

Summary of Teaching Evaluations

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The table below presents mean and median scores for four courses taught as instructor of record: Modern Political Thought (Fall 2019), Modern Political Thought (Summer 2020), American Political Thought (Fall 2020), and American Political Thought (Spring 2021). Ratings were on a 1-5 scale in which 1 represents “Strongly Disagree” and 5 represent “Strongly Agree.” Due to a revision of University evaluation instruments, some questions are not available for all semesters of instruction. Full evaluation reports are available upon request.

| | Fall '19 | Summer '20 | Fall '20 | Spring '21 |
|---|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| The instructor treated all students with respect | | 4.75 (5) | 4.65 (5) | 4.81 (5) |
| The instructor saw cultural and personal differences as assets | | 4.58 (5) | 4.55 (5) | 4.61 (5) |
| The course challenged me to think deeply about the subject matter | | 4.67 (5) | 4.65 (5) | 4.55 (5) |
| [The instructor] demonstrates enthusiasm about teaching | 4.88 (5) | 4.92 (5) | 4.85 (5) | 4.74 (5) |
| [The instructor] promotes a climate of mutual respect. | 4.76 (5) | 4.83 (5) | 4.75 (5) | 4.81 (5) |
| [The instructor] emphasizes critical thinking | 4.65 (5) | 4.67 (5) | 4.74 (5) | 4.77 (5) |
| [The instructor] is well prepared for instruction | 4.88 (5) | 4.92 (5) | 4.68 (5) | 4.74 (5) |
| Course goals are clearly specified | 4.54 (5) | 4.83 (5) | 4.60 (5) | 4.65 (5) |
| Course assignments are clearly related to the course objectives | 4.76 (5) | 4.83 (5) | 4.65 (5) | 4.63 (5) |

Sample Student Comments:

- “Likeable, funny, relatable, professional, and straightforward. His speaking and organizational capabilities rival the best professors I’ve had so far at UNC.”

- “You gave me the fairest and most genuine feedback on a paper I think I’ve ever received at UNC. Usually it’s just a few comments scribbled in the margins but you’d really give me a paragraph of feedback that was genuinely very helpful.”
- “Professor Young did a fantastic job of presenting the course material and allowing all students the opportunity to discuss and speak their minds. He was very fair in his grading, expectations, and strove to help students in any way he could.”
- “Great lecturer, inclusive, examines subjects from a wide range of perspectives, flexible, well-versed in the subject.”
- “...challenges students to wrestle with important issues.”
- “class discussions were one of my favorite parts of the week!”
- “Matthew is the best! He is really kind and provided really good feedback. I don’t like political science much and I’m not a good writer but I think I improved so much because of him.”
- “Great lecturer, wealth of knowledge”
- “Prof Young is an excellent lecturer and instructor who clearly displays empathy, care and understanding in his interactions. His feedback on our writing was very helpful. His assignments and exams were challenging but fair”
- “Professor Young ... taught and corresponded with empathy and understanding”
- “He was very understanding to the personal challenges that I faced. His understanding allowed me to excel in the classroom.”
- “The lectures, exams and writing assignments were excellent. Prof Young clearly put a lot of care into putting together thorough and convincing analyses for his lectures. The exam questions were fair and allowed us to demonstrate mastery of key concepts. The writing assignments challenged us to think deeply and critically about the specific arguments that each thinker presented.”
- “Matthew Young was enthusiastic, engaging, organized, accessible, and knowledgeable. He made the class fun.”
- “Matt’s one of my favorite professors I’ve had at UNC. He’s an excellent teacher, and he really wants his students to enjoy and understand the material. He balances time between lecture and discussion, and makes sure every student feels like they can share their beliefs. He is always available for questions, and he’s a very clear and fair grader.”
- “Mr. Young was beyond prepared for every class. ... Mr. Young offered me very good constructive criticism on my papers which I feel had drastically helped me write not only the following papers, but also gave me insight on how to write papers for similar classes.”
- “Matthew is a great professor. You can tell he has a great understanding of the course material and is passionate about helping students understand it, too. He’s excellent at breaking down complex ideas and framing the dense readings in ways that are funny and understandable. He’s very receptive to questions and opposing views. He’s clear about course expectations and gives very specific feedback to help students do better.”
- “Very open-minded.”
- “Very well prepared and committed to unbiased teaching”
- “Professor Young cares about what he teaches and his students.”

- “Mr. Young was knowledgeable, engaging, accessible, and able to explain complex theories in a manner I could understand.”
- “very good at including everybody in the discussions”
- “Matthew really worked hard to ensure that everyone felt safe to share their perspectives and beliefs without fear of judgment. This really helped the learning environment as we were all able to compare our own interpretations of the readings and gain a more comprehensive understanding as a result”
- “Matt Young was an excellent instructor by any means. His openness and accessibility made participating in the class easy, and his lectures were always captivating and extremely informative.”
- “...provided very helpful feedback on all assignments which helped me improve in my critical analysis”
- He is very engaging and clearly has a deep knowledge and passion for the subject. He’s very well-organized and is a great lecturer. He also makes sure there is plenty of opportunity for questions or discussion both in class and outside of it. He is always open to hearing different ideas, and makes sure that everyone feels welcome to share their opinions.”
- “I learned a ton of philosophy I did not know anything about before. I especially enjoyed learning about the populists, early feminism, and liberalism (a word I hear thrown around a lot but never really knew what it meant).
- “I really liked how slack was used in our class to encourage collaboration and discussion.”
- “The set up of exams and papers were great. I never felt stressed out but I still felt challenged.”
- “From Benjamin Franklin to The Black Panthers, the course provided deep insight on political theory...”
- “...extremely well organized and covers a wide range of American political thought, including opposing views that allow students to see the full spectrum. The homework and exams really helped me understand and think critically about the material.”
- “It is easy to tell that Matthew truly cares about the material he teaches and is a very bright man. His southern accent adds a fun flavor to his teaching ... it only adds to his upbeat and passionate personality and teaching style. I really appreciated how prepared he was for class, he always seemed to be on top of his game even while caring for his pregnant wife and having an intruder snake stare him down during our lecture! Beyond teaching, he seems like a kind and personable guy who has a natural passion for politics.”
- “Professor Young was very understanding to individual circumstances, and pushed for our best performance while still giving us the tools to succeed if we fell behind”
- “Great communicator, personable, knowledgeable and respects everyone.”
- “Professor Young has been one of my favorite professors this semester. He has been incredible accessible and open to questions.”