

Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating  
(Online Survey)

Hickel Spring 2014, 01:790:302:01 — Amer Party Politics (index #68630) Enrollment= 85, Responses= 30  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	0	7	23	0	4.77	4.77	4.41	4.45
2. The instructor responded effectively to student comments and questions	0	0	1	5	24	0	4.77	4.77	4.43	4.47
3. The instructor generated interest in the course material	0	0	2	9	19	0	4.57	4.57	4.30	4.36
4. The instructor had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material	0	0	0	4	26	0	4.87	4.87	4.55	4.58
5. The instructor assigned	0	0	1	6	23	0	4.73	4.73	4.38	4.45

grades fairly										
6. The instructional methods encouraged student learning	0	0	3	10	17	0	4.47	4.47	4.17	4.24
7. I learned a great deal in this course	0	0	2	8	20	0	4.60	4.60	4.31	4.30
8. I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course	0	3	5	10	12	0	4.03	4.03	4.09	4.04
	Poor				Excellent					
9. I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor as	0	0	2	7	21	0	4.63	4.63	4.22	4.25
10. I rate the overall quality of the course as	0	0	1	12	17	0	4.53	4.53	4.21	4.25

What do you like best about this course?:

- "Very straightforward professor "
- "Hickel is one of the best."
- "Help identify my party affiliation"
- "Lengthy political history and story that was well told."
- "I liked how interested the teacher was in the topics. It made the material easier to learn."
- "Despite the class having more than 100 students, Professor Hickel was very engaging on an individual level and cared about each student who asked for his help."
- "Probably the professor himself. It was really refreshing to have a professor who, for lack of a better way to put it, "got" the students. He would often make quippy remarks about the course material or simplify facts without diluting the material itself, and he made what could've been a boring course in all regards something I looked forward to in spite of the fact that so few of the class did the readings (only to add to his credit, he was always accommodating when it was obvious nobody knew what was going on)."

"I liked the format. I also liked the material."

"I liked the subject matter... and Professor Hickel is really cool. He keeps everything interesting and always relates the theories to contemporary ideas."

"I like the simplicity of the teaching format - it makes things easy to understand. Also when the political science is related and combined to the historical context."

"The topic of the course"

"how clear and concise the lecture and accompanying lecture slides are."

"The best thing about this course was the lectures. Mr. Hickel's lectures were both interesting and engaging. His enthusiasm for the course material truly shines through his lectures. "

"Flavio Hickel knows his stuff. He presented the subject clearly and accessibly."

"Very hands on and casual. "

"Flavio Hickel showed great interest in his students and really cared about us knowing the material."

"I liked the Power Point presentations because they were very detailed and easy to study from. "

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

"Nothing"

"Nothing."

"Change it up a not instead of every class slide show lecture. Maybe more discussion."

"Maybe make it a little less socratic."

"Not assign a final paper and exam."

"Many Political Science courses focus the majority of the semester on the history behind the course topic. I would prefer less time being attributed to this and more time exploring how Party Politics is now. "

"I would not have both a final and a term paper"

"No final paper!! I think 3 lengthy exams are good enough. If you want to do keep the final paper, make it 5-7 pgs not 10-12 pgs. So much work ! The first two exams should also be shorter since there isn't a lot of time to complete them. "

"It's not a big thing and in the grand scheme of the course would not affect my learning ability but I would choose to have EITHER a final exam OR a final paper but preferably not BOTH. Please? :)"

"I have no idea., maybe request a better room. Speaking of which why do the science based courses get the best rooms and political science gets crappy rooms."

"one less exam. I would recommend a paper OR a final, not both"

"I wouldn't assign both a final paper and a final test. It was overwhelming."

"I would assign one (or two) textbooks to read throughout the course - when there are powerpoints, there is no incentive to do the Sakai readings. Also, make the passwords more difficult to crack and random (sometimes it is easy to guess = no need to go to class)"

"Maybe have field trips to actual congressional figures speaking, keeping us more engaged on the topic. "

"nothing"

"I would maybe change the format for grading. Possibly two exams and a final paper? This is just a personal preference of mine. "

"I would want slightly more personal engagement. Professor Hickel's demeanor is friendly and honest which made everyone comfortable in the class, and more willing to learn. There always seemed to be some distance between the class and the subject, though, or this may have just been the nature of the study of Party Politics, or even my own interest in the subject."

"Try to have a guest speaker (he actually planned on having one but there were too many snow days)."

"I didn't like that they were protected by passwords. Sometimes people forget passwords or where they wrote them down. "

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

"Made me think deeper"

"Just being awesome."

"I have done much more political research in this class than ever."

"Introduced me to the story of American political party formation and development. Something best studied in the US and taught by an American. "

"I have learned a great deal of the agendas and motives behind why politicians made decisions they did."

"I can attribute this to either the professor's teaching style and ability to explain facts or simply because I was much more interested in Party Politics than I realized (I had watched House of Cards so I saw a lot of parallels) but I took interest in learning more about the current state of political affairs and tried to apply current course concepts to real-world political polarizations. I'm sure I'll still use the information I learned from this class in the future."

"I decided to minor in the subject."

"encouraged thought in both political parties, their backgrounds, history, where they came from to how they are now, and come to a deep understanding of all the actors involved."

"It sparked more interest in my major. I also used the theories taught in a lot of other classes that I am enrolled in. I enjoyed Professor Hickel's class a lot."

"By encouraging questions, there have been more opportunities to relate the course to current politics."

"The professor knew his stuff, he taught well, and kept it very light which helped me understand the topic. He did a great job in teaching this course, he is a very good speaker and knows how to appeal to students. "

"encouraged me to think for myself"

"This course has taught me to think critically about the role of parties in American politics. The research paper help develop writing and researching skills. "

"Professor Hickel did make political parties interesting. Although I had little interest in the subject before, I found myself engaging with the material as the semester went on, although with a more personal bent to it."

"Really makes you think about the American political system and how people rationally or irrationally interpret politics. "

"Information was interesting and concrete- learned things I normally wouldn't in other courses."

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**Other comments or suggestions::**

"I really liked this professor! "

"Professor Hickel's a chill dude. I had him as a freshman when he taught American Government and knew that, as a Political Science Minor, I wanted him as a professor again before I graduated. Friends of mine in the course said he's their favorite professor, and this coming from students not usually academically inclined. Props to you Hickel."

"get a better room Don't give a final and a paper. Otherwise don't change a thing"

"Flavio is one of my favorite teachers at this school, and I can't wait to take American Presidency with him next semester."

"great class as always"

"Great class, great professor"

"I liked the class! "

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