

Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating
(Online Survey)

Hickel F. Fall 2013, 01:790:306:01 — American Presidency (index #25434) Enrollment= 105, Responses= 46 Part A: University-wide Questions:	Student Responses						Weighted Means			
	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	0	0	4	1	40	1	4.80	4.80	4.47	4.51
2. The instructor responded effectively to student comments and questions	0	0	3	7	35	1	4.71	4.71	4.48	4.53
3. The instructor generated interest in the course material	0	2	3	10	30	1	4.51	4.51	4.36	4.44
4. The instructor had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material	0	0	3	5	37	1	4.76	4.76	4.56	4.61
5. The instructor assigned grades fairly	0	2	5	5	33	1	4.53	4.53	4.44	4.49
6. The instructional methods encouraged student learning	0	2	5	11	27	1	4.40	4.40	4.17	4.28
7. I learned a great deal in this course	0	1	3	8	33	1	4.62	4.62	4.29	4.29
8. I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course	2	2	9	10	21	2	4.05	4.05	4.12	4.06

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							Section	Course	Level	Dept
	Poor				Excellent					
9. I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor as	0	1	5	8	31	1	4.53	4.53	4.28	4.32
10. I rate the overall quality of the course as	0	1	7	9	27	2	4.41	4.41	4.24	4.30

What do you like best about this course?:

"You're a legitimately engaging instructor--I was rarely bored in your class."

"Great material"

"Very approachable and presented the material in an organized fashion that was easily understood"

"The fact that we have three exams ."

"Professor Hickel. His lectures were great, informed, and he is very knowledgeable himself on the topic. He left a strong impression on me and others I am sure."

"Learning about our presidents"

"All of the material was interesting and it talked about not just the President's but also the philosophy of how they should act in the position."

"You learn A LOT in this course. It seems you learn all the historical impacts the executive branch has made on history along with the precedents past presidents have set for modern administrations."

"I like that this course is very specific in the material it focuses. Personally, this helps me stay interested in the topics we discussed in the class. "

"Since the course was largely history based, the professor made the material easy to understand and did not set his exams to be

memorization tests. Instead of making us memorize dates and names, he made sure that we understood the concepts instead. "

"The professor was well prepared for each lecture."

"The assigned book "

"I liked the Presidential theories, I enjoyed them because you can apply them to current politics. Also I finally learned what the Watergate Scandal was. It's a very interesting class because it's relevant to American politics today. "

"How he taught"

"I enjoyed the course material and had already be previously interested in the course so it made the class very engaging for me. "

"Each president had different ideals and mandates and it was very interesting to learn about each individual president"

"History can be a boring subject. Professor Hickel brings a charismatic teaching style that makes the class interesting. He also interacts with students on a much more personal level so asking him questions or seeking help is very easy. "

"The style of teaching was great."

"professor was energetic and always engaged"

"Very Informative. Excellent Professor. "

"That the Professor knew the material very well and was able to teach it in a way that was interesting and easy to grasp and learn."

"Everything"

"Moves through the slides too quickly. "

"I learned a lot of stuff that I wouldn't have known before."

"treated us as intellectuals and encouraged conversation about the material"

"Professor Hickel thoroughly explains everything, making sure everyone is comfortable with the material before moving on."

"He was very interested and involved in the course material"

"The professor was very good at what he was doing. He made me want to go to class because he cares about what he is doing."

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

"The only negative thing I have to say about you is that you released the textbook information too late. I remember you sent out an email a few days before class started, letting us know what the textbook was and telling us that it could be bought at the RU bookstore. At that

point, I'd already ordered the rest of my books off Amazon and had them shipped to me (because ALL of my other professors, EVERY SINGLE ONE, had told us what textbook we needed in mid July) and I had to pay for a whole other shipment so I could get the book I needed for your class. I feel like you're way too young to not understand a student's financial struggle--a lot of us can't afford the bookstore and it was really, ridiculously insulting of you to release the textbook information so late and then tell us to just get it at the bookstore. After that, I thought you were a big dick and was pleasantly surprised to discover that you were actually a cool guy who just decided to release textbook information ridiculously late. If you've never read this kind of comment in your SIRS before, it's probably because they've moved past it by the end of the semester--I'm 100% sure I'm not the only one who was inconvenienced by you. So yeah, don't do that again."

"Nothing"

"Nothing"

"Nothing. Tests and Final paper was a fair way of going about everything."

"Shorter research paper, but overall nothing else."

"Slow down a little bit when giving a lecture. I know that the PowerPoints are available online, but it is nice to be able to keep up whilst taking handwritten notes."

"I don't know what else I would do differently. At times, the amount of information is overwhelming and hard to keep up with. The exams aren't impossible or crazy, but the amount of information reviewed in each lecture seems like a lot to keep up with. Granted, I do come away from each class having genuinely learned a lot. "

"Nothing."

"Interact more with students . Allow for class discussion "

"I would put up a study guide like the one for the first exam. I'll admit I always start studying last minute, usually a few days before but the study guide really helped because helped illuminate the important material. Even though this is an upper level poli sci course, that really helped. Also I would keep to essay questions for the exams. I didn't like the second exam where there were mini questions. "

"I wouldn't have done anything differently in the class i didn't mind the amount of work we were given. "

"I would provide a study for the student on what would be on the exams, and also create a multiple choice section for the exam. There was too much material covered for it to be an entire blue book exam"

"Nothing"

"Explain the topics more detailed."

"Nothing"

"I really would not change anything at all. I think it was taught well and in such a way that although it was covering a heavy amount of material, it never seemed confusing or difficult to grasp. And if anything was unclear, the professor made it known to come to him during office hours to answer any questions. "

"Nothing"

"Less slides and more interaction. "

"I always had trouble predicting what would be on the exams. It's a lot of material to study, so I feel like I always studied the wrong things (especially with all the events/legislation/people to remember)."

"Nothing. Professor Hickel is a spectacular professor. It's clear how much he enjoys teaching, which really helps to keep you motivated to attend class. His interest in the subject is contagious. "

"nothing"

"The power points are a little boring at times. Not necessarily his fault but I would try to not always rely on the power points for learning. "

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

"I care more about the presidents"

"Made me more informed about prior presidents and helped me see how the presidential role today was shaped"

"Great idea to leave the final paper open for us to choose something that is interesting to the student. Really made me jump deep into the topic and learn things I have never known."

"It renewed my interest in the Presidential position, not that I want to run, but it had always interested me and this has made me want to go back and find out more about what each one did. Particularly modern presidents, but that's just my preference."

"The professor is honest. That's the best way I can describe him. He is straightforward and isn't trying to "get you" or trap you. He presents all the information, writes exams that don't just ask you to regurgitate information but rather use your brain to link concepts from the course in a historical context."

"Both this course and instructor encouraged my intellectual growth. I learned a great deal in this class and Professor Hickel was extremely helpful and informative throughout the semester. "

"He's a great professor"

"I've learned a lot about the American Presidency. "

"He encouraged us to read and be responsible for our own "

"His exams were very info based which I thought really tested me."

"Politics is a very opinionated subject. Professor Hickel presents the information in a very neutral manner which allows us (the students) to interpret and make our own decisions on politics without a biased influence. "

"Taught me a lot about the presidents."

"Gave me more interest in the topics."

"Before taking this class on American presidents, I had very little knowledge about the subject matter. Now I know some important key moments in numerous presidencies and have an understanding of their policies and the various ways presidents have used their power over history."

"I read a lot now"

" I never would have learned about the American presidents otherwise."

"Prior to taking this course I thought I knew a lot about political history in the United States, this course proved me wrong. I'm excited to become more knowledgeable and next semester I'm taking similar courses to this one. "

"I enjoyed learning about the presidents and did gain a lot of knowledge in this area. "

Other comments or suggestions::

"More detailed instructions about the paper"

"This professor is incredibly smart. I enjoyed his class thoroughly and connected with his teaching style. I learned the most information from this class out of all of my classes this semester. "

"He should teach more courses!"

"Keep lecturing the way you do, Flavio. It's effective and you're a fair grader. Plus your lectures are interesting, I haven't skipped any of your lectures."

"Decent lecturer"

"Office hours on the benches outside Milldoler are sweet!"

"Professor simplifies things to a great degree then expects specificity on timed exams, which seems to be a bit unfair. "

"none."

"I encourage others who simply want to know more about presidents, even if they are not political science majors to take this course. It is

very informative. "

"Mr. Hickel is anything but boring and is genuinely interested in the academic analysis of the Office of the President. Mr. Hickel always makes time for students (He waited outside our building for an hour before every class to answer questions from students). Unfortunately, Mr. Hickel's historical knowledge is sometimes patchy."

"No"

"Professor Hickel was very well prepared and extremely knowledgeable about the content, and was always willing to answer students' most challenging questions. "

"Not to sound corny, but I enjoyed every single lecture. I look forward to taking Party Politics next year. "

"I understand why he does the locked power points but he should open them up at the end of the year because i lost some of the passwords even though i was at that class. "
