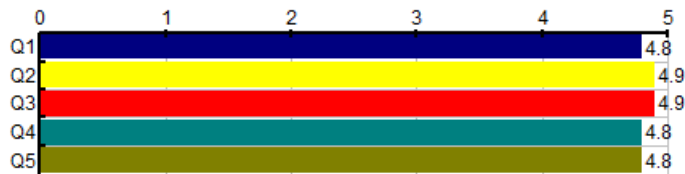
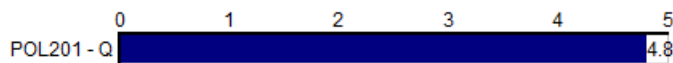


Course:	POL201 Q - INTRO AME NATL GOV	Department:	POL
Responsible Faculty:	Matthew Nelsen	Responses / Expected:	78 / 97 (80.41%)



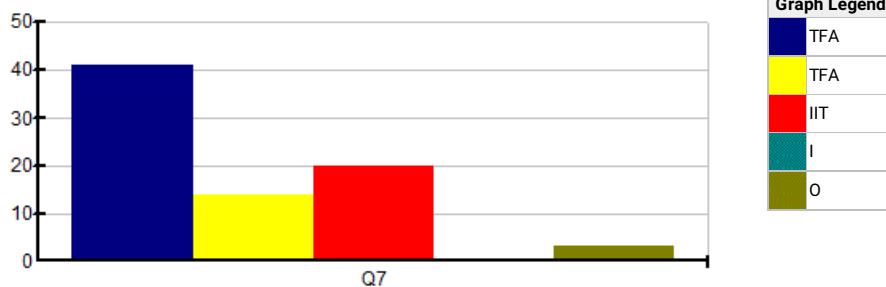
New General - Course Items		POL201 - Q						
		Responses					Course	
		SA	A	N	D	SD	N	Mean
Q1	This course has been a valuable learning experience.	62	14	2	0	0	78	4.8
Q2	The stated objectives of the course have been met.	67	11	0	0	0	78	4.9
Q3	The grading methods are fair and appropriate.	67	10	0	0	0	77	4.9
Q4	My ability to communicate about this subject has been enhanced.	64	14	0	0	0	78	4.8
Q5	I learned to think critically about this subject.	63	15	0	0	0	78	4.8

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1



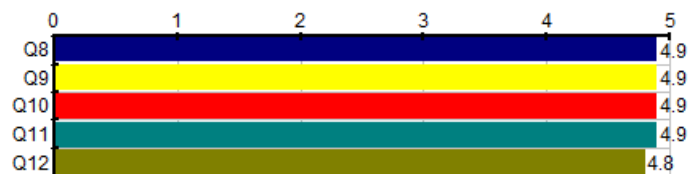
Provost Course Item		POL201 - Q						
		Responses					Course	
		SA	A	N	D	SD	N	Mean
Q6	The class material agrees with the course description in the University Bulletin.	66	11	1	0	0	78	4.8

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1



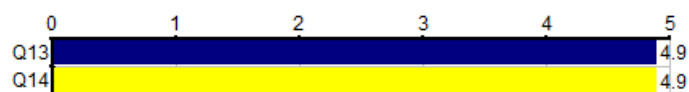
Student Government Course Item		POL201 - Q					
		Responses					Course
		TFA	TFA	IIT	I	O	N
Q7	Why are you taking this course?	41	14	20	0	3	78

Responses: [TFA] To fulfill a major requirement [TFA] To fulfill a cognate requirement [IIT] Interest in the subject [I] Instructor [O] Other



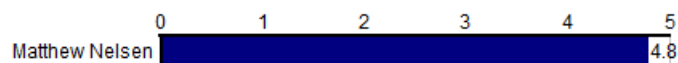
Lecture - Instructor Items		Matthew Nelsen						
		Responses					Individual	
		SA	A	N	D	SD	N	Mean
Q8	My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	72	5	0	0	0	77	4.9
Q9	I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	71	6	0	0	0	77	4.9
Q10	The instructor presents course material effectively.	70	7	0	0	0	77	4.9
Q11	The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	72	5	0	0	0	77	4.9
Q12	The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	65	7	5	0	0	77	4.8

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1



New General - Instructor Items		Matthew Nelsen						
		Responses					Individual	
		SA	A	N	D	SD	N	Mean
Q13	The instructor teaches effectively.	69	8	0	0	0	77	4.9
Q14	The instructor treats students with respect.	73	4	0	0	0	77	4.9

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1



Student Government Instructor Item		Matthew Nelsen						
		Responses					Individual	
		SA	A	N	D	SD	N	Mean
Q15	The instructor used a variety of educational formats (i.e., lectures, videos, games, simulations, experiments, flipped classroom, group projects, discussion-based) to enhance learning.	67	10	1	0	0	78	4.8

Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1

Question:	Please identify what you consider to be the strengths of the course (or section) and/or areas for improvement.
Response Rate:	93.59% (73 of 78)

	strengths:
1	- good professor - good course material - very organized
2	no need for improvement! n/a
3	extremely relevant content, super engaging, outside of the box teaching methods. Loved the way that the course was framed around the perspective of race in American government, it really helped capture the elements of American government that surround our nation and political process, and the way that the structures continue to shape every aspect of daily life
4	Understanding the basics of American politics will create a strong knowledge base for us political science students. Either if it is a refresher or the first time someone is learning about it, it is a good intro class.
5	This professor encourages students to give their opinions, allowing us to learn from each other and hear opposing views. It also forces us to think critically and assess topics that were briefly introduced in high school.
6	This is personally the best class I've taken in college. I consider this professor to be knowledgeable and fair with assignments and grades.
7	This course allows you to keep an open mind when it comes to many of the issues that we talk about and doesn't just read from the textbook. The debates and conversations allows you to understand issues deeper.
8	This course was amazing and had an amazing teacher. The lectures were informative and interactive and had great discussion which helped me learn a lot. I loved this class.
9	This course was very beneficial in providing information on American government and race that may have not been discussed in previous classes. I was able to reconsider events in history/ actions done by political figures from a better lens than prior to taking this class. One area improvement I believe would be to possibly consider inputting a variety of opinions into the weekly readings. Most of the assigned articles/ podcasts catered towards one side and I think making the readings more diverse could create greater discussions in Harkness groups.
10	This course provided me with the knowledge to become more politically aware and engaged with my community. I am an advertising student, and I was quite apprehensive before taking this class since I was scared the course content would be strikingly different than the rest of the courses I've taken at UM. Instead, Nelsen approached the class in a way that could resonate with every individual, not just the stereotypical poli-sci student. I have learned such valuable information about US government and politics that I am eager to take with me in both future academic endeavors and as my duty as a US citizen.
11	This class is so great and I would encourage everyone to take it. The professor makes the classes engaging and takes the time to get to know each students name, even in such a large course. The class is broken up into lectures and discussions, but students are able to participate during lectures if they feel comfortable doing so. If this is not for such students, they have the option to talk in smaller discussion groups, as well as speak about collective ideas in the group in order to earn participation points. Students are met with challenging ideas that may interfere with political opinions but are given a safe space to converse about them. The teacher does share his political bias with the students and is very upfront about it, however, he is not judgmental of students with other opinions and facilitates the conversations. Just know that the class is taught through his political view point and class materials are often bias.
12	This class is an extremely engaging and entertaining class for an intro class. The professor is definitely the strength of this class and his lectures are very strong.
13	The way the instructor teaches it. It's more interesting than I thought an American Government class would be . Prof Nelson makes the content engaging
14	The teaching method and way the Professor handled the lecture made learning exciting rather than a drag.
15	The teachers passion
16	The strengths of this course were the teaching and the material. The information in the course was conveyed in a convincing way and highlighted how history is taught by the victors, often painting a romantic version of how events occurred. This course did a very good job at presenting reliable sources that provided a more realistic interpretation of history coupled with clear and concise lectures.
17	The strengths are definitely the lectures from Dr. Nelsen. He is extremely engaging and keeps the class interesting so the students learn SO much.
18	The strengths of the course was the teacher and how well he knew the material.
19	The strengths of this course are evident in the presentation of information and history through diverse perspectives, or "lenses." Dr. Nelsen teaches primarily through the lens of racial conflict and social development (or the lack thereof). This method of teaching opens the conversations in Harkness Discussions to all students from unique backgrounds, who hold unique perspectives. The environment is one where participation is encouraged and students are eager to learn. I do not have any suggestions for areas for improvement.
20	The strengths of this course is definitely the Harkness discussions and being able to discuss all the topics in this course with other students as well the professor.
21	The professor was fantastic throughout the semester by connecting with the students and making the course as interesting as possible. The strengths of this course was the participation of each student and the general excitement and energy the professor brought to class every day.
22	The professor's lesson slides and lectures are very engaging. They're easy to read and he's easy to follow.
23	The professor encourages the students to discuss deep political issues and express their points of view. The professor also uses a large number of sources for students to read.
24	The discussion aspect of this course along with the way in which Professor Nelson taught the class from a race and identity lens were its greatest strengths. Even though it was an intro course I found the course to be highly unique and engaging. I cannot think of any areas for improvement!
25	The course provided a helpful foundation for my poly sci other classes.
26	The course was very well organized. I think going over the readings in class was very helpful it helped me better understand the ideas behind it.
27	The course is very well structured and allows us the opportunity to look at history along with current events through various perspectives.
28	The combination of lecture and group based discussion are what I consider the strengths of this course. I feel that the amount of material given the schedule and structure of the class was slightly frustrating to balance.
29	The ability to engage in group discussions about controversial topics in a civil manner was one strength. The harkness discussions were also great for making the class more engaging and fun. Professor Nelson's ability to make the students feel known was certainly a strength too. I will always remember when two weeks into the semester he went row by row and named everyone accurately. By calling on students by name and being extremely open to all opinions in class discussions it made it a safe environment to speak.
30	The Introduction to American National Government course provided a comprehensive and engaging overview of the fundamental principles, structures, and functions of the United States government. The professors interactions combined with the incorporation of real-world examples and interactive discussions, fostered a deep understanding of the intricate workings of the American political system. The course materials were well-curated, offering diverse perspectives that encouraged critical thinking and a wide understanding of contemporary political issues. Additionally, the incorporation of current events and their relevance to course topics enriched the learning experience. However, a potential area for improvement could be increasing the scope of guest speakers or incorporating more diverse viewpoints to further enhance the learning environment. Overall, this course successfully provided a solid foundation in American governance and inspired a continued interest in political studies.

31	Strengths: Learning through new tactics such as discussions and debates. Was able to put myself out of my comfort zone to get the most out of the class and grow as a learner and debater. It challenges you to speak your mind and back it up with evidence through articles and other informational sources. Weaknesses: Tough at first to figure out. I am used to being graded on my knowledge through memorization and understanding so learning to participate on the spot was challenging, but it was overall an amazing experience to help me dive into college classes and how they are all different from one another.
32	Strengths of the course included ample opportunities to voice opinions on the subject matter discussed, divisions of class time between a variety of formats, and clear outlining of expectations for each assignment.
33	Strengths of the course were to explore the foundations of american national government and give a solid background on things that the U.S government deals with today. Specific laws and enforcements that have been applied in today's government and how, we as students feel about them. I don't have any areas of improvement. Professor Nelsen did a great job in running this course, and engaged with the students greatly and responsibly.
34	Some of the readings in each module are extremely long
35	Professor Nelsen got the whole class to be extremely engaged and made everyone feel comfortable to share their opinion. He did a perfect balance of lecturing us and having us participate and be involved. I was never bored in this class.
36	Professor Nelson values the aspects of free flowing opinions. He encourages everyone to share their opinions even if they may be controversial. This creates a class environment that encourages debate and allows for critical thinking skills to be applied. The way the course is broken down helps it make more sense, I have learned more about the systems of US government from this class then from anything else.
37	Professor Nelsen's course excelled in fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning environment, with its key strength lying in the freedom to express personal opinions on current issues in government and global news without fear of criticism. His open-minded approach encouraged students to engage in meaningful discussions, sharing diverse perspectives without judgment. The inclusive nature of the class, where everyone was given the opportunity to voice their thoughts, not only promoted free expression but also created a space where students felt heard and respected. Professor Nelsen's commitment to open dialogue greatly enhanced the overall learning experience and contributed to a classroom culture that valued the exchange of ideas and perspectives.
38	Powerpoints, attitude, teaching style
39	POL201 with Nelsen is truly a safe space to share political ideas and ideology. Nelsen deeply cares about his students and it shows. The lectures are always engaging and he does a very nice job keeping up with current events.
40	Maybe do less readings and just focus on 2 readings because sometimes having so many readings or podcast per week can be confusing.
41	In my opinion, the structure of the course was extremely engaging - the readings provided different perspectives, encouraging critical thinking and providing tools for future studies, conversations, and debates. Harkness discussions felt like a creative and fresh approach, in comparison to usual exams, and pushed me personally to step out of my comfort zone. An additional strength of this course was Dr. Nelsen's ability to not only keep students interested in course material but also make them and their opinions a part of this course.
42	I've really enjoyed taking this course. It has offered me a new perspective on American politics that I will take with me.
43	I would say the areas of strength of the course is the fact that it is taught with the intention of being an interactive course. In other words, areas in the course are specifically designed for you to talk out problems and solutions with members of your class. Lastly, I was a little worried at first that the class may not be a place were I can fully feel comfortable sharing some answers I have to controversial political topics. But I am glad to say that Professor Nelsen made sure that the room was a safe space.
44	I thought the course was definitely different than expected but in good way.
45	I think there were many strengths of the course. The lectures were actually interesting and I was able to easily follow the slides and see the important information on each one. I enjoyed doing interactive activities such as Kahoot and being allowed to speak with my classmates and group mates about the content. I really can not suggest any areas for improvement; this college course was much more engaging than the other ones I have taken in my first semester here and I feel I learned a lot.
46	I think the strengths of this course are the open discussions. I am not the best test taker so to have other ways to get A's is really helpful. To improve I would say less podcast. I listen to them the week that is assigned but forget all about it by the time we have Harkness.
47	I think that the Harkness discussion were really beneficial, and meeting with our groups helped prepare us for that every Thursday.
48	I think the strengths of this course are the amount of discussion done in class as well as the weekly news update while playing kahoot.
49	I think one of the courses strong suits is how much we get to interact and discuss ideas with other people in the class.
50	I think an area of strength in this class is the Harkness discussions. They allow for ideas to be exchanged and public speaking. I do not see any areas of improvement.
51	I really like the harkness discussions and I think it was one of the best ways for us to develop our ideas and opinions.
52	I really liked how this class wasn't taught out of a textbook. Allowed me to connect deeper with the material
53	I really like how this course is focused on the injustices of American government, rather than it just being a board intro course. I appreciate Professor Nelsen and his ability to accept all view points even though he clearly has his own view point. I also really love how the class is set up. Having three Harkness grades, with one being dropped allows for people to get the most out of what they are learning while also getting a good grade. I really enjoyed this course and loved the set up, would not change a thing.
54	I liked how the course allowed us to form our own opinions in the harkness discussions rather than be tested on facts.
55	I like the lens through which we look at American politics. This is a remarkable class that is well organized into three modules. The sources are extremely helpful and not too overwhelming for someone who didn't have a lot of knowledge of this topic prior to this class.
56	I like how engaging the course is
57	I have learned a lot from this course! It is extremely informational!
58	I felt like the course content was really strong and the readings/videos we did really helped reinforce this.
59	I feel that the class was structured and organized very well. Professor Nelsen did a great job of telling us what objectives we are expected to reach at every beginning of class, and told us well in advance what to expect with the gradebook. When he was absent, he gave us plenty of notice and prepared material for the class that was actually helpful to the topic we were on, not just busy work.
60	I consider the strengths to be the helpful readings, as well as harkness discussions in class to practice for the assessment. It was nice to be able to see others insights on a topic, especially it was controversial ms Areas of improvement could be not prescribing extremely long readings that people will most likely not read. Perhaps smaller sections of that reading could be better.
61	I believe that this course did a great job at outlining the fundamental aspects of politics in our country.
62	I believe the group discussions to be a strength of this course.
63	I absolutely loved this course. It was definitely my favorite this semester. I enjoyed the way it was structured and I think that the weekly discussions with our harkness groups allowed me to form great relationships with my classmates that weren't possible in my other classes.
64	How the course is taught, the structure and detail in the lectures and throughout the semester.
65	Highly engaging/high levels of participation
66	Helps you open your sense of talking in a public setting. Areas for improvement include having less of a left-minded bias.
67	He makes class very engaging and ensures that we know the information by holding regular discussions.

68	He is good at teaching but I found it hard to know what to study for on the test.
69	Having taken US government in high school and it being one of my favorite classes I can definitely say that it has remained one of my favorite classes after taking POL-201. I really enjoyed this class and the professor as he was very accommodating to his students and taught us knowledgeable stuff in an interesting way. The kahoots, class discussions, and harkness groups added to my interest in the class. I feel that I definitely learned lots of the material from the readings as we were later required to discuss it with our classmates.
70	Dr. Nelsen's ability to harness the class attention through a number of different communicative and feedback mechanisms was the core strength of this course. When the professor is engaged with the material in a meaningful way, the students tend to be as well.
71	Dr Nelsen makes attending class worth it. Since attendance counts, it is important to go to each class, but it makes it worth it with Kahoots on Tuesdays and group discussions on Thursdays. The class is also good because it does not feel so much like a lecture because we get to talk with each other about the topics we are learning. I am not sure where to improve for the class.
72	Big Lectures helped me learn more so this was a strength. Areas of improvement are minimal as the class did a great job teaching me.
73	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I really liked how engaging each lecture was and how it did not feel like a boring recall of history 2. I like how the professor provided readings, podcasts, and lecture content with perspectives of diverse opinions 3. The professor provided many untraditional ways to participate - not just raising your hand in a large lecture hall 4. I enjoyed the current event Kahoots at the beginning of each class 5. The professor respected everyone's opinion and genuinely appreciated when people gave differing perspectives 6. The class was not too work-heavy which I really appreciated

Question:	If the instructor used a variety of educational formats in the class (i.e. lectures, videos, games, simulations, experiments, flipped classroom, group projects, discussion-based) please describe which format was most useful for your learning and why:
Response Rate:	93.59% (73 of 78)
1	we used lecture-based content, discussions, videos, and readings. I found the discussions most useful because you could hear the different opinions of everyone.
2	the harkness discussions were the most useful to me because I was able to share my own thoughts, something I was not comfortable doing with the whole class and I learned a lot from my peers and their varying perspectives.
3	rofessor Nelsen's adoption of Harkness discussions in lieu of traditional written exams proved to be exceptionally beneficial and fair. This approach not only assessed our comprehension of the topics and readings but also evaluated our ability to articulate and express ourselves effectively. Grading based on both knowledge and communication skills created a more comprehensive evaluation process that better reflected our understanding and engagement with the course material. The Harkness discussions fostered a collaborative and participatory atmosphere, aligning with real-world scenarios where the ability to communicate ideas is as crucial as possessing the knowledge itself. This innovative assessment method not only promoted a deeper understanding of the subject matter but also encouraged critical thinking and effective communication skills.
4	practice harkness groups were extremely helpful
5	n/a
6	group discussions with a small group of peers throughout the entire semester was so helpful. First of all to establish discourse and make real, relevant conversation around the course content and to teach political and formal discussion skills for students in an introduction to government class
7	Yes. I found the documentaries and interactive discussions the most educational. They brought together the content lectured on.
8	Yes, the professor doesn't teach through a textbook, rather has students look to outside resources to gain an insight into the materials. This is good because the material is not boring or straight-forward as a textbook may be, rather it is engaging and allows for more character and real life experience to be brought into the book.
9	We did lectures and small group discussions. I feel as though both of these were beneficial as it allowed you to learn the material and then discuss it to get a better understanding from other viewpoints.
10	Videos, quizzes through link,
11	The weekly Kahoots were a lot of fun. However, I always enjoyed the non graded Harkness discussions even more. I believe everyone benefited from this course.
12	The videos during class combined with Kahoot at the beginning allowed me to experience a variety of learning during class so that my attention was held throughout the entire class period.
13	The use of kahoots by Professor Nelson was helpful to keep up with the current events in our world. The use of polling websites also helped gauge where people fell on certain topics. The darkness groups allowed for smaller debate circles and more critical thinking.
14	The teacher used powerpoint, Kahoot, polls, discussion groups to help us understand the material better. He also used his own experiences to help portray the material.
15	The readings and the discussion-based format was most useful. The readings were mainly related to current or recent events. This made it much more interesting to read and to connect the main concepts of American government to real life. The discussions made me think critically and apply my knowledge and this made me more motivated to actually learn.
16	The professor taught content through PowerPoints, podcasts, academic literature, and documentaries.
17	The power point for sure. You really needed to pay attention in class and take notes based off of what he is saying because it isn't all on the lecture and it causes you to pay attention more in class. I also loved the kahoot games every tuesday, it was a great way to understand the current events and have friendly competition with my peers.
18	The polls were very engaging because they were more opinion-based. I also liked his lectures because they were very interesting.
19	The multiple formats used, such as breakout discussion groups, lecture time towards documentary watching, interactive class wide polls, and the use of a weekly Kahoot to gauge attendance were all enjoyable to experience and useful for my learning.
20	The most useful format was lectures and discussions with peers because I was able to learn the content and then apply what I was learning to class and the Harkness discussions.
21	The most useful format, for me, was the multiple surveys and polls we took throughout the lessons and semester. It was really an exercise of democracy in the classroom, as we were able to see the diversity of the class' opinions. It helped me learn from my peers, and I was able to see how Professor Nelsen interpreted data in real-time.
22	The most useful format of the class were the harkness groups and discussions that he did. These discussion allowed us to discuss parts of the class without specific boundaries. It really allowed us to learn from each other as political scientists are supposed to do.
23	The most useful had to be the slideshows and videos that we used in class. The slideshows were were the main part of the information and the videos were interactive
24	The most useful was definitely the discussion component of the course in which we gathered in groups in the lecture hall to effectively learn the topic.
25	The lectures and the Harkness group discussions were extremely helpful and useful for class understanding.

26	The lectures were most useful for me! Also, the practice Harkness was great for hearing others perspectives on topics.
27	The lectures were amazing. He keeps you entertained so it's easy to retain information. For example, the polls, jokes and kahoots.
28	The harkness discussions each week were extremely helpful for reviewing the readings at the end of each week. This allowed us to speak to our peers in a smaller space and made it easier for everyone to share their opinions without having to speak in front of the entire class.
29	The harkness discussions really helped in assessing us in a way that isn't memorization.
30	The discussion-based formats were the most useful in my learning experience. In the discussions, I learned different ways to read the same source. I saw sources differently after the discussions.
31	The class would begin with a Kahoot on current events and matters that correlate with the course that I felt was very beneficial.
32	The change in pace to youtube videos and documentarys from the lectures was great and extremely useful. This helped to keep the class engaged and made it so that everyone learned better.
33	The best part of the course for me was meeting with our Harkness groups. I learned the most because I was able to share ideas with my peers while gaining their different perspectives on the issues.
34	The assigned readings then harkness discussions were thought provoking
35	The Harkness discussions every Thursday are sometimes a little much because as much as participation is wanted in the class, there are times when a student just does not feel like talking in class. However, I do enjoy listening to the class discussions because being in a different group, I do not get to hear everyone's ideas.
36	Professor Nelson included a very helpful variety of educational formats in class, including lectures, videos, games, and discussions. I think the combination of all of these helped my learning especially because I was able to stay highly engaged during class.
37	Polls and Harkness discussions were two formats that I would consider to be "fresh" and helpful. Instead of simply going through the course material, these methods equipped students with sources, new perspectives and deeper understanding of American politics.
38	Nelsen used videos, articles, lectures, kahoots, group discussions to engage students. I found the discussions and kahoots the most useful. First off, not only is Kahoot fun but it was great way for students to be up to date on current events. Second, the discussions I thought were very interesting because I was able to hear other student's opinions and ideas about topics. It created a safe forum to respectfully share our opinions about topics.
39	Lectures was the most useful, they were engaging and straight forward
40	Kahoots were an interesting way to learn
41	It was lecture based and group discussion-based.
42	I thought the Harkness discussion were most helpful to me.
43	I thought that the lectures were very informative, but also very captivating especially because we were presented with a lot of data which I thought was easy ton understand, and also interesting to see.
44	I think the professor's use of class documents along with lecture content was most useful because the real-life examples and differing opinions complimented the info he provided. Also, utilizing not just readings/lectures but also Kahoots, polls, podcasts, and movies helped make the course engaging and not monotonous/boring.
45	I think the harkness was the most useful to my learning because not only did it allow us to be open to others opinions but also teach and explain your own opinions.
46	I think the most useful program we used was powerpoint. We used it mostly everyday in class and it was a beneficial way to prepare for the harkness discussions.
47	I think the discussion based classroom setting was most useful in learning as we all learned to share our own ideas as well as listen to others. I think as an introductory course it prepared students to feel comfortable expressing their ideas in a college classroom setting especially when dealing with sensitive political topics.
48	I think lectures and harkness discussions were most useful for learning because i am a visual learner and he is able to describe the points very thoroughly. Matthew knows his stuff!
49	I really liked the darkness group discussions, it connected you with other classmates and taught students how to effectively get their point across respectfully while not discrediting the opinions of other students.
50	I really enjoyed the weekly Kahoots as they kept me up with current events. I also found the lectures informational as they were based off of the course documents assigned each week. These lectures were the most useful and beneficial to my learning.
51	I really enjoyed the Harkness groups. Not only were you able to share your thoughts on the specific topics, you also got to hear other perspectives which I believe is the best way to learn. I also enjoyed how his lectures were baed on the readings we were given. He did not just lecture off boring powerpoints, he lectures off of readings we already read and rather expands on what we already know instead of teaching us new material right off the bat.
52	I loved how it was a mostly discussion based class. I really liked talking with my classmates so I would say that was the most valuable for my learning.
53	I liked the format of this class a lot. We had readings and podcasts to do weekly outside of class, Kahoots on Tuesdays, slide presentations, and then Harkness groups. I enjoyed this way of teaching since I think it created a more interactive environment which can be difficult in a large lecture class setting.
54	I liked the lectures, also the readings and videos were good, even though some were long. As well going over them in class helped me understand them more.
55	I liked how Professor Nelsen started off the majority of our classes with the Kahoot game. I was able to learn about a lot of things I didn't know about, as well as learn more in depth about current day situations going on in the world. I also liked how he assigned podcasts for a lot of his assignments. Reading can be tiring, and hard to grasp in one setting, so listening to podcasts made it much easier to comprehend.
56	I liked discussing the course content in groups during class, as well as watching some of the documentaries.
57	I like the kahoots and the slideshows.
58	I found the harkness discussions to be most useful to my learning as I was able to hear all of my peers opinions and ideas regarding some of the course material we read.
59	I found the power points most useful because I am a visual learner and i was able to copy down all the notes
60	I enjoyed the powerpoint slides.
61	I enjoyed discussion-based assignments because, as I stated, they allow the students to learn from each other and speak their minds. I think I learned a lot from listening to both the professor and my fellow peers.
62	I enjoy the slideshows and how he posts them for us to refer to because I learn the best when I can hear and reread the material
63	I absolutely loved how Nelsen encouraged me and my peers to share our ideas with each other through the use of small-group discussions, aka "Harkness Groups." Not only was I able to learn about the views of my peers, I also had a group of ten familiar faces, ultimately making the 100+ class feel much smaller than it was.
64	His lectures were very useful to my learning.Also, his harkness discussions were very useful to have open discussions with classmates.
65	His lectures and group discussions were very insightful for learning.
66	He used lectures, polls, Kahoots, discussions. I think the discussions were definitely the most useful because I got the chance to hear other people's opinions and open my mind.

67	Harkness groups were useful to my learning as they helped me learn the material deeply as we were able to discuss the readings with our groups.
68	Harkness Discussions (discussion-based) learning alongside lectures were practiced in Dr. Nelsen's classroom. Lectures were very useful because they "primed" discussions, reminding students of assigned course materials and further explaining the context that surrounds them and the issues they discuss. Harkness Discussions were incredibly useful for my learning because I was able to learn from the perspectives of my peers which contributed to the development of holistic and critical thought as a political science student learning how to effectively listen and synthesize opinions in policy and law.
69	Group discussions. I think breaking into our group discussion challenged us to further think and pushed those of us to speak at least once a week and give our opinions.
70	Games, simulations, experiments, and lectures would keep me engaged most. I'm a very hands-on, visual learner.
71	Doing the readings and looking over the power points were the most helpful.
72	Discussions- deeper understanding of material covered
73	As mentioned earlier the discussion based group time was very beneficial in preparing for Harkness discussions. I also liked the Kahoots which I found to be an interesting way to stay caught up on important political issues which typically were relevant to some themes and subjects discussed in class. The lectures were also genuinely interesting which is something I do not get to experience in the majority of my businesses classes. It was nice to take a class about the subject I am most genuinely interested in and educated on.

Faculty: Matthew Nelsen	
Question: Please describe how well the instructor handled issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion:	
Response Rate: 92.31% (72 of 78)	
1	very well
2	very well
3	very well, considered all of our opinions even if he didn't agree with them
4	professor Nelsen handled issues related to diversity very well.
5	incredibly. Nelsen is so knowledgeable regarding topics of DEI, as our course was literally framed in the context of a racial lens. He was always sure to use the correct and proper language when discussing topics of DEI, while not cutting corners or trying to gloss over issues of it that we see in our political landscape, classroom, or community
6	While Professor Nelson's political opinions were no secret, he still managed to keep an extremely welcoming and diverse classroom with numerous perspectives. He treated everyone with respect and valued all differing opinions, while also encouraging the class to value our peers' differing opinions.
7	Was very open on everything and made everyone feel very included and was easy to talk about every topic.
8	Very well. Prof. Nelsen did a great job of teaching the class through various lenses and in fact he specifically taught the class based around how valuable diverse perspectives is in American Government. Professor Nelsen was genuinely one of the best teachers I had in and out of college; I was very impressed with how passionate and genuinely interested he was in the topics he taught the class.
9	Very well.
10	Very well, very inclusive and let everyone speak on their own viewpoints and defended or challenged with facts
11	Very well seeing as the course was based on looking at politics through a diverse lense.
12	Very inclusive and respectful to everyone's opinions.
13	This professor was amazing and always made sure all sides and ideas were included.
14	There were no problems related to diversity. If there happened to be any problems I know that Professor Nelson would handle them very well.
15	The whole class was centered around topics like this and Professor Nelsen handled it all excellently
16	The teacher did not exclude anyone but the opposite; he included everyone in the discussions and polls regardless of their race or gender.
17	The professor was not one sided. He handled issues related to diverse, in an un opinionated way, and was open for students to share their opinion. Though he handled issues to diversity, equity, and inclusion in a fair way, he did stick to what is morally right, which was great for us students to hear.
18	The instructor was perfect in handling any issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
19	The instructor made an inclusive learning atmosphere by encouraging open discussions on diverse perspectives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. They valued all students' viewpoints, ensuring everyone felt respected and comfortable expressing their thoughts and experiences. This approach created an environment where diverse voices were appreciated and contributed to the course's richness.
20	The instructor handled these issues really well. The course is essentially race based so he does a good job of addressing this. He is very open minded.
21	The instructor made the classroom a safe space . There weren't issues related to this specifically
22	The instructor was very understanding and wanted his students to do well.
23	The instructor was very candid and was the most inclusive and DEI-friendly professor I have had in my 3 years at this school.
24	The instructor handled issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion really well.
25	The instructor handled issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion well.
26	The context of the class and the way the content was taught led me to believe that D.E.I were important to protecting and teaching the class about also.
27	The class was taught through the eyes of race and ethnicity, and often talked about social issues. So naturally, there were some uncomfortable conversations in the class. The professor was able to discuss the problems in a respectful way and facilitates conversations with differing opinions, but made sure that all students felt safe in the environment and all conversations were respectful. In the event of a more heated discussion, the professor reached out to students and made sure that they felt as though their opinions were heard, but they were also respected within the conversation.
28	Professor Nelsen showed equality and inclusion throughout the semester.
29	Professor Nelsen was very good with ensuring that everyone was included in the class. He was very fair and didn't do anything that I would find to be discriminatory in any way.
30	Professor Nelson allowed every student to give their thoughts, making sure everyone was heard. Even if some members of the class had different opinions, everyone was able to plead their case.
31	Professor Nelson was incredible at handling diversity, equity, and inclusion! He made sure to not have a biased opinion while being able to provide his insight whenever appropriate. He was very good at moderating when students would speak in class to ensure a safe classroom environment.
32	Professor Nelson was incredibly inclusive. His main focus was discussing how race has impacted the American political system.

33	Prof Nelsen was very clear and adamant about making sure that everyone felt included, heard, and seen during each and every class period.
34	No issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion were raised in this course directly with students. But, if there was, I would have no doubt that Dr. Nelsen would be able to handle the issues appropriately.
35	No issue really. But Dr. Nelsen is very inclusive and provides a safe environment for sharing our POVs and ideologies regardless if others agree or not.
36	Nelsen is kind to everyone and does a great job upholding University Standard's for DEI.
37	Nelsen is a great professor. As someone from the business school, I can say that taking this class with Nelsen did not feel like I was only here to fulfill a credit. He is very knowledgeable about his field, he picks very interesting and appropriate readings, and he allows for open discussions with students with varying beliefs. I can say that this class has taught me to critically think about the news I receive. I have applied what I have learned in this class to my business classes such as Business Law, Macroeconomics, etc. There is never a boring moment in his class.
38	Nelsen handled issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion very well, as he guided this course through the lens of a racial standpoint. This in turn allowed there to consistently be an open conversation, which I greatly appreciate.
39	N/A
40	Mr. Nelsen handled issues very well. He was open to hearing everyones opinions and views on things. He calmly and professionally added to conversations even when he didn't agree with something which led to the class dynamic working even with people having different views on things no one argued.
41	It was a very open environment where everyone from all walks were welcomed to speak freely.
42	Incredibly well, Dr. Nelsen goes above and beyond to create a safe and inclusive environment for his classmates. He knows all 90+ names of his students and addresses each of us by name each time we speak, primes a variety of viewpoints on historical information, and is the first person to notice when a student may be behind or absent, and he always asks them how they are and how it is that he may help them ensure they are on the right track.
43	If there is a professor that handles these issues immensely, it is professor Nelsen. His entire course is based on the diversity equity and inclusion that the United States government either does not acknowledge or acknowledges. He makes it clear that he believes all groups should be equally treated and he shares his perspectives in class all the time, which is very comforting.
44	I would say that he handled those issues professionally and with an appropriate level of neutrality needed to let students form their own opinions. While, as was noted at the beginning of the course, in the matter of politics there are no "unbiased" opinions or ways to teach, Dr. Nelsen did make it clear that views different from his own were welcome and encouraged respectful discussion.
45	I think the professor handled DEI issues very well.
46	His perspective on the topic comes from one focused on race and so when we do polls they are often broken down in terms of demographics. In class, there are no issues as we get separated into different Harkness groups in which everyone comes from a different background.
47	He was very open when discussing political viewpoints as they may not have always aligned during discussions. He was open about his opinions and allowed others to be open about theirs. There wasn't very much to handle when it came to these things as things seem to run smoothly the whole semester.
48	He was very polite and respectful at all times.
49	He was great and handled this well
50	He was great! He allowed everyone to speak freely on the material and invited all opinions.
51	He was great. Treated everyone equally and even learned the names of everyone. It makes everyone feel seen and understood, especially in a large class.
52	He was extremely open to differing opinions, relayed diverse perspectives in lecture material and course documents, and was always inclusive in his comments/actions/attitudes
53	He was amazing. No race, gender, or class group was ever left out. He always choose his wording wisely to make sure that he never offends anyone in the process.
54	He was able to let everyone have a voice which I think is very important in todays society
55	He treated everyone equal and did not discriminate at all
56	He made everyone feel comfortable sharing the opinions. The whole class environment was very welcoming.
57	He handled these topics well and allowed for students to speak on their experiences and thoughts.
58	He handled them well.
59	He discussed many viewpoints and was very open about what his own biases were. It was very helpful.
60	He covered a lot of topics on race and diversity and he handled all the topics extremely well. He allowed students with differing opinions to speak up and made them feel heard.
61	Handled them well.
62	Great, amazing professor
63	Great!
64	From the beginning of the class, he made it clear that diversity is supported and encouraged, and did his best to make the environment comfortable to speak up in. There were times when it felt like one opinion or viewpoint seemed like the right answer, but Prof. Nelsen did his best to reiterate the fact that differences are good and that the space was safe for all opinions.
65	Extremely well I can't think of any issues.
66	Dr. Nelsen promoted these issues greatly. The entire class was taught through a racial lens which I think was almost like an "eye-opener" when discussing certain topics. He focused on many historical events that in other classrooms they would not even mention the racial issues tied into them. Dr. Nelsen treats all his students with respect as well and promotes an inclusive learning environment.
67	Dr. Nelsen has become my favorite college professor so far and I don't know if that will ever change. He allowed for meaningful discussion in the class without worry of backlash or embarrassment. Overall, I felt comfortable in every second of class. He is great.
68	Doctor Nelsen did a great job making sure everyone felt included and viewpoints were able to be shared in politics class.
69	Diversity, equity, and inclusion were core tenants of the classes material and therefore the instructor handled these issues very well. He would facilitate class discussion in a respectful manner and make sure everyone could share their opinions no matter how unpopular.
70	Considering that Professor Nelson taught the course under a lens not usually addressed in introductory US Government courses, DEI was handled quite well. Fruitful discussion over government, political ideology, and race helped establish a safe yet thought-provoking environment for students to voice their ideas, opinions, and even disagreements.
71	All issues were handled diligently and properly.
72	Addresses personal biases in teaching politics, builds environment of respect in discussing controversial topics

Faculty: Matthew Nelsen	
Question: Please provide any additional suggestions and comments about the course content and/or instructor.	
Response Rate: 61.54% (48 of 78)	
1	none
2	n/a
3	good at communicating information, but typically biased towards his political identity (leftist)
4	What would be helpful is if he could post the PowerPoint before class or maybe change the font size. Sometimes I am unable to follow along the powerpoints even if I'm sitting near a TV screen. Just a suggestion though!
5	Very good professor
6	To make more group discussions.
7	This was my favorite class.
8	This course made me realize I made a great choice choosing political science as a major, and I look forward to taking more classes with Professor Nelson.
9	This course has exceeded my expectations, and in a given semester made me much more knowledgeable in issues and specifics of American Politics. However, because of the introductory level, the emphasis on race and ethnicity, while necessary and extremely useful to understand the subject, might have been overwhelming. By that, I mean that course readings were largely in one way or another related to race, and diversifying them to present more perspectives on gender, and nationality may add to this course. Still, I'm aware that Dr. Nelsen's specialty is race and ethnicity, and once again, I think the readings of the course were incredible.
10	The one thing I will say about professor Nelson is that in my opinion a teacher who is teaching politics shouldn't be so open and share exactly what his party affiliation is and his beliefs on certain issues. I feel that professors should be more objective and he was not. He never really presented the other side of these topics. Although I align with him politically, I think it is important as students that we get a full picture of things when it comes to politics.
11	Professor Nelson is such a caring individual. He is so understanding on excused absences and is always willing to hear your points and help you grow and succeed in the class!
12	Professor Nelson was easily the most engaging professor I had this semester and although he teaches about topics that have potentially extremely polarizing outcomes he makes sure that no student, no matter their stance, feels inadequate. In this day and age it is rare to get that out of a political science class
13	Professor Nelson is by far one of the best professors I have ever had. He is super smart, knows what he is talking about and so encouraging.
14	Professor Nelson may be the best college instructor I have had so far. He makes the course really interesting. This course peaked my interest in political science. Very respectful and let's everyone voice their opinion. Nothing but great things to say about him!
15	Overall the course was good and the only thing that I suggest is to maybe replace the podcast with readings.
16	One thing I really enjoyed was that Nelson knew everyone's name before midterms -- that is SO impressive. It really shows that he cares about each student, making the large class feel so much less daunting. He also has a very strong passion and knowledge for what he teaches, which made the class incredibly engaging.
17	One of my favorite professors! It is very obvious that Professor Nelson is passionate about what he is teaching as well as who he is teaching it to. He took the time to learn everyone's name, even in a 100 person lecture. I learned a lot in class through his engaging teaching style, especially within our discussion groups.
18	Nothing at all it was an amazing course!
19	None
20	None.
21	Nelsen really is one of the best professors I could ask for, he makes me want to pursue a career in politics and taught so incredibly effectively. I learned so much about the institutions of American Governments in such an engaging and relevant way. I feel more authority when I discuss these topics in every setting, even with my racist uncle on Thanksgiving
22	Nelsen has been my absolute favorite professor thus far at UM. This is the first and last POL class I will ever take, but it was well worth it, mostly because of what a great professor Nelson is.
23	Mr. Nelson is the best professor for this class. He is very inclusive and cares about his students.
24	Loved this class
25	Literally, I enjoy everything about this class except for the fact that we have Harkness every Thursday. This is only because there are just some times I know I do not feel like talking, and I am sure there are students who feel the same way.
26	Learned a lot from this course and I think the polls were very helpful to explain and understand everyone opinions on certain topics.
27	Keep up the great work, Dr. Nelsen. I really enjoyed your course and am consistently recommending you to my peers.
28	Keep teaching the way you teach
29	Keep being you Prof Nelsen :)
30	I would suggest to have a Kahoot at the start of each class, as I believe it is crucial for students to be aware of what is happening around the world and in our country.
31	I would not change anything as I think he was a wonderful professor
32	I would definitely recommend this professor to a fellow student or friend! He was always open to give extra help outside of the class! It was personable and overall a great professor.
33	I will actively search out courses taught by Dr. Nelsen for the rest of my college career. Thank you for a great first semester!
34	I think you could provide more options to meet with our Harkness groups just so we can reflect on the course material a bit more. Overall, I really enjoyed the course though.
35	I think the readings can be too much at times and students should just focus on a couple reading at a time.
36	I think that the course was taught in a good way, I wouldn't really change anything about the course. I have nothing but positive things to say about the instructor, I think he did a good job in teaching the course.
37	I suggest keeping the longer Harkness time slots as the change was super helpful. The longer the better, in my opinion, for the discussions.
38	I really enjoyed this class and would recommend the class and professor to my peers. I thought it was very nice that Mr.Nelsen knew all our names before we even came to class which shows he cares about us.
39	I really enjoyed the Harkness discussions as I felt I was able to better showcase what I learned throughout the semester.
40	I really enjoyed this course. I feel like it opened a lot to me which I did not understand before and have a deeper understanding of politics.

41	I only have positive reviews for this course. The only thing that I think could potentially add to the course would be altering the readings for the week. Considering this is an intro course, there are a lot of required readings for the week which may be overwhelming to some students. That being said, I think the number of readings would be fine if they weren't all biased the same way. I think students should have the opportunity to read articles that are from all different viewpoints as many if the readings were incredibly biased.
42	I loved my professor, he was amazing.
43	I loved everything about it!!
44	I do not have any other suggestions as I feel this class is set up very well and allows for one to learn.
45	Having completed a U.S. government course in high school, I had believed I had the knowledge necessary to understand this subject prior to the course. I am happy to say that I was wrong. The information Dr. Nelsen taught on the influence of race on US government policy, the carceral system, and the state of U.S democracy has truly opened my eyes to the importance of understanding the less talked-about aspects of U.S history. I am thoroughly impressed by Dr. Nelsen's approach to teaching this subject, and I look forward to taking future courses with him!
46	Dr. Nelsen is easily the best professor I have encountered during my first semester at UM. He cares greatly about his work and his students and has inspired us all to continue holistically studying politics. He is incredibly organized and approachable. He was willing to meet with me to interview him for a research paper- for over 30 minutes where he gave me incredibly thorough responses, He is incredibly caring, wise, and kind. We need more professors like Dr. Nelsen at UM! I would love to see him stay at this university, as I understand he is a newer professor. From what I have witnessed, he is an incredible asset to our Political Science department. I hope to take another class of his in the near future.
47	As someone who did not have a lot of knowledge about politics prior to this class, this learning experience has been incredibly helpful and valuable. Even though I still struggled to remain engaged with some of the material because the topics were somewhat difficult for me to comprehend, Professor Nelsen's passion for this course was encouraging. He was also extremely understanding of a family issue that required me to be absent for awhile and worked with me to stay caught up with the material.
48	-