

## POL 380: Human Rights - P05 - Tolya Levshin

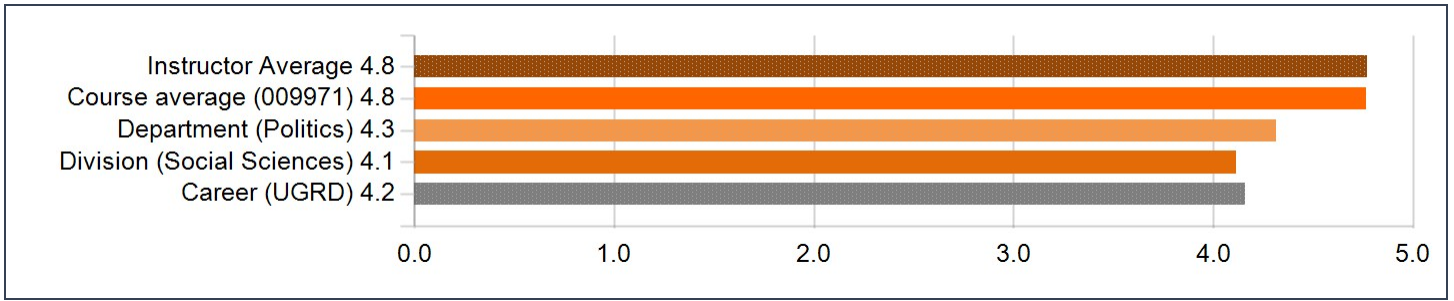
Department, division and career level statistics are survey-specific (i.e. the main survey, FRS, Writing Program, and graduate program surveys). Statistics below are based on responses of the course population that completed the same survey questionnaire as this course.

### Course Questions - Score Analysis



	Resp%	Invited	Resp
I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:	86 %	14	12
I think that the overall quality of the readings was:	93 %	14	13
I think that the overall quality of the course was:	93 %	14	13

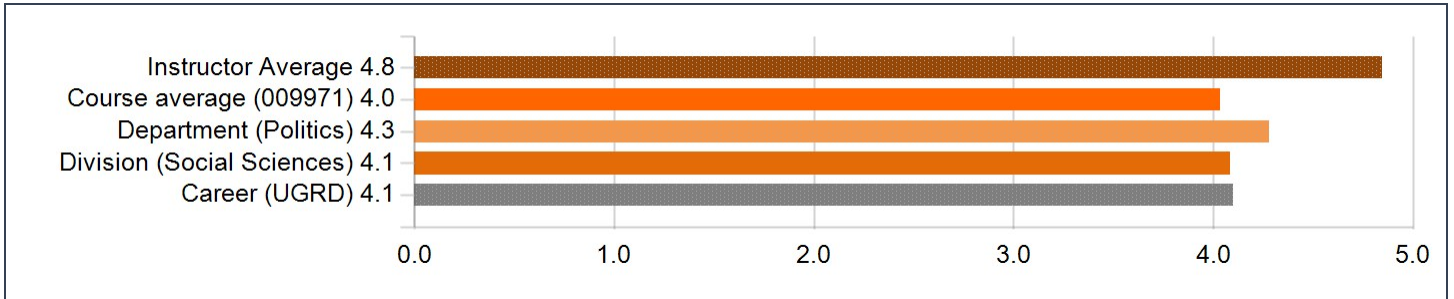
### Would you recommend this course to other students?



Resp%	Invited	Resp
93 %	14	13

### Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

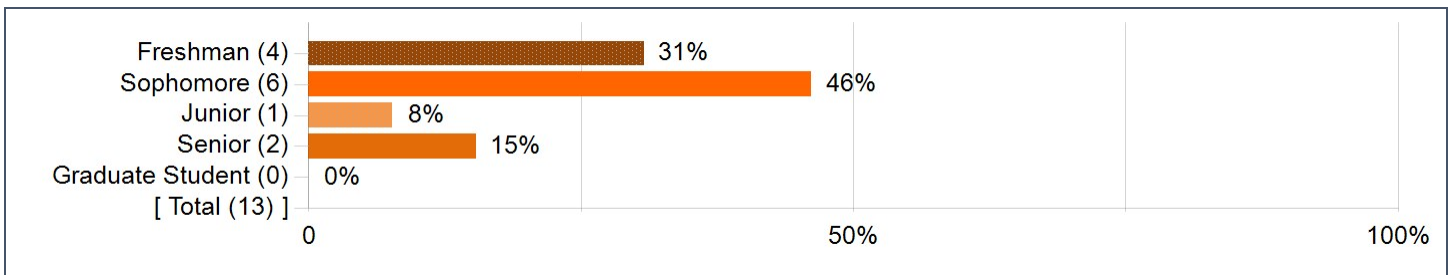
I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



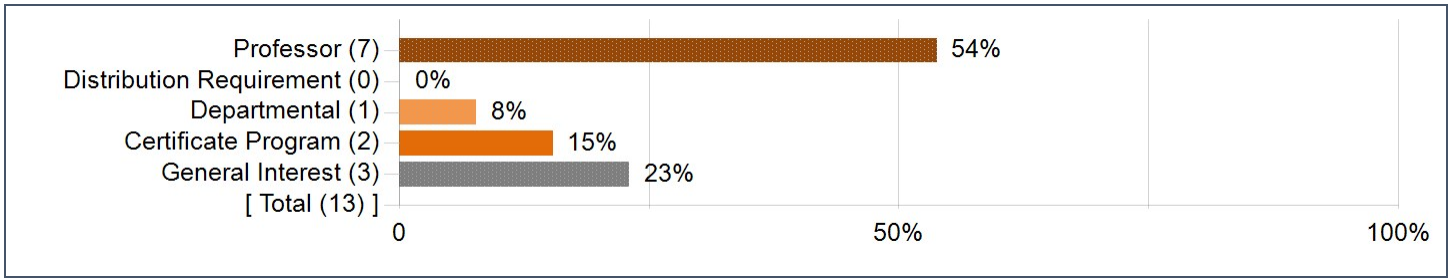
Resp%	Invited	Resp
93 %	14	13

### Course Questions - Frequency Analysis

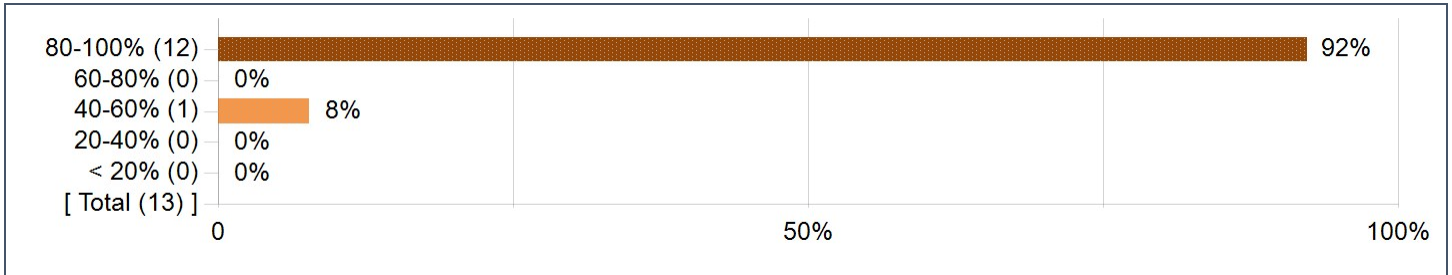
Class Year



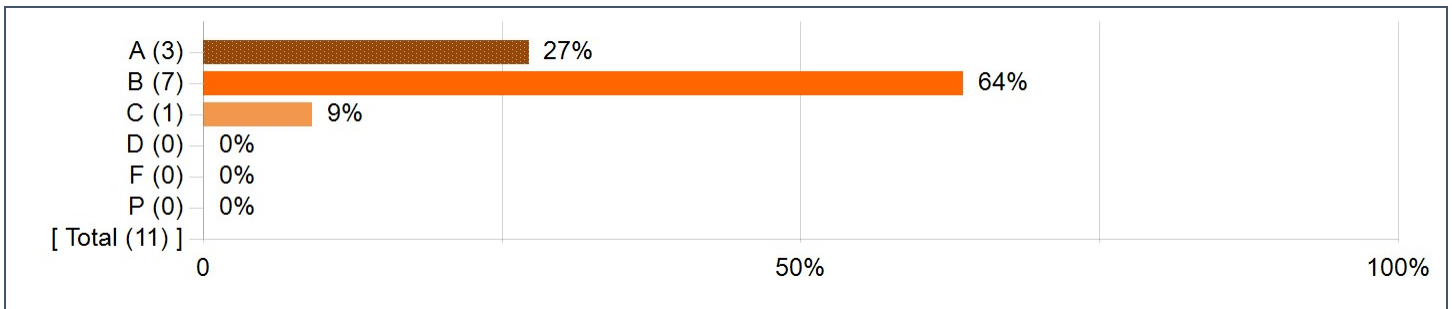
### Primary reason for taking this course



### Percentage of classes you have attended



### Expected grade



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

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	5	42%
Very Good	4	6	50%
Good	3	1	8%
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	4	31%
Very Good	4	7	54%
Good	3	1	8%
Fair	2	1	8%
Poor	1	0	0%

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

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	11	85%
Very Good	4	2	15%
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	10	77%
Recommend	4	3	23%
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	12	92%
Very Good	4	0	0%
Good	3	1	8%
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
I am a geoscience major but very interested in human rights. I took this class out of interest and loved it.
Departmental course, medium level of engagement
I took it because I wanted to take a class with Gary Bass.
General interest, and I was incredibly engaged.
I am very interested in Human Rights issues, as I am probably going to concentrate my independent work in this area.
I took this class because I loved the professor and wanted to learn more about human rights in the context of modern politics. I was very engaged in discussions but was unable to do all of the reading.
I took this course because the content seemed interesting and because the course covered ideas I am passionate about.
I took this course because I heard the professor was incredible. I was not disappointed. His lectures and the readings he assigned kept me very engaged in the course material.
I took the course because I was incredibly interested in the topic and professor, and I heard the class was life-changing.
I took this course because I heard great things about Bass and was generally interested in exploring politics. I was fairly engaged with this course, but fell off a bit towards the end of the semester.

### 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
The research paper was open-ended and allowed for creative, independent interests. I really enjoyed the writing process.
Good. One term paper - was an interesting prompt.
I enjoyed the research paper, though it kinda crept up on me.
The paper was at an inconvenient time, and I wish there was more time.
The paper assigned was long and difficult but I got a lot out of it. I think its valuable to force undergrads to do research independent of the course.
My preceptor, Tolya, was amazing at offering one on one feedback and meeting outside of class to help give guidance on papers.
My preceptor, Tolya Levshin, made all the difference in preparing for the paper. Through a simple 1-hr sit-down with him, I was able to figure out my topic and paper structure, which helped to alleviate the stress I would've otherwise experienced.
The papers and tests were fair, well supported, and not too exacting.

**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
Readings were very interesting.
Very interesting readings.
Readings were all great and fascinating
There was a lot of reading, and sometimes, a seemingly small amount of time to get it done. But they were interesting!
The readings were all really interesting, but there was often just too much for me to do in one week, or do thoroughly!
Good reading, but way to much of it. It is completely unreasonable to ask students to do over 200 pages of reading a week - it's impossible for the average student here.
The readings were very stimulating although the amount of readings were often overwhelming
The readings were incredible. There was a great mix of theoretical texts and narratives, which kept the readings very exciting.
There was a lot of reading (anywhere between 100-300 pages a week), so we never got to cover all of a week's reading in precept. Most of the readings were understandable, but with theory, of course there were some very convoluted readings. I enjoyed a lot of them.
The readings were generally interesting but sometimes a bit much to handle.

**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 was AMAZING. Super prepared, extremely smart, and very invested, this was easily my favorite precept at Princeton. Discussions were lively and interesting and Tolya made sure we got the important information. He was extremely invested in us as students. Thank you Tolya for an awesome semester!
Toyla is the best preceptor that I have had. He puts so much effort into teaching and is a very smart man. The way he makes himself available whenever and clearly enjoys teaching is great. It was a pleasure to take this class with Bass and Tolya.
Absolutely amazing and wonderful preceptor, I have not met a better one yet.
Tolya is an excellent preceptor, and very kind.
I could talk for days about how phenomenal of a preceptor Tolya is. Especially in the review sessions and in the questions raised during precept, I think Tolya did a good job encouraging participation, etc.
Tolya is the best preceptor I've ever had. I hope he writes his dissertation soon so he can become a professor. The most engaged preceptor one could ask for. He so actively wanted us to learn the material, and often lectured on things beyond the scope of the course. Was sufficiently motivated enough to structure the theoretical material for us as well, which could be difficult to grasp. Fantastic. Beyond fantastic.
Easily the best preceptor at Princeton. Dedicated, engaged, and goes out of his way to help his students. Really remarkable and unlike any other I have seen. Always looking to get better and actively seeks feedback. Tolya is a model preceptor.
Tolya is an excellent preceptor. Very good and consist conveying important information. He was always willing to meet after class to discuss difficult content or just mull over a particularly serious lesson.
The best preceptor I've ever had. Not only was he an expert in clarifying the more confusing aspects of the lectures and readings, but he was also an expert in facilitating discussion and encouraging us to articulate our own perspectives. With him leading precept, I had the confidence to voice my opinions and expose my vulnerabilities.
Tolya was the best preceptor ever, very dedicated.

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

Comments
Great course
Excellent.
One of the best classes I've taken yet!
Great course.
This course is a fantastic survey in genocide and trials. Would recommend. less reading.
A fantastic course, it offered quality readings, lecturers and precepts. The only negative I can say has to do with the work load which airs on the impossible side at times. But if you prioritize, that shouldn't be a problem.
Just an incredible course overall. As an only criticism, I would recommend trimming down the reading load during the mid-term quiz week, only because the readings that seemed to be among the most important ones and the class, and from what I observed in my precept, very few people had time to complete these readings in addition to studying for the quiz.
This class was pretty fun, definitely worth taking.

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

Comments
Take this class! Manageable workload for non-majors and extremely interesting material.
Must take it. Best course I have taken. Bass is an excellent lecturer. Try and get Tolya as a preceptor.
Definitely take it, it'll open your mind
Take this course! Although it's not an easy course, it's taught very well and shapes your thinking.
This course is SO worth taking, there are events in our atrocities recent history that I did not know about and shocking that I knew nothing about. Bass is an amazing lecturer, really hilarious, and the readings (with the exception of some of the theoretical ones) are all super interesting. POL380 was probably one of my favourite courses this year.
Take it. You won't be able to do all of the reading. Take it anyway. Important material by people who care and know what they're talking about.
Take this course. It's a lot of work, but very worthwhile.
Take it! Professor Bass will enlighten you in so many ways. Having taken this course after POL 240, which seemed to skew toward the realist school of IR theory, this course revived my hope in the liberal school. Attend all the lectures; they're the reason you take this course. Professor Bass is an incredibly knowledgeable and passionate speaker. You won't be disappointed.
I would recommend taking this class, especially if you are in the POL department. I took it as an underclassmen, and I feel like I could have gotten more out of it if I had waited to take it. With that being said, I really enjoyed the class and I felt like I learned a lot.
This class was pretty fun, worth taking. A good amount of work, but manageable.

## POL 380: Human Rights - P08 - Tolya Levshin

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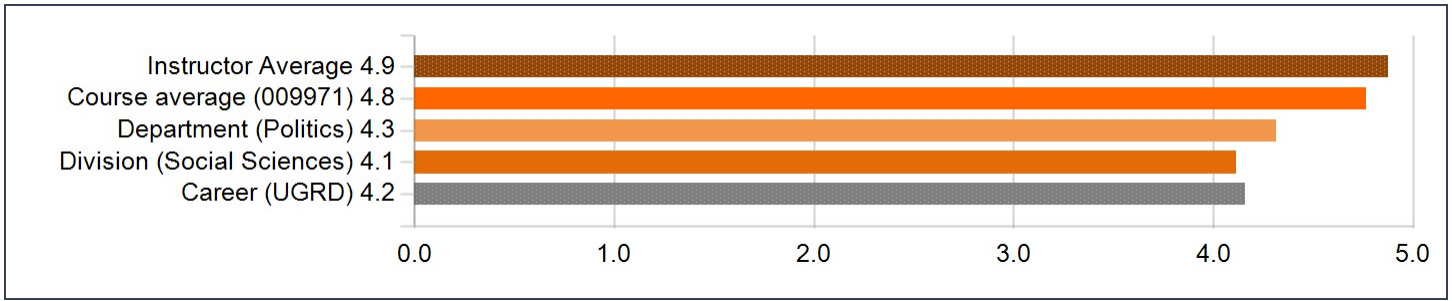
### Course Questions - Score Analysis



	Resp%	Invited	Resp
I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:	78 %	9	7
I think that the overall quality of the readings was:	89 %	9	8
I think that the overall quality of the course was:	89 %	9	8



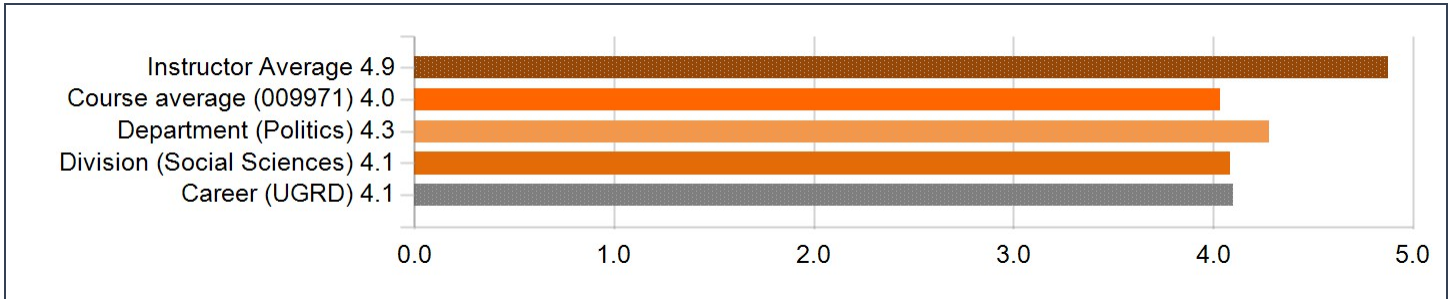
### Would you recommend this course to other students?



Resp%	Invited	Resp
89 %	9	8

### Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

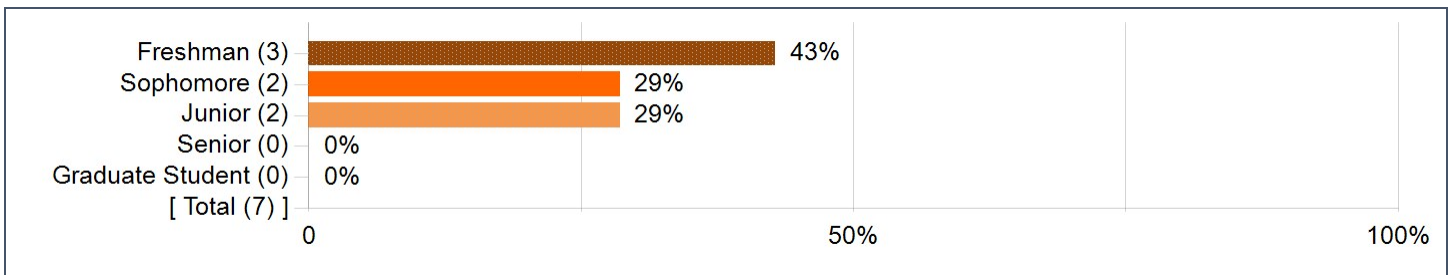
I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



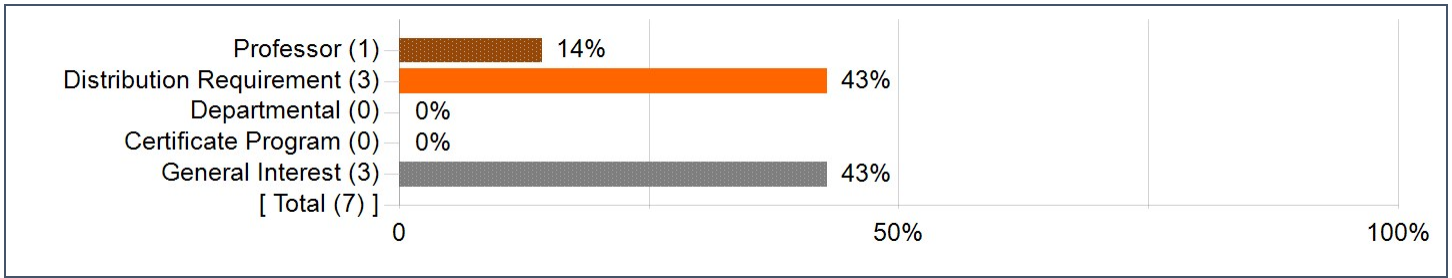
Resp%	Invited	Resp
89 %	9	8

### Course Questions - Frequency Analysis

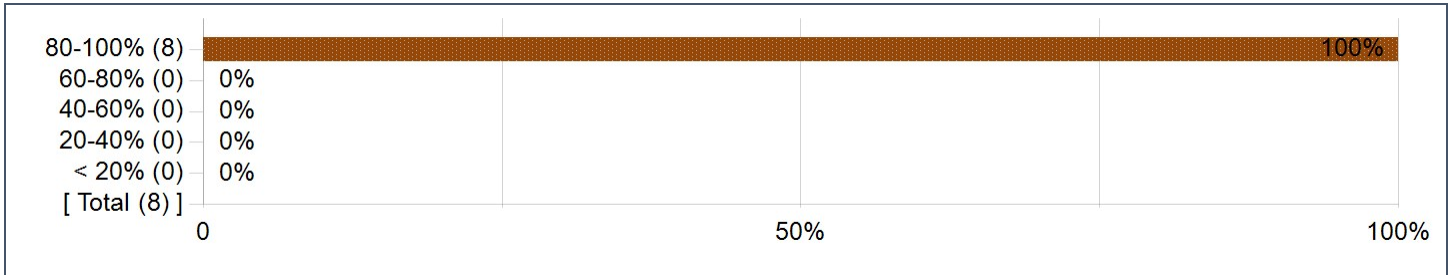
Class Year



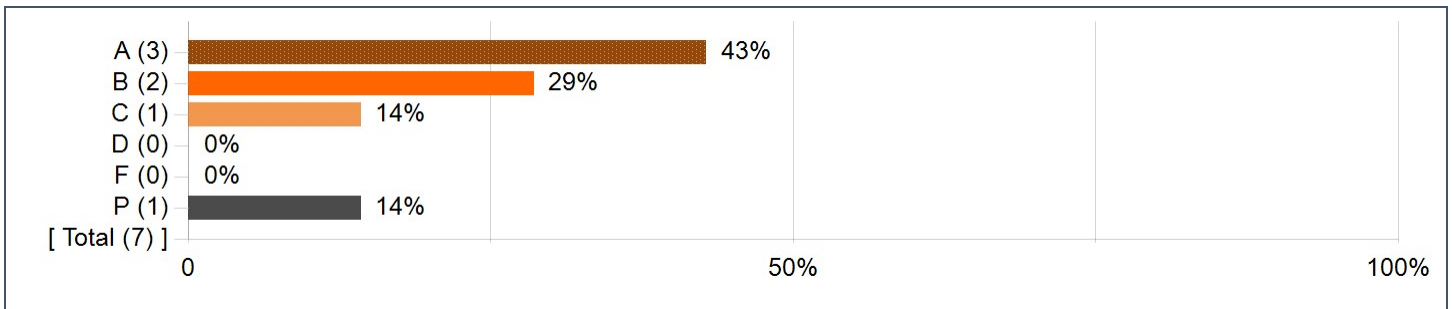
### Primary reason for taking this course



### Percentage of classes you have attended



### Expected grade



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

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	3	43%
Very Good	4	3	43%
Good	3	1	14%
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	3	38%
Very Good	4	5	63%
Good	3	0	0%
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	8	100%
Very Good	4	0	0%
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	7	88%
Recommend	4	1	13%
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	7	88%
Very Good	4	1	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
I took this course because I needed an SA and a friend recommended Professor Bass' lectures to me. I did not expect this course to be as engaging as it was. In fact I expected the course to be easy and boring, even a light-weight. I am happy to say I was completely and utterly wrong. This has been one of my favorite courses at Princeton: both historically, politically, philosophically, and morally rigorous. Absolutely should be cross listed with history, probably even moral philosophy. Another title might be "Practical Ethics in the 20th century."
I'm interested in Human Rights (my focus in the Wilson School) and this course was recommended to me by my advisor
Seeking an SA and this course was the most interesting out of those available.
Interested way to get the SA requirement (I vowed not to take an econ class)
I took this course because I am very interested in human rights, and as a departmental requirement. I thought the content of the course was both thought-provoking and incredibly interesting.
I was engaged in the material and the lectures but gradually stopped doing the readings as it was too hard to keep up

### 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
The paper, midterm, and final were all very straightforward. Enjoyable to study for and the range of questions was humbling and actually challenged me to try and fully master the material. There is a TON of material for this class, but it is all more than worthwhile.
I would have appreciated more guidance on the midterm and final, e.g. knowing that for a four point question you needed four separate points and knowing ahead of time that you couldn't reuse cases for the two essays on the final. That said, I really enjoyed writing the term paper and I think it was a good time in the semester to do so.
Paper was hard but interesting. Midterm was a memory test and the final was somewhere in between the two.
There was only one paper in the class. It was very open ended and the assignment itself was fine. My only wish was that it either came earlier or that the grade for it came out sooner. I still have no idea where I stand in the class, and whether or not I'm going to regret not PDFing the course. The midterm exam was fine. My only complaint is Professor Bass' love of having trick questions that are purposely meant to be hard so that only a few people will get them.
The paper was difficult but my preceptor provided the relevant guidance
The paper was well prompted and achieved its objective of having us learn much about one subject while applying the themes from the course.

**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
Again, wonderful readings, probably my favorite readings for any class outside of the HUM Sequence. All felt deeply relevant - we were offered basically a Greatest Hits list of human rights political theory and papers from the past few decades. Some of the primary documents of dissidents from across the world were incredibly moving and painful to read. Also important that we be aware of the history of trauma and resilience that has silently shaped so much of the modern world.
Loved most of the readings, but the sheer amount was impenetrable most weeks. I think this course would benefit from fewer readings (some weeks they were fairly similar from piece to piece) so that we could go more in depth in precept. Alternatively, this would be a great seminar class.
No visuals: only a blackboard. I love that lecturing style. Readings were always good but there were a lot of them. I did not do them all...
I really enjoyed the book readings. I will be finishing some of the books on my own time because of how well-written they were. The Blood Telegram, Endgame, and so on were amazing books. However, some of the articles seemed repetitive of other articles and books assigned for the same lecture. I did not think those readings added very much.
The readings were too much but very engaging
Readings were generally very interesting and evocative at times.

**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
I am so, so, so, so lucky to have been in the precept I was in. Not only were my classmates thoughtful and engaging, but Tolya was a model preceptor. I cannot emphasize enough how above and beyond he went in his commitment to his students. His help in moderating classroom discussions and synthesizing material was second only to his genuine enthusiasm to meet with students and help them understand / engage with the course. He also has an absurdly wide-ranging understanding of the moral philosophy and statistical evidence and historical background to everything we covered in class. Truly an impressive preceptor.
I LOVED Tolya as my preceptor, as did everyone (even people not in Tolya's precept). This was one of the most enjoyable precepts of my Princeton career and I'm so glad that it happened to align with my interests and major!
Tolya was also extremely knowledgeable about the material but was an expert at putting things into perspective, pivoting orientations, and addressing misunderstandings. He was very generous with his time and was obviously committed to the course.
Hands down best preceptor I've ever had
Tolya gave the most effort of any preceptor I've ever had. At times he put in too much time and Gary Bass would tell him it was of unfair advantage to us, particularly the time he tried to hold weekly discussions about current affairs.
Tolya was an amazing preceptor. The amount of sheer effort he put in to help us succeed in the class was astounding. Although some of these efforts were unable to come to fruition, I'm incredibly appreciative of the study sessions and personal meetings he was willing to give, especially as he had his own affairs to worry about. In precept, he did a wonderful job in starting discussion. They were always lively. In all, Tolya was hands down the best preceptor I've had at Princeton so far.
Great preceptor! I felt lost in some precepts since most of them were discussions/debates and the material was all very new to me. Nevertheless I do think I learned from them and was engaged.
Tolya is an excellent and truly dedicated preceptor whose interest in the subject he teaches is only equaled by his will to have his students succeed.

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

Comments
Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful course. Feel so grateful to have been in it. Course might be improved by making everyone take it?
Very interested, very well taught
The overall content of the course was great. I learned so much and came out of it incredibly appreciative of the new perspective it gave me. I wish to pursue some sort of future in the realm of international justice, intervention, and human rights. That being said, I feel that some of the logistics of the class could be improved.
Great course. I think the readings are too much but I like the topics covered and the style of the syllabus/teaching
One of the best courses I probably will take at Princeton.

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

Comments
Incredible course. Professor Bass is a phenomenal lecturer, the best I have had at Princeton, and the material will floor you. Not a lightweight class - which is what I expected when I signed up. Morally demanding, philosophically complex, historically wide-ranging. Extremely impressed not just with lectures but with the readings. I now also look at the modern political landscape much differently. A must for all interested in being a contributing member of the human community.
I had no experience with Politics or the Politics dept before taking this class. If you're on the fence for a similar reason, I recommend this class. The lectures are extremely helpful in sifting through the readings, and the only main assignment in the course is a research paper, which you can receive help on if you start early.
I great way to fulfill an SA and gives you context for your Princeton experience in terms of global duty
Do the readings! Also, be sure that you pay attention to current global affairs and world leaders. Overall, Professor Bass is a great lecturer and honestly, this course can give you such a different perspective on international affairs. It will either make you cynical as hell or an inspired idealist.
A lot of reading and was difficult for me to jump in without any pre-knowledge about the topics. Having said that it is a brilliant course and Professor Bass is such a talented lecturer!
This will be one of the best courses you take at Princeton. Professor Bass is an amazing lecturer and professor, the readings are interesting, and the one term paper is actually extremely fun to write.