

Western Kentucky University

Spring 2016 Full Term Course Evaluations

Course: PS430001: POLITICAL THEORY- LIBERTY

Instructor: Edward Yager *

21 - Class lectures contain information not covered in the textbook.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	10	83.33%								
Agree	(4)	2	16.67%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Summary	Department Summary
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Summary	Mean	STD	Median	Department Summary	Mean	STD	Median
12/19 (63.16%)	4.83	0.39	5.00	453	4.08	0.97	4.00	453	4.08	0.97	4.00

22 - I would enjoy taking another course from this instructor.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	11	91.67%								
Agree	(4)	1	8.33%								
Neutral	(3)	0	0%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0%								
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Summary	Department Summary
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Summary	Mean	STD	Median	Department Summary	Mean	STD	Median
12/19 (63.16%)	4.92	0.29	5.00	453	4.23	1.04	5.00	453	4.23	1.04	5.00

23 - Please provide additional feedback:

Return Rate	8/19 (42.11%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent professor, very knowledgeable about this subject and does a great job explaining the dense material. • I was looking forward to this class, and I haven't been disappointed. He is for sure the best professor in the department. Good choice on the different types of Liberty to discuss. • Dr. Yager is one of the most professional, engaged, and empathetic teachers at WKU. His interest in the material is infectious; I want to learn because he is so enthusiastic about what he has to tell us. • I had never met a professor quite like Dr. Yager before attending WKU. As a transfer student, I have taken political science courses from a wide variety of professors with differing political views, teaching styles, and personalities; however, Dr. Yager is the most professional and intellectually-stimulating professor I have had. Although political science can be a rather polarizing topic, he refuses to let ideological preferences guide his lectures, which is extremely refreshing. I have recommended him multiple times to other students in the political science department. • Dr. Yager is my favorite professor on this campus. My first class with him was last Fall, I enjoy his class. He is very knowledgeable and is very passionate about what he teaches. • Dr. Yager is consistently one of the best professors I have at this university, and one of the best educators I have ever studied under. I will not lie, initially I was skeptical that talking about a single concept "liberty" could be stimulating and discussed for an entire semester, but I can humbly say that I was wrong and that this was one of the more rigorous and full courses that I have taken. I enjoy that Dr. Yager clearly maps out the semester during the first week, laying out expectations and the agenda. What I enjoy even more is that he never deviates from his plan and because of this we are never off-schedule, never rushed, and never shorted on our education. Aside from his organization and pragmatism, Dr. Yager is an exceptional speaker and knowledgeable of the subject material. The only word I can use for professor Yager is that he is wise. Any time a student asks a question he answers it clearly and accurately, often times pulling information from other thinkers as well as current and historical events. Never once have I seen him be tripped up despite at times rather rigorous interrogation on the part of the class. Dr. Yager is not only passionate about the subject material, knowledgeable, and an amazing presenter, but he is also a great man. He clearly cares about his students and wishes for them to excel. This is evident through his encouragement of students when they voice comments or ideas, and creates an environment conducive to learning and exploration. Aside from Dr. Yager himself, the course was stimulating. It was the perfect amount of general, yet at the same time, in-depth knowledge of liberty, the different types of it, origins, and history. I thoroughly enjoyed all the units and thinkers we discussed. I believe the starting point of the class made sense and follows logically throughout the semester. The books and readings for each week were appropriate in length and content for the class and enriched the process. I believe that the assignments and layout of the course was perfect and I wish most of my classes would be structured the same way. The quizzes come at opportune times and allow students to study two to three thinkers at a time in depth and actually analyze their thoughts versus merely memorizing certain facts or details. The two papers and presentations that are assigned also are the perfect amount of deeper analysis while at the same time still being manageable, which allows students to really dig into the background and ideas of thinkers regarding liberty. Similarly to my analysis on De Tocqueville during the semester I have relatively few suggestions for the class, and none are anything bad. I would suggest that perhaps a recommendation would be made to students in the class regarding the presentations that the student should prepare some sort of organized material because we had several people who were not very organized during their presentations. In light of the fact that some of the class is based on us teaching one another it is important all students present acceptable presentations, especially for the thinkers who have no assigned readings because if that student does poorly, our knowledge for the exam is hindered. This is a problem with students, not the professor. Nor was this issue very prevalent because our class had great thinkers and presenters who put forth exceptional effort, but there were a few times this was not true. Perhaps if our participation grade was partially fused to the quality, or at least, effort of the presentations, the few people who would be inclined to skimp would not do so. Also a recommendation to students could be made to meet or at least contact the other person presenting at the same time so that a coordination could take place and more material could be covered or at least, not redone. Finally, for some of the thinkers that do not have specific readings, maybe there could be a "suggested" reading for that class, which would not be mandatory, but if a student wanted to investigate more or if the student presenter did not do very well, this reading could be a good starting point to further investigate the prevalent topic. Like I said before, this was a fantastic class and I learned a ton. I would recommend it to anyone and I look forward to taking Dr. Yager's speciality classes for the rest of my stay at WKU. • Probably the most beneficial and thought provoking class I have ever taken at WKU. It can be pretty boring at times but I have enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone taking an upper level political science course 	
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