

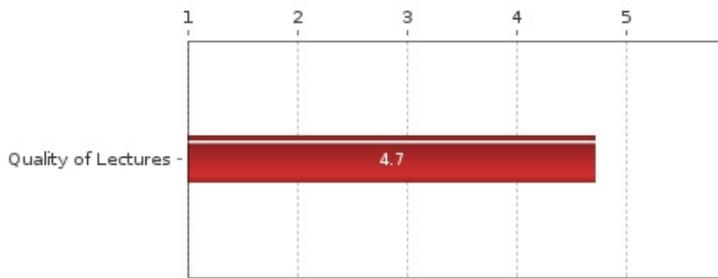
# Teaching Evaluation Summary (Spring 2016-2017)

# Ratings Summary

Instructor: **Eich, Stefan**  
 Subject: **POL**  
 Catalog & Section: **303, L01**

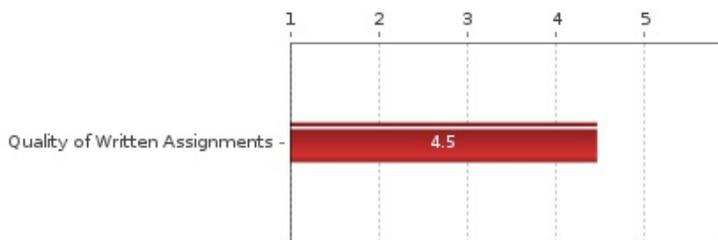
Course Title: **Modern Political Theory**  
 Enrollment: **42** Responses Incl Declines: **37**  
 (Declined: **8**)

## Lectures



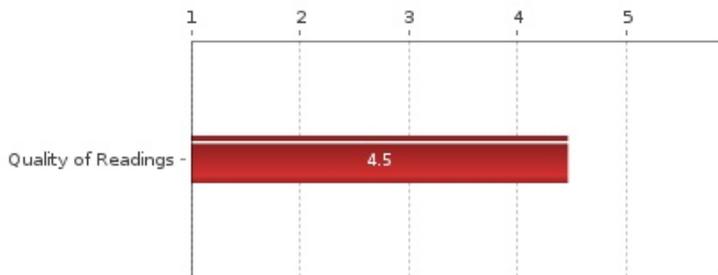
	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Std Dev	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Quality of Lectures	69%	4.7	5.0	0.7	25	1	2	1	0	0

## Papers, Reports, Problem Sets, Examinations



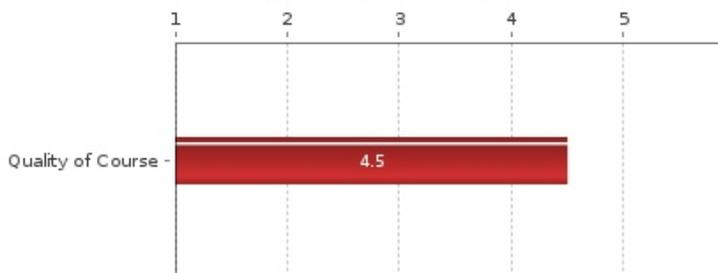
	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Std Dev	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Quality of Written Assignments	66%	4.5	4.5	0.6	14	13	1	0	0	0

## Readings



	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Std Dev	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Quality of Readings	66%	4.5	5.0	0.6	15	11	2	0	0	0

## Overall Quality of the Course



	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Std Dev	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Quality of Course	66%	4.5	5.0	0.7	17	8	3	0	0	0

## 1. Self-evaluation

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

- Departmental. I really liked this course and thought it was very engaging, straight from the first day, when Prof Eich asked us all to share about ourselves, even in a medium-sized lecture. That's not conventional!
- took it because I was unsure if I wanted to declare econ or woody woo. I also just thought it seemed interesting.
- I took this course to learn more about political theory. My level of engagement in this course was moderate.
- I took this course to fulfill a distribution requirement and out of general interest. I was mostly engaged, but readings became burdensome as the course went on.
- I took this course because the reading list looked absolutely fantastic, and it was. I was fully engaged with this course and the readings.
- I took this course because I am interested in possibly concentrating in the Politics department, so I wanted to expose myself to a politics class. Additionally, I had a genuine interest in studying the material and thinkers of this course.
- I wanted to develop my own political knowledge. I was pretty engaged: I did most of the readings and attended most classes.
- I took this course because I am in the political theory sub-field and the course books looked good. I had previously taken Introduction to Political Theory as a freshman and wanted to refresh my knowledge as a seasoned upper classman.
- I took this course because I wanted to read the cannon of political thinkers and I was fairly engaged in the class.
- I took this course out of general interest. I had a very high level of engagement in the course; I attended office hours every week and read recommended secondary sources.
- For my major. also enjoy theory.
- I am interested in studying political theory and I wanted to take the course to engage with some of the most important thinkers in the modern era.
- I like political theory. Very engaged
- high level of engagement.
- I've loved the politics courses that I've taken here so far, and this particular course had great reviews, so I decided to try it out. I absolutely loved the lectures and thought they were fantastic, and found the reading to be extremely dense, but interesting. The assignments were hard, but very engaging and definitely made you engage with the material.
- I think this course opened my eyes about political philosophy and I could begin to think more in depth about morality and related thinks.
- I took it because the reading list sounded really good.
- I wanted to read the books that were listed. I was very engaged in this course.
- I chose this course as a distribution requirement because it offered an introduction to and analysis of several key texts in the political theory canon. In this class brought out the best note taking I have displayed since coming to Princeton.
- There is a sense of progression in the course that kept me engaged each week.

## 2. Lectures - Stefan Eich

### How would you describe the overall quality of the lectures? Please comment, as appropriate, on how well the instructor presented the subject matter, stimulated your intellectual curiosity and independent thinking, and contributed to your knowledge of the subject matter.

- HOLY MOLY Prof Eich is SUCH a good lecturer honestly he's better than so many tenured faculty I've sat through.
- interesting lectures that were very helpful in interpreting the reading
- The lectures were very good.
- The lectures I think were a little too much placing the readings in history, and not enough explaining what the readings were. Further I think every lecture if I remember correctly, Professor Eich made great efforts to try and develop his own position against the prevailing theories. I thought that was unnecessary, I was interested in what the readings were saying, where the justification lay, and what others have developed from said theories. Also premises were biased at times to reinforce liberal students.
- The lectures were fantastic, and very helpful in thinking about the broader themes and intricacies of the arguments put forth in the texts.
- Lectures were consistently enlightening and well-taught. Professor Eich provided a considerable view and analysis of each thinker during lecture time and made the readings and texts of the course more digestible and comprehensible through his instruction. It was quite helpful to have his guidance early on in the course as we were becoming acquainted with the thinkers and style of political writing.

- The lectures were awesome! He did an awesome job of orienting us!
- Professor Eich's lectures were very compelling. I thought he synthesized the material well and one could tell that he was not just regurgitating information but had well formed thoughts on the material. I don't remember ever being bored in the lecture and I honestly liked that the class did not get taken over by student questions.
- Professor Eich was awesome; his lecturers were also engaging and interesting and taught the course content extremely well.
- Lectures were fascinating. They often offered perspectives on the text that accounted for historical context, related texts etc.
- very very good. my favorite politics class i have taken thus far.
- Professor Eich consistently presented novel and interesting approaches to the material. Although perhaps I would have additionally benefited by lectures formatted to discuss the main themes/ideas in the readings, Professor Eich's lecture style encouraged us to form unique conclusions and connections within and between texts.
- Prof. Eich is amazing.
- engaging lectures, interesting interpretations of the texts, but it would have been very useful if the lectures actually highlighted the most important/critical parts of each book we read, because the readings were so dense that it was hard to determine what we had to focus on.
- The lectures were fantastic. Professor Eich was always extremely well prepared, and made the lectures fascinating and engaging every time. He would tie in a great deal of outside historical context into the readings, which made them easier to engage with more fun to think about their broader context. He is definitely one of the best lecturers I've had.
- Great! He really took the time to answer questions and he presented the material really well. He also has the charisma necessary to make the students pay attention.
- I thought that lectures were not so great. Professor Eich many times would talk about what he thought about the readings. Because of the pace of the class, a book a week, I would have found it helpful to get summaries of what the authors said. Usually this didn't happen, and I didn't always find what Professor Eich had to say to be particularly interesting. However, he is a wonderful person and super approachable and I really appreciated that.
- He was the best lecturer I have had at Princeton. Incredibly knowledgeable, intelligent and articulate. He should teach philosophy as well.
- Fantastic, fantastic, fantastic. This includes lectures given by the preceptors!
- The lectures all gave really interesting information on the authors and clarified many parts of their arguments.
- Take this course! It was enlightening and worth the time! Professor Eich was great! Highly recommend this class.
- Great lecturer! I love that every lecture was structured like an argument. You are very clear and a powerful speaker. I also enjoyed the questions that you posed.
- He is a good lecturer, but the class moves too quickly through the texts that the lectures do not go into enough depth.

### **3. 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.**

- SO HELPFUL...more so than any other course I've taken in the department, seriously! Usually professors and preceptors won't look over your paper outlines with you and give you feedback before you work on your papers, but the POL303 people did, and were patient even I was clearly pretty lame at it.
- good comments on our essays, although it often took a long time for us to receive our grades
- The short thought pieces were very fun to write, but the longer essays were a bit of a drag.
- Written work was well structured and guided, if a bit harsh. I enjoyed the papers and writing responses to the readings.
- Both Dongxian and Professor Eich were always willing to meet during office hours to discuss my ideas/outlines for papers, as well as to discuss the readings in general.
- Professor Eich and my preceptor were both helpful in each writing assignment, providing us with advice, guidelines, and standard pointers for completing these assignments. And the comments that I would receive with each submission were helpful and constructive in completing the next written assignment.
- It wasn't too much, which was good, and I had no complaints.
- Professor Eich had a very thorough syllabus that explained just about all one needs to know about the papers, midterm and final. Was never confused. I thought the number of assignments were useful grade wise and helped cement the material. Incentivized me to read some of the authors more closely.
- The papers we wrote were pretty interesting and my preceptor was quick to respond to emails about the papers.
- Term paper questions pushed my knowledge of the course material. The final examinations were particularly interesting to consider.
- very good. helped me learn the material.
- Essays with good prompts.
- The papers were all difficult and harshly graded, but very engaging and thought-provoking. The assignments

really make you dive into the texts, and I found all of them very useful in terms of preparing for the final, as well as getting a better understanding of the material we were going over in class.

- The questions on the papers were very interesting. They forced us to think more in depth about the material and not only show knowledge but show our reason.
- I thought the papers were really good in helping me to analyze the authors that we were reading. It made me think, which is always good. I did get by, though, by writing about pretty specific things, so I never really had to write about the authors' main ideas.
- I loved writing these papers. Professor Eich and Dongxian were incredibly helpful and truly allowed me to think independently and explore with these assignments.
- Essays throughout the semester were engaging, meaningful and reasonable.
- Having multiple papers allowed for progression for my skills as a writer in the field of political theory.
- I really enjoyed writing papers for this course, but I think that the papers could have had more open topics. The analysis that the papers was not as in-depth as I would have liked it to be. I would have liked to make connections between books, but maybe the final will have this.

#### **4. 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?**

- Shout-out to Prof Eich's visuals/PowerPoints during lectures, and how well he navigated the tensions between historical analysis and political thought - loved his presentations, even if they were second-rate to his amazing oral deliveries (second-rate only because his speaking was so articulate.)
- lots of readings, which were important historical/political texts but were rather dry
- The readings were good because the professor pointed us to what passages to read in each texts rather than just assigning long pieces that would confuse us.
- The slide visuals were bland and long winded quotes lost interest. I appreciated Prof. Eich highlighted the important lines in block quotes, but often he would move too quickly off the quote. Readings were too much for an engineering student to keep up with, but this is a POL class I guess. Choosing selections from the readings was good as time went on, but perhaps a course packet could be assembled rather than have us buy 10 books. The expense adds up.
- The readings were awesome.
- One of the main things that drew me to this course was the extensive and endlessly fascinating reading list that spanned multiple centuries of venerated and foundation political thinkers and philosophers. I was genuinely interested to read each text from week to week, and I found this to be one of the best aspects of the course.
- The readings were really great, and I'm glad he made us read the books we read.
- The readings were good. I mean, they're political theory texts so either you like it or you don't. The amount of reading was not bad and Eich often told us which passages were most helpful if you could not read all of the assigned readings. Because I'm not a huge fan of DuBois I would have liked to see him replaced for another black theorist, but other than that it was fine. Enjoyed reading Marx in an academic setting.
- the readers were very good, but it was a lot.
- I enjoyed Dr. Eich's attempt to incorporate multimedia: Beethoven Eroica, Rousseau's musical compositions. The end of the course was very memorable.
- very manageable. did a great job not overwhelming us.
- It'd take some balls to say that canonical western political thought is anything less than excellent.
- The readings were all very dense and required a lot of time to read thoroughly, but were fascinating, thought provoking and provided great discussions in lectures and precepts. They were very deep and engaging and provided a great deal of material for students to get a lot out of.
- The readings were awesome. Great thinkers.
- Many of the readings are classic and I was very glad I read. However, some of the readings either weren't so relevant to political theory or just weren't as interesting/canonical. I didn't think Fichte was necessary, and the selections we read from Tocqueville didn't give me a good understanding of what he said. I also didn't think Adam Smith or Nietzsche were all that relevant.
- Amazing books and unique syllabus for a POL theory course reading so much philosophy, particularly continental philosophy.
- The readings occurred at a pace of around one text/author each week. While careful reading of the texts was strongly encouraged, this was complemented by lectures the featured in-depth analysis and contextualization of the texts.
- All of the readings were engaging. Each author presented interesting arguments and made me think about my own views.
- I loved the readings in the beginning and did not enjoy the readings at the end. I liked the political philosophy emphasis in the beginning but found the later readings strayed away from this topic. The readings were long but not overwhelmingly so or unmanageable.
- Should cut down on the number of books because this will allow students to actually get a good grasp on the pol. theory. As it stands now, it is easy to get certain philosophers or theorists confused since we only spent a

week on each.

## 5. 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?**

- The course itself has too much reading and is very Western-canon-oriented, but just know that that's what you're signing up for. I doubt it will be Prof Eich and Dongxian precepting next year (bc Prof Eich is so great that he might move on from the Society of Fellows and ditch us, noo!!) but if it's them, then, wow, they really made the course what it was. Subject is fine.
- good
- The course was very good.
- Commented above
- This is a fantastic course. I do not know how it could be improved honestly.
- I found this course extremely interesting because of its substantial reading list and insightful lectures and precepts that brought significant guidance and understanding of each thinker. I think the overall structure of the course with lectures and precepts worked quite well for understanding each thinker from week to week. The only tough aspect was the fast pace of the course, but it was easily conquerable with time and effort.
- What worked well were the lectures and honestly not much could be used to improve the course other than maybe adding more female authors to the canon.
- The course was very good. The best part about it was honestly Professor Eich. Not sure that the course material would have been as compelling to go over if not for Professor Eich's obvious passion for it. The readings were fine if you're into the Western canon, although I hope in the future there are more women and people of color.
- I really enjoyed the course. The readings were famous and great to read and the lecturers and precepts were great.
- This was an amazing course that surpassed all of my expectations. I enrolled after being unable to take a history course on English Constitutional Law. Ultimately, Professor Eich has forced me to question my career goals and prospective major. I also recognize that this semester's curriculum was changed. I enjoyed reading a more diverse cross-section of authors, including Fichte, Nietzsche, Du Bois etc.
- course was awesome.
- Professor Eich demonstrates a care and dedication to his students and to the course that is rare among Princeton professors. I thoroughly enjoyed his lectures and his unique approaches to the readings.
- This is the best course I've taken at this school.
- Definitely very difficult, but overall a fantastic course. It was extremely well-taught, the lectures, were fantastic, and the assignments were all relevant to the readings. If anything the quantity of readings may have been a bit much and I would have enjoyed getting to spend more time with each of them in depth, but Professor Eich was able to synthesize the most important parts of each text.
- I really liked the readings in the course. I didn't like lectures so much or precept, but I liked the papers and I liked talking with Professor Eich.
- I loved this course. Both the books and the lectures were phenomenal.
- Everything worked except for the final. The change from an in-class exam to a take-home one was a step in the right direction, but the suggested completion time of the exam was misleading.
- I enjoyed each week's readings. There is not much that could be improved. Having many short assignments helped us learn to write about political theory which is a very different style of writing than many are used to, so that component of the class should be kept.
- Wonderful class!