

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Spring 2025 - Department of Political Science

Faculty/Course Evaluation

Dr. Robert Bivens

PLS 3861D-001 (#34228 SP25)

No. of responses = 7

No. of enrolled = 7

Rate of return = 100%

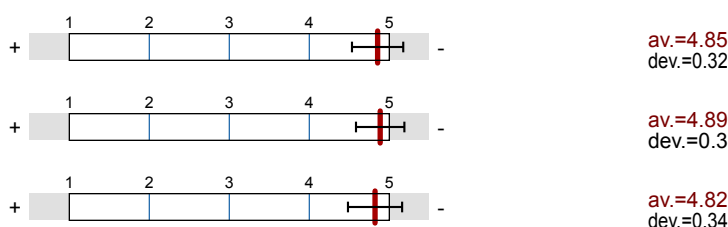


Overall indicators

Global Index

1. University Core Questions ($\alpha = 0.1$)

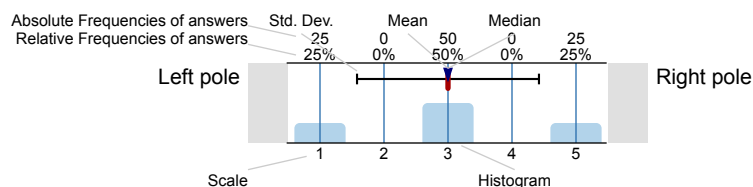
2. PLS Department Core Questions ($\alpha = 0.42$)



Survey Results

Legend

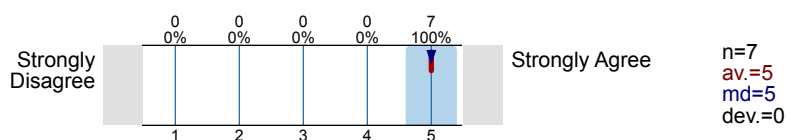
Question text



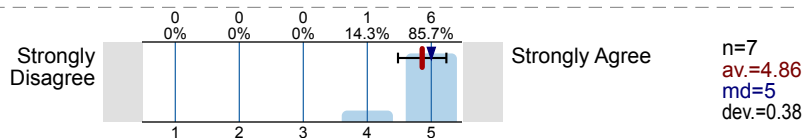
n=No. of responses
 av.=Mean
 md=Median
 dev.=Std. Dev.
 ab.=Abstention

1. University Core Questions

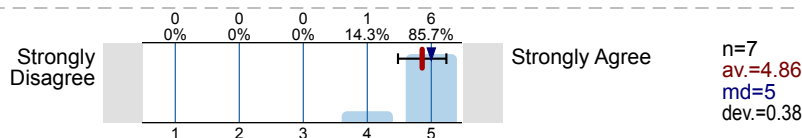
1.1) Instructor demonstrates command of the subject/discipline.



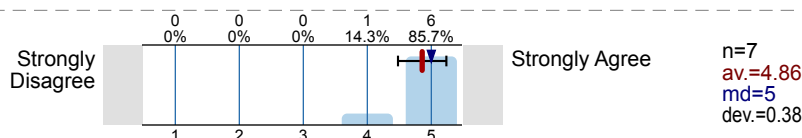
1.2) Instructor effectively organizes material for teaching/learning.



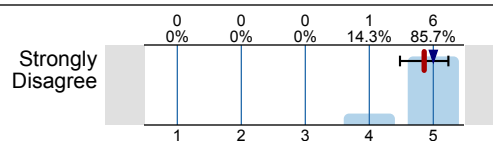
1.3) Instructor is readily available outside of class. (The instructor is available during office hours and appointments for face-to-face sections or electronically for technology-delivered sections.)



1.4) Instructor presents knowledge or material effectively.



- 1.5) Instructor encourages and interests students in learning.

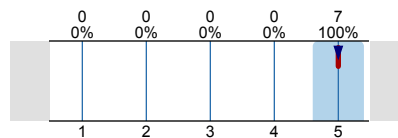


Strongly Agree

n=7
 av.=4.86
 md=5
 dev.=0.38

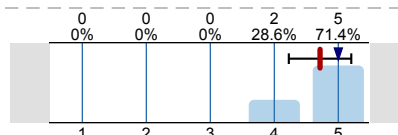
2. PLS Department Core Questions

- 2.1) My instructor seems well prepared for class.



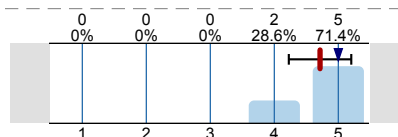
n=7
 av.=5
 md=5
 dev.=0

- 2.2) This course has clearly stated objectives.



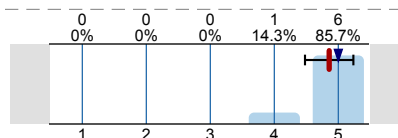
n=7
 av.=4.71
 md=5
 dev.=0.49

- 2.3) The grading system was clearly explained.



n=7
 av.=4.71
 md=5
 dev.=0.49

- 2.4) I like the way the instructor conducts this course.



n=7
 av.=4.86
 md=5
 dev.=0.38

Profile

Subunit: PLS - Purdue
 Name of the instructor: Robert Bivens
 Name of the course: PLS 3861D-001
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

1. University Core Questions

1.1) Instructor demonstrates command of the subject/ discipline.	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	n=7	av.=5
1.2) Instructor effectively organizes material for teaching/ learning.	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	n=7	av.=4.86
1.3) Instructor is readily available outside of class. (The instructor is available during office hours and appointments for face-to-face sections or	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	n=7	av.=4.86
1.4) Instructor presents knowledge or material effectively.	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	n=7	av.=4.86
1.5) Instructor encourages and interests students in learning.	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	n=7	av.=4.86

2. PLS Department Core Questions

2.1) My instructor seems well prepared for class.							n=7	av.=5
2.2) This course has clearly stated objectives.							n=7	av.=4.71
2.3) The grading system was clearly explained.							n=7	av.=4.71
2.4) I like the way the instructor conducts this course.							n=7	av.=4.86

Profile Line for Indicators

Subunit:	PLS - Purdue
Name of the instructor:	Robert Bivens
Name of the course: (Name of the survey)	PLS 3861D-001

1. University Core Questions		av.=4.89	dev.=0.3
2. PLS Department Core Questions		av.=4.82	dev.=0.34

Comments Report

3. Instructor Added Questions

- ^{3.1)} What is your opinion of Professor Bivens? In what way was he a successful instructor and in what ways could he improve? Please respond in the box provided.
- Dr. Bivens has a very strong command on the subject. He is so knowledgeable and is always very eager to answer questions, clarify, or go further into depth.
 - Dr. Bivens is a kind man who seems genuinely interested in both what he teaches and fostering his students interest. I can't say that I have any particular complaints on how Dr. Bivens conducts himself as an instructor.
 - Dr. Bivens is a very successful instructor, you can tell that he truly cares about all of his students and their success inside and outside of the classroom. He could improve by having a few more discussions, even if they were short (possibly at the beginning of class) because most of the class was lectures. This is also due to switching from a 3 day to a 2 day class, which altered the initial schedule he had, so it is just something to keep in mind for future sections of this class.
 - I believe Dr. Bivens is one of the best professors I've had and even though we don't always have questions, it helps when he asks the class just in case. I was a big fan of our discussions and one thing I'd personally prefer would've been if we were all able to present together our findings, instead of just depending on one person at the end. I think it helps especially with such a small class number. I think it would help us not put so much pressure and have other people more keen on presenting, so it's just a suggestion! I still think taking notes during the discussion is effective and necessary. I think if we'd known beforehand some of the questions over our reading over the book discussion could create better conversation, but either way I think it was already great. Other than that, I believe the lectures are always full of interesting aspects that I enjoy.
 - I loved taking this class with Bivens! I liked the discussions and projects we did. Sometimes I found myself wanting a couple small assignments throughout the semester to keep myself engaged and have some grades in. Other times, I felt like I had a fairly small amount of time for big projects like the country profile or research proposal.
 - I think that Professor Bivens is a fantastic teacher and person! He sets out with defined goals for the class and perfectly condenses complicated material into an easily digestible format. His feedback on projects and papers is amazing, and really gives me an idea on how I can improve my writing and what he wants to see in said writing.
 - Professor Bivens been extremely helpful this semester. He has helped with developing research methods for a class project, and expanding on our own ideas, rather than just summarizing other works.

- 3.2) Please provide your opinion on the grading format in the class. Was it beneficial to your learning experience? Please respond in the box provided.
- I am not a fan of the grading format. I feel as though there should be more graded items in the class, and we should have a graded assignment before midterms.
 - I believe that the grading format in this class is beneficial to my learning experience. It is easy to tell based on prospectus assignments, final assignments, and participation grades how I am doing in the class, and Dr. Bivens always provides extensive comments on papers so that improvement can be reached.
 - I can't say I have strong feelings one way or the other about the grading format of the class, nor do I feel it impacted my learning experience in any meaningful way.
 - I liked the grading a lot, I felt that he really cared about what we were researching about or writing about, and I never thought I had an unfair grade.
 - The grading format is easy to understand. The feedback on the writing projects is the most beneficial part of the grading experience. Professor Bivens puts a ton of detail into his feedback, which I appreciate more than anything when Professors grade my work.
 - The grading format was easy to understand and worked well for me
 - Yes, I believe it was effective and clear on how we'd be evaluated.

4. Comments

4.1) Please add any comments in the box provided below.

- Dr. Bivens is a spectacular professor, and makes coming to EIU worth it. When I think of a great professor, Dr. Bivens never fails to be one of the first who comes to mind.
- I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to take this class, especially with Dr. Bivens. He is a wonderful professor and shows a lot of passion for the subject, which helps me never want to miss a day of class!! I truly appreciate him.
- I think this class would be great for future political science students. I benefitted a lot from learning this material and the international aspects of the class specifically. Loved it!
- I would highly recommend other students take at least one course with Dr. Bivens as he is a wonderful instructor. I also found this International LGBTQ+ Politics class to be both highly interesting and informative and would love to see it become a permanent course option.