

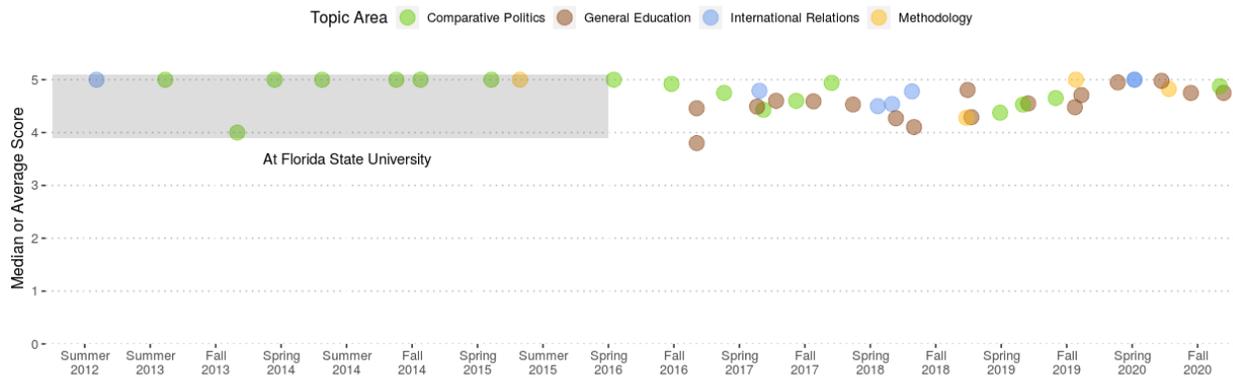
**Student Evaluations of Course and Instructor
Comments and Ratings
Casey Delehanty**

The following document is a compilation of student evaluations collected during my time as an instructor at Florida State and Gardner-Webb Universities. While my scores are generally above average, it is important to note that numerical evaluations have been shown numerous times to be biased and inaccurate measures of instructional quality (see [here](#) for more details). Despite these flaws, they are the only method by which my teaching has been evaluated during my time as an instructor. I'd like to present peer reviews or some other more sophisticated method, but none of the universities I've worked at go beyond the standard survey of students at the end of the year.

To provide the best possible overview of my teaching quality, this document proceeds in two parts. First, I present a summary of my evaluation scores for every class I've taught in my career. Since I have taught at multiple universities with multiple evaluation systems for each, this first section attempts to normalize these results and present an empirical overview of my teaching ability. Second, I present a collection of quotes, culled from the short answer portion of student evaluations as well as the site RateMyProfessor.com. I find that these quotations give far more insight than simple numerical scores. The original PDF files for each student evaluation summarized in this document are available upon request. Since they total around 70 pages of information neatly summarized in a graph on the next page, I figured I'd save you the printer ink.

Summary of Evaluation Scores

The chart below is a visual summary of my evaluation scores for every course I have ever taught at the university level. These scores include classes I taught as a graduate student at Florida State University (Summer 2012-Spring 2016) as well as classes taught at Gardner-Webb University (Fall 2016-onward). FSU evaluations contain a question entitled “Overall Instructor Rating,” and scores from FSU courses are reported as the median value for that question. Gardner-Webb’s evaluations, by contrast, are a battery of questions on different aspects of instruction. Gardner-Webb courses, thereby, are reported as the average value of responses across all questions relating to instruction.¹ Both universities utilized a 5-point scale where 1=poor and 5=excellent, although Gardner-Webb began using a 4-point scale in Spring 2019. Scores from Spring 2019 onward have been normalized to a 5-point scale. Finally, the points on the graph below are horizontally “jittered” to account for overplotting.



¹ It is of course improper to use averages for responses on Likert-scale questions, but this is the system used by the university.

Student Comments

Below is a collection of student comments, compiled from university evaluations and the website RateMyProfessor.com. Comments are organized alphabetically by course. Since text responses are not required on university evaluations, not every course I have taught is represented here. Still, the comments below give a good sense of my teaching style and values.

American Foreign Policy

- “It’s obvious Dr. Delehanty cares deeply about his students. He is very balanced and fair and emphasizes respect and deference among students in the classroom. Because of this, I’ve never been afraid to ask a question that I think might be “stupid” and I’ve never been afraid to share my honest opinion for fear of being judged. I have had few professors who have gone as far as he has to make sure his students are learning and understand the material and that they know he is there to help them whenever they need it.”
- “Excellent organization of the class, it was very helpful to examine the different areas of foreign policy as a whole and then their intricacies.”
- “Did a good job of connecting specific examples of foreign policy with overall concepts. Broadened my understanding of foreign policy significantly.”
- “As organized as a class in foreign policy can be! Especially after an election.”
- “Fantastic job, especially considering how many changes to foreign policy have occurred since January.”
- “He did a phenomenal job at presenting information unbiasedly [sic] and presenting both sides of the argument. Better than most professors I have seen at this university.”
- “The discussion-based style of this class is very helpful, especially considering it was so small and greatly contributed to my ability to learn the information.”
- “I loved the discussions in class where we voiced our opinions. This was my favorite class this semester, I really enjoyed it. I learned a lot about how the United States interacts with other countries that I did not know before.”
- “Great class, great professor.”

Civil Wars

- “I deeply appreciate Dr. Delehanty. He balances the roles of a professor, advisor, and friend very well. He is encouraging and understanding but also pushes his students to pursue academic excellence. I think he is an incredible addition to Gardner-Webb’s faculty, and I’m thankful for the ways he has encouraged me and helped me grow while I have been here.
- “Great syllabus.”
- “Gained so much from this course conceptually.”
- “Loved the set up of this class.”
- “LOVED this class! So grateful for the experience and opportunity and community.”

Comparative Political Economy

- “Dr. Delehanty has the best teaching methods of any professor I have had. I remember more long-term from his classes than any others.”
- “I love the reading journals, notecards, and powerpoints. I enjoy Dr. Delehanty’s classes.”
- “Love the notecard system of participation!!!”

Comparative Politics

- “Dr. Delehanty is always very thorough in his feedback. Some professors grade assignments in such a way that the student feels the professor did not spend much time reading it or that they offered no suggestions for improvement. I have never felt that way with Dr. Delehanty. Because I know he cares about the content and quality of my writing, I spend more time researching, writing, and revising for his class than I do for my other professors that I feel are not as invested in me as a student and do not have as high expectations. Because I know Dr. Delehanty sets the bar high, I try a little harder to reach it.”
- “At the beginning, I thought it was unrealistically difficult. The idea of constructing a research design for our final project was extremely terrifying. But Dr. Delehanty was with us every step of the way, and even made time to meet with each of us individually to help brainstorm with us and discuss the outline of our papers. This was definitely one of the more challenging political science classes I have taken, but being able to see real progress and growth on my part over the semester has been very rewarding and encouraging.”
- “Very difficult material but it was made understandable by Dr. Delehanty.”
- “Dr. Delehanty is always more than willing to go the extra mile to make sure a student understands. Overall, I was very happy with the learning environment and I’m glad I took this class this semester.”

Global Understanding

- “I really enjoyed the class. I thought the first half of the class was well done, and I learned a lot, while the second half with the simulation helped me to apply those concepts and understand why international relations are the way they are today... [it helps] to be learning about ideas at around the same time that we’re applying them.”
- “Great job with the class.”
- “Loved the simulation”
- “I really enjoyed the organization of the course.”
- “Dr. Delehanty made it a point to make sure that all students’ questions were answered. It helped very much throughout the course.”
- “The class was very engaging and thought-provoking. It better helped me understand the world and all that it holds.”
- “Amazing organization and flow to the course.”
- “Very passionate about the material and wanted us to be too.”
- “He would go above and beyond to answer the questions.”
- “Great class with a great teacher.”

- “Dr. Delehanty taught his course with an open minded, positive attitude. He was very passionate about his course. He would always come to class with a smile on his face. He has his students write note cards every day for class participation, and he reads them all. This allows students to express their feelings about the subject. Students can also express their feelings verbally.”
- “Great class! I learned a lot and it made me think.”
- “I liked this class and actually learned quite a few things in it. It was interesting, too.”
- “Dr. Delehanty is a wonderful professor, and I greatly enjoyed going to this class on MWF. The information taught was extremely interesting, and Dr. Delehanty relates to each and every student very well.”
- “Loved it!”
- “Dr. D is a fantastic professor who did a great job teaching difficult subject matter to a wide array of students. He makes his class enjoyable and the material approachable through his teaching methods.”
- “Really and truly effective.”
- “I really enjoyed this class talking about real-life events that are occurring. I appreciate all you have done for our class.”
- “I think that Dr. Delehanty did a great job introducing the concepts for this class.”
- “Thanks for being a great professor and thank you for being patient when our class didn’t understand certain things.”
- “I’ve enjoyed this course very much. I learned a lot that I had never heard. Dr. D provided a safe environment where no one’s opinions were wrong. He was very encouraging, helpful, and funny. I thought his system of note cards was very efficient. He didn’t require a lot of paperwork, so I could focus on reading the assigned material and listening in class more. I’ve really enjoyed this class and will miss going every other day. It’s been a great experience.”
- “You can tell he really cares about the information that he is talking about which is very refreshing. He was very caring about our final papers and was helpful with comments. Overall, I learned a large amount of new and helpful information.”
- “Dr. D is an amazing teacher. He can make uninteresting or ‘heavy’ topics enjoyable and easy to understand.”
- “Dr. Delehanty’s teaching style is more conversational, which in my case led to me remembering the material better.”
- “I did not know what to expect from this class (maybe boring...), but Dr. Delehanty made this class super fascinating! I look forward to class. I especially loved it when his wife made baked treats for us (even more of a motivator to come each class). Dr. Delehanty deeply cared for his students and desired to have a relationship with each one. Dr. Delehanty wanted learning to be fun, and he did make it fun.”
- “Dr. D is one of the best professors I’ve ever had”
- “I would recommend this class to anyone! I really wish that I could have taken the course pre-COVID with in-person instruction because I know it would have been even better. The layout of this class fit perfectly with my learning style and the instructor’s humor and personality fit right into that. I also enjoyed the Flipgrids (believe it or not) because they

encouraged me to come up with independent thoughts about the topics that we were learning about in class.”

- “The instructor was wonderful at getting me interested in his subject and he made me want to learn more. The instructor really tried to relate to his students and it made me feel motivated and interested.”

International Relations:

- “Dr. Delehanty is the best professor I’ve ever had. He cares about his students SO SO much and it shows in his teaching. I have grown to love working with him and I hope that he is appreciated for his hard work”
- “The course was set up well to teach us the materials...I really enjoy Dr. D’s lectures.”
- “Dr. Delehanty always wants us to understand the material rather than worry about grades.”
- “Understanding is key in his classes.”
- “The readings for this class are always wonderful and enjoyable.”
- “These classes are the ones I learn from the most because the professor engages with the students.”
- “I wish I never had to skip class”
- “The readings are great.”
- “Dr. D is the best! Very encouraging and helpful to students and explains the material in a very effective and intriguing way. Even all of the boring stuff.”

Latin American Politics

- “Loved his feedback emails, they were very useful.”
- “It was a pleasure being in the class. Especially since Latin America [is] Dr. Delehanty’s specialty. His broad knowledge of the region is impressive.”
- “I could tell he was passionate about Latin America.”
- “I really liked the Policy Proposal assignment. It is challenging, real-world like work”
- “I loved the partisan narrative [assignment] and the 10-minute lecture assignment.”
- “I loved how coming to this class was never something I wasn’t excited for. Casey encouraged us to call him by his first name and treated us all as equals. No one was nervous to talk or ask questions. He made learning a seemingly not-so-interesting topic fun.”
- “Casey’s structure of this class is my favorite I have seen as of yet. Instead of cram-studying for a test, his class was built on assignments that help you retain information much more efficiently. Because there were no tests, I did not have to try and write down everything he was saying so I had all of the information to study I could just listen and participate in class discussion, which was much more effective to me.”
- “Casey makes this a no-nonsense class, and without any exams I believe I learned more in his class than in other vigorous courses in which I cram and study. Casey is knowledgeable but more importantly passionate about the subject matter and actively engages the class. It’s damn near the perfect course.”

- “I had no interest in Latin American politics when signing up for this class. But when someone is teaching who is so clearly passionate about what they teach it makes it easy to want to learn. This class is very interesting and yet fun at the same time!”
- “Enthusiastic, fun, down to earth, treats students with respect and encouragement. Hard grader.”
- “Very immersive class, everyone gets involved. Well-designed and interesting activities. No tests. Casey is friendly and knowledgeable... Great teacher and very welcoming, probably my favorite course this semester.”
- “I liked that participation was encouraged/required because it fostered interesting discussions on the course material. I also liked the assessments we were given because I felt they accurately represented what we learned and I also liked the lecture style, it’s very engaging and I don’t feel like I am just being “talked at.”
- “I liked that Casey was helpful and knowledgeable. Not only was his class educational, but he interacted with the students in a positive way and wanted the best for us. I also enjoyed his anecdotes about his travels in Latin America.”
- “Although I may not have agreed with all of the instructor’s opinions, I thought he presented everything very fairly. This was a very enjoyable class, and I would take this teacher again.”
- “Casey is awesome. Discussion-oriented classes are cool and encourage students to think critically. Homework readings help with the subject matter... Literally can’t think of how this class could be better!”
- “Really cares about students, provides excellent feedback.”
- “An extremely helpful instructor in every sense!”
- “I liked how the course what a lot of class discussion. Even though I don’t talk very much, it is nice to hear other individuals’ opinion and viewpoint.”
- “Casey is one of the best professors I’ve ever had at FSU! Highly recommend. If you attend class and participate (which is very easy because he makes all the material so interesting) you’ll do very well! You will NOT regret it.”
- “He commands respect without being intimidating or harsh. Very interesting lectures and he is an interesting person in general. I really enjoyed this course.”
- “Casey is by far the best prof I have had at FSU. You have to go to class, but if he thinks you are putting in the effort for the class he is more than willing to help you succeed. It’s nice to have someone that cares so much about his students!”
- “I loved Casey. He’s a phenomenal teacher who is clearly passionate about what he teaches and his students. He’s always willing to talk or help out, so never worry about approaching him.”
- “His lectures are great and never a dull class period. Do the readings, show up to class, be involved, and you will always do good [sic] in his classes. He even went above and beyond to help me when he saw me falling behind in class. Great professor, awesome person.”

Political Violence

- “I missed an important group presentation, because of this I received a bad grade for an important part of my final grade. Instead of giving me the grade or extra credit, Casey spoke to me and told me that people stumble in life, but the important thing is to always get up. I took this advice to heart and applied myself which led to getting a B-.”
- “Casey is so passionate about what he teaches. He cares a lot about his students and what they have to say, and he’s always open to respectful criticisms. He’s been a great instructor.”
- “I enjoy the high expectations the instructor set for the class. Casey challenges us, but was not requiring unreasonable work. Also I appreciate all of his methods lessons! Very helpful for my future classes.”
- “Casey is great. He’s never too busy for his students and always gives great answers to any questions we have. I’ve taken him before and would take him again.”
- “The way the class was ran [sic], it was an awesome environment and I think Casey really does care about his students and if they learn the material.”
- “Casey loves the subject he teaches, and consequently he teaches very well. I loves how we talked about all kinds of political violence, not just genocide or torture but racial and women’s issues as well. I love his grading philosophy as well, it is intended for teaching, not just passing a multiple choice test.”
- “I enjoyed the class layout and the material we covered. Casey made the course interesting and fun to learn. The simulation was a great way to apply what we learned and built a better understanding of the concepts.”
- “Instructor facilitates an open environment for non-judgmental discussion. Simulation gave good insight into the content I had learned.”
- “No hyperbole whatsoever, this was my favorite course ever taken at FSU. It’s tremendously helpful as a student to know you have a teacher who is on your side and Casey definitely demonstrated that the entire semester. Really smart guy and a true pleasure to learn from. Looked forward to class every day and loved class discussions. I’m usually extremely critical and negative in these evaluations, and it makes me feel fortunate to be able to honestly submit a positive one. Thanks for a fantastic semester.”
- “I really enjoyed the group discussions, because it got me to think critically. The teacher was very involved in all aspects and helped us get our discussions going. Overall, Casey is an amazing teacher who really cares about his students’ success.”
- “I liked that the daily classwork really shows the amount that you learned and that we learn different points of view every day.”
- “I enjoyed the lack of emphasis on multiple-choice exams. Having a research paper as a bulk of the overall grade encouraged me to truly understand my topic of selection, without just memorizing questions and answers... My favorite course that I have taken at Florida State, without a doubt. The structure of classroom discussions was excellent for encouraging participation. Casey was incredibly interactive and helpful when it came to more complex areas of political violence. There should be more professors like him.”
- “The instructor was very respectful and courteous. He gave relevant articles and materials. He encouraged respectful class discussion.”

- “I felt that the structure of the course made for interesting and engaging class sessions. Although points were awarded for attendance, attending class was extremely enjoyable.”
- “I highly enjoyed his teaching style and how he encouraged group discussion.”
- “Discussion-based class rather than exam-based, felt like I retained more information because of this.”
- “I enjoyed our discussions. It made learning this stuff more enjoyable, and all of our ideas were heard.”
- “I liked the ability to express your own opinions without judgment. The environment of this type of class is productive in that I participate, learn and research.”
- “One of the most enjoyable classes I have ever taken.”
- “One of the best professors I have ever had at FSU. Truly passionate about what he teaches, truly encourages students to do their best, and always has students’ best interests at heart... I wish every poli sci or INR class had a simulation like Casey’s class did.”
- “Best class I’ve taken at FSU! I loved how Casey almost forced us to get involved. I don’t speak up much in class but the way he set up this course really made it comfortable for me to talk and participate.”
- “Casey is so great. He actually cares about students. His class material is thought-provoking and exposes students to a different way of approaching political protest/violence. Great class overall.
- “Casey is an awesome teacher. Took his political violence class and learned a lot. The material is interesting and the class is discussion based. No tests, but there is a paper and a presentation. Awesome class, would wake [sic, hopefully] again.”
- “Casey was a great teacher. He really cares about his students and tries his best to make sure everyone has what they need to be successful. Participation is big, but if you’re not extremely extroverted you’re allowed to participate non-verbally with notecards. Political Violence can be tough to teach, but he taught it well.
- “Casey was one of the best professors I’ve had yet. He responds quickly to emails and genuinely cares for his students. The civil war simulation he made promotes class participation and competition between students. Take him.”
- “Casey is a nice guy and is pretty laid back. He seems to genuinely care about teaching the subject matter and his lectures are interesting.”
- “Really learned a lot in the diverse lectures on political violence. I enjoyed the in-class discussions.”
- “Casey is a great teacher who always makes sure to respect his students. While the format of some of his classes may seem simple, be prepared to work and think critically. I personally liked his teaching style, but it’s not for everyone. Definitely take if you want an interesting political science class.”
- “Taking Casey’s class is definitely a must for any Poli Sci or IA major, you won’t regret it. Even if you’re only mildly interested in Political Violence, the format of the class makes it super enjoyable and interesting. You learn a lot, but it’s not information just thrown at you. Show up to class because participation is a portion of your grade!”

Politics of the Developing World

- “Dr. Delehanty always sought to provide us with clarity on issues we did not fully understand.”
- “The structure of the class being discussion-based was very beneficial. The ability to have our thoughts challenged and fleshed out allowed us to come to concrete conclusions about our thinking when it comes to politics...”
- “I really enjoyed the course and do feel that I learned a lot.”
- “Through the writing of short papers I was better able to synthesize information and understand broader themes in the course.”

Research Design:

- “Dr. D is incredibly helpful to all his students and makes learning enjoyable. He challenges students to complete difficult tasks but encourages them along the way”