

## Quantitative summary of teaching evaluations at Hamilton College (AY 2015-16)—sample qualitative responses below

Five total classes (Politics in China, International Political Economy, US-China Relations, and two sections of International Relations) for Academic Year 2015-16.

Sample size (number of student responses) n=135

Response rate (number of student responses/total students)= 135/150 or .90

	<b>strongly disagree</b>	<b>disagree</b>	<b>neutral</b>	<b>agree</b>	<b>strongly agree</b>	<b>total</b>
Based on your assessment, mark the extent to which you agree that the quality of the course was high.	2 (1.48%)	2 (1.48%)	6 (4.44%)	31 (23.0%)	94 (69.6%)	135 (100%)
The instructor clearly communicated goals and expectations for student work.	2 (1.48%)	1 (0.74%)	4 (2.96%)	28 (20.7%)	100 (74.0%)	135 (100%)
The instructor communicated course material effectively.	2 (1.48%)	3 (2.22%)	5 (3.70%)	27 (20.0%)	98 (72.6%)	135 (100%)
The instructor helped me to think in analytical, critical, or creative ways.	2 (1.48%)	4 (2.96%)	4 (2.96%)	25 (18.5%)	100 (74.0%)	135 (100%)
The instructor set high standards.	2 (1.48%)	1 (0.74%)	9 (6.67%)	36 (26.7%)	87 (64.4%)	135 (100%)
Based on your assessment, mark the extent to which you agree that the instructor was an effective teacher.	1 (0.74%)	3 (2.22%)	4 (2.96%)	34 (25.2%)	93 (68.9%)	135 (100%)

**SAMPLE QUALITATIVE EVALUATIONS (all other class evaluations for Hamilton College posted online or available upon request: <http://ivanrasmussen.com/teaching/>):**

**GOVT 233 01 (16/SP)**

**Course title: US-China Relations**

**Instructor: Rasmussen**

### **Section-Related Responses**

#### **Qualitative Answers**

**Describe your effort and engagement in this course.**

##### **Student 1**

I attended most of the classes though I did not participate much in course discussions, but said discussions were mostly lectures by the professor. I did do all of the work and readings. I had some prior knowledge outside the class.

##### **Student 2**

##### **Student 3**

##### **Student 4**

I worked very hard and was engaged in every class.

##### **Student 5**

##### **Student 6**

##### **Student 7**

**Student 8**

average effort and engagement

**Student 9**

HES AWESOME

**Student 10**

Great

**Student 11**

Good

**Student 12**

I attended every class and participated a decent amount. I found the subject interesting.

**Student 13**

Great

**Student 14**

I went to every class I could make it to unless I was sick or was excused. I very much enjoyed participating and was eager to take the class because I had heard great things about the professor

**Student 15**

overall, i was quite engaged in this course and actively participated in most class discussions. Having never taken a course in chinese politics or chinese-us relations, I felt a bit disadvantaged next to students who seemed to have extensive knowledge from past courses.

**Student 16**

I attended all classes and came to class prepared to discuss the readings. I had taken many gov courses, but knew next to nothing about China

**Student 17**

I definitely put in a lot of effort to this class and was always really engaged.

**Student 18****Student 19**

Engaged in this class and really enjoyed the subject matter

**Student 20**

Attended every class. Did most of the readings. Prior interest in subject.

**Student 21**

I attended class, and did all of the work for the course. Although I had no formal interest in China, given its current importance I was interested in the topic. I rarely participated in class. This was because the class size was quite large and around 5-6 students tended to dominate the discussions. I understand it is hard to involve everyone in class discussions when there is such a large class. Personally, I felt like the course was a bit too big to have full fledged disagreements about certain topics.

**Student 22**

Attended class and took tons of notes. Didn't heavily participate in discussion because I liked to hear other students opinions before forming my own.

**Student 23**

I participate every now and then in this class.

**Student 24**

I attended all the classes that I was able to (not including sick days and being off campus). I participated a lot in the class, because thats the way I learn. I am very interested in the US-China relations, and I have background in Chinese history and politics.

**Student 25**

I didn't really have much interest in US-China relations before the course, but the professor really made the class enjoyable to attend. He had really interesting and creative ways to get us engaged.

**Student 26**

Pretty engaged, very interested in the material

**Student 27**

I attended every class and was one of the most participative people in class.

**Student 28**

I was incredibly engaged in this class. Aside from a couple of readings towards the end I did every assignment incredibly thoroughly and participated in class.

**Student 29**

I was sometimes engaged in this class.

**Student 30**

This man was awesome. You guys are missing out, give him tenure. Actually the best professor I have ever had in Gov and I'm a gov major. He introduced our class to a new very pertinent study. Had strong arguments and spoke thoroughly, very transparent, and made sure to not speak at us and understand how the class was feeling. Both a great great teacher and scholar -- hard to get both. I can not over stress how great he was. A little awkward, not gonna lie.

**Student 31****Student 32**

This course was really good. I attended every class and helped me with work outside of class. i had a lot of prior knowlegde but this course really helped me solidify it.

**Student 33**

Really enjoyed the class, actively engaged every day, and learned a ton.

**Describe the learning environment in this course.****Student 1**

The course was somewhat thought provoking in the readings; they made me think of things in a broader fashion. I think he fostered learning in that he assigned us these readings and occasionally threw in pop culture or other subjects to try and mix it up in class, which did make the subject more interesting sometimes. The organization was fine, and he was open to questions.

**Student 2****Student 3**

**Student 4**

Great environment-- a rare gov class that doesn't just revolve around the teacher's political agenda.

**Student 5**

The professor focused on both the narrow ideas of the topics we were discussing but also always tried to relate it to bigger themes and ideas for the course so that we understood how these individual pieces fit into the broader idea of US-China relations. He had some creative assignments and also straight forward one. It allowed us to think of the relationship between the US and China in various approaches and ways. Questions and comments were always welcome and appreciated.

**Student 6****Student 7****Student 8**

great

**Student 9**

ACTUALLY, LIKE SO AWESOME

**Student 10**

Great

**Student 11**

good

**Student 12**

The course was thought provoking, and the professor made us think about things from different perspectives. I definitely understand the China US relationship much better than when I started.

**Student 13**

Great

**Student 14**

Professor Rasmussen was great at keeping the class engaged and always showed enthusiasm towards whatever we were learning about. He had a variety of projects to keep people interested

**Student 15**

the learning environment was fantastic. probably one of the best things about this class. Professor Rasmussen was always excited about what he was teaching and actively made an effort to ensure that students were constantly engaged. Class with professor rasmussen was exciting, compelling, and always something to look forward to. Professor Rasmussen encouraged questions and probed for answers. He also utilized a variety of mediums to engage students and convey arguments.

**Student 16**

I loved this class. Ivan was a really fun professor, but also very knowledgeable and excited to share the information with us. Its great to have a professor who is excited to be in class and loves the material. his enthusiasm for China was contagious. Ivan was also really into creativity. He loved questions and always stayed after to talk to students. The course was very organized and Ivan was always very transparent about grades.

**Student 17**

Unbelievable learning environment, Professor Rasmussen is one of the best if not the best professors I've had here so far. Extremely engaging/interesting and clearly very knowledgeable about material. Felt like i learned a ton

**Student 18****Student 19**

Lecture style with powerpoint and class discussion

**Student 20**

Very comfortable and discussion based. Ivan encouraged learning and development. Focused on overall goals of educational development and creative thinking. Wanted to help us with deeper understanding of the subject, encouraged us to form our own opinions as long as we could back them up. Very organized.

**Student 21**

This course was definitely thought provoking, and I was encouraged to think critically about the conventional wisdom about China. We were given creative work that tested our ability to comprehend the nuance of the material. The course was organized well, transitioning clearly from important Chinese history to contemporary events, to major themes.

**Student 22**

As a completely new student to the world of China in the international system, I learned more in this class than any previous college course I have taken. Every lecture was interesting and make me think about the international system as a whole.

**Student 23**

A super safe and comfortable and fun space. It's very easy to participate in this class because Ivan is very responsive to what students have to say. Even when students give wrong answers, he tries to get them to say the right answer or clarifies it.

**Student 24**

I though the learning environment created by my professor was excellent. It was very easy to ask questions and make points in class. The professor did a good job to keep the learning environment focused but also informal and fun. I thought the professor did a good job of relating the topic to current events and making it seem very important in our lives. Overall I think the instructor created an inclusive and non-intimidating learning environment.

**Student 25**

The professor was really good at facilitating classroom discussions. He made it easy for people to jump in and knew how to actively listen. The professor had a high energy that was contagious, so classes were as lively as they could get.

**Student 26**

Ideal learning environment for a class of this size

**Student 27**

Very student based--heavy on the lectures occasionally, but always had interaction with students.

**Student 28**

I found most of the course work pretty captivating and learned a huge amount from this class. Professor Rasmussen was always available to talk more about the course and it was very apparent that he really enjoyed talking to students about the course both inside and outside of class. Great course organization.

**Student 29**

Very casual, with plenty of opportunity for discussion and debate.

**Student 30**

fevr

**Student 31****Student 32**

Great learning environment. Ras kept the class relaxed and fun but still covering the material. He's lecture style kept the class engaged and participating. It def increased my understanding on the subject and the course was well organized

**Student 33**

Professor Rasmussen, although quirky, is an awesome professor, and I am very sad to hear he is not coming back, as he is very engaging with the students and has a very vast knowledge on China.

**Please assess the overall quality of the course and explain your reasoning.**

**Student 1**

I learned a lot from the course overall and expanded existing knowledge.

**Student 2****Student 3****Student 4****Student 5**

The course was great and taught me a lot about US-China relations. This was because of a combination of the reading selected for the course and how the professor presented the material. (see above)

**Student 6****Student 7****Student 8**

awesome

**Student 9**  
AWESOME

**Student 10**  
Great

**Student 11**  
Very high.

**Student 12**  
Important subject, and one the course exponentially increased my understanding.

**Student 13**  
Great

**Student 14**  
N/A

**Student 15**  
overall, high quality course, particularly due to professor rasmussen's excitement and presence. clarity, though, something not mentioned above, was sometimes elusive.

**Student 16**  
very high. It is a loss to hamilton that he is leaving.

**Student 17**  
So yeah, this course was really really good. I really hope that Professor Rasmussen ends up somewhere good, he is a great teacher. The course was dope, I'm actually writing my final for it right now. I learned a TON of stuff and it was really interesting.

**Student 18**

**Student 19**  
Loved learning about the US-China relationship. Really interesting and I enjoyed learning from both the Chinese and US perspectives

**Student 20**

Great course. Course materials were very interesting and useful. Tied together nicely with assignments and in class work. Assignments were a nice mixture between exam, essay, group work, presentation. I would suggest the class to anyone. The relationship with US and China is imperative to pay attention to in contemporary politics.

**Student 21**

Quality of the course was high. I would definitely recommend this course to a friend.

**Student 22****Student 23**

Would recommend to take this class. I learned a great deal.

**Student 24**

I think the course quality was high. The professor did a great job, and the topic itself is an important one in world politics.

**Student 25**

The course had a good balance of historical content, contemporary content, and theoretical content regarding the US-China relationship. I specifically thought the readings were effective because they did not solely give one perspective to the US-China relation issues, but addressed the content from all angles.

**Student 26**

A+ : Prof. Rasmussen is one of the best professors I've ever had at Hamilton. It's a shame that Hamilton is letting him go.

**Student 27**

Best government class I have taken at Hamilton.

**Student 28**

It's an incredibly interesting course and with all of the course material we manage to get a very good in depth view of the US china relationship and why it's currently where it is.

**Student 29**

I was very impressed with the quality of this class and thoroughly enjoyed it.

### Student 30

### Student 31

### Student 32

The quality of the course was high. It covered all aspects of the China- US relationship in a way that didnt seem to fast or slow. it was never boring and we were always engaged

### Student 33

Loved the course, it was amazing

### Quantitative Answers

	<b>strongly disagree</b>	<b>disagree</b>	<b>neutral</b>	<b>agree</b>	<b>strongly agree</b>	<b>total</b>
Based on your assessment, mark the extent to which you agree that the quality of the course was high.	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	<u>1</u> (3.13%)	<u>6</u> (18.75%)	<u>25</u> (78.13%)	32 (100%)

### Instructor-Related Responses

### Qualitative Answers

**Describe the instructor's interactions with students.**

### Student 1

The communication was clear and he was responsive to students and was available during office hours.

### Student 2

### Student 3

**Student 4**

Very humorous and helpful.

**Student 5**

The professor was always very straight forward with his students. He made his instructions on assignments, schedule and expectations very clear. He was always sure to thoroughly answer his students questions. He was very available and helpful during office hours. He was a great professor, I would have loved to take another class with him.

**Student 6****Student 7****Student 8**

funny, welcoming and helpful

**Student 9**

AWESOME

**Student 10**

Great

**Student 11****Student 12**

Professor was very clear, answered all questions, interacted with students a lot.

**Student 13**

Great

**Student 14**

He was very clear about expectations and very helpful in office hours. In fact, I came to him for advice on a paper in another class about his field of expertise and he referred me to some great resources.

**Student 15**

This carries over from my response to question 2. Professor Rasmussen was quite clear in communication and would often follow up with reminder e-mails. retrospectively, i regret not taking advantage of office hours. but they were always available, and certainly frequented by students.

**Student 16**

Very clear communication, and always excited to engage with students and respond to questions. One of Ivan's most impressive teaching qualities was his ability to learn all of the students names in a large class and remember comments that students made earlier in class and even weeks and months before and integrate them into class. It made students feel heard, and validated their comments. It made them feel smart and like what they had to say and contribute was important to the class. Ivan also loved to have fun, which brought the whole mood of the class up. He was able to make a large class feel like a seminar/family.

**Student 17**

Super helpful whenever i went to office hours, very good at answering questions, very clear. absolutely exemplary professor- cannot emphasize this enough. this guy is super talented--really sad to see him go. He's gonna be a legend

**Student 18****Student 19**

Great interactions with students. I enjoyed his enthusiasm

**Student 20**

Very positive interactions. Well liked guy - going to be missed. Available outside of class.

**Student 21**

Great interactions with students. Very casual and relaxed.

**Student 22**

Was very open to questions and new ideas. Was willing to change lesson plans to talk about subjects that students found interesting. Valued discussions that evoked debate and new ways of thinking.

**Student 23**

Super friendly. Makes jokes to lighten the mood. I think it's a good and different approach to a teaching style. Also at the same time, he's super informative and teaches the material well.

**Student 24**

The instructor was very clear and responsive. He created an informal and fun, but not unprofessional learning environment, in fact this was probably the best part of the class.

**Student 25**

The professor was effectively transparent in terms of his interactions with students. He made the work he assigned fair, he always detailed exactly what he was expecting from our work, and he was always accessible for further questions.

**Student 26**

Incredibly approachable and responsive

**Student 27**

Very speedy with getting work back to us and always emailed us promptly.

**Student 28**

Professor Rasmussen is perhaps a little unorthodox in class but he keeps classes incredibly engaged and is very accessible to students both inside and outside of the classroom.

**Student 29**

Very casual, however, he was also always open for discussion after class.

**Student 30**

This is finals week Hamilton.... why

**Student 31**

Ivan is a great professor who cares a lot about the material and his students.

**Student 32**

He is such a great guy. Always willing to help and make himself available, even helping me with other courses, Seniors with their thesis who weren't even his responsibility. He truly loves teaching and you can see it in his passion and willingness to engage with students inside and outside the classroom.

**Student 33**

Awesome, like I said, he is very quirky but is an amazing professor overall, and very helpful and communicative.

**Describe the instructor's responses to your work.**

**Student 1**

Feedback was given promptly, but the work itself we were assigned was sometimes problematic. For example, many students in the class were unable to finish our midterm exam in the time allotted to us, therefore threatening our grade not by our own fault. The professor considered this in grading our exams and it didn't hurt anybody too badly, but this was a significant gaffe in his planning. The criticism I received on a presentation I gave was focused on my demeanor during my group presentation and did not seem relevant to the actual work I had done.

**Student 2**

**Student 3**

**Student 4**

**Student 5**

The professor always gave graded material back in a timely fashion with helpful and informative comments.

**Student 6**

**Student 7**

**Student 8**

prompt and helpful

**Student 9**

AWESOME

**Student 10**

Great

**Student 11**

Very good

**Student 12**

Timely and useful evaluations.

**Student 13**

Great

**Student 14**

Very quick at returning assignments, set high but reasonable standards.

**Student 15**

generally, Professor rasmussen's responses were useful and timely. standards are set high, subjective??

**Student 16**

he always got assignments right back and it was clear that he had worked very hard on his lesson plans and expected a lot of himself.

**Student 17**

Very good with timely grades, gave really helpful comments on work, gave clear expectations

**Student 18****Student 19**

Never had questions about my grades and thought grading was fair.

**Student 20**

Very responsive to assignments being graded. Clear evaluations of work. Standards were understood - communicated very well. No tricks.

**Student 21**

Response to my work was great. All comments were clear and useful. Also, his system of grading was clear so we all knew what we needed to do in order to be successful.

**Student 22**

Returned work in a timely matter, and spent class time discussing the grading process. Was very transparent about his grades, and worked to make sure all students were aware of their grades.

**Student 23**

Very constructive of our work and makes explicit his expectations.

**Student 24**

I thought the professor set reasonable standards for work. Good grades were achievable if enough work was put in. He was also very timely in his response and worked very hard to get them back quickly.

**Student 25**

Very quick grader with good feedback.

**Student 26**

Very insightful, it showed he really cared about the students learning

**Student 27**

A little subjective sometimes in my opinion.

**Student 28**

Professor Rasmussen sets high standards but generally is very clear on notes for assignments.

**Student 29**

He would return work promptly, often in one class session.

**Student 30**

shvenk bnm,

**Student 31****Student 32**

He provided great feedback to my work. He has makes his expectations very clear and his feedback is clear and organized. He has helped me become a better writer.

**Student 33**

Super helpful, and always willing to clarify when I am confused.

**Please assess the overall effectiveness of the instructor and explain your reasoning.**

**Student 1**

His general instruction and course organization was effective.

**Student 2**

**Student 3**

**Student 4**

Best GOV professor I have had here. Will miss not being able to take more classes from him. Hamilton is losing one of their best.

**Student 5**

The instructor was very effective in presenting the material. The professor always made sure to cover the main points of our reading while opening it up to broader discussion. It was a great class because the professor was both informative, but tried not to make the class dull.

**Student 6**

**Student 7**

**Student 8**

awesome

**Student 9**

AWESOME

**Student 10**

Great

**Student 11**

Very good.

**Student 12**

Very good professor. Made class fun and interesting. I learned a lot.

**Student 13**

Great

**Student 14****Student 15**

Overall, professor rasmussen was extremely effective. really enjoyed the class, some material stuck out more than others. overall, very effective

**Student 16**

very effective. He cares so much about his students and as a result I was really inspired to work hard in that class. I didn't want to let him down. He brings out the best in students. He also loved to talk and debate which is what is most fun about gov classes.

**Student 17**

Professor Rasmussen is a bonafide legend. He is an utterly meritorious professor; engaging, knowledgeable, humorous, and more- he has all the makings of a truly great dealer of knowledge. Normally I breeze through these evaluations so the amount of effort I'm putting into this one ought to reflect how laudable he is as a professor. I learned so much in his class, it borders on the absurd. And the craziest part is, I enjoyed it. His class was the perfect matrimony of scholarship and humor, knowledge and enjoyment. I may be wrong (I hope that I am) but I believe he is leaving after this semester; I would compare this to the Rochester Royals passing up on Hall of Fame basketball player Bill Russell in the 1956 NBA draft in favor of the Ice Capades, or similarly the Boston Red Sox trading baseball great Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees in 1919 in order to finance the Broadway play entitled "My Lady Friends." That is to say, passing up on professor Ivan Rasmussen is the equivalent of allowing a potential superstar to walk away. The panegyric is meant to emphasize one principle FACT: Professor Rasmussen exemplifies what it means to be a professor. Asking me to assess the overall effectiveness of this instructor is not a fair question; how can one truly assess that which is priceless? Professor Rasmussen is on his way to do great things, of this there is no doubt. I have no idea who reads these things but I really hope I didn't just waste my time writing that. Wherever he ends up let it be known that our loss is going to be, unfortunately, their immeasurable gain.

**Student 18****Student 19**

9/10 the professor was a great teacher and also a great guy.

**Student 20**

Ivan was a great instructor of the course material, but also a great instructor of teaching us how to think critically and creatively. He challenged us to see many sides to an argument and be able to support or refute those different facets. Extremely smart and knowledgeable on the subject. He is so passionate about teaching and interacting with students which was very refreshing. Overall great guy and effective instructor.

**Student 21**

Effective professor. Able to make us think critically about US-China relations by understanding the history, and contemporary events.

**Student 22**

Best professor I've had thus far, and truly cared about having a good time in the classroom while learning. Although some lectures seemed to bounce around subject areas, I learned a lot.

**Student 23**

Truly enjoy this professor's teaching style. Although I will say that multiple students (including me) do not like that he obviously plays favorites in class.

**Student 24**

I thought my professor was very effective. He did a great job creating an excellent learning environment, and set reasonable yet high standards for his students. He also knew how to make class interesting with jokes and well timed activities to take our minds off of what could be a lecture heavy course at times.

**Student 25**

I can't imagine a better professor to teach this course material. The combination of his transparency in terms of the grading process, his creative assignments and activities, and his energy, made it very easy to like this class and learn a lot from it.

**Student 26**

This instructor was extremely effective. He knows his subject very well and makes learning about it very fun.

**Student 27**

Amazing professor, sad to see he is leaving.

**Student 28**

He's a wonderful teacher and I'm really sad to see that he won't be staying on with Hamilton

**Student 29**

I felt Ivan's demeanor was appropriate for this class, and was effective in leading this class.

**Student 32**

He is incredibly effective. This is not an easy course but he helped every single person really increase their knowledge of the subject. Its surprising to see how well versed we are in the subject

**Student 33**

Amazing instructor, please see above notes as I am running out of time.

**Quantitative Answers**

	<b>strongly disagree</b>	<b>disagree</b>	<b>neutral</b>	<b>agree</b>	<b>strongly agree</b>	<b>total</b>
The instructor clearly communicated goals and expectations for student work.	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	<u>7</u> (21.88%)	<u>25</u> (78.13%)	32 (100%)
The instructor communicated course material effectively.	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)	<u>1</u> (3.13%)	<u>5</u> (15.63%)	<u>26</u> (81.25%)	32 (100%)
The instructor helped me to think in analytical, critical, or creative ways.	0 (0.00%)	<u>1</u> (3.23%)	0 (0.00%)	<u>5</u> (16.13%)	<u>25</u> (80.65%)	31 (100%)
The instructor set high standards.	0 (0.00%)	<u>1</u> (3.23%)	0 (0.00%)	<u>9</u> (29.03%)	<u>21</u> (67.74%)	31 (100%)
Based on your assessment, mark the extent to which you agree that the instructor was an effective teacher.	0 (0.00%)	<u>1</u> (3.33%)	0 (0.00%)	<u>5</u> (16.67%)	<u>24</u> (80.00%)	30 (100%)