

Term
Fall 2019

Instructor
WALKER Kevin M.

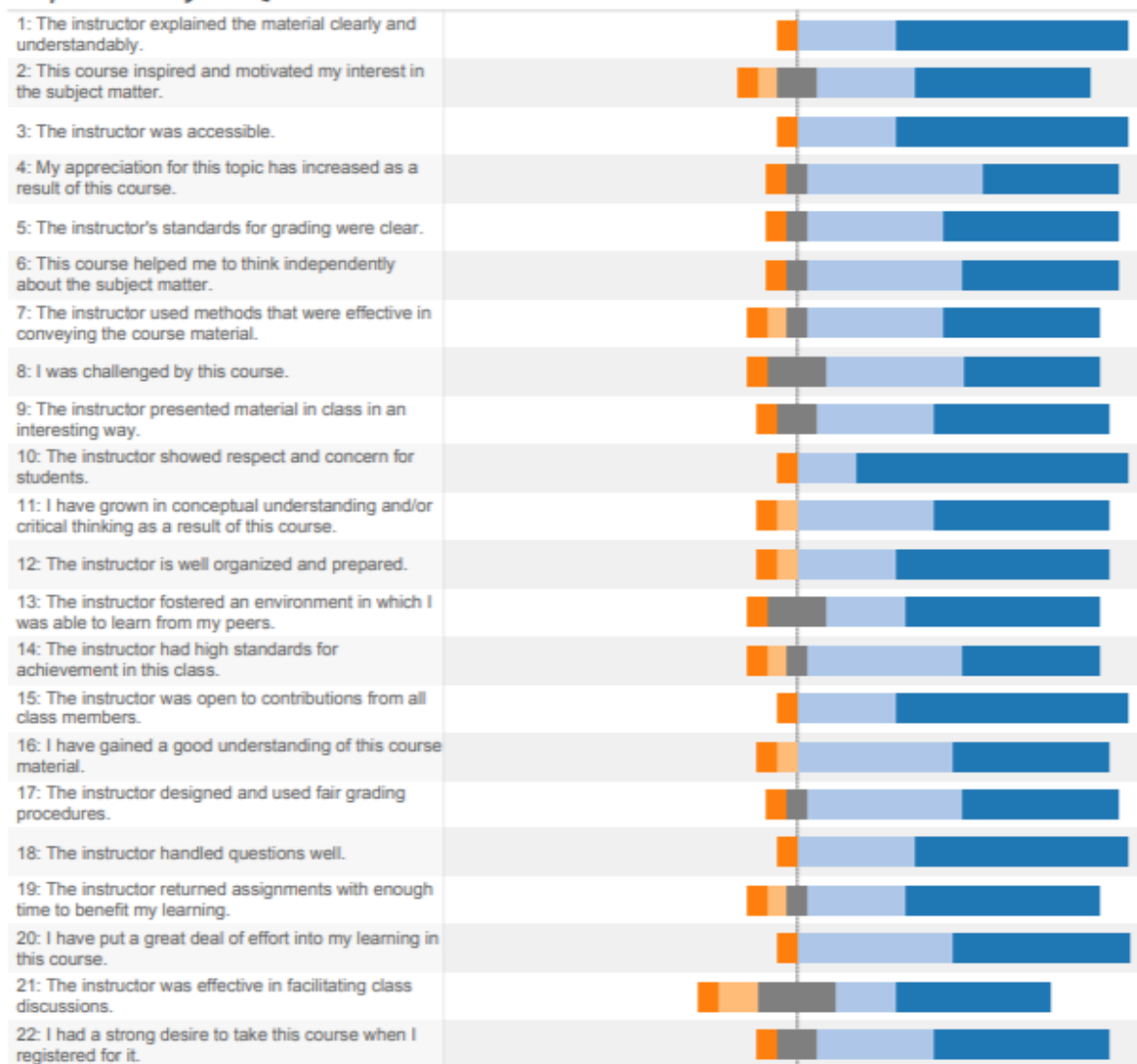
Course/Section
POSC 314 A

Course Title
American Political Development

Enrollment
19

Surveys
18

Response Analysis: Questions 1 - 22



Legend

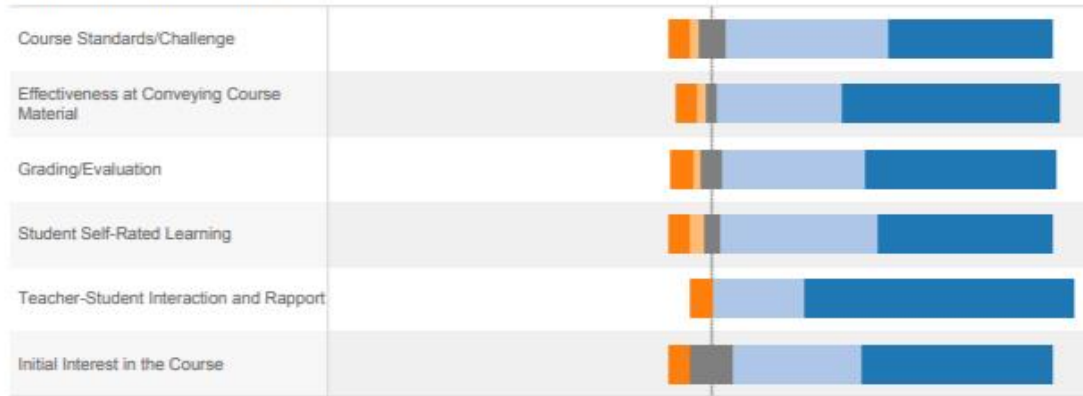
■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree

Term: Fall 2019 Instructor: WALKER, Kevin M. Course/Section: POSC 314 A

Course Title:
American Political Development

Enrollment: 19 Surveys: 18

Dimensions of Teaching



Legend: Strongly Disagree (orange), Disagree (light orange), Neither Agree nor Disagree (grey), Agree (light blue), Strongly Agree (dark blue)

Instructor: Walker, Kevin

Course: American Political Development

18 surveys / 19 enrolled in POSC 314 A (MWF 1220)

Student: 1

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Elective within major or minorReason: Interest in the course materialAdditional Reason(s):Effort: This class required the study of 5 lengthy books and the ability to parse their contents for classroom discussion. I spent perhaps 3-4 hours a week on readings and assignments for this class.Understanding & Appreciation: I have learned much about the little details that together have woven the tapestry of the American experience.Intellectual Growth: This class required a lot of searching for the main events and obscure personnel behind many of the subjects covered in class, so it helped bolster my reading and information finding skills.Quality: Prof. Walker is an enthusiastic and well-versed scholar in the histories and peculiarities of America, and is willing to go very in depth on minutiae if the class is able to follow along which it was not always able to.

Student: 2

Reason: Elective within major or minorReason: Interest in the course materialAdditional Reason(s):Effort: I attended the classes, completed assignments to the best of my ability, read assigned materials, and reached out for feedback when necessary.Understanding & Appreciation: As the course included a wide range of relevant readings and important impulses in American political history, I felt as if I was able to historicize the development of various aspects of the American society and political system.Intellectual Growth: The assignment of several take home quizzes and one major research paper aided in the strengthening of my time management, critical thinking, and independent researching skills which I found to be vital skills in my other courses.Quality: Professor Walker succeeded at usually facilitating an engaging course that challenged students and increased a broad understanding of the course subject. However, at times, it was obvious that Professor Walker may not have had the best understanding of some of the more nuanced topics like Civil Rights Movement, Feminism, and the failings of American political leaders in the sphere of equality.

Student: 3

Reason: Elective within major or minorReason: Interest in the course materialAdditional Reason(s):Effort: The quizzes and the final paper required a good deal of effort.Understanding & Appreciation: Professor Walker went very in depth with a lot of stuff that I did not know about broader topics.Intellectual Growth: This course allowed me to have a better understanding of American history and how far we have come at this point in time.Quality: Professor Walker is one of the kindest professor's I have had at Colgate. He was always very approachable for questions, and very eager to make himself available to help students. I have never had a professor offer so much time to sit down with students and help them with their work. I met with him on numerous occasions, and even when I had little to no direction, he did not make me feel panicked about it. Rather, he continuously communicated with me to get me to where I needed to be. I would love to have another class with him. The only thing that I would advise Professor Walker to do is to make the class time more engaging. Many times it felt a little boring going through the readings that we had done, and I would have preferred him to talk about something else; it was super interesting and exciting whenever he gave his own input or knowledge from outside of the texts.

Student: 4

Reason: Elective within major or minorAdditional Reason(s):Effort: I put forth a lot of effort into this class because I found it extremely interesting.Understanding & Appreciation: This course has made me think beyond the course work and apply what I have learned to the real world.Intellectual Growth: This course has challenged me to think beyond the course subject.

Instructor: Walker, Kevin

Course: American Political Development

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Quality: Professor Walker is my favorite poly sci professor I have ever had. He is enthusiastic about the subject matter and genuinely cares about his students. He gives all students extremely thoughtful responses and advice for each phase of the paper. He also is always willing to help at any point in the process of writing the paper. His support and advice helped me a lot as I wrote my final paper. I really loved having Professor Walker this semester and am looking forward to my class with him next semester.

Student: 5

Reason: Major or minor requirementAdditional Reason(s):Effort: I put effort into doing all of the readings and assignments for this course.Understanding & Appreciation: This course was a great introduction into changes in American politics. I really enjoyed looking at how a multitude of different topics influence politics and found it to be extremely interesting.Intellectual Growth: I enjoyed being able to write a research paper on the topic of my choosing.Quality: The teaching of this course was great. I enjoyed Professor Walker's extensive personal knowledge that added more to the course than simply the texts we were reading. Professor Walker has high standards for grading, but it may be too easy for a 300 level course to only have one essay per semester and have it submitted in parts. However, Professor Walker's feedback on the parts of the essay were extremely useful and detailed, and ultimately helped me to write a much better paper.

Student: 6

Reason: Elective within major or minorAdditional Reason(s):Effort: For this class, I ensured to do all readings and assignments in a timely manner. Furthermore, I went to office hours when necessary and utilized all resources available to me for this source.Understanding & Appreciation: This course fostered a clear understanding of the progression of American History through the lens of key movements and themes within American history. It also explored aspects of history that other courses have only glossed over or neglected to provide sufficient insight into the movement.Intellectual Growth: Through the various phases of the final essay, I was able to work on my writing abilities. Furthermore, I also was able to build upon my critical thinking skills and look at aspects of history through new lenses. In addition, this class also provided me with more knowledge on theories and other aspects of history.Quality: Professor Walker did an exceptional job fostering an informative and interesting environment through which his students were able to successfully learn. Not only was he well organized and prepared for class, but his in-depth knowledge of the material shined through in his lectures. This class exceeded my expectations and was very helpful in furthering my understanding of political science. It was a pleasure to take his class, and I look forward to taking another class with him in the future.

Student: 7

Reason: Elective within major or minorAdditional Reason(s):Effort: I would do the readings to prepare for this class. I put a great deal of effort into the paper quizzes and my research paper that we did throughout the semester.Understanding & Appreciation: This course covered many topics, but surprisingly we went in depth enough for me to get a firm grasp of each.Intellectual Growth: This course made me better understand the foundation of our country from the presidents, indigenous peoples, and the movements throughout the rich history of the US.Quality: Professor Walker is very knowledgeable and passionate about what he teaches. He is well prepared and is open to participation and office hours for all. He switches from PowerPoint to open discussions which I like.

Student: 8

Reason: Major or minor requirementAdditional Reason(s):Effort: I put a lot of effort into this course. The books were very interesting so I somewhat enjoyed reading them.Understanding & Appreciation: After taking this course I have a better understanding of how and why America's political climate is the way it is now.Intellectual Growth: We had a research paper and I decided to dive deeper into the topic of civil rights. I learned a lot about specific cases and events that I hadn't heard of before.Quality: Professor Walker's was easily my best Professor. Very knowledgeable about his topic as well as passionate. His use of visuals was also a nice touch. Opportunities that were graded were announced at least a week before the due date and if there was an issue, he would do his best to accommodate.

Instructor: Walker, Kevin

Course: American Political Development

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Student: 9

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Elective within major or minorAdditional Reason(s):Effort: I did the readings, quizzes, and papers and participated in class.Understanding & Appreciation: It gave me a deeper understanding of the causes and circumstances that developed American culture, and a greater knowledge of the history surrounding that as well.Intellectual Growth: It helped with my writing and critical thinking skillsQuality: I think it was a great course.

Student: 10

Reason: Major or minor requirementReason: Interest in the course materialAdditional Reason(s): I thought it was a good history/polysci crossbreed.Effort: hard to get comfortable with the readings. they name lots of people and places. but prof walker did a fantastic job as a storyteller to help us throughUnderstanding & Appreciation: very much so. I didn't think I would like the content as much as I did. His approach/style is very conducive to learning.Intellectual Growth: It helped me contextualize "normal" politics of today within major historical developments.Quality: 10/10. He is a masterful storyteller. I would encourage him to ask more of the class in discussion.

Student: 11

Reason: Elective within major or minorAdditional Reason(s):Effort:Understanding & Appreciation:Intellectual Growth: As a political science student, this course helped a lot in terms of independent study and researching topics in American politics. He gave great feedback on our topic papers and was very helpful in finding sources and developing strong arguments.Quality: I think that he did a great job in preparing interesting material and presented it well in class. He assigned a fair amount of work, and always returned assignments with enough time for us to learn from them. He was very understanding and flexible with assigning work and tried to make sure that he was not assigning too much especially during weeks he knew students were very busy. His assignments were always very clear in what the expectations were and helped us to better learn the course material and think about topics on our own. I would definitely take a class with him again.

Student: 12

Reason: Major or minor requirementAdditional Reason(s):Effort: I put in fairly consistent effort into this course. I completed most assigned readings, and came to class prepared to share my thoughts on them. I shared these comments on a consistent basis, participating in the class routinely.Understanding & Appreciation: Professor Walker's class provided me with a good understanding of the U.S.'s political history through several lenses. This included religious, gender-related, and race-related developments in the U.S., and gave a very thorough understanding of U.S. history for only a semester's worth of class time together.Intellectual Growth: Professor Walker's class allowed me to understand political developments that I had already known about in a more nuanced way. This included an expanded understanding of grassroots political organizations, as well as a more sophisticated view of American political leaders.Quality: Overall, I would say that Professor Walker is a very strong professor. He is clearly knowledgeable about his discipline, and his enthusiasm for his class translated into engaging class lectures that interested students. Professor Walker is extremely accessible and friendly.

One criticism I would provide for Professor Walker is to improve his class announcements-- multiple times throughout our class we would have assignments due online that he would make minimal, or no reference to in class. We did not receive any electronic reminders of these as well.

Student: 13

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Instructor: Walker, Kevin

Course: American Political Development

18 surveys / 19 enrolled in POSC 314 A (MWF 1220)

Reason: Elective within major or minor

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: This course required a fair amount of effort. There was a considerable amount of reading and the final paper was time consuming. I'd say the workload was comparable to other political science courses I've taken at the 300 level.

Understanding & Appreciation: It presented a nice overview of the topics involved in political development in America. Many of these topics I had never covered before so it was nice to learn about them more broadly in a classroom setting.

Intellectual Growth: The course made me think critically about topics I know very little on and have never paid attention to before. Thus, it broadened my understanding on a host of domestic issues pertaining to politics in America.

Quality: Professor Walker was a solid professor. He was kind, fair, accessible, passionate, and understanding. Classes were a little dry because it was mostly lecture and little discussion among the class. I would recommend him to others.

Student: 14

Reason: Elective within major or minor

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: The course required a lot of essay writing through quizzes following the completion of each topic completion in class. Additionally, the final paper was very engaging, but a large portion of the class.

Understanding & Appreciation: The analysis of the social and political consequences of identity politics was really put into perspective through the historical background I received from this course.

Intellectual Growth: I feel as if my critical reading, essay writing, and time management skills have greatly increased following this course.

Quality: Professor Walker was an excellent professor, and one of the best I have had in the political science department. He was able to explain the readings very clearly while also bringing in his own historical knowledge which was informative and exciting. It was evident that Professor Walker was very passionate about each topic, and it was interesting to hear his insight. One of his strengths is his ability to bring current events into the contexts of the course which helped apply the course to the relevant subject matter. I really enjoyed this course, and would definitely take a course with Professor Walker at a later date.

Student: 15

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: A lot of effort but it was very interesting material that was fun to learn about.

Understanding & Appreciation:

Intellectual Growth:

Quality: Professor Walker was one of the best professor I've had here during my time at Colgate. Cares about his students and is very passionate about the material he teaches. Would recommend him to other students 100%.

Student: 16

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: I did all of the readings, spent a long time working on the quizzes, and spent a lot of time on my essay.

Understanding & Appreciation: Nothing I learned was particularly new information.

Intellectual Growth: This course was pretty neutral to my intellectual growth and/or education.

Quality: Overall, Professor Walker was a good professor. However, I really disliked how he would pick out a detail in our reading that was mentioned briefly, usually something the book spent at the most, three sentences about it and get annoyed when no one could remember that one insanely specific fact.

Student: 17

Reason: Elective within major or minor

Reason: Interest in the course material

Additional Reason(s):

Effort: In regard to the papers and quizzes, I put forth a lot of effort to make sure they were complete and on time. However, I honestly didn't consistently do the readings, as I noticed we would simply go over the reading together as a class. I was able to complete the quizzes with my notes from class and by skimming the book, so I was never too worried about completing the readings. However, during class I tried hard to stay attentive and take good notes.

Understanding & Appreciation: This course has made me realize that American political science isn't quite for me and that I prefer comparative political science. Although the history we learned was very interesting and often entertaining, I had trouble seeing clear patterns in the history, so it felt like a purely historical class to me.

Instructor: Walker, Kevin

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Intellectual Growth: This course really helped me with my background knowledge of American history. I also realized and took away the importance of history in understanding contemporary problems. I know that was a focus of the class and I think it was conveyed well.

Quality: Professor Walker was obviously very very knowledgeable about American history, and I really enjoyed the use of pictures and outside stories to enhance the discussions. I also could tell that he cared a lot about his students and was always very open to helping us with whatever we needed. However, I wasn't a huge fan of how the course was designed, because it felt a bit like a book club. To me, it felt like we were just simply reading and going over these books without much bigger purpose besides understanding the book. Although the books were interesting and informative in their own right, I think class time would have been better spent building off of what we read in the books rather than simply reciting it.

Student: 18

Reason: Major or minor requirement

Additional Reason(s): To graduate

Effort: I worked hard on the papers and kept up with the reading

Understanding & Appreciation: As the course moved away from congress and the presidency it became exceedingly more interesting. Following the development of movements over time such as feminism, civil rights and religious liberty was fascinating

Intellectual Growth: I learned how to write 4 page papers in one night because I often had no choice

Quality: Professor Walker is smart and has great presentation skills. The quizzes were a larger burden then I think he realizes, especially the last two
