



# Report for John Calhoun - All courses

Project Title: **2023 Spring Student Experience of Teaching**

Course Audience: **60**

Responses Received: **42**

Response Ratio: **70.0%**

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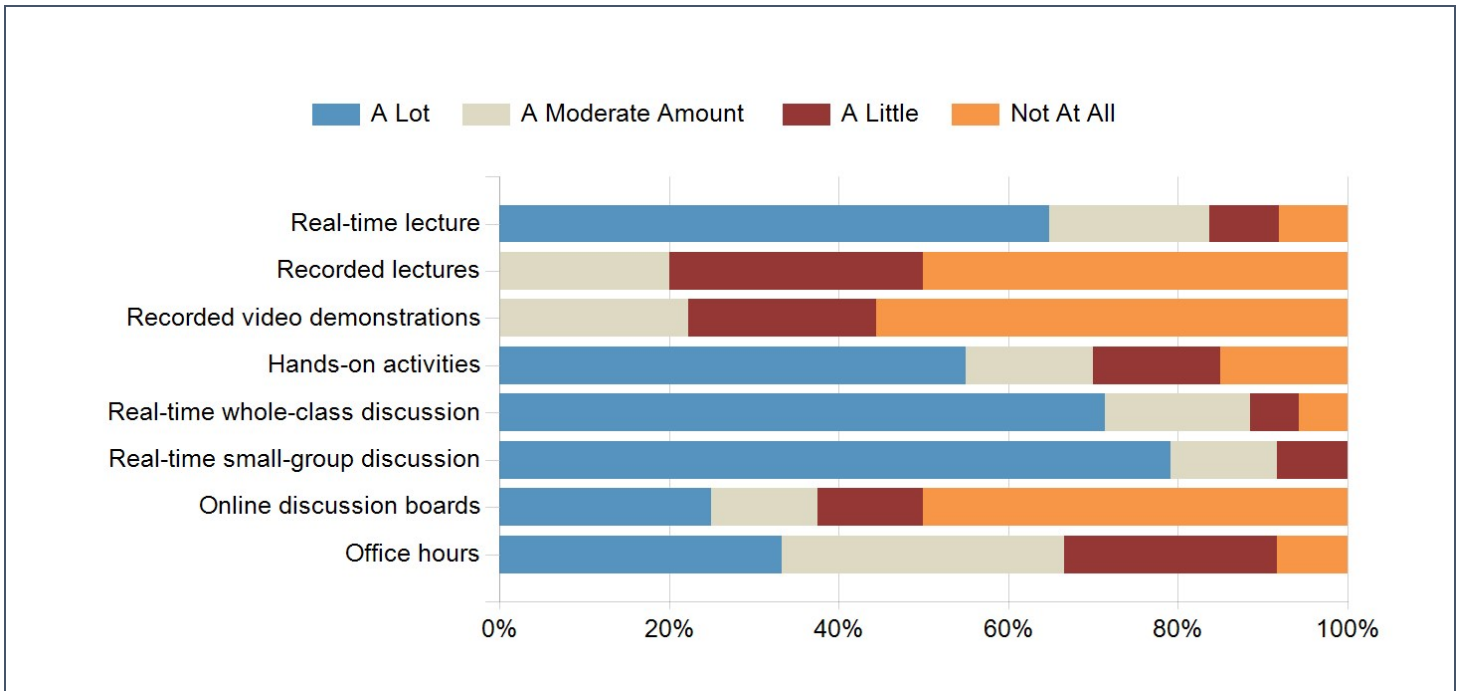
## Report Comments

Spring 2023 Individual Instructor Report - Aggregate All courses

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Creation Date: **Thursday, June 1, 2023**

**Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**



**Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.**

Comments
Jake really tried to push our understanding of the material deeper so he would assign quizzes at the start to help us articulate our thoughts first. He would encourage respectful disagreement so we could be better understand different others and our own arguments.
This class was discussion based it the discussion, specifically Jake's questions, really helped me engage more deeply with the material.
Discussion was really interesting because people had different opinions on topics and the conversations stayed lively. If most people agreed on a topic we discussed and the conversation was not as back and forth, Jake would bring up counter points that were really helpful at bringing out deeper discussions and opinions. At the beginning of discussion we wrote out a short answer to a question Jake posed that were helpful at gathering thoughts regarding the topics of discussion.
I really enjoyed the discussion sections we had. We got the opportunity to hear from a variety of people and perspectives and Jake did a great job of balancing teaching us but letting us discuss as well.
I thought that the discussion was extremely helpful for my learning because I got to hear a variety of perspectives about the different topics we talked about each week. Also, the questions we were asked in discussion made me think of things in ways I hadn't considered before, so I got a lot out of it and learned a lot.
Office hours helped a lot, and since this was a discussion section the discussions held in class were the most beneficial.
Doing research for the learning activities – readings, podcasts, etc... Helped me better understand topics I otherwise wouldn't have cared about.
Discussions helped me to understand the various perspectives on different issues. I like that Jake played devil's advocate when everyone agreed on something.
The discussion was always engaging and interesting, I really enjoyed this discussion
Pretty much just a normal discussion, we would discuss things from lecture
Group collaboration helped with understanding the topic and the TA's explanation was very helpful of the material.
Jake's discussions were great! He was always so engaging and encouraging, even if we were having a difficult time with the subject matter. Based off of discussion alone, I would recommend his class to others.
Small group discussions in our discussion groups helped me hear other perspectives on the course material.
I think the discussions during class were well thought out and valuable. Jake did a good job preparing interesting questions for us to discuss.
Really engaging lectures and I found the discussion sections to not be redundant but rather additive. Since there were not tests in

Comments
the class we had a lot of freedom to go down the paths we wanted to during discussion.
Discussion section and real time whole class discussion was super successful in this course. I found the structuring of this course to be easy to follow and a tool that helped me to be successful!
I really liked discussion section. I felt like I learned a lot more than I did in lecture because I got to hear everyone else's perspectives on certain topics. I also liked the attendance questions we would do in the beginning of class because it was a good way to get our thoughts going before discussion
i liked doing real time whole class discussion because people can present their varying ideas and respond to each other in a non-confrontational way
The whole class discussions were informative and deepened my knowledge of our subject matters every week.
The discussion section for this class is good for engaging in a large group discussion of the week's lecture material. Students are encouraged to develop their own opinions on the classroom topics and challenge or support the viewpoints of their classmates. While little new information is introduced, the discussion services as a decent review of weekly material.
The discussion section really helped further my understanding of the material and I liked how there were differing opinions.
I liked discussion and hearing other people's perspective!!
Class discussions during discussion section was a crucial part of my learning experience. John facilitated a comfortable classroom environment that allowed us as students to participate and engage with each other.
I did enjoy the way attendance was taken by writing down our thoughts on the topics to be discussed.
I think that overall our discussion sections as a group were well moderated and overall beneficially impacted my overall understanding and experience in this course.
Jake is really good at explaining/contextualizing topics.
I really liked the class discussions. I actually looked forward to doing them. A lot of my classes are just lectures, and I feel like I was really engaged with the discussion and happy to be there. John Jake was a really good leader who got us excited to talk
The lecture was awesome; my TA was super encouraging and wanted everyone to participate in discussions. The readings were probably the most informative part but if you didn't have time to do them one week the other activities gave you a good overview of what you missed.
Most learning was done in discussion sections.
the information explained by our TA in discussion section in this class helped me analyse the information taught in the lectures a lot deeper, it was also helpful to hear so many different perspectives
The class lectures are very engaging as they hold live podcasts. It gives an element of excitement that no other class has.
Jake was very knowledgeable in discussion section.
I think the whole class group discussion was great to open up conversation and Jake made us feel very comfortable with expressing our opinions and heavily encouraged diverse opinions so every felt welcome. He did a great job with guiding questions which made for very engaging conversations and debates.
The lectures and discussions were very engaging and i really enjoyed the way they approached complex topics about democracy. All opinions were respected and discourse was encouraged.
John did a great job facilitating class discussion, and I found the weekly prompts to get class going to be helpful for gathering my thoughts on the readings

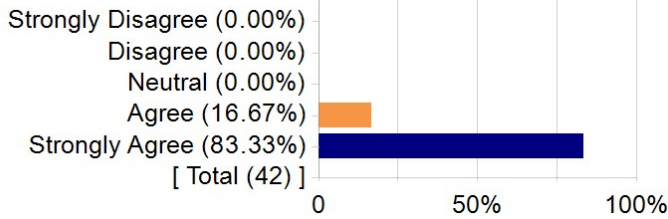
## Course Comments

**What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?**

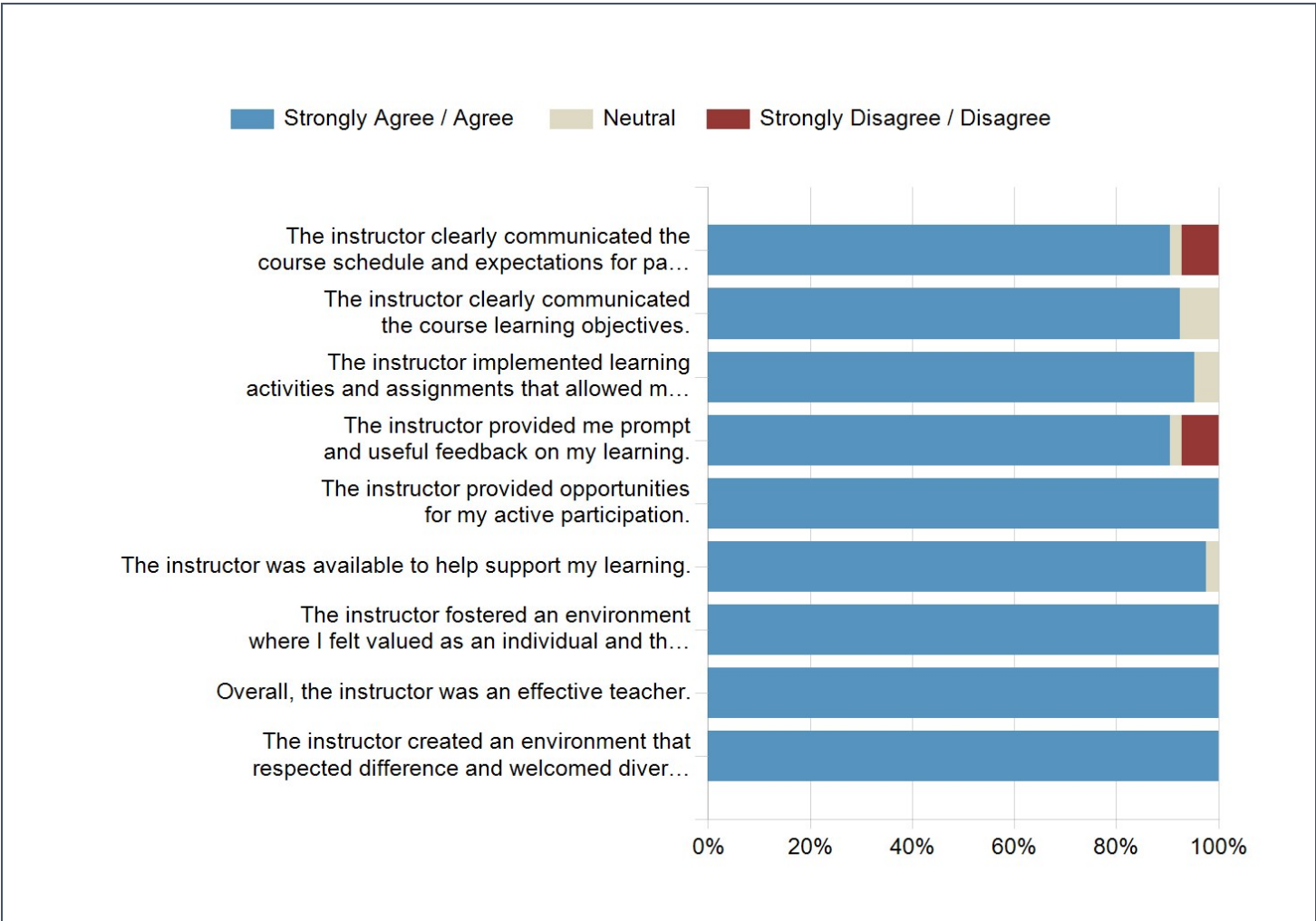
Comments
I liked it
I thought Jake was a really engaging and intelligent TA. His classes were often more enriching than the lecture, and he is clearly very knowledgeable and intelligent about the topics.
The class and discussion increased my interest in politics and staying updated on current events.
Jake was a great TA and I looked forward to class all the time.
I thought this course was really interesting. The subject matter is interesting and incredibly relevant, but honestly I think I got the most out of the course through discussion. It was super thought-provoking and I thoroughly enjoyed it.
Jake did a great job discussing lecture topics in more depth and the discussions were always entertaining.
I really enjoyed Jake! He was the best TA I had at UVA. He was always keeping conversations on track and asking probing conversations. He was energetic, dynamic and facilitated great conversations.
I liked it. I thought the fusion of media studies and history was really cool and well done.
I think that this was a great discussion section, and I think John did a great job at engaging everyone and making it fun, even when we were talking about difficult topics.
I think it would help if we did small discussions with a partner or partners before whole class discussion, I just am a very anxious person and speaking is easier if I have said what I wanted to to just one person
It was an interesting topic with fascinating readings.
I didn't really enjoy in class lectures from the professors, but I enjoyed coming to discussion.
This was a very positive experience and greatly enhanced my enthusiasm for the topic. The discussion section was particularly helpful as Jake Calhoun was able to efficiently and effectively lead discussions where everyone was able to be heard.
I think this class is very interesting! It is definitely one of the most unique classes I've taken at uVA
This was overall an incredibly instructive course. I had a lot of hesitation regarding my history requirement, but I couldn't imagine things working out better. This ended up being one of the most interesting and relevant courses I have taken at UVA. I thought the writing before class was a good way to formulate thoughts before the discussion. I am a bit confused about how discussion participation factors into my grade, but am not too concerned. I found that a few of the assignments could have used a bit more instructions, particularly the podcast pitch and the long podcast analysis. I appreciated the open-endedness of these two assignments but felt a bit confused at points about exactly what was expected.
I really enjoyed this course. Jake was a great TA, who was very knowledgeable in the area of study of the course. Lectures were engaging and interesting, as well.
I would say the overall experience was pretty positive even though I don't have a lot of interest in the subject matter
i really liked our TA Calhoun and he did a great job at encouraging participation, deep thinking and helping us think about varying perspectives on varying issues. i liked how we took attendance since responding to questions presented in class allowed us to refresh our memories and have a reference for what discussion will look like
It was slightly confusing having the assignments on collab say the submission time was 8 pm yet the assignments were due before section (5pm) it tripped me up on a few assignments.
I liked that this course spanned a various number of topics on Democracy. I felt that the materials were very well rounded. The smaller discussion groups helped to shape my thoughts and opinions further than the actual lecture material
This course works well for students who are either first or second years or who are not typically students of history. The course and discussion cover a wide range of topics related to democracy and society. However, it does not seem to be at all structured for the benefit of media studies students.
I really enjoyed how you would always play devils advocate/ not judge people for having opinions that were clearly different from your own. Also great sense of humor! I didn't mind the written portion at the start of discussion although sometimes I would get nervous that my answer was not comprehensive enough.
I really enjoyed this discussion (and class)! I think it helped further ingrain what I had learned in class!
I enjoyed discussion section for this course.
Jake was an awesome TA, he really made the conversations engaging and made the material, which at time could be a little dense, much more enjoyable.
I thoroughly enjoyed going to discussion! Even though it was at 6pm on a Thursday, I never felt unmotivated to come because I knew that my experience would be engaging and thoughtful! The questions that were brought up were very open ended.

Comments
I think this course is really unique and unlike so many other typical lectures you encounter as a student. I think the dynamism of this course makes it even more valuable.
The podcast aspect of this course was interesting (the guests coming and interviewing and stuff was REALLY COOL) but i dont know how to feel like all the podcast specific assignments. That being said I really did enjoy pitching my own guest and writing a script
I absolutely loved this course. It was my favorite class of the semester. It is relatively laid back, extremely informative, and doesn't leave you drowning in work while learning A LOT. It led to many dinner discussions with my roommates, sharing information with my family, and overall increased curiosity about the topic. 10/10. Also all of the professors and my TA Calhoun were so awesome; very personable and great at their jobs.
Lectures were almost entirely irrelevant to the graded assignments. While some of them were interesting, many of them were incredibly general overviews on topics most students would already be familiar with. However, the more specific lectures (such as those on Charlottesville 2017) were incredibly engaging and informative. The lectures felt like bonus content, whereas most learning was done in discussion during discussion of the assigned readings. The podcast recordings were interesting, and offered interesting student engagement.
I think the written responses at the beginning of class are extremely helpful because they get our mind going before actually jumping straight into discussion. I have some professors that start asking us what we thought of the reading as soon as class starts and I end up giving extremely default answers because I didn't have time to really think
I had a great time. I would definitely recommend it to my friends. I wish I could take another course just like this, The idea of the course being surrounded by a podcast is awesome as we get to see the inside look of a podcast. I also find it very cool that we get to see live podcasts doing the class.
Although I did not like the readings or the viewpoint the course I found Jake did a good job of engaging the class.
It was very enjoyable and the material learned is very valuable.
I had a great time in the course and it has definitely increased my knowledge and passion about democracy and politics. I know more about the views I do and don't agree with.
I really enjoyed this discussion section! It was very engaging!

9. The instructor created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	7	16.67%
Strongly Agree	5	35	83.33%
Statistics			Value
Mean			4.83
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.38



You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples

## as to how John Calhoun created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

Comments
Jake would encourage respectful disagreement so we could be better understand different others and our own arguments. He would want students to take a hard stance and defend them to the class.
Jake was very clear about what types of speech would be tolerated (engaging and academic speech) and what would not be tolerated (hate or disrespectful speech), and I thought he always did a good job about allowing people to expand and engage with their perspectives.
Its a class on democracy and pressing issues to that. The discussion constantly brings up different political opinions and Jake has always welcomed and pushed for respectful discussion.
He gave everyone the opportunity to share their views and elaborate on why they felt that way. I never felt inclined to say something I did not believe because I knew it was a safe space to discuss.
We were often talking about pretty controversial topics, but he always welcomed all perspectives.
The whole point of the discussion section was to have different opinions and discuss them. Therefore if somebody had an opposing idea it made for a more interesting class.
Jake fostered open discussion on controversial and heavy topics by encouraging students to take opposing sides and share their thoughts. This was helpful in learning about multiple aspects of arguments around topics for the class.
Jake was always leaving room for everyone to make a comment or share their opinion. He really did a great job at creating a productive environment for debate.
Jake listened to what everyone had to say. Tried to get everyone to participate and even played devils advocate for topics where everyone agreed (he would take the other side so we could get a well rounded understanding of the subject)
Encouraged disagreement and understanding different perspectives.
I thought John did a great job at respecting everyone's opinion, even if it was different from his own, and he would always play devil's advocate to try and get everyone to think about their own opinions and positions during discussions. He encouraged everyone to speak and share their minds and was very kind and understanding.
everyone was welcome to speak
He mentioned in the beginning of the semester that he accepts any views that aren't prone to hate. Very open-minded.
Jake always pushed us to express our opinions, regardless of if that created productive conflict in discussion. We were able to work through the material much easier this way, and having an understanding of both sides was only possible because of his direction. 10/10 TA. Couldn't have asked for a better leader in section.
He made sure to call on everyone to make sure no one dominated the speaking time we had available to us.
I think Jake was able to create an environment that respected differences because he was so willing to play the devil's advocate for all signs of the argument. It really let people share their opinions on the discussion
Every opinion was welcomed and Jake was very smart about offering counter arguments that lent a path to a diverse discussion.
Jake provided helpful, constructive feedback on writing assignments and provided ample opportunity for class participation. Overall, I thought he did a really great job of helping to guide my learning through this course.
The class itself touches on topics that are controversial, so when we have discussions everyone is going to have different opinions. He didn't make anyone feel like their opinions were wrong and even encouraged us to have dissenting views from one another we could all share our opinions on varying subject matter in a respectful way!
He encouraged people to take an opposing stance to foster discussion because most people agreed on issues we debated
All students were encouraged to share their viewpoints in class
John was consistent in his encouragement of students to share their own opinions on the lecture material. He often posited an opposing viewpoint and encouraged students to challenge it with their own argumentation. He welcomed dissenting opinions and wanted students to view all lecture content with a critical eye, even when the answers to such questions appeared cut and dry.
He always played devils advocate when the whole class agreed on something and pushed people to speak what they really thought/ would not judge them after the fact or press them for strong opinions.
He wanted to take on perspectives that were not advocated for sufficiently in class.
Due to the nature of the course and its topics, John gave space for differing perspectives and even when there were none, he provided new and different perspective to further our knowledge.
He iterated in our very first discussion section that this classroom was a safe space and that he would not tolerate hatred of any kind.
I think in this course in particular where people can bring very charged opinions into the shared space, he ensured that everyones opinion felt heard and valued in the general discussion. When there was a majority opinion, he would make sure to support the



Comments
minority opinion in being discussed by the class as a whole!
Would always underline strengths and flaws of ideas
He was open to, and highly encouraged, dissent within the group: specifically like he wanted both sides of an issue to be argued and heard. It made the classroom really engaging. Also– there was a lot of room for different political ideas while having a STRICT LINE he set about bigotry and hate speech. It was good to allow perspectives, but often that opens the gates for hateful perspectives, so it was GREAT that he set that line– that hate is not an acceptable "opinion" to voice in the classroom
He advocated for people to have different opinions even when the majority felt one way about something. He made an effort to consider what an opposing or diverse perspective would look like even if that were not present in the classroom. He made an effort to encourage everyone to participate but also did not get mad if you didn't want to. He was also very approachable in office hours or via email if you needed any help with something.
Actively encouraged disagreement and discussion on said disagreements, even if they were very specific and niche.
He encouraged that we played devils advocate so if I ever had an idea that didn't go with the majority opinion I felt very safe to share it .. even if it wasn't right he encouraged the idea
He always made a point to look at both sides of the arguments and allowed and encouraged everyone to speak.
Jake was always open to alternative viewpoints and disagreement. However, I found the overall nature of the class to constrain my opinion, not Jake himself.
He repeatedly stated that he wants people to disagree and heavily emphasized that all viewpoints are equally valid while keeping his own personal views out of the picture to ignite thoughtful and diverse discussion.
Jake encouraged us to debate with each other and when nobody was there to debate, he played devil's advocate and got us thinking about our views. He welcomed all perspectives in a respectful manner. I think he did a great job as a TA and discussion leader!
He always tried to facilitate opposing viewpoints from students while also ensuring that "opposing viewpoints" crossed the line into hate speech or anything.



## Instructor Comments

### What constructive suggestions do you have to help John Calhoun improve this course for future students?

Comments
Release the questions asked in discussion section in case students want to think more about them in their own time.
In terms of the introductory writing prompts, I thought they were fine. They were good at helping me collect my thoughts, but I don't think I would've missed them if they were gone.
I'm never one to advocate for discussion posts because who actually wants to write them, but I think they might help for this class to gather your thoughts prior to class so theres more time for discussion. This is more of a class policy and syllabus issue though, so I don't really have suggestions for Jake and discussion
I honestly did not love the opening attendance questions, I'd rather get right into discussion and have more time to talk as a group rather than individually sharing our thoughts.
I do not think the assignment to write your thoughts at the beginning was beneficial because I feel like it only took time away from the discussion.
I thought the short answer assignments were helpful in gathering thoughts before class
Honestly, nothing. Go Jake!
I dont understand his grading system. I felt my earlier papers which I got worse grade on because they were more passionate were better than my later ones which felt very robotic.
I don't think the writing on paper at the start of each class had any effect on me
I thought he did a great job with his discussion section, and honestly don't think there is much he could do to make it better. I think the course itself was leaning to the left, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. However, I think it could be useful to try and focus on democracy in danger as an issue for that is more apolitical, and I think sometimes the course content and readings leaned into issues being more a fault of the right. This isn't a criticism of his discussion, but I think that democracy being in danger is something that everyone should work together on, and sometimes the class being left-leaning made it seem like the professors thought democracy was in danger, but that they didn't want to work with conservatives on the issues.
there was one instance when someone said something problematic in class and I think John did a really good job of addressing it, I was actually very impressed with how he addressed it, in general the only thing I would say is that I think small group discussion may have been nice for people like me (I'm a little anxious about speaking in class)
Maybe be more stern with controlling students out of line behavior.
None. All my issues are with things out of his hands.
I think the early writing prompts were helpful to get my thoughts on the page, but I think we didn't need as much time on them at the beginning of class. Also, I think Jake contributed too much at times and would've valued hearing other students more (though what he said was helpful).
I think the writing assignments for attendance were valuable. It helped us to gather together thoughts about the week and deeper engage into the course readings. I also think the discussions were overall structures really well.
I wasn't a huge fan of the writing/brainstorm prompts in the beginning of each discussion, but I think that may just be a personal learning preference of mine.
I don't have any
nothing
Perhaps holding more flexible office hours and faster email response would benefit students. Otherwise it has been a pleasure
I liked the way that attendance was taken through our smaller short-response answers. With this being said, the guidelines for attendance were not very clear for this course. The syllabus, as provided by the professors, said that discussion attendance was required but made no mention of how this would impact our course grade. Communications from the TA did not align with the materials given by the professors. The TA made it seem as if missing discussion sections would directly penalize our grades.
It would be helpful for the discussion section to have more structure. It sometimes felt that we were talking ourselves in circles in class without actually arriving at any point or conclusion.
Some time spent in discussion on what is expected for future assignments would be helpful.
He did a great job, but maybe in the future trying to specifically address topics in a timely manner (maybe laying out a plan?)
I think beginning discussion section with a weekly rundown/summary rather than the written attendance response. I think this would encourage class participation by starting us all off on the same page.
I think potentially providing more of an overview of how the podcast assignment is going to be evaluated would be helpful for the future.

Comments
I think he did a great job so none! This has by far been my favorite discussion section to come to each week this semester, and I think it is due to your incredible enthusiasm and energy brought into the space each week. So thank you for making this course dynamic and engaging!
Probably the best TA I've had. Actually knows what he's talking about, constructive, sets you up for success.
I think he is a great instructor. he was really kind and funny, and accommodated me when I really needed. he was really nice, and probably my favorite TA. love u jj
I don't know. I thought he did a great job. Maybe do a few more interactive activities to loosen people up or like icebreakers in the beginning? But those are just suggestions to further improve the dynamic of the group which also largely depends on the students.
Most of the issues I had with the course were related to syllabus and lecture, I think discussions were generally valuable and well handled.
The one thing that could help a little more would be to occasionally give slightly more detailed feedback on papers keep it up
I think allowing silence is okay sometimes. It takes time for people to think of responses. A lack of an immediate response is not a sign that we are not engaged and that you need to interject.
Most of my emails were responded to within 24 hours but a few towards the beginning were not responded to at all
I really enjoyed the activities and like general knowledge quizzes (like the chief justices one). I think if we did that every class it would be super interesting.



# Report for John Calhoun - All courses

Project Title: **2022 Fall Student Experience of Teaching**

Course Audience: **57**

Responses Received: **23**

Response Ratio: **40.35%**

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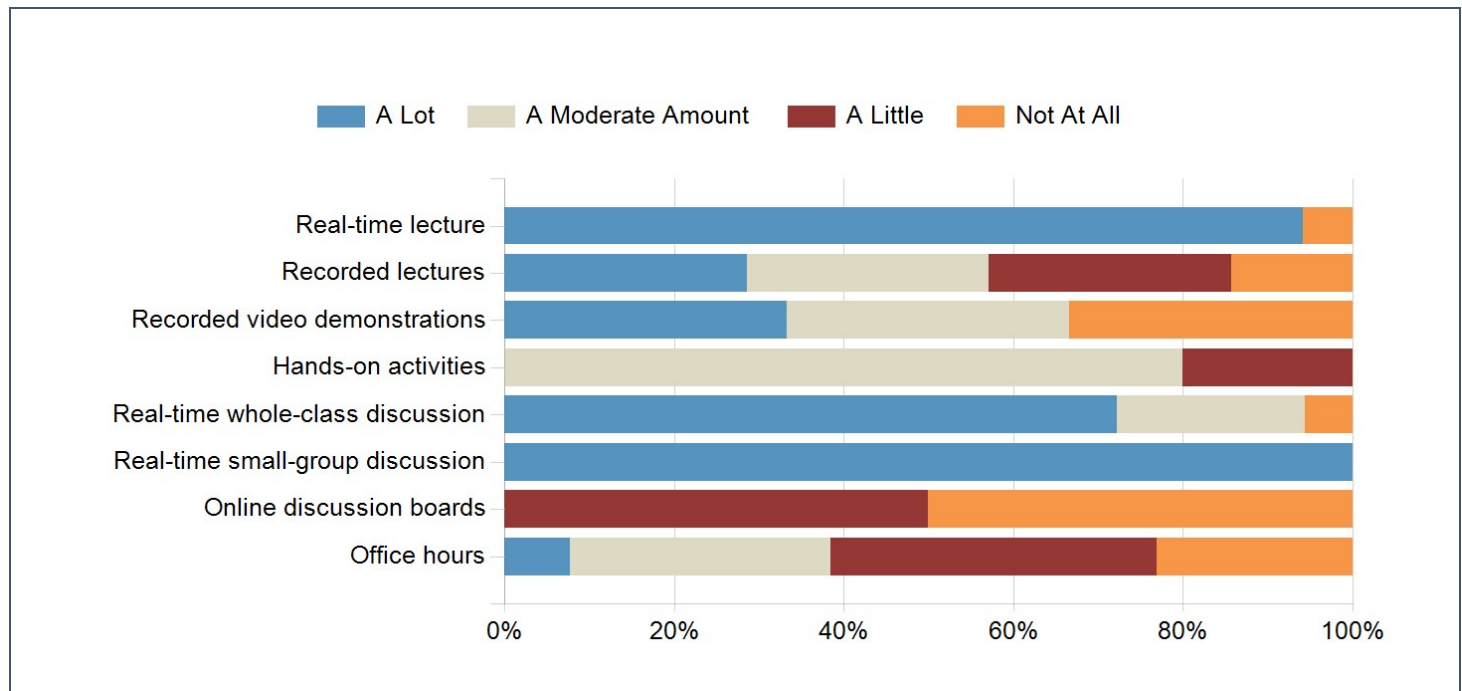
## Report Comments

Fall 2022 Individual Instructor Report - Aggregate All courses

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Creation Date: **Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**



**Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.**

Comments
Discussion tended to be useful for learning more about the readings and lecture topics.
They explained concepts that were not clear in the readings
Jake did a great job leading discussion, and helping us expand our knowledge that Professor Reed gave us.
We would have an open-format discussion, and really reviewed the content. He would sometimes direct the conversation and offered a lot of insight.
Lectures and small time discussion were super interesting and engaging!
Lecture was the most useful, but I thought discussions were also helpful.
I thought Mr. Calhoun did a great job of leading discussion- he always had the floor open for questions at the beginning of class and then walked us through what Dr. Reed had taught us, letting us answer questions he posed and giving his own input. I felt that I learned a lot and was able to process what I had learned in lecture.
Lectures were some of the most interesting and best prepared I have experienced in the history department. Additionally, discussion sessions were quite helpful in clarifying and supplementing lectures and readings. They were definitely worth attending even if attendance was not a part of the grade.
I think John overall made everything very digestible and always kept a good flow of discussion.
Discussions were very helpful to my learning because it was an in-depth view of the subject.
This discussion section was a very chill environment.
The entire discussion was very helpful. My TA did a great job of explaining course concepts and also encouraging deep conversations around course content from lectures.
Small group discussions allow students to broaden their understandings of class notes.

## Course Comments

What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

Comments
Jake was a great TA and led discussions very well!
I found that this was a sub-par Discussion section. It was not well organized when it came to the Mid-term as grades were not communicated each time the return date was pushed back, this section also received their grades 2.5 weeks after everyone who had a different TA which gives them an advantage and shows a disrespect for our time. Similarly, the TA did not seem the most knowledgeable on the course and even used the phrase " I am an American Studies PhD student so I will be learning the material with you". The TA also was not committed and failed to respond to 2/4 emails throughout the semester showing a lack of care and respect for student interest and time and clarification!
I enjoyed the course a lot and found it very engaging
Great job, Jake. I enjoyed your discussion section even though it was on a Friday morning.
He was excellent at this job! He developed a personal relationship with the class and was very knowledgeable about the topic.
Fun and interesting, all because of the Professor and TA!
I was in 2 discussions this semester and I absolutely think Mr. Calhoun's was the better of the two. He did a very good job of building a little community in our class, giving us time at the start to talk amongst ourselves and even engaging with us on topics like Taylor Swift. He always came to class with positive energy and a bright mood, which was really helpful on a Friday. He would then open the floor for questions about the content and almost always had a good answer. He also helped break down lecture content quite well- I would highly recommend Calhoun to anyone if the class were to be taught again after Dr. Reed's retirement.
This is a well taught class in an useful subject for students to study since China is at the forefront of the global economy and political scene. Professor Reed is one of the most engaging history professors I've had and Jake Calhoun is a great discussion TA.
excellent TA, made sure to clearly explain topics
Jake was a good TA, always very open, engaging, and good at leading discussion.
My experience was ok, I loved the lectures and learning about Young China.
I thought this discussion section was very helpful for understanding the content covered in lectures and readings. I do not think I would be able to be successful in this class if there was no discussion block.
John Calhoun is a very kind, straightforward grad student.
I had a great experience and appreciated my TAs enthusiasm and engagement in discussion each morning.
Great course, very well run and orchestrated

**You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how John Calhoun created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
He was very encouraging and wanted us to speak up if we had any different opinions
He is such a nice guy and made everyone in class comfortable, talking to everyone and telling jokes, and making the classroom enjoyable and welcoming.
He allowed for the expression of views that contradicted his own and didn't discriminate against racial minorities.
From day one he made it a point that he did not tolerate any racism, homophobia, bigotry, or anything of the like, which established a comfortable environment. He also made sure to analyze a situation from all sides and how it might effect different classes of people, super important in a history class
John would often make unprompted political comments, but in general, I thought he was open to different perspectives.
Anybody could say what they were thinking. While he would critique answers to questions he posed to make sure we all understood what Dr. Reed wanted from a given concept, he never discriminated and made sure to always temper any comments he made to ensure that they weren't too broad or overly characterized the groups involved.
He made an effort to call on a variety people and would listen to all opinions without criticism.
Discussions were open to the floor, anybody could comment on a topic.
He constantly asked for student perspectives and made it clear on the first day and throughout the semester that racism/homophobia would not be tolerated in class.
He was receptive to all kinds of answers.
John Calhoun was open to hear from all perspectives and ideas from each and any student.

## Instructor Comments

**What constructive suggestions do you have to help John Calhoun improve this course for future students?**

Comments
Nothing. Jake was great!
I think for this to be an effective course there needs to be a change in organization and communication. Not answering emails or communicating due-dates and changes quickly or at all is an important courtesy the TA should value.
I have no critiques, he did a great job and was extremely engaging. Just keep up the great work!
Great discussion, thanks for grading fairly and giving us some more knowledge and things to think about on top of what Mr. Reed taught us in lecture.
He did a great job! It would be interesting though to use five to ten minutes for small group discussion about the topic at the end so that the people in these groups can make sure they all understand the content.
Nothing! The class was super interesting and you always made it fun and engaging! A pleasure to take the course with you, thank you for everything!
I think it would be good to talk a little bit more about the readings, but outside of that, just keep doing what you are doing. You were always extremely helpful, positive, and made a Friday morning discussion section that could be very dull into a class that I looked forward to going to. Keep up the fantastic work!
Lectures were well supplemented by discussion and discussion sections were well led. I liked how the first part of discussions was dedicated to clarification questions from lecture and general questions, with the remaining time discussing mostly readings. I also liked the exercises spent to illustrate topics learned in lecture such as when I criticized Jake's shirt to illustrate the few instances of criticisms given to Mao and the Party during the 100 Flowers movement. All in all, Jake Calhoun should continue to make discussion sections engaging and worth attending.
take attendance at the end of class
Grading for the midterm and paper could be completed and released sooner.
Work on getting grades in a timely manner.
You were a great T.A. thanks for all your hard work and attention to clear communication and fair grading policies.
No comment. I enjoyed the discussions.
Talk more about how essays and exams are graded so we know more about what is expected of us.
Get those midterm grades back sooner.
n/a — he did a great job as a TA
Continue to foster an open environment





# Report for John Calhoun - All courses

Project Title: **2022 Spring Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **55**

Responses Received: **12**

Response Ratio: **21.82%**

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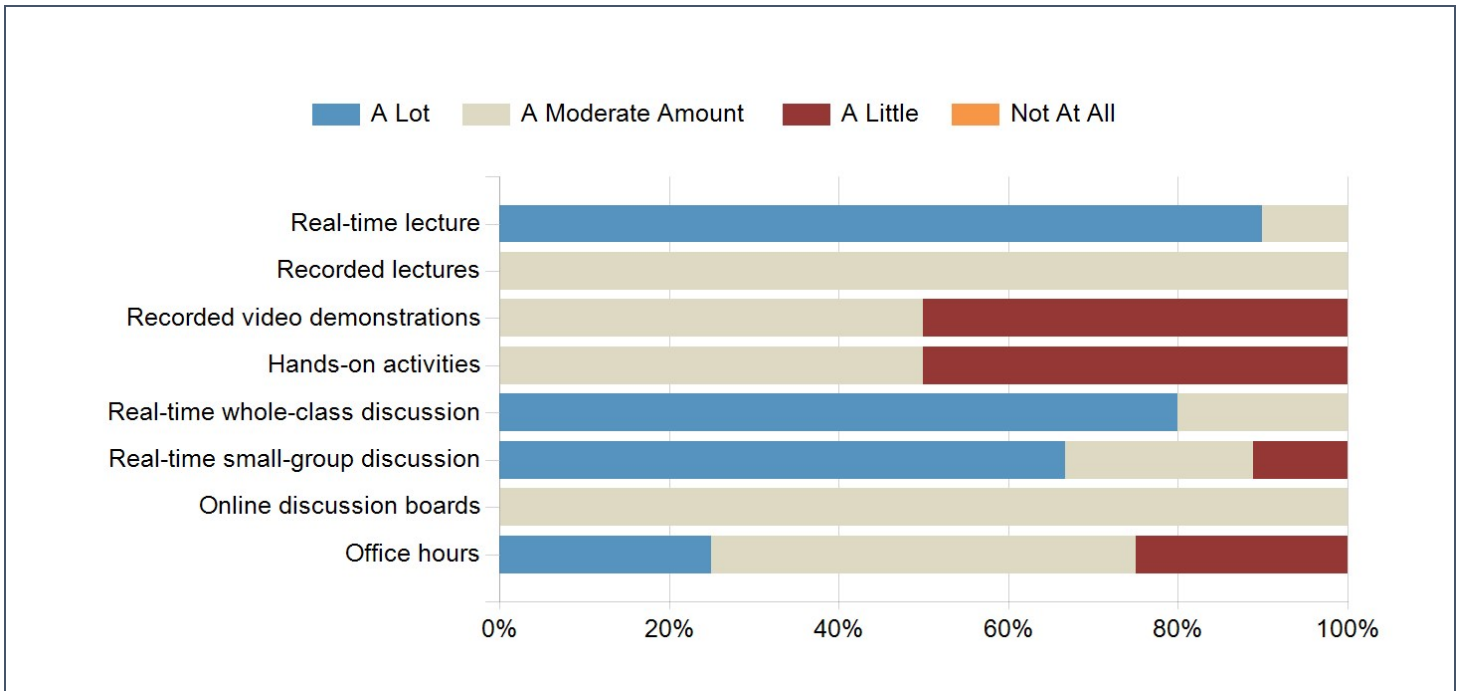
## Report Comments

Spring 2022 Individual Instructor Report - Aggregate All courses

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Creation Date: **Monday, May 30, 2022**

**Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**



**Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.**

Comments
Discussions really helped a lot.
The discussion section led by Jake was very effective at highlighting the main ideas from the reading in an energized setting.
Class discussion was super helpful to review the readings and materials we had covered that week in class. It was easy to stay engaged and kept me on track with the readings.
I thought Jake was a great TA and made discussion enjoyable to attend!

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## Course Comments

**What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?**

Comments
I enjoyed it
This class was super interesting and I always wanted to participate because it was engaging. The discussion section was very helpful to clear up questions.
I really liked this discussion section! My TA did a great job at encouraging discussion and trying to get the class involved in answering questions.

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**You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how John Calhoun created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
included everyone in discussion
Jake was always willing to listen to students' perspectives on the topics and their personal experiences with the content. He was also always willing to host office hours for his students.
This is a tough class to be a TA for, and John was incredibly talented and helped students form respectful questions and welcome all views on a very difficult subject. He made sure people understood the history correctly, would not tolerate intolerance, and he clearly knew the subject matter. Great TA!
Jake encouraged everyone to share their opinion and listen openly to others.
We were always given the space to ask questions of clarification and to share our thoughts and ideas.
He allowed and encouraged everyone to give their opinions as long as it was in a respectful way. He did a great job at making sure he was available to help whenever needed and answered every question.

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## Instructor Comments

What constructive suggestions do you have to help John Calhoun improve this course for future students?

Comments
nothing
For future discussion sections, it might be helpful if a class overview was typed-up for each session.
Discussion sections were always super engaging and helpful. I appreciated the policy of two free misses, especially since the class was so late and things often came up for me. I think cold calling on people would not be a bad idea, so it is not the same people talking.
n/a



# Report for John Calhoun - All courses

Project Title: **2021 Fall Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **58**

Responses Received: **29**

Response Ratio: **50.0%**

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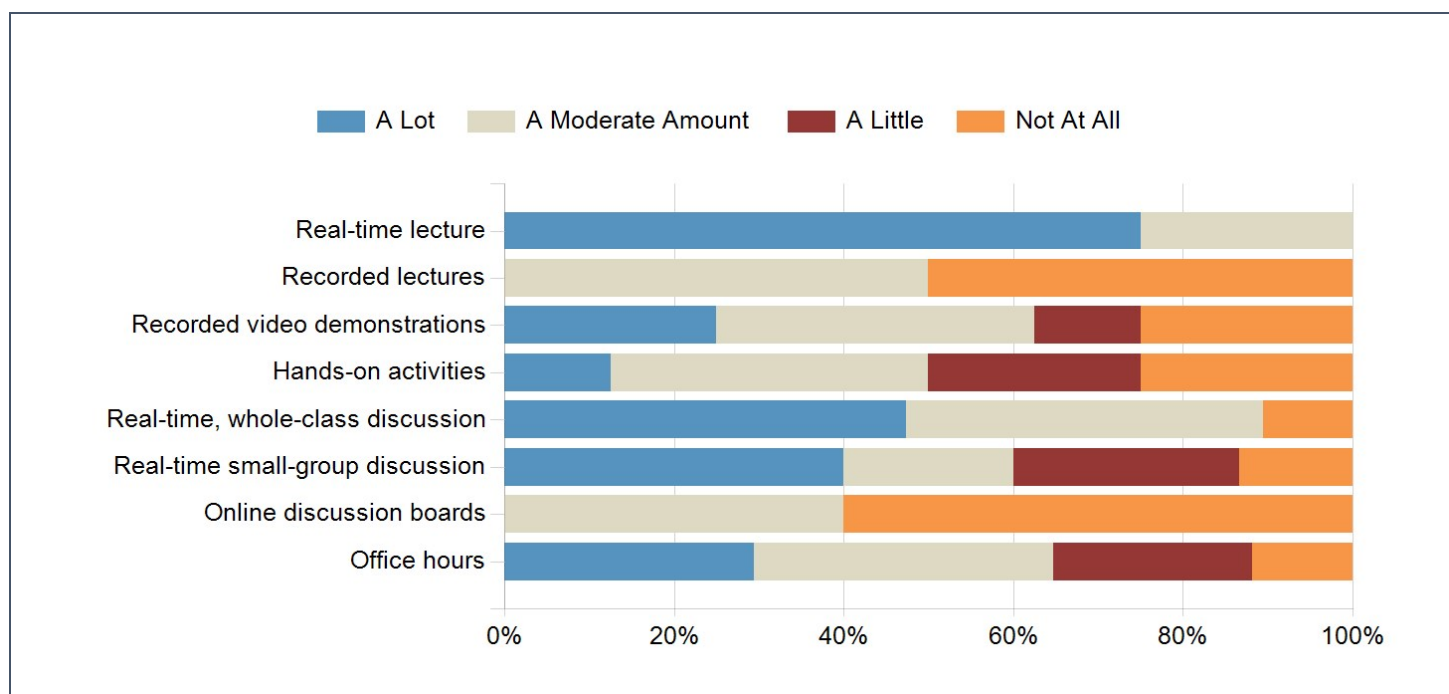
## Report Comments

Fall 2021 Individual Instructor Report - Aggregate All courses

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Creation Date: **Wednesday, December 22, 2021**

**Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**



**Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.**

Comments
Discussions provided a great way to expand upon the important ideas mentioned during the week. It is something I wish more discussions would do as sometimes they do not help narrow the focus of the course.
the ta is very nice and kind
Discussion section was very helpful to both dive in deeper and review material from lecture
I should probably explain the way the discussion was formatted. It was only really a whole class discussion with pseudo-lectures sprinkled in the middle of the discussion when he wanted to emphasize a point. So if I could group the two I would say they contributed to my learning a lot, but split up I can only argue moderately.
Discussion for this class was always an enjoyable experience which made me think more deeply into the subject matter.
Being able to ask clarifying questions about course material and discussing course material as a group helped strengthen my understanding. I never attending office hours.
The discussion was typically among the whole class and rarely involved breaking up into smaller groups. I learned a lot from the whole class discussion, but I thought we could have used a little more variety in the way that the class was structured.
Discussions were helpful to clarify material
Good
This discussion section was helpful because the TA posed questions and helped us understand the material more in-depth.
Class discussion helped break down reading and gave a better understanding of reading.
Discussion is useful for us to address some confusing points in lectures and allows us to understand these points clearly
Our class discussions helped to reinforce ideas covered in lecture and make sure that we understood the connections between various events. The ability to ask questions in class about lecture/readings was helpful too.
Group discussions in small settings in a class of 15 or less was beneficial. It allowed us to discuss any topics we found interesting, confusing, and wanted further clarification on any material discussed in lecture. Jake allowed us to have an open space where we could naturally bring anything up and get our questions answered.
Discussion was interesting; I'm just too timid to participate actively in discussion based classes.
I enjoyed the discussions
My TA was very helpful answering and elaborating on any questions we had in discussion. He provided a lot of good insight on more complex topics covered in lecture.



## Course Comments

What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

Comments
This class and discussion completely reshaped how I viewed China as a modern power. Prior to the course I had only the faintest clue about Chinese history and now I feel as though I could have a productive conversation.
the ta could talk more interesting topics and the latest events in china
Jake was an awesome TA! He was very passionate and did a good job both guiding our discussion and allowing us to participate. We had a lot of interesting discussions and he brought in a lot of different opinions
Nice guy who I felt knew a lot about the course and wanted to share his knowledge with us and for us to share ours with him so he could explore what we knew. Always felt approachable and like he had your best interest in mind. The discussion sometimes got monotonous but I always came away learning something.
I really enjoyed discussions, but I think they could have been better if the class size was a bit smaller to make the setting more intimate. I think this would make it easier for more people to speak, given we only met for 50 minutes once a week.
I had a positive experience in this course. The discussion section helped strengthen my understanding of the course material.
I had a good experience in this course, apart from the lack of clarity about the spelling of complex Chinese names, etc. Neither Professor Reed nor Jake consistently had slides on the board that showed how to spell names and other important terminology. Most of the stuff that I didn't understand came from a language barrier rather than not getting the things conceptually.
Good experience
Good
I enjoyed this discussion section, and having a few people to discuss the material aided my understanding of the material.
I enjoyed this class.
Jake creates an opening environment in which everyone has a say in discussion.
I liked this discussion session. I never felt stressed but still learned quite a bit. Jake always gave us a chance to ask questions before getting into the material he wanted to cover, which as a very introverted person I appreciated; he made it easy to participate and gave ample opportunities to do so.
John Calhoun allowed a comfortable learning environment to ask questions and clear up any confusions we had during lecture. Jake also answered any questions we had outside of our class time and was very understanding when personal situations were brought up. Overall, the learning experience was positive and informative.
It was good
This course is interesting but it would be better if there were more grades throughout the course to keep you on track
I liked TA Calhoun a lot; I unfortunately missed a lot of class due to sleeping in and general burnout once the week hit Friday. This did not have to do with TA Calhoun's teaching at all.
Possibly more textual references
We had a lot of interesting material to cover in discussion given that Chinese affairs are quite relevant today. I was educated on a lot of the background that has contributed to the state of affairs today.
Professor Reed was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about course material.

**You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how John Calhoun created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
Mr. Calhoun did an excellent job of giving us each an opportunity to share our thoughts and takeaways in class. I never hesitated to share my thoughts and that is a testament to the environment he created.
he is willing to answer all questions from students and he is very nice and kind
sensitive to teaching to Chinese and American audience
Like the professor, he would certainly allow for different points of view on specific events to be presented. Between him and the professor, the idea of saying "imagine there is a giant neon sign on the wall saying "fascism is bad"" made it much easier to discuss the events during Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist rule without feeling like we would be criticized or having to be the notorious 'devil's advocate' character.
He encouraged everyone to participate in the discussion and opened up the floor at the beginning of every class to allow anyone to bring up anything they thought was interesting or confusing about the course material.
Jake encouraged everyone to speak up in discussion section. He would rarely have trouble getting people to answer a question, but when he did he never went on the attack and didn't take anyone's lack of participation personally. He seemed to realize that all of us for the most part were trying our best, so he held the class to a high standard but was never authoritarian/punitive about it.
Any take on the material was welcome, felt comfortable to say what I wanted
Good
Before the class started, Mr. Calhoun discussed how discrimination would not be tolerated, and he made sure to set up the classroom in a welcoming way for anyone to express their perspectives.
He respected all student's views and opinions.
Jake provides us with clear feedback after assignments that can help us to do better on future ones. Jakes is always there to help address our concerns about lectures and assignments. Overall, he's an amazing TA.
Jake often asked for us to give our opinions on certain topics, and he respected all of our thoughts. Even when people gave answers that were somewhat incorrect, he still thanked them for speaking up and would provide an explanation for how to avoid such conclusions in the future.
Discussions respected all views and he led them well.
TA Calhoun was very open to discussion, and was understanding of students that make mistakes or misunderstood course materials.
Jake allowed everyone the opportunity to share their opinions on the course material.

## Instructor Comments

**What constructive suggestions do you have to help John Calhoun improve this course for future students?**

Comments
I think an interesting an inclusion would be having students share a modern development from China and briefly explain it in the lens of Chinese history.
he is nice and kind! good teacher!
Jake was a great TA!! I feel so lucky to have had him. Only thing would be to get our grades back sooner
If he is to TA this course again, the only improvement would be to learn more on the subject matter, which he likely already has simply by being a TA. There would often be situations where he would admit he didn't know the intricacies of the subject, but he admitted that China was not his initial area of historical expertise so it was understandable. However, his overall understanding of history and recognition of things he didn't know was very helpful.
It would be helpful to receive feedback from the first midterm a little earlier so we know where we stand in the course. However, I recognize there are a lot of students in the course and it is difficult to get through a large number of exams quickly.
I would suggest for the sake of his next students that he should really just spell out the terms from Professor Reed's lectures. I know they also appear in the book, but it's nice to have them on hand and be able to reference them more easily than trying to sound out how to spell Dung Jow Ping (purposely misspelled :).
More activities than just open discussion
Good
Honestly none, I think Mr. Calhoun was the best TA I have ever had.
Grade easier.
Keep doing the great job, Jake!
Generally I liked going to discussion, but some days it did seem to drag a bit. Using more games or activities to learn/help memorize topics might help add more variety to the course.
I feel like John Calhoun made a supportive class environment with useful feedback on papers and exams to keep in mind for the future. The way his syllabus is formatted is good and offers a clear understanding of the class expectations. I feel as if he didn't have to mention his political stance during class discussion, the material was on communism but can be received with bias by stating a simple I don't or do support statement. Unnecessary feedback on papers is not encouraging either, assumptions shouldn't be made based off a students writing or without knowledge of any prior circumstances. There also could be more effective communication through email.
I liked the discussion style of the substitute TA we had once– he had us talk about any recent China–related news we found interesting and kicked discussions off from there. I think that's a great way to keep students engaged.
It would be helpful to detail more specifically what you are looking for in an essay/ID questions so the students can get full credit on the exams
Maybe make some space for small group discussions instead of just large group discussions.
Possibly more textual references
n/a
I would say in discussion we could dive a bit deeper into the readings.



# Report for John Calhoun - All courses

Project Title: **2021 Spring Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **44**

Responses Received: **16**

Response Ratio: **36.36%**

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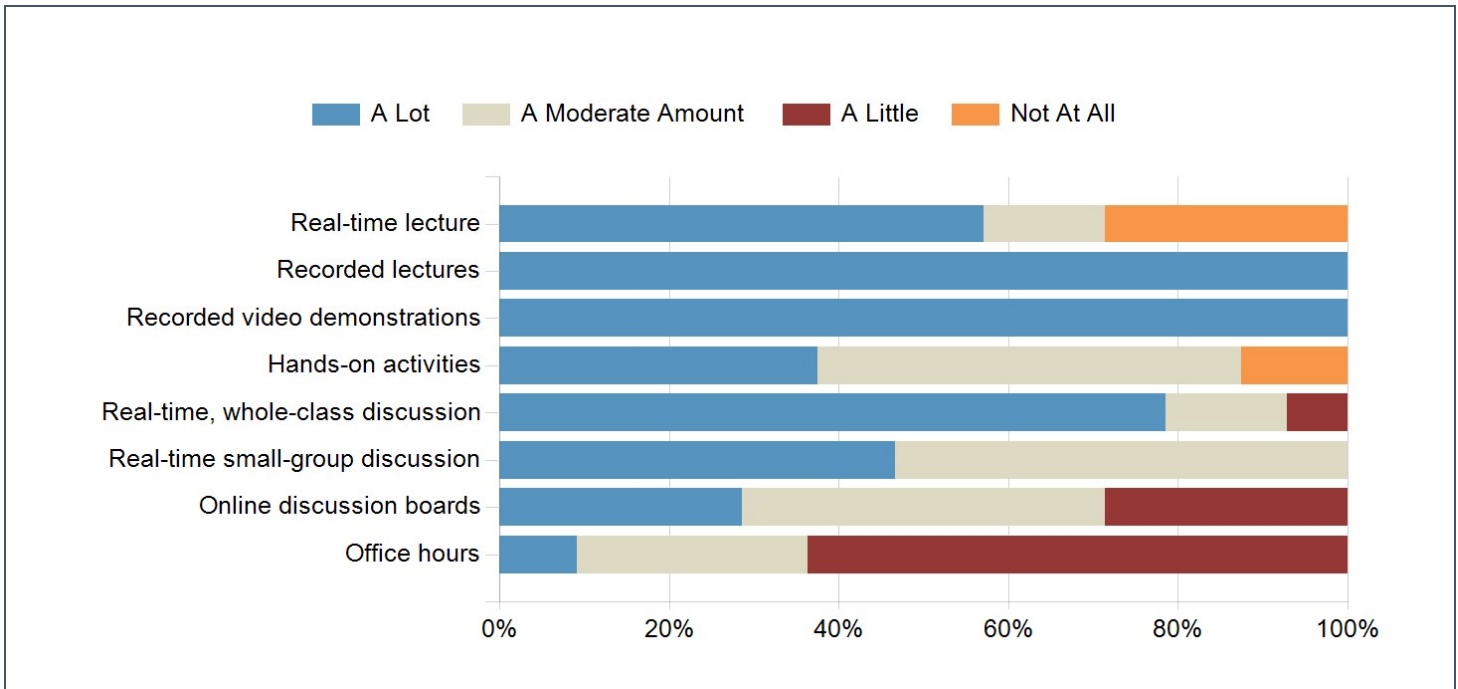
## Report Comments

Spring 2021 Individual Instructor Report - Aggregate All courses

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Creation Date: **Thursday, May 27, 2021**

**Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**



**Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.**

Comments
Discussion section was crucial for this class — helped a great deal.
The TA would not let us talk very much – would maybe pose a question and let one person answer it, and then either correct their answer or jump on it and talk about it. I would have really liked an opportunity to talk more to my classmates about the material, and actually breakout rooms were really good spaces for conversation in this class but were under-utilized. And we did discussion posts every week, but they were never once brought up in discussion by the TA nor were we given time to discuss our posts together, which was supposed to be the point.
Organized instructor with a focused plan.
Our weekly discussions helped elucidate complex topics in the class.
Jake did a great job each week providing good information and commentary on the lectures. He created an environment for engaging discussion.
Discussion was really helpful in understanding the readings and content of the week and see what others had to say.
discussion was very helpful, discussion boards not as much
practice with topics
I am not the biggest fan of Collab discussion boards, I think most students just submit their own post and don't actually really engage with/read other students' posts.

## Course Comments

What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

Comments
One of my favorite classes.
I loved the class in general, but found this discussion pretty unhelpful.
it moved very fast and definitely was a good challenge.
Jake Calhoun did a fantastic job as a TA – he broke down challenging topics and helped us think critically about primary sources so to better understand legal history. I really appreciate the hard work he put into the class!
I thoroughly enjoyed Jake as a TA! He facilitated discussion well, balanced combing through primary and secondary sources, and prompted us to think about the week’s material. I really enjoyed this discussion!
I enjoyed this course and would recommend Jake as a TA to anyone taking it.
It was by far the best discussion section I've had so far.
i enjoyed this discussion section a lot, time was used effectively and material analyzed thoroughly
great TA. he helped us connect the readings and lectures together so well.
great course
Jake was an AWESOME TA—probably the best I have ever had at UVA. His energy every Friday morning was infectious and he did a great job of making the discussion interactive and engaging.

**You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how John Calhoun created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
There was never a time that I felt as if I could not speak up in class.
He always let people give their opinions and was overall respectful.
Jake always allowed space for us to speak our minds, regardless of background or creed.
Jake did a wonderful job and respected difference — he led engaging discussions and welcomed new perspectives.
Jake always welcomed and fostered interesting and diverse discussion and respected all opinions.
he always opened the floor up for questions and comments from different points of view about issues
listen to all ideas
Jake was so friendly and welcoming and encouraged active participation from everyone. He also made small efforts like asking everyone what they would prefer to be called.

**You selected "DISAGREE or STRONGLY DISAGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how John Calhoun did not create an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
We never talked about the readings that engaged topics or racism or sexism or oppression via the law. It felt deliberate some weeks to go out of the way to talk about the least controversial article – a week with Korematsu and WWII military segregation, and we talked about how the new deal era court narrative was inaccurate the whole time! I think that that was a disservice of the discussion.



## Instructor Comments

**What constructive suggestions do you have to help John Calhoun improve this course for future students?**

Comments
Maybe make students raise their hands to speak for those of us who are not as assertive and will not try to speak up when others interrupt us.
Please let us talk during discussion, that's why we want to be there.
No suggestions
Being a bit more flexible with deadlines is always greatly appreciated during challenging times, but overall Jake did a fantastic job.
N/A — I thought he did a great job.
Nothing, he did a wonderful job and I've really enjoyed it!
n/a he did a great job
continue what you're doing. it's helpful.
loved the course
Honestly none—he did an awesome job. Probably my favorite TA ever.
Mr. Calhoun did a great job of facilitating discussion, especially over Zoom on Friday mornings. Maybe guiding questions or themes beforehand would help generate more participation each week.



# Report for John Calhoun - All courses

Project Title: **2020 Fall Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **54**

Responses Received: **32**

Response Ratio: **59.26%**

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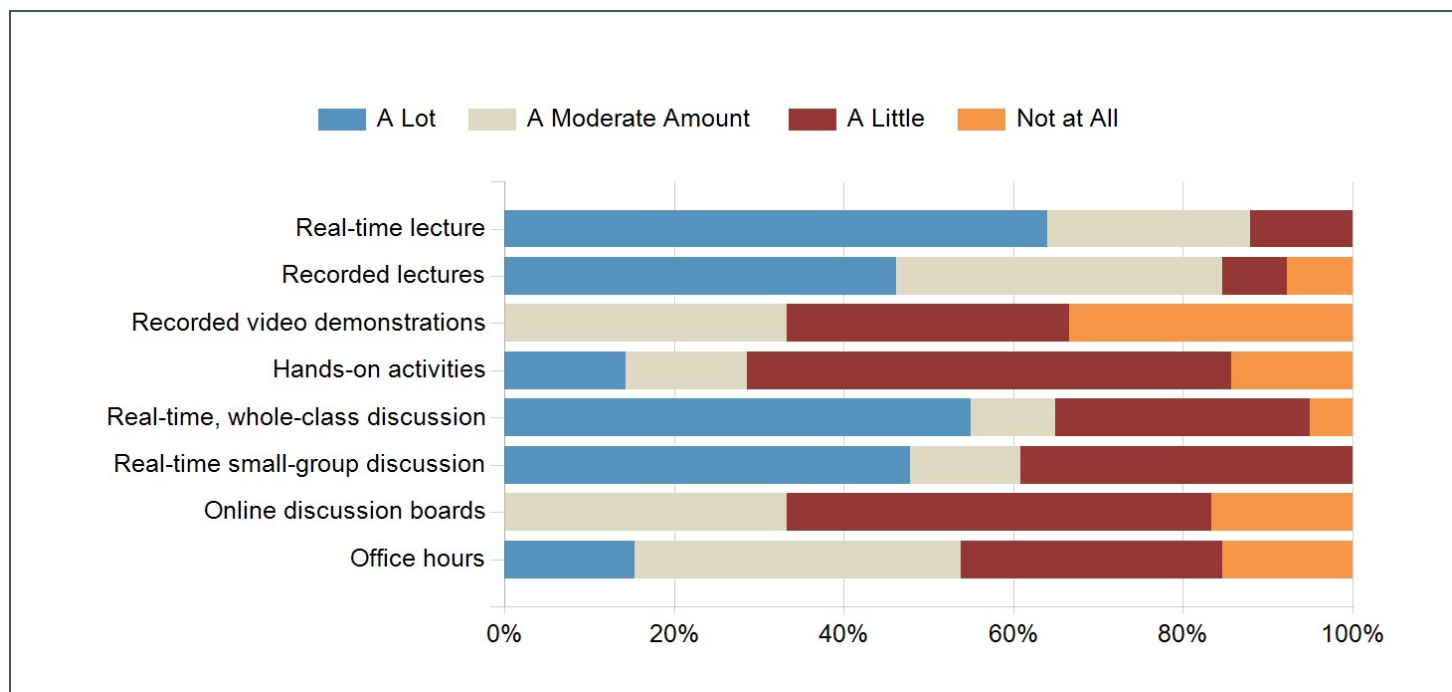
## Report Comments

Fall 2020 Individual Instructor Report - Aggregate All courses

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Creation Date: **Monday, March 8, 2021**

**Learning Activities - To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**



**Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.**

Comments
We discussed the readings and lectures in this course and we could ask questions and further understand the material.
The real-time whole-class discussions were very helpful and definitely helped enforce what we had read or learned in the lecture
In-Class lectures
N/a
The way you had the class function by speaking with the "stack" option was very nice, it provided a lot of structure to participating and learning.
Discussions were interesting and flowed well.
Meeting weekly for discussion synchronously was beneficial to my learning in this course.
TA started the class with topics we wanted to talk about then went into detail about topics he thought were important.
I felt more supported and encouraged by our discussion sessions when they were focused on specific activities, instead of just my peers asking the TA questions or commenting on pieces of the readings/lectures they found interesting. I appreciate that my TA entertained and encouraged their questions, but it did very little for my learning.
The live lectures were very engaging and interesting
This was the discussion part of the Modern China class and I really felt like it was easy for me to speak my opinions. The entire discussion was very open and I felt welcome there.
I really like the small-discussion group environment, even with Zoom environment.
Discussion section was extremely valuable in clarifying pieces of information. Group discussions were very helpful.

## Course Comments

What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

Comments
It was good and exactly what I was expecting.
This discussion was extremely helpful in enforcing anything that we had learned in class and I don't think that I would have fully understood anything we were learning if it were not for the full class discussions during the discussion. I appreciate that Jake made it feel like you could ask any questions without being embarrassed and that it was okay to not know exactly what was going on
To add something fun into lecture.
Jake Calhoun was a great TA– he was flexible given the weird circumstances, and seemed to be empathetic towards us as students. He steered the discussion where we wanted it to go, and prompted interesting discussions in which everyone felt invited to participate.
N/a
Jake is excellent. He is super helpful and knowledgeable.
He did a great job being inclusive of everyone and was the best TA that I've learned from due to how he ran the class.
Jake was super nice and listened to every question and comment. The discussion section is a good opportunity to deepen your understanding of the content and gain more perspective.
It was excellent, John was a great TA who handled the virtual environment very well. Very patient and knowledgeable TA despite the subject area not being his personal area of study.
He did a really good job at highlighting important aspects of lecture. Did a really good job at summarizing key points. Also, made it a very low stress environment for discussions and did a good job at having conversation with students instead of just re-lecturing materials. I always wanted to come to discussion.
I thought Modern China was a fantastic course.
Wouldn't have been able to keep up with lecture material unless they were recorded!
It was very useful for keeping me caught up on the readings and for learning Chinese/Chinese American perspectives on the course material.
I think discussion sections should be longer.
I really enjoyed this discussion

**You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how John Calhoun created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
He was very warm and welcoming.
Everyone was welcome to speak, provided that they did so respectfully.
I felt comfortable speaking up in class.
He acted as a moderator, making it clear that the point of the time was for us to formulate our thoughts and opinions about the course material, and prompted us to respond to one another.
He made sure people could introduce themselves in whatever way they felt comfortable and never belittled people's opinions.
He remained respectful of diverging opinions on several occasions, by providing legitimate pushback against ideas straying away from the points of the course.
He was nice to everyone and didn't make me feel dumb for asking easy questions.
Joh did a really good job at having candid conversation with students. He liked to talk about topics with students which helped with understanding material. He provided a low stress environment. 10/10
Always loved hearing different perspectives about the readings.
The whole point of the class was to look at history from different perspectives, which is why the professor welcomed critical thinking and diverse perspectives
There were a lot of times where we were talking about the readings and then a Chinese student was able to speak up about the different interpretation of the events from a Chinese perspective.
John was a great moderator for discussion, and he made sure that everyone felt comfortable in participating.
John allowed us all to speak on anything we wanted to at the beginning of every discussion section.
He was always very open to all perspectives and opinions which I really appreciated.

**You selected "DISAGREE or STRONGLY DISAGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how John Calhoun did not create an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
I think sometimes he was quick to invalidate certain perspectives that were more students trying to grapple with complex material, which made discussions a little hard because it seemed like there were strict right and wrong answers.
There were times during class discussion where it seemed Mao, the CCP, and communist China in general were being pandered to, and the atrocities committed under Mao and the CCP downplayed in their severity. The fact that criticism of what Mao did and what happened and happens under the CCP was softened did not make for a conducive environment to freely ask questions and talk about things that did not put the CCP and Mao in a good light. It seemed suspect to me that both my TA and Professor Reed were so quick to defend Mao, because from my understanding there are many perfectly logical reasons to criticize Mao and the CCP's governing of China. The intellectual dishonesty irked me to say the least.

## Instructor Comments

**What constructive suggestions do you have to help John Calhoun improve this course for future students?**

Comments
Everything was good!
I think that more small breakout rooms during discussion would be helpful, I thought that when we did the one breakout room assignment where we were to defend different sides of an argument helped us learn a lot more in depth
The stack function was helpful for Zoom discussions.
None.
There were a few times when he said he would pass a particular question on to Professor Reed and get back to us, and while I think he did so a few times maybe it would be good to have a systematized way to do that.
I thought the class environemnt was stressful. It was awkward to talk and not natural. There was pressure to contribute a certain amount and it was not a natural learning environment in my opinion. We were told many times that our participation was being tracked. For a student who does not like speaking in class this is a stressful thing to consistently hear. Furthermore, the "stack" function to talk during class just added to this pressure rather than having a natural flowing academic conversation.
Be more open to discussing the more negative aspects of China, because they should not be ignored in a class about the history of modern China.
I don't have any, I thought he was great.
None, John was probably the best TA I've had at UVA. I wouldn't change a thing.
Breakout rooms could have created more involvement from students who did not participate during our larger discussion
Maybe make it longer? There were a few times I felt that an hour would have been better than 50 minutes.
This is a small thing, but I would appreciate if TAs show verbal confirmation that they wrote someone down for attendance. Sometimes, I was not really sure if John heard me confirming that I was here or not, so I am not sure if I got counted for attendance. I think the "stack" system was ok because it made it easy to track who spoke, but it made it harder for making smaller comments. I think I like the free-for-all format more.
Small group discussions were extremely helpful at times, and more of those might be beneficial.
Maybe using breakout rooms a little bit in order to have more in depth conversations in small groups