

# Summary of student evaluations, Introduction to European Government, Spring 2019

Cole J. Harvey  
Instructor of Record

## Selected student comments

This document presents selected numerical reviews and comments from students' anonymous evaluations of the course and of the instructor. The full, unabridged evaluation can be provided on request.

Table 1: Student evaluations

	Mean rating	Median rating
Demonstrates enthusiasm about teaching	4.61	5.00
Communicates clearly and logically.	4.79	5.00
Promotes a climate of mutual respect.	4.79	5.00
Encourages student questions.	4.79	5.00
Emphasizes critical thinking.	4.75	5.00
Uses teaching strategies that promote active involvement.	4.73	5.00
Clearly communicates expectations.	4.71	5.00
Provides timely feedback on student performance.	4.63	5.00
Provides a fair evaluation of student performance.	4.64	5.00
Is available when needed.	4.67	5.00
Is well-prepared for instruction.	4.81	5.00
Overall, I would rate this instructor as "excellent."	4.79	5.00
The instructor was one of the best I have had at Carolina, fully deserving of a teaching award	4.43	4.50

Responses on a scale from 1 (Strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree)

Response rate: 74% (29 out of 39 students)

## Strengths of the course

- It is one of the most well-organized courses I have taken at UNC. Expectations are clear and grading is fair. Subject matter is interesting and presented interestingly
- It was a very well-organized course with interesting and relevant material. It was slightly modified to include current-day topics in politics like Brexit, which made it more engaging.
- The course is very well designed and allows people to become involved in the politics of their assigned nations
- I loved this class! Took it as a gen-ed and would take again!
- Professor Harvey used a variety of teaching methods including many small group discussions.
- A lot of discussion that made us apply our knowledge and it really helped with my understanding of the concepts
- Very interesting and put you in a setting similar to that of the European Union. Really learned a lot from the course!
- Provides an excellent, in-depth introduction to the nature of European government, I feel 1000% more knowledgeable about the day- to-day functions and issues than when I came into the course.
- He is very approachable and teaches in a way that encourages questions and input from students the EU simulation, both online and in person, helped me learn a lot about how EU voting/negotiating works, what issues are the most important, and was overall a fun assignment.
- Great in class activities that get people involved. Very thorough lectures and easy to follow
- This course promoted critical thinking of the way Europe is structured and encourages us to pinpoint its strengths and weaknesses
- One of the major strengths of the course is how logical it was and how organized it was. I learned a lot in this class and even though it was primarily lecture, the discussions really helped me be able to apply the material and be able to talk it through with my classmates.
- The European Council simulation was really effective, in my opinion, and tied things up well. At first, I was skeptical, particularly having been assigned a smaller, less relevant country, as to how it would contribute to my understanding of European government, but I found that with every week of the online portion things were coming together and I was synthesizing a lot of the course concepts. I think the 5 week online portion ahead of the in-class portion was really important preparation.
- The course was organized very well. The simulation both online and in-person was extremely beneficial in learning how the EU works on a deeper level.

## Strengths of the instructor

- Cole did an incredible job as an instructor. He was extremely knowledgeable on the subject and was very interested in student success. He was always willing to help in all areas of the course and was very good about giving interim feedback. Additionally, he encouraged an environment in the classroom that stimulated student participation. I would definitely love to take another course with him and he was one of the best professors I have had at UNC.
- Cole is one of the most clear communicators of information I have ever met. He handles complex subject matter expertly, communicating to an audience that knows nothing about it. He has vastly increased my interest in politics and governance. He is smart with his answers, and recognizes when he can't give an answer to a question. I am always nervous when taking classes with graduate students. Given their inexperience, it's often a mixed bag as to how well they'll be able to handle even a recitation section, much less a whole class. But Cole has gone above and beyond what I expected. I wish all of my professors taught as well and treated students as fairly as he did. Cole will make an excellent professor.
- Professor Harvey was always excited to teach and taught very clearly. He answered questions well and balanced lecture with discussions which kept me very engaged.
- Cole is one of the best professors I have had in my time at UNC. His preparation, knowledge, enthusiasm, and creativity for creating an environment of active involvement and learning are unparalleled. The most impressive grad student I have ever had a course with.
- He is awesome! He did what I think is the best possible job with all the material we had to cover and it was rare I didn't understand something after he explained it in class. It's clear he was creative with lectures and class setup and that effort is appreciated!
- Professor Harvey is an excellent professor and facilitated a positive learning environment every class session. Professor Harvey was also very helpful in explaining difficult concepts throughout the class and did well to help out students throughout the semester.
- Promotes active engagement, always open to questions and willing to provide good feedback on assignments
- Harvey was very knowledgeable about topics discussed in class and made sure to do further research on the topics that students were more invested in.
- Cole Harvey clearly knew what he was talking about and taught in a great way to help a bunch of American students understand the European system. Fantastic instructor.
- Really approachable and willing to work with you! Wants you to succeed and shows it by his passion and interest in the subject!

- Super knowledgeable. Great lecturer.
- Always answered questions, made sure to lead students to where they could find a more elaborate answer if needed
- Great communicator, very respectful of students and makes himself available. Overall great experience in his class.
- So clear and organized. Everything was easy to retain and he clearly enjoyed the material he was teaching.
- Cole Harvey is a great lecturer and incorporates discussion and questions well into the classroom. He clarifies any questions throughout the class that students may have. He will also re-state topics if students need a greater sense of the topic
- I think overall he seems to know a great deal about the EU, and when he cannot answer specific questions about countries he attempts to make it up later on by giving information later about the country.
- Was very organized, was very on top of putting up the slides online if we ever missed a class, was always available through email if needed and responded in a timely manner and was always willing to help
- He truly cares about the subject, has a good answer to every question that students ask, is super organized, great lecturer, and the intermittent discussion questions help a lot in making the subject engaging