Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
We learned about IR methodology, the fundamental theories and principles in security studies, and how they apply/are built from cases in East Asia.
a lot about IR theory (including grand strategy, deterrence, nuclear weapons, etc) and using E. Asia as case studies. Also learned about how to evaluate and critique IR research papers
Key IR concepts and their relevance in East Asia
I learned how to effectively analyze international relations scholarship. Through an in–depth analysis of the research question, dependent variable, independent variable, and causal mechanisms, as well as an analysis of the strengths and flaws of the author's argument, I learned so much.
The most important skill I learned in this course is how to think critically about academic IR and tease out core arguments. Josh's passion for the subject is unparalleled.
security in east asia
A greater understanding of the security affairs of East Asia
I learned the basics of IR theory – realism, the balance of power theory, etc. – and how to read PoliSci papers in an in–depth and efficient manner.
An overview of realism and other approaches to issues of security in international relations.
I now have a deep understanding of what makes a compelling and convincing argument. Prior to this class I looked forward to the methods section of a paper because I would skip it. Now I find myself critiquing the logic of the argument based on its methodological approach

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Every class Josh clearly laid out the topics we were discussing in a very engaging way. These classes and my notes from them were key to learning the concepts.
The class sessions were awesome! Josh is great at explaining different IR theories and each author's argument. Class sessions were always very interesting and informative.
Josh's lecture is amazing, wish him all the best in BC!
Josh is brilliant. He has an expansive internal database of knowledge in his mind and still manages to explain things in a way that students can understand. He is the best instructor I have ever had.
Lectures were always in–depth and challenges us to think deeply about the arguments we were engaging with. Josh always had a fun anecdote or some of his own thoughts to add to the discussion.
readings and josh's lecturing were very helpful
The classes primarily constituted of discussions on the assigned readings. This, in turn, provided me with a greater knowledge of IR theory and its applications to East Asia.
We had discussions during class, readings assigned, and two review papers. I personally did a term paper rather than the review papers, so I have a slightly different story than most people. I personally learned how to write a research paper and now have a better understanding of their structure and purpose.
Joshua's lectures were great. I really appreciated that they weren't really discussions — Joshua knows a lot of stuff and has a lot to say. I'd much rather hear him talk than the other people in the class.
This course perfectly balanced lecture and discussion

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	92.31%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%
I felt respected in this class.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Josh is one of the best instructors I've had at UChicago. I learned so much from him!
Josh is one of the best instructors I've had at UChicago.
I really enjoyed Professor Byun's class. He had extensive knowledge and came to every class prepared. I will say that he has a tendency to interrupt students; I don't think it comes from a bad place, just an excitement to share his knowledge.
I wish I had taken this class sooner in my time at UChicago! Such a great survey of International Relations scholarship. I didn't always agree with Joshua's views, but I learnt a huge amount, and can apply loads of it to other classes as well!
I highly recommend this course to anyone who is working on a thesis/long paper. even if it doesn't relate to your topic, the skills you gain will be super helpful in improving your own work!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

| Comments |
| --- |
| Josh is incredibly accomplished and knowledgeable about the literature. He always gave great and engaging lectures and was easily available outside of class. |
| I appreciated that for basically every author Josh wrote out charts on the board outlining the DV, IV and causal mechanisms. He's clearly an expert in this field. He is also very helpful in office hours and truly wants you to learn and succeed. |
| Lecture, anecdotes |
| Josh goes above and beyond in every way as a professor. Josh gave students the ability to participate in class, while also providing his own He is always available outside of class time and after class to discuss IR theory and current events. |
| Josh's lectures were great, but his assistance outside of class was extremely helpful. He was always willing to make time outside of normal office hours to chat about my research paper or really any subject of interest. |
| Josh was very knowledgable about everything IR and clearly very passionate... was also always willing to meet and help and was very kind |
| This is Joshua's bread and butter, he is so passionate and knowledgeable about IR theory. |
| Professor Byun's helpful question answers and extensive knowledge of related articles and topics made the biggest contribution to my learning. |
| Joshua is a great professor — very knowledgeable and well read. I appreciated his ability to explain really complex ideas to us, and enthusiasm for the subject matter. He said "If I lived my life 1000 times over, I would choose to study this field every single time". Definitely recommend. |
| Josh is so smart! He had a great answer to most questions, and was willing to admit when he didn't know something. Most of the time the class felt like a with Josh rather than a lecture where he was talking at us the whole time. |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

| Comments |
| --- |
| Nothing. |
| Nothing! |
| Nothing – I found the course amazing. |
| I was hoping that the class would be a little more advanced, but we spent a fair amount of time going over basics of IR.... wished we went more in depth on some things |
| It may have been helpful to have a lecture on a certain contemporary issue in East Asia once a week. Having the ability to apply what we were learning in class to modern–day issues would have provided a new perspective on the content. |
| I don't think there's much. This was my first polisci class so it was a great introduction |
| Honestly, I don't think I would really change anything. Perhaps the assignment requirements could be more explicitly put in writing, but Joshua seemed to be quite a flexible grader, so it wasn't a big problem. |
| nothing! he was great! |

The Instructor . . .

|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?
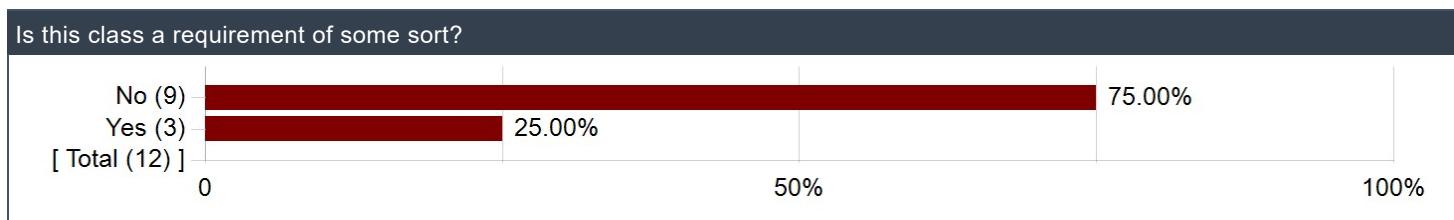
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (9)	75.00%
Yes (3)	25.00%
[Total (12)]	

0 — 50% — 100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (0)	0.00%
Low (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
High (6)	50.00%
Very high (6)	50.00%
[Total (12)]	

0 — 50% — 100%

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (0)	0.00%
Satisfied (1)	8.33%
Heightened (11)	91.67%
[Total (12)]	

0 — 50% — 100%
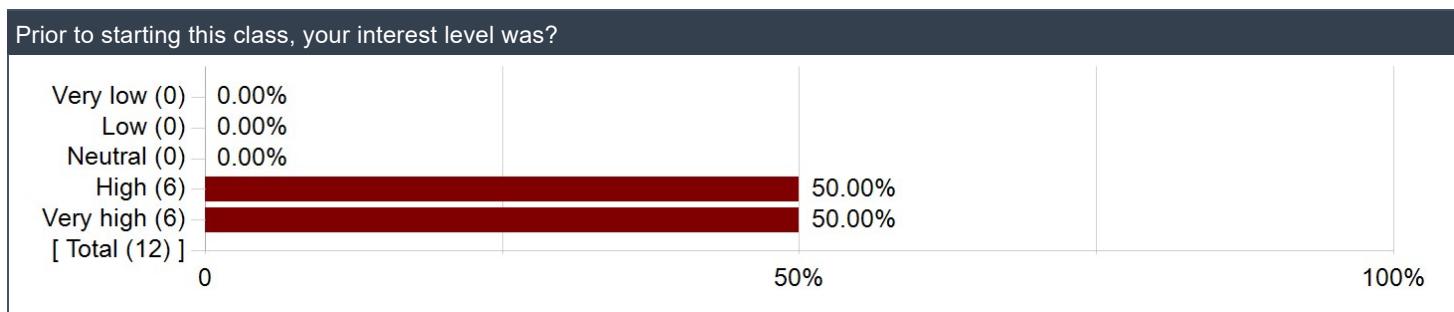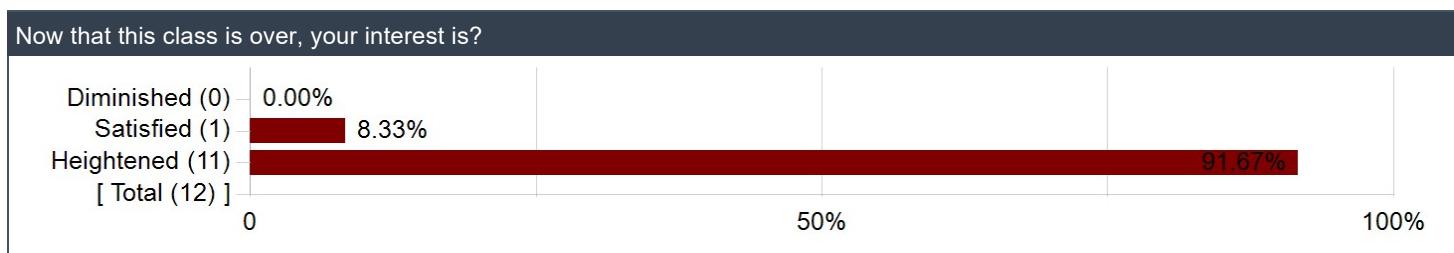
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
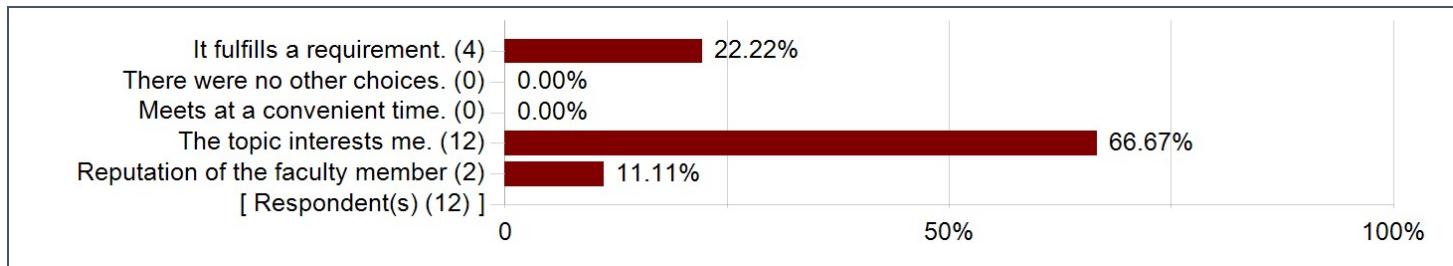
It fulfills a requirement. (4)	22.22%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (0)	0.00%
The topic interests me. (12)	66.67%
Reputation of the faculty member (2)	11.11%
[Respondent(s) (12)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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<5 hours (3)	25.00%
5-10 hours (6)	50.00%
10-15 hours (3)	25.00%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (12)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (0)	0.00%
25% (0)	0.00%
50% (0)	0.00%
75% (0)	0.00%
All (12)	100.00%
[Total (12)]	
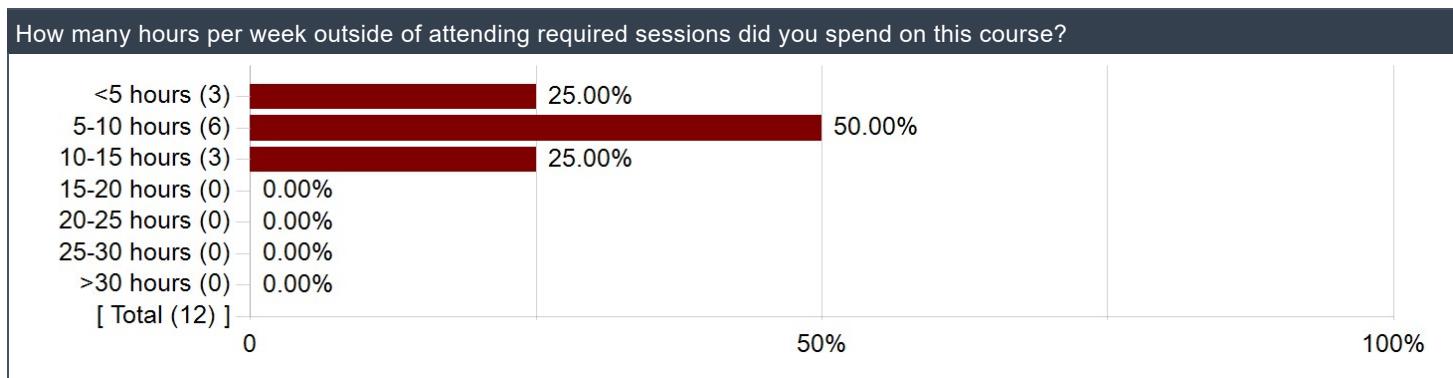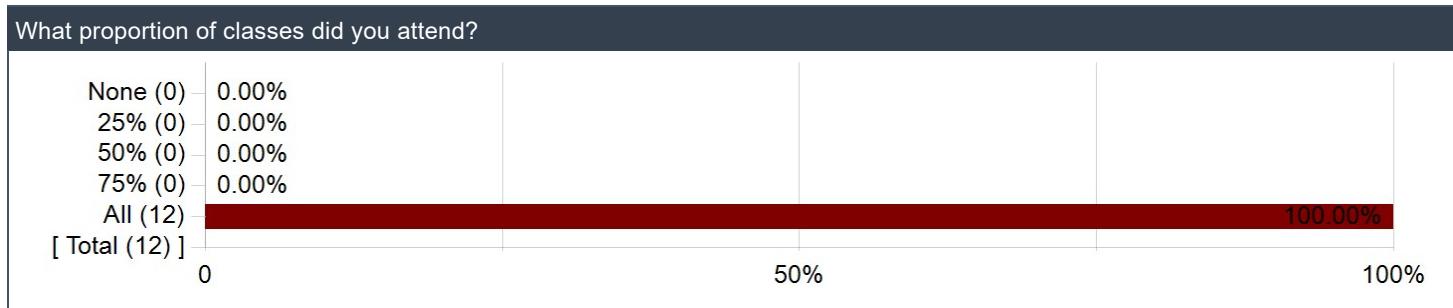
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments

The level of difficulty was appropriate.

The readings were a bit on the heavier side, but the course was as difficult if not slightly easier than most political science courses.

helpful to have taken prior IR classes at UChicago, but Josh does a great job giving overviews/background info

Not much background is needed, even though some IR knowledge may be helpful.

The class was difficult and demanded a lot of time reading and organizing thoughts. But it was worth it in my opinion.

It's an overview of the literature of Security Studies, so is accessible for people of all experiences, as long as they are interested.