# POL 240: International Relations - P06 - Tolya Levshin

Department, division and career level statistics are survey-specific (i.e. the main survey, FRS, Writing Program, and graduate program surveys). Statistics below are based on responses of the course population that completed the same survey questionnaire as this course.

Course Questions - Score Analysis

1. I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:

	Score
Instructor Average	4.6
Course average (005283)	4.0
Department (Politics)	3.9
Division (Social Sciences)	3.7
Career (UGRD)	3.8

2. I think that the overall quality of the readings was:

	Score
Instructor Average	4.1
Course average (005283)	3.9
Department (Politics)	4.0
Division (Social Sciences)	3.8
Career (UGRD)	3.8

3. I think that the overall quality of the course was:

	Score
Instructor Average	4.7
Course average (005283)	4.4
Department (Politics)	4.3
Division (Social Sciences)	3.9
Career (UGRD)	3.9

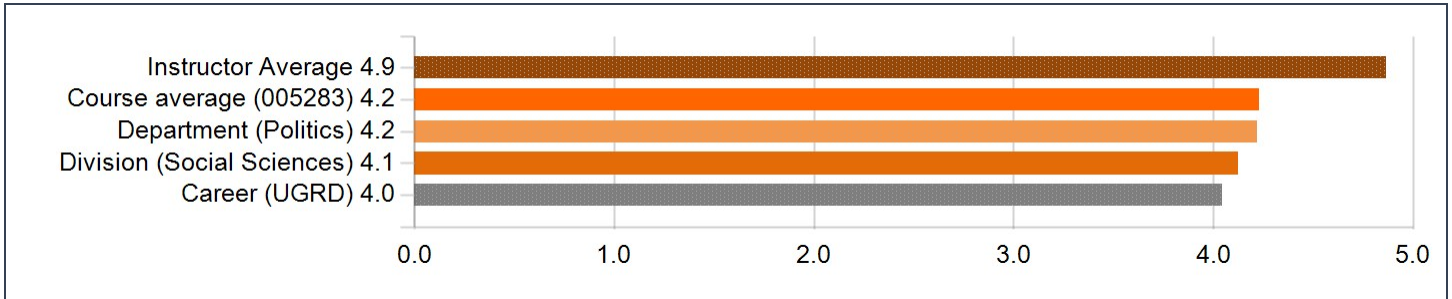|	Resp%	Invited	Resp
I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:	100 %	15	15
I think that the overall quality of the readings was:	100 %	15	15
I think that the overall quality of the course was:	100 %	15	15

Would you recommend this course to other students?
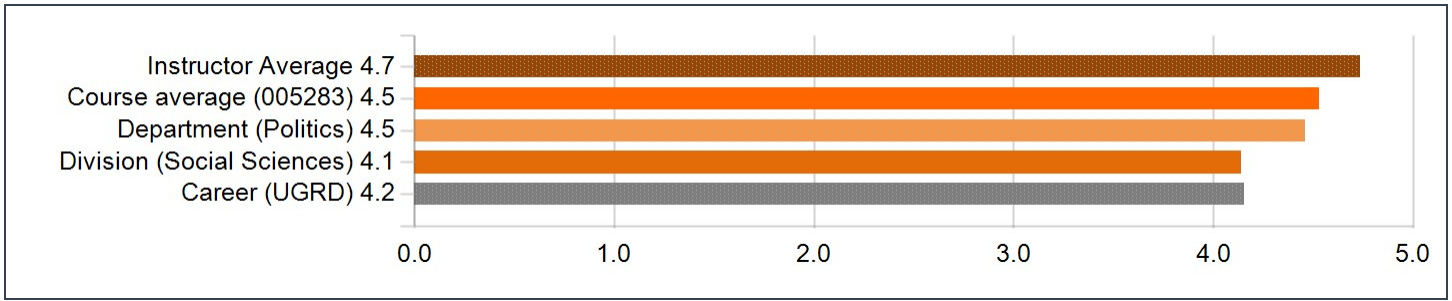
Resp%	Invited	Resp
100 %	15	15

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

Resp%	Invited	Resp
100 %	15	15

Course Questions - Frequency Analysis
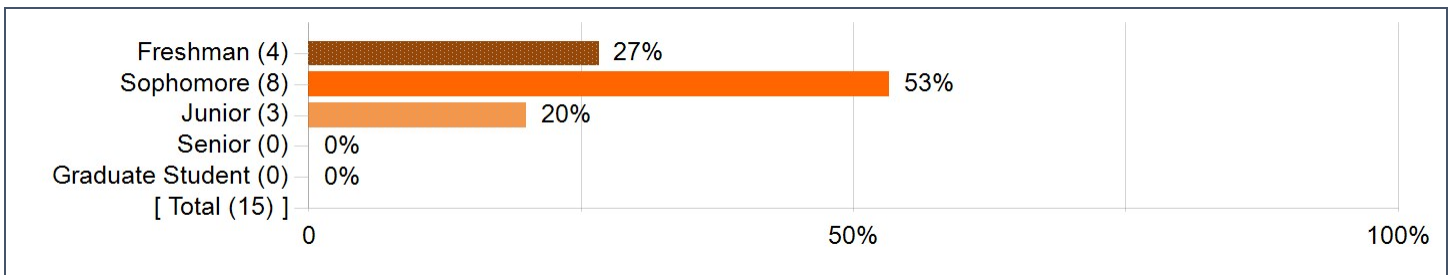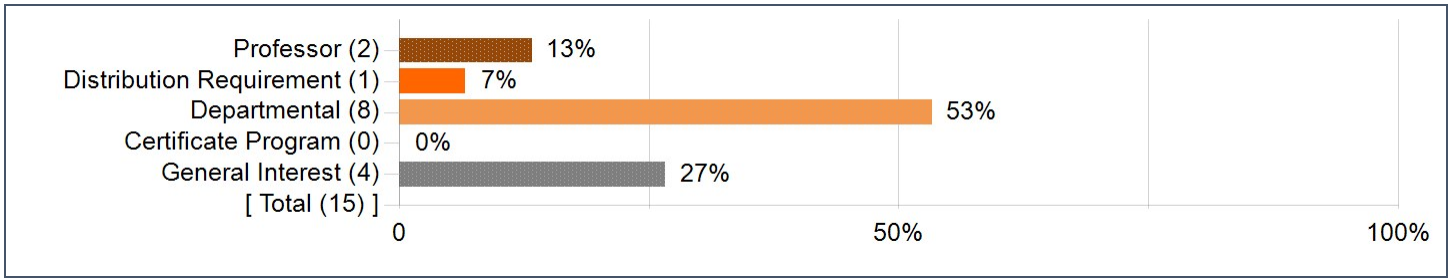
Class Year

Primary reason for taking this course

Professor (2)	13%
Distribution Requirement (1)	7%
Departmental (8)	53%
Certificate Program (0)	0%
General Interest (4)	27%
[Total (15)]	
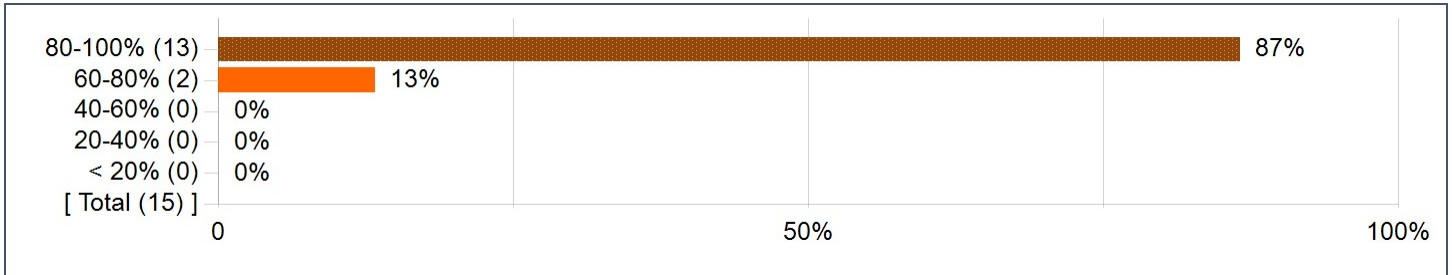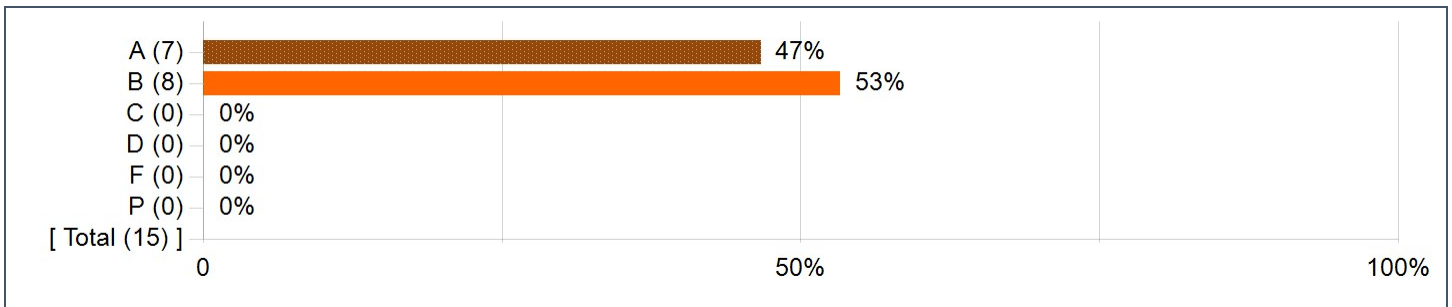
Percentage of classes you have attended

80-100% (13)	87%
60-80% (2)	13%
40-60% (0)	0%
20-40% (0)	0%
< 20% (0)	0%
[Total (15)]	

Expected grade

A (7)	47%
B (8)	53%
C (0)	0%
D (0)	0%
F (0)	0%
P (0)	0%
[Total (15)]	

1. I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	10	67%
Very Good	4	4	27%
Good	3	1	7%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

2. I think that the overall quality of the readings was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	6	40%
Very Good	4	6	40%
Good	3	2	13%
Fair	2	1	7%
Poor	1	0	0%

3. I think that the overall quality of the course was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	11	73%
Very Good	4	3	20%
Good	3	1	7%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Would you recommend this course to other students?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Recommend	5	12	80%
Recommend	4	2	13%
Neutral	3	1	7%
Recommend Against	2	0	0%
Strongly Recommend Against	1	0	0%

Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	13	87%
Very Good	4	2	13%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Qualitative Feedback

Why did you take this course? How would you describe your level of engagement in the course?

Comments
To fulfill prerequisites for politics/WWS major. I was very engaged with this course - I loved it.
I took this course because I am interested in Politics and Woodrow Wilson.
I took this class mainly because of the professor. My engagement was very high with the course.
Requirement. Engaged.
Professor, topic, WWS departmental
Genral interest and it works for major
My interests in the Woodrow Wilson School involve international relations.
I wanted an introduction to International Relations, and the Politics/WWS in general.
I took this course because I had heard great things about professor Moravcsik. The class is also a core requirement for the Woodrow Wilson School.
na

Please comment on the guidance of the instructor(s) in preparing you to do written work, comments in response to written work, and the overall value of the papers, reports, exams, and problem sets to the course.

Comments
Very transparent, with a high engagement/preparation but not too high expectations. Papers could have covered more, but I think they wanted us focused on the material, not our writing skills.
The papers are not tough and somewhat interesting. They are short and do-able.
Very detailed instructions and feedback - in fact the most detailed I have ever been given by a preceptor.
The felt juvenile.
Difficult, but I learned a lot, great feedback
papers very relevant and useful
minimal guidance from professor
The papers are interesting, though-provoking, and helped make me a concise, articulate writer.
The guidance from instructors were very good. The comments were very beneficial in improving my understanding of the subject matter and how to write about it.
Tolya always took the time to explain what I did not understand. His comments to written work covered every possible consideration, and was really helpful. Loved the policy memo assignment cause it was very practical.
na

Please comment on the quality of the readings and visuals in the course. Did the readings present the subject matter clearly? To what extent did the readings and visuals stimulate your intellectual curiosity and independent thinking?

Comments
So much reading. And so diverse. These were essential to accomplishing the goals of the course (broad survey of the IR field), but sometimes it was overwhelming. That said, most of the readings were very engaging and interesting.
The readings are heavy and plenty. This was one of the toughest parts of the course.
very interesting readings all tight to the week's topic.
Some readings were repetitive and unnecessary and too one sided.
A lot of reading and movies, but all very interesting
great readings
There were many readings and visuals. Implemented a good distribution of quotations, graphs, and salient ideas.
The readings are absolutely incredible. I can't stress how interesting the majority of the reading was, with special attention to Diplomacy. Kissinger is a fascinating character and eloquent interpreter of international relations. There is a lot of reading, which makes it very difficult to fully complete.
The readings and visuals were very useful in understanding the context of certain historical moments and how foreign policy decisions were made. The readings and visuals definitely stimulated my curiosity and how I thought about these issues.
The visuals in the beginning of every lecture were pretty fun.
na

Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
Tolya is amazing. I wish we could have had precept 3x/week instead of lectures. He is super responsive, always willing to clarify questions, and he genuinely wants us to learn the material. I will miss him.
I learned a lot in precept and Tolya knows the class and the topics very well. He is a good preceptor.
Amazing preceptor! The most knowledgable preceptor I have had at Princeton, but at the same time very good with his students. Always available for questions, encouraged everyone to participate - you could not wish for a better preceptor.
He's a phenomenal instructor!
He should just be the professor. Excellent.
Always a treat - great discussion, incredible suggestions for further reading
Best ever
Tolya is an excellent preceptor
He is the best preceptor I have ever had. He works to formulate our understandings of course material into a coherent flows of ideas.
This was one of the best classes I've taken at Princeton, partially because of the readings and Prof. Moravcsik's lectures, but more so than anything because of Tolya's absolutely brilliant precepts. Tolya is by far and away the most exceptional preceptor I've ever had, and probably one of the best teachers I've had in my academic career. He not only has an encyclopedic knowledge of almost every subject we touched on (and many that we didn't), but he's personable, engaging, helpful, understanding, and always willing to go above and beyond to nurture curiosity or quell confusion. He acts as a peer to the students, but simultaneously commands the upmost respect and admiration. He'll often get caught on a tangent, no doubt a fascinating and deeply thought-provoking one, that causes us to reach the end of class without having touched on everything he'd hoped to discuss. Without being pressured in any way, the entire class stays into their lunch break to continue discussion or listen to Tolya weave everything we talked about into a beautiful package that gives new perspective to our readings or understanding of modern diplomacy. His management of our class debates on the causes of the First World War or the Trial of Henry Kissinger revolutionized my relationship to the humanities and encouraged me to take more politics and WWS classes next year. I could go on an on about the utter brilliance of Tolya and his ability to quote obscure literature or scholarly works that add an entirely new level of meaning to our discussions, but what deserves equal attention is his charismatic ability to simultaneously be a peer, a teacher, and a scholar. His intellectual passion, pedagogical gift, and infectious personality make his precepts truly exception. I simply can't praise him enough, or overstate his influence on my view of modern politics, international relations, and diplomacy. Thank you, Tolya!
The quality of the precepts were excellent. They contributed immensely to my understanding of the course. The preceptor raised challenging questions, clarified course materials, and encouraged participation. The preceptor was very responsive to questions and opinions. He was very clearly dedicated to teaching us well.
Tolya was the best preceptor I have ever had at Princeton. I don't think there was anything that he could have done better. His enthusiasm about the subjects affected the class positively, and his endless knowledge of everything political was an amazing resource. His precepts were the best thing about this course, and I learnt the most during the precepts.
BEST.
na

Please comment on the overall quality of the course. What worked particularly well and in what ways might the course be improved?

Comments
Great introduction to the literature. Like most lower level/survey courses, the amount you put in is very much up to you, but the course was interesting enough that I wanted to work. I think we need more precept time to absorb the material fully, and maybe lectures can delve more into specifics so as not to correspond entirely to the lecture handout.
I think that this is a good course yet fairly difficult. This was my first politics course so I kind of struggled with it.
Outstanding quality and not much room for improvement.
Too much hype. Just because the Professor is tenured and is pretty much the academic birth child of Kissinger and Keohane doesn't mean he can just treat it as if its a simple walk in the park that doesn't demand continuous improvement.
Overall a great course!
Absolutely fantastic.
The overall quality of the course is very good. The lectures and precepts worked particularly well, as well as the outlines of lectures provided at each lecture. I think the course can be improved by having earlier feedback from the instructors.
na

What advice would you give to another student considering taking this course?

Comments
Great course. Intellectually challenging but you don't have to work that hard if you don't want. Fun and Prof Moravcsik dresses like Palpatine, so that's a plus.
There is a lot of reading and work. I would recommend a different course for freshmen but this is a good class for any other grade.
One of the best classes I have taken at Princeton! Demanding, but at the same time very rewarding. Definitely take it if you want to learn from the best and make sure to have Tolya as your preceptor!
This is a really hard but worthwhile course!
Beware of the hype that surrounds this class. Go in with low expectations and you should come out of it decently content. Do the readings in a smart fashion. Do them with a group and keep a running excel or whatever with short notes of the readings so when you come back to them from only skimming them or reading just what was necessary, you don't feel like a deer in the headlights come exam time. Careful with the exam. Don't underestimate it. The ID's are annoying. You don't need to know economic (you don't ever really need to know it for your life for that matter), but do expect to have this course to take a more international economics bent for the last half.
Take this class, but be ready to work hard
Try not to take Grand Strategy at the same time.
An outstanding class that serves as a fascinating introduction to international relations and diplomacy. The reading is heavy, but exceptionally well-selected and insightful. Having Tolya as a preceptor was the most enlightening academic experience I've had at Princeton.
Be prepared for plenty of reading, but it will be rewarding.
Definitely take it, even if you don't need it as a departmental. Provides a great mix of history and politics.
Prof. Moravcsik is an excellent lecturer and Toyla Levshin is the best preceptor ever.
na

# POL 240: International Relations - P07 - Tolya Levshin

Department, division and career level statistics are survey-specific (i.e. the main survey, FRS, Writing Program, and graduate program surveys). Statistics below are based on responses of the course population that completed the same survey questionnaire as this course.

Course Questions - Score Analysis

1. I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:

Instructor Average	4.8
Course average (005283)	4.0
Department (Politics)	3.9
Division (Social Sciences)	3.7
Career (UGRD)	3.8

2. I think that the overall quality of the readings was:

Instructor Average	3.8
Course average (005283)	3.9
Department (Politics)	4.0
Division (Social Sciences)	3.8
Career (UGRD)	3.8

3. I think that the overall quality of the course was:

Instructor Average	4.8
Course average (005283)	4.4
Department (Politics)	4.3
Division (Social Sciences)	3.9
Career (UGRD)	3.9

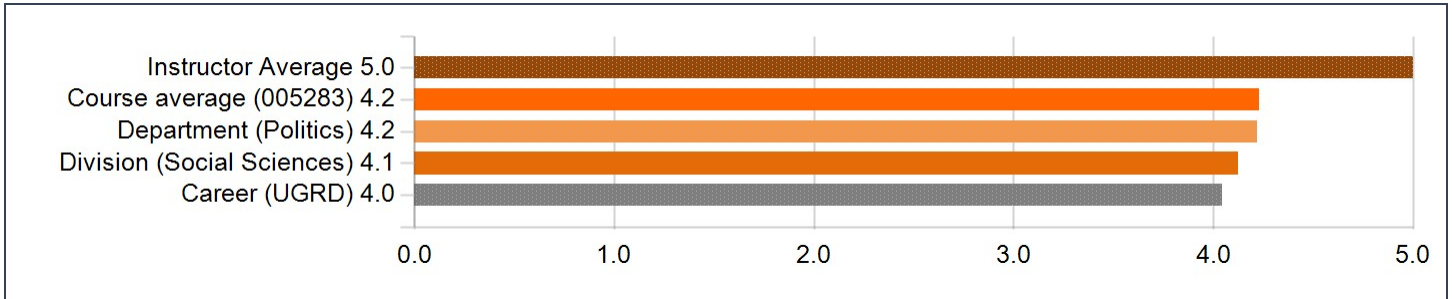|	Resp%	Invited	Resp
I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:	67 %	6	4
I think that the overall quality of the readings was:	83 %	6	5
I think that the overall quality of the course was:	67 %	6	4

Would you recommend this course to other students?
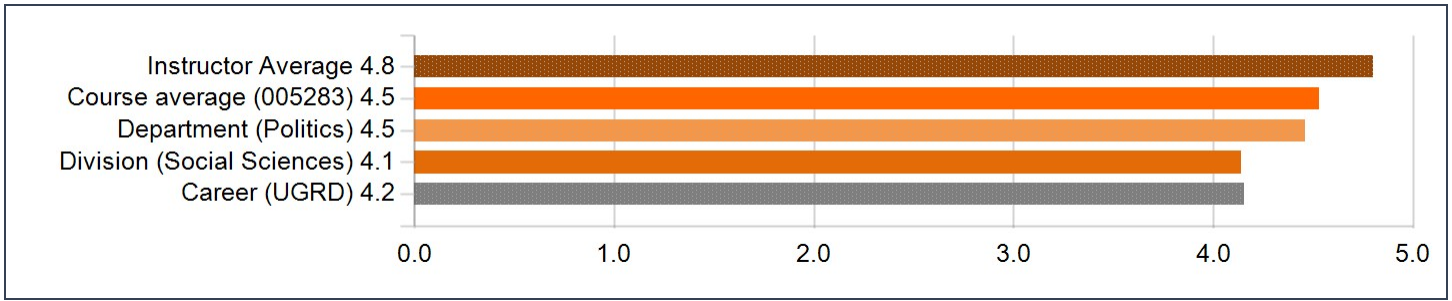
Resp%	Invited	Resp
83 %	6	5

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

Resp%	Invited	Resp
83 %	6	5

Course Questions - Frequency Analysis
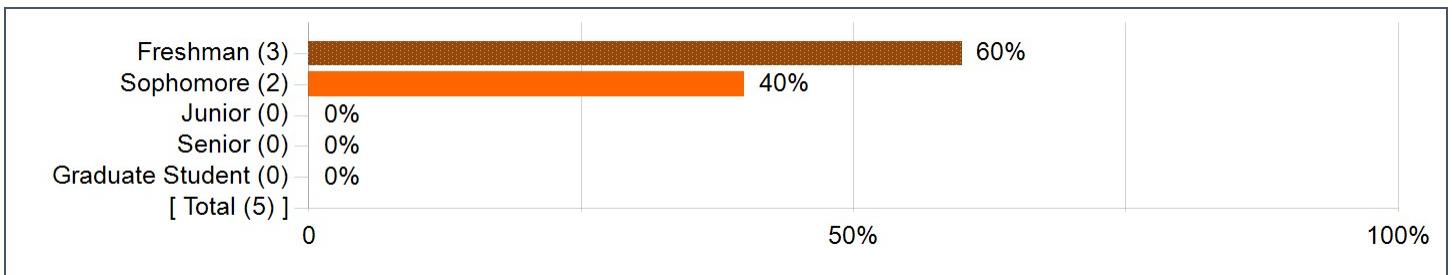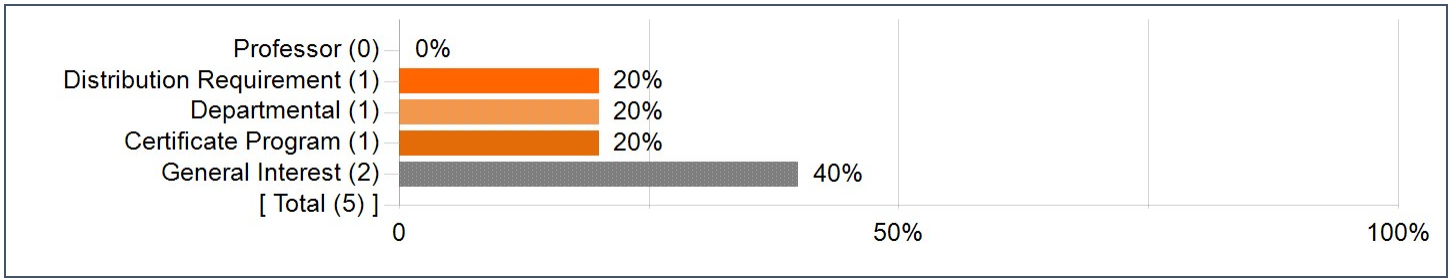
Class Year

Primary reason for taking this course

Category	Percentage
Professor (0)	0%
Distribution Requirement (1)	20%
Departmental (1)	20%
Certificate Program (1)	20%
General Interest (2)	40%
[Total (5)]	

Percentage of classes you have attended

Category	Percentage
80-100% (5)	100%
60-80% (0)	0%
40-60% (0)	0%
20-40% (0)	0%
< 20% (0)	0%
[Total (5)]	

Expected grade

Grade	Percentage
A (2)	40%
B (2)	40%
C (1)	20%
D (0)	0%
F (0)	0%
P (0)	0%
[Total (5)]	
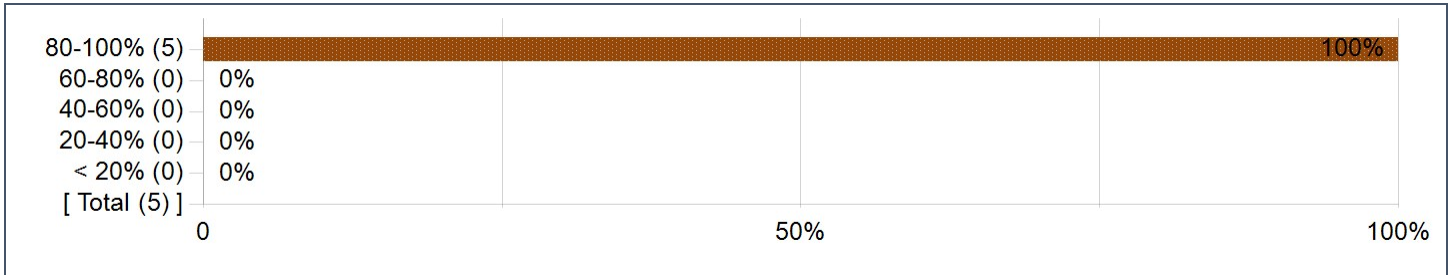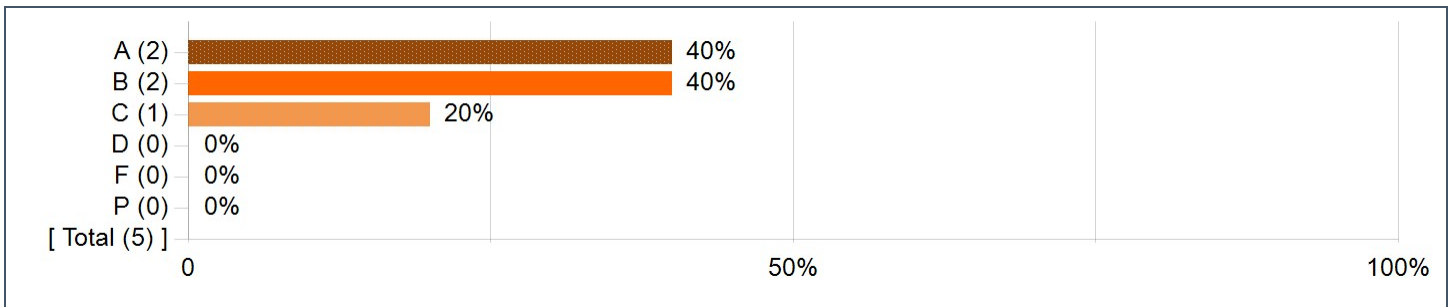
1. I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	3	75%
Very Good	4	1	25%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

2. I think that the overall quality of the readings was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	0	0%
Very Good	4	4	80%
Good	3	1	20%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

3. I think that the overall quality of the course was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	3	75%
Very Good	4	1	25%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Would you recommend this course to other students?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Recommend	5	4	80%
Recommend	4	1	20%
Neutral	3	0	0%
Recommend Against	2	0	0%
Strongly Recommend Against	1	0	0%

Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	5	100%
Very Good	4	0	0%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Qualitative Feedback

Why did you take this course? How would you describe your level of engagement in the course?

Comments
Distribution requirement. I like power. World power.
I want to be a politics major, and I am interested in IR. I did all the readings and went to every lecture and precept.
I took this class because it's the thing I'm most interested in and because it goes into my major. I was really engaged throughout and I really enjoyed it.
I was very engaged all throughout.

Please comment on the guidance of the instructor(s) in preparing you to do written work, comments in response to written work, and the overall value of the papers, reports, exams, and problem sets to the course.

Comments
Tolya best preceptor ever had. Knows his info 150%.
I enjoyed the papers that we had to write. I especially enjoyed the creative aspect of the second paper.
The two writing assignments really serve the purpose of deepening understanding and honing analytical skills. Very thoughtful and useful.
I thought the precept papers were really good and very helpful. The midterm paper was good, but maybe overly broad, which made it hard to express what we knew. The final should not have been an exam, it should have been a take-home or a paper. It was a lot for students to do in a very short amount of time, especially for students like me who struggle to write fast enough.

Please comment on the quality of the readings and visuals in the course. Did the readings present the subject matter clearly? To what extent did the readings and visuals stimulate your intellectual curiosity and independent thinking?

Comments
Great. Perhaps too much.
There was a ton of reading for this class. I think that it was all interesting, but the sheer amount was overwhelming at times.
Readings and films are great, and always provide needed insights in the context of the course and are never redundant.
The readings were a lot, but they were very interesting and were always really related to the classes.
The readings were good, although it was sad that we did not get to discuss a lot of them, since there was so much and only one precept.

Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
This man knows too much. Didn't use notes at all. Engaging precepts.
Tolya was a superb preceptor! He clearly knew the material very well, and challenged us to really understand what we were learning. In addition, he is very friendly and his advice was supremely helpful for papers!
TOLYA IS THE BEST. PHENOMENAL. He is extremely effective in offering feedback on written assignments and clarifying concepts as well as pushing our understanding in precepts. He is always able to capture the essence of the subject matter elegantly and powerfully in his explications. His intelligence, devotion and expertise are inspiring. Tolya is a great teacher as well as a kind and generous human being. He is by far the best teacher I've met here at Princeton. Thank you so much Tolya!
Absolutely, hands down, the best preceptor I've ever had at Princeton. Honestly, I think he could be the professor for this class, that's how amazing he is.
He is AMAZING. He knows so much, and he is always so willing to help. All I have to say that he is just about the GREATEST preceptor.

Please comment on the overall quality of the course. What worked particularly well and in what ways might the course be improved?

Comments
I learned so much about how the corrupted top brass runs the world.
I really enjoyed this course. I think that the combination of history, theory, and policy worked very well.
I think the course was very good overall.

What advice would you give to another student considering taking this course?

Comments
Take it even if you're not a woody woo or econ or politics major or need it for the requirement. You learn a lot.
I highly recommend this course. The material is very interesting and Professor Moravcsik set up the course in an engaging way. Be prepared to do a ton of reading, however.
GREAT CLASS. Extremely well-designed and well-taught. Essential for anyone interested in IR. TOLYA is a phenomenal preceptor.
Definitely take this class. Make sure that if Tolya is a preceptor, you get his precept — he's the best preceptor I've had at Princeton. This class isn't easy, but it's worth it.
Do the readings! and go to lecture, they are both quite engaging.