



UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN

Winter 2019 report for POLSCI 514-001: Soc Sci Comput (Fabricio Vasselai)

Project Title: **Winter 2019 Teaching Evaluation**

Course Audience: **10**

Responses Received: **9**

Response Ratio: **90.0%**

Report Comments

This detailed report displays individual student ratings and comments from the Winter 2019 teaching evaluation of POLSCI 514-001: Soc Sci Comput.

Prepared by: **Office of the Registrar**
Creation Date: **Saturday, May 4, 2019**

Individual Response Sheets

Course Name: POLSCI 514-001: Soc Sci Comput

Instructor Name: Fabricio Vasselai

1. **This course advanced my understanding of the subject matter.(Q1631)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
2. **My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
3. **I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
4. **Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
5. **I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
6. **As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - ◊ Heavier
7. **Overall, Fabricio Vasselai was an excellent teacher.(Q2)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
8. **Fabricio Vasselai seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
9. **Fabricio Vasselai explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - ◊ Almost Always
10. **Fabricio Vasselai treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
11. **I gained a good understanding of concepts/principles in this field. (Q121)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
12. **I learned to identify main points and central issues in this field. (Q123)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
13. **I developed ability to carry out original research in this area. (Q128)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
14. **I developed an ability to evaluate new work in this field. (Q129)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
15. **Writing assignments were interesting and stimulating. (Q319)**
 - ◊ N/A
16. **Reading assignments seemed carefully chosen. (Q326)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
17. **Students felt comfortable asking questions. (Q892)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
18. **Fabricio Vasselai stressed important points in lectures/discussions. (Q203)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
19. **Fabricio Vasselai acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
20. **Fabricio Vasselai was willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q219)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree

21. My expected grade in this course is... (Q896)

- A

22. Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

- Fabricio did an excellent job planning the order of instruction in this course, especially when coordinating with the content of our other methods courses. I especially appreciate the feedback that was given about the structure of last semester's course (including homework assignments, lecture content, etc) was clearly implemented in this semester's course. Every assignment felt intentional, and the learning objectives were clear from the start of the semester. I'm leaving this class feeling confident in my ability to 1) implement every topic that he touched on this semester and 2) find the resources to teach myself more sophisticated methods that build on the foundation he gave us.

Additionally, Fabricio continued to be extremely accessible for student questions either via Piazza or in office hours. His lecture notes and code have proven to be useful for other courses already (and I have no doubt that they will continue to serve as a resource for semesters to come). Furthermore, he gave clear feedback on homework assignments, both before we turned them in and after they were graded. This was so helpful, because it allowed me to understand where I could improve as a coder and as a researcher.

I really want to highlight how much I appreciate Fabricio as an instructor, and how much I appreciate that he continued to teach 514 for the second iteration. I was originally planning to not continue in the second semester of 514, as this semester's schedule is already intense. When I learned that Fabricio was the instructor, however, I prioritized that class—he is that incredible at his job. I have no doubt that had I not taken this course, this semester would have been too overwhelming. He gave us the tools that we need to succeed not only in our courses, but in our research as well, and I'm very thankful that he taught both of these courses. He is a very clear resource to this department and to his students.

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 - Agree
- 2. My interest in the subject has increased because of this course.(Q1632)**
 - Agree
- 3. I knew what was expected of me in this course.(Q1633)**
 - Frequently
- 4. Overall, this was an excellent course.(Q1)**
 - Neutral
- 5. I had a strong desire to take this course.(Q4)**
 - Disagree
- 6. As compared with other courses of equal credit, the workload for this course was...(Q891)**
 - Heavier
- 7. Overall, Fabricio Vasselai was an excellent teacher.(Q2)**
 - Agree
- 8. Fabricio Vasselai seemed well prepared for class meetings.(Q230)**
 - N/A
- 9. Fabricio Vasselai explained material clearly.(Q199)**
 - N/A
- 10. Fabricio Vasselai treated students with respect.(Q217)**
 - Neutral
- 11. I gained a good understanding of concepts/principles in this field. (Q121)**
 - Agree
- 12. I learned to identify main points and central issues in this field. (Q123)**
 - N/A

13. **I developed ability to carry out original research in this area. (Q128)**
 - ◊ Agree
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19. **Fabricio Vasselai acknowledged all questions insofar as possible. (Q216)**
 - ◊ Agree
20. **Fabricio Vasselai was willing to meet and help students outside class. (Q219)**
 - ◊ Strongly Agree
21. **My expected grade in this course is... (Q896)**
 - ◊ N/A

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 21. **My expected grade in this course is... (Q896)**
 - ◊ A
 22. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Fabricio is an excellent instructor, especially for this class. He chose interesting topics for each lecture that were at an appropriate level for the group. He made sure to explain background concepts before diving into the code. He is extremely knowledgeable about computing, gives us coding tips that only an experienced programmer could know, and always answers questions accurately and clearly. He also did an excellent job incorporating our feedback from last semester; this semester the lectures were much better organized. My only complaint is that the workload for this class was too high; in particular having to do student lecture code AND the final project at the end of the semester when everyone (including Fabricio) was super busy was too much. That being said, this is the one of the few classes I've taken for which I can say that I actually enjoy the homework assignments! They are stimulating, not too hard or easy, and very helpful for solidifying the concepts from lecture. This class has greatly increased my confidence in my programming abilities and given me lots of new ideas for my research.

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22. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Fabricio is an exceptional GSI. The highest compliment that I can give him is that he listened and learned, and this course substantially improved on the version he taught in the fall. He listened to our critiques and made improvements, authoring a clear syllabus, assigning short readings to give us background and tailoring the topics we covered to be the most useful for new graduate students in the social sciences. This was probably the most useful class I took this year. Not always the most interesting or "fun", but unmatched in terms of offering concrete and applicable skills that are already enriching and expanding the research horizons I'm setting for myself. I hope Fabricio continues to have an opportunity to teach and interact with younger phd candidates. He is warm and generous with his time, and strikes the difficult balance between leniency and keeping the class running in the right direction. I learned a lot in this class, and am glad I had the opportunity to take it with him.

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 - ◊ N/A
 21. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Fabricio is a great teacher. He prepares very detail commented codes for every lecture and always willing to help students inside and outside class.

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 22. **Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)**
 - ◊ Given the time constraint, Fabricio did a wonderful job in covering a variety of topics related to R programming and empirical analysis. He not only explained core concepts clearly and concisely, but he also provided extra readings and self-written codes which students could leverage from and engage in in-depth learning. I sincerely appreciate his endeavor in the teaching.

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22. Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. (Q900)

- A fourth year student in the department was lamenting about how he had to spend the next few months cleaning data and whether it would be worth it to even do it at all. I looked at his data, as a first year, and thought 'that's only a long weekend of data cleaning at worst'. This is largely because of the skills I learned in this class. I feel very lucky to have taken it while Fabricio was teaching the course. He cares about our learning and puts a lot of effort into his lessons. I've always really enjoyed and learned a lot from his office hours as well, where he's even answered my questions related to projects outside of the class. After taking this course, I feel like I have a lot of essential skills and foundational knowledge, and know where to start if I want advanced training in any particular aspect of R coding. He definitely took our input from last semester about having a more descriptive syllabus and due dates, because this semester I never had to wonder about how many homeworks I had, when they were due, or what was expected of me. Fabricio is a great instructor, I literally would not have taken the second semester of this course if he wasn't teaching it.

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- ◊ Fabricio is a terrific instructor! He's always willing to help, and you can tell he genuinely cares. The homework assignments were very challenging, but I felt accomplished after figuring them out. The student lecture code was a creative and worthwhile assignment, and I enjoyed it the most out of all the class assignments.

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