

**Course Evaluation Ratings by Instructor and Course
Count and Percent Distribution of Responses, Questions 1 to 8
Fall 2012**

Economic Analysis Public Law

Towfigh, Emanuel V.

Section: 1 Enrollment: 16 Total Submitted: 13 Percent Submitted: 81%

1. What percentage of classes did you attend in this?

Outstanding or 80-100%	13	100%	
Above average or 60-80%	0	0%	
Average or 40-60%	0	0%	
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%	
Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	
		Average	5.00

2. What was the extent of your preparedness?

Outstanding or 80-100%	7	54%	
Above average or 60-80%	4	31%	
Average or 40-60%	2	15%	
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%	
Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	
		Average	4.38

3. The course has been intellectually stimulating and challenging.

Outstanding or 80-100%	6	46%	
Above average or 60-80%	5	38%	
Average or 40-60%	2	15%	
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%	
Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	
		Average	4.31

4. The instructor displayed mastery of the subject matter.

Outstanding or 80-100%	12	92%	
Above average or 60-80%	1	8%	
Average or 40-60%	0	0%	
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%	
Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	
		Average	4.92

5. The class sessions have been well organized, clear, (interesting), and effective.

Outstanding or 80-100%	6	46%	
Above average or 60-80%	5	38%	
Average or 40-60%	2	15%	
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%	
Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	
		Average	4.31

6. The readings have been useful and well integrated into lectures/discussions.

Outstanding or 80-100%	8	62%	
Above average or 60-80%	4	31%	
Average or 40-60%	1	8%	
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%	
Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	
		Average	4.54

7. The instructor was reasonably accessible for out-of-class questions and advice.

Outstanding or 80-100%	10	77%	
Above average or 60-80%	1	8%	
Average or 40-60%	2	15%	
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%	

Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	Average	4.62
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8. Overall, the instructor taught this course effectively.

Outstanding or 80-100%	6	46%		
Above average or 60-80%	6	46%		
Average or 40-60%	1	8%		
Below average or 20-40%	0	0%		
Poor or 0-20%	0	0%	Average	4.38

Comments

Comment on the method and quality of the instructor's teaching. Be specific about strengths, weaknesses, teaching techniques, congeniality of the learning environment and any suggestions for improvement.

The classes and readings were very challenging. Professor taught interesting issues that are not easy to understand for lawyer, but his explanations were appropriate. Finally, I realized that the professor really enjoyed teaching this course and that motivates me even more.

Really like the response papers every week. However, it would be helpful for introduction to whatever topic we will be reading and writing response papers about prior to getting those assignments.

Really enjoyed the class discussions. Classroom environment was comfortable and there was an appropriate balance between lecture and class engagement.

Readings were well-integrated into class and discussions. Professor did well to cite many students' reading responses every week, keeping each individual involved.

Professor knows the field very well and is good at posing thought-provoking questions and leading the class into discussion.

Professor Towfigh was prepared, presented interesting discussion and made us really think. He was open to suggestions throughout the course and overall the class was very interesting. He tried involving all students in discussion and the small size of the class made this easy. Great class.

Professor Towfigh clearly has a strong grasp of some of the more advanced concepts within the field of law and economics, and I felt that he did a great job of making sure that we are able to understand what were sometimes complex ideas. Though he was an active participant in class discussion, he did not dominate it. And the fact that we all had to submit brief response papers every week (while slightly annoying initially) ensured that everyone had something to say.

Professor Towfigh was incredibly knowledgeable about the subject matter we were dealing with. I think he was very friendly which made the seminar structure less intimidating. Because it was a seminar, I feel like there was not as much direct instruction as there was general discussion.

It would be nice to have a little more input regarding grading. The first couple weeks we were given an update, but I have not really known where I stand since then. However, I do really like the short response paper format.

The class environment was amicable and open, though I found on occasion that discussion stalled when the instructor's questions were too open-ended or broad, which made it difficult to know in which direction to go with responses. At its best, the format of discussion was fantastic and conducive to much deeper understanding of the materials. At its worst, the open-ended questions made discussion frustrating and drawn-out. Perhaps more signalling as to where each line of reasoning was headed could have helped.

Professor Towfigh was clearly an expert in the subject matter. Because he was thoroughly familiar with the material and interested in the topics, his enthusiasm came through during class discussions, making them more pleasant. Although it was difficult to read the material and turn in assignments by the Friday deadlines, requiring weekly response papers ensured that students completed the readings and were able to participate in class. Class discussions flowed more smoothly because of this.

▼ Comment as specifically as possible about whether the selection and organization of the materials and the emphasis of the instructor were appropriate to achieving the goals of the course.

Materials were almost always really well organized and pertinent. There was really only one week where the readings were difficult because we hadn't received an introduction to the concepts behind them yet. Other than that, good selection.

Readings were well structured and informative.

Considering the broad and academic nature of the topic, reading were chosen well to provide both an introduction to each topic as well as a thorough discussion.

The readings were a little burdensome for a 3-credit course, and it seemed like some sections of some of the longer articles could've been cut out.

The subjects were for the most part interesting. A little bit too much focus on politics for my taste but

this was Professor's area of expertise. The reading assignments sometimes got too long and Professor T was aware of this so he tried cutting the assignments to make them more manageable. Some articles were a little too theoretical and abstract to understood fully but for the most part, they were interesting. I especially enjoyed the empirical studies. I should also add that the once a week short response papers were also great. Professor T gave feedback throughout the semester to let us know how we were doing. Moreover, not having a large final paper in the end made things easier in terms of preparing for other exams.

I'm certainly no expert in the field, but I feel like after going through all of the reading for the course, I have a much better idea of how public law can be understood through an economic framework. If this was the goal of the course, then mission accomplished.

I would suggest making this class require at least some experience in economics. That would help. I think Professor Towfigh was a little constrained in what he was able to assign for reading because of a large variance in economic background. With a background in economics (undergraduate degree and graduate courses) the course materials were outstanding. I would not feel this way if I had an undergraduate major other than economics.

The course covered a very interesting and varied range of materials, effectively introducing me to new, powerful perspectives with which to analyze various aspects of public law and policy. The texts were well selected as seminal or leading texts in each area, providing a comprehensive overview of the field of study.

The selected readings were relevant and generally interesting. The few lectures were informative and fun (particularly the material relating to behavioral analysis). Class discussions, which took up the majority of the class time, were well focused.

The readings toward the beginning of class were a bit long, but they tapered off to a more reasonable level toward the end. I appreciated the relatively short length of the assignments during the final two weeks of the class. The only material that presented a significant challenge was the "social choice" material.

What, if any, constructive suggestions do you have for this instructor and/or course, e.g., specific areas requiring improvement.

Sometimes I felt like Prof Towfigh would ask pretty subjective questions to which he had only one answer in mind. Although he was trying to facilitate discussion, it discourages discussion when you feel like you might not get the question "right."

since the response papers were due before the class discussion on the reading material, and our grades

mostly depend on the response papers, perhaps it would encourage class discussion if the discussion preceded the response papers. (but on the other hand, that might make the content of the discussion less interesting because there is less input beforehand)

Overall I really enjoyed the course. Readings were maybe a little too voluminous some weeks, making it difficult to fully prepare all of the material.

Some book used throughout the course of the class would have helped provide a narrative. Class topics week-to-week were related somewhat, but individual law review articles as reading matter made the course feel like a series of discussions rather than an ongoing class.

The timing of the assignments was tough to deal with. Having assignments due on Friday when the readings are for the class on the following Tuesday leads to a timecrunch to get the readings done, and necessitates reviewing the articles on Monday or Tuesday before class.

Nothing apart from the critiques on the material. Keep up the great work!

I don't really have any. Keep up the good work!

Again, I would suggest making background in econ a prerequisite. I would then suggest fewer introductory weeks. I really liked the last few weeks where we focused on specific legal topics (Administrative Law, International Law, Political Parties, etc). However, I think we had to spend almost half the course covering the foundational elements of economics. Ideally, I would suggest two weeks to cover the basic economic theories (Rational Choice, Public Choice, Behavioral Economics, etc.) and then spend the remainder applying them to specific subjects.

I also think it would work better (for the purposes of the seminar format) for students to all read the same papers. There was a tendency to zone-out when a paper you did not read was being discussed. I think discussion will flow better when every student has read every paper.

Providing a longer timeframe to complete reading assignments would allow students to more effectively schedule their coursework in relation to their other classes. For some of the longer articles, I would have appreciated the articles being cut down to their most relevant parts instead of having to read the entire articles.
