

Critical Review

Brown University's Undergraduate Academic Guide

Edition: 2010 Fall [Printable Version](#)

Freedom

Course Code: [POLS0820D-1 \(Mocha\)](#)
Instructor(s): [English, William \(Mocha\)](#)
Department: [Political Science](#)
Format: Seminar
CRN: 15449

Frosh: 21 **Soph:** 1 **Jun:** 0
Sen: 0 **Grad:** 0 **Total:** 22
Concs: 2 **Undecided:** 6
Non-concs: 10 **Respondents:** 18

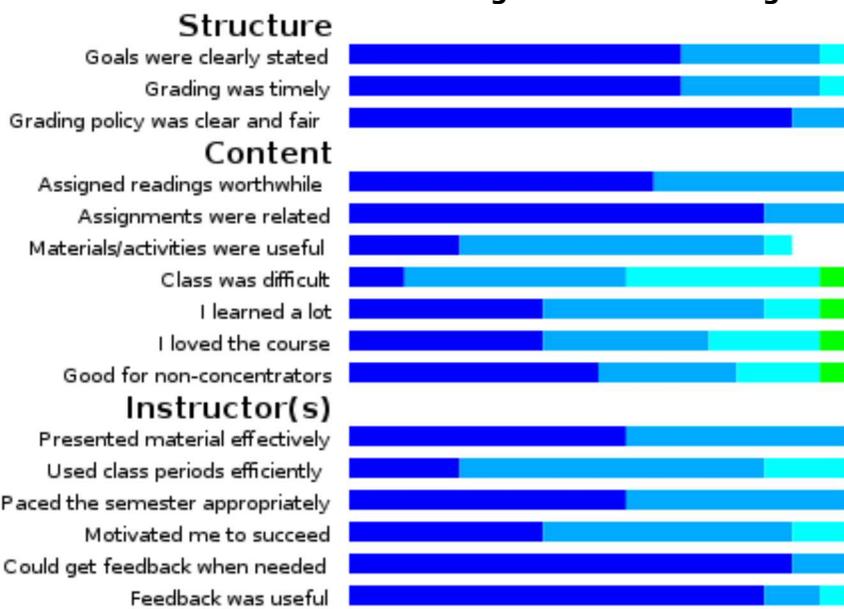
[POLS0820D](#), "Freedom," is a first-year seminar dedicated to understanding the concept of freedom in political and philosophical contexts and comparing classic and contemporary theories of freedom, justice, and equity. There were no official prerequisites for the course, but students found basic writing and debate skills and knowledge of current events to be useful.

Students praised Professor English for his knowledge of his subject and his encouragement of debate, which allowed for discussion of all opinions and an opportunity to understand everyone's perspective. The professor was very effective at leading discussion, but some students noted that discussion was sometimes dominated by a few students and wished that he had encouraged others to participate more. Others said that more time should be devoted to instruction, especially concerning some of the denser readings. All students, however, appreciated his prompt and useful feedback.

The readings were seen as instructive and worthwhile, but the load was fairly heavy, usually amounting to around 150 pages per week. They presented many different perspectives of each topic, which students found to be interesting and thought-provoking, although some students suggested short quizzes on the readings to help guide focus and to serve as a motivator for reading. In addition to reading, the workload consisted of one five-page paper, one 8-10 page paper, a 15 minute in-class presentation, and participation. This was generally found to be manageable, although some students noted that it was difficult to keep up with all of the reading.

The time commitment for the class was around four hours per week, but could double when the papers were due. Ultimately students highly recommended the class, describing it as "amazing" and "mind-boggling," and noting that it was equally about politics as it was about philosophy. The only

Prof Avg: 1.52 **Course Avg:** 1.59



Key

1s indicate strong agreement. 4s indicate strong disagreement.
 Blues mean more agreement. Greens mean more disagreement.
 5s indicate a response of NA and is represented by blank space.

caution was that it is vital to keep up with the reading to do well in the course and worthwhile to get the most out of it.



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