

FRS 165: Projecting Power - S01 - O. Wasow

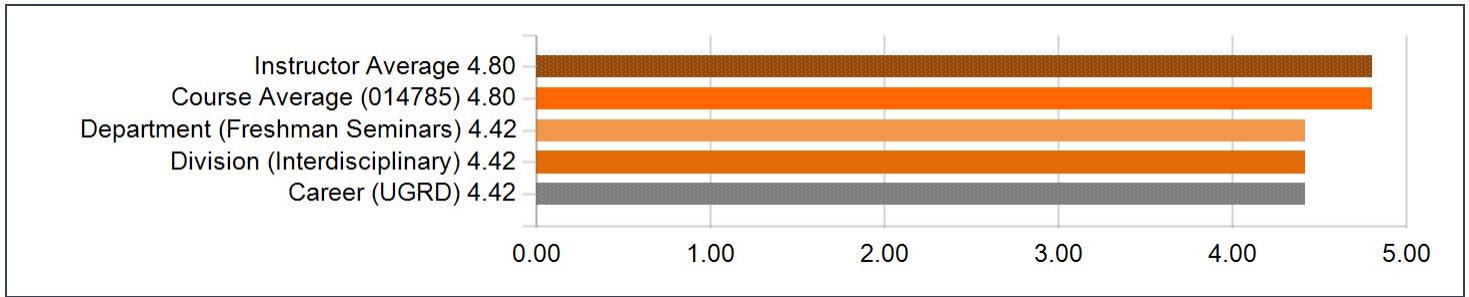
Response Table

Raters	Students
Responded	11
Invited	13
Response Ratio	85%

Please note that the Responded, Invited (Enrollment) and Response Ratio metrics exclude declines.

Department, division and career level statistics are survey-specific (i.e. the main survey, FRS, Writing Program, and graduate program surveys). Statistics below are based on responses of the course population that completed the same survey questionnaire as this course.

I think that the overall quality of the course was



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Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	8	80%	
Very Good	4	2	20%	
Good	3	0	0%	
Fair	2	0	0%	
Poor	1	0	0%	

Qualitative Feedback

Please comment on the quality of class discussion, including the extent of student participation.

Comments
Class discussion was always interesting and engaging. I never felt bored, and the 3 hours flew by.
Class discussion was excellent, and most students in the class participated a great deal. I also felt Prof. Wasow did an excellent job of moderating class discussion in a way that still felt student-led but pushed us to go in more productive and insightful directions. He also made an effort to give everyone the opportunities to speak that they wanted, which I think went a long way.
The discussions were interesting, engaged, and (at times) quite passionate. They definitely were of very high quality.
fantastic
Quality of class discussion was good. Sometimes it was hard to get a word in because of the method of going-in-order-of-hands raised – sometimes I would have a thought but it would no longer be relevant by the time I got around to speaking. Other than that, though, class discussion was rich and kept on topic for the most part.
I think our class discussions were engaging because everyone participated, bringing lots of different views to the discussion. I liked that, though students were called on by an instructor before we talked, we were always responding to each other's points and building off of each other's ideas.
There was a lot of student participation, discussions were very interesting and definitely the most important aspect of the class. A three-hour long class felt a lot shorter because of the engaging discussions and interesting subjects covered.
Great class discussions with plenty of student participation. Just not enough time in a day for it all!
The class was a mix of student and professor participation. We discussed the week's readings and films. Each student was responsible for 3 readings/films over the course of the class.
Class discussion was very lively, and almost every student participated.

Seminars are taught by a variety of methods. In your opinion, was the presentation of the material appropriate to the subject matter of the seminar?

Comments
Yes.
Since the presentation of the material was essentially extended class discussion that helped us dig into the heart of the content, I thought it was very appropriate, and probably the best way to learn with something as subjective as film.
Yes, the presentation of the material was appropriate to the subject matter.
yes
Yes. I really enjoyed the movie / reading pairings weekly.
Yes, though film is not a traditional way to teach political/social sciences, I think it was very effective in helping me learn about this subject. Readings helped further clarify and generalize the concepts covered in these movies.
Yes, the presentation was excellent, a good combination of film and political science reading, with lots of discussion and great guidance from the professor.
Yes really well put together.
Yes.
Yes; the class incorporated both media platforms and readings very well.

Was the amount of reading assigned each week about right, and were the selections appropriate?

Comments
Yes. The readings never felt too long and were normally interesting. There were a few readings that I didn't love, and some that I felt didn't fit into the curriculum, but for the most part they were great.
Readings were excellent in terms of connecting to the class and being fascinating in their own right. A few weeks were on the heavier side, but they were usually interesting enough that I didn't mind.
At times I might've preferred slightly less reading, but in general it was interesting and applicable.
yes
Sometimes the reading level was a bit tough, especially the more scientific papers, but I thought quantity-wise it was mostly reasonable. There were only a few instances where I thought the reading was too much.
The amount of reading assigned each week was about right, and the selections corresponded and built on the movies well.
It was right, could some times be a little bit heavy but mostly good. Some readings were a little difficult but there were also extremely interesting ones.
There were definitely some readings that weren't as directly related to the weekly film and overall class discussion but still interesting. A lot of reading each week but totally worth it.
Yes. I wish that we had some more background on some of film content (eg Indonesian genocide, etc.)
Amount of reading assigned was very fair, especially since they were mostly used for discussions.

Comment on the amount of writing and the pacing of the assignments. Did you receive helpful criticism? Do you believe that the seminar improved your writing skills?

Comments
I think a little more feedback would have been helpful before the final paper, because I'm a little worried that my final paper isn't in the preferred style. There definitely wasn't a lot of guidance on writing skills, so maybe next year there could be one class devoted to how to write a paper.
I enjoyed the fact that I got to pace out my writing assignments as I saw fit during the semester—this certainly took away much of the stress associated with doing them. However, I would have appreciated more feedback, and I don't know that I got specific guidance regarding my writing skills.
The amount of writing was perfect.
yes
Once I got my papers back, I thought the feedback was helpful. However, we never really did second drafts or anything, so I'm not sure the seminar improved my writing, per say, but I definitely learned a lot through writing the papers, especially the final paper.
I really liked that the writing was self paced and we were allowed to choose which weeks we wanted to write our papers. This, along with the freedom to choose what we wanted to talk about in our final paper, was great because it allowed us to explore topics we were interested in. I believe my writing skills improved this semester because we had less than a day to write our papers since our movie screenings were on Sunday nights and our papers were due on Monday around 5, so I learned to write strong papers efficiently.
Good amount of writing, helpful criticism given but at the end of the course.
Some helpful criticism but it wasn't really a writing heavy course.
The feedback was super helpful, but we often didn't get it until a lot of time had passed. The assignments weren't too demanding and fit well with the class.
I did receive helpful criticism on my response papers, although it would have been slightly better if the responses came a little earlier.

Please comment on in-class and out-of-class assignments, hands-on activities, trips, and other kinds of special opportunities, and describe how important they were to the Freshman Seminar.

Comments
I liked doing the response papers, and never felt that they were too stressful.
I think the most important activities to the seminar were definitely the weekly film screenings. Not only did getting to experience each week's film in a larger space enrich my viewing, it also became a communal get-together that I looked forward to every week (encouraging me to participate more in class because I felt more comfortable with the people there).
In addition to the weekly three hour class, there were movie showings on Sunday nights. These added a lot to the class experience.
they were all important to engage during class
I thought the weekly viewings of the movies really bonded us as a class, and it was a part of the week that I looked forward to.
The movie screenings on Sundays were fun and added a lot to the class experience, while at the same time the professor was very understanding if we could not show up some weeks.
Films were great.
The weekly film showings were very important for creating a community within our FRS course.
The assignments, especially readings and the movies, were very important.

Please use this space to tell us anything you want to about the seminar.

Comments
I loved this seminar so much. I learned so much, and always looked forward to class discussions. Wasow is an amazing teacher, and I'm going to miss this class a lot.
This seminar single-handedly made me reconsider my major choice, and I think it's worth taking its approach (combining media studies and politics) out to non-FRS courses as well.
Students should be informed in advance of the movie showings on Sundays.
PROFESSOR WASOW IS THE GREATEST
I really enjoyed it! I think the topic was fascinating and it should definitely be taught by Professor Wasow in the future.
The seminar is very, very well taught, Omar Wasow is a super interesting and engaging professor, and the idea behind the seminar is brilliant.
It has been my favorite class yet at Princeton and I hope other students will have the chance to take it as well.
I wish the themes of the films were more explicit and the week to week trajectory was more closely related. I enjoyed the week when we did Attica back to back because it allowed for dialogue to continue.

In thinking about the overall quality of the course, please comment on what you got out of the course. What did the instructor do particularly well, and in what ways might the course be improved?

Comments
I learned a ton.
Prof. Wasow was a great instructor who genuinely cared about every student in the class, and that was evident in his treatment of our opinions in class discussion. I also enjoyed the chance to be exposed to more documentary film than I had ever seen or thought critically about in the past. I think the course might be improved by some fine-tuning of the film selections and weekly themes.
I got a lot out of the course, especially in my understanding of ethnic politics and how oppressed groups demonstrated power against their oppressors.
he was able to engage students extremely well and provided lots of support
I thought the reading assignments and movies were great, and I thought the class discussion was interesting. Sometimes, the length of the class proved to be a bit draining when it was solely discussion, so maybe in the future breaking it up somehow (with debate, more film viewing, etc.) was good when we did it.
I think the instructor did a particularly good job of making the materials of this course relatable to everyone, even those who might not be majoring in this area.
I got some great foundations on how to make an argument in political science, a much better understanding and appreciation for seminar-style discussions, and the opportunity to hear an amazing professor speak of topics he is clearly very passionate about. The course will improve in future years by virtue of having been taught and polished more, but it was really good on its first year.
Great introduction to political science papers while also providing an opportunity to formally discuss film techniques and narratives. Instructor did a great job breaking down at times complex papers with dense statistics.
Professor Wasow was so kind and passionate about the subject matter. I thoroughly enjoyed it.
I got a lot out of the course; it is a very chill course overall, with the professor easing you into the Princeton Politics department.