



## 2019S Instructor Report for PSCI 8342 01 - Race and Racism in American Politics (Allison Anoll)

### Vanderbilt University Course and Teaching Evaluations

Project Audience 12

Responses Received 10

Response Ratio 83.33%

#### Report Comments

The following is a report for an individual section of a class. Please do not distribute, print, or share this report except for administrative purposes.

Project Audience - Total number of students enrolled

Responses Received - Number of evaluations submitted by students

Response Ratio - Percent of enrolled students who submitted evaluations

If you have any questions about the evaluation system please contact [course.evaluations@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:course.evaluations@vanderbilt.edu).

**Prepared by** Vanderbilt University Course and Teaching Evaluations

**Creation Date** Tue, May 07, 2019



### Questions about the Instructor (**Allison Anoll**):

Question	This Class Section		Department (PSCI)		School (A&S)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
The instructor helped me understand the core ideas and issues in this subject.	4.90	0.32	4.66	0.64	4.42	0.90
The instructor explained what was expected of me in the assignments and assessments for this course.	4.90	0.32	4.41	0.89	4.38	0.93
The instructor encouraged critical, original, or creative thinking.	4.90	0.32	4.66	0.69	4.38	0.93
The instructor demonstrated interest in students' learning.	5.00	0.00	4.69	0.65	4.50	0.87
The instructor used class time productively.	4.80	0.42	4.51	0.82	4.33	1.00
The instructor created a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment.	5.00	0.00	4.67	0.76	4.51	0.87
Overall, the instructor ( <b>Allison Anoll</b> ) was:	4.90	0.32	4.51	0.73	4.26	0.98

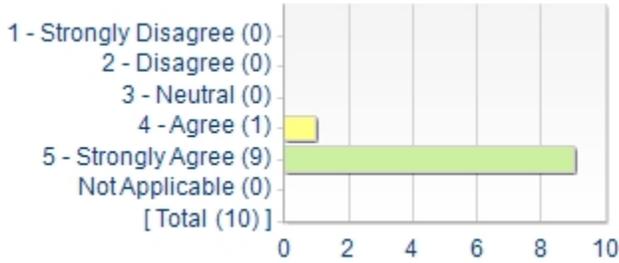
### Questions about this Course (**PSCI 8342 01**):

Question	This Class Section		Department (PSCI)		School (A&S)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.	5.00	0.00	4.61	0.75	4.31	0.97
The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.	5.00	0.00	4.53	0.77	4.39	0.89
The feedback I received during the course was helpful.	4.90	0.32	4.22	1.00	4.17	1.06
I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.	4.70	0.48	4.40	0.93	4.35	0.98
This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.	4.90	0.32	4.61	0.76	4.27	1.01
Overall, the course ( <b>PSCI 8342 01</b> ) was:	4.90	0.32	4.28	0.88	3.96	1.04
Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:	4.60	0.70	3.93	0.91	3.62	1.04
Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:	4.10	0.74	3.31	0.94	3.24	0.99



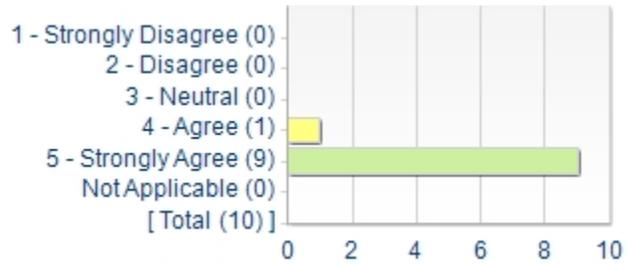
Please respond to the following questions about the instructor (**Allison Anoll**).

1. The instructor helped me understand the core ideas and issues in this subject.



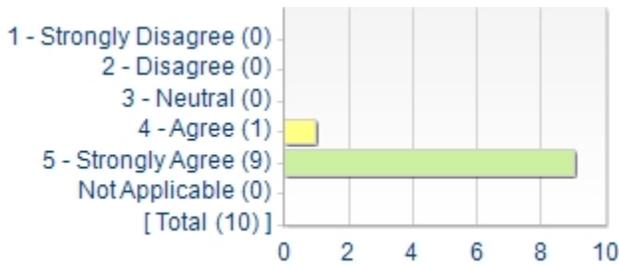
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.32

2. The instructor explained what was expected of me in the assignments and assessments for this course.



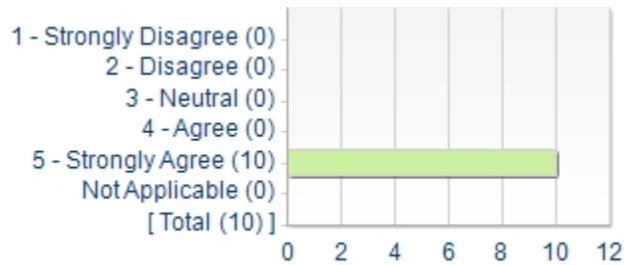
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.32

3. The instructor encouraged critical, original, or creative thinking.



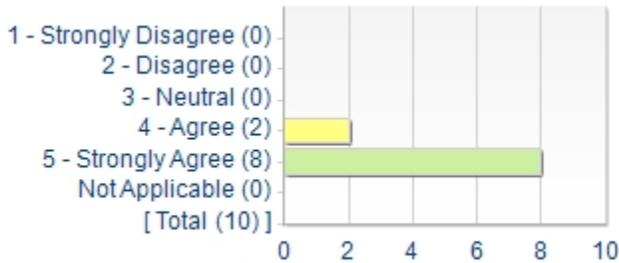
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.32

4. The instructor demonstrated interest in students' learning.



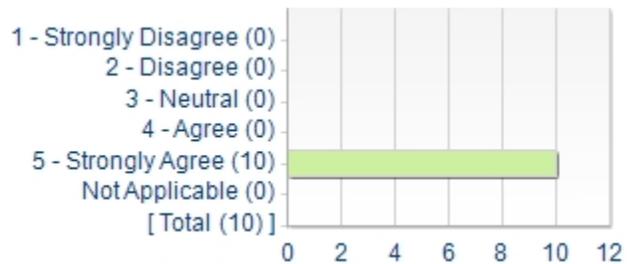
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

5. The instructor used class time productively.



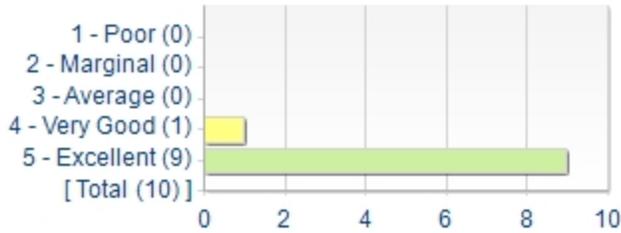
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.80
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.42

6. The instructor created a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

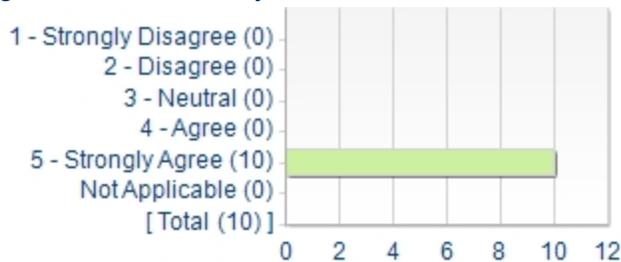
**Overall, the instructor (Allison Anoll) was:**



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.32

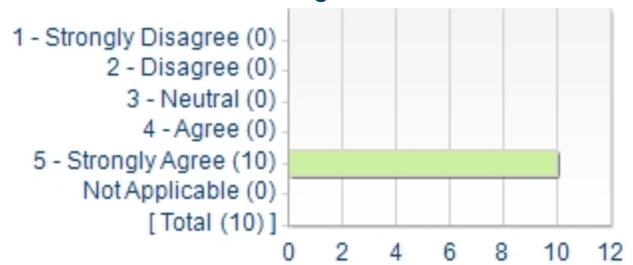
**Questions About This Course (PSCI 8342 01):**

1. This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.



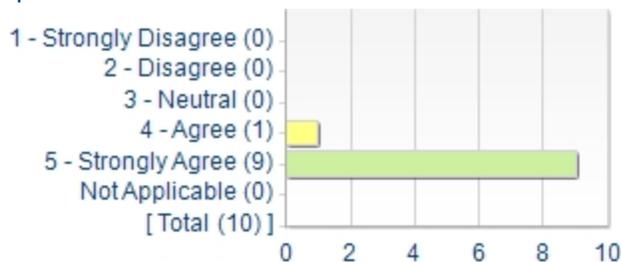
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

2. The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.



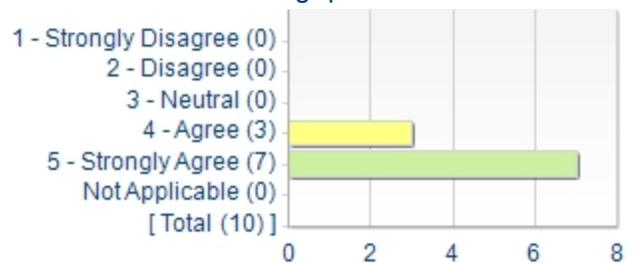
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.00

3. The feedback I received during the course was helpful.



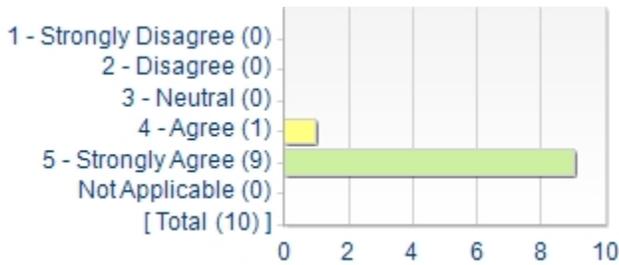
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.32

4. I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.



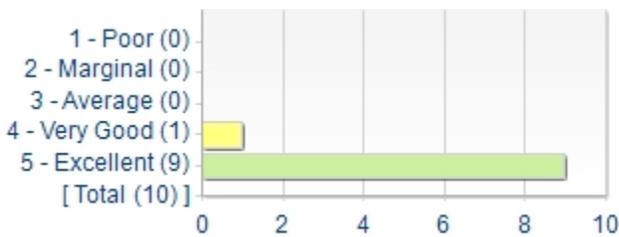
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.70
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.48

5. This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.32

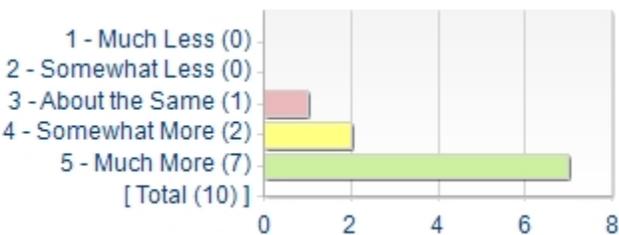
Overall the course was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.90
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.32

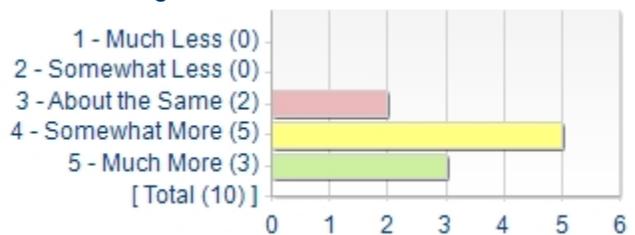
Questions About This Course (PSCI 8342 01):

1. Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.60
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.70

2. Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.10
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	0.74

## What elements of the course (PSCI 8342 01) most contributed to your learning?

### Comments

1) I profited immensely from the instructor's multi-faceted evaluation strategy. Building concept maps for each unit allowed me the opportunity to structure my thoughts around some of the big ideas, questions and concepts in the literature. Working on the the referee reports gave me a sense of how one must provide constructive feedback on a academic work, articulate one's concerns, and identify areas for improvement.

2) Class discussions were another component of the course that I found extremely useful. These were occasions to think of new ways of relating the material to the real world of politics, and draw connections between core ideas expressed in the readings.

The readings were really well thought out and cohesive, while at the same time challenging. The class discussions were also very helpful in pointing out connections I failed to make in reading the material myself making it a very valuable resource. Allison also did a great job of leading the discussion and encouraging us to think hard and engage with important concepts.

The sequence of the course. Each unit used the knowledge acquired in the previous unit. Each class was organized in a way that readings will offer the historical context, the institutions' building and the structural factor that allowed us, students, to understand individuals' behavior.

Being able to discuss the material after understanding the main concepts was the most beneficial for me. Keep doing that!

Class discussions in this course were among the best I have had ever. There was lots of reading to get through, but we almost always discussed all readings in class, making them relevant to the conversation. Allison had a masterful way of structuring class discussion: always getting us to the end point it seemed she had in mind, but also allowing for plenty of time for people to bring up thoughts and questions they had. It was the perfect balance of structure and open discussion.

I enjoyed the readings with historical accounts. Those were the ones that really helped me understand structural racism, which was the most difficult concept to me coming into the class.

The overall structure of the class was very effective. Organizing the course around big unit questions was a great way to help keep learning objectives clear and the conversations focused when covering such a large and diverse array of material. It gave us a grounding idea we could always return to while engaging with readings, discussions, and assignments. I loved getting to then engage with these questions directly for the concept maps.

The concept maps helped me to more critically engage with the readings and practice connecting ideas to one another. This promoted a deeper understanding of the class content and contributed substantially to my learning. Second, the structure of the course was highly beneficial. By organizing the content into unit questions with subtopics, it helped me organize my thoughts while reading and discussing key concepts so that I was continually trying to connect them back to the broader course objectives. Finally, the clear guidelines for participation helped me to more meaningfully participate in class by providing guidance on the type of comments and ideas that would move our class conversations forward. I became more confident in my ability to participate in scholarly conversations because of the guidelines outlined and the numerous opportunities given to practice.

The interdisciplinary readings, Anoll's offers for meetings and meetings with me on personal weaknesses and goals, the way the class was structured to engage all students to ask difficult and cross-week questions. I learned so much in this course about participation in academic/intellectual spaces as well as course material.

## What improvements to the course (PSCI 8342 01) would you recommend?

### Comments

I don't know if I would recommend any improvements, it was overall a really good class

The class was great! I think it would benefit from the resources around campus. The class included sociological, historical, psychological perspectives and, at Vanderbilt, the corresponding departments also have a focus on race. It will be interesting to have guest professors or go as a class to lectures around campus. I think it would be very enlightening to have academic discussions with scholars of different areas.

I'm literally not positive that I would change anything. That's not lazy on my part. This class was that good.

I appreciate that the course provided several modes for students to be evaluated. However, for me personally, I did not find the concept maps particularly helpful. The idea of synthesizing what we have learned into a concise format is good, but, for a graduate level course, it sometimes felt like that assignment was us being told how to study. In doing the concept map, I often felt like I spent more time just figuring out the mechanics of getting everything onto one page, rather than actually synthesizing ideas. Again, even so, I really appreciate the effort to be creative in assignments.

Some people talk more than others, and some people are better at thinking out loud. I felt like sometimes I didn't get to speak because I took a minute to formulate my thoughts and then by the time I was ready someone else had made a similar comment. I guess if there are multiple people with their hands up, sometimes give preference to the quiet person rather than the person who had their hand up first.

I think it would be good to include a few more contemporary readings on the syllabus. We were exposed to some of the foundational literature which was great and those foundational works should certainly remain on the reading list however, some weeks did not seem to extend beyond these foundational works and the older debates about them. I think it would also be great for students to get a sense of what research in REP today looks like for each of these topics. Even if for some weeks these are included as optional or additional readings, I think it would be beneficial for students to understand the current scholarly debates and methods being used to answer some of these timeless questions about race in American politics.

More intersectionality theory and empirics; we could have gotten more into the construction and making of race through gender, nation (we did some of this), and sexuality. We did lots of class which was important and great but there is more. There are lots of wonderful historians, sociologists, and political scientists who do this work.

## Do you have any other comments?

### Comments

As someone suffering from major psychological disabilities, I greatly appreciate the instructor's concerted efforts at accommodating my needs, facilitating my participation, and ensuring that I flourished in class. Personally, this has been one of the rewarding classes I have taken thus far, and I have to say that a large part of the credit for that goes to the instructor.

While the class was challenging, it is probably one of my favorite classes I have taken and I feel like I have learned a lot from the course and really deepened my understanding of the concepts

The best class I have taken at Vanderbilt so far.

Overall, this course was great. I learned a lot. I loved how the readings included works from political science, psychology, sociology, etc. I felt like I was provided all the tools I needed to be able to wrestle with a tricky topic. Allison really seems to care about her students and creating an environment for people to learn and ask questions.

Really great class, and despite the difficulty of the material I never felt uncomfortable beyond what I felt was appropriate. Great class!

Allison is an incredible teacher and mentor. She is an extremely talented facilitator of group discussion. Her ability to connect big complicated questions or ideas and boil them down to their essence really improved my understanding of this difficult and important subject. Her passion for what she does helped push the whole class forward in our thinking about our roles as academics and as citizens. Both are important and I greatly appreciate Allison's clear care and concern for our development in each area. This course has profoundly shaped my thinking and for that I could not be more grateful to have had the opportunity to take this course with Allison.

Allison was a truly outstanding instructor. Her ability to organize readings and ideas in a way that provoked critical thought and reflection was amazing. She did such a wonderful job facilitating meaningful and engaging class discussions and always made me feel encouraged to contribute my own ideas and insights. I grew so much in this course, both in my ability to critically engage with the important topic of race and racism in American politics but also in my confidence to contribute to these conversations as a scholar. This was the most wonderfully designed, well taught, and substantively meaningful class I have ever taken. I greatly appreciate all that Allison did to make this class experience so incredible. The Vanderbilt Political Science Department is very lucky to have such an amazing scholar, teacher, and researcher as a part of their faculty.

Incredible class and professor! One of my two favorite courses here as a graduate student and one of the best professors/teachers I have ever had. I really appreciated the mid-term review and Anoll's presentation of those results and genuine attempt to work in those suggestions. 10/10 would recommend and I hope Anoll teaches more graduate courses on different (but related topics) in her interests.