

**Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating**  
(Online Survey)

<b>Hickel F.</b> Fall 2013, 01:790:104:15 — American Government (index #27713) Enrollment= 109, Responses= 41  <b>Part A: University-wide  Questions:</b>	<b>Student Responses</b>						<b>Weighted Means</b>			
	Strong Disagree 1				Strong Agree 5	No response	Section	Course	Level	Dept
1. The instructor was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner	1	0	1	8	31	0	4.66	4.54	4.52	4.51
2. The instructor responded effectively to student comments and questions	1	0	1	9	30	0	4.63	4.49	4.54	4.53
3. The instructor generated interest in the course material	1	0	6	13	21	0	4.29	4.41	4.48	4.44
4. The instructor had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material	1	0	3	11	26	0	4.49	4.52	4.64	4.61
5. The instructor assigned grades fairly	1	0	2	11	27	0	4.54	4.43	4.53	4.49
6. The instructional methods encouraged student learning	2	3	6	8	22	0	4.10	4.21	4.33	4.28
7. I learned a great deal in this course	1	1	8	14	17	0	4.10	4.18	4.28	4.29
8. I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take	6	4	9	9	13	0	3.46	3.80	4.00	4.06

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this course										
	Poor			Excellent						
9. I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor as	0	0	4	14	23	0	4.46	4.30	4.34	4.32
10. I rate the overall quality of the course as	0	0	6	12	23	0	4.41	4.27	4.33	4.30

**What do you like best about this course?:**

"Some of the discussions"

"Great course great professor"

"The professor was great and quite knowledgeable in the subject"

"Nice way of teaching. Got through boring material with ease "

"He was interesting."

"The professor keeps it simple and clear in his lectures. He doesn't make government sound more complicated then it has to be."

"I like that it took everything we learned in elementary, middle and high school and inserted more in depth information."

"The lectures were organized and easy to follow"

"I like how the professor grades his exams rather leniently and is not harsh on students who may have to miss class. I also like how Professor Flavio is willing to provide extra help to students who go to office hours where he clears up any confusions about the material taught in a very thorough and concise manner. "

"Professor Hickel is easy to relate to."

"I enjoyed the course material and enjoyed learning about the government in more depth"

"Professor Hickel"

"the lectures were interesting and I liked the additional readings because it there were differences of opinions which was interesting "

"The professor going on tangents about how effective American democracy really is."

"Professor Hickel remained non-partisan the entire course and offered the liberal and conservative philosophy fairly so students could make up their own mind. He is an excellent lecturer and gave concise notes. His exams were straight forward and his lecture material was current and relevant. "

"the course material was presented nicely and really helped me understand what was going to be on the exam"

"Lecture presentation"

"The instructor! "

"The professor made the material clear and presented in a simple way. He responded very well to our questions and provided a simpler definition or explanation when necessary."

"I like how the class isn't focused on memorizing dates. Rather it's about theory and concept of how and why our government is setup."

"He cared about his students "

"The teaching style of the professor and his PPT in class , both of them are really helpful for understand the American politics."

"The material. "

"The professor provides many opportunities to do well in class by giving out 3 non-cumulative exams along with a curve."

"The exams were not cumulative. Lecture notes were posted online which was awesome."

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**If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?:**

"Less additional readings, maybe read one long piece or two."

"Little easier grading on the tests"

"less readings"

"Give out other assignments, not just 3 tests."

"Perhaps work more with current events."

"Vary up the lecture format. Although the powerpoints are helpful, it gets very boring and its hard to stay focused and interested. Maybe an occasional video or two would be helpful."

"I wouldn't read as much off the slides and I wouldn't require passwords for the power points online as sometimes they didn't match up with the lecture and I couldn't access them out of class"

"I would push for allowing students to have a greater say in new material that they may want to learn about related directly to the course being taken and incorporating a lecture class for those topics chosen by students and I would ask students in what ways they believe I could improve my teaching style in order to best accommodate their academic learning problem. "

"Less outside textbook readings"

"Make more grades other than just tests"

"I would be more specific of what was going to be covered on the exams. the lectures and readings covered a lot of material but some test questions were very specific "

"Nothing."

"NOTHING."

"be a little more interactive instead of just lecturing the whole time "

"Different exam format"

"Nothing"

"I wish the class was more interactive. I understand that we had a very quiet class so it was difficult. I also wish there were more debates about some of the topics we covered. I don't mean scheduled debates, I mean students debating with each other just because they cared about an issue or saw another side to it."

"Give students more chances to do political research and off campus activities . "

"I would diminish the size of the class, and focus more on student involvement and discussion. "

"Nothing"

"There were many days that we were let out early-which was awesome- but we didn't completely cover all of the readings in class, like the Shalom supplemental readings. I would personally rather stay the whole lecture and talk about all of the material thoroughly. "

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**In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?:**

"I like Poli Sci"

"Made it so you had to come to class."

"He has put government in a different perspective for me."

"The course helped me understand government history and policies, as well as how people interact within the government. It increased my political efficacy. Also, the economics portion of the class nicely followed exactly what I was learned in Economics, People, and the Environment class. It was cool to see how the material stretches over multiple disciplines."

"Some of the information was very interesting and made me more interested in politics"

"Professor Flavio helped me add onto my knowledge about American politics and has made his lectures about the American government interesting. "

"Makes me question the effectiveness of the American government and if it can ever be truly effective."

"in every way possible. i am now an informed citizen."

"Positive learning environment"

"I didn't really know much about our government so I took this course just so that I would be able to understand it a little better. The material was so clear and understandable that I think it would be difficult to not do well in the class unless you just don't show up. I probably won't take another politics class but I'm glad I took this one because I learned a lot."

"Let us to participate in some political activities and research programs . "

"In minimal, if any, ways. "

"The readings he provides are easy to understand and provide a better understanding of the course."

"I appreciate how difficult the government can be and am glad that I am an engineer and not in political science. "

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**Other comments or suggestions::**

"The teacher has great personality and a booming voice, which I think were the only reasons why I had any interest in the subject and class. I really like his powerpoints, which put the readings into terms we could easily understand. But there was a LOT of material we covered, and it was hard to remember and discern it all"

"Great Class"

"Hickel does a great job at presenting this material in a way students can grasp. He really sets you up for success. "

"Hope he can give students more review time for the exam."

"The professor was effective and I appreciated his candor. "

"His style of teaching helps me understand the material presented in class."

"Overall great class, I enjoyed coming to lecture and I did learn a great deal about something I am not well-versed on. "

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