

Responses to class survey

Best things about the course: summary

- Readings (8)
- Discussions (6)
- Plenaries (3)
- Other: diverse opinions, student engagement, good class dynamic

Things you don't like or want to change: summary

- Have fewer readings and explore them more deeply (4)

Noted. 1. I will try for deeper explorations on more focused portions of the readings. 2. I will recommend fewer readings to the seminar organizers for next year.

- Various aspects of discussions (4)

- “do more discussions...the professor [should] participate less and instead just facilitate a discussion between the students”

Noted. I will try to sit back and elicit more interaction between students. And I will try to let the discussion veer away from the study questions when it is going somewhere interesting.

- “many of our discussions end without a [clear] idea being presented or any new information being revealed”

- “discussion could be slightly more fruitful if we veered from the structured questions more frequently” (2)

- Various aspects of participation grading (3)

- “The way participation is based on the reading questions. Some students are picked more to answer the questions more than others.”

Hopefully, if I explain the participation system better, this will not be an issue.

- “If the students don't seem to be participating and they are all quiet, start giving participation grades...”

Interesting. Maybe I will try randomly-shuffled index cards to determine who to call on. But I don't want a stressful classroom atmosphere.