Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSV1511_002_2017_1/INTRO-COMPARATIVE POLITCS**

Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**

Responses**: 8/12 - 66.67%**

Number of Participants: **12**

Enrollment of All Students: **12**

Graph Course Questions

1 What percentage of the work (including reading) assigned for this course did you complete on schedule?   N=8

#			
1	This question is not applicable		**1** (13%)
2	Some		**2** (25%)
3	Most		**2** (25%)
4	All or almost all		**3** (38%)

Median **3** Interpolated Median **3.00** Mean **2.88** Std Dev **1.13**

2 What is your overall assessment of the course?   N=8

#			
1	Poor		**0** (0%)
2	Fair		**0** (0%)
3	Good		**0** (0%)
4	Very good		**7** (88%)
5	Excellent		**1** (13%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **4.07** Mean **4.13** Std Dev **0.35**

3 Would you recommend this course to another student?   N=8

#			
1	Definitely not recommend		**0** (0%)
2	Probably not recommend		**0** (0%)
3	I'm not sure I'd recommend		**1** (13%)
4	Yes, probably recommend		**4** (50%)
5	Yes, definitely recommend		**3** (38%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **4.25** Mean **4.25** Std Dev **0.71**

4 How does the workload in this course compare to Columbia courses with a similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar, laboratory, or language course)?   N=8

#			
1	No basis for comparison		**1** (13%)
2	Much lighter workload		**0** (0%)
3	Lighter workload		**3** (38%)
4	Similar workload		**3** (38%)
5	Heavier workload		**1** (13%)
6	Much heavier workload		**0** (0%)

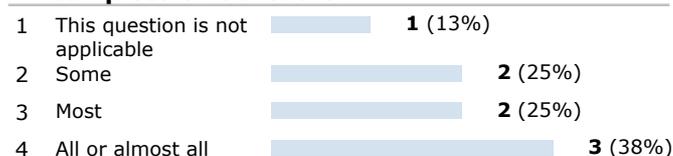Median **3.5** Interpolated Median **3.50** Mean **3.38** Std Dev **1.19**
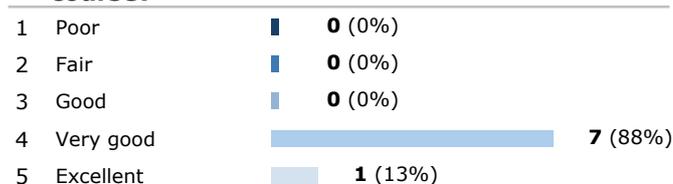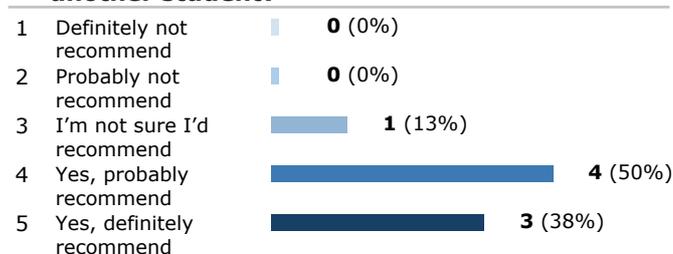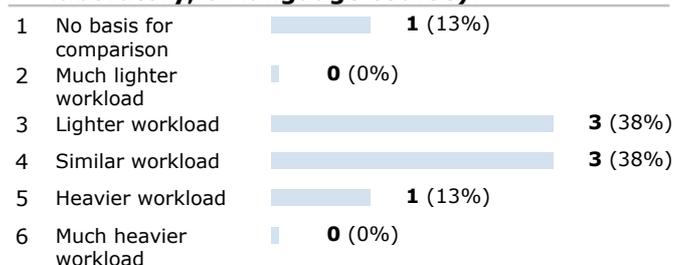
Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**
Course: **POLSV1511_002_2017_1 / INTRO-COMPARATIVE POLITCS-DIS**   Responses**: 8/12 - 66.67%**
Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**   Enrollment of Registered Students:**12**
   Enrollment of All Students:**12**

Comments Course Questions

Q1 **What did you learn - in terms of knowledge, skills, or perspectives - in this course?**

- Government and regime structures, voting structures, how democracy functions in different countries, case studies of government at work in different countries

- Analyzing and critiquing arguments in social science, knowledge about different political systems around the world, and the advantages/disadvantages of various political institutions - democracy vs dictatorship vs anarchy, presidential vs parliamentary system, majoritarian vs proportional electoral systems, federal vs unitary systems

- Was discussion

Q2 **What is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths? In what ways might it be improved? In answering this question, you might address the value of readings and assignments, the structure of the course (including the relationship of sections to lectures), the contribution of the course to your knowledge of the subject matter and to the development of your analytical and reasoning skills, etc. We encourage you to use specific examples where possible.**

- Discussion section very helpful to class

- The reading amount was manageable, but not all the case studies relate to the material we are studying/what is on the exam. As a result, I had little motivation to do those readings. I would try to incorporate the case studies better into the exam, or not assign them. Also, the lectures repeated a lot of what the readings mentioned, so it was repetitive. But then, I was taking the class as a junior, so maybe it works for an intro class. I liked the clarity and organization of the syllabus.

- I think the material is fascinating--the readings helped a lot, but I found that they were just too much with my other class readings. As an intro class, I know the material can sometimes be just a broad overview, which this was, and sometimes it can be a little tedious to study. The discussion section made me feel like I actually understood what was happening in the course material, which was really nice.

Q3 **Please qualify your recommendations if you wish:**

- Whatever your major, this course helps understand political systems around the world, and puts the US in perspective.

- Discussion sections are important to your success in the class

- Ben explained concept very well. I felt really prepared going into the exams.

Program Evaluation System

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSV1511_002_2017_1 / INTRO-COMPARATIVE POLITCS-DIS**

Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**

Responses**: 8/12 - 66.67%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**12**

Enrollment of All Students:**12**

Comments Course Questions

Q4 **How many hours a week did you devote to this course? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including class time, discussion sections, readings, assignments, studying, etc.)**
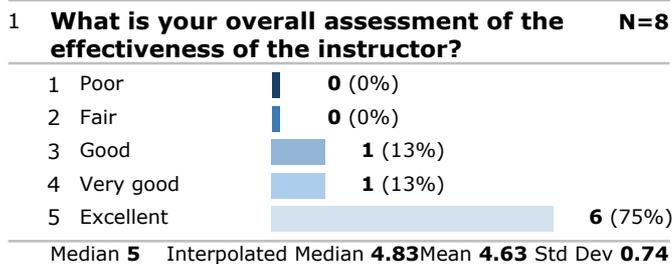
- 50min

- 1-2

- 7h/week

- 4 hours

Program Evaluation System

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**
Course: **POLSV1511_002_2017_1 / INTRO-COMPARATIVE**   Responses**: 8/12 - 66.67%**
POLITCS-DIS
Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**   Number of Participants: **12**
                                                                 Enrollment of All Students: **12**

Instructor Graph Report for: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

1   **What is your overall assessment of the   N=8**
    effectiveness of the instructor?

1	Poor		**0** (0%)
2	Fair		**0** (0%)
3	Good		**1** (13%)
4	Very good		**1** (13%)
5	Excellent		**6** (75%)

Median **5**   Interpolated Median **4.83** Mean **4.63** Std Dev **0.74**

Instructor Comments Report for: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

Q1 **Please evaluate your faculty instructor. What are the instructor's strengths? In what ways might his or her teaching be improved? In answering this question, you might address the clarity of the lectures or presentations and their relationship to the other elements of the course, the ability of the instructor to generate enthusiasm and facilitate discussion, the quality of feedback, availability, the timeliness of the return of assignments, etc.**

- He has a positive way of engaging the students and getting them to speak, using multimedia to teach classes (including videos and graphs).

- Excellent TA

- He's the man

- Ben explains concepts very clearly, and focuses on the major argument without spending too much time on minor details. As a result, I got a clear picture of the arguments of various authors, which is super important for the exam. He also brings in relevant and entertaining videos into the discussion sessions which relate to the material, and add to my understanding of the topics. He's very responsive to questions via email. He also tries to get everyone talking and appreciates every idea someone brings in, which is very encouraging. Sometimes, I wish we got through the material faster, avoiding awkward silences, since we had only an hour a week, and never really covered all of the readings for that week, which made studying for the exam harder.

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**
Course: **POLSV1511_003_2017_1/INTRO-COMPARATIVE POLITCS**   Responses**: 12/19 - 63.16%**
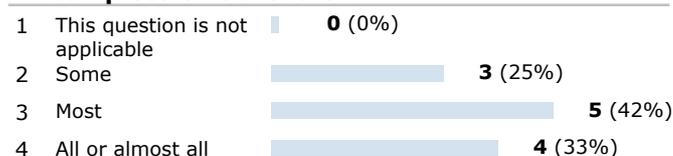Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**   Number of Participants: **19**
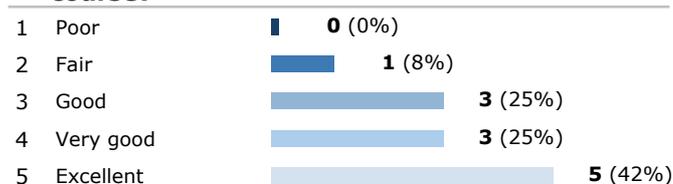   Enrollment of All Students: **19**

Graph Course Questions

**1   What percentage of the work (including   N=12
      reading) assigned for this course did you
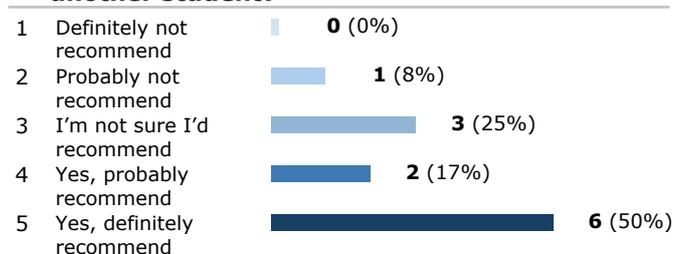   complete on schedule?**

1	This question is not applicable	**0** (0%)
2	Some	**3** (25%)
3	Most	**5** (42%)
4	All or almost all	**4** (33%)

Median **3** Interpolated Median **3.10** Mean **3.08** Std Dev **0.79**

**2   What is your overall assessment of the   N=12
      course?**

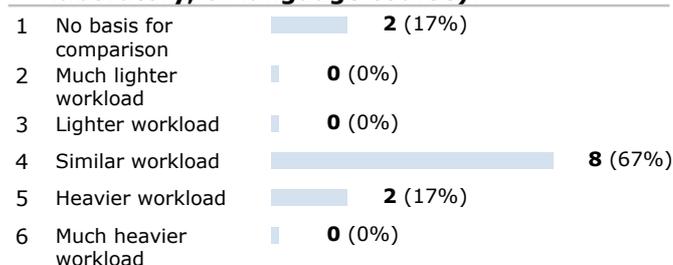| 1 | Poor | **0** (0%) |
2	Fair	**1** (8%)
3	Good	**3** (25%)
4	Very good	**3** (25%)
5	Excellent	**5** (42%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **4.17** Mean **4.00** Std Dev **1.04**

**3   Would you recommend this course to   N=12
      another student?**

1	Definitely not recommend	**0** (0%)
2	Probably not recommend	**1** (8%)
3	I'm not sure I'd recommend	**3** (25%)
4	Yes, probably recommend	**2** (17%)
5	Yes, definitely recommend	**6** (50%)

Median **4.5** Interpolated Median **4.50** Mean **4.08** Std Dev **1.08**

**4   How does the workload in this course   N=12
      compare to Columbia courses with a
      similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar,
      laboratory, or language course)?**

1	No basis for comparison	**2** (17%)
2	Much lighter workload	**0** (0%)
3	Lighter workload	**0** (0%)
4	Similar workload	**8** (67%)
5	Heavier workload	**2** (17%)
6	Much heavier workload	**0** (0%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **4.00** Mean **3.67** Std Dev **1.30**

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**
Course: **POLSV1511_003_2017_1 / INTRO-COMPARATIVE POLITCS-DIS**   Responses: **12/19 - 63.16%**
Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**   Enrollment of Registered Students:**19**
Enrollment of All Students:**19**

Comments Course Questions

Q1 **What did you learn - in terms of knowledge, skills, or perspectives - in this course?**

- It was a great connection between the technical course material and current events (or just generally things that we knew from the world).

- All of comparative politics. Literally did not understand one word in lecture, had to learn everything in section.

- Reiterated knowledge from the course, as it is a discussion section.

- In discussion section, quite a lot. I thoroughly enjoyed them every week, and understood a lot more than I normally did in lectures.

- think of overall theories in poli sci to study

- Everything I missed in the course

- Literally the only things I learned in this class I learned in section

- Contemporary examples of classic concepts in comparative politics

- I learned the basic structures of government and how to skim read.

Q2 **What is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths? In what ways might it be improved? In answering this question, you might address the value of readings and assignments, the structure of the course (including the relationship of sections to lectures), the contribution of the course to your knowledge of the subject matter and to the development of your analytical and reasoning skills, etc. We encourage you to use specific examples where possible.**

- Section is absolutely necessary and was the most valuable part of the class. It was the only part of the class I enjoyed or even tolerated.

- This course seemed a bit generic, even though it is an introductory course. I feel like there could've been more interesting work-shops/lectures and current examples referenced.

- I enjoyed how section was run, in that we always discussed topical subjects but in more tangential/unorthodox ways (e.g., Margaret Thatcher's PM questions).

- Discussion section was much more interesting than lecture.

- FABULOUS. Ben saved my life and my GPA. He had to reteach us the entire course since the lecturer was so ineffective at communicating information, and he did so in a very clear and concise way. He prepared us well for exams, was great at leading review sessions, and was incredibly engaging as well.

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSV1511_003_2017_1 / INTRO-COMPARATIVE POLITCS-DIS**

Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**

Responses**: 12/19 - 63.16%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**19**

Enrollment of All Students:**19**

Comments Course Questions

Q3 **Please qualify your recommendations if you wish:**

- only if it's with Ben.

Q4 **How many hours a week did you devote to this course? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including class time, discussion sections, readings, assignments, studying, etc.)**
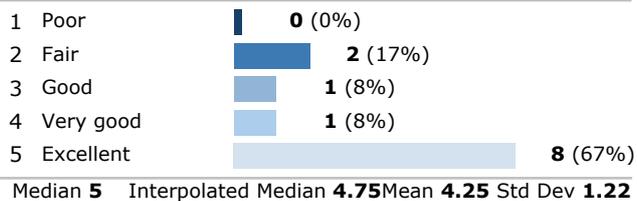
- (This was discussion section, so just the one hour a week)

- 2 hours

- 3

- 6

- None because it's a discussion section.

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**
Course: **POLSV1511_003_2017_1 / INTRO-COMPARATIVE**   Responses**: 12/19 - 63.16%**
POLITCS-DIS
Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**   Number of Participants: **19**
                                                                 Enrollment of All Students: **19**

Instructor Graph Report for: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

1   **What is your overall assessment of the**   N=12
     effectiveness of the instructor?

1	Poor	**0** (0%)
2	Fair	**2** (17%)
3	Good	**1** (8%)
4	Very good	**1** (8%)
5	Excellent	**8** (67%)

Median **5**   Interpolated Median **4.75** Mean **4.25** Std Dev **1.22**

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSV1511_003_2017_1 / INTRO-COMPARATIVE POLITCS-DIS**

Instructors: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**

Responses: **12/19 - 63.16%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**19**

Enrollment of All Students:**19**

Instructor Comments Report for: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

Q1 **Please evaluate your faculty instructor. What are the instructor's strengths? In what ways might his or her teaching be improved? In answering this question, you might address the clarity of the lectures or presentations and their relationship to the other elements of the course, the ability of the instructor to generate enthusiasm and facilitate discussion, the quality of feedback, availability, the timeliness of the return of assignments, etc.**

- The best. The only suggestion I have is that HE be the one to give the lectures -- seriously, Columbia needs to hire more people like him and less people who can only do research and not teach. This was a true teacher, and I was lucky to have him.

- He was really great at addressing our questions but also in making us answer each other's questions, and suggest possible explanations, really integrating the material with our own knowledge.

- Ben was great. He's clearly incredibly knowledgable about the subject, and having him as a TA was such a pleasure. He was able to explain incredibly complex theories in comprehensible ways, without dumbing anything down or oversimplifying. He told us exactly what we needed to know about anything, and didn't let us get lost in the irrelevant details. He was super engaging, had great questions for us, and super passionate in a way that really motivated me.

- Ben is pretty cool, knows his stuff, answers all questions you may have. Also his laugh is kind of funny and he laughs quite a bit so that brightens up the discussion section.

- Class discussions could've corresponded more to the lectures.

- she talked a little too fast

- Incredible TA. I already evaluted him in the courses evalutation so reference that.

- Ben is amazing. He is the only reason I did decently well in the class. He knew basically every answer to my questions, and the material he chose to go over in section was always the most important content, which I really appreciated. From what I heard, other TAs were not as good as Ben, so I'm really happy that I had him. I would not recommend this class at all if you couldn't take it with Ben as your TA. Literally cannot speak highly enough of Ben.

- He was awesome. He identified the difficult things from lecture and was able to clarify them in section. He was also great at fostering discussion.

Program Evaluation System

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**   Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**

Course: **POLSV1501_001_2017_1 / Introduction to Comparative Politics**   Responses**: 70/117 - 59.83%**

Instructors: **Kimuli Kunihira Kasara**

Number of Participants: **117**

Enrollment of All Students: **117**

TA Graph Report for: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

1	**What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the teaching assistant?**	**N=21**
1	No basis for comment	**0** (0%)
2	Poor	**0** (0%)
3	Fair	**0** (0%)
4	Good	**1** (5%)
5	Very Good	**3** (14%)
6	Excellent	**17** (81%)

Median **6**   Interpolated Median **5.88** Mean **5.76** Std Dev **0.54**

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSV1501_001_2017_1 / Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Instructors: **Kimuli Kunihira Kasara**

Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**

Responses**: 70/117 - 59.83%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**117**

Enrollment of All Students:**117**

TA Comments Report for: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**

Q1 What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader, or other assistant) as an instructor, and how might his or her teaching be improved?

- He was very nice and helpful, promoted good discussions

- Ben is knowledgeable and helpful, pretty cool guy. Has a unique laugh and laughs a lot, which I thought added levity to the section.

- Ben explains things very clearly and focuses on the important arguments versus the details, which really helps study for exams. However, I wish we made it through more material during section by going a bir faster (which is actually hard when we only have an hour).

- He was good at explaining the topics, especially since the lectures and textbook were unclear.

- I LOVED BEN. He's so helpful and replied to my emails. And very dashingly handsome.

- Ben SAVED MY LIFE in this class. If not for him, I would have ZERO idea what was going on. The lectures were, especially in the beginning of the semester, so unintelligible that it would be up to Ben to reteach us everything about the course, and he did so in such a great way.He was a fast grader, great at answering questions, facilitating discussions, and bringing in outside articles/information. Seriously the only thing that stopped me from dropping the course.

- Ben was great! He was incredibly engaged, clearly very knowledgeable about the subject, and really devoted the time to make sure we understood the complex concepts. His method for teaching was very thorough yet comprehensible, and that was really encouraging as a student who was willing to engage.

- Very nice and used interesting material (i.e. videos, examples) to further explain class material

- He was very good at facilitating discussion and reteaching course material that was complicated from lecture.

- Already assessed

- Developed a good rapport with

- He was very keen on picking up what would be confusing and needed to be clarified (clearly attended the lectures, was familiar with the content, and good at viewing the course from the perspective of a student)

- So knowledgable about the material. Always answered my questions - even over email. Very helpful.

- Organized discussion and allowed open conversations.

- Ben was great I gave him a great review. he was the only saving grace of this terrible class.

Title: **A&S Spring 2017 Standard Evaluation**

Course: **POLSV1501_001_2017_1 / Introduction to Comparative Politics**

Instructors: **Kimuli Kunihira Kasara**

Dates: **04/24/2017 - 05/04/2017**

Responses**: 70/117 - 59.83%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**117**

Enrollment of All Students:**117**

TA Comments Report for: **Benjamin Patrick McClelland**