

Evaluations Spring 2011

Course #	Course Name	Faculty	Responses	Enrolled	%
203	Intro to Int'l Rel.	Parent, JM	60	77	78%
591	Int'l Security	Parent, JM	15	16	94%

Lecture Survey
SPR11 2011

University of Miami
Arts and Sciences

Course:	POL203 T - INTRO.INTNL REL.	Department:	POL
Responsible Faculty:	Joseph Parent	Resp. Rec'vd / Expected:	60 / 77
Overall Mean:	4.2 5 - Point Likert Scale (UM) (540 responses)		

Lecture - Instructor Items		Parent, Joseph M									
		Responses					Individual				
		[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1	My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	34	21	2	1	2	5	5	.90	60	4.4
Q2	I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	29	19	6	4	2	4	5	1.06	60	4.2
Q3	The instructor presents course material effectively.	30	22	5	2	1	4.5	5	.88	60	4.3
Q4	The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	31	24	2	3	0	5	5	.78	60	4.4
Q5	The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	23	26	9	2	0	4	4	.80	60	4.2

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













Lecture - Course Items		Parent, Joseph M									
		Responses					Individual				
		[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6	Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	21	24	7	6	2	4	4	1.08	60	3.9











Q7	This course has challenged me to think.	45	14	0	1	0	5	5	.55	60	4.7
Q8	Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	20	21	9	8	2	4	4	1.13	60	3.8
Q9	Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	24	26	7	2	1	4	4	.88	60	4.2



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

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:










Faculty:	Parent, Joseph M
Response Rate:	40.00% (24 of 60)












-	Both the course readings and the lectures cover a wide variety of topics in international relations.	
-	Friday discussion should have been extra credit for every 3 attended or incorporated into the last 20 minutes of class.	
-	The readings are a bit much and difficult to read.	
-	I found the discussion sections very helpful as well as the midterm review for understanding and cementing the key concepts into my head. I was interested by a lot of the readings and liked first reading them then having discussion on them to clear up anything we didn't understand	
-	Interesting subject	
-	This course is very well organized. Every class, Professor Parent puts an outline on the board and sticks to it. He answers any questions one may have about a new topic and is charismatic enough to keep a class over one hundred people involved. The content of this class requires a lot of reading which Professor Parent pushes for every class.	
-	A hard class, but I really learned a lot. Well worth the hard work.	
-	there is A LOT of reading, more than i think most students can keep up with but the reading that i did do really helped me understand lectures more and gave me more material and empirical evidence/sources to use on the exams. great class	
-	This course was so interesting and I really enjoyed going to class. After taking this class I know IR is something I want to do with the rest of my life.	
-	Having such a high concentration of the grade on the exams dependent upon the essay makes it difficult to know exactly what the professor is looking for, but otherwise is a good format and class.	
-	interesting course	
-	The course and the professor are excellent. He's very dedicated and encourages all of us to get interested in the material. However there is TOO MUCH reading and	




<p>memorization and its almost impossible to memorize all the work for POL203 and information of other classes.</p> <p>The course is OK. I think it needs to be re-evaluated though. It could use some more tidy work...meaning that the lectures could certainly relate more to the material we are given to read.</p>	
<p>Intro to IR covers a wide range of topics, in detail, in a short amount of time. It was definitely one of, if not the, course at UM that has challenged me and made me really think--not just memorize and word vomit onto a page. There was so much material, the readings specifically, but by midterm and final time it was clear and logical in my mind.</p>	
<p>- Possibly have some quizzes, more than just the final/midterm</p>	
<p>- The exams expected too much from an introductory course. I think this course was much more difficult than its INS 101 equivalent with other professors</p>	
<p>- The course content was extremely interesting and relevant to current events and the global business markets which I will most likely be working closely with after graduation.</p>	
<p>It's like butter spread too thin on a piece of toast. I feel there were too many readings and concepts presented. While I had put a great deal of effort into preparing for my final exam, I felt completely bewildered by the unpredictable questions. Despite making and memorizing hundreds of flashcards, many of the readings were not applicable to the essay questions. The design of the course seems to pressure students to remember a sentence tagline or a few sentences on each reading. Chances are, most of these readings will be forgotten by most students. The readings did challenge me to think critically during the course, and I appreciated the wisdom in the selections, but I think it could be cut down. Here's my suggestion...</p> <p>- Cut out game theory and environmental politics. It is clear that you aren't an environmentalist. As a realist you don't really tie the importance of resource scarcity to self-help. I am passionate about environmental science, nevertheless, if you aren't going to make a strong case for its connection to international politics, it seems like a waste of time.</p> <p>Game theory is a ton of concepts and dense readings and ultimately, little connection was made to the major paradigms or current events.</p> <p>The history of each theory is not as important to students as demonstrating the theory in practice.</p> <p>The structure of the course seems very unfair to those who have hardly studied history.</p> <p>The final is weighted far too heavily. More grades or more equal distribution.</p>	
<p>- I have learned a lot of information in this course; thus, I feel more cultivated.</p>	
<p>- makes it too difficult for a 100 level course</p>	
<p>- More oppurtunities to bring your grade up.</p>	
<p>- This course nearly killed me, but I learned a lot. I probably shouldn't have taken it on</p>	

<p>while enrolled in 24 credits but I enjoyed the challenge.</p> <p>Professor Parent knows what he's talking about. My only struggle throughout the course was his tendency to go on tangents and be a bit disorganized during lectures. I think he expected a bit too much for a 200 level course. He has a good sense of humor, and really does share interesting information and encourages us to keep up with what's going on in the world...I just think his class, instead of stimulating interest in international relations, made me a bit weary. I didn't feel confident about the subject matter throughout the course.</p>	
<p>The reason why I feel the exams do not reflect accurately what is learned is because it is possible to study all the material and then be faced with a question that asks to predict something in international relations. Really, in the lectures and the readings the theories are just being defined to us, I don't really think we were being prepared to predict. I understand that the reason for those questions would be to see how well we could establish a position and defend it using the theories, but I think a more objective exam would be a better way to assess what has been learned from the course.</p>	







Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:	
Faculty:	Parent, Joseph M
Response Rate:	38.33% (23 of 60)

<p>Professor Parent is by far the most intelligent professor I have ever encountered at the University of Miami. He is able to convey the course content clearly and with an unmistakable enthusiasm for the topic. His course is challenging and thought-provoking and my analytical skills have undoubtedly benefited from it.</p>	
<p>Great professor. Very interesting. Knows his stuff. Can be hard to follow at times.</p>	
<p>I really enjoyed the lectures and the analogies made it very easy to understand the concepts he was explaining to us. Sometimes it was hard to keep up with what the instructor was saying though because he was trying to get all the information in that we needed for the day and would talk fast.</p>	
<p>One of the best professors I've taken at UM. He is very smart, almost too smart, and it shows in his lectures.</p>	
<p>Confident, eloquent, and intelligent are just three words that describe Dr. Parent</p>	
<p>He was hands down my favorite instructor this semester, and I am a Biology major. His lectures were always interesting and he was very approachable and helpful. He gave me a lot of knowledge not only in political science, but in many other aspects of life.</p>	
<p>Professor Parent keeps a lot of students involved because of his enthusiastic approach to political science. He provides arguments and counterarguments from both sides but always shows the true reality of international relations. He preaches reading and is always willing to help and to work with students.</p>	
<p>An amazing instructor. Very hard, but I learned so much. I am more aware of what is going on in the world and I can now think critically about it.</p>	
<p>i initially did not like this class because i was intimidated by the reading since it is an</p>	

<p>introductory class but dr. parent inevitably grew on me and i ended up really enjoying the class. he's brilliant and makes the information easy to understand and quite interesting</p> <p>- Dr. Parent has to be the best and most intelligent professor I have had here at UM. I hope to have him again within the next three years.</p>	
<p>- Very interesting and makes subject exciting</p> <p>- great guy</p> <p>Dr. Parent is extremely knowledgeable and makes the course material interesting and a real challenge. However, it's difficult to keep with his lectures and the final is too overwhelming- not to mention cumulative.</p> <p>- Very enthusiastic, encouraging, entertaining, and extremely knowledgeable of the material he teaches and loves what he does. Tough class but worth it.</p>	   
<p>- AWESOME lecturer! Wish that the readings assigned were as motivating as the way he teaches in class!</p> <p>Joe Parent is without a doubt one of the best professors at UM. And anyone that says otherwise isn't interested in political theory enough to be a polisci major or they didn't work hard enough in the class. I was originally a little intimidated, and considered dropping the class because it was very work intensive and I had five other courses to worry about. But sticking with it was one of the best decisions I could've made. He is extremely demanding of his students and preparing for his exams takes a whole semester of work, but a brilliant man and someone I wish I could've made a better connection with (unfortunately the class was a huge lecture hall and going to the TA was our first line of defense when needing help, and Justin went above and beyond to be helpful, so I never had a real opportunity to make a connection). Parent is the kind of guy that you want to sit down with and just listen to for hours. I greatly enjoyed his class and actually enjoyed going to it, and now that it's over it makes me a little sad. He presents course material in a way that students can relate to and remember easily (if you hear that your boyfriend is going to break up you 7th block, you take preemptive measures to break up with him at lunch so you can do it first!) I rarely leave a class actually feeling more intelligent, I usually leave classes feeling like I memorized a bunch of stuff I will soon forget, but with this one I feel like a better educated person. I always look forward to (and am a little scared) to receive his feedback on exams, but hearing "excellent" from Parent seems so much more valuable than hearing it from any other professor. I hope I get the opportunity to take another class with him and really get to know him.</p> <p>- Good lecturer</p> <p>- He was the best instructor I've had all year. His lectures were stimulating and engaging.</p>	   
<p>- Dr. Parent was an exceptional professor; he is extremely knowledgeable on the content of the course and I thoroughly enjoyed his lectures.</p>	
<p>- Let me preface this by saying that Justin is amazing. His discussions sections were immensely helpful and he made himself available to students. He also encouraged student participation in section.</p> <p>Professor Parent is one of the brightest professors I've ever had. He is hilarious and</p>	

<p>pretty kind.</p> <p>Wasting the whole first day on character exposition in order to race through the course was not a good start. We don't care if you humbly classify yourself as an "asshole". Students care more about what a professor feels about them than about how he/she feels about himself/herself. There were many other wasted moments like "cocktail-party facts" and details about your mother's stock portfolio. While the ability to allude to obscure German poets is impressive, it is ultimately not useful to students. Example: A "what's going on in the world?"- Student mentions Obama's birth certificate was released. Parent tries to prove to class that he able to relate it to course themes, while dismissing the news story as unrelated to IP. 15 minutes wasted. Important lectures were rushed through.</p> <p>Despite this, I still really liked Parent. I really appreciated the detailed criticism on my midterm exam and appreciate his firm, clear responses to my questions.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He gets students interested in the topic. He has a good personality for teaching this course. - Charming, witty and attractive, Joseph made the long lectures enjoyable, though at times spoke at a pace impossible to follow. 	 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I think the professor is great and it's apparent he's very knowledgeable in international relations, but his expectations for the students may be too high. For an introductory course, should we really be expected to know EVERY single theory, author (which there are PLENTY) and term that exists in international relations? 	

Q12 - Additional comments:	
Faculty:	Parent, Joseph M
Response Rate:	10.00% (6 of 60)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I enjoyed the class and would take a class with this professor again 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best political science professor UM has to offer (Don't let it get to your head, though, Joe). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - you are the shit. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - even though discussion sessions will be mandatory next semester, the optional sessions this semester were extremely helpful - A book to guide us in addition to the lectures would have been useful. - I'm curious as to why there is no spot for me to rate Justin Garvin, as other departments allow us to rate the TA along with the professor. So I will use this space to do so. I think that Justin is the most useful TA I have encountered thus far on campus. He led discussion section every week, each of which I went to because what he had to teach was very valuable, and he led review sessions. He was very clear, organized, and always prepared. He sometimes offered an alternate perspective to what Parent presented in class and really worked hard to have discussion sections work for the students and what they needed. Justin is where most of my exam prep came from, and since I found many of the readings to be very dense, it was refreshing to have someone to help make sense of them. He always answered every question to 	  

make sure everyone understood it and did everything he could to help us. Unfortunately, maybe 10 people in total consistently went to all the discussion sections on Friday afternoons, so they missed out on Justin's wisdom. Although since Parent set his classes up for students to be at war with one another (the worse grades everyone else gets, the better grade I get), I didn't mind the other hundred people being at a disadvantage for skipping discussion section. Justin also graded our midterms and gave more feedback than I've ever received in a class of 10, never mind a huge lecture hall. At the same time, I felt like as a student I could completely trust Justin to steer me in the right direction, which also means the direction that Parent will like. In the past, I've had TAs who have said one thing and then the professor wants something entirely different. I feel like Parent and Justin complemented each other really well.

Lecture Survey
SPR11 2011

University of Miami
Arts and Sciences

Course:	POL591 UX - INTL SECURITY	Department:	POL
Responsible Faculty:	Joseph Parent	Resp. Rec'vd / Expected:	15 / 16
Overall Mean:	4.6 5 - Point Likert Scale (UM) (134 responses)		

Lecture - Instructor Items		Parent, Joseph M									
		Responses					Individual				
		[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q1	My overall evaluation of the instructor is positive.	12	3	0	0	0	5	5	.40	15	4.8
Q2	I would recommend this instructor to a friend.	11	4	0	0	0	5	5	.44	15	4.7
Q3	The instructor presents course material effectively.	11	1	2	1	0	5	5	.96	15	4.5
Q4	The instructor stimulates interest in the course.	12	3	0	0	0	5	5	.40	15	4.8
Q5	The instructor is available and willing to meet with students.	13	1	1	0	0	5	5	.54	15	4.8









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

Lecture - Course Items

Parent, Joseph M

		Responses					Individual				
		[SA]	[A]	[N]	[D]	[SD]	Med.	Mode	S.D.	N	Mean
Q6	Exams and assignments reflect the goals and objectives of the course.	10	4	1	0	0	5	5	.61	15	4.6
Q7	This course has challenged me to think.	13	2	0	0	0	5	5	.34	15	4.9
Q8	Exams and other graded material accurately assess what I have learned in this course.	11	2	2	0	0	5	5	.71	15	4.6
Q9	Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.	7	4	2	0	1	4.5	5	1.12	14	4.1
Responses: [SA] Strongly Agree=5 [A] Agree=4 [N] Neutral=3 [D] Disagree=2 [SD] Strongly Disagree=1											

Q10 - Suggestions and comments about the course content:	
Faculty:	Parent, Joseph M
Response Rate:	53.33% (8 of 15)







-	Content was interesting, I would like a few more current events applied to the theories and papers we read.	
-	Reading was a bit heavy at times, but it was more disappointing when we weren't able to cover it thoroughly...usually because there were too many presentations, or no one read...	
-	The debate system set up in this course, while interesting, needs major refinement. Some articles are not very interesting or do not have a definite argument that can be debated. While in theory the person who best presents the material should get the higher grade, in reality it often comes down to who is right. Furthermore since expecting everyone in the class to read ~200 pages a week is unrealistic, having them vote on the readings that are being debated, readings they probably didn't read, leads to poor results in the voting process.	
-	Interesting readings, class is well structured so you get in enough participation.	
-	Very interesting readings, these are the types of readings all classes should require instead of dull text books.	
-	Great class. It deals with current world affairs problems in a theoretical way. This is an important way of analyzing world politics and was well taught.	
-	It was epic - make the paper check ins worth a grade (like 1 - 2 points of the paper grade) to encourage better work on them - I wish I had made a better outline when I began writing and I feel like a grade on the outlines would have encouraged one	
-	Grades for attendance and participation should not be graded separately.	

Class voting on winners should not take precedence in grade determination.

Q11 - Suggestions and comments about the instructor:

Faculty: Parent, Joseph M






Response Rate: 40.00% (6 of 15)

- Instructor was great; always ready to meet with students whenever and was incredibly fast on email. very much appreciated!	
- A bit hard to read, I wish he would give more feedback during class (what did we miss in the reading, what are the main points) The email notes on the presentations were helpful.	
- Great class. Parent is just like Machiavelli because he is often loved and feared. The only poli sci professor at UM that you will learn from.	
- Incredibly knowledgeable, sharp, and witty. A lot of it is well rehearsed, which can make it fun to catch him off guard as he will spend most of his time doing so to you. He expects you to know what you've read and know it well. He won't hesitate to call you out on bs'ing a fact. Grades honestly with a touch of sympathy; he understands that what he expects from his students most other professors from UM don't. Without a doubt the best professor at UM.	
- Great young and dynamic instructor that creates a pleasant work environment with his students. The instructor translates complex concepts with ease and is willing to help students.	
- You were both fun and smart	

Q12 - Additional comments:

Faculty: Parent, Joseph M

Response Rate: 40.00% (6 of 15)

- Great course, very challenging but worth the time.	
- The presentations were too time consuming and often fruitless. Starting them earlier in the semester might help spread them out so they don't take up an entire class.	
- Great class.	
- The round table discussion makes the class comfortable, they feel more like a dinner with friends than a typical class.	
- One of the hardest but most valuable class I have taken at UM.	
- epic	