**Students Responses Response Rate** 



# Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness

Enrollment numbers are acquired before the end of the semester and may differ from the final figure.

**Reporting Date:** 5/6/2013 2:58 PM

**Course ID** 

**Semester:** 2012/13 SP

**Instructor ID:** JRA5032

**Instructor:** JANELLE APPLEQUIST

**Course Title** 

201213SPUPRCOMM_410_002 COMM410 , Section 002: INTERNATIONAL M C 50 49 98.00%												
Unive	ersity Items  Are you taking this course as an electi	ve?		Yes: 2 No	: 33 I doi	n't know: 2	2 N: 35	Percent	Yes: 5	.71%		
<b>A2</b>	What grade do you expect to earn in this course?			A: 17 / 45.9% B: 17 / 45.9%			C or lower: 3 / 8.1%					
	I	Lowest Rating	g	Ave	Average Rating		Highest Rating					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	N	Mean	N/A	
<b>A3</b>	Rate the overall quality of this course.	1/ 2%	1/ 2%	0/ 0%	2/ 4%	5/10%	22/46%	17/35%	48	5.98	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
<b>A4</b>	Rate the overall quality of the instructor.	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	1/ 2%	2/ 4%	5/11%	15/33%	23/50%	46	6.24	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Department Items												
	I	Lowest Rating	g	Ave	Average Rating			Highest Rating				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	N	Mean	N/A	
B001	Rate the clarity of the instructor's presentations.	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	1/ 2%	3/ 6%	5/10%	16/33%	24/49%	49	6.20	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B024	Rate the instructor's availability during posted hours and appointments.	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	2/ 5%	5/12%	12/29%	23/55%	42	6.33	7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B038	Rate the instructor's skill creating a climate conducive to learning.	1/ 2%	1/ 2%	0/ 0%	1/ 2%	4/ 8%	12/25%	29/60%	48	6.29	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B048	Rate the effectiveness of the instructor's responses to student questions.	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	2/ 4%	2/ 4%	2/ 4%	17/36%	24/51%	47	6.26	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B063	Rate the instructor in terms of his/her preparation for class.	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	1/ 2%	0/ 0%	1/ 2%	14/29%	33/67%	49	6.59	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B088	Rate the instructor's enthusiasm about the subject matter.	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	1/ 2%	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	6/12%	42/86%	49	6.80	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B112	Rate the fairness of the overall grading system in the course.	0/ 0%	2/ 4%	1/ 2%	4/8%	6/12%	12/24%	24/49%	49	5.98	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
B167	Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your thinking.	1/ 2%	0/ 0%	0/ 0%	2/ 4%	4/ 9%	8/17%	32/68%	47	6.40	0	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
University Open Ended Items												

**Open 1** What helped you learn in this course?

The examples given - power points were very effective - the guest lectures and movies kept the class interesting

Interactive learning environment and open class discussions

The instructor included readings, guest presentations, and discussions that required us to think critically, evaluate assumptions, and apply concepts we learned to real world examples. The discussion-based class environment was educational, engaging, and rewarding.

Weekly initial post is helpful to let me think about the contents, and it was helpful to understand when other classmates summarize the concept well.

Interaction between students and the teacher

Janelle is really easy to relate to, she always brings up that she is and was a student here so she is really understanding. I like that her goal is to have us learn something and do well, not like some professors whose goal seems to be to fail as many students as possible. Janelle really made me want to learn more about what was going on in the world and while studying for her exams I found myself reading up on the topics more just because I wanted to learn as much as possible. Also she is very approachable so if anyone was having trouble she was easy to talk to in order to get the help you need.

I really liked how the readings and the lecture linked well with each other. It helped me fully understand things. As much as I hate having 2 blogs every week, I definitely liked having them because they also helped me understand things a lot better. It kind of forced you to understand the information and keep on track.

Jannelle was the main reason for this class helping me learn so much. She is an absolutely amazing teacher who makes this hard class not feel like a class at all. This was by far the best class I have taken in my 3 years at penn state

The encouragement to read the paper ever day and to keep up with current events.

online discussions and provided readings

the online blog was a fun activity

I like how interactive each class was. Also, my instructor brought in many guest speakers, which we ended up being quizzed on in exams. I personally like this style of teaching because we had to pay attention in class in order to do well on exams; it wasn't just textbook based.

The open environment the professor has been helpful in getting ideas and opinions shared with everyone else in the class. The discussion in the class also is a great way to fully understand the different concepts introduced in class.

Janelle fully explains the content in terms that we will understand and then introduces harder concepts for us to start grasping. Her power points are clear and to the point.

Janelle is my favorite teacher that I've had this semester and the enthusiasm and knowledge of the course material that she brought to the classroom really helped to hold my interest and succeed in the class.

Open discussions, interesting lectures

The online blog definitely helped my personal understanding of the subject matter as well as form my own thoughts and opinions on how to rectify certain issues. I also enjoyed learning from the videos and from guest lectures, as I'm one to get easily distracted when a curriculum becomes routine.

I learned a lot through the assigned weekly readings.

This is my sixth semester at Penn State, and she is the best instructor I have had here. Not only is she always upbeat and cheerful during class, she does a great job at explaining difficult concepts. On top of all of that, I can tell that she actually cares about her students beyond what they do in the classroom. She is what a professor should be -- invested in educating students.

Janelle makes the course all so much interesting by being very knowledgeable of the material, preparing the videos and readings ahead of time and really trying to connect them to the course material as well as "international comm," and leading the class with a lot of student interaction and engagement, which allows students to be prepared and interact as well during class. Janelle has a really upbeat and enthusiastic personality which makes the learning much more interesting and removes the invisible wall that often stands between teachers and students, while taking her lectures and teaching very seriously, enhancing the effectiveness of her teaching at the same time. In the beginning she starts class by asking what international and/or local news there are, which at first seemed like work because we have to watch or read the news, but now became something I get excited and wait for most because it willingly forces (at least) me to read the news and be aware of what is going on in the world and hear what other things are going on by hearing from what other people bring in and share in class. Janelle is always very willing and, in reality, is there for her students and try to work things out if there is an issue or even a little question. While she takes participation, assignments, deadlines etc very seriously, she is also linear because she highly encourages and tries to help students get a better grade by explaining materials and readings clearer and giving reasonable extra credits. In overall, you can tell that Janelle really cares for her students as well as love her teaching and takes it seriously. It was absolutely the best having her as my instructor and I am glad to have had Janelle help me be more aware of social issues that I was not as aware as before.

Janelle did. She creates a learning environment that I haven"t experienced at Penn State during my first 7 semesters. She does a great job of getting the entire classroom involved in very interesting and real world issues.

I learned well from the readings, even though they were a bit long. They stimulated my thinking and really opened my mind.

The class discussion is always so fulfilling and it really helps take away more info from the course when you can speak about it in discussion. The blog posts are a great idea, it always makes me feel really awesome when people comment on my post, it makes me feel like I did a good job.

I like the discussion format more than the lecture format. The open discussions about what is happening in the world as well as open communication with classmates helped me learn in this class.

What helped me learn most in this class were the class discussions. I really also appreciated the powerpoint presentations and the willingness of the instructor to answer any questions that I might have.

I appreciated that powerpoints were available on ANGEL prior to the classes that coming week, and that lectures were based upon the readings (which tended to be challenging) and broke them into understandable concepts. I also liked that we used real world examples and such to base our class material off of- which was beneficial when it came time to study and prep for exams.

The lectures were very good-- Janelle definitely was prepared and would explain the main points of the readings. That was awesome, because the readings could be tricky for me to understand, but were much clearer after I went to lecture. Janelle always answers questions, too. Whether that is in class, over email, or at office hours, she'll always take the time to address your needs.

Janelle has made the class a very open and comfortable environment to discuss whatever it is we want to discuss about. She makes us feel comfortable and encourages us to act like an adult, say what we want to say and be an engaged citizen. She sets her authority as a professor but at the same time makes us feel like her friend which make the class much more enjoyable. I actually enjoy going to this class and discussing. Her presentations are always clear and professional. The readings are tough, but that"s just a personal thing because I don"t really like reading, but we discuss the readings in class which is really helpful in understanding the material. Overall, she"s awesome. I haven"t had many professors where I can say that.

Videos and class discussions

I thought that the presentations were very helpful and I liked the amount of discussion that was available.

lectures slide for each week"s reading were really helpful in terms of preparing for the exams because they summarized main points as well as small important details the instructor also brought some guest lecturers who are expert in their own fields, which I think brought new experiences to the class and helped me to be more interested in the issues discusses

The PowerPoint"s she posted helped a lot to reiterate the points in the really and enhanced my comprehension of the readings.

I think it was interesting to see the role the United States has played in the political and economic landscape on a global level. Class discussions were interesting

The provided readings stimulated new ideas challenging existing concepts.

I really enjoyed how Janelle related all of these broad topics to current topics that I was familiar with. She pushed us to broaden our prospective past the United States and really jump into the dialogue about what was going on in the world. Every day she would ask us what going on in the news and assigned us all countries to report on. I think that making us experts on one region of the world allowed me to understand and appreciate the topics presented in class.

The readings were very helpful in guiding my learning in this class. They always coincided well with the given material and although some of them were dry, they helped me understand communications in a global context much more effectively. Additionally, doing the discussion board posts was really helpful because it made me have to really think about how I was interpreting each of the readings. I also really enjoyed reading my classmate"s responses to my posts because it helped me realize how my words were interpreted in their minds.

The professor"s power points and class discussions.

The laid back class environment

Janelle allows everything to be open to discussion within the classroom and also in her office hours. She provides students with more than enough time to master material if they so choose to take it. The classroom is a discussion based atmosphere about the lecture, so any questions that you may have are welcomed and answered. Janelle also allows any student to come and meet her in office hours to discuss anything they may have trouble with, are concerned with, or to review material. The class is a perfect mix of lecture, discussion, examples, and videos to really allow the students to conquer the course material.

I found it helpful that we reviewed the weekly readings in class during our lectures and went into more detail about them. It helped me think more critically about the topic and talk about them in our weekly discussion posts. I also liked the videos that were shown throughout the semester. They were a good addition to helping us understand the topics discussed in class.

very interesting class and our in class discussions definitely helped me learn more.

### **Open 2** What changes would improve your learning?

2/0

Change the exams completely. They are structured in a way that favor memorizing as opposed to actually learning. The subject matter is extremely basic and very boring, I'd suggest more application than memorization, add some controversy, argue, stir the pot in other words. It's all very safe and definitely not stimulating

This isn"t a change, as much as I would continue to encourage future instructors to relate course material to current events. This instructor knows her audience and that"s what made this class so interesting.

I think the only change I would suggest is shortened or less readings each week so that it was easier to focus on the core concepts and to not be overwhelmed by new material all at once. Additionally, shortened readings would provide us with the opportunity for more opinion and discussion in our weekly posts rather than summary.

#### None

I feel like some of the readings were really confusing or redundant, so maybe just change around a few of them.

Maybe changing the way the weekly responses are structured... like possibly having the one main discussion board post due on Wednesday and then instead of a response post on Friday some different kind of activity that has to do with the readings.

none, Janelle was a great!

Make powerpoints clearer by "dumbing it down." Sometimes the vocabulary & really long sentences are hard to comprehend.

I think that if we reviewed more in depth about what we learned in class before exams it would help a lot, specifically in making sure we know what exactly it is that we need to know so that I don"t study things that wont be in the exam. Also, I understand that readings are important but if the readings were shorter and what was assigned was the important part of the article, that would help a lot, personally.

I thought the class was really straightforward. With a 400 level class I think that it is acceptable to have the students do a lot of the reading on their own and have them dissect it without really going over it in class. I thought this class had a nice mixture. I felt like if I did the readings I would get a good grade and so far that has held true. I know some students were disappointed with the exam scores, but I thought the exams were very fair and easy to understand.

## N/A

This semester the major global issue was related to my country, which was North Korea problems, and I realized that non-Koreans think this issue very seriously than Korea do. Also, at some point I was shame about dishonored issues.

The instructor should teach and not force her opinions on the class.

Many times the pace of the powerpoints in the class was too fast. I also felt that the exams did not accurately reflect what we learned in the class, they stressed more little details about the reading that I didn't memorize.

I think we watched one too many movies in this class. I also do not think that the response posts were really necessary.

She assigned a lot of longs readings. Sometimes there was a lot of concepts to understand that I got confused.

More videos, less slides

study guides for the exam

There were times where I thought the presentations were incredibly rushed, though they definitely weren"t confusing. However, since much of the exam material came from the powerpoints, I think it might have been personally easier to remember the content if we went over it extensively in class as well. Other than that, this was one of my most rewarding courses.

A few more group activities in class, those are always fun and easy to learn from.

No Friday class, but I know that isn"t possible! Besides that, I cannot think of anything. I really enjoyed this course.

The instructor could have provided more specific guidance in regards to the final paper.

I don't think multiple choice exams for this course were necessary... the research paper in the end was enough as well as the weekly writings

Maybe tell us beforehand the main points to look for in each article.

Some of the readings were very long and I would not read through all of it because I could write my posts on the first few pages.

No changes that I can think of to improve my learning.

There's so much material involved it's difficult to know what's going to be on the exam and what to study for. A study guide would be really helpful, but apparently the average grades we've been getting on the exams is right where she wants them so maybe it's better off that study guides aren't given.

#### N/A

Janelle seemed to switch between trying to be our best friend/ possible drinking buddy and a strict professor angry that we weren"t participating more. It was often hard to read her and I was often nervous to confront her. Maybe being a little more neutral and professional in class would solve these issues. (i.e-if you say you won"t curse don"t)

some of the readings were extremely repetitive and boring.

I wish we didn"t watch as many movies in this class because some of them were a little excessive in terms of really driving the course material home.

The only changes I might have added would be maybe a list of terms or like a study guide of some sort. I am just really ADD and I like to have a list of terms I""m learning in front of me. However, she does verbally give a list before exams and I""ve been lucky enough to be there and I guess thats a good thing. Sucks for the people who didn""t show up! Janelle is great and I have recommended her to a lot of my friends who are taking comm 410 next semester!

There aren"t any specific changes to improve the learning experience because everything is covered in class. There are classroom interactions, web interations and there are articles and documentaries that enhances the experience. One thing that I would like to see is more analysis of other cultures instead of using the United States as the basis for the majority of the topics.

The readings were hard for me, but that s more of a personal thing. Overall, Janelle was a great instructor. I would definitely take another class with her if I could!

I would have longer exams because 25 questions doesn't leave a lot of room for error. I also would have exams being based more off of common themes rather than specific points of readings.

More papers (increase from 1 per semester to 4 per semester for example) even if shorter in length would help reinforce concepts and draw connections between related concepts. This gives the students more critical-learning milestone moments throughout the semester.

I've been sitting here for over ten minutes, but I really can"t think of anything! I absolutely love the way Janelle teaches her class, because she is fun, intelligent, and encouraging. She is very reasonable in her grading because if you participate and do what you"re supposed to do, there is no way you will do bad in this class.

There is nothing significant that I would change. The material is very difficult and there is a lot of it but it is very well taught