

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD TEACHING EVALUATIONS

Ronald E. Osborn

Since 2013, I have taught 311 students as the instructor of record at four institutions of higher learning (UCLA, USC, Wellesley College, and Chapman University) and received 259 student evaluations (83% response rate). The composite median, mean, and standard deviation scores below were calculated by averaging my scores for all classes taught at each institution. Complete scanned student evaluations are available on request.

Chapman University, 2017 Classes taught: 4 Evaluations received: 61	Median	Mean	Std. Dev.
Overall, the instructor was effective in this course	4.4	4.1	1

Scale: 5=Excellent, 1=Poor

Wellesley College, 2014-16 Classes taught: 4 Evaluations received: 48	Strongly Recommend	Recommend	Other
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	32 (67%)	9 (19%)	7 (14%)
Overall, how would you rate this course?	31 (64.6%)	11 (22.9%)	6 (12.5%)

University of California Los Angeles, 2014 Classes taught: 1 Evaluations received: 12	Median	Mean	Std. Dev.
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	9	8.75	0.62
Overall, how would you rate this course?	9	8.25	1.29

Scale: 10=Excellent, 1=Poor

University of Southern California, 2013-14 Classes taught: 7 Evaluations received: 138	Median	Mean	Std. Dev.
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	4.8	4.6	0.50
Overall, how would you rate this course?	4.6	4.4	0.80

Scale: 5=Excellent, 1=Poor

Model United Nations Chapman University, Spring 2017 Enrollment: 12 SEQ completion rate: 83%	Median	Mean	Std. Dev.
Overall, the instructor was effective in this course	4.5	4.3	0.95
The instructor encouraged me to think critically about the subject matter	5	4.5	0.85
The instructor communicated effectively	5	4.3	0.95

Scale: 5=Excellent, 1=Poor

Representative Qualitative Evaluations

“Professor Osborn is a rare blend of academic knowledge, first-hand experience, a relatable and charismatic teacher. Few teachers at Chapman have left the impact that Professor Osborn has on me. He pushed and challenged me every class, getting deep into issues I care about... Teachers like Professor Osborn are the reason why I came to Chapman and are the main reason why I am sad to graduate.”

“One of the best professors I have ever had at Chapman. He is attentive to students’ needs, cares more than most professors and is extremely knowledgeable about international relations. He is extremely experienced and brings such rich insight into each lecture. Osborn is truly an asset to Chapman.”

“Dr. Osborn brought all of his international experience into his lectures and I think it was a really beneficial part of the course. Our experience in New York was new to all of us but in-class simulations and connecting with Santiago Canyon College to practice was really helpful. Dr Osborn used all of his resources to make the class pre-trip as comprehensive as possible for us because we did not have any experience. After the trip we had Socratic seminars in class about the reading material that was really rich.”

“What were the most effective aspects of this course in promoting student learning? The trip to New York and Professor Osborn’s impressive personal experience in numerous flash points of the world that the United Nations has been involved in. This class is so important and an amazing opportunity that should never be taken away from students again.”

“The professor provided multiple assignments to prepare us for the Model UN conference and to think critically about our experience at the conference and the role of the United Nations in international relations.”

“GREAT CLASS! Really gave my degree the international perspective I have been looking for more so than any other class I have taken at Chapman so far.”

Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies Wellesley College, Spring 2016 Enrollment: 24 SEQ completion rate: 100%	Strongly Recommend	Recommend	Other
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	18 (75%)	4 (17%)	2 (8%)
Overall, how would you rate this course?	14 (58%)	7 (29%)	3 (13%)

Representative Qualitative Evaluations

“I loved this professor. Honestly speaking, he was the best professor I’ve had so far at Wellesley. He is kind, friendly, easy to talk to, so smart and knowledgeable about peace and justice, and very helpful. I feel like I could go to this professor with any questions about the course and know that I would get a solid answer. Very helpful in office hours, very clear about expectations in terms of readings, class participation, attendance, writing assignments. Recently, he has been very helpful in writing the final paper. He is passionate about this subject matter and that shows through. His enthusiasm makes me passionate about Peace and Justice Studies in the world and at Wellesley. He is organized, which really helps me excel in a class, and I just had a great time learning from him and being introduced to this major through his teaching.”

“I would absolutely recommend Professor Osborn to other students. I am very sad to see him leave Wellesley after this semester. ...At times he was uncomfortably honest, and he did his best to challenge us as thinkers. He encouraged us to not shy away from difficult questions and harsh realities. I feel very fortunate to have had him as a professor.”

“He was my favorite professor this semester. His lectures were always interesting, clear, and insightful. It was fascinating to hear his personal connections to the pieces we read and his stories about peace and justice work in other countries.”

“He is attentive, patient, non-judgmental, constructive, and encouraging. The way he taught this class was able to engage every single one of his students. He knew what to say, when to say it, and when to be silent...I would highly recommend this class to someone who is interested in social justice.”

“I would definitely recommend Professor Osborn! I (and I know other people share my sentiment) wish he was teaching again at Wellesley so other students could experience having him as a teacher, because he was amazing! He deeply cared about the class and thought about ways in which he could improve constantly...He always tried to provide us with both sides of a case so we’d be able to make our own decisions and facilitated class discussion well, asking questions that were provoking and unbiased! Professor Osborn brought his own relevant experiences into our class, which were really interesting and pertinent!”

“Wonderful professor—eloquent, intelligent, invested in his students, and engaging. I was very sorry to learn he would not be returning next year. I’m a first year, and I thought it was ironic and disappointing that the best professor I’ve had at Wellesley was only a visiting professor.”

Grounding Human Rights Wellesley College, Fall 2015 Enrollment: 7 SEQ completion rate: 100%	Strongly Recommend	Recommend	Other
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	6 (86%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)
Overall, how would you rate this course?	6 (86%)	0 (0%)	1 (14%)

Representative Qualitative Evaluations

“I cannot recommend Prof. Osborn highly enough. I found Prof. Osborn to be attentive to students, and encouraged an active class discussion that was centered around the questions students wanted to have answered. For the size and nature of our class, this loose structure worked really well. I looked forward to this class every week. Prof. Osborn was always available for questions in office hours, and often extended time to talk about essay topics and brainstorming. I found this very helpful for a couple of my papers. I also appreciated that I never felt as if comments by Prof. Osborn were fluff, but instead pushed back against student comments, forcing us to constantly re-examine our assumptions and interpretations of the readings. I found that this pushed me to spend a significant amount of time on the readings, so as to really be able to constructively contribute to class discussions, challenge myself, and back up my assertions. I think these kinds of professors, who challenge students to challenge themselves, especially as seniors, are rare.”

“Very accessible, and interested in getting to know us, which I really appreciated. To get papers back, we had to meet with him. I was scared of this, to be honest, but he is very respectful in giving us feedback (I'd like a little more on content, in addition to actual writing) and always made an effort to talk to us about other things going on in our lives.”

“The best feature of the course was the focus on books rather than smaller readings. I really appreciated being able to finish several books, and get a better understanding for the each of the four authors. I think that often with smaller readings, the discussion gets diluted. One of the strengths of the class was how centered it was on discussion, so I never felt as if it was just summarizing the readings. I did appreciate the required notes, they created accountability with the reading, and allowed me to process the material before I came to class, so that I always felt like I had questions or things I wanted to specifically talk about in class. I loved the questions posed by this class (specifically where do human rights come from?), and the challenges to human rights assumptions. I also enjoyed having readings that offered complete opposite perspectives as a way of challenging my own perspective. I strongly believe this course should be a requirement for all Peace and Justice majors. Although this course ended up being much more philosophy orientated, some of the perspectives discussed ought shape our framework for constructive peace building, and are important for P and J majors to understand.”

“This course definitely made me step out of my comfort zone. The material challenged and made me question my beliefs in new ways and I came [away] with more questions than I thought I had.”

Honors Core: Literature and the Political Order University of California Los Angeles, Spring 2014 Enrollment: 18 SEQ completion rate: 67%	Median	Mean	Std. Dev.
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	9	8.75	0.62
Overall, how would you rate this course?	9	8.25	1.29
The instructor was concerned about student learning	9	8.92	0.29
Class presentations were well prepared and organized	8	7.5	1.45
Students felt welcome seeking help in or outside of class	9	8.42	1.0
The instructor had good communication skills	9	8.42	1.24
You have learned something you consider valuable	9	8.83	0.39

Scale: 10=Excellent, 1=Poor

Representative Qualitative Evaluations

“Such a fantastic course, ended up functioning as a real capstone to my time at UCLA. Insanely packed syllabus, but don’t regret a moment of reading required for this course. Class discussions were exciting...Thank you Ron for putting together such a great course. I would implore UCLA to continue offering courses under your instruction!”

“Professor Osborn was a great professor. He led very engaging discussions during class and was very concerned with student learning. The books we read were great choices, but the reading load was a bit heavy. This class was really challenging, in a good way.”

“This was one the most enjoyable courses this quarter. A course that is structured entirely around free class discussions are very rare, and it was very fun, educational, and I developed confidence, analytical thoughtfulness, and got to practice backing up arguments with texts on the spot. The instructor did a good job facilitating discussions, never intruding too much into the ongoing conversation but interjecting when there are pauses or breaks in the flow, to effectively move the pace along. He always came prepared with discussion questions for us to consider, even if we rarely used them at the end of the year when the students started getting more confident in initiating their own discussion topics. Paper assignments were light but insightful in feedback, which I appreciated a lot. He did his best to stay neutral throughout the quarter. I really hope more classes with this structure will be offered next year, especially because students from all kinds of majors were able to participate actively.”

“I enjoyed the discussions immensely and learned a lot from my peers and the instructor...I looked forward to participating in discussion and coming to class every week.”

Religion and Violence University of Southern California, Spring 2014 Enrollment: 34 SEQ completion rate: 85%	Median	Mean	Std. Dev.
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	5	4.62	0.68
Overall, how would you rate this course?	4	4.17	0.89
Clearly articulated course goals	5	4.41	0.73
Organized course to achieve those goals	5	4.5	0.69
Carefully explained difficult concepts and subject matter	5	4.36	0.87
Encouraged students to participate in their learning	5	4.48	0.69
Was accessible to students	5	4.55	0.63
Evaluated student work in fair and appropriate ways	4	4.17	0.85
Was enthusiastic about communicating the subject matter	5	4.62	0.68
Stimulated student interest in the subject matter	5	4.38	0.86
Taught in ways that were intellectually challenging	5	4.66	0.77
Provided students with a valuable learning experience	5	4.45	0.83

Scale: 5=Excellent, 1=Poor

Qualitative Evaluations

“My most valuable learning experience in my time as an IR student. Cannot thank you enough for that. Thanks for always making class an enjoyable experience, by either encouraging us to debate and discuss amongst ourselves, or just injecting the classic Osborn humor.”

“He’s one of the most thoughtful and reflective individuals I’ve met. I took this class because I was hoping to find out more about various kinds of religion, and while it wasn't exactly like that, I still can say I learned a lot about the underpinnings of religious thought and perception...it was really great to see a professor invested in his students.”

“He wants his students to think deeply and develop a critical mind—not just memorize facts.”

“Never let any sort of his bias seep into the lecture. Discussed religion/religious violence without making it clear where he stood, which is a sign of good objective education. Felt as if he truly cared about my development as a student and academic. Gives a feedback on my work that I haven’t seen from any professor at USC before. I appreciate it so much. Can go on and on.”

Theories of War University of Southern California, Spring 2014 Enrollment: 17 SEQ completion rate: 94%	Median	Mean	Std. Dev.
Overall, how would you rate this instructor?	5	4.63	0.50
Overall, how would you rate this course?	4.5	4.38	0.72
Clearly articulated course goals	5	4.5	0.73
Organized course to achieve those goals	5	4.5	0.63
Carefully explained difficult concepts and subject matter	5	4.5	0.63
Encouraged students to participate in their learning	5	4.69	0.60
Was accessible to students	5	4.53	0.64
Evaluated student work in fair and appropriate ways	5	4.44	0.73
Was enthusiastic about communicating the subject matter	5	4.75	0.45
Stimulated student interest in the subject matter	5	4.75	0.45
Taught in ways that were intellectually challenging	5	4.75	0.45
Provided students with a valuable learning experience	5	4.75	0.45

Scale: 5=Excellent, 1=Poor

Representative Qualitative Evaluations

“I haven’t come across many professors with the similar caring demeanor, especially one from someone who is an adjunct.”

“Professor Osborn’s main strengths were his ability to challenge any opinion we have, whether he agreed with said opinion or not. He really helped us critically analyze our own views and either change our opinions or more solidly support what we already believe in.”

“The professor made an attempt to engage every student in the learning process.”

“Of course, we all need our veggies but he showed us how to season the filet. There was no forced feeling to do the work, which allows the student to learn on his/her own time and own style for that matter. I particularly enjoyed his lack of bias.”

“Thank you for making me have at least a little faith in the school system! Your class was exactly what I needed.”