



Government 20
Foundations of Comparative Politics

Comments



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL FUTURE STUDENTS ABOUT THIS CLASS?

Course

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Find a good study group to split up the readings. You'll love Levitsky's lectures. Go to his lunches and get to know him; he's a gem of a professor and rare exception at Harvard.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Gov 20 is an extremely fascinating course that forces students to think about the world's most complex and pressing issues from economic development in peripheral countries to ethnic conflict. Professor Levitsky is outstanding -- his lectures are truly amazing. The course teaches you so much about the world and makes you think about how you can make it a better place and for these reasons it is worth it. However, the key drawback is the overwhelming amount of reading. In all, although it was my most stressful and challenging course this semester, I also found it to be my most rewarding.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

This is a good class, despite the enormous reading load, because Levitsky is an unparalleled lecturer. He can synthesize many of the readings together into one hour lecture and he is captivating and funny. The class itself explores many ideas and theories about the world that matter, and exposes you to things one probably has not studied before in high school.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Lots of reading, great lectures, good information to know.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

take it, but know how to read for an argument rather than reading every word

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This class is not for the faint of heart. The material is very interesting but can be pretty dense at times. I sometimes felt that we learned so many theories and concepts in such little time that it was hard to stay on top of the readings and material. The class is not easy in my opinion but I enjoyed the challenge and I always felt like I learned something interesting in lectures. This class truly expanded my knowledge about economic development, social revolutions, democratization, and ethnic conflict. I'm glad that I took the class.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

The reading is not as bad as everyone says it is. Sure, it's a lot. Then again, it's a college class. Study groups are a must, though I recommend doing all the readings yourself any how. Levitsky is a great lecturer and covers a lot from the readings as well in lecture. There are two essays, which are not too bad as long as you start early. Besides that, the class is definitely manageable for incoming freshmen, and seems like a good place to start for exploring the Gov concentration.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Read fast and try to break the rules to talk to your TF more than permitted.



Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This class is absolutely incredible. Levitsky is a brilliant lecturer, the readings are enlightening, and section is very helpful. Coming to class makes this class manageable.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Excellent class. Professor Levitsky is the best lecturer I've had in my three semesters at Harvard. He makes the material very interesting (it's pretty interesting on its own actually), but he certainly generates enthusiasm. I would recommend this class to any who is interested in learning about the world and how and why things like democracy, economic development, revolution or ethnic conflict happen.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Form a study group early to split up the readings. Mine had five people. Make sure to make good outlines for each reading to share with each other--this is as good as doing the readings for the week if you read them all through before section and meet as a group to discuss. They are also a crucial resource when doing the papers.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

It is a wonderful class and Professor Levitsky's lectures are engaging. The subject matter is important for students to understand. However, there is a lot of reading.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

This is an awesome course with fun lectures and interesting topics.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

The lectures are really wonderful, and Levitsky is a great professor. However, be aware that you're signing up for insane amounts of reading and overly specific guidelines for succeeding on exams and papers.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Be prepared to read!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

The topics are very important, but the reading was quite difficult and often made section difficult as often students had not read the reading.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

lots of reading



Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

You have heard about the colossal course pack. You have heard about the legendary lion that is Levitsky. I suggest you take this course. Among the finest courses I've taken at Harvard, Gov 20 manages to synthesize centuries of comparative political thought into a semester that is anchored by Levitsky's astoundingly engaging lectures. Yes, the readings are tiresome, but they are often not requisite for general comprehension of the trends in the course. Gov 20 has given me not just a huge amount of information, but also great insight into how we envisage the world.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

If you split up readings, make sure you get together to explain the general ideas to one another, and actually read the notes your study partners took.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

This class is fantastic, and an amazing way to learn A LOT about the world in a short period of time. Jennifer is a GREAT TF. Levitsky is a fantastic lecturer.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Levitsky is an amazing lecturer.

PLEASE COMMENT ON YOUR SECTION LEADER'S TEACHING.**Pan, Jennifer Jie**

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Great feedback on papers, learned a lot from writing them.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jen was a very dedicated and knowledgeable TF -- she gave great feedback on papers and was very accessible. You could tell she really cared about her students. Thank you Jen!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jennifer Pan was a kind and caring section leader who really made the effort to invest in the group and stimulate discussion from all students. She helped to explain questions and ideas that people had trouble understanding, and would also challenge the group with the less popular opinion. Plus, she always brought candy to section!

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jen is awesome

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jen Pan is the best TF I have had at Harvard so far. Not only is she highly perceptive, a great discussion facilitator, engaged with the material, but also gives truly critical and constructive feedback.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jen is a good section leader--she really encourages the discuss-based aspect of the section, and while she guides discussion, she doesn't interrupt or wreck the train of arguments going along. It makes section more lively and interesting than just being lectured at about the readings. She is pretty involved, always cheerful, and seems to enjoy teaching, so she's a cool TF.

Evaluate the course overall.: **3 (good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

I've been in many discussion classes in government and related fields at this point in my Harvard career and far and away above any other TF I've had, Jen was the best. First off her deep understanding of the material and secondly her ability to direct the conversation to bring out these understandings while encouraging and achieving such participation as she did, and even having fun the whole while, displayed Jen as the best. I would take another class just to be in her section again. She really is that good.



Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jen Pan is the greatest section leader! Beyond brilliant, consolidates the information well. We were all very lucky to have her.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jennifer was the best TF I've had for any class in my three semesters at Harvard. She did a great job facilitating class discussion. She also gave very helpful, thoughtful, and insightful feedback on papers. Not to mention she is extremely nice and willing to help with any questions you may have.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

If I could give scores higher than excellent, I would. Having been in several other sections because of scheduling conflicts, and having seen the feedback other students received on papers/exams, I feel that Jen goes above and beyond the expectations for section leaders. The predominantly discussion-based (as opposed to review-based) sections that Jen ran engaged and challenged section members to synthesize interesting arguments that drew from, but did not simply recite, the readings.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jen is wonderful! She is so nice and makes sections interesting. She puts a lot of work into grading our assignments and guiding discussions, too. Thanks, Jen!

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jennifer was great! I wish she would have reviewed the readings more, but she was engaging and incredibly approachable.

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Did a great job at facilitating discussion.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

She was absolutely amazing! She was helpful in many situations whether they involved personal or academic issues. She was very eager to teach and willing to help me with any troubles I was dealing with. Overall, she was just magnificent. She is the best of my TFs thus far. :D

Evaluate the course overall.: **4 (very good)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

She was very enthusiastic teacher and obviously knew a lot about gov. I feel that she could have directed the conversation in section better to avoid irrelevant or tangential subjects brought by students.



Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **4 (very good)**

Jen was a wonderful TF with a rock-solid knowledge of the material and effective handling of discussions. However, her assumption of our complete understanding of the subject matter resulted in discussions that were often entirely tangential or unproductive, and I would have liked some more structure in the discussions, such as emphasis on a particular text or a selected theme rather than the free-for-all atmosphere that pervaded our sections. (Prepared discussion questions were seldom used or covered exhaustively.) Nonetheless, she is a wonderful instructor with a friendly, welcoming teaching style that encourages meaningful contributions instead of stifling them.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

I appreciated how we had actual discussions about the readings in section, but I did not feel that it helped me to memorize the authors. My main struggle was not with concepts, but with who wrote about them. I loved the concept maps that we made in class, and I especially appreciated the ones that Jennifer put together for the class. These were very helpful. She generated great enthusiasm for the subject matter and seemed to enjoy her job, which made a huge difference. I was grateful for the opportunity to meet and discuss paper thesis/outlines. I wish more time could have been spent emphasizing (not at lightning speed!!) which points made by authors in the coming week would be most important.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

I enjoyed attending section with Jennifer each and every week. She was thoughtful and very enthusiastic about the material and very nice.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jennifer was a great TF. What I particularly liked was how she let us know what was right and wrong. Her ability to clarify the information we read was really beneficial.

Evaluate the course overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.: **5 (excellent)**

Jen was great; she was always available for help on essays or readings. Additionally, she helped us make concept maps to put the readings in perspective.