

Stanford University

Fall 2025 Course Feedback

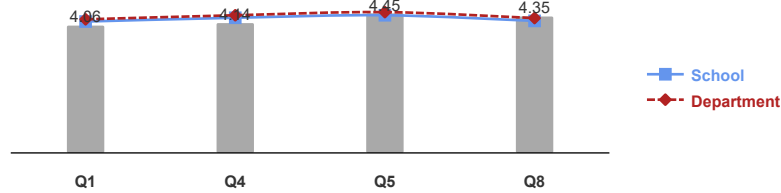
Course: F25-POLISCI-1-01: THE SCIENCE OF POLITICS

Instructor: Emilee Chapman,Simone Paci *

Response Rate: 52/66 (78.79 %)

At A Glance:Summary Chart

Extremely well
Very well
Moderately well
Slightly well
Not well at all





Q1 - How well did you achieve the learning goals of this course?

Q4 - How much did you learn from this course?


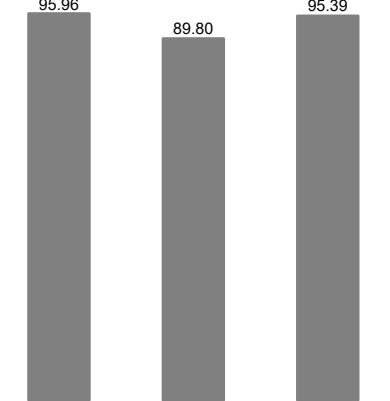

Q5 - Overall, how would you describe the quality of the instruction in this course?

Q8 - How organized was the course?

1 - How well did you achieve the learning goals of this course?

Response Option			Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Extremely well			(5)	16	30.77%		4.06		4.19	4.26			
Very well			(4)	26	50.00%								
Moderately well			(3)	8	15.38%								
Slightly well			(2)	1	1.92%								
Not well at all			(1)	1	1.92%								
						0	25	50	100	Question	School	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
52/66 (78.79%)		4.06	0.85	4.00	15041	4.19	0.87	4.00	569	4.26	0.82	4.00	

2 - About what percent of the class meetings (including discussions) did you attend in person?

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses										
67		(67)	1	1.96%											
70		(70)	1	1.96%											
75		(75)	1	1.96%											
80		(80)	2	3.92%											
85		(85)	1	1.96%											
90		(90)	2	3.92%											
93		(93)	1	1.96%											
95		(95)	4	7.84%											
96		(96)	1	1.96%											
97		(97)	2	3.92%											
98		(98)	1	1.96%											
99		(99)	4	7.84%											
100		(100)	30	58.82%											
					0	25	50	100	Question	School		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	School		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
51/66 (77.27%)		95.96	8.00	100.00	14243		89.80	18.74	97.00	537		95.39	10.71	100.00	

3 - About what percent of the class meetings did you attend online?

Response Option			Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses							
0			(0)	24	92.31%	<div></div>		<div><div>4.04</div><div>6.93</div><div>3.38</div></div>					
5			(5)	1	3.85%	<div></div>							
100			(100)	1	3.85%	<div></div>							
<div><div>02550100</div><div>QuestionSchoolDepartment</div></div>													
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	School		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
26/66 (39.39%)		4.04	19.60	0.00	7818		6.93	21.71	0.00	286	3.38	16.73	0.00

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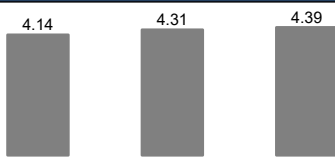
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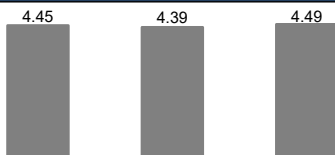
Instructor: Emilee Chapman,Simone Paci *

Response Rate: 52/66 (78.79 %)

4 - How much did you learn from this course?

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means										
A great deal				(5)	19	37.25%												
A lot				(4)	22	43.14%												
A moderate amount				(3)	8	15.69%												
A little				(2)	2	3.92%												
Nothing				(1)	0	0.00%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		School		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	School		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
51/66 (77.27%)		4.14	0.83	4.00	14450		4.31	0.85	5.00	539		4.39	0.82	5.00				

5 - Overall, how would you describe the quality of the instruction in this course?

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means										
Excellent				(5)	25	49.02%												
Good				(4)	24	47.06%												
Fair				(3)	2	3.92%												
Poor				(2)	0	0.00%												
Very Poor				(1)	0	0.00%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		School		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	School		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
51/66 (77.27%)		4.45	0.58	4.00	14439		4.39	0.86	5.00	541		4.49	0.76	5.00				

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Response Rate: 52/66 (78.79 %)

6 - What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve?

Response Rate38/66 (57.58%)

- In all honesty, I cannot say that I learned much from this class, besides that I no longer plan to minor in political science.
- Learned more about poli sci and its applications throughout society
- My understanding of the scientific method/application of theory to real, concrete issues was greatly developed. Not to mention the variety of information present in the readings, I certainly learned a lot in this course. Learning how to break down and understand long, dense research papers was particularly important as that process is much easier now than it was before.
- Basics of social science inquiry, foundations in political science, basics of theory, representation, war, polarization
- I gained a stronger understanding of political systems, improved my critical thinking, and learned to analyze government and policy more effectively.
- Writing and reading
- I learned a lot about the technicalities of being a political scientist. I gained exposure to many of the multifacted aspects of politics in the U.S.
- My overall knowledge on how politics and government flow and why they do in such ways.
- theory identification sort of
- I learned a lot about political theory and improved my critical thinking and synthesis skills.
- Understanding of Polisci and scientific basics.
- I learned to understand the scientific method as presented in research articles and extended papers much more. I also learned how to engage with a broad array of topics, but not too deeply with any in particular.
- I learned to improve my analysis of political science articles and resources for future papers.
- This course was a very good introduction to many broad polisci concepts, such as polarization, warfare, international relations, and race. It doesn't go very deep into any of the topics, but are a good intro with great professors!
- knowledge in a variety of political science topics
- Foundations of political science concepts.
- Ability to analyze research papers
- I learned how to read political sciences papers well.
- how to read an academic paper
- Understanding of how to think like a political scientist, how to read scientific papers, and how to understand certain theoretical models.
- i learned how to understand the world around me
- reading a lot of material very quickly, synthesizing new information
- Frameworks and intuitions in political science
- I improved my knowledge of why wars occur, why we have such prominent polarization, and some reasons for the gender gap within politics, which all peaked my interest.
- I improved my skills in identifying the question, theory, observable implications, tests, and results in scientific papers. I also improved my knowledge around political theories.
- understanding of political system
- I learned a lot about representation and polarization. I enjoyed the papers we read, and I felt I was able to improve my reading skills.
- Critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Analyzing political science papers
- In this course, I strengthened my understanding of core political science concepts and how political behavior can be studied systematically using evidence and theory. I improved my ability to think analytically about political institutions, voting behavior, and public opinion, and to connect abstract concepts to real-world political outcomes. The course also helped me develop stronger skills in reading empirical research, interpreting data, and communicating political arguments clearly in both written and discussion-based settings.
- Taking notes . the scientific method.
- I learned how to read the scientific method, among other things, that really strengthened my reading and comprehension level. I also learned how to tackle complex questions and topics and approach them from different perspectives.
- Working through the scientific method, reading research papers, better understanding the work of Stanford PoliSci faculty, introductory insights into a range of PoliSci topics.
- I learned a lot about foundational theories and scholars of political science.
- I was taught how to identify questions, theories, observable implications, tests and results in real-world political science papers and how to communicate all these things in my own words. I was also introduced to a plethora of political science subjects such as gender, democracy, ethnicity, civil war, climate change and more.
- I learned how to analyze scientific articles, and connect different concepts/topics to the class readings. Additionally, I improved my ability to evaluate data and real-world political events.
- How to read political science articles
- I learned how to look at papers at be able to identify their core components accurately. An aspect I improved on was being able to write coherently and persuasively based on knowledge acquired from the class.

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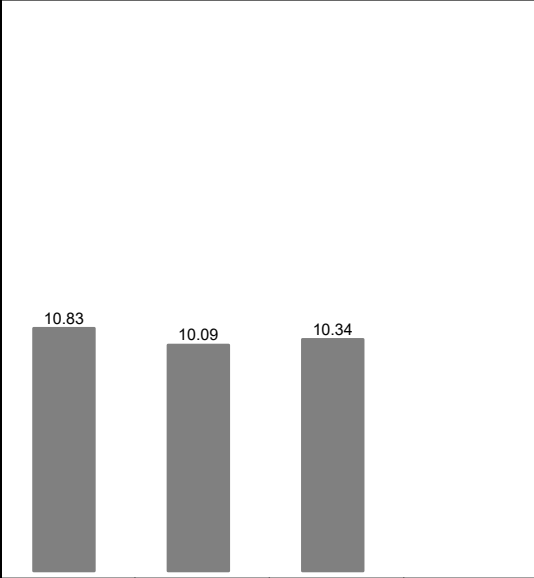
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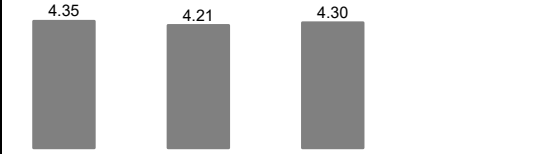
Instructor: Emilee Chapman,Simone Paci *

Response Rate: 52/66 (78.79 %)

7 - How many hours per week on average did you spend on this course (including class meetings)?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses								
3	(3)	1	2.08%									
4	(4)	2	4.17%									
5	(5)	2	4.17%									
6	(6)	5	10.42%	■								
7	(7)	6	12.50%	■								
8	(8)	3	6.25%	■								
9	(9)	2	4.17%									
10	(10)	9	18.75%	■								
12	(12)	3	6.25%	■								
13	(13)	2	4.17%									
14	(14)	1	2.08%									
15	(15)	5	10.42%	■								
17	(17)	1	2.08%									
18	(18)	1	2.08%									
20	(20)	2	4.17%									
21	(21)	1	2.08%									
23	(23)	1	2.08%									
25	(25)	1	2.08%									
0 25 50 100					Question	School	Department					
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
48/66 (72.73%)	10.83	5.23	10.00	13219	10.09	7.84	9.00	511	10.34	6.67	9.00	

8 - How organized was the course?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Extremely organized	(5)	22	44.90%	■								
Very organized	(4)	22	44.90%	■								
Moderately organized	(3)	5	10.20%	■								
Slightly organized	(2)	0	0.00%									
Not organized at all	(1)	0	0.00%									
0 25 50 100					Question	School	Department					
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	School	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
49/66 (74.24%)	4.35	0.66	4.00	14110	4.21	0.89	4.00	528	4.30	0.86	5.00	

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Response Rate: 52/66 (78.79 %)

9 - What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?All comments are subject to Stanford's Terms of Use for Sites. Answers to this question will be viewable by other students, as well as instructors.

Response Rate	37/66 (56.06%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although I personally did not like the class because I recognized that I don't really want to study political science, I do think that this is an excellent course for those who are interested in studying political science and know what it entails. While this is an introductory course, there is a substantial amount of work that goes into this class and it is imperative to attend lectures, do the readings, and actually put the work in. This is not an introduction class that one can easily breeze by in.• This class is extremely well structured and the professors are great. It was so interesting being able to see how political science topics could apply in real life. This course is relevant to ongoing events and I would definitely recommend, even if you don't intend to pursue a major related to political science• If you're thinking about majoring in Polisci, you're gonna have to take this course anyway, so here's what you should keep in mind. The course is a broad overview of a variety of elements of political science, meaning most Polisci classes will not be structured in the same way. The readings and coursework can vary widely from year to year, so past reviews may not be super helpful in regards to that. The great thing about this class is that you will likely get great professors, you will learn a lot from your readings (and maybe even discover a passion in the field), and you will leave the course feeling more confident about your engagement with academic research and formulating theories.• This course is a good introduction to a lot of foundational ideas within political science and assumes no background. The readings are often quite interesting and cover a lot of topics, whereas the lectures are broader. While its use as a survey course makes sense given that it is an introductory major requirement, lecture can at times drag during weeks where the topic is less personally interesting. The midterm is very reasonable, and expectations are always clearly communicated, which is helpful. My advice would be to take this course early in your journey as a perspective major, so as to not make it repetitive, but to maybe prioritize taking a more narrowly-focused or personally interesting course as your first political science course or at the same time to get a more accurate picture of what courses in the department actually look like.• Take this course—it's eye-opening, builds real-world awareness, and helps you understand how politics truly shapes everyday life.• This course is a great introduction to the field of political science and the political science department at Stanford! Dr. Chapman and Dr. Paci are great professors and very nice. Lectures are engaging and make the concepts simple. Homework assignments vary in difficulty, but the grading system makes it easy to get an A. I recommend paying close attention to the readings, since one of the greatest values of this class for me was the exposure to papers written by Stanford faculty members across subfields of political science. Those authors may be your professors in the future, and you may want to ask them for research opportunities or to be your major advisor, so having read their work will be helpful. The exams are extremely similar to the homework and very straightforward. My only criticism is that the standards for the "Reading the Scientific Method" sections of homework and exams were somewhat unclear, and many students were still confused even after receiving feedback on homework and the midterm. Regardless, the class is overall a fun, straightforward, and largely unstressful introductory course, and it's a great course for those who are new to Stanford and/or political science.• Not bad, not good. Bird's eye view political science class, frustrating if you have already taken Polisci classes and are familiar with the material being discussed since everything is presented rather shallowly. By the same token, it is also a very easy class if you have that background...• Do all the readings, don't fall behind, and catch up asap if you do.• Very well organized and easy to keep track of the assignments align well with the class• It's a great intro class to polisci. It covers a bit of everything, so anybody could find something they think is interesting.• This course provides a great fundamental understanding of topics. I would recommend signing up every day on the physical paper sign up sheet since I know many people who attended all classes except for 1-2 excused absences and did not earn their full attendance credit on an arbitrary assignment grade where the unexcused absences are not specified. The midterm is not difficult and they prepare you well so that you know what to study for, and it is not difficult to earn a B or greater. Weekly homework assignments are graded fairly, and make sure to look at the feedback to improve in preparation for the final.• I liked how the sections were taught and the organization of the class overall was excellent! I think the Canvas were organized, just wished attendance was judged by the later Pollev questions filled out because there would be times my friends and I would attend lecture 5 mins late and stay for 2 hours however we wouldn't have our attendance counted because we didn't answer the first poll!• Emilee and Simone are great! They teach you very well on the general concepts of political science, and are always available via office hours. I do think the quality of instruction of the TAs was a little inconsistent, however.• A great course for introducing students to a broad range of topics in political science; covered a new topic each week. Good jumping point for deciding which topics to explore in future classes• Great introduction, a bit hard to keep up with, instructors are great but TAs are hit-or-miss.• Both instructors are amazing, and they are very passionate and understanding of students' situations.• This is a great way to gain exposure to a wide variety of topics in political science.• I would recommend this all people to learn more about the world.• it's a nice intro to poli sci. although, if you are student who is not decided about their major, don't take this and expect to fall in love with political science. i think you should take more specific classes in the social sciences area.• make sure you like political science• If you're expecting a theory-centric political science course, this course isn't the one for you. This is a lot more statistics-heavy than I had initially expected, but it helped me view the field in a way that I hadn't before.• So happy to have taken this with Simone and Emilee! Wonderful and incredibly caring instructors• If you're interested in the realm of politics, definitely take this course! This class does a great job going over many different topics; however, it can be a little broad. This is a very surface-level discussion of politics, but it's great at narrowing down the speck of politics you might be interested in! The readings are pretty easy to comprehend, but they can be a bit long, so keep that in mind. I loved this course, and I feel I now have a solid grasp to the world of political science.• This course introduces you to a wide range of political science topics. There is a decent amount of reading to keep up on each week but it is definitely doable. Spending time on the homework assignments can really help prepare you for the tests.• take it• Emilee and Simone are great, and this is a great introductory course to political science!• Great instructors and great range of topics covered• This is a rigorous but very rewarding introduction to political science. The course provides a strong foundation in how political questions are studied using theory and evidence, and it pushes you to think critically about politics beyond opinion. It's a fast-paced class, but the lectures, sections, and readings complement each other well. If you're willing to stay engaged and keep up with the material, you'll come away with skills that are useful across many areas of political science and beyond.• Stay on top of readings, work on homework early• Emile and Simone were great.• I'd say to take it! Though it's a requirement for political science majors, it gives a good overview of what political science is about. I learned various new concepts and ideas. There's also variety of topics covered each week, so one can see what it is that they're more interested in. It was also very well structured and the professors taught all the material very clearly and kept the conversation going, asking and answering questions.	

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Instructor:	Emilee Chapman,Simone Paci *
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- Professors Chapman and Paci were extremely well-organized, engaging lecturers. There are a decent number of readings, but they're almost all seminal papers by the PoliSci faculty, which is really helpful as you get acquainted with the department. There are weekly homeworks, but they're reasonable assignments to make sure you're taking what you need from the readings. Overall, I really enjoyed the class and would recommend it with Chapman and Paci.
- An interesting introductory course. You will learn a good amount about a variety of foundational theory and scholars. Some of the concepts are taught in a very overarching and vague way, so if you have zero prior knowledge it might not be the easiest to understand. Don't use this class as your deciding factor for becoming a political science major - there are far more interesting, dynamic and in-depth courses in the major that are a much better experience.
- I learned a ton in this class! I was taught how to identify questions, theories, observable implications, tests and results in real-world political science papers and how to communicate all these things in my own words. I was also introduced to a plethora of political science subjects such as gender, democracy, ethnicity, civil war, climate change and more. This course definitely focuses on breadth as opposed to depth. The lectures were very helpful, the readings are very important but pretty long so give yourself plenty of time. I needed to go to office hours 4 times for assistance which was extremely helpful. Other than that, I had no problem following the material. I would recommend this course, but unless it is required for you, I would not say it is a must take class.
- I would definitely recommend this course because it enhances your understanding of key concepts in government such as democracy, power, and authority, however it is very important that you stay on top of your readings.
- You have to know the terminology of polisci and the specificity of the terms
- Take it! It is an extremely important introduction which will help you feel out what you like and do not like.

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10 - Would you like to provide any other comments about this course?	
Response Rate	13/66 (19.7%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • NA • n-a • I think the required attendance for every lecture is a bit harsh. • Not that I can think of • Thank you so much for an amazing class and quarter! • Emillee and Simone were great instructors! I genuinely loved taking this course. I felt lost and overwhelmed in politics at the beginning of the quarter, but now I have a pretty solid understanding of the foundation of politics, and I have been able to narrow down my interests in politics. • Professor Simone Paci and Professor Emilee Chapman are the best! • Both Emilee and Simone were great professors and kept the lectures engaging and interesting. My sections for this class, however, were a little confusing at times and I didn't feel like it was very helpful in helping me further understand some of the concepts and topics from lecture. • n/a • n/a • nope • N/A 	

Mean of Means Calculations	Mean	School	Department	
Mean of Means	4.25	4.27	4.36	