

Instructor Rachel Bernhard

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - DAVIS

Winter Quarter 2021
POL 163 (001) 44840

Student Evaluation of Teaching



Enrollment 103
% responding 92

	5	4	3	2	1				
	5 %	4 %	3 %	2 %	1 %	\bar{X}	SD	M	N
Please indicate the overall educational value of the course. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	64 68%	18 19%	11 12%	1 1%	0 0%	4.5	0.7	5.0	94
UCD Grade Point Average: (5) 4-3.6, (4) 3.5-3.1, (3) 3-2.6, (2) 2.5-2.1, (1) 2 or below	41 44%	32 34%	14 15%	5 5%	1 1%	4.2	0.9	4.0	93
Expected grade in this course: (5) A, (4) B, (3) C, (2) D, (1) F	59 63%	29 31%	4 4%	2 2%	0 0%	4.5	0.7	5.0	94
Your interest in the subject matter before taking this course: (5) Very high, (4) Somewhat high, (3) Moderate, (2) Low, (1) Very low	44 47%	26 28%	21 22%	3 3%	0 0%	4.2	0.9	4.0	94
Please indicate the overall teaching effectiveness of the instructor. (excellent very good satisfactory fair poor)	75 80%	16 17%	2 2%	1 1%	0 0%	4.8	0.5	5.0	94
Instructor's knowledge and command of subject matter. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	86 92%	6 6%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	4.9	0.3	5.0	93
Instructor's openness to discussion and ability to stimulate it. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	86 93%	4 4%	2 2%	0 0%	0 0%	4.9	0.4	5.0	92
Instructor's availability for consultation.	77 91%	7 8%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	4.9	0.3	5.0	85
Clarity of course objectives and organization. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	73 78%	14 15%	6 6%	0 0%	0 0%	4.7	0.6	5.0	93
Effectiveness of style and methods of class presentations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	65 71%	16 17%	8 9%	3 3%	0 0%	4.6	0.8	5.0	92
Relevance and educational value of readings and WorldWideWeb resources. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	75 81%	17 18%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	4.8	0.4	5.0	93
Instructional value of course assignments (term papers, project, etc.). (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	66 72%	22 24%	3 3%	1 1%	0 0%	4.7	0.6	5.0	92
Fairness and impartiality of grading.	71 78%	15 16%	4 4%	1 1%	0 0%	4.7	0.6	5.0	91
Instructional value of examinations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor	64 84%	9 12%	3 4%	0 0%	0 0%	4.8	0.5	5.0	76

Instructor's knowledge and command of subject matter. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

She was so welcoming and supportive in class, as well as challenging. She really valued our health above the course and was super understanding as well.

I think recorded lectures with slides would have helped in terms of studying the concepts. Pure discussion twice a week puts a lot of the learning on our own selves. I think the one day recorded lecture, one day discussion, model was more conducive to online learning.

This professor is very knowledgeable in the class subject matter, but at the same time very easy to talk and discuss with. The professor makes learning a new and fun experience, especially for an online class.

Prof. Bernhard is extremely knowledgeable and is quick to answer any questions about the topic. You can tell she is passionate about her work.

Professor Bernhard has extensive knowledge on all matters of identities and how they relate to class.

These are difficult subjects to discuss, especially in today's world. Her ability to lay out the issues and empathetically listen and guide these conversations was outstanding.

She has an amazing knowledge of the material and creates a great discussion-based lecture surrounding the outside readings.

This professor makes me wish this class was everyday! I love the safe and welcoming environment that she creates, even on zoom. Everyone in class feels free to express opinions and she treats every comment and question with respect, even when explaining why that comment may not be correct. I would take any class Professor Bernhard taught.

Professor Bernhard is clearly well studied in her field and cares about what she is teaching. Whenever you see that from a professor it makes you more excited to learn the material.

Professor Bernhard made her passion and knowledge of the subject matter very evident throughout the course. She made sure to be transparent and sensitive when talking about difficult topics and was always open to criticism. During discussions, she was always able to answer questions with ease and provide a lot of good insight and analysis on the topics we covered.

Extremely knowledgeable, always willing to learn!

Instructor's openness to discussion and ability to stimulate it. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

The class was only discussion

Professor Bernhard is very kind and mindful of others opinions, thoughts, and/or comments when we have discussions

What can I even say, Professor Bernhard has changed my life in ways I can't even explain. After transferring from a CC, I was terrified of what I would face at Davis, but taking her courses and being able to discuss and communicate with others through her class is an experience I will never forget. She allowed me to make points and discover opinions on topics I didn't even know existed! I was able to grow intellectually in her class, which is HARD during a pandemic, so props to her!

This professor is easy to talk with, and knows a lot about the subject, and is still able to convey their knowledge in a way everyone can understand.

This class's environment is so welcoming and its due to Prof. Bernhard's ability to always keep the ball rolling and is very encouraging of student's participation. She truly values everyone's opinions and views even if she doesn't agree with them. I've never felt more welcome in class. Prof. Bernhard is truly a gem here at Davis.

Every class is in a discussion format and is a very safe environment for students to discuss their experiences and how they relate to the course.

As mentioned above her ability to empathize and engage students is second to none. Seriously, the best professor I have had.

The entire class is discussion-based instead of lecture-based. I think this works really well with the topics of the class because every person brings a unique opinion and personal experiences to the table.

Very well spoken and encouraged us to speak up. When students felt uncomfortable with the discussion or had any constructive feedback, Professor Bernhard handled that very well and apologized when needed. Overall, very good.

I love that she creates a safe environment for everyone to speak

Professor Bernhard is great at stimulating discussion. However, I wish this class was structured more like her Women in Politics class because it's hard for me to sit through a whole class with no notes or review. Having one asynchronous day would be awesome!

Discussion really was what the foundation of this class is. We discussed in every class, and found these discussions to be interesting. Students, the TA's, and Professor all chimed in and guided a deep conversation.

I appreciate the open discussions we have in this course, but I think it could be even more effective if there was a bit more guidance so everyone stays closer to the original topic.

Absolutely love the discussions we would have in this class!

good/interesting discussions in class, however, there were times some peers would say something and felt uncomfortable.

One of the best zoom classes I've attended was this class. Great discussion in the chat with simultaneous discussion happening on the video. The closest to in person I've had over the distance learning.

Professor Bernhard is by far one of my favorite professors at UCD. She is able to facilitate deep conversations with her class and always creates an environment that is safe and welcoming.

All classes included discussions and they were very open.

Professor Bernhard fosters an engaging and safe space in her classrooms where students can discuss and learn about prominent issues facing different identity groups. During discussions she makes sure to involve all students so everyone is able to participate, which is often times difficult when classes are taking place online.

Your ability to engage a class as large as this and still make everyone feel safe to share and speak is honestly astounding. Teaching is truly your calling!!!

If I could give her a 10 here I would!

Great at stimulating and ALLOWING discussion

Instructor's availability for consultation.

I never met with her outside of class, but i probably should have.

Professor stayed 30 minutes after class to make sure I would be able to keep up with the course material during a residential move happening that weekend.

Very easy to reach and always replies in a timely fashion.

She answered emails very quickly and made it clear to the class we could always reach out whenever.

She has normal office hours and she also offers one-on-one office hours that you can schedule online. By far my most approachable and reachable professor at Davis so far.

Quick to respond to emails when needed. I never went to office hours though </3

Instructor regularly accommodated for students's needs throughout the quarter.

She is so great that even when her office hours are full, (quite frequently), she will open up additional hours to meet student need.

Clarity of course objectives and organization. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

Really really appreciated how organized this class was. the canvas page was so clear and she really stuck to the schedule.

Course objectives were very clearly listed and discussed.

We had three distinct units which each wrapped up with one essay. It was very organized.

VERY organized on canvas. it was very helpful.

The syllabus was clear.

The syllabus mentioned everything we were supposed to cover and we stuck to the schedule outlined.

Online format made things pretty confusing. I don't blame prof. Bernhard but I think I should note it anyway

Effectiveness of style and methods of class presentations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

I felt like the discussion of model of class was good because everyone got a say, but sometimes we would go way off topic and not cover the readings. It was also hard to stay engaged when people are just talking the whole time without any visuals. I did not feel like class discussions helped with any of the assignments

Love that we have the opportunity to prepare for class material with group mates.

This method of teaching was perfect for the subject as all students have their experiences with identity and politics.

The live classes were all discussion-based, which is nice but I wish we had more opportunities for in-class activities and a more structured time period.

The discussions in class were very insightful. I wish more classes were like Professor Bernhard's.

This class was heavily discussion based which helped with the lack of participation that zoom classes usually suffer from. But I would have liked a little bit of a lecture style presentation especially for some background and an overview on the different groups we went over.

I really enjoyed the style of this class. It is deficiently unique, and hope to see more classes at UCDavis done in this way. I like seeing students be able to participate, and create an class-setting that is engaging for all. I also appreciate being able to express my creativeness through assignments, like these, that offer a lot of freedom.

I took Women in Politics with Professor Bernhard last quarter and I wish she posted recorded lectures going over the course material like she did in that course, in addition to hosting the live discussions.

More lecture videos that specifically clarified the points of the reading as opposed to just the reading and discussions (recorded) would have helped clarify the learning objectives and what we should be getting from it.

I liked how you did women in politics better where there was lecture and discussion rather than all discussion.

Same as above, I think it's hard to have a group project based format online

Relevance and educational value of readings and WorldWideWeb resources. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

All of the readings were incredibly informative and interesting.

This class could not be more relevant right now.

The readings were really applicable to not only the class but also the current political climate. I really loved applying my new knowledge to current news articles and headlines today.

The readings were really interesting but I thought sometimes the focus was a bit narrow and that's why I think having just a brief overview of the different groups would have helped to think more big picture.

The readings were very interesting, and generally easy to follow. I prefer this much more than a textbook. I feel that I am not just reading someone's summary on group politics. Instead, we read studies and primary sources, which I can appreciate much more than textbooks.

I enjoyed that the course was taught through scholarly readings instead of a typical textbook.

Instructional value of course assignments (term papers, project, etc.). (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

I thought it was very misleading to call our papers "blog posts" because they were not graded like blog posts, they were graded like essays. "Blog posts" has an informal connotation, but the grading was very very strict for a blog post. They also were not worth many points, so one point made a huge difference in your grade. The group projects were terrible because some people would not do any work at all but still got credit. I don't think it's fair to do three group projects, all with different people each time, in an online environment where we cant meet in person. It was very difficult to communicate with group mates because not everyone receives canvas discussion notifications and some people never responded to emails.

My only comment would be that group projects with too many people (e.g. over 15 people) can be difficult to complete, so that we don't really get to all learn and participate from it equally

The assignments were helpful for applying what we learned and being able to reflect on our lives and experiences. I think it was easy to retain information because of the type of assignments we had. It was also nice that a lot of the assignments were interactive with our classmates.

I personally preferred if the weekly reading question assignment would have been "question or comment" since sometimes the papers were straightforward and I didn't really have any questions. But I do understand that coming up with a question employs more critical thinking than a comment.

The term papers offered students the ability to encapsulate their opinions, and to delve into them, to explore their points of view through the readings. The assignments were also very reasonably sized. As a full-time student, I am able to keep up with them, and produce quality work.

The final videos!!! Soooo helpful and informative for people both emotionally and intellectually

Fairness and impartiality of grading.

I thought the TAs had very weird styles of grading and took off a lot of points for very small mistakes on the blog posts. I got points taken off for not having a thesis statement as the first sentence of my paper, but I have never had a professor that wanted the first sentence of the paper to be the thesis. I thought the grading was not clear and varied by TA

Most grading is done by TAs

Great TA's who graded fairly!

Grading was true to rubric. The commentary was good as well.

sometimes i didn't understand why i was graded harshly

Being able to resubmit any assignments to regrade that we weren't happy with was very beneficial.

Instructional value of examinations. (5) Excellent, (4) Very good, (3) Good, (2) Fair, (1) Poor

Pro- and anti- identity project was weird

We had essays instead of exams, which I think captured our knowledge a lot better than a stressful test would. I think its better in the political science major to write an essay on a topic to show mastery of the concepts instead of a test.

Term	Eval Opened	CRN	Subject	Course	Section	Enrollment	% Response
Winter Quarter 2021	3/5/2021 12:00 AM	44840	POL	163	001	103	92