

University of Michigan
 Fall 2021 Instructor Report With Comments
 PUBPOL 312 001 - ENVIRON 312 001 - POLSCI 380 001
 Joshua Basseches

10 out of 31 students responded to this evaluation.

Responses to University-wide questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter. (Q1631)	4	5	0	1	0	0	4.3	4.5	4.6
My interest in the subject has increased because of this course. (Q1632)	3	3	2	2	0	0	3.8	4.2	4.3
I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)	6	3	0	1	0	0	4.7	4.5	4.5
I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)	7	1	1	1	0	0	4.8	4.0	4.1
As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was (SA=Much Lighter, A=Lighter, N=Typical, D=Heavier, SD=Much Heavier). (Q891)	0	2	3	4	1	0	2.5	3.0	2.9

Responses to University-wide questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median	University-Wide Median	School/College Median
Joshua Basseches seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)	6	4	0	0	0	0	4.7	4.8	4.9
Joshua Basseches explained material clearly.(Q199)	3	5	1	1	0	0	4.1	4.7	4.7
Joshua Basseches treated students with respect. (Q217)	8	1	1	0	0	0	4.9	4.9	4.9

Responses to questions about the course:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, this was an excellent course. (Q1)	4	5	0	1	0	0	4.3
I developed the ability to solve real problems in this field. (Q125)	2	4	3	1	0	0	3.8
I developed skills needed by professionals in this field. (Q180)	3	3	2	2	0	0	3.8

Responses to questions about the instructor:

	SA	A	N	D	SD	N/A	Your Median
Overall, Joshua Basseches was an excellent teacher. (Q2)	4	4	2	0	0	0	4.3
Joshua Basseches was willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q219)	6	3	1	0	0	0	4.7
Joshua Basseches appeared open to viewpoints besides her or his own. (Q249)	6	2	1	1	0	0	4.7
Joshua Basseches was sensitive to diversity issues in the classroom. (Q1396)	6	4	0	0	0	0	4.7

The medians are calculated from Fall 2021 data. University-wide medians are based on all UM classes in which an item was used. The school/college medians in this report are based on Ford School of Public Policy classes.

Written Comments

Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

Comments
Professor Basseches was clearly passionate about the course material, and he encouraged class discussion, which aided in comprehension.
This was a great class, Josh always explained readings carefully and was accommodating during the pandemic. Josh always sent out announcements to help students stay on track.
Josh was great at bringing students in to engage in thoughtful discussions, and he demonstrated great knowledge of course material.
I liked how Josh tied readings to course topics and ideas, and made sure to incorporate student input and ask good questions to really dive deep into the pros and cons of various environmental policies
I think that the reading selections as well as the discussion based nature of this course, as well as the inclusion of our own questions and ideas within lecture was amazing and definitely helped me learn not only from Professor Basseches but from other students who may have backgrounds in other disciplines.
Joshua Basseches did a great job to make his students feel a part of the lesson and conversation. Readings were thoughtfully chosen and the discussion was well-prepared. He is an excellent teacher and interesting person, one of my favorite courses I have taken at umich (and I am a senior!).

How can this course be improved? (Q926)

Comments
One of my biggest challenges was, coming into the class knowing very little on the subject, I often felt like I couldn't contribute to class discussions like some of my peers. Though the discussion was interesting, it often required specialized knowledge beyond what the readings provided.
Maybe having less reading; they were so dense it was hard to always go through everything carefully, but Josh did mention pages that were important to focus on which was beneficial. I think also more small group discussions could have helped the class with
Less focus on lengthy academic papers and political theory, greater emphasis on real-world, current events-based policy writing exercises
I understand Josh is an expert in energy policy, so it makes sense for him to focus on this area. However, I wish some in-person guest speakers could have been professionals that focus on water law (Stacey Coyle), land use, etc. (as land use is also tied in with energy policy as well)
this course should only be available to students in the school of public policy. as a political science major I felt very unprepared for this class and felt alienated during class discussions as other students were much more versed in the subject matter than I was
I think we could have broken off into smaller discussion sections more often as we often made a lot of progress sharing ideas and theories about our beliefs regarding the information we learned and read in class.
Some of the readings were very long and time-consuming – it was helpful when Professor Basseches would give pointers on what to focus on and or skim. The class is called "Environmental Policy" and I do not think the course covered a large range of environmental policies – this did not bother me because I am most interested in climate policy. However, I think it may be useful to consider re-naming the course.

What were the strengths of the course ? (Q953)

Comments

The readings were not overly difficult, and the professor's incorporation of videos and other media aided greatly in comprehension. The work load was also not overly difficult.

I liked the guest speakers, it was nice to get a change of voice and view. It's also great to hear from people who were in our places a few (or many) years ago. I also like how there were several paper topics.

Josh's knowledge of energy policy. in-class and Canvas discussions, Josh's integration of his own research into the syllabus

Josh was always looking for and to incorporate feedback, which I really appreciate. He also was very flexible, which is extremely appreciated during the on-going pandemic. I liked how Josh structured the course to begin board and then narrowed on specific energy policies, like cap and trade. I wish the main points of the readings were a little more emphasized in the beginning of the course, but Josh received such feedback and did an excellent job to incorporate it— causing him to go over more in depth about the readings, thus increasing my understanding of them over the period of the course.

I think the discussion posts were informative and the ways in which they were incorporated into lecture were great. Professors don't often do this, and a lot of the questions asked by other students were helpful to my own learning.

The topic was extremely interesting and I greatly enjoyed the focus on climate policy.