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Summary of Teaching Evaluations

This document presents student feedback for a course I designed and taught at **UNC in Spring 2017**, entitled "Contemporary Latin American Politics."

Table 1 Student Evaluations

	Instructor Rating	Department Average
Overall Average	4.67	4.29
Instructor Ratings		
Overall this instructor was an effective teacher	4.81	4.35
Recommendation for teaching award	4.52	3.66
Demonstrates enthusiasm about teaching	4.95	4.55
Communicates clearly and logically	4.86	4.38
Promotes a climate of mutual respect	4.86	4.57
Encourages student questions	4.90	4.46
Emphasizes critical thinking	4.76	4.71
Uses teaching strategies that promote active involvement	4.71	4.02
Clearly communicates expectations for student performance	4.48	4.14
Provides constructive criticism of student performance	4.38	3.79
Provides timely feedback on student performance	4.57	4.03
Provides a fair evaluation of student performance	4.33	4.14
Is available when needed	4.80	4.35
Is well-prepared for instruction	4.90	4.61
Overall, I would rate this instructor as "excellent"	4.86	4.21
Course Ratings		
Course goals and objectives are clearly specified	4.57	4.35
Requirements are clearly specified	4.67	4.44
Course assignments are clearly related to the course objectives	4.71	4.52
Instructional methods in the course facilitate my learning	4.67	4.15
In general, the course is well organized.	4.62	4.31
I know significantly more about this subject	4.57	4.42
Overall, I would rate this course as "excellent."	4.52	4.07

Responses on a scale from 1 (Strongly disagree) to 5 (Strongly agree)

Response rate: 78% (21 out of 27 students)

Strengths of the course

- Provides lots of knowledge on Latin America that many probably won't know beforehand. Dispels many of the stereotypes held about Latin American politics.
- Interesting subject matter presented in an open environment that encourages questions.
- Wide variety of case studies
- The organization of the course makes the material understandable, and the small class size allows for great discussion.
- The course gave me a strong background on historical events in Latin America.
- I think the biggest strength of the class is that the lectures are divided into theory and concepts, and case studies. This makes people understand the terms and then have to apply it to the specific cases. As well this made it possible to use the general theories or information taught and apply them to countries and cases that we did not study. This made it possible to analyze cases on our own on the paper for example.
- Professor's enthusiasm and knowledge when it comes to the subject
- Awesome selection of relevant and fluid information, realistic attendance and participation policies.
- Very interactive and interesting.
- Its teaches you a lot about things you would otherwise never know
- Really good understanding of overall themes and trends in LTAM
- It is a good introductory class to the region of Latin America and covers a lot of history as well as politics.
- The slides were very helpful, the timeline of the course helped to make a complicated history understandable and flow easily. Focus on learning and understanding over memorization.
- Very helpful for learning more about Latin America
- Interesting subject matter
- The course was very informational. I can sincerely say that I learned a lot of information. This is my first poli sci class, and I enjoyed it very much.
- Covers an amazing amount of material in a short time. Very good for establishing an understanding of the political and economic history of the region from colonial times to present day.

Strengths of the instructor

- Incredibly knowledgeable and willing to meet outside of class to help one learn the material. She genuinely tries to make the material more interactive.
- Clearly communicates ideas and facilitates lively discussion between students.
- Very organized, quick responses, understanding, helpful
- Zoila comes to class very prepared with well structured lectures. She is great at encourage participation through her questions, and she is always available for help or feedback. She is very knowledgeable about the region.
- She is a great instructor and makes it easy to communicate with her.

- Zoila shows up to class prepared and ready to teach. She does a great job encouraging class participation and engaging students with the material at hand. Zoila is one of the best instructors I've had at Chapel Hill! As a side note for whoever reads this, I have had a handful of friends who have taken Poli 238 before when Zoila was a TA for the class. They have all had great things to say about her, which demonstrates a pattern of her commitment inside the classroom.
- I think the biggest strength of the professor is that she is young enough to understand the students, but educated and prepared enough to teach the course and promote critical thinking. Since she can kind of relate to the students she is open to recommendations about how lectures and assignments are designed. She has demonstrated to be enthusiastic and concerned about the students learning rather than just wanting to fail students.
- Her knowledge, enthusiasm, interactive teaching style, and cute fashion sense
- She has awesomely realistic expectations of our learning, and is great at simplifying the information for us. Her lectures are entertaining and engaging.
- Enthusiastic about the material, very helpful with any questions, provides regular feedback
- She's always there for advice
- Really enthusiastic and knowledgeable; encourages student participation well
- Given the difficulty of covering so much content in one semester, I think Zoila did a really good job covering a lot of material. She is really encouraging of questions and answering hers in class and is clearly very very knowledgeable.
- Strong lecturer, engaging, always available for help, approachable
- Her PowerPoints were very helpful for understanding often complex readings and helping us to focus on what is important.
- Encourages participation Great at answering questions Friendly personality
- Good Professor
- I like the way that Zoila taught the class. The structured allowed for participation to happen naturally. I felt safe to participated, even though I am shy. She seems very knowledgeable about the subject and is very friendly.
- Zoila does a great job using specific real world examples to back up the broader themes of the course, and makes special effort to make it clear when these specific examples are important to remember and when they are simply serving as a way to talk about broader themes