COURSE EVALUATIONS – STUDENTS’ COMMENTS

SELECTED COMMENTS

FROM ASU’S BIS 402 – SENIOR SEMINAR – IDENTITY CONFLICTS

The class discussion is great. This is the most valuable class I took at University. It was thought provoking and sharpened my critical thinking ability. The instructor appears to be prepared, knowledgeable and enthusiastic which is great. He got me excited about the class. (Summer 2001)

Kevin – Your class was harder than the one across the hall, but you were fair about the work we did. You are one of the top 5% of all teachers I have ever had. And you didn’t set us up to fail. Keep up the great work! (Summer 2001)

Instructor is par-excellence and probably the best instructor I have had at ASU. Very well informed in a broad range of subjects and is able to involve and challenge students to self-examine and relate to others internationally as well. Kind, compassionate and a tremendous role model for students, with no agenda other than teaching, Kevin Ellsworth is a gem of an instructor. University will be fortunate if they are able to retain him. (Summer 2001)

One of the best organized/executed classes I’ve ever taken. (Spring 2002)

One of the best instructors I have had at ASU and in BIS, very enthusiastic and knowledgeable, promotes great class discussions. (Spring 2002)

Kevin was hands-down one of my top 3 professors at ASU. (Spring 2002)

Kevin was very enthusiastic and involved in discussions, and he invited participation always. I was more involved in this class than most any other, and Kevin was a big reason for that. (Spring 2002)

I enjoyed the course immensely. Kevin is an excellent instructor. The material we covered was important, thought provoking. The reading was dry (I’ve never read so much for one class) but were good. (Spring 2002)

This is the best class I have ever taken. (Spring 2002)

Website was extremely helpful! Instructor was great! Assignments were challenging and well spread out. (Spring 2002)

I think this was a great class. It made me work for my grade. (Spring 2002)

I believe that the instructor was the most influential instructor I have ever had. He presented the material clearly and make seemingly complicated issues appear mentally manageable. (Spring 2002)

Kevin has to be one of the best instructors I’ve had throughout 4 years of college. I love how he encourages us to think deeply about issues that effect us but don’t normally take the time to think about. (Spring 2002)

Kevin is an excellent instructor! (Spring 2002)
FROM ASU’S BIS 302 – INTERDISCIPLINARY INQUIRY

Kevin – concerned for students much more than any other teacher I’ve had. He was clear, and made me determined to turn in a good project. He assigned a ridiculous amount of reading – way too much. He was personable yet not an “easy” teacher. (Fall 2001)

Kevin Ellsworth – our group was stuck between a rock and a hard place on a portion of out project. We called Kevin in his office on a Saturday afternoon, and he came down to help us in person for valuable 30 minutes. Now what kind of professor does that? Thanks Kevin for giving us your valuable time. (Fall 2001)

Kevin was perfect in every way. He was explicit helpful in and out of class. (Fall 2001)

Kevin Ellsworth was the most fair, kind and understanding professor I’ve had at ASU. (Spring 2002)

Kevin Ellsworth was a great teacher and in even better individual. He had a great relationship with his students. (Spring 2002)

He was great. He was fair and always available to help when I needed it. (Fall 2002)

Kevin is a great instructor, challenging and informative. (Fall 2002)

He was very approachable and understanding with any problems. He was also very friendly. One of the better instructors I’ve had here. (Fall 2002)

Kevin is an excellent instructor and cares about his students a great deal. (Fall 2002)

Kevin was a great instructor. He made sure we understood what was going on and was very helpful in making sure we had our work done right. (Fall 2002)

Kevin is fantastic. He is encouraging and supportive. (Fall 2002)

Kevin is a great instructor and very respectful of his students and their thoughts and ideas. (Fall 2002)

Kevin was awesome. Has strong desire to teach which inspired me to want to do well in the course. (Spring 2003)

He was very upbeat and concerned with the students; one of the most accessible overall best professors I’ve had in college – kudos! (Spring 2003)

Doing great! I would recommend him to others and take another class if he was teaching it again – very passionate about his teaching – makes big difference! (Spring 2003)

Excellent instructor. It was refreshing to have an enthusiastic instructor, very intelligent, humorous, organized, and believed in the students. It has been a difficult course but one of learning. (Summer 2003)

Kevin is a great instructor – very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. I worked hard in this class and very much enjoyed it. (Summer 2003)

Instructor was excellent. Probably one of the top 2 or 3 instructors I have had so far. (Summer 2003)
FROM BYU’S THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SUMMER 1999

He’s an EXCELLENT professor. He’s committed to taking time in and out of class to answer questions and explain difficult concepts. I like his class a lot because rather than lecturing, he teaches. He does a great job of involving the class in discussion, but staying focused on the topic at hand.

I think he is brilliant. I don’t think I have ever had a professor who was so approachable, yet still knew so much about the subject matter.

Excellent command of the subject matter. Very respectful of student views & genuinely interested in helping me understand material. Delightful sense of humor as well.

FROM BYU’S INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SUMMER 1999

Mr. Ellsworth is one of the best instructors I’ve had in my college career so far. He is enthusiastic and creative. He is an asset to the university and the college.

The instructor was wonderful. He was very enthusiastic—we knew he loves what he’s talking about. He does a wonderful job in creating a desire for you to learn & know more about the subject.

Kevin Ellsworth is very thorough and a great teacher. He inspired me to do the readings as well as consider my place in the political world. I enjoyed his websight that was full of great essays by leading experts. He spent a lot of time on our class and it showed. I would highly recommend him to be a full-time professor.

FROM ASU’S THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS, SPRING 1998

Professor Ellsworth was one of the best teachers I have had at this school. He facilitated discussion & participation. He seems very knowledgeable in the areas discussed, used relevant materials & was interesting.

Kevin is really good at pulling together class materials and relevance. More than that he has a heart that shines through.

FROM ASU’S WORLD POLITICS, FALL 1999

Kevin’s obvious love for what he teaches is what motivates me to learn more and I’m starting to enjoy the arena of world politics.

The professor is very knowledgeable. He really makes you think and enjoy the leaning of the subject. Very good course.

Very diverse, interesting material. Good readings. Great discussions. For a 3 hr. course it was rarely boring, and that fact alone is unbelievable.
FROM ASU’S WORLD POLITICS, WINTER 1998-99

Kevin made 3.5 hours per day seem like nothing. I never looked at my watch. Kevin is very entertaining in a natural way. . . . He is one of the very best teachers I have ever had at ASU. Good job! I loved this class!

The syllabus was excellent. It made getting the assignments much easier to do and understand. It was great to have a professor that cared so much about the subject and the students. I liked the way that he got the class involved in the discussions.

There are many strengths to this course. The first being Mr. Ellsworth's personality, and his approach to teaching. The class has an open atmosphere, where you as a student feel comfortable in voicing your opinions.

FROM ASU’S U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, SPRING 1999

Great content – interesting and relevant to today’s world. Great blend of historical info. and political science. Kevin is a spirited and knowledgeable teacher with a great sense of humor. Coming to class was a joy. Lots of work, but I learned a lot.

Professor. Best I ever had. I really got a lot out of the class because of the way the teacher covered material and stressed class involvement.

I think this is the best ASU class I have ever taken.

Your ability as a teacher is amazing! It is always much easier to learn in a class where you are encouraged to participate and feel at ease with the instructor. You are definitely the best instructor that I have ever had and you have honestly helped my confidence as a polysci student. Thank you!

CURRENT ISSUES IN U.S. NATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY, FALL 1999

A really inspiring teacher with a lot of knowledge about the subject.

Incredible enthusiasm from our instructor. Kevin was always smiling even at 8:40 in the morning.

Kevin has a broad understanding of the materials and topics we discuss, and uses interesting methods in teaching it.

CURRENT ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY, SPRING 2000

Kevin is an amazing instructor. This is the second time I have had him as an instructor for a POS class and he is the main reason why I have taken two POS classes. The work load is rather intense but he makes the effort worth it.

You guys had a great ability to exchange your knowledge. Both had strong lecturing abilities. I liked that you challenged us to think about the world’s happenings w/o biasing the material. . . .
Very good lecturer and provokes critical thinking.

Kevin was an excellent teacher. The discussions were great. This was my favorite class.

Well taught, interesting course material, good debate structure.

Compelling material presented and discussed in a manner that stimulates critical thought and analysis.
IDENTITY CONFLICTS – ARIZONA STATE UNIV. – INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES – SUMMER 2001 (MORNING)

ELABORATE ON YOUR EVALUATION OF THE INSTRUCTOR SO S/HE MAY KNOW WHAT S/HE IS DOING WELL AND WHERE S/HE NEEDS TO IMPROVE.

He was a great instructor. He challenged us & required us to think. That is what college is about.

Kevin – Your class was harder than the one across the hall, but you were fair about the work we did. You are one of the top 5% of all teachers I have ever had. And you didn’t set us up to fail. Keep up the great work!

The instructor is doing well. I feel he expects a bit much out of students who are not political science majors. I felt that I was behind at times because the course almost needed you to have a degree in or at least much knowledge of politics – I am a psych and fam studies major!

I thought the instructor was good. I was thankful he had a political science background. But the class was a waste of time, but it is another good grade on my transcripts.

Needs to be less biased when grading. Needs to incorporate more interdisciplinary coursework and less political science work.

Very good instructor but the course wasn’t rights.

I have never had a teacher so well versed in the subject matter. Your style of not intimidating people for answers needs to be taught to other professors. Not to (sic) easy or to (sic) hard on us. Thanks.

The instructor was good/the subject however was what was lacking–Maybe if he could have been a little more open minded to others thoughts and beliefs.

He was interesting, but a little too opinionated and just looked for the answers in the students that he thought. Needs to cut down on articles!

You are very fair. May be (sic) explain the Nation’s Simulation better before it starts.

Instructor is par-excellence and probably the best instructor I have had at ASU. Very well informed in a broad range of subjects and is able to involve and challenge students to self-examine and relate to others internationally as well. Kind, compassionate and a tremendous role model for students, with no agenda other than teaching, Kevin Ellsworth is a gem of an instructor. University will be fortunate if they are able to retain him.
IDENTITY CONFLICTS – ARIZONA STATE – INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES – SUMMER 2001 (AFTERNOON)

ELABORATE ON YOUR EVALUATION OF THE INSTRUCTOR SO S/HE MAY KNOW WHAT S/HE IS DOING WELL AND WHERE S/HE NEEDS TO IMPROVE.

The class discussion is great. This is the most valuable class I took at University. It was thought provoking and sharpened my critical thinking ability. The instructor appears to be prepared, knowledgeable and enthusiastic which is great. He got me excited about the class.

Kevin is a great teacher – it’s obvious he loves teaching and is exceptionally well prepared. Very fair, friendly, open. . .(student’s ellipses)

I am intrigued by the issues he brought up. I would definitely love to take one of his other class (sic), and highly recommend him as a teacher.

I’ll thank him for a good class and learning experience. Keep doing a good job.

Enthusiasm is emaculate (sic). Knowledge of politics and World issues is very good.

This was an awsome (sic) course to end my academic career. Kevin was always well prepared, you can tell that he put a lot of time & effort in to planning of class. I wish I would have had him for my 302 class!! I would recommend & have highly recommended his class to others.

THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY – SUMMER 1999

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE INSTRUCTOR:

He’s an EXCELLENT professor. He’s committed to taking time in and out of class to answer questions and explain difficult concepts. I like his class a lot because rather than lecturing, he teaches. He does a great job of involving the class in discussion, but staying focused on the topic at hand.

Excellent command of the subject matter. Very respectful of student views & genuinely interested in helping me understand material. Delightful sense of humor as well.

Nice guy.

Very approachable. Inspires thinking. Positive, not condescending.

I think he is brilliant. I don’t think I have ever had a professor who was so approachable, yet still knew so much about the subject matter.

Thanks for being understanding & always wanting to help me understand. I also appreciated how you made yourself available to help & answer questions.

I like his style of teaching. He doesn’t tell us what to think, rather he open to discussion for our judgment. He doesn’t bias us.

Two thumbs up!
Excellent instructor. Needs to be at BYU permanently. Clearly and thoroughly explains ideas and is very respectful & knowledgeable. Good grasp on life.

Kevin did a very good job of guiding us through some very difficult texts. Don’t let him slip away to another school!

Is always respectful to students. Very calm and knowledgeable. Relates well to students.


Your excitement for the subject is good, and I appreciate it when you relate the theories we have been studying to current events or to your own research.

He has been very helpful in helping me fully understand the material. Unlike other PlSc professors, he has not been condescending or impatient with my questions or comments. He has definitely made me realize what I want to focus on in my studies.

Kevin is a very thorough teacher. He is passionate about international relations and is visibly excited when we embrace ideas, even if they oppose his. He is fair, respectful, and not only a good academic teacher, but a moral one as well.

He was very enthusiastic. He also focus (sic) the course well. I feel like he called on the same students over and over again. I felt a little ignored and my comments were dismissed.

Good teacher, very knowledgeable, and very enthusiastic— I like him.

**PLEASE COMMENT ON THE COURSE:**

There is a lot of reading. Sometimes difficult preparing for class because not only is there a lot but it’s hard reading. On the other hand, I feel like I’ve learned a lot.

Excellent overview of current theories of IR. Reading summaries are the best idea I’ve ever seen in dealing with difficult texts. Papers were well designed.

The course needs more teacher instruction and less student reports/comments/arguments. I miss the ability to summarize and pull together key concepts in lecture formats. Plus it disallows the instructor the ability to make the class unitary, flowing emphasis the same main points.

Much of the text is boring which seem to be an insurmountable problem. I feel the class is relevant, but there must be a more interesting approach.

I thought it was very well structured and presented. I liked the discussion format a lot more than list or lecture-focused classes.

One thing I would have appreciated is a more solid understanding of some of the theories. I know you hate lists, but they would have at least given me something to build on.

I feel very exposed to IR readings. I liked the open nature of the course and the class discussion— it helped me to be alert and awake.

Too much reading. It’s good reading, but we’re not grad. students. Class format is excellent, basing all lecture on student presentations.
Helpful and demanding. It is a good challenge to the mind.

I thought the course was much more interesting in the beginning, towards the middle and the end it became drier and difficult to understand.

Excellent

While the critical theory is at times frustrating, it has been helpful in seeing the limits that underlie my thoughts. The Vasquez book is excellent. Keeping class discussion more focused on the text would be good, but your encouraging discussion is effective.

The course is well organized. It effectively teaches differing, valid points of view in an objective fashion, letting the student come to his or her own conclusions.

The reading was good. I like all of the books. I still feel empty. There were all kinds of theory but I don’t feel like we concluded which works. Maybe that’s best. Welcome to social science.

Not very exciting.

I appreciated the reading we were assigned for the class. It has been a sign of respect for my intelligence that I could be expected to handle these readings. I feel empowered as a result of this class. I wish other PISc professors could take the same attitude.

INTRO. TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY – SUMMER 1999

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE INSTRUCTOR:

Mr. Ellsworth is one of the best instructors I’ve had in my college career so far. He is enthusiastic and creative. He is an asset to the university and the college.

Good, positive attitude and demeanor.

Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the subject. Made valuable insights on sensitive subjects & led class in relevant, stimulating class discussions. Graded opinion papers to (sic) harshly for outlines in syllabus.

Fantastic teacher. Genuinely interested in student’s success. He should be a permanent professor at BYU.

The instructor was wonderful. He was very enthusiastic--we knew he loves what he’s talking about. He does a wonderful job in creating a desire for you to learn & know more about the subject.

Very accommodating as far as individual student needs go, approachable, etc.

I felt like Professor Ellsworth more than understood the material, he had his own values concerning the class. His strengths included getting the class to participate. I did not completely feel like he knew me or that I had a chance to demonstrate my strengths. The discussions were good but I often did not answer questions due to the simplicity of the subject matter. Maybe reviewing simple principles will avoid fill in the blank type of oral question. I enjoyed this class.
Instructor seems very knowledgeable of the subject area. He responds very respectfully to students and brings gospel insights in so far as the subject matter permits. You can tell he is genuinely interested in our international community.

Get him here to teach . . . he well be a great improvement & asset to any program of which he is a part.

He’s the greatest. He’s firm but still teaches excellent (sic).

The “discussion leading” approach to teaching us is ineffective. The students merely hash over their ignorance.

We talked about many problems, but never about the solutions. Our professor was good at sharing the facts, but timid about offering opinions. We do like to know his views, not for the sake of good grades, but because we respect opinion of those more knowledgeable than us.

Kevin is a wonderful teacher. He is a genius when it comes to encouraging class participation. I really liked the way he encouraged different perspectives in the subject matter and opinions. He is a great example of a learner.

Cool guy, not a jerk like other teachers. Very flexible to help us. He has assembled possibly the greatest syllabus ever!

Kevin Ellsworth is very thorough and a great teacher. He inspired me to do the readings as well as consider my place in the political world. I enjoyed his websight that was full of great essays by leading experts. He spent a lot of time on our class and it showed. I would highly recommend him to be a full-time professor.

I found your presentation of both the realist and idealist points of view very equal and well done. I would have enjoyed hearing your personal assessments & views of philosophies and political situations more. The Atlantic Monthly readings were excellent. I found the variety of reading materials excellent. I would be good to talk about the articles maybe a little more. The debates I found fairly good. They were a good intellectual experience. Good job keeping the course & lectures varied enough to keep us in it for 2 hours each class. That was excellent I must say. The most important thing I got out of it was the desire to help improve the world and my increased concern for people to whom I felt no connection with before this course.

I liked this course. I liked him even more.

Did an excellent job of using the material to help us understand its application. Material presented was not just focused on memorizing facts but in the application of knowledge. He showed fairness and genuine concern for the success of each student.

Great instructor and very knowledgeable about the material. He was thoroughly prepared every day and was often able to relate the topic to current events.

Really good overall. However, during lecture reiterates a little too much what we already read rather than give new info or go more in depth. Loved the nations simulation & journal, but thought presenting
the news journal in class was too boring for the class. Otherwise, really great teacher. Loves the subject, loves the class.

He kept class interesting. There were times when I would have liked to know more about his thoughts & opinions.

Great knowledge of course materials. Asks great thought provoking questions. Enthusiastic in class and had great ideas for learning activities. Could work on letting students know he is available outside of class.

I felt that Mr. Ellsworth was an interesting instructor who permitted a lot of fun learning in his class. We had a lot of interesting debates & discussions which added to my knowledge and made class interesting.

The instructor was great. I think he to (sic) was a little disappointed with class reaction, but I feel that he want’s (sic) to make a difference. He’s very ideological, and I like that about him.

Excellent teacher, knows his stuff.

BYU would miss out sorely if they didn’t hire this instructor.

I thought he was a great professor and he definitely made me think. He really wants to help his students and you can see that.

I enjoyed Kevin’s comments on the subject matter and the way he led discussions.

Overall very good. The only real suggestion is that sometimes he didn’t seem to be enforcing all the rules in the Nations Simulation, but that’s a minor point.

Always pleasant and well prepared. I like the style of teaching.

Did not like reading quizzes nor opinion paper, was not respectful to student’s opinions.

Good! Loves the subject & made me want to get into it more. Maybe more stories & examples.

Nice guy, but didn’t like his way of teaching and his approach to teaching. I want to know what the teacher knows not what a few “know-it-all” college students think they know. Spend more time on teaching the system of politics—you’re assuming we already know. For many this is our first class in politics.

**PLEASE COMMENT ON THE COURSE:**

I expected a little more “meat” from course. Mr. Ellsworth however challenged us and kept our interest. I probably should have taken 370 instead. This class was much more interesting than when my wife took it from another instructor in Winter 99.

Heavy out-of-class work load. Tons of reading.

The course was very good. Being a summer term, it required a lot, yet it was very good in teaching the essentials.
All the activities, materials, & discussion helped open my eyes completely to the real world. I looked forward to attending classes. They developed a whole new world consciousness where I feel like I can change the world.

I found this course extremely interesting. It’s helped me develop a real love for the subject.

Liked the variety of activities offered--learned more that way, & made class enjoyable (debates, game, papers, etc.) Liked how comments from the class were welcomed.

I felt that the objectives of the course were clear and that the focus from the professor’s perspective was easily understood. I enjoyed the open dialogue which taught principles, but allowed me to form my own opinion.

I really liked how well organized the course was. Assignments were well understood. A suggestion would be to make the text a little more relevant in your lectures. For example, don’t just outline the text in your lectures with the overheads. Also make participation less arbitrary.

The course was great. Loved the nations simulation. Like the map quizzes. Reading tests killed me.

Too much busy work, no real intellectual exploration necessary.

I really liked this class. I learned so much, but I wish we learned more about what we can do. We sit here and listen about all the problems, and the bell rings and we go our way into our economically, socially, stable life.

I really liked the way this course was structured. It was great to get other viewpoints through the opinion readings. The debates made the two hour block seem much more enjoyable. This class structure has been better than any other that I have taken. When I got behind, the pressure wasn’t too bad to make me not come to class.

Good course, could/should be more demanding. Less debate/presentation, more class exercises would improve info learning and enjoyability.

I thought class discussion was often useless. Discussion topics were not on the exams. The only way to do well in the course was to read the book. Attendance seemed to serve as an opportunity to acquire participation points only. Classroom discussion topics were boring and without depth. I have had more productive discussions with friends in casual conversation.

I enjoyed the course. It covered the main points of inter politics very appropriately for the course level.

It will let you know if you want to or are out for politics.

I found the course well organized and the subject matter very interesting. If nothing else it made me stop and think about what I can do to help change the world in a positive way. The course heightened my sense of awareness tremendously. The subject matter may not always stay with me, but the impressions and concerns I have developed will. Thank you.

I loved this course.

The course gave a good overview of international politics including the main concerns of international relations on several levels. It was presented in honesty and fairness.
I really enjoyed this course, especially the nations simulation. As for the news journal, I didn’t like that so much. I think it would have been better to have the class read one newspaper and then give pop-quizzes.

Good course.

Overall a great class. The readings were a little long.

I really enjoyed Nations Simulation, especially at the end of semester, trying to apply what I’d learned in the situation. News Journal kept me aware of current items and how they relate to the course. The lectures were good, helpful and informative.

I felt the readings were overbearing and were not gone over well enough in class. I did enjoy the interactive style of the class. The time always went by fast.

I liked the course. I discovered that I don’t want to go into Foreign Relations. I’ve been very turned off by the power security environment. Even the tendencies of my own classmates scare me a little. But my views of government are those of John Taylor (i.e., Christ needs to be running things or we just go wild.)

Class fun & exciting.

Great course. I appreciate how well it was organized.

The course was hard for me maybe because I’m a brand new freshmen. I learned a lot but sometimes felt overwhelmed with all I had to do.

The course has very much made me aware of issues I previously knew little about. I enjoyed discussion in class. What I do not like is the procedure for preparing for the final–not knowing precisely what to prepare for.

The course was good. Loved the simulation and map quizzes.

I really enjoyed the class. Overall, the assignments were pertinent. Some, for example collecting the articles seemed a bit childish, but I enjoyed reading the paper. The debates overall were enjoyable. Some topics were boring.

I like debating, nations simulation. Enjoyed opinion reading even when I didn’t write them. Watching debates and news journal presentation was sometimes boring. Suggestion: a class project to make a difference on one of those global problems we studied could be fun.

I love international politics, so I like this course. I thought many of the activities were good & I learned a lot. Although I didn’t like the lectures at times because we just went though the text book that we had already read.

I enjoyed the course. The information was up to date and interesting. I thought that all the time that was spent on debates was useless. To be honest, I paid attention and I hardly learned anything from them.
What are the strengths of this course?
Class participation.

The small class size and wide range of the topics covered.

Very interesting topics. Hats off to Kevin.

I learn a lot about what is happening in the world from a non-biased point of view.

Information provided and energy of the instructor.

The instructor, Kevin, carries the class. He makes the course enjoyable, fun, thought provoking and challenging.

The fact that the instructor could keep the class on track.

The course is good and covers almost a good portion of the world. Helps to understand how the world operates.
The class participation is good because you learn about all different countries.

The course induces critical thinking. It assists students in defining relationships between various variables.

It gets us to compare the different countries of the world.

Readings.

Interesting material, like the group format allows us to discuss readings but always keeps us on track.

Great reading material.

The instructor.

The strengths are class participation and good class discussions.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY – WORLD POLITICS – FALL 1999

What are the strengths of this course?

It’s a very entertaining class to attend and is usually pretty challenging at the same time. I especially enjoyed the debates – which would seem to maximize my understanding of the material.

Professor is interested in course. There is a balance between calm and commotion, and you get both. Liked use of quotes/comics/irony. Variety of assignments.

Open class participation. Use of case studies as a vehicle for understanding material as it relates to real life situations.

Kevin’s obvious love for what he teaches is what motivates me to learn more and I’m starting to enjoy the arena of world politics.

Great speaker – professor gets students very involved in class. Stimulates thoughts. Very kind & responsive to students’ needs. Very personable and knowledge (sic). A good investment for ASU.

POS 360 is an outstanding class taught by a top-notch instructor. Consequently, I have an increased awareness about global politics.

The teacher creates excitement for the material & is very emotionally involved.

Appropriate amount of time & effort given to lecture and then turn it into quality discussion amongst the class. Kevin’s enthusiasm.

Teacher smiles a lot! Thoroughly enjoyed the debates. Liked readings except Taking Sides could have more current articles–perhaps have students do own research. Online syllabus helpful.

Assignments were challenging. I enjoyed the debates and case studies.

Interesting content. Learned quite a bit. Good instruction/professional but fun instructor.
The debates and case studies.

1. Instructor!!!  2. Material 3. Participation opportunities

The professor is very knowledgeable. He really makes you think and enjoy the leaning of the subject. Very good course.

It gives a student the ability to think. I was constantly on my toes.

Creates an awareness of the world around you.

Very diverse, interesting material. Good readings. Great discussions. For a 3 hr. course it was rarely boring, and that fact alone is unbelievable.

A majority of the topics are current issues in our world.

Everything–Lecture is great, the debates helped me see other views on issues I would of never thought about.

Covers a lot of material. Incorporates classmates opinions & personalities.

Terrific discussions, topics in terms of current events, friendly and collegial atmosphere fostered by instructor among the students. Debates are excellent.

Makes you think because it is debate oriented. Participation brings about true learning & understanding, not just short term.

Instructor’s enthusiasm for subject. Debate/discussion format.

Mr. Ellsworth comes prepared and stimulates participation from the students very good (sic).

Debates, critical thinking, discussion

Was able to formulate interest in a class that lasts too long (3 hrs); i.e. Debates, case studies, games.

The material and the discussion of that material.

Teacher is well versed in subject. Debates good. Discussion OK.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY – WORLD POLITICS – WINTER -1998-99

What are the strengths of this course?

Course content provides a broad, yet thorough understanding of the world's situation politically in regards to may areas i.e. economically, resources, etc. and how this all effects the citizens of all states locally, nationally, and on the largest scale, globally. Prof. Ellsworth is an excellent teacher who has a calm, very easy-going demeanor that is both refreshing and enjoyable to be around. I enjoyed his style and sense of humor too. He makes this class enjoyable for us.
Variety with debates/papers/lectures etc. Application to real life of students. Challenging but not too hard.

Instructor: great use of time, good organization, the syllabus is excellent . . . the links are very helpful overall. I have to congratulate you, you do a great job. Fair, intellectual, your voice and language is admirable, and your knowledge is apparent. Thanks!

It was fun, I learned a great deal, debates were a lot of fun. I also enjoyed the map quiz. Learned a great deal there too.

The general interests it creates in wanting to learn about other countries’ government, economics, human rights and other issues. I really encourages involvement.

For a 3 hour class it was devided (sic) extremely well to keep attention and interest. The instructor was enthused about both the instruction and the students he was working with. Grading was fair and content was taylored (sic) well for circumstance.

Kevin made 3.5 hours per day seem like nothing. I never looked at my watch. Kevin is very entertaining in a natural way. He is well liked by the students. I didn't hear one bad thing about him. Kevin is fair and very concerned for our well-fare. He cared when he could see us getting bored and he did something about it. He is one of the very best teachers I have ever had at ASU. Good job! I loved this class!

Syllabus is great-links on the syllabus--outstanding. Course was structured well in and organized fashion with the book.

Kevin did a good job making a subject that I had little interest in enjoyable. I like the way he made me feel as part of a "class" instead of just an individual. Many assignments that weren't too (sic) hard or time consuming, but efficient in backing up course material.

I specifically liked to have access to the class syllabus on the internet, and the fact that we followed it! The class was well structured and Kevin provided clear understanding of what was expected. His test also reflected the material that we covered.

The strengths of this course are that it is interesting material that we cover things I did not concern myself with before taking this course.

The syllabus was excellent. It made getting the assignments much easier to do and understand. It was great to have a professor that cared so much about the subject and the students. I liked the way that he got the class involved in the discussions.

There are many strengths to this course. The first being Mr. Ellsworth's personality, and his approach to teaching. The class has an open atmosphere, where you as a student feel comfortable in voicing your opinions.

Very informative in that many aspects from around the world were incorporated. Also did a good job presenting both sides of the argument, really made you think about the other side. I learned lots.

I thought his lecture was well organized and clear to understand that we are learning each chapter, and also, each book and reading material goes with exactly what he lectures each day that kept me on a right track and motivated me studying every day to achieve my score for each test!
Good understanding of the world is developed. Instructor: Decent.

Global awareness, great interaction between students, I like the forced participation. I also think the map quizzes were a good idea. It's good to see where you are studying. Debates were fun also.

Kevin has been a great teacher. He made potentially boring material very engaging and I would recommend him as a teacher.

The course was very interesting. It helped broaden my view of the world and I felt that I have learned very much in the last two weeks. Actual content is relevant to the real world. I enjoyed Kevin's laid back style and his ability to read the class. One of the best classes I've taken and one of the best instructors and I've only liked a few!

Everything in this course is a strength, the organization, discussions, even tests and readings.

The instructor. If the instructor does not show that he likes what he is doing then the students will lose interest. Prof. Ellsworth seems to enjoy teaching this class. He always made sure that we didn't burn out. I don't care for politics but I plan to take another one of his courses.

Range of topics change everyday. It is nice to study real news that apply to your everyday life. Being aware of the outside world is a good thing.

Teacher, material.

Mr. Ellsworth made the class a great place to learn. POS classes have sometimes been slow and boring but he made the class interesting especially at 8:30 a.m.

Class involvement--discussions made the material clearer and it also forced us to prepare before class. The debates; daily quizzes; giving out the essays before the test -- better able to concentrate on relevant information; your overall ability as an instructor--when learning is fun and interesting, I tend to learn more!

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What are the strengths of this course?
Foreign policy is really interesting and must be debated; like this class allowed. The cases were interesting and the class forum was good.

Rigorous course work challenges the student to go beyond normal means.

Open debate of class material. Current events related to class. Case studies.

Very useful concepts learned in course, stimulate a lot of interest.

He keeps the class moving, making it feel like it is not a 3 hour class. The discussions would be OK, if he allowed everybody to participate in discussions.

Current as well as well as historical material/ Case discussions promote clearer understanding. Remarkable text (Ambrose). Map quizzes have helped me learn a lot.
The topic makes for a wealth of an exchange of ideas, facts, and opinions, which is necessary for the progressive growth of a culture, based on the exchange of information. The case study forum made for a great learning experience, based again on the exchange of information. However, the varied opinions helped me understand more about other people.

The case studies used, for the most part, are interesting, and relevant to our current time. They make it easy for us to be interested in foreign policy.

Kevin is able to present the material in a concise, understandable format. The readings coincide with the case studies, reinforcing the material.

The course is very informative on how to analyze events going on in American Foreign Policy.

Readings.

The format – not too much lecture, but there is a nice mix of films, discussions and a variety of things tested on.

The relevance of information to current issues in the world.

This is a timely course, can help students understand the world around them.

I have seen the evils and the good things about American Foreign Policy. Very insightful of every region of the world. Kevin was great at making the class think critically.

The case discussions are quite interesting to study and makes the students think critically about the subject matter. The Ambrose text is also a strength that relates to the course content. The instructor is also very knowledgeable about the subject matter.

Great content – interesting and relevant to today’s world. Great blend of historical info and political science. Kevin is a spirited and knowledgeable teacher with a great sense of humor. Coming to class was a joy. Lots of work, but I learned a lot.

Case discussions.

His ability to make the course interesting. He allows students to feel comfortable when discussing issues. His assignments are challenging but yet fair. He allows you to perform well.

Interesting material History-Gov.

Availability of instructor via e-mail. Web page is excellent idea. Lectures interesting and stimulating.

Interesting material.

The format is very structured and the professor does a remarkable job of getting students involved and motivated to learn this material, he stimulates conversation and conveys his message in a manner that is interesting. Class material on Internet is good.

This course is an excellent way to learn about the role the U.S. plays in the big picture of the world. It is extremely interesting – I now watch C-Span and CNN continuously! EC is a +
Stimulation of thinking. Combining lecture with other teaching methods to peak interest.

Kevin, as an instructor seems genuinely concerned about his students (sic) learning, which at times, he may be a bit too lenient. I like that he uses several different methods to teach, like movies, lectures, quizzes and cases.

The material in the course was interesting, especially Ambrose. Some of the case studies were also interesting – like the US Marines in Lebanon.

Professor. Best I ever had, I really got a lot out of the class because of the way the teacher covered material and stressed class involvement.

The interactive aspects / case studies and discussion. Being able to learn history and apply it to how it affects our lives and the lives of others worldwide. I think this is the best ASU class I have ever taken.

Case studies good tool to use for developing critical thinking for me anyway.

Kevin has created this class to incorporate into all aspects (case studies, readings, movies. Etc!) Unbelievably!

The case studies – they definitely gave you a different perspective than the book and they are a lot more interesting. Also, the class discussion/debates about the cases help you see the situation in ways that you hadn’t thought of before. Your ability as a teacher is amazing! It is always mush easier to learn in a class where you are encouraged to participate and feel at ease with the instructor. You are definitely the best instructor that I have ever had and you have honestly helped my confidence as a polysci student. Thank you!

It is very objective. It teaches about reality and not propaganda. Teacher very enthusiastic about course.

Discussion and Case Studies, although it is sometimes difficult with a large class.

Very well taught. Related materials. Draws interest from class. Much class participation. Kevin is a very knowledgeable and a great teacher.

The strengths of this course is the way that the course is structured. The material is very clear too.

Lots of class interaction – students get to know one another. Course materials are relevant, interesting, and pertinent to modern situation. Assignments reflect knowledge student ought to gain from materials. Kevin Ellsworth is one of the three best professors I have had at ASU – he enjoys the subject matter and relates well to students.

The application to real life and contemporary issues. The motivation and desire to do well. The map quizzes. The instructor.

Instructor knows his work.

Interesting topics.
What are the strengths of this course?
A really inspiring teacher with a lot of knowledge about the subject.

Incredible enthusiasm from our instructor. Kevin was always smiling even at 8:40 in the morning.

Extensive course content and opportunity for discussion. I was able not only to learn political theory, but how it applies to current issues. Most strength lied (sic) in the professor, Kevin Ellsworth.

His knowledge of the course. He makes it fun.

Organization.

Good instructor, interesting material.

Kevin has a broad understanding of the materials and topics we discuss, and uses interesting methods in teaching it.

It’s interesting because of its relevance to everyday life. I feel like a more intelligent person now. There’s no way you can’t learn because of how it’s set up.

The lectures I attended were usually interesting and the readings sometimes kept my interest.

This course uses very relevant articles & books which present both sides of an issue – this has been very helpful in understanding & learning the topics.

Interesting topics, good readings, fair grading.

The discussion format over the relevant readings for each class.

The teacher has a great way of presenting material.

What are the strengths of this course?
Use of outside material that holds opinions of a variety vs. textbooks with one opinion. Use of NY Times–can relate topics to real live situations. Website. Class discussions–especially when led by K. Ellsworth.

It incorporates current int’l issues into the political science genre. It also allows students to have fruitful discussions about important issues.

Reading material facilitates understanding of the concepts discussed. ‘Nations’ simulation helped to clarify globalization and localization.

It gets you to realize what is happening elsewhere in the world and how it affects you.
Kevin is an amazing instructor. This is the second time I have had him as an instructor for a POS class and he is the main reason why I have taken two POS classes. The work load is rather intense but he makes the effort worth it.

Instructors do a good job in making you think critically. Topics discussed throughout course were interesting.

The material covered is current. The instructors were helpful and very into teaching the class. The group assignments were helpful and the nations simulation was very unique and fun.

Very interesting content. Readings applied well with daily lectures. Instructors knew how to get the whole class involved in discussions.

It is fantastically designed as a discussion class. The simulations and readings were generally excellent, if a little dated in some cases.

The team teaching concept was great. I enjoyed both instructors and I enjoyed the change of pace when they alternated the teaching duties. I also enjoyed reading the New York Times.

You guys had a great ability to exchange your knowledge. Both had strong lecturing abilities. I liked that you challenged us to think about the world’s happenings w/o biasing the material. I liked that you presented both sides of the theories and let us choose our own stance. The class participation was fun and helpful for finding our own opinions.

The course really helps you think critically, and get involved in the news. It gave me a better understanding of the world around me.

The multiple sources and knowledge the instructors bring in to class.

The teachers: They know what they are taking about. They are interesting. They care about their students.

The professors. The courses (sic) ability to incorporate modern day events that occur throughout the world. The New York Times readings. The nations simulation and structure of class content.

The course content, current international issues, makes it typically interesting. The activities were good at helping explain concepts.

The lectures and assignments coincided well with the readings and helped facilitate critical thinking about the topics. The teaching aid was especially good.

The lectures are so good. That could just be because the subject matter interests me a lot, but I thought the professors did an excellent job on presentation.