I learned about U.S history and also about how to interpret the role of government in my everyday life.

- I learned about the different institutions and actors involved in U.S. government and what their roles are.

- I learned the basics of the american politics system.

- comprehensive overview of American Politics

- In this course, I learned how to connect text book reading with scholarly articles written by political scientists. I also learned how to memorize a significant amount of information while also keeping key thematic ideas in mind. I gained a new perspective on how the government operates and the importance of political knowledge for the functioning of our democracy.

- This introductory course to American Politics provided me with a new framework to view politics through. Many of the topics in class are ones learned in any government course, but are viewed from a new perspective and are analyzed more thoroughly.

- It fulfilled expectations as an intro to american politics, and gave me new tools for understanding how to analyze this information, especially in future classes.

- basic intro to topics in American Politics

- How the American government was founded, how it's set up and the challenges it faces.

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Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- Taught me to think about politics in more of a formal structured way as opposed to current events.

- I did not learn a lot about American politics in this discussion section. It was often confusing and tiring, and mostly composed of us listening to the TA and not discussing at all.

- I enjoyed the "Introduction to American Politics" course. I liked how the text examined historical viewpoints along with politics that occur today. The lectures and political science lab were helpful when taking the material learned from the text and applying it to real life examples.

- I learned about the foundational elements of American Politics. I learned about the history and its founding, about the branches of government, and about the ways these institutions react to the people.

- I learnt a lot about the American political system.

- I don't think I learned any new information since I had already covered the content in a prior class as well as outside knowledge.

- Terms to talk about politics knowledgeably, evolution of American political landscape and the factors that have shaped it

- This course really clarified a lot of the fundamental concepts of American politics and gave me a good, strong base of knowledge that will be relevant as I move forward with a political science major.

- The basics of american politics and american political systems

- foundations of american government and institutions

- I learned about American government and patterns in American politics, from the pre-Revolutionary War era to today.

- basics of american government structure, why it is the way it is, and how these structures can play into american politics

- Learned the concepts that allow the government and politics to work.

- I learnt about the institutions of government, about the Framers and constitution, and much about political parties and interest groups that I hadn't ever learnt before. Also, I learnt how to write coherently to answer complex questions about political issues.

- American governing institutions, the American constitution, civil rights, civil liberties, elections and political parties.

- I think my writing skills improved, and I was learning a lot of the content of the course for the first time.

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**

Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses**: 176/360 - 48.89%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- foundations of American politics

- In this class I learned of the basics and fundamentals of American government and its structure and application to American public life and politics.

- I learned a great deal concerning the American political system and its framework.

- I learned the structure of government as well as the rationale behind it. It was very interesting to me to get an insight on why the current American government functions the way it does. I now have a new understanding of why our institutions function in a certain way which I sometimes couldn't comprehend.

- I learned a lot about the American political system. Although I already knew some of the basics, I thought that this class went in depth, which I really liked. I learned a lot from reading texts written by political scientists.

- I developed a decent foundation in American political theory, especially the rational choice model.

- I expanded my knowledge of American politics in this class.

- Introductory concepts of american politics

- Poli Sci

- In terms of critical thinking: Rational Actor Model, Collective Action Problems & their solutions, Principal-Agent Problems & their solutions
  Also thinking about the micro and macro scale of politics

- I learned a lot about American politics and how to analyze them. I learned how institutions work and how we can overcome the problems they create. I learned a lot from this course that is too much to type out.

- Basic American politics, including structure, brief history of government structure and changes over time, etc. Also learned to frame issues in terms of "collective action problems."

- American politics

- I learned about the fundamentals of American politics and the intricacies of our nation's history regarding its political formation. Professor Phillips was very knowledgeable about the material and really helped break down concepts so they were understandable and thought-provoking.

- I learned about various facets of American politics, ranging from the presidency to congress, to political parties and the news media.

- Lots of political vocabulary and general framework about how American politics are shaped by institutions and method.

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Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- I learned the basics of American Politics which included the structure of the American government, and political behavior.

- I learned a lot about the structure, workings, and nuances of the American government.

- I learned the basics of American government-- ranging from the constitution, basic history, the branches of government, and the modern party system.

- Overview of politics in America

- A broad overview of the American Political system, framed around a thesis of how to evaluate the effectiveness of the government. I learned how to apply the framework to new topics.

- I learned the basic framework of American politics.

- I learned about the basics of American Politics, why things are the way they are in our political system, and about influences on our political system.

- I learned about the fundamentals of American political theory, particularly how politics is all about solving collective action problems and institutional design, and other related concepts.

- great course - interesting way to look at politics in more/less "abstract" terms

- I learned how to "translate" academic political theory texts into more coherent terms and trace early American political concepts — separation of powers, civil liberties, checks and balances, anything at all in the Federalist papers — into their existence in current legislation and political practices today. Other than that, there was very little in this class I hadn't done before.

- The basics of American politics. We learned a lot about the logic behind American politics and American political institutions.

- I learned how the American political system functions, I learned about its branches and the elements which affects it

- I learned a lot about the logic of american politics and also the social behavior of americans regarding politics and other social activities.

- I learned the underpinnings and processes of the American Political system.

- Foundations of American Politics

- Framework of American politics

- Structure and history of our political system.

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Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- Why American voters make the choices they make, and how politicians/political scientists can influence those choices.

- American Politics

- Introduction to American politics and government.

- General knowledge of the American political system.

- Fundamentals of American Politics.

- Basics/foundations of american pol. The course is not difficult if you do all the reading.

- Basics of American politics and American government systems

- I learned about how American politics is constructed and the logic of its system.

- A broad application of understanding and relating aspects of American politics. Carrying concepts from the beginning chapters into the following chapters allowed us to connect various concepts.

- I learned the fundamentals of American Politics

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.**

- The P&P readings were useful, some were more interesting than others. I did those readings

  Reading the Logic book, however, was slightly useless because that exact information was covered in class, and if it wasn't it wouldn't be on the exam because the exam's content would be covered in class. I studied with the Logic book because it had questions and terms, but I rarely read the chapter.

  The lectures were very helpful and clear. I was never surprised by any information covered in the exam

- The structure of the course was fairly straightforward. I only wrote down what was on the slides, and Prof. Phillips does talk from his slides somewhat but he doesn't go off on tangents too much. The discussion sections were the only opportunities to get into normative discussions about American politics, but the one hour a week wasn't enough to really get any discussion going since the TA was also obligated to go over and refocus not only the lecture but the supplementary readings.

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Comments Course Questions

- Strengths: provides comprehensive overview of American politics for those that have no prior knowledge in the field. Readings offered additional details and insights into lecture material. After taking this course I want to learn more about the American political structure and how it has evolved since the enactment of the Constitution.

- Fair, readings are all valuable

- The course will interesting for you if you are interested in politics. It may be less interesting if you already know much of the course material or do not care about politics. The lectures are often a recapitulation of the textbook but Phillips is a good lecturer and makes it enjoyable, even at 8:40 in the morning. There are 3 exams that are each worth 30% of your grade. The first exam did not go well for a lot of people but the last two exams go better. This is nice because they are not cumulative, so there is not a midterm or final.

- The course may be improved if lecture slides are made available to students after class. This is because the slides contain a lot of information and the professor also talks and is insightful. The issue is that most students, including myself, found ourselves furiously typing as much as we could and sometimes you have to pay less attention to what the professor says and concentrate more on typing. While the argument can be made that we should not type everything from the slides, it's not really good advice since a large portion of what appears in the exams come from the content in the slides.

- This course covered just the right amount of material. It was a good introductory political science course, in that it gave a brief overview of varying topics, but did not move so fast that it became too difficult to keep up. The value of the readings from Logic of American Politics was less than the value of the readings from Principles and Practices of American Politics. I also thought the units flowed nicely together and progressed in a way that made sense.

- I kept falling asleep in class - it wasn't very interesting.

- This course is very good. The strengths of this course are the conciseness and comprehensiveness professor Phillips provides to complex subject matters. The readings were mostly interesting and provided extra information and outlooks on lectures.

- I liked the course organization of having a chapter in the textbook, lecture, and secondary readings in order to create a basic comprehensive understanding of american politics. The secondary readings were definitely more important than the textbook readings but the textbook provided good information and was easy enough to read. This class expanded upon my knowledge of american politics in the first two sections but I definitely think the last section was the most intersting and it was a shame we had to rush through it.

- The P&P readings were far more helpful than the textbook as the textbook was basically the same information on the in-class slides. I like how the course is structured into three tests, each of equal weight. The discussion group was also incredibly helpful.

CourseWorks@Columbia

Program Evaluation System

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Comments Course Questions

- I appreciate the fact that Professor Phillips had very detailed lecture notes on PowerPoint slides. We were given ample time to take notes. I think we had too many readings, however-- they were extremely lengthy. Nonetheless, I learned a lot about American government in this class.

- The organization of the course was very good and the lectures were well-organized and easy to follow. The professor didn't veer off onto unrelated tangents that derailed the lecture. I would say that the Logic of American Politics textbook readings were very unnecessary because the professor essentially covered exactly what was in the reading. It felt redundant doing the Logic reading as well as attending lecture, so after the second midterm I began scanning the Logic readings in lieu of actually reading it and taking notes in addition to attending lecture.

- Very good course, readings were reasonable and interesting, the course is a large lecture so there is no student participation but I learned a lot from the course. Sometimes I felt that it was very surface-level and that we didn't engage more deeply into details, but it was introductory course so that makes sense.

- The course is organized well considering it includes 400 students because the discussion sections still facilitated meaningful conversations. I think it would be interesting to assign a paper during the course so that students could be given the opportunity to delve more deeply into a topic of interest.

- Obviously in an introductory lecture of over 400 people, my expectations for engagement were low. From this barometer, Prof. Phillips was fairly enthusiastic and certainly covered a lot. The exams always felt very fair, and I actually quite enjoyed the readings we were assigned (although realistically, because exams were entirely based off of the notes we took in class, there was little incentive to even buy the textbooks let alone read them). The structure of the syllabus, starting with general political theory and moving toward public opinion, interest groups, etc. at the end, felt comprehensive and well-structured. Overall though, there's something really sad to me about having a political science course consist of 400 people seated in a lecture hall that offers no real opportunity for debate, questions, or actual communication. It just seems like a uniquely wrong way to teach the course, and I think Columbia can do better and that Prof. Phillips could certainly create a better learning environment if we simply had smaller lecture sections.

- I think the strength of this course is definitely the lectures. Both Professor Phillips and the slides he lectures off of are amazing and very easy to follow. Professor Phillips is very clear with all of his explanations and does his best to tell us about the most relevant information while also including interesting trends/data.

- Great survey course to American Politics

- The course structure revolves heavily around the required readings which are summarized and commented on in lecture and section. While there wasn't much in the way of "flare", this is an easy structure to follow and therefore the class was excellent in all other aspects.

- Good intro

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Comments Course Questions

- The discussion sections were very useful in understanding and emphasizing the concepts discussed in lecture or in the textbook. The textbook was related to the lectures which made it very easy to follow along and the ideas were emphasized thoroughly. The discussions helped me to develop the reasoning skills i needed for the exams.

- I thought it was an easy to follow lecture and the material was informative and clear.

- I really enjoyed this course. Professor Phillips was always very clear in his explanations and provided very helpful powerpoints which made it easy to follow along. The P&P textbook provided lots of good examples and further explanations for what the professor talked about in class. Class made me feel much more confident in my understanding of politics today.

- Lectures by Professor Phillips were quite dreary considering it was at 840s on mondays and wednesdays. Content itself was not entirely hard; what is more important is being able to answer the questions to your TA's liking considering it will be your TAs who grade your papers. Considering that it's a 4 credit class, work load isn't too bad.

- Very well organized, very clear.

- This class was very informative, clear, and interesting. The professor was very engaging, the readings were great supplements to the lecture material, and the material was all presented in a very organized and clear manner.

- I wish lecture slides had been posted--I attended every lecture, and I would have attended every lecture regardless, but sometimes I missed taking down things in my notes and felt very worried that I'd missed something critical

- Thank god we didn't have to read Logic, nice that he only made 2 midterms count but i think if i had known that before he surprsied us I wouldn't have done as well on the first two bc i would have treated the dropped grade as a cushion.

- I think this course is a great introduction to American politics, it covers the foundations, institutions, and public opinion in a broad way that leaves you with a good understanding of the American political system.

- This course is fantastic if you have little knowledge of the American government. Professor Phillips is great at making his lectures interesting and does a great job of giving examples in addition to the information he puts out. The book, The Logic of American Politics, is an abundance of information but seems like the same exact thing as the lecture notes just with more examples.

- The course, content and lecture were all great. They just need better discussion T.A.s next time.

CourseWorks@Columbia

Program Evaluation System

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Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

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Comments Course Questions

- For an Intro course in such a big lecture hall, Professor Phillips really did a great job to keep attendees awake (given the early time slot). I found some of the readings lengthy and boring at times, but the Logic of American Politics was very helpful. We were not able to get to the media section, but given how prevalent it is in society today, I really think that section should be emphasized and incorporated.

- I thought that Prof. Philips did well, given that it is neither a particularly engaging nor interesting subject/survey materials, meaning so much of the class rests on discussion sections to pull everything together.

- Would be helpful if powerpoints were made available online for people who may have been unable to come to class due to illness.

- Great professor. Information conveyed very clearly. Interesting topics. There was not much focus on the P&P readings. The material and concepts definitely developed my analytical skills when focusing on certain topics and relating them back to concepts from the beginning of the course.

- I really enjoyed the course as I believe it provided a strong basic framework of American politics. The lectures broke down the readings in an efficient and easy to follow manner.

- Wonderful. The material is interesting and engaging. I do not think the professor could improve anything.

- This was a great class. Professor Phillips is an amazing lecturer and presents the information in a way that is interesting and fresh. This was my favorite class this semester, even though it was at 8:40 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. It would have been helpful for the syllabus to be a little more specific regarding what P&P readings to focus on, but the readings for the most part were very interesting.

- Very great and clear lecture, readings are manageable, can be tedious in the beginning as it resembles early American history but towards the end it gets very interesting with more modern materials.

- readings weekly and tests. i loved the structure and thought the readings were really reasonable.

- Great foundational course of American Politics

- This course was great for getting a basic understanding of the logic of american politics. I think there should be more incorporation of current events though.

- I think that the readings were valuable, although I found the readings from the P&P book to be more useful than the Logic textbook. I think the lectures by Professor Phillips were the course's strongest feature in terms of really understanding the material.

- The lectures are where most of the test material comes from, although some of the material also comes from the important readings in each section.

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Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**   Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- I liked this course a lot. It was very organized and easy to follow. I also appreciated the fact that the schedule for my discussion section followed the schedule for the lecture, which made things easier to follow. I can't think of anything to improve the class, per se. I though that Prof. Phillips was fantastic. Although the subject can be dry, he really put in the effort to make class enjoyable by cracking relatable jokes and by providing relevant examples. I also like the 3-exam feature and that there is no final during finals week.

- Provides a good overview of the American political system/institutions/political thought.

- the course is okay-- it is very introductory and the title is misleading as its more american government than american politics. its good for anyone with no background, but fails to delve deeper into the logic of american politics. the structure is organized, readings directly correspond to lectures (often don't need to do both).

- I think this was a very solid course with good information that was well conveyed. The course was strong in being a very straightforward approach to politics.

- Lecture based course with a weekly discussion. Everyone is on the same page as far as lecture material goes, but then the TA's are able to spend time during their discussion covering whatever material they please. It sounded like the TA's get together and discuss what should be covered in discussion so that there is some type of consistency. One issue, as far as talking to peers goes, is that there is unfairness in grading/ expectations because there isn't anything set in stone, rather its up to your TA on how harsh or soft they grade you, but that's just the nature of the beast in a large course like this.

- I really enjoyed this course. The professor is amazing and really makes the course even more interesting. He really broke downtime complexities of the class. The readings were on point with what he taught in class and how he shaped the course towards the readings.

- I think the lectures themselves were quite boring but the readings were mostly pretty interesting

- The course was interesting and clear - it gave me an understanding of the American government system and way it works. I appreciate how Professor Phillips presented the material in a clear, concise fashion and how the tests reflected what we learned in class and the outside readings we discussed in the sections. The readings were always relevant to the topic of the class and helped me delve one step deeper into the material. The structure of the section was always very clear-cut and focused on what we needed to know relevant to the exams.

- My assessment of this course is that it's necessary for any political science student and that these foundational lessons are essential for moving forward in whatever field you choose. The textbook isn't the most exciting thing in the world, but it is recent and unbiased, and the readings were challenging but not impossible if you put the time in. It was definitely worth it going to the lecture (in fact, you'll do better by going to the lecture than by reading the textbook) and the section so you can cover both the factual and theoretical aspects of politics. It definitely changed the way I think about politics - for the better.

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Comments Course Questions

- I really loved this course -- it was a great intro to a potential political science major. The exams were very fair, and I had a wonderful TA.

- N/A

- The class is very interesting. The readings are incredibly dense, but necessary because of the sheer amount of volume you need to absorb. Notes also heavily depend on your attendance at lecture, as the professor does not post material online.

- The class is great, very straight-forward. Some of the readings are unnecessary, but for the most part are all good and relevant.

- It was engaging

- I think I'm just not overall good with the application of concepts. Some of my weaknesses was probably getting too lazy near to the end of the semester because my attendance did decline and I saw that on my final.

- Great introductory course with quality lectures, covering all of the important bases.

- I really enjoyed this course. The course load was completely fair.

- I enjoyed this course and felt like I learned a lot. Discussion sections were helpful for solidifying material.

- I feel that the course teaches the basics of American politics very well. The lecture is definitely the strength of the course and Justin does a very good job of explaining concepts. I feel that the associated readings at times can be long and pointless.

- The course in and of itself was fine. The class size of lecture made it difficult to engage with material at some points, though discussion sections alleviated some of that issue. The fact that the lecture was mostly regurgitating the reading of the textbook made it feel vaguely pointless to drag myself out of bed at 8:40, but they prepared me well enough for the exams and Professor Phillips was mostly engaging. I feel like I did improve in my ability to make a good argument collating what we learned in lecture with supplemental readings, which seemed like the most applicable readings, as they added to what we learned in lecture as opposed to just reviewing it.

- effective and presenting the information

- Some of the readings were pointless

- good

Comments Course Questions

- Really good overview of government structure and the history behind it. Learning in such a big environment is challenging sometimes, but the discussions sections help with that.

- Good course. Easy. Professor is very pleasant.

- I love the subject. Love the class. Very weak TA - did not learn anything useful for the exams in discussion section.

- Excellent course for both polisci and non-polisci majors. Its just helpful in understanding how U.S government has come to be as well as its failures and successes. It could be improved by assigning more readings from outside sources that make the material a bit more subjective and engaging instead of always sticking to what is undoubtably true.

- I liked the lectures but I wish he could have posted the powerpoints. I miss notes because he goes over the slides too quickly

- I feel like the tests are formatted in a way that you can't really expand on your knowledge because of lack of time, so you just have to regurgitate the lecture.

- good intro class

- I think that the lectures were very mundane and that the class was fairly simple. But nothing out of the ordinary. It was a very standard 400 person lecture.

- I thoroughly enjoyed the course. I found the material to be quite interesting, and appreciated the accompanying discussion sections as well

- There weren't many strengths other than it gave me a reason to skim the readings every week. The course needs to be better structured, have clearer questions for students to answer, allow time for questions about the material, and have a TA that fosters a healthy learning environment. The TA would often disqualify most of what everyone said and spent most of the time talking himself about unrelated topics, which did not help my learning in any way.

- I believe that the course sufficiently covers the basics of American government and politics and gives us a good grasp on how our government and its structure affects politics. I liked how the professor assigned the most recent readings possible to facilitate our understanding of the course material and allow us to apply it to the world we are living in. The subject matter of the course has definitely helped me understand the underlying politics of much of my surroundings and helped me better understand the role of American government in our lives.

- Overall, I felt it was a good course where I learned a lot. Everything was well scheduled and moved at a good pace.

Comments Course Questions

- I liked the course and the way it was structured for the most part. However it was clear that the final unit was very rushed.

- I thought it was very straightforward, professor was clear and not too fast. Only thing is that lecture is the regurgitation of the textbook reading. Principles and Practices were interesting and applied what we learned to real life examples, but the reality of it was that they were not really covered on the tests, so hard to prioritize.

- The size is unfortunately large but did not affect my learning in the class.

- Despite being an introductory course, I truly enjoyed all of the material and found the lectures very engaging.

- I think its a pretty good course. I don't like that the only grades are the three exams, and discussion section is 10% but I guess theres not many other ways to do it.

- The course is fine. It's not an incredibly thrilling course, but it touches a lot of fundamental and important themes.

- I think that this course can be improved by minimizing the reading in the Logic textbook.

- The course is very strong as a foundation to both American politics and to political science as a whole. The readings were of value and diverse in their coverage. Exams were spread out and graded fairly.

- It's hard to objective about this course since it was an 8:40, but it felt a little dry to me. I get very excited about political discussions, but this class felt like it reduced a lot of fascinating content to boring theoretical concepts. Honestly, the fact that I didn't enjoy this course as much as I'd hoped probably says more about my disinclination to political science than the class itself. I wish he hadn't used PowerPoints slides for everything and made the class more interactive. He does seem very knowledgeable about the subject matter of the class however, so I appreciated his mastery of the content. Also, there was a ridiculous amount of reading, more than we could ever reasonably complete week-to-week. It would be great if he could set more reasonable expectations and thus ensure that everyone had read the material.

- Prof. Phillips is a great lecturer who made the course material interesting and relevant -- no small task in a large lecture class.

- It was a course that is important for people that know little about the US government. Its strength is that it teaches people the fundamentals. For improvement, it can be made more engaging- less lecture-recitation compared to a discussion. This course has helped me analyze the nuances of the US government to a greater extent.

- The amount of reading from textbook that is assigned is necessary. The lectures are dense. The content does initiate a deeper level of thinking about politics.

CourseWorks@Columbia

Program Evaluation System

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Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**　　　　Responses**: 176/360 - 48.89%**

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　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- The powerpoints are very useful and clear, and help prepare you for the exams. I would implement a sign-in sheet for attendance, because it might help students actually show up for class, which helps you on the test. I didn't find reading Logic very helpful because I felt it just repeated what was said in lecture, and the lecture was easier to understand anyway.

- Strengths:

  Well lectured

  Slides easy to follow

  Tests are manageable

  Weaknesses:

  Slides are only available in lecture

- Extremely organized so that motivates me to go to lecture every time. The lecture and the readings are so organized and divided carefully. Organization is incredibly important for some students like me and my friends who took this class.

  Really thought-provoking and interesting exam questions

  Really really coherent lecture slides and readings. Great lecture!

- I think that Professor Phillips needs to work on his exam scheduling. For example, having an exam right after fall break wasn't the best or before reading week. But I really do appreciate how he dropped the lowest exam!!

- This course is what one would expect of an introductory American politics course. The lectures covered material discussed in textbook and reading, and exams were very straightforward. Reading was manageable.

- weaknesses - course was most interesting in the beginning --> progressively less interesting (political parties - not as in-depth/insightful knowledge as history/forefathers/constitution, etc...)

- Dull, low quality TA, a lot of memorization, not enough real-life application, dull lectures, frustrating that lecture slides not put online so whole lecture is spent tediously copying down everything instead of actually being able to listen

- readings were relevant. the professor spent class time just reading off power points for the most part.

- The material itself is very easy to understand and extremely clear. The textbook reading complemented the lecture very well, as well as the primary readings did. The tests were straight forward, challenging but expected.

- Great

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Comments Course Questions

- I think that for an intro course it is a good course. The professor gives interesting lectuers which are important in order to succeed in the course and in the discusiion sessios the TA's engage even more with the ideas which are presented both in the lecture and the readings.

- It's strengths were material, weaknesses were lack of student engagement.

- Overall assessment of the course was strong. Professor Phillips and Joseph Sutherland made the class enjoyable and interesting. I appreciated that the Professor gave three exams to cover the textbook not just one cummulative exam. Having a political science lab in conjunction with the class is very helpful as well. The objective and goals were outlined and followed well from the syllabus.

- It's good. Informative. It is very clear and straightforward. Some of the readings are worthless, though.

- Great course! The professor and TA are great instructors and communicators, the structure of the lecture allowed students to know on what areas of the chapter to focus on for the exams. I learned everything I know now about american politics, it is great course for foreign and curious american students.

- - political reader (P&P) helped process material

- i really enjoyed it. though at times it did feel very basic, i am leaving the class with a very strong understanding of american government. i wish we had more time to focus on the politics aspect of government, but i am still glad for the foundational information i now have

- I am pleased with the breadth and depth of knowledge I attained through this course. It is strong in its clear presentation of information correlated with readings, but a few readings throughout the semester were only loosely related. My section clarified any questions that I had during lecture.

- As for most introductory courses at Columbia, it is extremely dense and frustrating, and it privileges a certain kind of gifted students, particularly in terms of aptitude to memorize, over students who genuinely want to learn but need more time to process and to learn how to use some complex ways of reasoning. The readings are comprehensive. The lack of home assignments (there is none) makes the two midterms and the final very challenging and stressful, with a first midterm that is both frustrating, somewhat discouraging as well reflected by the average grade of the class (73). It gets better for the second midterm, but you can legitimately feel that the first was unfairly complex and hurting your final grade, because so much data to process takes some time. Even if you acquire on time the good reasoning skills, failing to use the very precise and often confusing terms typical in Political Science will hurt your grade. Again, it is a course where a certain type of students is clearly privileged, something that barely has to do with their aptitudes and hard work and more with some useful natural aptitudes, and this is quite regrettable.

Comments Course Questions

- The course is very interesting but if I had to give points for improvements, I would say it is an intro course and I found that the professor expected the students to come with previous knowledge about the subjects learned throughout the semester.

- Strengths- Professor's lectures were very detailed and informative.

  Weaknesses- The course P&P readings were a bit redundant.

- For a lecture, it was done correctly

- This course is a necessary tool for understanding any other political science class and it opens your eyes to the framework under which all political issues falls.

- I thought the objectives of the class were unclear and I didn't really understand what was the intended goal. This made the readings and tests a lot harder then they should be, and I didn't do as well as I had hoped. I didn't really understand the structure of the class completely, but I did get a basic idea of how politics works in America. I didn't really gain any analytic reasoning skills, it was mostly just blatant memorization of facts, which wasn't that exciting or engaging.

- Great course that is very relevant.

- I actually liked Professor Phillips' lectures. They weren't exactly riveting but they were highly coherent, which is unusual for lectures with Columbia professors. He seems like a nice person who knows a lot about political science. He also wasn't snobbish, which, again, is unusual.

- It was a very good class the only problem was how early it was

- I enjoyed this class greatly because I was able to learn a lot about why people do what they do and make the decisions they make, as well as gain a greater understanding of the government structures and functions each branch fulfills.

- AMAZING COURSE!

  strengths- lectures are clear and easy to follow, readings assigned are reasonable and helpful to our learning, exams/grades are a fair assessment of a student's learning

  weaknesses - it was a 8:40am class

- I think this course was good. The lectures were very detailed and helpful for understanding some of the density of the text from the readings.

- This course is really useful for students who are interested in knowing more about American government, should they be majoring in political science or in other fields of study. Its strength is its capacity to address almost all major issues related to American politics. The readings are not too substantial and there are only three exams in the semester (with no paper or other home assignments)!

Comments Course Questions

- I think that this is a great introduction course. The topics logically flow from one to another and the common theme of rational choice thematically links them in ways that are easy to remember. The lectures are very clear and utilize the most important information from the textbook. Having three equally weighted midterm exams instead of a cumulative final is very fair and makes the material more manageable. In terms of what could be improved, while I found that the secondary source readings from the P&P book were certainly interesting, I found that they were not often discussed in either lecture or discussion sections.

- easy intro class

- This course was a good overview. The lectures were informative and the readings were interesting. However, the textbook reading was just essentially a repeat of class and not very helpful to read. The reader had new ideas and new discussions, but the textbook didn't serve any real role.

- It is a great course. There are a lot of assigned readings for this class and I wish I would have had more time to spend reading the assigned texts as they were always insightful.

- This class is very informative and interesting. I started doing the readings but slowly realized that some of them were just what we said in class and reinforcing the material, so I eventually stopped all together.

- The strengths of this course are there are basic concepts that underline our political system and information regarding examples that support these concepts. However, this class seems a little too much like a history course sometimes.

- I really enjoyed this class and think it was a very useful foundation course. I really liked the way the lectures and readings were set up so that one book was matched with lecture and the other text went more into depth on certain subjects and in a non-textbook format. I appreciated the structure of the exams and not having a final was definitely nice, although the way that a lot of the information built upon each other wouldn't have made a cumulative final too terrible and definitely helped give a framework for understanding and going about thinking about American politics in general.

- I think the course is very well organized but the tests are based too heavily on buzz words and memorizing

- I think the class is very well structured, but we did run out of time at the end and missed a chapter. However, it seemed like some of the extra reading was unnecessary.

- I enjoyed this course and felt that I learned a lot. The information overlapped with some of my other classes, which made it more enjoyable for me. I understand that it's a massive lecture so this could be hard, but I think that the lecture should be more interactive with the students (such as stopping and asking if there are questions), and it should be less of just copying down the lecture slides. The readings were helpful and interesting, and they strongly correlated to lectures. Discussion section went over the lectures and readings, which was helpful.

Comments Course Questions

- Course presents the most crucial American politics information in an easy-to-digest format and gives a good intro to modern political science methods as well. The P&P readings (book excerpts and political science articles) plus the Federalist Papers were the most interesting aspect of the course to me. The format of the class is great for an intro, since it encourages you to learn the basics very well but is also low-stress (good for freshman). The class is a quite easy and feels very much like a survey but that's to be expected.

Q3 **Please qualify your recommendations if you wish:**

- This class was not bad, it just could have been better. Phillips is a really nice professor, and he's really intelligent. He's just not incredibly engaging.

- it is a solid intro course with a thoughtful and engaging professor.

- Not a bad course. You get out of it what you put in.

- This is a straightforward class: if you attend lectures, take good notes, it's an easy A. Just a lot of information so be prepared for memorization.

- depends on your level of knowledge of american government and politics going in

- This is a great intro course.

- If you already have a strong foundation in American politics and you can skip this class with an AP score, I would recommend doing so. However, the class is a great intro for those who cannot skip or those who just want to be informed about American politics.

- I have nothing to recommend.

- I appreciated that the Professor gave three exams to cover the textbook not just one cummulative exam. Having a political science lab in conjunction with the class is very helpful as well in order to discuss the material in more depth.

- Better TAs that are all of equal caliber.

- Great course!

- A good course for students who want to gain a deeper understanding of American politics.

- Very engaging professor, interesting subject matter, good curriculum, reasonable grading.

- It's a great class but I can see why it would be boring to someone who is not studying poli sci

Title: **A&S Fall 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSW1201_001_2017_3 / INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS**

Instructors: **Justin H Phillips**

Dates: **12/04/2017 - 12/14/2017**

Responses: **176/360 - 48.89%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**360**

Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- I really enjoyed the course, and believe that regardless of whether or not you are an intended political science major, you should take this course.

- Its a good overview and not very difficult and the lectures are pretty engaging.

- The tests were really reasonable. Not outrageously difficult but still a comprehensive examination of how much we learned. I think this was a fair class with a well-meaning professor and TAs.

- Some baseline interest in American politics or political science is definitely warranted.

- It's a good intro level class

- Easy to follow with a wealth of interesting information

- Given that this course is mandatory if you want to major in Polisci, it is rather useless to consider whether you should take it or not. Plus, it is given by one faculty, it is one of this 400-student packed courses where you take no pleasure and cannot participate, but you have to go for it anyway. The lecture is just a lecture and the readings take as much time as possible.

- This course did not help me learn anything. I would reccommend another TA without a doubt.

- what?

- N/A

- If someone needed this class for their major, I would recommend this professor since he definitely knows what he's talking about, just not at 8:40.

- The class is very interesting, however you must be sure to come to every lecture, which can be difficult considering it is a Monday 8:40

- TAKE THIS CLASS!!! 11/10 WOULD RECOMMEND!

- Great Professor who explains the transaction/ conformity cost concepts clearly and concisely and includes them throughout the lecture

- A good intro course that really helps understand basic concepts of the American Government and explores the different theoris in political science.

- yes

- If you do the readings and go to the lecture you will learn a lot and do well in the class.

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Comments Course Questions

- If it is a requirement for their major, it isn't a terrible course to take but if it isn't required, it isn't engaging enough to recommend highly.

- if it was a political science major i would

- This is a great intro class. The information is presented in a very organized, easy to follow, straightforward way. The exams are not meant to trick you and if you do what is assigned and attend lecture, you'll do great and learn a lot about the fundamentals of American politics and government. Discussion sections were very helpful for further understanding lectures and preparing for exams, but also useful for asking questions that go beyond the course materials, if you have them.

- I would only recommend this course to someone who either has no prior knowledge of American politics and just wants to take the course to fulfill requirements/has an interest or needs to take it for the major. Someone who has a decent background in American politics will probably find the course dry and boring.

- - would not recommend mostly because not very fond of subject material
  - but course was taught well and clearly

- N.A.

- It was a good, effective way to learn the basics.

- The exams are fair and set up based on what is taught in class

- for someone looking for current events and a dynamic class that discusses politics this isnt for you

- I wouldn't recommend because I probably had the worst TA and with boring lectures I really didn't get much out of it.

- I recommend this class if you want to develop a stronger foundation of American politics, or just political science in general. I think that even if you are focusing on international politics and comparative government, it is important to be able to draw back on information from the American political system.

- Amazing professor and great TA's leading discussion sections.

- Professor Phillips is a great lecturer, and if you're passionate about the content, this is an excellent class to take.

- Easy A.

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Comments Course Questions

- Learn about partisanship, the party system, judicial review, the bureaucracies, etc. and how/why it came to be in an actual concrete and substantive way. It will give you an informed base in which to participate (or not) in our modern political discourse. Too many (influential) voices out there who don't speak from an informed base of knowledge unfortunately.

- If you crave organization and efficiency, take this class. This is great for American and international students alike

- It's a good intro politics course and while it is really big, i think my discussion was a major part in why i enjoyed this class.

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.)**

- 1

- 5

- 6

- About 5 hours in total per week.

- Maybe 1 to skim the readings and draft a vague answer to the questions he sent out the night before.

- 6-7

- About 10 hours per week

- 7

- 4 hours

- 4

- 3

- 5

- 7 Hours.

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Comments Course Questions

- Class time: 2h 30m

  Discussion Section: 1h

  Readings: 3h

  Studying (depending on the week): 1h 30m

  Total: 8h

- I devoted approximately 10 hours a week including class time, recitation, and reading.

- 1-3 hours

- 5

- 3-4

- 3 hours of reading per week, 2 8:40 lectures and an hr of recitation, studying for exams can take up to 6-8 hours as there are a lot of materials

- 5

- 4

- 6 hours a week (not including exams)

- 6 Hours

- 6

- Roughly 3.5 hours on average.
  Studying for tests-10 to 12 hours.

- 5 hours

- 3-4 hours

- 12

- 2

- 6.5

- 6

Comments Course Questions

- ~4

- 5 hours.

- 20-25

- 6.5 hours

- 5 hours- 2 hours and 30 minutes for class, 50 minutes for discussion section, remaining time for homework, readings, etc.

- In total, I spent about six hours a week on average, and while studying for exams, closer to 10-12 hours.

- 6-7

- 4

- 10

- 6

- 8

- 3-4

- 6

- 7 hours

- 5 hours

- I devoted about 3 hours a week to this class.

- 3

- 5

- 3

- 3-4

Comments Course Questions

- 21

- 5

- 8-10, much more when studying for the exams.

- 7 hours a week ok average.

- 15

- 5, except before an exam, then around 15

- on average, just 1 hour outside of class for reading for discussion, on week of test, maybe 3 hours before the test.

- 6hours

- 6.5 hours

- 7-8

- At least 12 for the readings, 25 to prepare the exams.

- 7

- When no test was coming up, 4 hours. When there was a test coming up, upwards of 10 hours.

- none

- 10-15

- 10

- 2-4

- Class Time: 2 1/2 hours
  Discussion Section: 50 minutes
  Readings: about 2 hours (including note taking and preparation for discussion section)

- 3

- Between 6 and 7

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Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- 3.5 hours.

- 8

- Probably three hours at a maximum, and that's if I did the readings.

- 5

- 8

- 4

- 5

- 6 hours

- 6-10

- 4-5

- probably around 4.5 hours a week (two and half hours of class, a 50 min discussion section, and around an hour of readings). Studying I would spend a lot longer, probably around 8-10 hours over the course of a weekend.

- I spent about 6 hours a week on this class, but I think this was because I usually wouldn't do the assigned weekly readings until I was studying for the exams. If I'd done all the readings as assigned, I might've spent more time/week on the work.

- 20hrs

- 4.5

- 3:20 spent in class + 4 hours per week (20hours a week during exams)

- 3 hours

- 4 hours

- 6

- 4

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Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- 6

- Two hours a week

- I devoted about 8-10 hours a week

- I spent enough time to this class to keep up with the reading and outline the chapters prior to each exam. I carried 18 hours this semester so I had to manage my time well.

- 7 hours

- 4-7 hours a week

- Probably about like 11 hours a week including classes.

- approximately 6-7 hours per week

- 3 hours/week

- 13

- - class: 2 hr 20 min
  - readings: 4-6 hr
  - section: 50 min
  Total: 7 hr 10 min - 9 hr 10 min

- ~7

- 7 or 8

- 13

- 4 hours
  - about 2 hours for the chapter readings pertaining to lecture (he really only tests from his lecture notes and a bit from the supplementary readings)
  - about 2 hours for the supplementary readings

- 3-4 hours

- Four on an average week (three hours of classes plus readings), six-eight on a test week.

- 7-9

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Enrollment of All Students:**360**

Comments Course Questions

- way too much

- Seven hours on average.

- 8

- 3

- 6

- 6-8 hours

- 20

- 6

- 3-4

- 5-6

- 3-4

- Three hours in class; one hour of discussion section; seven hours of reading.

- 6-8

- 4-5 hours

- 7 hours

- 8

- 7-8 hours

- 6

- 5

- 4 hours for class/discussion, 3 hours for readings, 8-10ish hours studying before the exams

- 6 hours

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Comments Course Questions

- 11

- 4

- Around 5/6 counting lectures and discussion section

- About 8 hours per week (3 in class, 5 at home)

- 3

- Including time spent in class and discussion sections, probably around five or six hours.

- 5

- 2

- About 5-6 hours a week

- I devoted around 10-12 hours per week.

- 8

- 3 hours for lecture, 1 hour for discussion, 2-5 hours for reading, 5-10 hours of studying if close to an exam

- 15+ hours a week

- about 8

- 6