

Summary of Evaluations for POL 306: Judicial Behavior, Spring 2019

Instructor: Miles T. Armaly

Student Comments

Below are *all* of the unedited student comments available. A total of 60 students were enrolled in the course; 41 completed evaluations. As can be seen, few students completed open ended responses.

1. What are some positive characteristics or strengths of the course and/or instructor?
 - A fantastic lecturer; he can make anything interesting. Also, Armaly is a ridiculously quick and thorough paper grader, always providing complete notes about any flaws or strengths of the essay.
 - Armaly is the man! He is the coolest teacher at this University. He also does a great job of giving people a chance to do well in this class even if they do not master the material because he makes participation a huge part of your grade. Take Armaly for sure.
 - EVERYTHING. 10/10 recommend taking all of his classes. Makes class not only interesting but fun. Interacts and cares for each and every student.
 - Great enthusiasm, very down to earth, made class fun.
 - Great teacher
 - Great teacher as usual
 - Dr. Armaly is very entertaining and makes his subject fun
 - Knows the subject well!
 - Material was interesting
 - Some positive characteristics of this course was being able to learn about the psychological aspect of the judicial process. Making sure we're able to learn the materials in a timely manner, as well as finding out why Supreme Court justices vote the way they do.
 - instructor likes the subject
 - it's really interesting, but he needs to ease up on how he grades his papers. he is really enthusiastic and fun. his humor is incredible, and his class is always light-hearted.
2. What are some negative characteristics or weaknesses of the course and/or instructor?
 - Grades essays hard after the first one
 - He gives quizzes on days where less people are in class, and it's not announced. Sometimes that can hurt grades.
 - I honestly can't put my finger on anything negative about Dr. Armaly or his class
 - N/a

- No weaknesses. He is the most dedicated teacher to his students. The most helpful teacher
- None
- Armaly isn't my favorite professor but he's still really smart
- None
- The essay's were challenging to right and he didn't do the best job describing what he wanted out of them, other than that, he was a very good teacher.
- The subject matter and lectures did get a bit repetitive after a time
- he grades his papers so harshly. one time I went to his office hours to get his opinion on a paper and he told me to change TWO things. I changed those two things thinking I was going to get an A. well I get the paper back and i've made a low B - all because he was criticizing things he didn't even tell me about originally. I felt as though he didn't help as much as he could have
- none

3. What specific changes would you like to see made in the course?

- Maybe giving students a vague warning about quizzes.
- N/a
- No changes
- No changes at all
- None
- None!!
- More digestable information-not as many long powerpoints with no discussion
- None
- The way the essay's are explained in class.
- more grades besides 3 papers and quizzes
- none

4. What do you want other students to know about your experience in this class?

- Armaly is by far the chillest college professor I have ever had. He has a great sense of humor, and engages with students really well. The course has no tests, just 3 papers that he grades extremely fast, providing feedback. The material is interesting too! Definitely would recommend, its a very laid back class.
- Dr. Armaly is the best. He makes class enjoyable-I learned a ton. Come to class, participate, and write your papers, and you'll be fine.
- Fun teacher!
- He's huge on participation points, but you can get them by speaking in class!

- I have taken every single one of his classes and I recommend taking any classes he teaches. He makes it so fun and has changed my outlook on life and school.
- If you don't plan on being a lawyer I wouldn't take this class or if you don't know anything about judges.
- It was excellent and Dr. Armaly is a very funny and engaging professor
- Should take!
- To come in ready to learn about the Supreme Court and the justices involved. It is a very interesting course, but will need your full attention to receive an A in the course.
- come to class
- it's hard, but professor Armaly is great. I recommend taking him, but just be ready to put your all into a paper and still make a C.

Responses to Survey Items with Comparison Groups

Figure 1 displays student responses to 9 closed-ended survey items for my class, as well as the average response for instructors in the College of Liberal Arts. Each item appears along the y-axis. Plotting symbols display the percentage of students responding affirmatively to the corresponding prompt. Black triangles display scores for my class and red circles for the average college instructor.

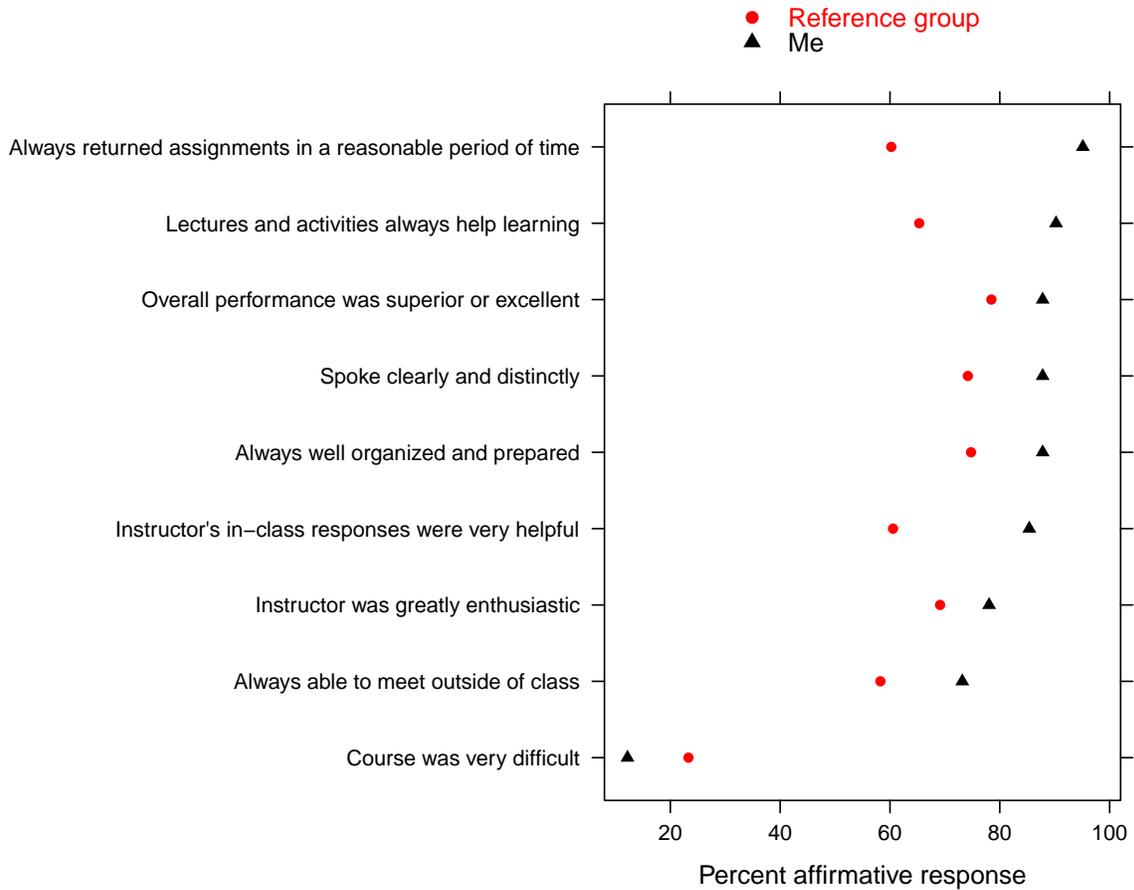


Figure 1: Percentage of students responding affirmatively to evaluation items, with comparisons to average college values.

As can be seen, I outperform the average college instructor in all categories. Perhaps most notably, 87.8% of students classified my performance as “superior” or “excellent,” the most positive choices. This exceeds the average college instructor by 9.33%.