

## POL 441: Seminar in International Relations: Theories of International Order - S01 - J. de Bhal

### Response Table

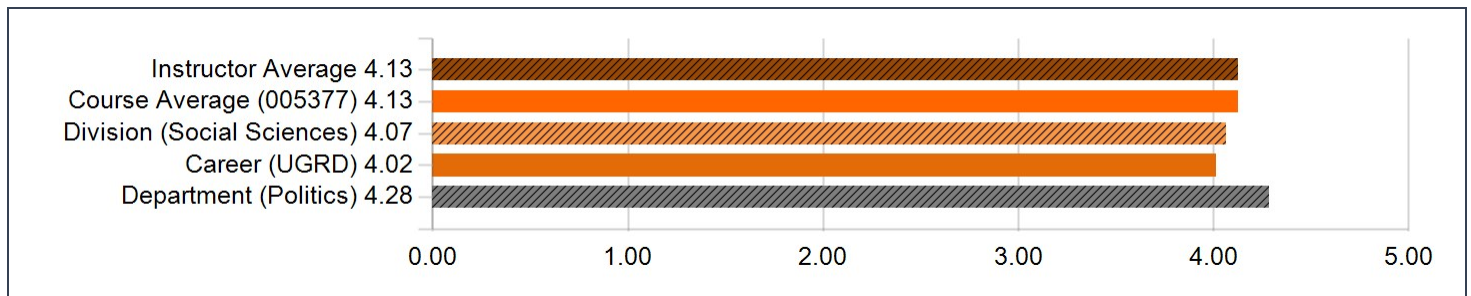
Raters	Students
Responded	8
Invited	9
Response Ratio	89%

Please note that the Responded, Invited (Enrollment) and Response Ratio metrics exclude declines.

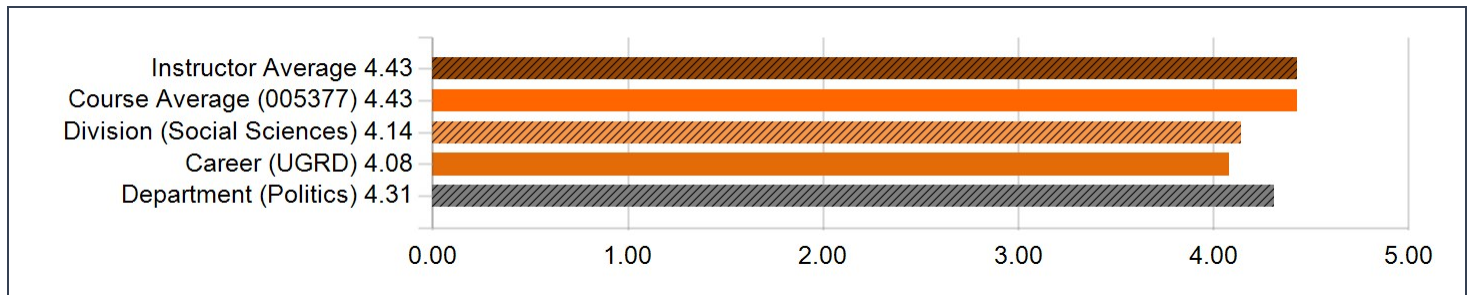
Department, division and career level statistics are survey-specific (i.e. the main survey, FRS, Writing Program, and graduate program surveys). Statistics below are based on responses of the course population that completed the same survey questionnaire as this course.

### Course Questions - Score Analysis

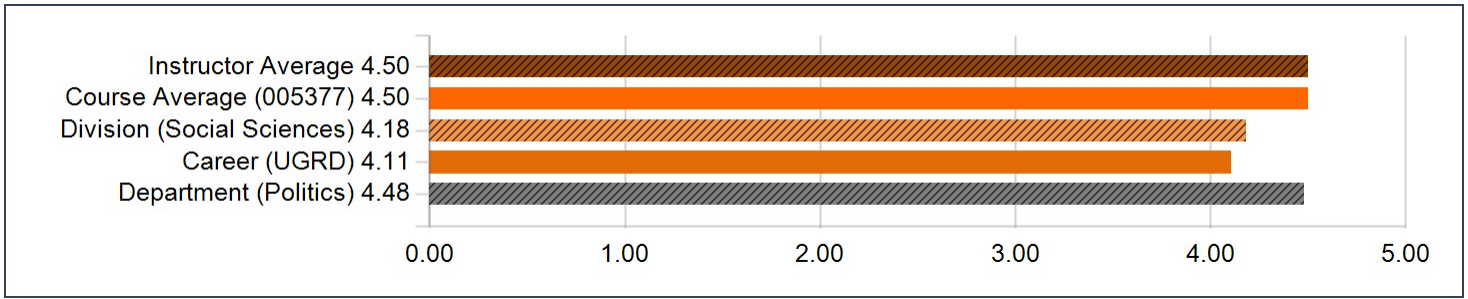
I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:



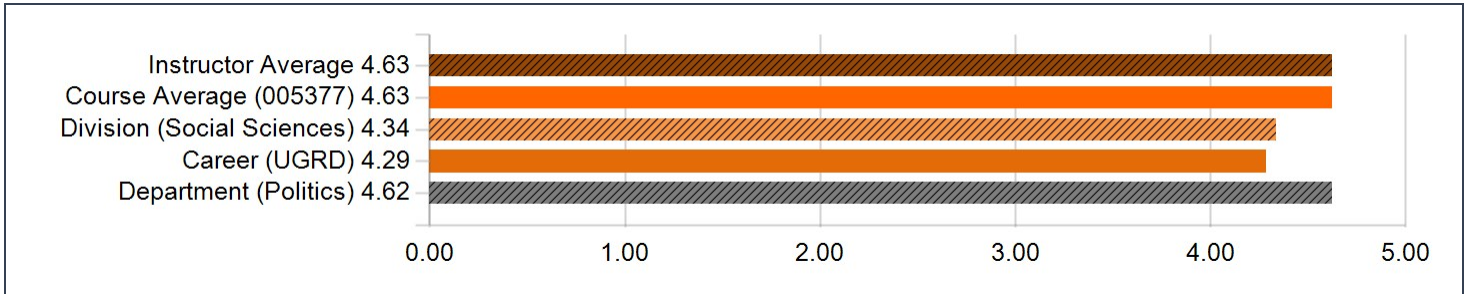
I think that the overall quality of the readings was:



**I think that the overall quality of the course was:**



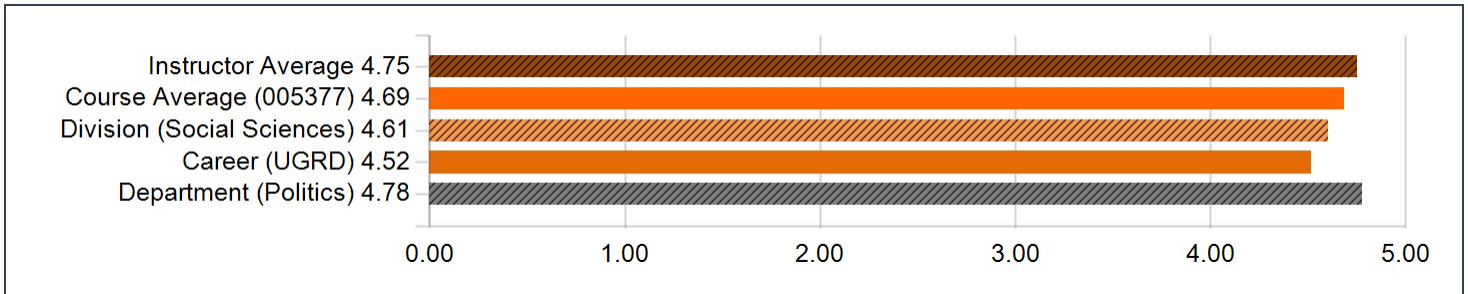
**Would you recommend this course to other students?**



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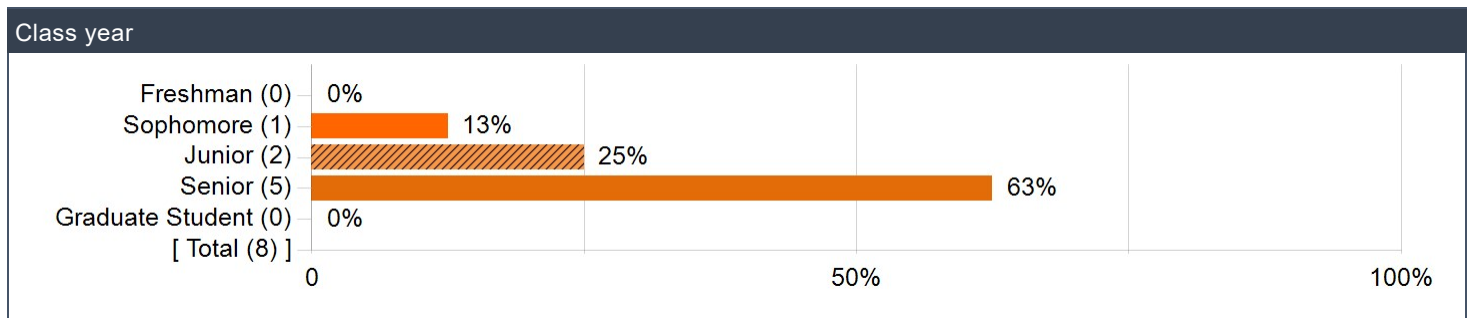
**Instructor Questions - Score Analysis**

**I think that the overall quality of the seminar was:**

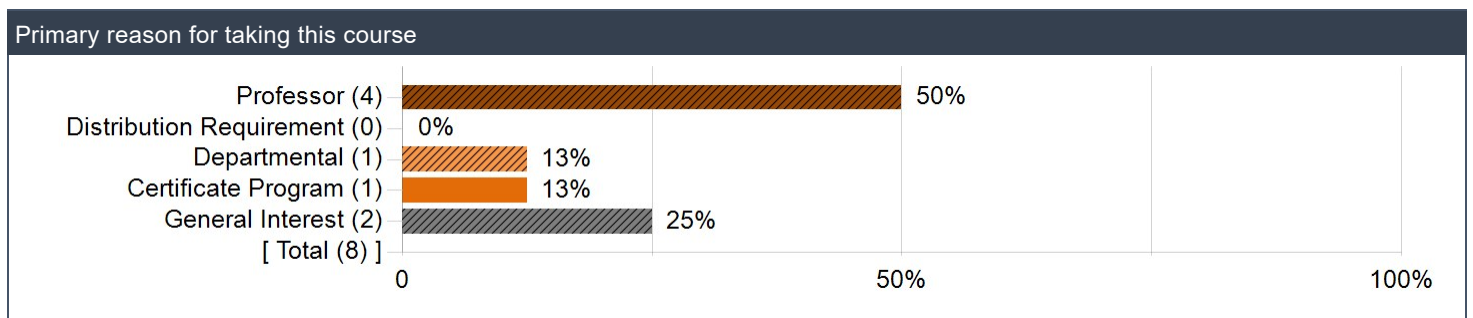


## Course Questions - Frequency Analysis

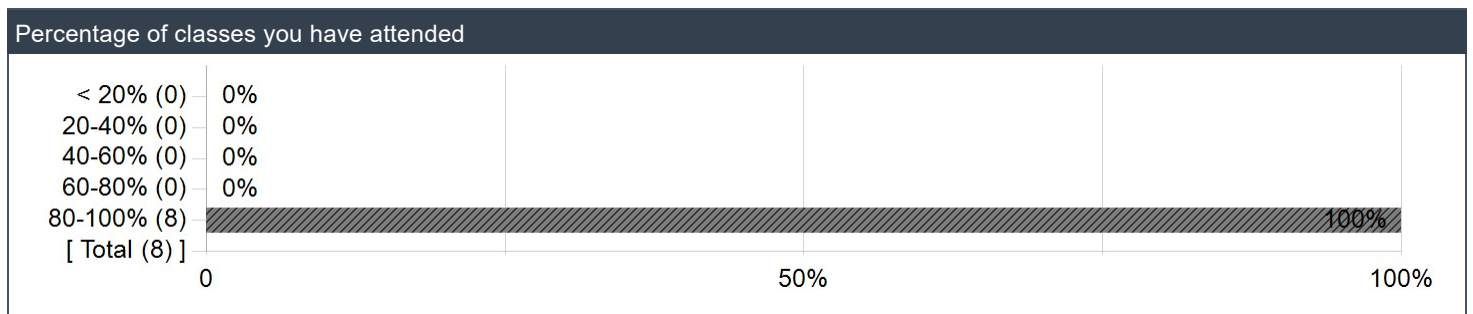
### Class year



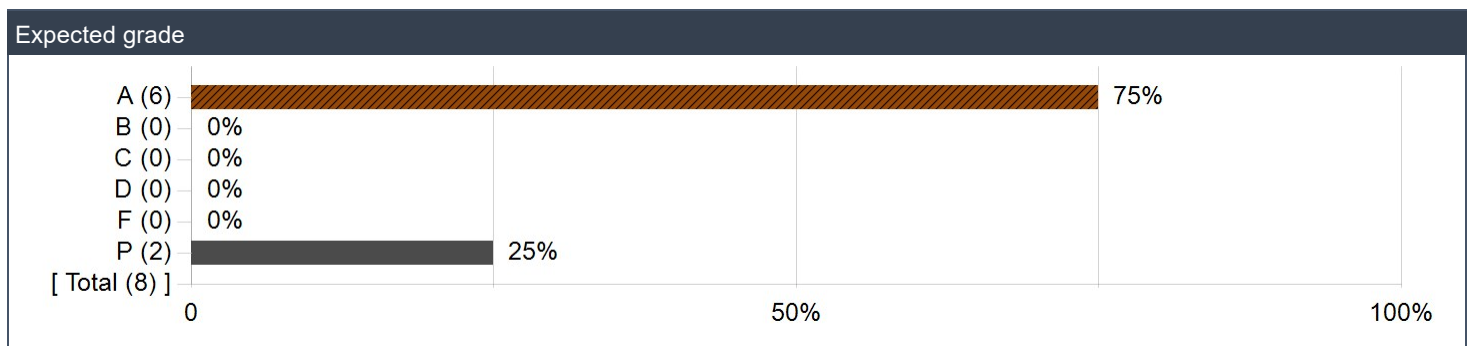
### Primary reason for taking this course



### Percentage of classes you have attended



### Expected grade



**I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:**

I think that the overall quality of the written assignments was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	3	38%
Very Good	4	3	38%
Good	3	2	25%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

**I think that the overall quality of the readings was:**

I think that the overall quality of the readings was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	4	57%
Very Good	4	2	29%
Good	3	1	14%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

**I think that the overall quality of the course was:**

I think that the overall quality of the course was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	5	63%
Very Good	4	2	25%
Good	3	1	13%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

**Would you recommend this course to other students?**

Would you recommend this course to other students?			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Recommend	5	5	63%
Recommend	4	3	38%
Neutral	3	0	0%
Recommend Against	2	0	0%
Strongly Recommend Against	1	0	0%

## Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the seminar was:

I think that the overall quality of the seminar was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	6	75%
Very Good	4	2	25%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

## Qualitative Feedback

### Self-Evaluation - Why did you take this course? How would you describe your level of engagement in the course?

Comments
Out of both interest, and for fulfilling degree requirements; ultimately, I found this course so interesting and engaging that it was difficult to not participate at almost every opportunity.
Wanted an opportunity to learn about international relations, especially from a theoretical–historical perspective. Was very engaged, with the exception of a few weeks of intense thesis work.
I took this class because of general interest in the subject and because I had taken a great class with Professor Ikenberry before (SPI 315). I would describe my level of engagement in the class as pretty high.
I was excited to learn about IR theory and this felt like an opportunity I could not pass up.
I loved this course and took it because I was interested in international affairs.

### Seminars - How would you describe the overall quality of the seminars? Please comment, as appropriate, on how well the instructor stimulated your curiosity and independent thinking, raised challenging questions, helped clarify course material, encouraged participation, and responded to students' questions, opinions, and criticisms.

Comments
Very good; the professor and the course administrators did a fantastic job of both leading interesting lectures, but also allowing for a great deal of student discussion and engagement with all of the materials.
Great discussions and back and forth between the multiple instructors, prompted thoughts and provided helpful context and interventions
I thought the seminars were remarkable, with perhaps the highest level of questions, thinking, and debate that I've had at my time at Princeton. The instruction team did a really good job modeling the expected type of participation and always responded thoughtfully to students' contributions, actively soliciting it throughout the seminar through open–ended questions.
John de Bhal was a fantastic and engaging professor. So glad I got to learn from him.
Seminars were amazing. Quality was excellent; I had a magnificent time.

### Papers, Reports, Problem Sets, Examinations, Critiques - Please comment on the guidance of the instructor(s) in preparing you to do written work, comments in response to written work, and the overall value of the papers, reports, exams, problem sets, and critiques to the course.

Comments
Why the written assignments were rather free–form, ultimately, they allowed for a great deal of intellectual engagement and deep research.
Midterm essay felt somewhat unnecessary for a seminar and was graded rather strictly, considering we were told to spend an afternoon completing it. Otherwise, same research paper as any other seminar.
I think the midterm was extremely fair in terms of the questions that were asked and the standards for grading. The prompts were all quite straightforward and the graders left very detailed comments when returning the midterms so we could know where to improve. The final paper was open–ended and we were also given a lot of support in coming up with the idea and drafting it.
Assignments could have had clearer expectations and included a rubric.
Papers and exams were great; questions were interesting and fun.

**Readings and Visuals - Please comment on the quality of the readings and visuals in the course. Did the readings and visuals present the subject matter clearly? To what extent did the readings and visuals stimulate your intellectual curiosity and independent thinking?**

Comments
They were diverse and positively contributed to every subject we covered. I think that the readings were well-selected, and touched on many different perspectives and academic subjects when appropriate.
Good mix of readings, though would have preferred slightly more theory and slightly less history
The readings were great albeit a bit dense from time to time; certain writers definitely tended to be crisper than others in conveying their most important ideas. But most of them were all very stimulating to our curiosity and independent thinking. I also think making students present on a set of readings at least once in the seminar was a great way for them to take ownership over a particular area and lead the class in thinking about that reading's ideas.
Readings were dense and we did not get to them all so would have appreciated more guidance and curation in the syllabus instead of relying on ad hoc advice each week.
They were great! Awesome slides!

**Overall Quality of the Course - Please comment on the overall quality of the course. What worked particularly well and in what ways might the course be improved?**

Comments
I do not have too many notes for improvement; ultimately, I wish that the class could have met more frequently. The presentation model for students to talk about individual readings to the rest of the class was fun and engaging, and class discussions were very well-lead.
Great course. Served very well as an advanced intro to IR for me, that allowed me to bring in historical and political theory knowledge. Great discussions in class. I could see my thinking changing over time, especially around the concept of "modernity."
The class was a privilege to participate in — getting to spend three hours a week with Professor Ikenberry discussing international order at such a critical juncture in our international relations was an incredible experience. The co-instructor model was a great way for us to contextualize all of our conversations as Professor Ikenberry and John de Bhal's "opening salvos" were great for us to hear and then follow up on. I will also reiterate that the student presentations once a week were generally pretty high caliber and gave students a sense of ownership over the contributions they were able to make.
Seminars were good but could have included more student participation.
I LOVED this course. Easy favorite.

**Feedback for other students: What advice would you give to another student considering taking this course? (Please note that your response to this particular question will be accessible to all members of the University community on the Course Offerings website.)**

Comments
Both engage with all of the readings and participate in every class discussion; you'll thank yourself later! This class is amazing and accessible if you're interested in international affairs from an academic perspective.
Great mix of readings on the theory and historical development of international order and the relations between the two. Convinced me that the system of independent sovereign states with exclusive territorial claims and the means through which they relate to one another are far more contingent than I at first thought. Great back-and-forth between the co-instructors that really moves the discussion along. Take for the material, not just to have a class with Prof. Ikenberry, who only leads a few of the seminars.
Professor Ikenberry's 400-level seminar is no joke — three hours a week of pretty dense philosophical discussion of "international order," which essentially means the "meta" of international relations, coupled with a hefty reading list, hundreds and hundreds of pages a week. I would advise you wait to take this class at least until after taking SPI 315: Grand Strategy which gives you the foundation to draw upon. But in the end it's super rewarding and you'll leave with hugely valuable insights about the surprisingly fragile and contingent nature of our international system.
A great opportunity to explore IR theory more in depth and learn from Ikenberry in a small setting. He only teaches a couple of the weeks but the real highlight of the course is John de Bhal, the postdoc and co-instructor who was absolutely fantastic. Be prepared for some great discussions but keep in mind grading is harsh.
I LOVED this course. JdB and Ikenberry alike were fantastic and understanding professors, and I truly enjoyed getting to know and learn from them both. If you enjoy talking in class and participating in discussions with other students, take this class.

