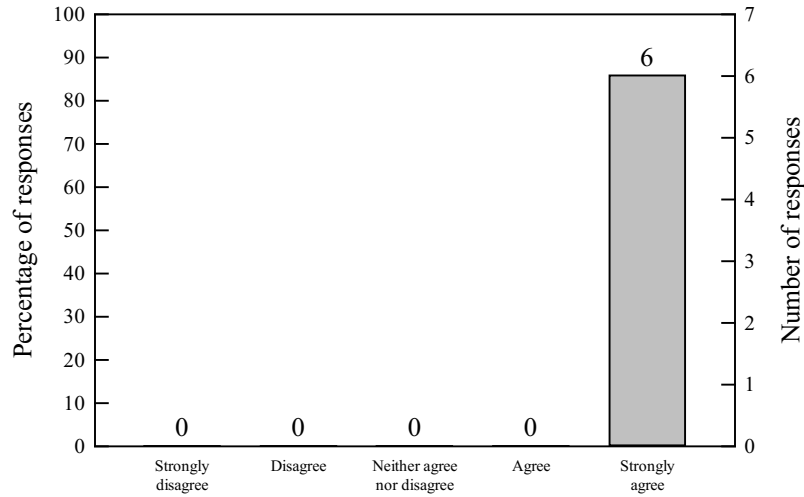


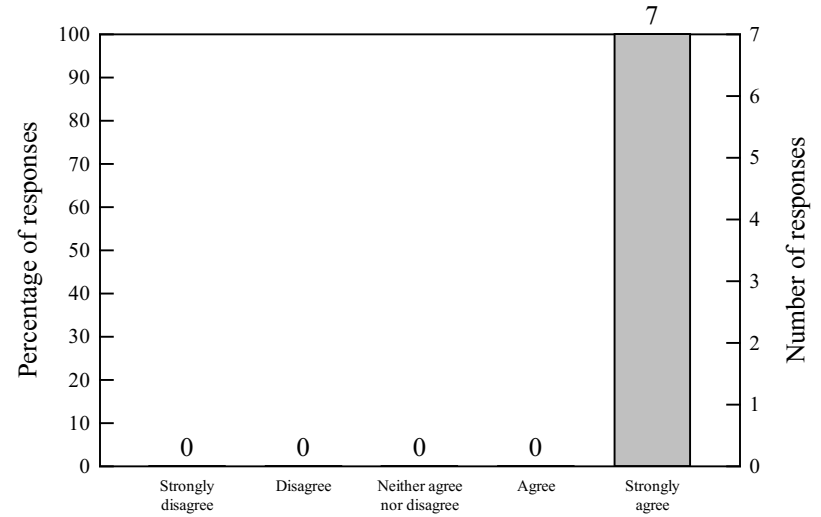
PSCI 0319A: The Politics of Taxes [Fall 2020]

Winslett, Gary

Number of response forms completed: 7, of 0 total students enrolled



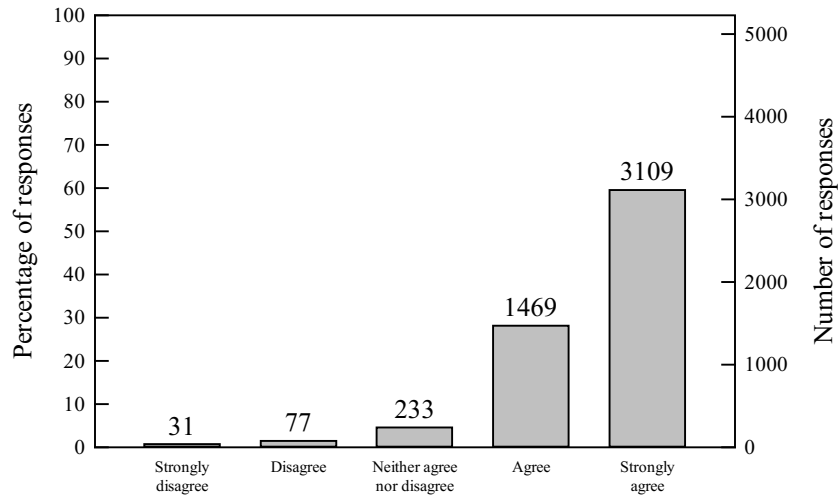
I learned a great deal in this course



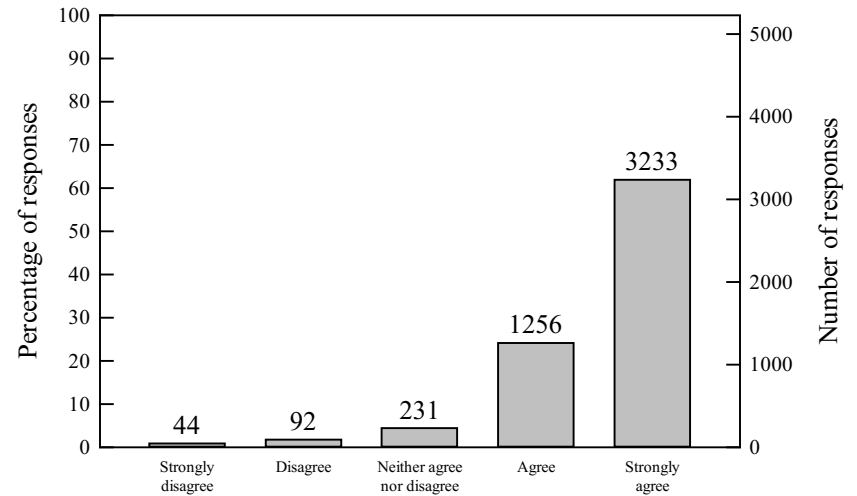
The instructor's teaching in this course was effective

Aggregate of all courses in Fall 2020

(All Staff)



I learned a great deal in this course



The instructor's teaching in this course was effective

LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

I learned so much from this course. I really didn't know very much about taxes heading into it, and Prof. Winslett did an excellent job of making all the topics accessible and enjoyable. There was very little heavy analytical reading but rather real-world examples applied to in-class concepts we discussed together, making every class very engrossing and enjoyable. I understand the topic of taxes SO much more thoroughly than when I began, and I can compare them across countries and analyze the different factors that lead to different systems' success or failure.

COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

The readings and podcasts assigned every class were excellently curated. They were all fascinating and super enjoyable, and Prof. Winslett knew so much about each topic that we had very productive in-class conversations about all of them. He also did an excellent job of assigning readings that were interesting but not too overwhelming during this difficult year, which I feel like I therefore got much more out of.

COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

This course is in my major, and I had heard good things about Prof. Winslett.

YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

I attended every class except one, and I did the readings for approximately an hour per class. I spent much more time on the papers.

No response to “I learned a great deal in this course.”

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INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

Prof. Winslett is great. He's so knowledgeable and understands how to make a topic like "politics of taxes" absolutely fascinating. Everybody paid full attention every class and they were fun to sit through. I really feel like the real-world applications will stick with me for a long time, and it's already changed the way I think about news stories regarding tax policy around the world. This class should be a requirement for the major.

ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

The paper provided students with enough flexibility that it was enjoyable to write — and made the high word count less intimidating. Prof. Winslett provided excellent feedback throughout the process and helped guide us to the best possible sources for our own works.

CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

This fall was hard, and Professor Winslett was the absolute model of an understanding and kind professor. I really can't exaggerate how much his compassion and flexibility helped me through this semester, and I need everyone in the department and administration to know that he truly cares about his students and is willing to do whatever he can to make sure they're learning as much as possible while taking care of their own wellbeing. I had a particularly hard week once and missed an important deadline, and Prof. Winslett met with me to make sure I was truly OK as a first priority before working with me to get back on track in a way that allowed me to produce good work while also healing. I am beyond grateful to have had him as a professor this semester.

Strongly agrees with “The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective.”

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LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

This class helped build a foundation for my future interest in tax policy. I learned a great deal about taxation in general, not only domestically but abroad as well. I have a much better and more holistic understanding of the politics surrounding taxation.

COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

The paper assignments throughout the semester were a great way to further explore a topic I was interested in, and they helped me become a better writer. The readings and lectures were interesting as well.

COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

I took this to satisfy a major requirement, but also because it seemed interesting to me as someone who did not know a whole lot about taxation before taking this course.

YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

I probably worked around 5-10 hours per week outside of class, depending on whether or not a paper deadline was coming up. I attended every class.

Strongly agrees with “I learned a great deal in this course.”

INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

Professor Winslett is very knowledgeable about this topic, and so it was very easy to ask clarifying or exploratory questions because he was able, willing, and eager to help us. His feedback on the paper assignments was also helpful in refining my writing skills.

ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

The paper was a good opportunity to combine a bunch of what we learned throughout the course.

CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

Strongly agrees with “The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective.”

LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

Income taxes, sales taxes, VAT, property taxes, estate taxes, etc both in and out of the US.

COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

I was afraid this class would be really dense and boring but it wasn't like that at all thanks to fun and informative readings and really engaging discussions.

COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

major

YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

I participated regularly and attended every class. I spent about 1-2 hours doing readings for each class and 5-10 hours writing each paper section.

Strongly agrees with “I learned a great deal in this course.”



INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

Professor Winslett is great. He has high expectations, but is always available for questions and holds really engaging discussions during class. Also he clearly really cares about his students, which makes class a lot more enjoyable.

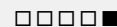
ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

Yes! I had a lot of fun writing the paper for this class although I think I would have learned just as much with a slightly smaller paper assignment (maybe 5-8 pages less).

CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

I really appreciated that this class did not just focus on the US. So many courses use the US as their default, but it helped me understand our tax system so much better by comparing it to other countries. Thanks for a great semester!

Strongly agrees with “The instructor's teaching in this course was effective.”



LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

Lectures, readings, and class discussion were all very effective in contributing to my learning

COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

it was in person and it satisfied an elective requirement

YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

i attended all classes and spend 2-3 hours a week doing reading.

Strongly agrees with “I learned a great deal in this course.”



INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

very effective! Professor Winslett explained all concepts in detail.

ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

the paper assignments were clear in their standards of evaluation and provided an opportunity to explore a specific subject.

CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

Strongly agrees with “The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective.”



LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

This was a phenomenal course. I learned a ton about tax structures - why we have them, why they're politicised, where they come from, etc. It definitely hones m critical thinking and analysis skills - and made me interested in a topic i never thought i'd find genuinely interesting (taxes)

COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

i really liked how we split up the course into american and international tax systems - it made it even more clear how political tax systems can be depending on where they exist.

COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

i took it because it was in person and also because i didn't know much about how taxes work even though they're used constantly as political talking points.

YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

i think i participated a fair amount.

Strongly agrees with “I learned a great deal in this course.”



INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

very effective. i really liked how interactive our classes with and also how patient he was with the class when there were concepts that we had difficulty understanding.

ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

yes - i was very daunted at first by the length and seemingly endless scope of the final assignment - but cutting it into manageable chunks throughout the semester and making time to chat with us all about it made all of the difference.

CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

it was a great class - i'm wondering if there's a way to title it differently just because 'the politics of taxes' only really appeals to the nerdiest among us even if it is what the class is about, but other than that the class itself was really fun and interesting and i'm glad i took it.

Strongly agrees with “The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective.”



LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

I have learned a great deal about both domestic and international tax systems and the economics of various political systems.

COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

I loved the fact that Professor Winslett was able to combine reading materials with media such as podcasts in order to create a more immersive learning experience; it was an experience unlike any other that I have had at Middlebury.

COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

To be honest, I took this course solely to have a course with Professor Winslett.

YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

I worked hard in this course in order to participate and turn out the best work possible. I likely spent 6-7 hours per week working on this class.

Strongly agrees with “I learned a great deal in this course.”



INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

Professor Winslett's approach to teaching is both innovative and highly effective. He is hands down the best discussion facilitator at Middlebury College and constantly invents new and exciting ways for students to engage with the material.

ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

Yes.

CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

Professor Winslett took both a tough subject and one not always interesting to many and created a lively class that allowed students to engage in many different ways.

Strongly agrees with “The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective.”



LEARNING: What have you learned from this course? Consider how the course deepened your critical or analytical abilities, factual knowledge, understanding of concepts, creativity, communication skills, and ability to pursue further work in the subject. Give concrete examples.

This course taught me everything I know about taxes. I came into this course with zero knowledge about taxes and was very intimidated, but have learned how to approach studying taxes. Beyond deepening my understanding of tax concepts and just general knowledge of taxes, the class improved my analytical skills and taught me to think critically about all the various implications of taxes.

COURSE CONTENT & FORMAT: How did the various components of the course contribute to your learning? Consider, as appropriate, lectures, readings, writing assignments, problem sets, films, labs, drills, studio work, debates, discussions, presentations, field work, or group work. Be specific.

Winslett structured the class brilliantly. He taught us by first discussing the core concepts and structure of taxes, which helped establish our base understandings, and then worked in more analytical sections. I loved how we examined many different taxes and tax systems within the U.S. and around the world. The readings were all very interesting and from diverse authors.

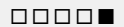
COURSE CHOICE: Why did you take this course? Was it an elective or taken to satisfy a requirement? Is it in your major?

I knew nothing about taxes and thought it is something I should know about. It was just for fun.

YOUR PARTICIPATION: How would you assess your own performance in the course? Approximately how many hours per week outside of class did you work? Estimate the percentage of classes that you attended.

I participated a decent amount. I'd say I spent about 7-9 hours a week.

Strongly agrees with “I learned a great deal in this course.”



INSTRUCTION: How effective was the instructor in explaining new concepts, in facilitating the development of skills, in raising issues for discussion, and in enabling you to understand the course material and its significance? Provide examples.

Super effective. He facilitated our lectures extremely well and wove in our interests to the point where even our random tangents become important lessons about the material. You could tell he put a lot of effort and time into each class to be prepared to lead the conversation in the most productive way possible.

ASSESSMENT: Did test/paper assignments and/or projects provide you adequate opportunity to convey the learning expected in the course? Were standards of evaluation clear?

Overall, I have enjoyed the assignment for this class. I appreciate the freedom we had to select a topic that interested us, dive into a deep research project, and now walk away feeling extremely educated on this specific tax issue or policy. However, I have heard some other students express mixed feelings about the assignment since we had to choose our topics so early. A couple of students shared that they hardly knew what they wanted to research so kind of picked a random topic. I do remember feeling similar wishful thoughts about a couple of concepts we covered later in the class that I would have loved to research more. The standards were very clear and if we were confused he was very available to answer any of our questions.

CONCLUDING REMARKS: What comments would you make about maintaining or changing the course content and/or the instructor's methods of teaching? Comment on any aspects of the course, modes of teaching, or impact on your education that are not covered by the preceding questions.

I honestly think that this class should be taught every semester. I am not sure if many other professors could make taxes as interesting as Winslett did, but the material was so interesting and important that I really think Midd students would appreciate it. When I signed up I thought there was a chance it would be super dry and now I consider it my favorite class at Middlebury.

Strongly agrees with “The instructor’s teaching in this course was effective.”

