

**Lecture Survey
SPR11 2011**
**University of Miami
Arts and Sciences**
Course: POL313 KY - THE CONSTITUTION

Department: POL

**Responsible
Faculty:** Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 17 / 22

Overall Mean: 4.4 5 - Point Likert Scale (UM) (151 responses)

Lecture - Instructor Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	11	4	2	0	0	5	5	.70	17	4.5	4.4	54	4.2	58
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	11	3	3	0	0	5	5	.78	17	4.5	4.3	52	4.1	58
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	10	7	0	0	0	5	5	.49	17	4.6	4.4	67	4.1	69
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	7	7	1	0	0	4	4,5	.61	15	4.4	4.3	54	4	59
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	10	5	2	0	0	5	5	.70	17	4.5	4.3	63	4.3	53

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 45 / 1,019 405 / 9,498

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)

Lecture - Course Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	8	7	1	1	0	4	5	.82	17	4.3	4.3	36	4.2	38
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	10	5	2	0	0	5	5	.70	17	4.5	4.4	54	4.3	54
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	6	8	2	1	0	4	4	.83	17	4.1	4.2	40	4.1	36
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	7	7	1	2	0	4	4,5	.96	17	4.1	4.4	20	4.3	24

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 45 / 1,011 405 / 9,456

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)
Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:
Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 41.18% (7 of 17)

- I could not really figure out what he wanted me to do in the assignments.
- The way you are assessed in this course is very fair. I was nervous a Constitution class would be knit picky, but it was the opposite. He makes it so you take away information that is important to you and that you care about.
- I think the books we read in class were actually really informative and interesting. I really do feel that I know more about the Constitution and am able to evaluate it more intelligently now. I think it's really relevant class for anyone who lives in America because the Constitution affects our life and most people don't really know a thing about it.
- loosen up the reading. some of it gets redundant and is not the most interesting. really enjoyed the guest speaker and the movies/tv shows. more of this is helpful. although grammar is a huge part of writing, i think it is important to judge more on the reading and the quality of what is in there than on the pure errors alone.
- The Corwin book is one of the toughest books I've ever had to get through for a class. The class itself was great, but there was a lot of reading.

- When he taught class on the constitution it was interesting. I legitimately enjoyed most of the later lectures. I feel like I've learned that Machiavelli stuff from the start of the course in like 3 different classes already but that might just be me.

I found the course contents intriguing but feel that the course could have done more to engage the class. Perhaps the best day of the class in terms of interaction occurred when we had the guest lecture on article five. I feel that forcing the students to make judgments on how they feel the constitution should be interpreted makes for a more engaging class. Perhaps some sort of small group activities or something of the like to mix in with the power points and movies would be advantageous. Overall though a very informative class.

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 35.29% (6 of 17)

- Great instructor! I was nervous about a 3 hour class, but he made me excited to be there!
- Really funny and keeps the class atmosphere loose. He is approachable and genuinely seems to want to work with you if there's a problem, which is pretty rare.
- By far the BEST professor at UM. He understands what it is like to be in college and is very understanding. The amount of work is reasonable - although the summaries are a pain in the ass. He's funny, which makes class way more enjoyable. He also has a lot of intelligent things to say about life in general. He is less concerned with teaching you specifics of the course and more concerned with teaching valuable life lessons and skills. Great guy to talk to. I would take him again if I had the chance. Definitely my favorite.
- very positive. i enjoyed the class but i dreaded the reading. the lectures were interesting and you kept us there long enough to hold our attention.
- I think he's very funny and interesting. He's really helpful when you meet with him and always willing to meet with students to help out. Kind of a hard grader.
- He is knowledgeable on the subject, exactly what I expect out of good professors.

Q12 - Additional comments:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 11.76% (2 of 17)

- I don't think some of the powerpoints were as effective as they could be primarily because a lot of the information we had just read was more complex than the ideas put forth in the powerpoints. It would be useful to discuss more in depth some of the theories like those in Dahl. Regardless though, I learned a ton.

I'm not a fan of the responses we had to write on the films or the readings. I feel like they did little to further our understanding of the material. And I strongly dislike that our grades were based not on our understanding of the material but rather on our use of forms to be. His passion about his writing conventions is commendable, but I signed up for this class to learn about the constitution, not Professor Uscinski's writing pet peeves. I have met my requirements for my political science major and chose to take additional classes because this is what interests me. If I wanted to take a writing composition class I would have signed up for one with the English department.

**Lecture Survey
SPR11 2011**

**University of Miami
Arts and Sciences**

Course: POL313 UX - THE CONSTITUTION

Department: POL

Responsible Faculty: Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 22 / 28

Overall Mean: 4.0 5 - Point Likert Scale (UM) (198 responses)

Lecture - Instructor Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	8	11	3	0	0	4	4	.67	22	4.2	4.4	29	4.2	36
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	8	7	7	0	0	4	5	.82	22	4	4.3	27	4.1	36
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	9	6	6	1	0	4	5	.93	22	4	4.4	20	4.1	35
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	8	9	5	0	0	4	4	.76	22	4.1	4.3	36	4	44
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	12	5	4	1	0	5	5	.91	22	4.3	4.3	36	4.3	35

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 45 / 1,019 405 / 9,498

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)

Lecture - Course Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	11	3	5	3	0	4.5	5	1.13	22	4	4.3	20	4.2	20
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	11	4	6	1	0	4.5	5	.97	22	4.1	4.4	25	4.3	24
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	8	5	4	4	1	4	5	1.26	22	3.7	4.2	14	4.1	17
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	8	4	6	4	0	4	5	1.14	22	3.7	4.4	7	4.3	9

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 45 / 1,011 405 / 9,456

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 40.91% (9 of 22)

- Awesome course. Incidentally, the first I've ever taken where the professor actually began discussion of the judicial branch by explaining the contents of Marbury v. Madison, rather than assuming I was born with some sort of inherent understanding of it.
- I sometimes felt the videos had little to do with the Constitution. I would rather have videos more closely related to the Constitution or more discussions.
- GReat Class
- Interesting topic, but can become dry if not careful
- Too many movies that do not really teach anyone anything. I would say to cut those down. I would also suggest maybe a written paper about the Constitution at the end of the semester.
- The grading system in this course makes little to no sense. Students should be given a normal grade rather than a random number with no indication of where that number came from or what that number even means. Also, the class discussions should be more interesting, I didn't really enjoy coming to this class.

- The course content was fascinating to me. Though the amount of reading was rather heavy, the information was valuable. Perhaps most importantly, the information I learned in the course is useful. The political world changes every day and the information I learned in this course has helped me make accurate judgements of current political situations.
- I learned a lot about the Constitution, more so than anybody I've ever known. But most importantly, I've practiced my writing skills. The movies and slides shown in class were effective for teaching the information and very useful.
- Sometimes, it felt like all the learning came from the readings, and class time we just talked about other random things or watched a movie. I would have liked to go into more deep discussions about the documents

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 36.36% (8 of 22)

- Cool guy. Fair grader.
- I do not like his policy of low grades to inspire us to do better. It felt more like a grammar class than a Political Science class.
- Great class
- challenge us to think more please.
- A good professor that knows the topic, but should get the class more involved with questions.
- Dr. Uscinski can carry on an interesting conversation with the entire class on current political issues. Style of grading is unique. Took me time to adapt. Good professor regardless.

I enjoyed and disliked different aspects of this instructor's teaching style. The instructor certainly had a wealth of knowledge, but it did not seem that he had specific, in-depth knowledge about the Constitution itself. If he really did have a great deal of in-depth knowledge, it was not effectively conveyed. I also did not approve of his grading style. The instructor was looking for a very particular manner of writing, which admittedly improved my writing skills, but seemed arbitrary at certain points throughout the course. I did, however, enjoy the instructor's choice of books and articles. I also enjoyed his use of media such as movies and television show clips to display particular parts of the course content.

- Sometimes it's difficult to keep up with 100+ pages of reading a week and that's coming from someone who loves reading and is a very fast reader. The instructor does not use tests which I completely agree with the reasoning, however, a end-of-semester paper would help for weekly summaries that were missed.

Q12 - Additional comments:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 18.18% (4 of 22)

- Great course!
- Great Class
- Grading is unbelievably subjective.
- I think the class would be better if it were a Tuesday/Thursday class. A class that only takes place once a week makes it hard to thoroughly teach about the Constitution and it bores the class.

**Lecture Survey
FALL10 2010**
**University of Miami
Arts and Sciences**
Course: POL351 S - PUBLIC OPINION

Department: POL

**Responsible
Faculty:** Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 27 / 33

Overall Mean: 4.2 5 - Point Likert Scale (UM) (239 responses)

Lecture - Instructor Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	14	9	2	1	1	5	5	1	27	4.3	4.4	36	4.2	42
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	14	8	4	1	0	5	5	.85	27	4.3	4.3	40	4	52
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	10	11	3	3	0	4	4	.96	27	4	4.4	23	4.1	34
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	12	10	3	2	0	4	5	.90	27	4.2	4.2	44	4	48
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	14	10	1	1	1	5	5	.97	27	4.3	4.4	36	4.2	42

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 48 / 959 482 / 12,830

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)

Lecture - Course Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	13	9	2	2	0	4.5	5	.90	26	4.3	4.3	34	4.2	42
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	12	7	7	0	0	4	5	.83	26	4.2	4.3	36	4.2	38
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	14	7	1	3	1	5	5	1.17	26	4.2	4.2	38	4	45
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	11	10	2	2	1	4	5	1.07	26	4.1	4.4	15	4.3	25

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 48 / 959 482 / 12,746

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)
Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:
Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 33.33% (9 of 27)

- Does not stimulate interest in a very interesting topic.
- Course was confusing
- I would like some more feedback on summaries as I found them quite challenging.
- Course content taught me a lot. The books assigned are redundant and homework is given for the same topics.
- Though we had no tests in the class I feel like I learned more in this class than in any other. The resources we used were interesting and informative

Definitely my favorite course this semester, maybe the best one since I have attended the University of Miami. The overall message behind the course helped me understand why others think the way they do. I better understand how to handle the annual political debates my family has during the holidays, and I believe I have become a better writer, removing most if not all passive voice (although this evaluation probably does not reflect that). I want to emphasize how great of a professor Dr. Uscinski has been, and I look forward to taking courses with him in the future. I was really challenged to think in this course, and for the first time in my life, I did not find myself worrying about my grade in the course, rather how I progressed as a student, learning more each time I attended class.

- all good, less summaries
- The course content was very interesting and difficult, but the instructor helped me through the course.
- classes were interesting.attending class because there was stimulating discussions. The all electronics turned off rule keeps everyone engaged in what he was saying.

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:**Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E****Response Rate: 25.93% (7 of 27)**

- Clearly one of the laziest approaches to teaching I have seen at this University. Lets the book to all of the teaching. Never once left his chair during a lecture. I had difficulty showing up to this class because the lectures don't mean anything. Grades are assigned based on use of active voice in writing. That is literally the only thing he teaches. And yes, I used the word "is" in that sentence to demonstrate that it IS grammatically correct. With that said, I do think Uscinski is a nice guy. I do not have anything against him personally. I just disagree with his teaching approach. I took this class looking forward to interesting and stimulating lectures. Sadly, they were nowhere to be found.
- Instructor was nice but confusing
 - Professor made content fun and interesting with his humor. Can be sarcastic, but it's not insulting.
 - He doesn't answer emails often.
 - His teaching method is very effective.
 - hilarious, but intimidatingly judgmental
 - all good
 - The instructor was full of experience and helped us understand the course content.

Q12 - Additional comments:**Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E****Response Rate: 14.81% (4 of 27)**

- Everything was fine
- I'm a better writer now.
- all good
- The knowledge I gained in this course was vast.

**Lecture Survey
FALL10 2010**

**University of Miami
Arts and Sciences**

Course: POL515 UX - MED CONT ANALYSIS

Department: POL

**Responsible
Faculty:** Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 14 / 16

Overall Mean: 3.9 5 - Point Likert Scale (UM) (126 responses)

Lecture - Instructor Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	6	5	3	0	0	4	5	.77	14	4.2	4.4	32	4.2	38
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	6	5	3	0	0	4	5	.77	14	4.2	4.3	38	4	47
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	5	2	5	2	0	3.5	3.5	1.10	14	3.7	4.4	7	4.1	16
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	3	6	4	0	1	4	4	1.03	14	3.7	4.2	23	4	22
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	4	5	4	1	0	4	4	.91	14	3.9	4.4	11	4.2	13

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 48 / 959 482 / 12,830

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)

Lecture - Course Items	Uscinski, Joseph E										--- Comparisons ---			
	Responses					Individual					POL		All	
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean	Mean	Pct	Mean	Pct
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	3	7	2	1	1	4	4	1.10	14	3.7	4.3	11	4.2	12
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	4	7	1	1	1	4	4	1.12	14	3.9	4.3	21	4.2	17
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	4	5	3	1	1	4	4	1.16	14	3.7	4.2	15	4	18
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	4	6	3	1	0	4	4	.88	14	3.9	4.4	11	4.3	16

Number of Individuals / Survey Responses used for Comparisons: 48 / 959 482 / 12,746

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1
Pct = Percentile Rank (Higher is better)

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 28.57% (4 of 14)

- ...
- Interesting topic and has taught me to watch the media with a different view.
- Individual topic content analysis was more interesting than the text
- Very challenging

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 35.71% (5 of 14)

- ...
- Very understanding professor. I would definitely take him again.

- Nice guy, and engaging with students.
- n/a
- Very intelligent in his field

Q12 - Additional comments:**Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E****Response Rate: 21.43% (3 of 14)**

- ...
- n/a
- Overall great class

**Lecture Survey
SPR09 2009**

**University of Miami
Testing Center**

Course: POL332 E - MASS MEDIA & POL

Department: POL

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 27 / 35

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture Classes (Instructor Items)	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	13	9	4	1	0	4	5	.84	27	4.3
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	13	8	5	1	0	4	5	.87	27	4.2
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	11	7	5	4	0	4	5	1.09	27	3.9
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	12	11	2	2	0	4	5	.87	27	4.2
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	14	9	2	1	1	5	5	1.00	27	4.3

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture Classes (Course Items)	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	11	11	0	4	0	4	4,5	1.01	26	4.1
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	9	10	4	2	1	4	4	1.07	26	3.9
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	12	7	6	0	1	4	5	1.01	26	4.1
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	8	10	5	2	1	4	4	1.06	26	3.8

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 40.74% (11 of 27)

- I think more writing exercises would have been useful. Although we don't use "to be" as often that doesn't make a good writer.
- very subjective course so content can be be altered dramatically.
- i liked the content, it was interesting, thought provoking, and more relevant than i assumed when i entered the course.
- Too many summaries.
- The class was very interesting!!!

Coming into POL 332, I thought that we would be required to watch newscasts in order to discuss how politics were portrayed in the media. Instead, we were required to read multiple documents each week discussing the theories of mass communication. While I believe some of these documents provided important insight, a majority of them were repetitive and unnecessary. Once we handed in summaries of the documents, we would barely ever discuss them in class so if someone did not understand one, their concerns were not voiced. These summaries (ten in all) ended up being worth 50% of our final grade- yet they were not necessary in the least as they were never thought about again. Class days were discussed critiquing the press's coverage of President Obama, which made sense, but all too often there were extensive conversations between the class about useless media stories, such as the "Octamom." We watched an array of movies within class, which were appreciated but often unnecessary. Instead of focusing on real news media, Uscinski chose to focus on other forms of media, such as cartoons and movies from the 1970s. Participation was worth 10% of our grade, but by the last two weeks of classes, there were still many people whose names Uscinski did not seem to know. While I applaud his rule to turn in the rough draft of our final (and only paper) long before the stresses of finals week set in, there is no reason why it should have been worth the same amount as the final draft of the paper.

- The course is very challenging and interesting. I became a better writer and student by being in this course. It also prepared me for my study abroad course this summer.
- I liked all the opportunities we had for extra credit because it helped make up some of the lost points on the early summary grades.
- I enjoyed the variety in the course lectures, and also the grading opportunities.

- Course content is decent though the amount of reading can become tedious. In terms of writing quality this course has improved (the writing in these comments doesn't count) my writing more than the sum of my ENG 105, 106 and 211 courses.
- Everything is fine, but I wish the instructor lectured a bit more instead of providing sporadic speeches. Still, a very good class.

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 33.33% (9 of 27)

- Grades may not be important but you should care somewhat about them because we have to if we want to go to grad school, like you have advocated.
- You never learned my name. one of the major points of the class was an emphasis on improving writing. To put a name to face isn't required but could of helped in this manor.
- good instructor, has his goals for his class and individual student in a good priority. challenges the students and inspires them to become better writers and even better thinkers.
- The only comment I have to say is that I feel that the chapter summaries that were assigned, almost always felt like busy work. It was material that could have been gone over in class. It was pointless and very tedious for almost no reward. I would consider modifying this portion of the class.
- He really knows his stuff, he does. But he is not very good at figuring out how to convey the messages to the class. He is more than willing to meet with students as he has office hours three days a week and encourages students to come in.
- The teacher has a great combination of being tough on us when he needs to an somewhat easy on us we he needs to. A perfect blend; no need to complain.
- The instructor was very passionate about the topic, and therefore it reflected in his lectures and assignments.
- Great teacher, demonstrates material and presents it effectively. This class was one of probably 10 courses i've had at UM that I look forward to going to. One major problem with the course however was when summaries were handed back too late. One week I recieved somewhere between 4-6 summaries that showed my writing quality had declined. I never knew the quality had declined so I received about 4-6 sub-par grades all at once. The amount of extra credit is excellent as it shows the students who work hard and deserve a good grade.
- Could lose his conservative attitude.

Q12 - Additional comments:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 18.52% (5 of 27)

- Loved the class. Most interesting Political Science class I have taken so far.
- Awsome guy. Always made class enjoyable and fun. Summaries were tedious and led to mass frustration. Overall a great class but proved to offer little education and more entertainment value.
- alot of busy work, unnecessary because most of the articles per topic were repetitive and boring once you read two of them.
- The only problem I had, which was shared by the students, was that the grades were not quickly posted on blackboard. People like to be informed about their grades.
- Thanks for a great semester

**Lecture Survey
SPR09 2009**

**University of Miami
Testing Center**

Course: POL351 F - PUBLIC OPINION

Department: POL

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 20 / 29

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture Classes (Instructor Items)	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	6	11	2	0	1	4	4	.92	20	4.1
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	7	7	4	1	1	4	4,5	1.09	20	3.9
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	6	7	5	0	2	4	4	1.18	20	3.8
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	8	5	4	2	1	4	5	1.19	20	3.9
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	7	7	3	2	1	4	4,5	1.15	20	3.9

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture Classes (Course Items)	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	7	5	3	1	3	4	5	1.42	19	3.6
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	5	7	4	1	2	4	4	1.22	19	3.6
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	6	4	4	3	2	4	5	1.35	19	3.5
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	6	6	4	2	1	4	4,5	1.16	19	3.7

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 30.00% (6 of 20)

- The books we read are great but...
- Content is interesting and conducting a survey is a very effective way to learn about public opinion in a hands-on way.
This course challenges people to think from an academic perspective. I have read countless journal articles and books that I would not have otherwise and have to say that I have learned a lot about political science and analysis. The summaries were tedious, but I learned a lot from the material.
- Improved my writing and knowledge of public opinion.
- Interesting subject matter.
- Way too much reading. Some books were interesting/relevant, while others were not.

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 30.00% (6 of 20)

- He doesn't ever teach us anything. I feel like classes are worthless for this course. Everything I have learned has been from reading the books.
- Instructor is very knowledgeable about the subject, and he makes classes fun.
- He stimulates a great deal of interest in the course by relating to the students. He wants his students to succeed and makes it seem easy for them to do well.
- Fun and helpful professor!

- Great instructor who is always available for extra help. IS engaging and funny and makes the subject matter interesting for students.
- Great guy all around.
- Joe is very cool, but stubborn.

Q12 - Additional comments:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 5.00% (1 of 20)

- Looking forward to taking this instructor again.

**Lecture Survey
FALL09 2009**

**University of Miami
Testing Center**

Course: POL332 S - MASS MEDIA & POL

Department: POL

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 28 / 32

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture - Instructor Items

	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	9	11	6	1	1	4	4	1	28	3.9
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	9	8	5	4	2	4	5	1.26	28	3.6
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	9	8	6	4	1	4	5	1.16	28	3.7
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	8	11	4	4	1	4	4	1.12	28	3.8
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	16	9	1	2	0	5	5	.86	28	4.4

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture - Course Items











	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	7	10	8	3	0	4	4	.95	28	3.8
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	10	10	2	6	0	4	4,5	1.12	28	3.9
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	6	13	3	3	3	4	4	1.24	28	3.6
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	5	12	3	6	2	4	4	1.21	28	3.4

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 53.57% (15 of 28)

- There should be less or no weekly summaries, or at the very least, instead of reading and writing on scholarly articles, we should work with articles directly from the media-such as editorials, op-eds, journalistic articles from newspapers or periodicals, etc. After-all, the class is about mass media, not about mass scholars. 
- Unnecessarily repetitive. Weekly assignments are comprised of reading multiple articles that all make the same point, but are contradicted by the following week's articles. In the end, I'm not really sure what I got out of this class. 
- Interesting class, films and articles give added perspective 
- If you take this class, be prepared to work! You have weekly reading assignments: four scholarly journal entries a week and you must write for summaries. The class is fun to attend but it is a lot of work outside the classroom. It seems tedious and can be redundant, but you will absolutely become a better writer with better reading comprehension skills after taking this class. Well worth the extra effort. 
- . 
- Interesting topic 
- The way the course was tough was not stimulating. The articles were uninteresting and classes were boring or we didn't have them. I feel that I have not learned anything at all. 
- I left improving my writing skills and becoming more confident in becoming a better writer 
- course content not too hard, interesting for people who love politics. nevertheless, we dont learn much, except for what we read every week. professor does not teach in class. 
- I went in thinking we would actually learn interesting things in class...instead we missed a lot of classes and didn't really do much in class itself 

- The articles we did felt a lot like busy work but they were pretty interesting to read.
- Maybe discuss the readings more or discuss at least the things we learned from them, otherwise it's a lot of reading that just sits there.
- Great class, really makes the students think about the material, making the papers graduate level caused us to have to really focus on our summaries.

Its hard to get a good grade in your class because you only grade on the summaries. It was tough because although we did our part on reading the summaries, you graded most low. Out of 5 I mostly got 3 or 3.5. I did the work but you wanted us to summarize them in a wierd way. I thought these were summaries? But you say we can't "describe" or its "too long". I never got exactly how to write them. I felt although I did the work, my work was graded unfairly. Because I didnt write the summaries the way you wanted, I was graded poorly, even though I did the work, I read every article. I feel you know this and so you assign so much extra credit because you know students wont get high grades on summaries alone. I feel if I did all the work in class I shouldnt have to do extra credit to make it up. Its not like I missed an assignment all semester so why do I have to do the extra work. I understand what you wanted but at the same time, I'm not an english major. This class isnt counted as a writing credit. I dont know why I was graded poorly when I did the job. I summarized what happened in those articles, when you say "don't describe" it confused me. I did what you asked which was write what happened in the articles, as long as you could tell that we read the articles I dont see what the problem was.

- the readings are the entire course, i don't feel like there was anything added to the readings in class. The readings themselves were very dull and seemed self explanatory.

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 50.00% (14 of 28)

- He is fun and engaging, but he should invite more guest speakers and whatnot.

Does not return work in a timely manner. I received multiple low scores all at once and did not have the opportunity to improve them since I didn't even know I was struggling. I routinely received low grades with vague suggestions for improvement or no suggestions at all. The semester is practically over and I'm still not sure what it is he wanted out of the assignments.

His office hours conflicted with my class schedule but he was always willing to set up an appointment.

- Really challenged students to improve their writing, very available, willing to help students improve
- Very funny, smart guy - knowledgeable on subject

Uscinski is an interesting guy with a really dry sense of humor. He has strict policies about little things but he is young and makes a good connection with the class. Frequently shows movies and episodes of South Park.

Definitely willing to meet with his students... he is really helpful if you take advantage of office hours. He is one of the few teachers in the poli sci department that truly challenged me to improve my writing. This guy simply gets it.

- The readings were a challenge but fun

Not fair with grading. Sometimes didn't show up to office hours. Talked about personal things that were not appropriate for class discussion. Also, there were inappropriate comments mention about the English department that were unnecessary.

he is fun, like another kid in the class. helps students with problems but a little immature. He gives good advice about graduate school though. Overall, homework assignments are very extensive, hard to read and boring, he gives everyone extra credit (which I dont think fairly helps grade students). The real grade should be about your assignments, not the extra credit

Grades are arbitrary, but he raises them artificially throughout the semester. His personality is not for everyone, but as long as you can take callous, you will be fine

He starts out very tough but by the end of the semester he softened up. Very enjoyable class and I learned a lot about my writing style.

Great teacher, wish he was teaching classes next semester.


I think you should have more than just the articles making up most of the grade because its difficult to get a "5" for a summary.

very sarcastic to the point where it is hard to communicate with him outside of class.

Q12 - Additional comments:


Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E


Response Rate: 39.29% (11 of 28)


- I think the scholarly weekly articles we have to summarize are too much. 

Too much importance is given to the weekly assignments, which make up a majority of the grade but have little bearing on anything else since we hardly discuss them and they do not necessarily apply to our research papers.

- The extra credit opportunities are appreciated but the grading system is so skewed that they make extra credit necessary.


Research papers and methodology were not discussed until the week before it was due. 

- Enjoyed the class, think my writing has definately improved 


- Good Class 


- . 

Excellent professor. His teaching style is great and very effective. I'm so happy I took this course. It's really one of the few classes at

- UM that has truly challenged me and made me want to work harder. I learned so much and didn't mind doing the work in order to accomplish that. Wonderful experience. 

- CHANGE COURSE DESCRIPTION. 

- Great class, hope Dr. Uscinski is given more opportunities to teach here at the University. 

- The class was interesting. I did learn alot through this class this semester about things that are going on today. 

- Prof Uscinski is one of the worst political science professors at the university. 

- shows favoritism in class 

Lecture Survey
FALL09 2009

University of Miami
Testing Center

Course: POL515 UX - MED CONT ANALYSIS

Department: POL

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 12 / 15

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture - Instructor Items

	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	8	4	0	0	0	5	5	.47	12	4.7
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	9	3	0	0	0	5	5	.43	12	4.8
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	7	5	0	0	0	5	5	.49	12	4.6
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	8	4	0	0	0	5	5	.47	12	4.7
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	8	3	1	0	0	5	5	.64	12	4.6

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture - Course Items



	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	8	3	1	0	0	5	5	.64	12	4.6
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	7	4	1	0	0	5	5	.65	12	4.5
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	9	1	2	0	0	5	5	.76	12	4.6
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	9	0	3	0	0	5	5	.87	12	4.5

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E



Response Rate: 25.00% (3 of 12)

- My favorite class. 
- Very interesting class. The material was what I expected about from the course. Lots of interesting discussions and projects. 
- GREAT PROFESSOR! 

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 16.67% (2 of 12)

- Keep on keepin on. He stimulates a lot of interest in the course and makes it hands on so that we're not just memorizing facts out of a textbook. It's really refreshing to be learning something useful and be excited to come to class every week. It's almost like we don't realize we're learning until after it's happened. Sneak attack! 
- Interesting, entertaining, kept students engaged in the material they were studying. Prof. Uscinski is a great professor. 

Q12 - Additional comments:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 8.33% (1 of 12)

- One of my favorite classes and professors this semester. 

**Lecture Survey
FALL08 2008**

**University of Miami
Testing Center**

Course: POL332 S - MASS MEDIA & POL

Department: POL

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 19 / 34

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture Classes (Instructor Items)	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	11	5	0	1	1	5	5	1.11	18	4.3
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	11	5	2	0	1	5	5	1.03	19	4.3
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	10	5	2	1	1	5	5	1.14	19	4.2
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	11	3	3	0	1	5	5	1.10	18	4.3
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	13	3	3	0	0	5	5	.75	19	4.5

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

POL332 - S

Lecture Classes (Course Items)	Responses					Course				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	9	7	1	1	1	4	5	1.09	19	4.2
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	10	4	2	2	1	5	5	1.23	19	4.1
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	9	3	2	3	1	4	5	1.33	18	3.9
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	9	8	1	0	1	4	5	.96	19	4.3

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 63.16% (12 of 19)

- Fun and interesting course, provided me with fundamental writing skills.
- Thought there would have been more actual media involvement in the course; i.e. multiple video clips of possible biases on the news, and further analyzing for the students and professor to take part in.
- Class discussion is where I learn the most- they really help the course material
- Interesting course
- I loved this class.
- The course content was very interesting. This course was very demanding and should not be listed as a lower level course.
- I loved this course.
- I loved the discussions that we had in class. Most of my classes don't have discussions about what were learning about so this was a nice aspect of the class. I also learning about out-of-the-ordinary aspects of media, like politics in music videos and cartoons.
- Course material extremely interesting and relevant to today's society. I'll definitely assess media bias and its agenda setting role whenever I watch news coverage.
- what course content? we read material, summarize it (only to be graded arbitrarily) and don't even talk about it in class. there is no incentive to attend because our class discussion never relates (and it's never interesting either). a big part of the class is writing a research paper, but he barely touches on how to go about the process. no one learns anything.
- Even though the summaries took a lot of time to complete each week, I learned a lot from keeping up with the reading. I wouldn't mind more in class discussion about the readings.
- There isn't much content. Pretty straight forward class

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:**Faculty:** Uscinski, Joseph E**Response Rate:** 63.16% (12 of 19)

- Great instructor!
- enjoyable professor, but needs to be less obvious on his political bias.
- Stimulates class discussion.
- Great professor! Because of him, my writing improved throughout the semester.
- The instructor was great.
- The professor was very effective and sparked interest and conversation. I enjoyed being in this course.
- The instructor was really interesting and funny.
- Very interesting and also entertaining. An effective communicator who knows how to facilitate discussions with his students.
- Great instructor! Not only is knowledgeable and well-qualified, but genuinely cares about students.

nice (sometimes funny) guy who seems willing to help you and meet with you. but aside from that, he doesn't stimulate interest in the course. grades low in the beginning so students will take him more seriously, but raises grades later despite no change in work quality. completely arbitrary grading system. tells everyone they are wrong in class discussion because he seems to think he's always right. complete joke.

- He definitely stimulates interest in the course! And I plan on taking another one of his courses.
- Interesting character, i enjoyed him.

Q12 - Additional comments:**Faculty:** Uscinski, Joseph E**Response Rate:** 26.32% (5 of 19)

- Joe rocks.
- Thank you for a wonderful semester! (Joe Rocks!)
- genuinely worthless class. waste of tuition. everything i learned, i learned from reading--no need for a professor.
- I really like doing the paper instead of a final exam.
- Joe Rocks!

**Lecture Survey
FALL08 2008**

**University of Miami
Testing Center**

Course: POL515 UX - MED CONT ANALYSIS

Department: POL

Instructor: Joseph Uscinski

Resp. Rec'vd / Expected: 12 / 15

Uscinski, Joseph E

Lecture Classes (Instructor Items)

	Responses					Individual				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1 My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	10	2	0	0	0	5	5	.37	12	4.8
Q2 I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	10	2	0	0	0	5	5	.37	12	4.8
Q3 The instructor presents course material effectively.	10	2	0	0	0	5	5	.37	12	4.8
Q4 The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	8	4	0	0	0	5	5	.47	12	4.7
Q5 The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	10	1	1	0	0	5	5	.60	12	4.8

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

POL515 - UX

Lecture Classes (Course Items)

	Responses					Course				
	[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6 Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	6	5	1	0	0	4	5	.64	12	4.4
Q7 This course has challenged me to think.	5	6	1	0	0	4	4	.62	12	4.3
Q8 Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	7	4	0	0	1	5	5	1.11	12	4.3
Q9 Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	6	5	1	0	0	4	5	.64	12	4.4

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 33.33% (4 of 12)

- Fun course!
- Very Interesting course
- Love the the coding projects, but the summaries are just tedious.
- Good reading materials and interesting projects.

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 33.33% (4 of 12)

- Fantastic instructor!
- Treat us like adults. Fun projects and interesting assignments.
- Knows what he's doing, knows to teach material
- does a great job of stimulating interest in the course

Q12 - Additional comments:

Faculty: Uscinski, Joseph E

Response Rate: 16.67% (2 of 12)

- Everything Good

- great class