

# Northwestern

Individual Report for for  
Constitutional Law  
II(POLI\_SCI\_333-0\_20:  
Constitutional Law  
II,LEGAL\_ST\_333-0\_20:  
Constitutional Law II) (Calvin  
Terbeek)

Project Title: **Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC  
Winter 2019**

Courses Audience: 34  
Responses Received: 26  
Response Ratio: 76.5%

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## Report Comments

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Creation Date: **Wednesday, March 27, 2019**



## Northwestern University

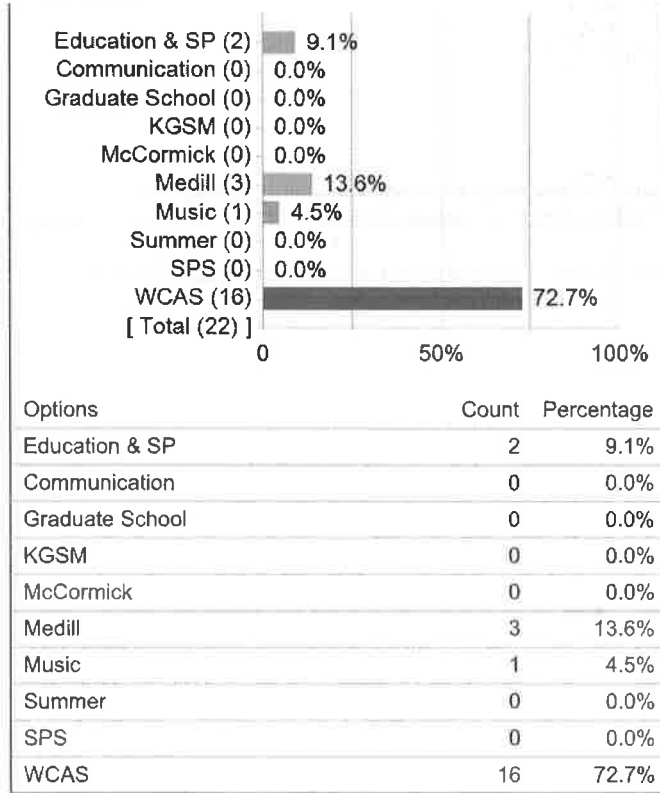
### Course Evaluations

Instructor	Course
<b>Calvin Terbeek</b>	<b>Constitutional Law II</b>

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

##### Your School

1. Your School



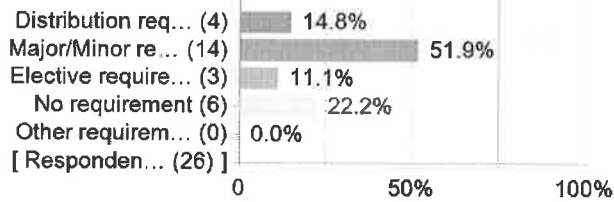
**Your Class**

1. Your Class



Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	2	8.0%
Sophomore	10	40.0%
Junior	9	36.0%
Senior	4	16.0%
Graduate	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

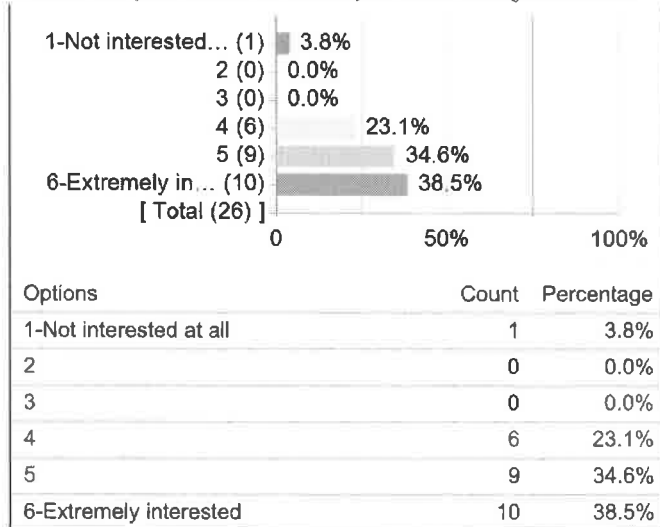
**What is your reason for taking the course? (mark all that apply)**



Options	Count	Percentage
Distribution requirement	4	14.8%
Major/Minor requirement	14	51.9%
Elective requirement	3	11.1%
No requirement	6	22.2%
Other requirement	0	0.0%
Respondent(s)	26	

**What was your interest in this subject before taking the course?**

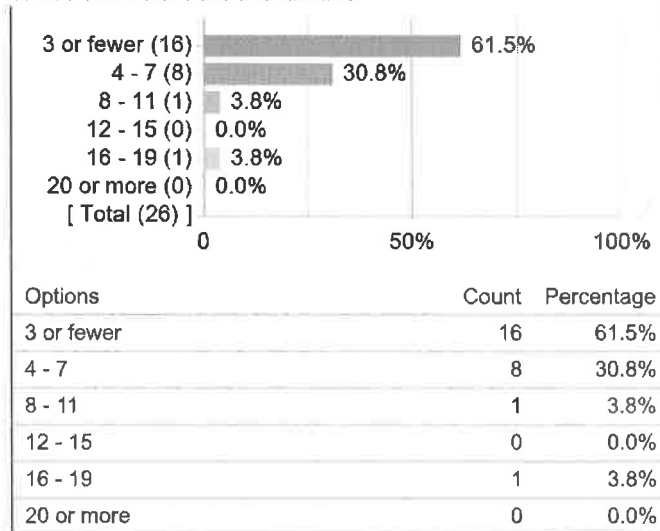
1. What was your interest in this subject before taking the course?



**TIME-SURVEY QUESTION**

**Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.**

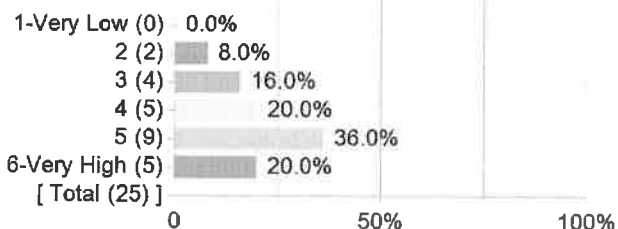
1. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.



**COURSE QUESTIONS**

**Provide an overall rating of the course.**

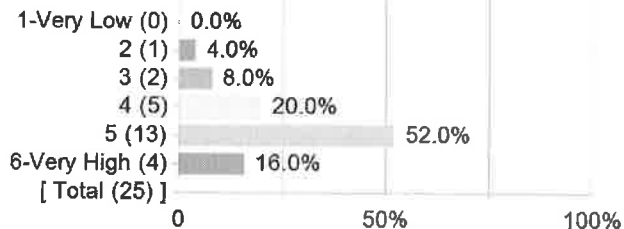
1. Provide an overall rating of the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	2	8.0%
3	3	4	16.0%
4	4	5	20.0%
5	5	9	36.0%
6-Very High	6	5	20.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			25
Mean			4.44
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			1.23

**Estimate how much you learned in the course.**

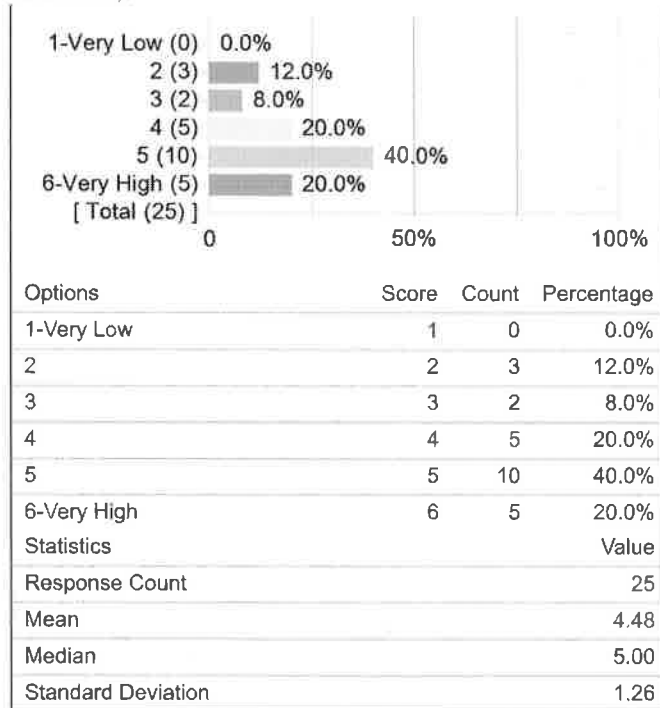
1. Estimate how much you learned in the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	1	4.0%
3	3	2	8.0%
4	4	5	20.0%
5	5	13	52.0%
6-Very High	6	4	16.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			25
Mean			4.68
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.99

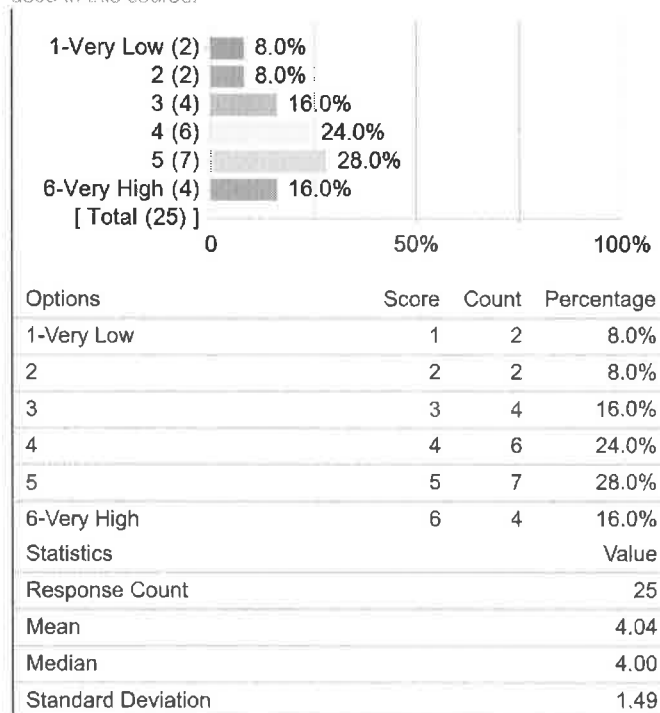
**Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.**

1. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.



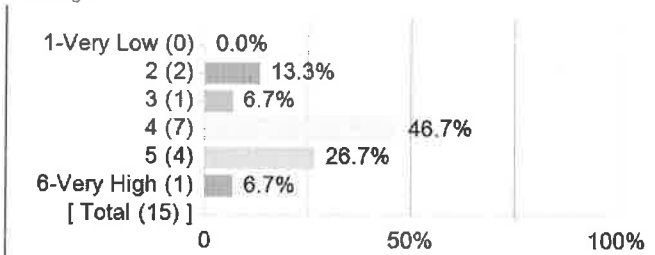
**Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.**

1. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.



**Rate how well the overall organization of the course facilitated learning.**

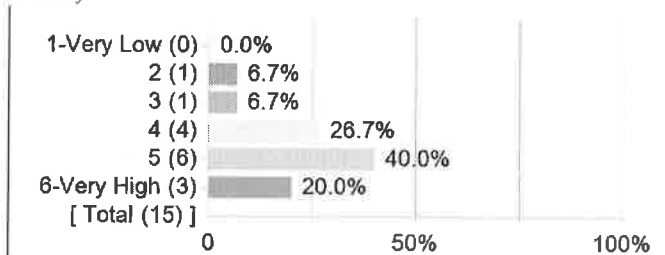
1. Rate how well the overall organization of the course facilitated learning.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	2	13.3%
3	3	1	6.7%
4	4	7	46.7%
5	5	4	26.7%
6-Very High	6	1	6.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			4.07
Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			1.10

**Rate how well this course helped you improve your ability to read critically.**

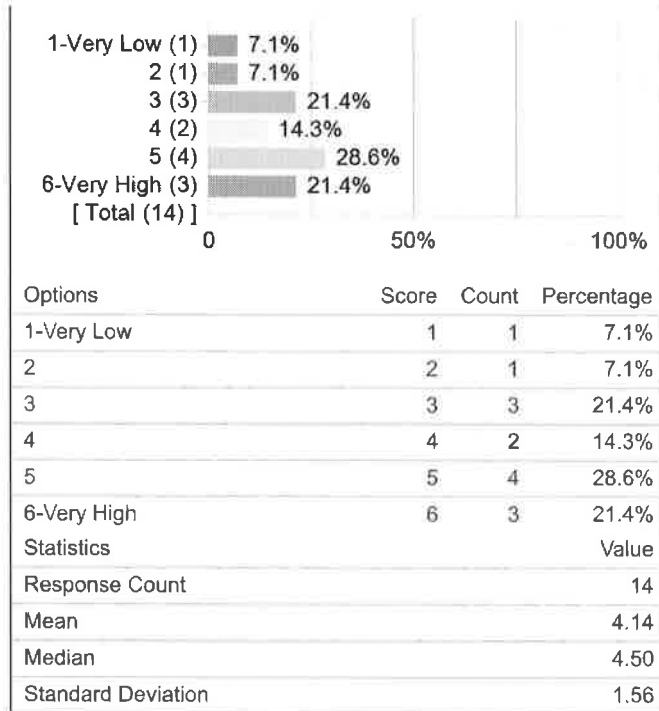
1. Rate how well this course helped you improve your ability to read critically.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	1	6.7%
3	3	1	6.7%
4	4	4	26.7%
5	5	6	40.0%
6-Very High	6	3	20.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			4.60
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			1.12

**Rate how well the examinations accurately measured your achievement in this course.**

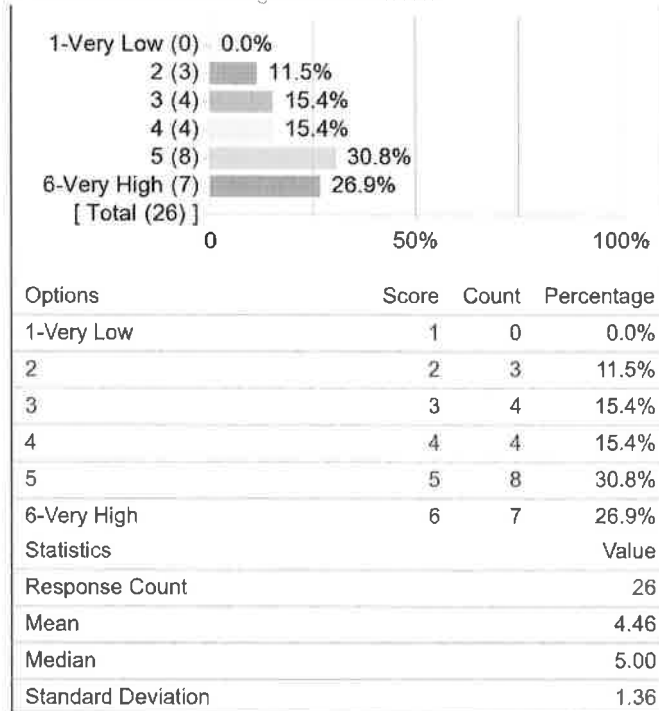
1. Rate how well the examinations accurately measured your achievement in this course.



**INSTRUCTOR QUESTIONS**

**Provide an overall rating of the instruction.**

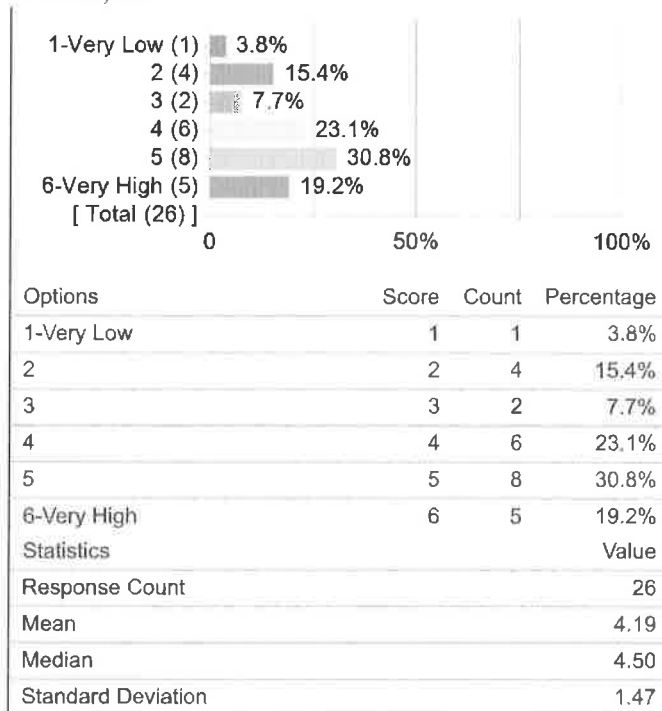
1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction.



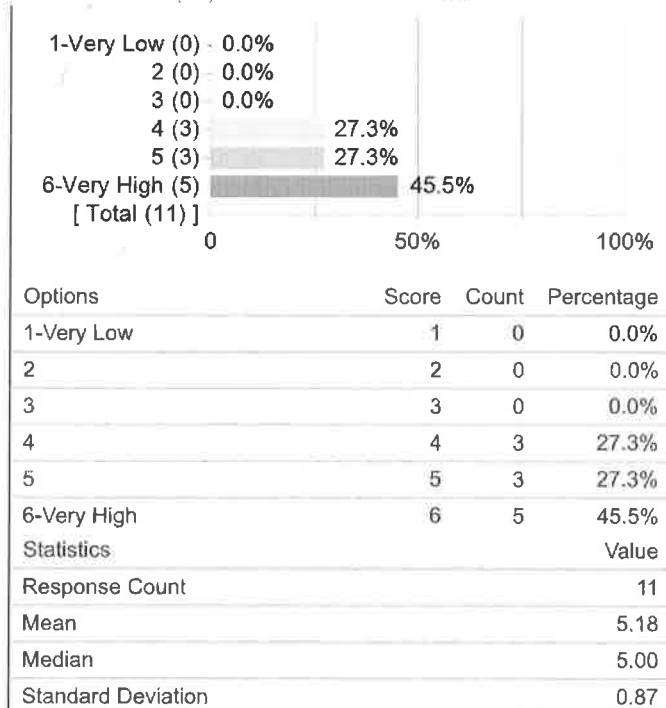


**Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.**

1. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.

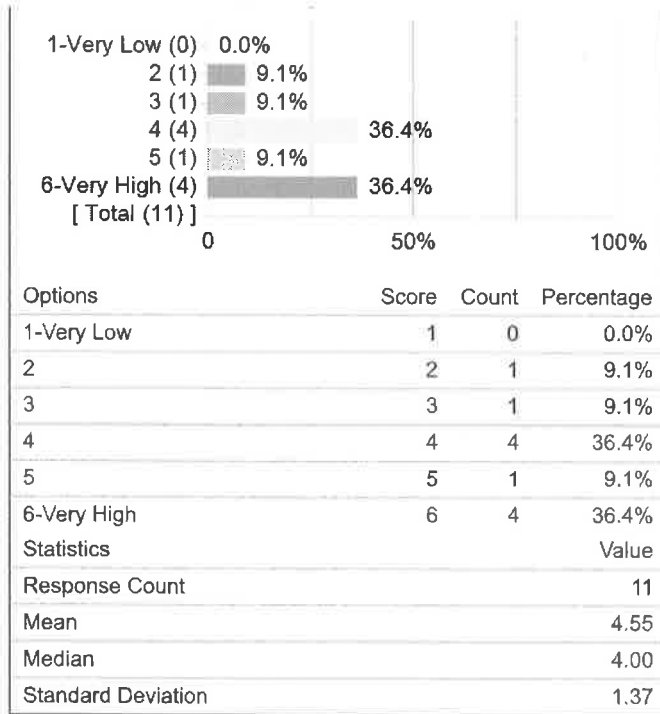
**Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.**

1. Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.



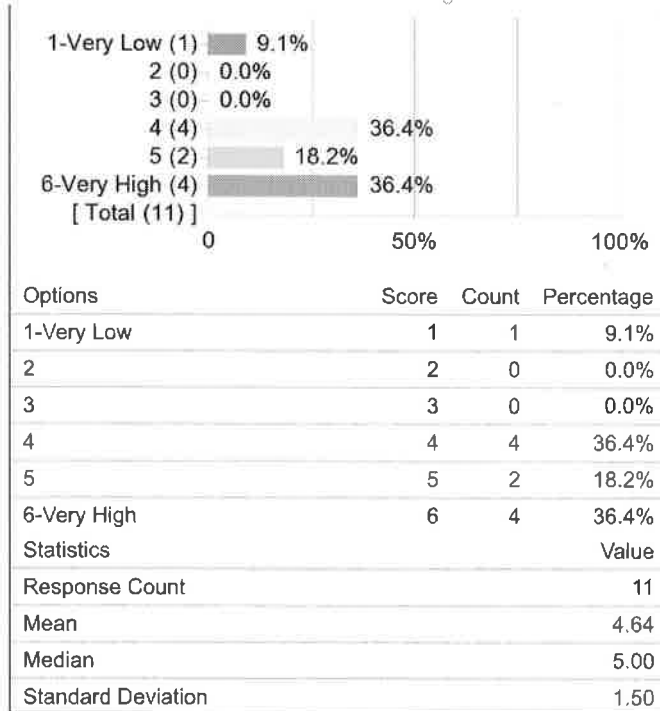
**Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.**

1. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.



**Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.**

1. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.



## OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

## Did the course help you learn? Why or why not?

## Comments

All of the material combined made sense, but I would have liked to have more cohesive lectures that got to the main points of the class.

It helped me learn alot only because I was forced to turn to alot of outside resources and independent study

This course helped me learn a lot about constitutional law! I thought I already knew a lot, but throughout the course I was constantly surprised and impressed with all of the information I was learning. This class helped me learn because we were required to write weekly papers on both textbook readings and outside articles.

This course mostly introduced me to a new way of thinking about Constitutional Law and Politics. A lot of discussions about Con Law are grounded in principles and grandstanding, but situating the court within political moments, associating justices with political movements, and the like really helps me in my understanding of what the Supreme Court is and why we see everything that we do. I think that the course has room to grow in effectiveness at not having pedantic projects. The exams are regurgitation and reading responses would probably be more valuable if they were discussion responses posted on a forum

Yes. But disorganized.

Yes, the readings were interesting and the lectures made it clear how they related to the broader points of the class

Yes, was not familiar with subject beforehand and now I am.

There was a disconnect between lectures and section, but the overall instruction was good.

we cover landmark supreme court cases throughout different times which is cool because we get to see shifting jurisprudence

Yes it did, it covered interpretations I had never seen before and went through them in detail.

The weekly response papers and test questions guided learning really well.

The course helped me learn in the sense that I have a greater understanding of the different constitutional politics surrounding various court cases and how American history progressed over time.

This had the potential to be a great course but it was just really not great.

**Please summarize your reaction to this course focusing on the aspects that were most important to you.**

Comments

Calvin was a bit hard to hear at times and his lectures were not very well structured, but he posted lecture slides and these were very helpful. Midterm and assignments were very fair.

The teacher was a PhD student from Uchicago and it definitely affected my achievement in the course. He assumed we had knowledge on concepts that were essential to the course. He was a very intelligent and nice person but lectures were hard to keep up with if you dont understand the context. DO NOT TAKE THIS AS A FIRST YEAR, unless you are already well versed on constitutional politics or in-depth history of the United States and can apply it easily to law. Still a very interesting class but I definitely wont walk out of it with an A.

This class was very informative because the class was not simply a display of powerpoint of facts, but instead every class we analyzed the facts from our readings and then discussed them in the light of other opinions and discussions.

I did learn a lot about Con Law, and it definitely was a signpost for understanding where to look if I want to pay attention to court politics. This is not a class you should take if you are interested in debates, and although the class would probably be a lot better as a seminar, it wasn't horrible as a lecture. It is also not a class that will help you to write.

I took this class pass/fail and it was easy in that sense. If you like Con Law then this class will be right for you. The lectures are a little dry, and it certainly did not help to have ~20 students in the Fisk lecture hall. Professor TerBeek still knows his stuff.

Interesting class; the readings are mostly worth keeping up on

Terbeek is a fantastic lecturer, understanding professor, and all around cool guy. 10/10 would recommend this course with Terbeek.

Lectures assume a lot of foreknowledge on the subject, and the midterm was re-weighted during finals week, which affected grades.

good course, Professor TerBeek cares about whether his students learn and is very accessible

This class section was disorganized and confusing. There was a heavy disconnect between the teacher and the TA, who were both actually PhD students and clearly did not communicate between each other. Lecture was always all over the place and not very engaging at all, but thank god the textbook was actually enjoyable to read so I primarily learned from that. The midterm was absurd; we had to write six or so short answer questions along with four full essays within one class period. I was disappointed because I was so excited about this material as a pre-law student. Not sure if the political science department understands how disorganized and stressful this class felt for students this time around, but they should be aware.

Pretty interesting class. If you like law then you will enjoy this class. There are a lot of big concepts covered that could be tough, but as long as you go to lecture you will be fine.

Solid class, pretty easy tbh. Should have been advertised as "Constitutional Politics", not "Constitutional Law"

This class is great if you are really interested in constitutional politics. It requires a lot of personal initiative to get through the readings and really process the lectures, but it's worth it. Professor TerBeek is really laid-back and ready to answer questions if you want to put in the time.

Calvin is a great teacher and he's super accessible outside of class. It's not a hard class by any means and I highly suggest that you take Con Law II with him.

Prof Terbeek is awesome – engaging speaker, cracks some great jokes, brings in current events, and is conversational in tone. He's easily accessible and super helpful, truly made the class a pleasure. The exams were reasonable (focus less on specific details and more on general trends) and the weekly discussion papers were not difficult.

Pick shorter readings, no one is going to read all that.

Lectures and discussions were pretty boring, but the actual content of the course was very interesting. TerBeek and Ayodeji were very kind/understanding and good at explaining topics, and exams/response papers were graded pretty easily. Not terribly difficult or heavy coursework (1 page response paper weekly, 1 in-class midterm exam, and take home final, readings very manageable), just might not be the most interesting/engaging if you're not interested in constitutional law.

**What are the primary teaching strengths of the instructor?**

Comments
Extremely extremely knowledgeable about the content, very obviously passionate about it.
He is very helpful, knowledgeable and interested in the subject and he connects the constitutional history to current events.
knowledge of the concepts
Professor Terbeek was always focused on teaching the material instead of our grades, which was truly a relief. In the class and discussion, I felt like I had the ability to ask any question no matter how silly or small it may be. He was also always very prepared for class with a wide variety of information.
Calvin really knows his stuff. He obviously cares a lot about judicial politics and it doesn't take a lot of prodding to get him to show how much he knows and how much he wants to share it with his students.
.
Obviously very knowledgeable about the topic, and seems genuinely interested. Explained the readings with clarity and gave solid lectures
Super interested in the subject and incredibly knowledgeable about it.
Knowledgeable about the subject, good at incorporating current events.
gave a lot of useful information
Professor Terbeek knows a lot about the material
Depth of knowledge into topic
Slide design
Professor TerBeek really excels one-on-one and I believe that he knows exactly what questions to ask.
I enjoy how he is able to dissect all of the different components for each court case and explain how various provisions contributed to the constitutional politics of the given era.
Funny, engaging, short presentations
The takes were interesting for sure. It was good to learn the material with more of a purpose.

**What are the primary weaknesses, if any, of the instruction?**

Comments
His lectures could be clearer
no detailed powerpoints
He did not have any weaknesses. He was very adaptable to our needs. For example, we told him that we were having trouble hearing him, and then the next class he used a microphone and it helped majorly.
He has room to grow in how to lead a room in a lecture setting and I think that he would be much better suited to a seminar course in this topic.
.
None.
Disconnect between what was discussed in lecture and during section.
lectures can be a bit boring/not enough on slides
A bit monotone
I think that Professor TerBeek struggled a little at the beginning of the quarter with drawing a clear line through his lectures, but this improved as the quarter went on.
N/A
Would've loved the slides to have a little more information on them – but I understand why he wouldn't want to do that
The lectures were kind of hard to follow and see the connections between things. I would have liked more instruction on the content before going over the takeaways.

**Can you offer suggestions for improvement?**

Comments
supply more context and write better slides
My only suggestion would be to go over some of the readings more in depth because some of the readings were very long and took a long time to understand them and go through them.
A lot of times, attempts to engage the class felt like they were a bit of a surprise, and there might be more engaging ways to get people involved in the discussion. Multiple times, he asked questions about where we fell on the side of an issue, and I think it would have been really fun to have everyone get up and go to one side of the room or another.
The instructor and TA should have coordinated more. I felt like the discussion was not a reflection of the lecture.
No.
n/a
maybe a bit more info on slides?
The midterm felt unfair and it was difficult to showcase my knowledge because there wasn't enough time to even write down what I know.
All good
I would make the reading responses prompted and communicate more with the TA to ensure that students get a more consistent experience.
N/A
Honestly thought you were a great prof and I hope to take another class with you at some point!