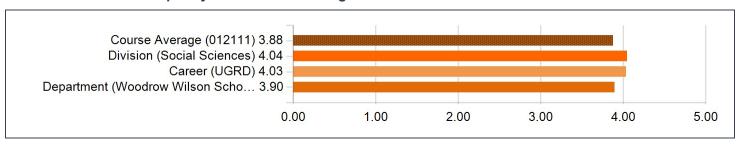
WWS 315: Grand Strategy - P04 - T. Levshin

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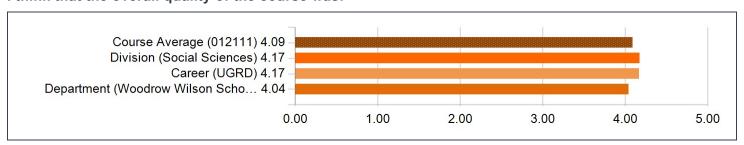
Course Questions - Score Analysis

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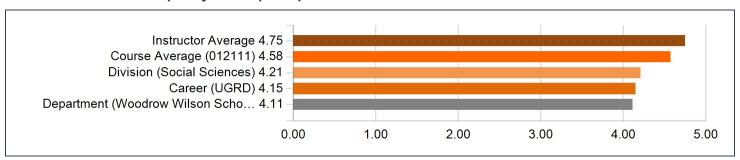


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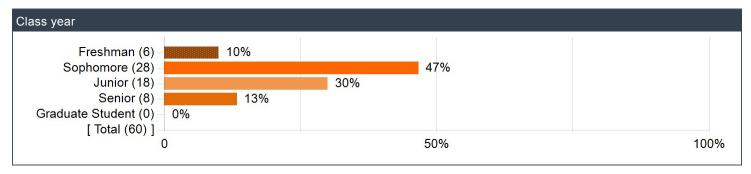


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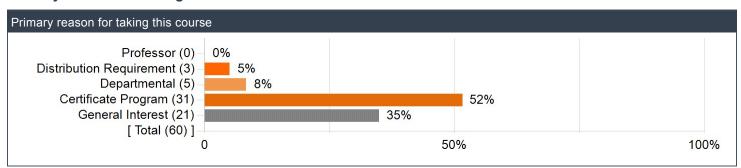


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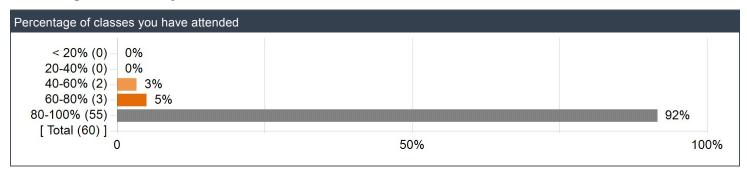
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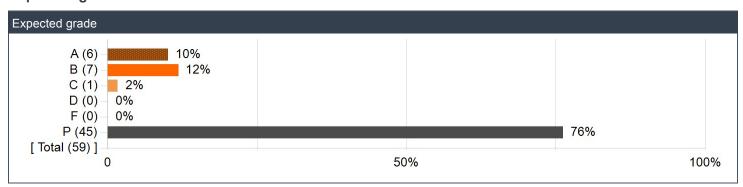
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Percentage of classes you have attended



Expected grade



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Comments

History and Practice of Diplomacy certificate.

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I took this course for the challenge and content of the material, the quality of Profs. Friedberg and Ikenberry.

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High expectations...

There was ample preparation for exams, and the research paper was rewarding but difficult to write off–campus (perhaps the professors could have considered assigning a course–material based paper). Helpful comments all around.

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

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Ok

Foundational texts, important to read and analyze regardless of your politics

THE BEST PART OF THE COURSE—The readings were fantastic.

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There were way too many readings that are not really manageable to do by yourself, but in general they were stimulating works that were applicable to what we were learning.

fine

Readings were often exhaustive but extremely informative and relevant to the course.

Very interesting lectures and material.

Very informative readings!

Really amazing readings for this course. There were a lot of them, so I'd recommend cutting them down if possible.

I have never read so much for any Princeton course. I'm so grateful to have read, and I think there are sections of longer books (Thucydides, for example) that are overkill.

I thought that the readings were are at times dense and we did not circle back to them later on. Although I did enjoy how we had both contemporary writings and modern interpretations.

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Readings were the highlight of the course. I really enjoyed the mixture of primary and secondary sources and felt like the vast majority of what we read was very valuable.

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Primary readings were cornerstone readings for the genre supplemented by interesting/contextualizing secondary sources. Definitely helpful for providing background and making one think/engage with the source material.

There was a lot of reading, but much of it was very interesting.

The powerpoints were fine nothing breathtaking. But the readings were very useful and covered a wide variety of topics.

Fantastic reading list

I really enjoyed the readings in this course.

The readings varied greatly in their usefulness. Lots of them seemed like unnecessary wastes of time. I did love reading The Prince, Art of War, Thucydides, etc. I wish that a fewer selection of readings were chosen and a deeper dive was done on them.

The readings could, I think, have been improved. I think I would have gotten more out of them if they had been smaller and more direct, instead of being broad and as numerous at they were.

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Readings were numerous but all felt important to the concepts we had to learn. They gave great insight into grand strategy across time and various perspectives to the same topics, allowing students to develop their own thought.

Lot's of readings, but interesting! I feel like if there were less readings though, it would not have detracted from the quality of the course.

The best and the most readings of any course I've ever had. The readings are the real meat of the course, which is odd until it's considered that we read Thucydides, Sun Tzu, Machiavelli, Clausewitz, and great theorists like Paul Kennedy, Gaddis, and our own professors. There is SO much content to absorb.

Great readings, though there were a ton. I aim to actually read these over the summer.

Precepts - 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 came out of my first precept with Tolya just short of awestruck, and texted my friend who had precept with him later in the day praising him immediately – we both thought it was the best precept we'd ever had. Tolya packs in so much information, all of which is relevant, enduringly helpful, and makes the slow lectures of the profs much more clear. He "encouraged student participation" to the point where I wanted to read the readings not just because they were interesting, but because Tolya would be otherwise disappointed and I wanted to glean as much from his knowledge–packed precepts as possible. A+ in all question areas for Tolya; I respect him immensely and wish we were friends. (Also congrats on the new job, Tolya.)

Tolya is a fantastic preceptor. He is incredibly knowledgeable and wants to help his students as much as possible.

Tolya is one of the smartest people I've ever encountered and every precept seemed more engaging and eye—opening than the last Toyla is the best preceptor I've ever had at Princeton. Y'all need to give this man a bonus or something. My understanding went up 5x through each precept.

Tolya was one of the best preceptors I've ever had. He challenged us but was able to support us. You can tell he is genuinely interested in the course/material and it shines through.

Levshin was amazing. Always able to break down the concepts in the class and facilitated great discussions

Tolya is perhaps the only good thing about this course. The preceptors shouldered a lot of responsibility in this course and deserve far more recognition.

The precepts were awesome. Tolya is extremely knowledgeable and is very dedicated to helping students to succeed in this class, and to gain fundamental understanding of the concepts that are touched upon.

Tolya was an incredible preceptor! Tolya managed to facilitate thought-provoking discussions every week (even over Zoom)

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

Comments

The course should have less readings because no student is reading 250 pages of reading per week when they have at least three other classes. A smaller number of pages will allow for better discussion since students will have actually read the material.

It was good as is

Great!

I was very much enjoying the course until we were sent home in the spring. As soon as this happened the professors cut off all contact and made the course Pass Fail Only. This was immensely frustrating and felt as if none of my hard work in the course really mattered anymore. Lost a lot of respect for the professors and lost a lot of motivation in my coursework

It was a really well taught and well run class! The lectures stayed good even when they were just recordings, and precept was still very engaging. The exams were fair.

good course to much repetition of history though.

This course was extremely interesting and covered a variety of topics—very true to course description.

Good course but quite difficult.

Very good course; just lots of work!

Many courses can be a little flat in the last few weeks. This one is unique in that it gets more interesting up to week 12.

I enjoyed the course although it was guite challenging.

Overall, I learned a lot from this class and I'm very glad I took it

Good course. Given how many years the course covers, there should be less reading every week. It is also hard for me to give a relevant answer to this question given that we were remote and P/D/F only.

It would be helpful if the students knew which readings were more important.

The course is amazing and it was my favorite class of the semester!

This was an excellent course. Readings, lectures, and precepts built on each other in a way that made me learn a lot every week. If I have one small critique about the content of the course, it was that we did not pay much attention to the grand strategies of states that are not great powers. While it obviously makes sense historically to spend a long time discussing the great powers of every era, it also would've been interesting to consider how states with less power position themselves in international politics.

Overall, one of the best courses I've taken. I think the class was handled as best as possible given covid and the online format.

I really hope that in the future, the course could incorporate more non-western history and grand strategy reviews. It did make me feel weird spending two whole weeks on the United States, and neglecting to really talk about the dark sides of U.S. and British grand strategy. Overall, the course was fine, but it would be more interesting to really talk about things outside just the "west." The week on Sun Tzu and China's grand strategy was extremely interesting because it was something I've never discussed in my other classes, but all the other units really seemed focus solely on Europe and the United States.

This is a very well polished course. The one thing I would say is maybe a little too much reading.

This course does a good job of covering a large chunk of history and connecting them through the lens of grand strategy.

The synergy between the lectures and precepts was amazing but maybe having a smaller writing assignment somewhere in the course would've made writing the final easier.

Nothing worked particularly well. This course seems designed to make students as stressed as possible because they know they'll have the numbers every year because of HPD.

I think the only thing that could be changed about this course was how the readings were structured.

really liked this class loved the topic and it was challenging but taught so well and I learned so much!

As of now, I cannot think of any points of improvement for the course, from discussion questions on blackboard to consistent updates from Tolya and Ayumi were helpful in keeping me informed among the Coronavirus situation. Professors adapted well and allowed me to learn whether it be with their in–person lectures or recorded ones.

I had to put the most effort into this class, and will probably end up with the lowest grade of all my classes, but that being said I enjoyed the challenge and felt like I learned a lot. I really like the lecture style of the profs, and precept really pushes you to understand the details that aren't covered in lecture.

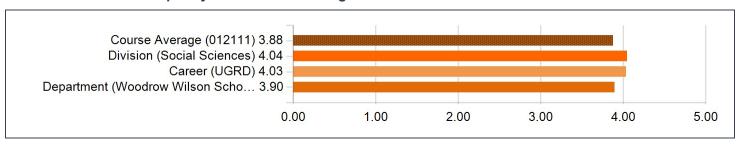
A phenomenal course. The real jewel of the course is the reading, and the lectures give helpful frameworks for taking away what's important. Overall, a wonderful historical sweep (could stand alone as a history of the western world/diplomacy) with important theoretical takeaways that transcend time and apply today.

WWS 315: Grand Strategy - P05 - T. Levshin

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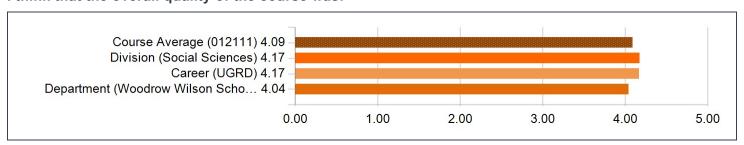
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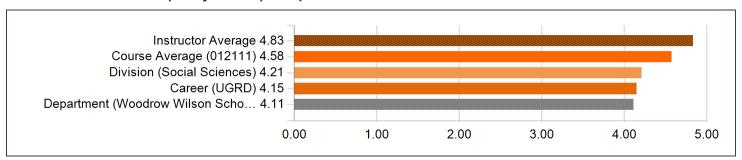


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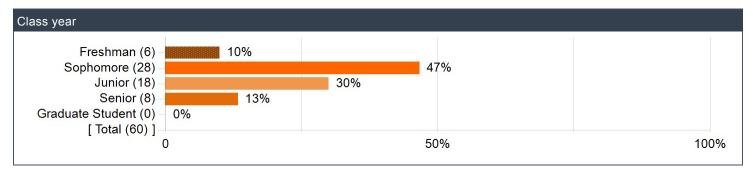


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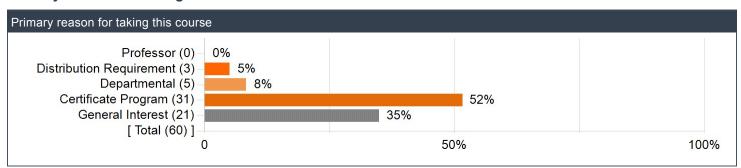


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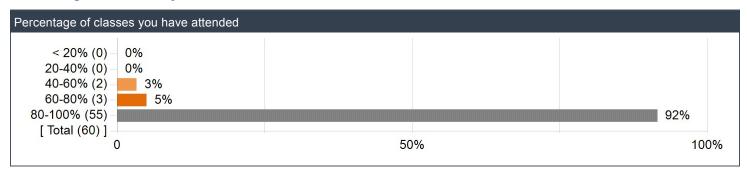
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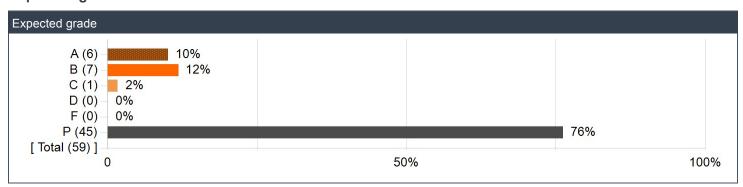
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Comments

Tolya is very engaging.

Excellent preceptor—I only wish that the class was 90 minutes instead of an hour. This is where I learned most of the material.

AMAZING! did such a great job at making all the points very clearly and I have never met anyone with a better vocabulary. wrote such nice emails and was really thoughtful when meeting with every individual student

Tolya knows everything! Very knowledgeable and passionate

I have been in probably 15–16 precepts during my time at Princeton. Tolya was the best preceptor I've ever had. He is incredibly smart and did a fantastic job of explaining a sometimes dense and confusing class while building off of the material to promote understanding and also engaging the precept. It sometimes felt like a third collaborative lecture on readings which made it super fun to learn.

Tolya definitely knows a lot and is super passionate about grand strategy, but sometimes that makes it hard for people like me who don't spend their free time reading Plato to understand concepts / what is important. I think it's easy to feel overwhelmed in precept? Sometimes he will ask questions and I can't even comprehend what he just said. That being said though, I enjoyed precept and definitely had to prepare a lot before class and felt challenged every precept.

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

Comments

The course should have less readings because no student is reading 250 pages of reading per week when they have at least three other classes. A smaller number of pages will allow for better discussion since students will have actually read the material.

It was good as is

Great!

I was very much enjoying the course until we were sent home in the spring. As soon as this happened the professors cut off all contact and made the course Pass Fail Only. This was immensely frustrating and felt as if none of my hard work in the course really mattered anymore. Lost a lot of respect for the professors and lost a lot of motivation in my coursework

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This course was extremely interesting and covered a variety of topics—very true to course description.

Good course but quite difficult.

Very good course; just lots of work!

Many courses can be a little flat in the last few weeks. This one is unique in that it gets more interesting up to week 12.

I enjoyed the course although it was guite challenging.

Overall, I learned a lot from this class and I'm very glad I took it

Good course. Given how many years the course covers, there should be less reading every week. It is also hard for me to give a relevant answer to this question given that we were remote and P/D/F only.

It would be helpful if the students knew which readings were more important.

The course is amazing and it was my favorite class of the semester!

This was an excellent course. Readings, lectures, and precepts built on each other in a way that made me learn a lot every week. If I have one small critique about the content of the course, it was that we did not pay much attention to the grand strategies of states that are not great powers. While it obviously makes sense historically to spend a long time discussing the great powers of every era, it also would've been interesting to consider how states with less power position themselves in international politics.

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Nothing worked particularly well. This course seems designed to make students as stressed as possible because they know they'll have the numbers every year because of HPD.

I think the only thing that could be changed about this course was how the readings were structured.

really liked this class loved the topic and it was challenging but taught so well and I learned so much!

As of now, I cannot think of any points of improvement for the course, from discussion questions on blackboard to consistent updates from Tolya and Ayumi were helpful in keeping me informed among the Coronavirus situation. Professors adapted well and allowed me to learn whether it be with their in–person lectures or recorded ones.

I had to put the most effort into this class, and will probably end up with the lowest grade of all my classes, but that being said I enjoyed the challenge and felt like I learned a lot. I really like the lecture style of the profs, and precept really pushes you to understand the details that aren't covered in lecture.

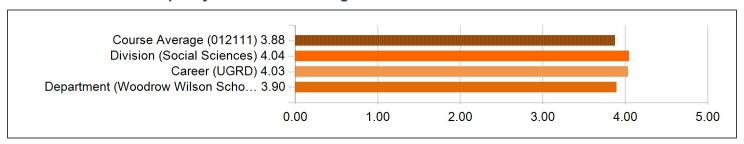
A phenomenal course. The real jewel of the course is the reading, and the lectures give helpful frameworks for taking away what's important. Overall, a wonderful historical sweep (could stand alone as a history of the western world/diplomacy) with important theoretical takeaways that transcend time and apply today.

WWS 315: Grand Strategy - P06 - T. Levshin

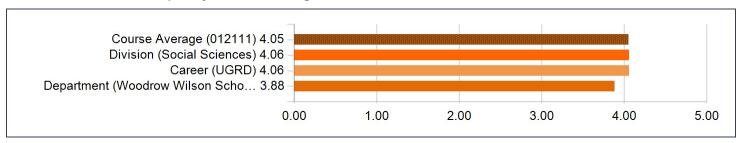
Department, division and career level statistics are survey-specific (i.e. the main survey, FRS, Writing Program, and graduate program surveys). Statistics below are based on responses of the course population that completed the same survey questionnaire as this course.

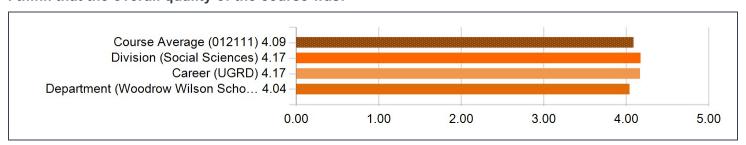
Course Questions - Score Analysis

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

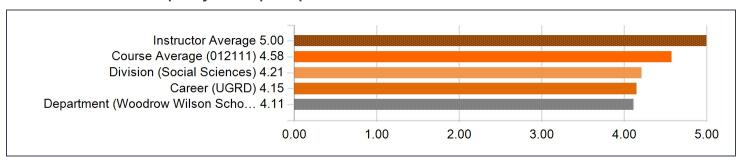


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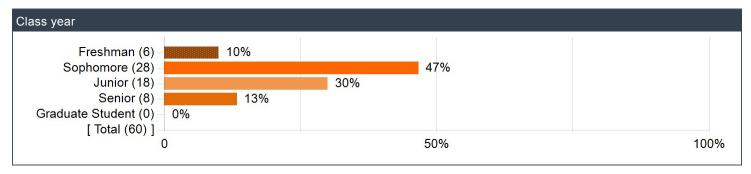


Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

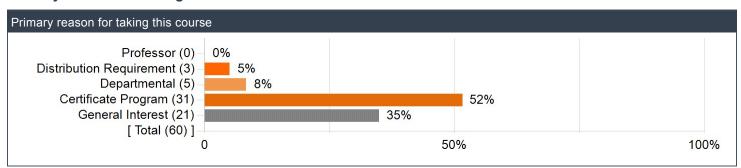


Course Questions - Frequency Analysis

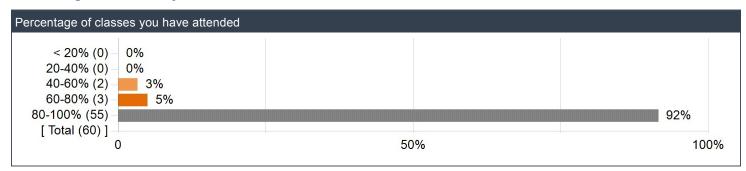
Class year



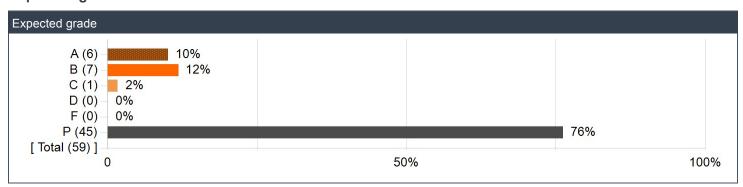
Primary reason for taking this course



Percentage of classes you have attended



Expected grade



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

I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	21	36%
Very Good	4	17	29%
Good	3	14	24%
Fair	2	4	7%
Poor	1	2	3%

I think that the overall quality of the readings was:

I think that the overall quality of the readings was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	26	44%
Very Good	4	17	29%
Good	3	11	19%
Fair	2	3	5%
Poor	1	2	3%

I think that the overall quality of the course was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	25	43%
Very Good	4	20	34%
Good	3	7	12%
Fair	2	5	9%
Poor	1	1	2%

Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	1	100%
Very Good	4	0	0%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Qualitative Feedback

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

Comments

History and Practice of Diplomacy certificate.

Interest

It is the required course for HPD

I took this course because I am interested in Grand Strategy and security studies. Very engaged.

heard very good things about it

Took it for the HPD certificate. Even though it went pass fail, I did most of the readings and watched every lecture.

Core course for the HIstory and the Practice of Diplomacy Certificate

i was interested

General interest and HPD certificate. I was very engaged as I enjoyed the topics and found the readings interesting.

Interest. Good performance before virus.

Core requirement for History and Practice of Diplomacy

For the History and Practice of Diplomacy Certificate

This was the course that I most wanted to take before I graduated. It was the class I sat in on when I visited Princeton as a highschooler.

I found myself thinking about this course often in my free time (an indicator of engagement).

I enjoyed taking this course. I plan to major in the Woodrow Wilson School, and Professor Ikenberry is my academic advisor, so I was interested!

I took this class because I had never taken a policy class before and wanted to learn more about grand strategy as a whole

Departmental

Took this class out of interest in the subject and hearing good things about it.

I would say I was very engaged the first half, but much less so after break.

I took it mostly because of general interest, but I also took it for the History and Practice of Diplomacy.

I took the course because it was recommended to me and I have always been interestedd in international relations. I was very engaged in the course.

It seemed awesome

I took this course out of interest and was wholly engaged.

I took this course as I was very interested in the inner workings of grand strategy.

I took this course because I was interested in the topic. I was fairly engaged, though I was not always able to finish the reading.

I took this course because it sounded interesting and I was engaged throughout the entire course.

I took this course out of interest and was very engaged!

I took this course because it is required for the HPD certificate. I attended every lecture and precept and did the majority of the readings.

I took this class out of interest, but struggled to stay engaged with the (dense and intensive) readings.

took this class for the HPD certificate requirement and was very engaged because it was also a topic that greatly interested me

I took this course due to it being the only course requirement of the History and Practice of Diplomacy certificate, but as it went on I found myself more and more interested by the course. I felt very engaged and pushed to think and provide my own personal insight in the course, which I appreciate.

Seemed pretty interesting!

I took this course for the challenge and content of the material, the quality of Profs. Friedberg and Ikenberry.

Subject matter and certificate.

Papers, Reports, Problem Sets, Examinations, Critiques - 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, problem sets, and critiques to the course.

Comments

Reasonable

It was a treat to get to do my own research on grand strategy—I should have started the paper sooner though!

exams were clear and contained no surprises. openness of paper choices was also nice

The final essay was a fun culmination to a semester's learning about Grand Strategy.

the final was kind of of pointless

The paper was useful as an exercise into grand strategy, but it was severely impacted by a move to online coursework with a lack of access to resources.

Didn't always feel the exams were directly related to the lectures.

There was honestly just too much work for this course; do choose between a term paper and a final exam, not both

If anything, I should've spent more time talking with my preceptor about the term paper. His feedback was quite helpful.

I thought that the paper was an interesting way to explore a topic of our choosing.

The exams were fair and I think pushed us to develop solid frames of thinking on this topic

Papers were interesting and allowed us to pursue interesting topics.

The paper was fair, not much guidance but no problem with that.

The paper was really fun to do, especially because we got to choose our own topics!

Exams were fair, especially given the breadth of material covered. I like that they focused more on key themes and more significant concepts instead of testing memorization of minute details. The only writing assignment was the paper.

Papers were interesting and comments were thorough. Exams were classic IDs and essays.

The one large paper has not yet been graded, but Ayumi offered excellent feedback to our proposals.

The written work always came back with comments and the preceptors were always willing to help discuss.

Virtually no guidance from the professors when it came to the term paper and only a little bit for the midterm and the final. The professors were reluctant to give us any sort of relief when the world was crashing down around us on midterms week. I'll never forget the "we're technically allowed to make you come in and take the midterm in–person" email. Overall, the professors were extremely disconnected from the students and honestly didn't seem to care.

Tolya presented us with a good amount of preparation for the paper and managed to persuade the program to let us do study sessions, which was very useful.

instructors were accessible and the review sessions were especially helpful in preparing for the exams, I enjoyed doing the paper and the exams were also fair in content and grading

The midterm and final were representative of the concepts covered in the course. They did not throw unnecessary "curveballs" at the students and the writing in them promoted students to truly reflect on the readings and provide insight on the trends seen in grand strategic thought over time. The final paper was a great opportunity for me to pursue a topic of interest and truly apply what I had learned in the course.

High expectations...

There was ample preparation for exams, and the research paper was rewarding but difficult to write off–campus (perhaps the professors could have considered assigning a course–material based paper). Helpful comments all around.

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

Comments

Readings were too long.

Ok

Foundational texts, important to read and analyze regardless of your politics

THE BEST PART OF THE COURSE—The readings were fantastic.

so many readings that were just not necessary

There were way too many readings that are not really manageable to do by yourself, but in general they were stimulating works that were applicable to what we were learning.

fine

Readings were often exhaustive but extremely informative and relevant to the course.

Very interesting lectures and material.

Very informative readings!

Really amazing readings for this course. There were a lot of them, so I'd recommend cutting them down if possible.

I have never read so much for any Princeton course. I'm so grateful to have read, and I think there are sections of longer books (Thucydides, for example) that are overkill.

I thought that the readings were are at times dense and we did not circle back to them later on. Although I did enjoy how we had both contemporary writings and modern interpretations.

The readings, while long, were very informative.

Too much reading for what was necessary for the course or realistic for a student. It was unfair for the professors to expect us to purchase so many books.

The readings were interesting but there were a lot of them. Basically to the point of asking why is there so much, some parts of the readings were not that helpful when I could draw the key points from three sentences. I would suggest giving the students some idea of which readings are most important.

The readings were really interesting and it was easy to keep up with the syllabus.

Readings were the highlight of the course. I really enjoyed the mixture of primary and secondary sources and felt like the vast majority of what we read was very valuable.

A little much but all good stuff

Primary readings were cornerstone readings for the genre supplemented by interesting/contextualizing secondary sources. Definitely helpful for providing background and making one think/engage with the source material.

There was a lot of reading, but much of it was very interesting.

The powerpoints were fine nothing breathtaking. But the readings were very useful and covered a wide variety of topics.

Fantastic reading list

I really enjoyed the readings in this course.

The readings varied greatly in their usefulness. Lots of them seemed like unnecessary wastes of time. I did love reading The Prince, Art of War, Thucydides, etc. I wish that a fewer selection of readings were chosen and a deeper dive was done on them.

The readings could, I think, have been improved. I think I would have gotten more out of them if they had been smaller and more direct, instead of being broad and as numerous at they were.

readings were lengthy but material was interesting, I appreciated that the instructors and preceptors drew out the key points in the readings in lectures and precepts

Readings were numerous but all felt important to the concepts we had to learn. They gave great insight into grand strategy across time and various perspectives to the same topics, allowing students to develop their own thought.

Lot's of readings, but interesting! I feel like if there were less readings though, it would not have detracted from the quality of the course.

The best and the most readings of any course I've ever had. The readings are the real meat of the course, which is odd until it's considered that we read Thucydides, Sun Tzu, Machiavelli, Clausewitz, and great theorists like Paul Kennedy, Gaddis, and our own professors. There is SO much content to absorb.

Great readings, though there were a ton. I aim to actually read these over the summer.

Precepts - 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 EXTREMELY helpful and integral in my success in this course. He was accessible, knowledgeable, and organized. His precept was the best one I have attended at Princeton, despite it only having two other students.

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