Schmitt Samuel - POLI 276-001 2222 Instructor Added Questions Report Spring 2022

Project Title: **Student Evaluations of Teaching**

Course Audience: **43**
Responses Received: **28**
Response Ratio: **65.1%**

Report Comments

If there is no data below then either you did not add questions to your evaluation this term or no students responded to your added questions.
Responses to the College of Arts & Sciences and Department questions for the term are distributed on a separate report.

Creation Date: **Sunday, May 8, 2022**

Student Evaluation of Teaching, Spring 2022
Instructor Added Questions
Samuel Schmitt, POLI 276-001 MAJ ISS POL THEORY
Mode:

Compared to other courses, has this course led you to rethink your approach to community involvement? If so, in what ways did it change your approach? Which elements of the course were most influential in this change?

Comments
Yes, the readings made me understand citizenship and voice and exit more.
Yes, this course helped me see how I can be involved in community. I not only now know the ways I can get involved, but know what types of involvement are the most productive.
Yes! It allowed me to rethink my own citizenship and play a more active role in my community. Sometimes, change takes a while, but knowing more about how to start it really impacted me and my group mates.
It gave me words to define things, and helped engage my critical thinking skills about community involvement. That would be collective action and deliberative democracy
This class made me think about how community involvement is a collective effort. I used to think it was more about the "I," in reality, it is more about the "we." The discussion on neighbors and deliberation made me realize how much change depends on the group and how much people are willing to cooperate.
I'd say the main change has just been in learning about what can improve cooperation. Besides that, I don't think so.
Yes, I am now actively aware of how I participate in a group setting and my role within a community and a group.
I want to become more involved in community organizations and campus involvement.
Yes, it's made me far more aware of my position within my community and how I am able to change it. I think this just came from a cumulation of knowledge and constant relation to the real world in the class.
Absolutely. This course allowed for me to view the actions of a community through a different lens. Instead of focusing on the high–minded ideal or the actions of only myself I was able to view actions as working in tandem with others to even affect small compounding change. The element of the course which was most useful for me was comprehending Ostrom. However, the format of the course with lectures and talking allowed for a deeper understanding.
Yes, this course taught me that even in situations as simple as UNC campus involvement, I have a power to use voice, deliberate effectively and organize to advocate for change.
This course prompted me to question more about when I choose to become involved. Especially with the advancement of social media, we are constantly bombarded with issue after issue (not without reason!) and I think it's easy to feel as though you need to tackle every problem. This course in and of itself really forced me to think hard about what I choose to get involved in, rather than spreading my energy thin, taking the time to deeply engage with the things I care about.
The content on Ostrom particularly changed how I think we can and should actively engage as individual citizens
Yes. The projects were most influential, as it made me realize that for change to happen, you have to actually be willing to get involved and ask tough questions, not just wait for other people to do it. It also made me realize that action doesn't have to be huge marches on Washington, solving local problems can be just as, if not more, important.
It changed my way of thinking about problems. The combinations of in class work, reading, and group work made my understanding of collective action clearer.
It definitely broadened my mind to things I have never thought of or heard of.
It has taught me knew ways to understand the administration of common spaces and how deliberation and norms impact such processes. The group project definitely solidified a much deeper understanding within me about these ideas.
Yes; I'm a leader in several organizations/communities on campus and I have repeatedly found myself running into problems that I don't know how to solve. Over the course of the semester, I was actually able to think about some of these problems in the context of what we have learned in class, which I think made me more effective in my leadership. I think the most influential elements of the course were the topics on citizenship, deliberation, and freedom.
In some ways. I think that the Ostrom reading was maybe the most influential.
Yes. It made me realise the importance of my community and the things I can do to improve it
This course made me think more critically about how I approach community involvement, who the leaders in my community are, and how I can best work to solve the issues of my community alongside these leaders. I think the group project was most influential in this change because we had to work together to solve a community issue.
Yes. I think the emphasis on collective action and ways smaller groups can respond to bigger problems by encouraging group deliberation and small steps was very influential to changing my previous top–down, government level only approach. The group project helped with this, as coming up with realistic ways to counteract big picture problems made thinking about change more realistic and doable.
Yes, it has made me evaluate my involvement with the community and new ways to facilitate this change.
I definitely have had the urge to get more involved in my community through the projects we did. I realized that it takes a lot of collective action from the community to get things done, especially here at UNC, so if I want to make a change I have to involve myself.

Compared to other courses, has this course led you to restructure your approach to leadership? If so, in what ways did it change your view of leadership? Which elements of the course were most influential in this change?

Comments
Slightly, the group project was a part of this
Yes, this course helped me see how I can make a difference in the communities I am a part of. I now realize what it means to be a good member and the opportunities that I have by being a member. It has led me to rethink leadership structure and consider individual impact.
Yes. Before, I had a more passive approach to community needs— and if anything, would take a small–scale approach to problems. Through this class, I learned that contacting the "big dogs" is easier than they make you think, and oftentimes, they're excited to hear from you and work with you. The class discussion and group elements really made me think about my leadership differently, and the readings really helped my conceptualize the topics.
This course did not really change my approach to leadership. However, the collective action did change the way about handling problems as a group.
I think it's just lead me to be more cautious about centralized leadership since it can become domineering. Also, recognizing how and why leaders may limit our freedoms was important.
Yes, it has made me aware of what it means to be a good leader and how a good leader engages, respects, and listens to others around them.
I do not see myself as a leader, but the course allowed me to have more confidence in my academic abilities.
Yes, I think there’s a lot more nuance in leadership than what I initially thought. There are so many complex dynamics between citizens, leaders, and all members of a community. Again, a constant relation to the “real world” application of our readings lead to this realization.
Yes and no. The class certainly provided me a deeper understanding of why good leaders are effective and how they encourage collective action behind them. However, I have been a leader many times and read many books on it. Without trying to be extremely arrogant, through a lot of trial and error my leadership style largely is similar to the class. Ostrom was again the most important as I try to inspire my groups to collective action.
The course has not really changed my view on leadership, but only because I considered myself to be a strong leader already. However, the course did show me that there are many different opportunities for leadership that are accessible to me
I think my approach to leadership now is best understood through the Ostrom readings; in order to be a good leader, you need to prioritize cooperation. After the group paper, two people in my group were sanctioned. While one chose to leave, the other stayed and continued to work with us. I think that experience taught me that not everyone in a group needs to contribute an equal amount, and maybe that's just not realistic – not everyone is always going to equally care about things. But we really put effort into making sure that he did his share of the project, and I think our group was stronger for it.
I think it really emphasised that leadership needs to focus on the peoples opinions and that people can often solve problems themselves and so leadership has to take a different role in organising engagement rather than solving problems. I felt like this was shown particularly through Ostrom, deliberation, and the content on being good neighbours
Yes. It made me realize the leaders are just people and you are allowed and encourage to ask them for the things you need, even if they don't want to listen. The readings, I think, were the most influential for this.
Yes. With thw group project we all had to take a leadership role which was dope.
I think the relative importance of leadership dropped for me, just based on seeing the power the communities can have working together.
Same as above
I think the major changes to leadership I made came from the group project and were in the form of facilitating while also attempting to encourage communal solutions.
It made me want to make changes and gave the knowledge how to do it. Learning about collective action, deliberation and citizenship was useful.
This course taught me more about how to lead a group effort and be an effective leader in a collaborative space. I think the group project was most influential in this change.
Yes. It showed how leadership can be less of a one person concept and more of a group–based idea, in which each individual plays an important part in leading change. The group project as application of the collective action/deliberation material helped with this change.
Yes, I feel that it takes more than one person to approach change. This course taught us that we must work together to solve issues within our society.
Honestly, I haven't thought much about restructuring my approach to leadership as it pertains to this course. Community involvement in general and choosing to make a change in your own life could lead to leadership positions, but I honestly haven't thought much about it.

Compared to other courses, has this course resulted in greater knowledge of the University and surrounding community? If so, what did you learn about the University and surrounding community? Which elements of the course most encouraged you to learn these things?

Comments
Yes
Yes, I learned how many organizations are in the University setting as well as what social movements are occurring in the surrounding community. I learned how diverse and complicated both the school and surrounding community are.
Yes! At least for our topic, we became advocates for RHA and true students of its inner workings and how it affects the community at UNC. Again, the group work and shared ideals of my peers really helped us go above and beyond.
Yes. It made me think about the complexity of deliberation to the university and community. It would be collective action and deliberative democracy.
This course has definitely resulted in greater knowledge of the University and the surrounding community. Thanks to the main project and the final presentation night, I realized how many amazing clubs, programs, and services UNC provide, but doesn't advertise.
That there are a lot more problems on campus beyond the one's I already know.
Yes, it has made me aware of all the issues within our University and the community. It has made me aware how slowly things change and what it takes for those changes to occur.
I learned more about the institutions.
Yes, I learned a lot about the university community mostly due to other peoples poster projects that informed about a lot of issues within the community I hadn’t considered myself.
Absolutely. Firstly, the projects other groups did were largely focused on our specific community. Therefore, I learned a lot about the institutions which surround me and how I interact with each of them ways I had not previously considered. However, within the specific class it allowed me to contemplate why groups are the way they are. The main lenses of that is through collective action and membership. The groups membership is important as that affects why the group is the way they are. The actions they choose to take define them.
I learned that the University is not a completely inaccessible institution. Even if I am paying to come here, it is within my power to at least lend a hand in making change occur
The mini conference at the end, and the work of my peers, taught me the most about the University and community. Specifically, I am now quite up–to–date on the state of ADA compliant housing regulations and mental health resources for LGBTQ+ identifying students. I think the mini conference was also really helpful because it brought the course into perspective – seeing it play out made me think about how to attribute the skills from this course into (nearly) everything I do.
The group project really forced me to learn a lot about the community at UNC as I didn't really know anything before. The poster presentation also allowed me to learn about more issues and groups in the community than I could have done on my own
Yes, absolutely. The projects forced me to learn more about the University and how it functions.
Yes, I learned all about the Northside neighborhood and its history which was really cool because not many people have such a deep understanding of the issues prevalent.
Yes, this is the only course I have taken at UNC that serious address and looks at the university itself and the surrounding community. I learned the most through the group project, but class discussion also gave me a deeper understanding as well.
Yes; I didn't really consider many aspects/problems of the surrounding community, but the group project and presentations opened my eyes to what different students care about it and what makes this community a community. I think it also helped me realize how students can directly impact the larger community if they wish to, which seemed a little less feasible before doing the research for our projects.
Yes I learned a lot about gentrification that I did not already know. The group project was especially important.
With the group projects, I learned a lot about the community and groups at the university
I learned so much about the surrounding community in Chapel Hill through this course and our group project about the Northside neighborhood.
Yes. The group project helped encourage investigation into problems within the University and surrounding community, expanding and deepening my knowledge of problems beyond the university itself. It showed the role students have in the community of Chapel Hill and the ways we can positively (and negatively) affect it.
Yes, this class was very hands–on and required us to work with local organizations in the community. We were able to meet different people and learn things we didn't know prior. Our group paper really encouraged us to learn these things because in order to write the paper we had to reach out and meet with representatives.
Yes! During my project, me and my group members learned so much about a certain community at UNC that we had little knowledge on before. Doing that project in general, and seeing everyone else's posters at the conference, really broadened my scope about things that go on at the University and in Chapel Hill and I appreciate it for that.

Has this course changed how optimistic you are about your ability to make positive changes in your community? Compared to the beginning of the course, are you more optimistic, less optimistic, both, or about the same? Why?

Comments
Yes it has made me more optimistic
Yes, this course has shown me that even though I do not feel as though I can make a change, I actually do matter in the context of my wider community. I feel more prepared on how to go about making changes in the groups I am apart of and know the topics to think critically about in making these changes. Change now seems easier and therefore has made me more optimistic.
Yes!!!!! More optimistic, the readings and the way material was presented made change seem tangible and all the more possible, even as a community member (turned leader).
I am about the same. I believe that if the world wants to do it, they can. This course just outlines the complexity to that dilemma.
I think I'm about the same because the course has showed solutions to help foster collective action, but then it has also revealed many of the challenges. So, it all kind of balances itself out.
Yes and no. It does show that change starts on a small level among friends, family, etc. Talking to others around you can get the ball rolling with the change but at the end of the day changing structures can be hard, especially those that have been in place for decades and do not want to change.
I see myself being a better advocate for campus organizations than in the past.
I would say more optimistic because I learned how to think about how to change things. The big question we focused on was “what should we do?” and that is pertinent to enacting actual change. Although making changes is difficult and takes many steps and processes, having that approach to making change makes it feel like it is accomplishable.
Yes and no. It changes the framework of my optimism and pessimism. The class demonstrates the potential for change to happen through the work of an individual. However, it also highlights incremental change happening on a small scale. Therefore, I am similar levels but in a different way.
I am more optimistic about my ability to make change
I would say I'm more optimistic. Although I think some of that optimism comes from the fact that sometimes meaningful change may not be possible. Apparently someone asked a member of my group what we should do if someone just outright refuses to be vaccinated, and the answer is probably ~ nothing ~ like that's maybe not an ideal ending, but inevitably people are going to choose not to cooperate. Therefore we should do the best we can to make positive changes in our community, without feeling like we've failed if our success isn't absolute.
This course has made me more optimistic because it shows how we can all see solutions to problems and come together to achieve them without a need to rely on authorities
I am much more optimistic, because in some ways, this course made problems shrink down to seem much more manageable. There are a lot more steps than I realized, but not every problems has to be solved on like a national, or even governmental level.
Yes. more optimistic because I have an understanding of what we should do.
With the understandings of what makes proper systems of deliberation and common pool administration, I am definitely more optimistic.
As I said above, the course made me more optimistic about making positive changes in the community because it gave us ways to think about making changes, as well the recognition that we as students are capable of making those changes.
Maybe not so optimistic because there are so many obstacles.
Yes, I’m now more optimistic.
This course made me more optimistic about making positive change in my community because I saw how many people were passionate about improving the lives in their communities.
Im a little more optimistic. The group project showed how small groups and communities can come together to address bigger problems, which was a good change from previous beliefs that only larger actors could make those changes. However, it seems daunting to actually get the ball rolling and encourage people to become actors in making change.
Yes, I feel I have enough knowledge in political theory to create change within the community.
I am probably less optimistic about making positive changes in this community. Although I have a stronger desire to make change, I don't think it is as possible as I did before. It is very hard to get answers from faculty here and it is very hard to start something without a large army of individuals behind you. From my project and other projects I viewed, a lot of people agree that it's difficult to change the norm.

Compared to other courses, has this course led you to rethink your approach to the study of political science? If so, in what ways did it change your approach? Which elements of the course were most influential in this change?

Comments
Yes, this was my first political science course so it really helped me understand what poli sci is truly about.
This class has actually made me see the value and enjoyment people get from political science. Being able to gain knowledge about the institutions around me and those I am apart of makes me more passionate about the topic. I know see the value of political theory and am more interested in possibly taking more classes.
Yes, I liked the modern theory aspect and how it was actually APPLIED in real life. Before this class, poli theory seemed so theoretical and therefore useless, but I now appreciate it as a very real approach and interesting one.
Yes, I come for a more question based approach now. I think about deliberation, collective action, and the freedoms you can loss with certain actions.
I don't really know. It's definitely been a different experience than other courses. Where I've had to evaluate like countries on the basis of a certain idea, I've never had to try and decide "What should we do?" It's different for sure. Will it change how I approach other poli sci courses? Maybe. Will it affect other courses that specifically talk about cooperation or collective action? Most definitely.
I am a political science major and I feel that I connect to classes that are more based in fact, history, and the concrete aspects of political science. On the other hand, this class was very theoretical. It did not really change my approach to political science just because I am accustomed to learning in a different way.
I like the citizenship approach, I felt like I could use the material in my own life.
Not particularly, this is my first political science and probably my last. Even though I enjoyed this course it’s not something I see myself focusing in. This course more so introduced me to the topic.
Yes. The other courses largely focus on telling you facts. Saying here is the way the world works and these are facts about institutions. However, this class focuses on teaching you how to think about these issues. It allows for individualism and your skill as a professor opening discussions and the way readings were framed allowed for this growth.
I think the course mostly proved to me that political theory really isn't all that boring. I found myself to be very engaged with the material throughout the semester, and the group paper/poster presentation helped me internalize these concepts even more
To be honest, I was pretty skeptical about the course before I took it, but I feel like I have a far greater understanding of how political science can be used in everyday life. Especially when it comes to things like cooperation and deliberation, it's easy to say that we should of course do those things, but much harder to do them right.
This course did make me rethink my study of political science as other courses tend to focus on top down understandings of what governments or authorities can and should do, or they focus on more theoretical concepts without the practical application I learnt here
Yes, this made political science seem much more personal.
This is my last class in poli and my favorite with the best teacher
I think it most helped understand more ways to analyze a situation. Instead of just looking at it economically, legally, etc, I began to understand ideas like bottlenecks and such. I think the in class discussions about the different readings helped with this, as I got to hear many different viewpoints on a diverse set of readings.
Yes; in the entry level political science courses, I often found myself bored when discussing and considering topics such as international relations, but this course helped open a new idea of political theory and philosophy to me. That was very refreshing and made me more interested in my major again.
Not sure it changes my view of political science so much. I still think that the group project was the most influential for this.
It showed me political science is not only about the big picture and there are elements of it in our everyday lives
It made me look more pragmatically about political science and policy–making, as well as understanding policy change through a collaborative lens. It also showed me how I can be involved in policy change on the local level for issues I am passionate about.
Yes. The focus of the course on smaller level actors and the role of civic engagement was different than the more broad, bigger picture focus that most political science classes have. It showed how smaller level actors gan bring bigger change, which also has an important role within the space of political study along with that broader scope.
Yes, I feel that other class are more book–based.
Honestly, this course didn't really change my view on how to study political science. I definitely have not thought of political science in this way before this course, but I also don't see myself using it in a deeper way than some of my other more concrete subjects in political science like the death penalty or constitutional amendments.