

## Sean Miskell

### Summary of Teaching Evaluations

Below I have provided summaries of my quantitative and qualitative evaluations from students and supervising faculty members. In addition to summaries of quantitative evaluations, I highlight representative samples of written feedback from both students and faculty. The full evaluations are available upon request as well as posted to the Teaching section on my website:  
<http://seanmiskell.net/teaching/>.

**Instructor:** “Oil, Water, and War” – PSC/MES 367, Fall 2010

- SCALE: 1 to 5 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree (N=13)

This course improved my writing skills	4.17
This course improved my reading skills	3.85
This course improved my research skills	4.15
This course improved my speaking skills	2.23
This course improved my critical thinking skills	3.54
This course improved my understanding that an individual can have an impact on politics	3.69
The objectives of the course were clear	4.31
The instructor was enthusiastic in presenting course content	4.0
When appropriate, the instructor presented divergent viewpoints	3.92
The instructor treated students with respect	4.54
The instructor provided helpful feedback on my work	4.15
The instructor presented material at an appropriate pace	4.15
The instructor was available for help outside of class	4.38
The instructor inspired me to perform up to my potential	3.85
I understood how my grade was determined for this course	4.15
I was comfortable asking questions	3.92
The reading material helped me to understand the course content	4.31
Completing assignments contributed to my learning in this course	4.33
Class discussions contributed to my understanding of the subject	4.08
I was prepared for each class	3.58
I found this course intellectually challenging	
Overall, I rate this instructor as an excellent teacher	3.85
Overall, this course was worth taking	4.08

- Excerpts from student evaluations, 2010
  - “I really enjoyed having different viewpoints on each subject we studied. We always had multiple standpoints and opinions.”
  - “The professor was very kind and respectful to the students and was always there to help and guide.”
  - “Sometimes too much lecture.”

- “So caring! Really wants you to excel and enjoy learning the material as much as he does.”
- Excerpts from student evaluations, 2010
  - “The lecture topics were fascinating and the class was well organized.”
  - “Great context in terms of incorporating theories, past and present decision making, and current events”
  - “I liked learning from Professor Miskell. I thought he was great. Thanks!”
  - “Too much material for such a small amount of time.”

**Co-instructor:** “Public Administration and Democracy” – PAI 755, Summer 2012, Summer 2013

- Excerpts from Professor Nabatchi’s evaluation
  - 2012
    - “I thought your work was stellar, from the moment you began to assist with the course design to your teaching and the closure of the course. You were an excellent TA and consistently demonstrated both your academic and teaching abilities.”
    - “Your work helping to select readings and plan class sessions was instrumental in developing an engaging and robust course.”
    - “I found you to be incredibly good natured and very willing to help both me and the students. Your positive spirit was immensely valuable to the teaching team.”
    - “You showed great initiative in all aspects of your work, from planning and preparing for the daily sessions, to leading case discussions, to organizing for the role play, and to grading the assignments.”
  - 2013
    - “You were incredibly good natured and very willing to help me and the students with any and all issues that popped up.”
    - “...as the ‘lead TA,’ your assistance training and working with the other three TAs was critical to the success of the course. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated the time and effort you spent with them – walking them through the pedagogy of the course, training them on course-specific tasks, and otherwise helping them to improve their teaching work.”
- Summary of student quantitative evaluations, 2012
  - SCALE: 1 to 5 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree (N=35)

1. Was well prepared for the sessions?	4.54
2. Understood the materials?	4.62
3. Communicated the materials clearly and effectively?	4.62
4. Was effective at facilitating discussion?	4.35
5. Was effective in answering student questions?	4.37

6. Was responsive to student challenges and concerns?	4.49
7. Helped you come to your own conclusions about the topics?	4.51
8. Reinforced your understanding of the concepts and lessons from readings?	4.23
Overall Average	4.41

- Summary of student quantitative evaluations, 2013
  - SCALE: 1 to 5 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree (N=25)

1. Was well prepared for the sessions?	4.20
2. Understood the materials?	4.76
3. Communicated the materials clearly and effectively?	4.64
4. Was effective at facilitating discussion?	4.64
5. Was effective in answering student questions?	4.60
6. Was responsive to student challenges and concerns?	4.48
7. Helped you come to your own conclusions about the topics?	4.16
8. Reinforced your understanding of the concepts and lessons from readings?	4.40
Overall Average	4.49

- Excerpts from student evaluations, 2012
  - “Very open to comments; pulled people’s ideas together”
  - “[I liked best] his calmness and ability to facilitate discussion”
  - “Very responsive to everyone’s learning style and personality”
  - Sean was one of the best TA’s I’ve had during my five years at Syracuse and Maxwell.
  - “[I liked best] his flexible leadership style that was both firm and adaptable.”
  - “Respected our opinions, asked us to explain our position, drew on knowledge of the room”
  - Areas to improve: time management
- Excerpts from student evaluations, 2012
  - “Down to Earth – thought provoking. Good at relating to students.”
  - “He was approachable and did a good job of mitigating tensions/conflicts between students.”
  - “I really liked that Sean helped us understand the concepts. His laid back teaching style helped us to have rational, reasonable, peaceful discussion, regardless of differing views.”
  - “Asked productive, unique, thought-provoking questions.”
  - “He would sum up what people were trying to articulate and that helped me understand it better.”
  - “He was an effective teacher who brought people into the discussion so they could form their own conclusions”

- “Has control of the sessions; gives everyone the opportunity to speak up; has deep understanding of the materials.”
- “He broadened the ‘big questions’ from large group discussions with additional relevant and challenging examples.”
- Areas to improve: More timely return of graded assignments.

**Teaching Assistant:** “International Relations” – PSC 124 (Professor Mark Rupert), Spring 2010

- Selected faculty feedback
  - “Excellent TA, conscientious, thoughtful”
  - “Thinks ahead and anticipates...provides useful comments in lecture and discussion.”

**Teaching Assistant:** “International Organizations” – PSC 353 (Professor Francine D’Amico), Fall 2009

- Selected faculty feedback
  - “Sean has been extremely conscientious about his TA tasks.”
  - “His feedback on student written work provided both general guidance and specific suggestions to improve both form and content.”
  - “It has been a pleasure to work with him and I would gladly do it again. Very helpful.”
  - “Sean researched, prepared, and presented a cogent and engaging lecture on “Human Rights Advocacy in Global Civil Society,” which included a comparative analysis of two service and advocacy organizations, ICRC and Amnesty International.”
  - “Sean was very helpful to the students in general and very patient with one student in particular who was very demanding of his time. Very responsible.”

**Teaching Assistant:** “Interest Group Politics” – PSC 309 (Professor Sarah Pralle), Spring 2009

- Selected faculty feedback
  - “Sean is very well organized.”
  - He did a very thorough and fair job with the grading, and provided useful feedback for students on their written work.”
  - Sean gave an excellent lecture on interest group influence on foreign policy.”

**Teaching Assistant:** “Making Foreign Policy” – PSC 359 (Professor James Bennett), Fall 2008

- Selected faculty feedback
  - “He got several unsolicited comments on the course evaluation. Sean is so laid back that it takes awhile to appreciate his competencies, which are legion.”
  - “Strengths: Reliability, responsibility, common sense...of course he’s intelligent too.” He took a rather poorly conceived “packaged” simulation...and implemented in 4 consecutive class meetings...perfectly.”

**Teaching Assistant:** “Oil, Water, and War” – PSC/MES 367 (Professor James Bennett), Spring 2007

- Selected faculty feedback
  - “Outstanding performance of all that I asked.”
  - “Conscientious. Relaxed.”

**Teaching Assistant:** “International Relations” – PSC 124 (Professor Thomas Boudreau), Fall 2007

- Quantitative summary of student evaluations
- 1=strongly agree; 2=disagree; 3=agree; 4=strongly agree; N=25

The teacher was usually prepared for class	3.68
TA was on time to class	3.76
TA seemed well organized	3.88
Grading was generally fair	3.71
Assignments were returned on time	3.74
Comments on assignments were useful	3.92
TA seemed to enjoy teaching section	3.83
TA helped to clarify the reading	3.88
TA helped prepare me for exams	3.88
TA encouraged student participation	4.00
TA showed respect for students' ideas	3.92
TA was available to help students	3.16
I did not do the readings for class	3.64
I came to sections most of the time	3.84
I felt comfortable approaching the TA with my concerns	3.71
I learned a lot in this section	3.92

- Selected student comments
  - “TA was cool and relaxed, could relate to students and help us learn without being boring”
  - “It was a very informative class and helped teach me a lot about politics and different world views. Sean was a teacher that made me want to come to class and learn. He seemed to get people to want to get involved with politics and the class readings.
  - “Very approachable. Sean seemed like he cared about the students and liked them to succeed.”
  - “I really liked that Sean was enthusiastic and funny. He was well-informed and open-minded.”
  - “I liked the fact that section was really relaxed. It made it a lot easier to present and rebut topics.”
  - “Sean was very approachable and was able to help you with whatever you needed. He helped clarify the readings and lectures.”
  - “He was great at answering emails and giving positive feedback.”