

## **TEACHING EVALUATIONS<sup>1</sup>** **for MARTY P. JORDAN**

The evaluation results and comments here are taken directly from (n=229) students' anonymous rating of and written comments regarding my teaching in the following seven undergraduate or graduate courses at a Research I public university (Michigan State University, East Lansing MI) and a private, residential Liberal Arts college (Hope College, Holland MI):

- PLS 201 Introduction to Political Science Methods, Michigan State University (Spring 2014)
- PLS 201 Introduction to Political Science Methods, Michigan State University (Spring 2015)
- POL 100 Introduction to American Politics, Hope College (Fall 2016)
- POL 110 Campaigns and Elections, Hope College (Fall 2016)
- POL 242 Research Methods for Political Science, Hope College (Fall 2016)
- POL 100 Introduction to American Politics, Hope College (Spring 2017)
- POL 242 Research Methods for Political Science, Hope College (Spring 2017)
- POL 295 Comparative Politics of Developing Countries, Hope College (Spring 2017)
- PPL 801 Quantitative Methods I, Masters in Public Policy, Michigan State Univ. (Fall 2017)

### **EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS**

(n=229 students)

- 100% of students rated my enthusiasm for presenting course material and interest in teaching as “Superior or “Above Average.”
- 94% of students rated my use of examples or personal experiences to help get points across in class as “Superior” or “Above Average.”
- 93% of students rated my encouragement to students to express opinions and my receptiveness to new ideas and others' viewpoints as “Superior” or “Above Average.”
- 90% of students rated my ability to relate the course concepts in a systematic manner as “Superior” or “Above Average.”
- 93% of students rated my stimulation of class discussion and their opportunity to ask questions as “Superior” or “Above Average.”
- 89% of students said their improvement in their competence in this area due to the course was “Superior” or “Above Average.”
- 78% of students said their general enjoyment of the course was “Superior” or “Above Average.”
- Overall, students evaluated my involvement, student-instructor interaction, course demands, and course organization, on average, as somewhere between “Superior” and “Above Average.”

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<sup>1</sup> Scanned copies of the summary evaluations by section, and scanned copies of original hand-written evaluations are available upon request.

## STUDENT RATINGS

### Student Instructional Rating System (SIRS), All Courses—229 student responses

	Student Responses (Percent of Total)				
	Pct. Superior	Pct. Above Avg.	Pct. Average	Pct. Below Avg.	Pct. Inferior
1. The instructor's enthusiasm when presenting course material	94%	6%	0%	0%	0%
2. The instructor's interest in teaching	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%
3. The instructor's use of examples or personal experiences to help get points across in class	59%	35%	5%	1%	0%
4. The instructor's concern with whether the students learned the material	69%	26%	5%	0%	0%
5. Your interest in learning the course material	24%	38%	32%	6%	0%
6. Your general attentiveness in class	24%	41%	31%	3%	0%
7. The course as an intellectual challenge	25%	43%	26%	5%	0%
8. Improvements in your competence in this area due to this course	39%	50%	10%	1%	0%
9. The instructor's encouragement to students to express opinions	72%	22%	5%	0%	0%
10. The instructor's receptiveness to new ideas and others' viewpoints	66%	26%	8%	0%	0%
11. The student's opportunity to ask questions	73%	25%	1%	0%	0%
12. The instructor's stimulation of class discussion	59%	29%	11%	1%	0%
13. The appropriateness of the amount of material the instructor attempted to cover	48%	33%	17%	3%	0%
14. The appropriateness of the pace at which the instructor attempted to cover the material	42%	32%	23%	2%	0%
15. The contribution of homework assignments to your understanding of the course material relative to the amount of time required	36%	35%	26%	2%	1%
16. The appropriateness of the difficulty of assigned reading topics	27%	34%	36%	3%	0%
17. The instructor's ability to relate the course concepts in a systematic manner	52%	38%	10%	0%	0%
18. The course organization	47%	40%	13%	0%	0%
19. The ease of taking notes on the instructor's presentation	52%	30%	17%	1%	0%
20. The adequacy of the outlined direction of the course	52%	34%	14%	0%	0%
21. Your general enjoyment of the course	44%	34%	19%	3%	0%

## STUDENT WRITTEN COMMENTS

Below are all anonymous written student responses to the prompt: *“One way in which an instructor can improve his or her class is through thoughtful student reactions. This instructor hopes to use your responses for self-examination and self-improvement. If you have any comments to make concerning the instructor or the course, please write them in the shaded area below.”*

### **PLS 201: Intro to Political Science Methods, Michigan State University (Spring 2014)**

“Marty is a great instructor. He is enthusiastic every day and always expresses a want to help us understand the material. He has helped me outside of class on numerous occasions and is probably the reason why I will pass this course. I would recommend everyone / anyone to take a class with him.”

“Marty always cared for the students and made sure to go over topics until we understood them. He also made the class fun with his awful jokes.”

“Marty is the best TA I’ve ever had here at MSU. He is passionate about the material and making sure his students are successful, too.”

“This is the best TA I’ve had yet. He explained every-thing well and was always enthusiastic. This wasn’t my favorite topic, but he made it more interesting and relatable.”

“Great instructor; did a very good job teaching course and relaying material. By far best TA I ever had.”

“Marty is a good instructor. I know that he tries hard and puts effort on motivating students to learn the material.”

“Marty is an extremely enthusiastic instructor who wants to get everyone involved and it is hard not to. He makes sure everyone understands the concepts.”

“Excellent instruction from both lecturer and section leader. Enthusiastic for teaching; second to none. Organization and enthusiasm for class contributed to what will hopefully be a good grade.”

“Superior instructor. Will be a great professor one day. Very energetic and enthusiastic. Genuinely cares about his students’ success. Amazing human being.”

“Marty was a phenomenal TA. I never felt an inability to ask questions or request clarifications. He worked around my schedule to meet with me and make sure I understood the material. His passion towards political science and course topics motivated me to study harder for class and increase my attendance. There are not enough good things I could say about Marty.”

“I think Marty was a phenomenal instructor. He always made sure everyone understood the material before moving on. If there was one thing I could change, it would be for us to cover less materials and do more exercises. Other than that, great job!!”

“Marty is by far was the best TA I’ve had at MSU. He is very enthusiastic about teaching the material and isn’t boring in the way he presents it. I definitely benefited from his discussion section and I believe I did well in the class because of it. I really have nothing to say other than that. Doesn’t need to change the way he runs things.”

“Marty was probably the best TA I’ve ever had. He was always excited for class, even at 9:10am, and he really wanted to make sure every student understood what he was teaching. He even had his wife (who is a lawyer) come in and talk to students who were interested in going to law school. If that’s not dedication to his students, I don’t know what is.”

“Marty is a great TA!”

“Best Leprechaun ever!”

“Don’t change a thing! I hardly ever speak up in class but Marty is so approachable, kind and funny I was never afraid to be wrong. I’m so glad to have been in his section.”

“Overall, he enjoys political statistics...for some reason. But, his enthusiasm inspires me to become more interested in the class. He is a good teacher that tries [sic] to interest students (which is difficult) and doesn’t have that many teaching defects.”

“Marty has been a great T.A. he goes over the material well and answers any questions students have.”

“Marty Rocks!”

“Marty is the best TA I’ve ever had for a class. He is extremely helpful when students don’t understand a certain topic, and will demonstrate multiple examples until topics are clear. He is very enthusiastic, and makes in-class participation enjoyable. He takes problem step-by-step and clearly addresses how to go about solving for each step. His office hours are also really helpful; he is really easy to talk to.”

“Wooo! Nice Job Marty! Keep up the energy.”

“Hands down, you have been one of my favorite instructors, and my absolute favorite TA here at my 4 semesters at MSU. Your enthusiasm and ability to explain even the most difficult concepts made this class so easy for me. Keep up the good work, Marty!”

“One of the best TAs I’ve ever had.”

“Marty is a great teacher. He helped me understand many topics that I had trouble with over the semester. Makes things clearer and simpler to understand.”

“Marty is [sic] been really helpful specially [sic] when this course is really hard. He is always has [sic] smile on his face and so motivated to help and start the class.”

“A way to improve would be through providing more examples in class. Overall the examples and sample problems were very helpful in understanding the course material. The instructors enthusiasm also help make the class more interesting and easier to understand.”

“Best TA I’ve had; paid attention to student’s needs. Perfect mix of learning and fun. Never boring or dull. Never tried to go too quickly. Always looked towards students before moving on. Con: Won’t be teaching me next year?”

“Loved having Marty in section and [Prof.] Black in lecture. Material was difficult.”

“Marty was very energetic, helpful, and informative. Keeping complicated concepts simple allowed for a very cultivating educational environment. His personable personality made asking for assistance very easy and helped me, as a student, better understand the more complex areas within the text and homework.”

“Marty is the man! He was really helpful in conveying the info. I would follow him into battle any day.”

“Marty was really enthusiastic and knowledgeable and it really helped clear up questions from lecture.”

“My experience in PLS 201 in Marty’s section was thoroughly enjoyable to say the least. Marty was always available to help me whenever possible and responded promptly to my emails. He was very personable and when he becomes a professor I would gladly sign up to take his class. 😊”

“Marty kicks ass. 10/10 would recommend.”

“Honestly, you’re a great teacher, give me a recommendation.”

“Marty was extremely helpful throughout the whole year and was by far my best TA yet. His knowledge of the subject was extensive and very good in helping to teach the subject.”

“The only thing I believe that could improve his class would be better structure of class content on a visual level. Things such as power points, visual examples, movies, etc. I would have even been able to grasp the content better seeing it structured rather than just quickly done by hand on the board. Really just a power point of important course material would have helped greatly.”

“As a senior, I can say with confidence that Marty is by far the best TA I had at MSU. I really don’t care about this class, yet Marty has been a fantastic resource throughout the venture.”

“This is the only class I have ever wanted to come to for fear of missing knowledge and the professor noticing I was gone. Marty is THE BEST!!”

“You did a great job! You are one of the few TAs I’ve ever had that made sure we could understand what we were learning.”

“I feel like I could have skipped lecture every week but still learned it all here. You were great. You were approachable, intelligent, and effective.”

“Marty was willing to meet students at their convenience, regardless of his family responsibilities he made time for us all outside of class. Marty was always receptive to questions and ensured that everyone felt comfortable asking them.”

**PLS 201: Intro to Political Science Methods, Michigan State University (Spring 2015)**

“Your appreciation for what you do is incredibly evident and helpful to students. I think you are the best TA I have had here at MSU and I think it is because of your passion and dedication. It allowed myself and I’m sure many others to feel comfortable reaching out to you and getting help, which ultimately boosted my grade. There are few like you and it is appreciated.”

“Honestly, the only reason I showed up at nine a.m. every Wednesday is because Marty is a good T.A. and he deserves the respect of showing up to his class.”

“Marty is an outstanding TA. I really enjoyed my time in his class.”

“I would say there is nothing to improve. He did an amazing job breaking down the topics covered in the main lecture. Also I liked how he was able to help everyone who needed help when doing assignments.”

“I really enjoyed how enthusiastic Marty always during class. He always took time out to answer questions and make sure the class was clear on material.”

“Keep up the enthusiasm.”

“All I have to say is that he is a very good teacher.”

“I really enjoy Marty as an instructor. I feel he is able to convey the information appropriately and does a good job answering questions.”

“Marty was a great TA! He is approachable, enthusiastic, and genuinely cares that we fully understand concepts and their real world applicability.”

“I love how much energy you always have and you’re willing to answer any questions; slow down when presenting information so taking notes is possible.”

“Best instructor I’ve had yet.”

“It was difficult to contact him for help unless it was in person. He didn’t reply to emails fast, if ever. He was very enthusiastic though.”

“Marty is a great instructor. How he comes in with so much energy at 9AM, I have no idea.”

“Marty is very enthusiastic about his job and is very helpful when students don’t understand something in the course material. Marty always responds to emails in a timely manner as well. I wasn’t a huge fan of the course material, but Marty made it interesting and fun!”

“Marty is an outstanding TA. I really enjoyed my time in his class.”

“Marty was excellent, as usual. His attentive nature and eagerness to help educate is rare among TAs at Michigan State. I specifically enrolled in his section because although he isn’t the easiest grader, he is an excellent teacher.”

“Instructor’s positive attitude and knowledge of material and willingness to help was above and beyond what any other I have had. He did a wonderful job.”

“You really make learning the material fun. You are by far one of my favorites.”

“Marty is awesome! The best TA and professor I have had at MSU thus far! He is always willing to help and always goes above and beyond! He is very enthusiastic when teaching and uses very relevant lessons, examples, and activities in class. Marty will always make time if you need help or just have a question. He made this class very enjoyable and easy to understand!”

“To go to students that are having trouble in class if it’s noticeable; if student doesn’t go for help for him to have incentive to go to the student. Besides that his high energized personality helped a lot during this class and can tell he is very passionate about this that he is teaching.”

“Your enthusiasm for the course / section definitely kept me focused and interested. I truly gained a lot out of section. Personally, I always felt like you truly cared about us full understanding the material. You’re awesome Marty!”

“Marty was extremely enthusiastic and made the course entertaining. I was not the most diligent student but Marty helped me stay up to speed, when most instructors would have let me slip.”

“Marty is a great TA. Very easy to talk to and ask questions.”

“Marty is a very enthusiastic teacher who always presents the material in an engaging way. He uses great real world examples to explain concepts!”

“Honestly I didn’t have much. Marty is a great guy and really made the class worthwhile to attend. His passion and enthusiasm is contagious and I’m grateful he was my TA.”

“Marty is the guy.”

“Marty cared about everyone’s learning and was very passionate. He was my previous TA and I switched to have him again. He made a subject I did not totally enjoy very fun. He’s a great teacher and any student that gets to have him as a teacher is lucky.”

“Marty was very helpful and enthusiastic.”

“Marty you were great! You always found ways to make sure everyone was on the same page and your examples always made. My only critique would be to be a little more conscious in regards to going around and helping everyone. Other than that you made this semester afterwards.”

“Marty was a very enthusiastic instructor. I really enjoyed having him as a TA.”

“I’ve been at MSU five years and Marty is easily the best TA I’ve ever had. He’s so helpful and enthusiastic. Even though I liked Prof. Juenke a lot, I felt I learned the most in weekly recitation with Marty.”

“great class, Marty is great!”

“Great job teaching the course.”

### **POL 100: Intro to American Politics, Hope College (Fall 2016)**

“This is honestly my favorite class of the semester”

“I appreciate how much you care about us and how we’re doing.”

“It’s Great!”

“I like how the class is organized, easy to stay on track with homework and topics.”

“Like how interested you are in teaching and that you enjoy it. Lots of reading for homework.”

“I would enjoy more student discussions because an hour and 20 minute long powerpoint is sometimes hard to keep focused on.”

“I appreciate how engaging and enthusiastic you are.”

“Love this class! Great teacher ☺”

“Very fun class. I feel that I am generally knowledgeable on the topic but Prof. Jordan has still taught me a great deal.”

“I have been very impressed with this class, the content, and the professor”

### **POL 110: Campaigns and Elections, Hope College (Fall 2016)**

“As I am someone who thinks government is quite frankly ridiculous and who doesn’t enjoy politics, you made the material interesting, applicable, and overall enjoyable. I know much more about politics after this course.”

“You are the man, Professor Jordan.”

“Great job!”

“I really am enjoying this class, much more than I thought I would.”

“I love how engaged you are and you make this class more interesting. Having good power points would be beneficial to my notetaking.”

“You are a great professor! I was nervous for this class because I feel uneducated in politics but you made it comfortable!”

“Just want to make sure I know everything about each chapter after each chapter. I mean there is a lot of stuff in each chapter and it is sometimes confusing.”

“I really enjoy this class. I feel like I have learned a lot so far. I am still working to know this stuff as well as I’d like but you are a really good professor and make this class interesting!”

“I feel that I am strengthening my already acquired knowledge but also feel like I am not learning new concepts.”

“A little worried about the strategy memo.”

“Good class, makes students comfortable with getting involved in class and different topics.”

“The one ‘above average’ [instead of a superior] was because this was political science; it’s a bit challenging to keep peace in the classroom, which was done very well.”

“I really enjoyed having the guy come in and talk about politics; please do more of that.”

“I loved how much enthusiasm you had while teaching; it made me feel like you genuinely cared about how well your students did.”

“Very good professor.”

“Really enjoyed this class ☺ Thank you!”

### **POL 242: Political Science Research Methods, Hope College (Fall 2016)**

“Love this class, love the teaching style. Professor Jordan also takes an interest in his students, which I believe is necessary to foster a positive academic environment.”

“✓+”

“I hope you stay this excited about what you do. It’s entertaining, hilarious (in the best way), and inspiring. ☺”

“Your [sic] doing a great job! Keep up the good work! ☺”

**POL 100: Intro to American Politics, Hope College (Spring 2017)**

“Professor Jordan is great!”

“Best college class I have ever taken yet.”

“You’re an amazing teacher and your class is a high light [sic] of my day. Good luck with your future endeavors, you’ve changed my outlook of politics from a negative to positive one.”

“This class has been great and I now have a greater interest in government. Thank you!”

“Very energetic & enthusiastic which is great; much better than some profs who are very mundane.”

“I really enjoyed this class and after taking it I decided to make poly sci my minor. I liked coming to class and found that you made it very interesting.”

“Love how passionate you are about the material, makes class a lot more interesting! Thank you!”

“I enjoyed you as a prof. your enthusiasm compared to all other profs. was outstanding. Best!”

“This class was great! The only things that I would say could improve it would be more activities / videos / things other than lecture. They’re out of the norm so I remember those lessons better. Good luck at MSU, Hope will miss you!!!”

“My absolute favorite class to take this semester. Not only did I learn a lot but did so in a way that truly engaged me. All of my teachers have my respect, but you’ve earned it beyond that. Thank you for being my teacher.”

“Maybe have students turn in homework / quiz every now or then to ‘force’ them to keep studying for this or/and classes.”

“I liked the interactive activities but personally had trouble following power points & taking notes during information-heavy lectures.”

“I honestly really enjoyed your class and you as a professor! I appreciated your excitement and attentiveness during every class period. I am really bummed you aren’t teaching here next year - I would have taken more of your classes as electives! I would recommend doing less review at the beginning of each class from the class before. It became redundant.”

**POL 242: Research Methods, Hope College (Spring 2017)**

“I loved the course! You made something like boring old research methods into an actually enjoyable time. Good luck in your future endeavors and I hope you find a job with Polet-level pay!”

“Had a fun time learning about not so fun stuff. I appreciate you making research methods fun and interesting.”

“Overall great class, amazing energy and enthusiasm from instructor”

“I thoroughly enjoyed this course. Thank you for your help.”

“You took that ‘two apple trees’ thing too far ☺. In all seriousness: you will be missed.”

“Thanks so much for a great semester, really wished you weren’t leaving.”

“I really enjoyed the course!”

“I think you could have exerted a little more control in the classroom. One or two students tended to make outbursts often and it would disrupt the lesson. I think that the amount you care about what you teach and your students is extraordinary. Thank you!”

“Stay cool”

“It’s been fun but more [watching] Ancient Aliens [for pseudoscience topic].”

### **POL 295: Comparative Politics of the Developing World, Hope College (Spring 2017)**

“I really enjoyed this course! I learned a lot that I hadn’t know about or really thought about prior. It increased my passion for politics in developing countries and wanting to help (but also learned what may not help). Your passion helped to enjoy coming to class and pay attention ☺. Also enjoyed variety of learning: videos, guests, etc.!”

“Thank you for a great 2 semesters!”

“Encourage more one on one time if you ever end up teaching at a small school! Totally going to miss you ☺”

“I really enjoyed this class and appreciated your general enthusiasm for the topics. Thank you for a great semester and all the work you put in!”

“Lots of reading, all interesting, just maybe too much. Thank you!”

“Wonderful class!”

“Thanks for a great semester!”

“Thoroughly enjoyed the class. Very effective teaching style and text to supplement the course meaning / concepts.”

**PPL 801: Quantitative Methods I, Masters in Public Policy, Michigan State Univ. (Fall 2017)**

“Marty is an excellent teacher! He is extremely dedicated and does a great job making sure everyone learns from the class.”

“Marty’s enthusiasm for political science and stats bled into every aspect of this class, therefore, making what otherwise would have been an unbearable class enjoyable. He had the incredibly difficult task of teaching a group of students, all of whom had different levels of understanding, a lot of information within a very limited amount of time. He did this flawlessly. In addition, he was always available and welcoming during & outside of his office hours. The research project was incredibly helpful just in general but that & policy in the news really helped ground the lessons in the real world but also within the policy world. Thank you very much for all your help all semester long – it was enjoyable.”

“It would be better for content retention if this class was held 2x a week.”

“This class was very interesting to me, and I thought Marty did an exceptional job of conveying the material.”

“Marty is the professor I love best this semester! He helped me a lot even I am a foreigner and my English is not so good. He always explain [sic] clearly with so much patience. I don’t know how to express my thanks, but thanks for being so kind!!”

“Marty was a great professor who really cared about his students. However, there was too much to cover in class & we frequently ran out of time and glossed over topics.”

“Loved Marty’s enthusiasm and willingness to help. It is the only reason I enjoyed this class. I would have greatly benefited from answer keys to problem sets. Helps to have the confidence that you have the correct answer.”

“The course should be less abstract and more policy-centric. While the foundational math is helpful for a conceptual understanding, the course could use more realistic application i.e. more stata.”

“Even though this course was challenging, Marty made it extremely engaging, and I thoroughly enjoyed him as my instructor.”

“In some classes I think we moved too quickly through the material, especially in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the semester. I was really confused on the homework assignments the weeks that we didn’t get through everything or didn’t go to the lab when we were supposed to. I would have preferred covering a little less material but actually going over all of it in class.”

“Marty was superb! He was always enthusiastic, ready to help, caring and prepared. He got us through a huge amount of information in a short semester. My biggest tweak to the course would be to shorten some of the pre-lecture parts of the class (analysis in the news, general questions, etc). It ate into some of class and limited time with stata. Independently, I felt we could have spent just a little time less on probability. It was important but less so than more on regression/ANOVA. Other than that, the class was great! Thanks again!”

“Marty is a passionate and an enthusiastic professor, who is genuinely concerned with whether or not his students are understanding the material. He was very helpful in answering questions and easily approachable when one needed help. With so much material to cover in only one day per week, some class periods and the corresponding homeworks were more challenging. As someone who’s generally bad at math, some formulas seemed elaborate and I could’ve used a bit more explanation during lecture.”

“The instructor should give more examples relative to the concepts taught in class. Using more examples to explain concepts will be very helpful for understanding.”

“Good man. Always available to help at office and through email/phone. Takes teaching very seriously. Cares that we learn the material. Considerate of what else is going on with our life/other classes and adjusts course-load accordingly. Overall, I’d vote for him above Trump for President any day.”