

Columbia University: Arts & Sciences

A&S Fall 2020 Standard Evaluation

Course: POLSGU4461_001_2020_3-LATINAMERICANPOLITICS: POLSGU4461_001_2020_3 - LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Instructor: Maria Murillo

TA: Carolina Bernal Uribe, Julian Gerez * , Oscar Pocasangre Meneses

Response Rate: 30/49 (61.22 %)

1 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of Julian Gerez (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader) as an instructor, and how might Julian Gerez's teaching be improved?

Response Rate 9/49 (18.37%)

- Really effective at engaging students in discussion, approachable in office hours and through email, considerate of students opinions while helpfully guiding us towards important material needed for testing.
- Julian also comes prepared and is willing to go above and beyond for his section and participants. He often supplements the readings and classroom lectures with additional information. He also genuinely enjoys exploring questions and new topics.
- Julian is an outstanding instructor! He is so organized, knowledgeable and engaged. Zoom teaching is hard even for the best instructors, and I think Julian amazed all of us. He is such a natural in front of people and motivated people to speak in his section more than I experienced in any of my other classes this semester. Julian also made a huge effort to support all of us students in any academic or personal matters that may have come up. I struggled with mental health challenges this semester that sadly impacted my academics, and I was awed by Julian's empathy and support of me as a person and his ability to accommodate but still challenge me as a student. I am so grateful for Julian's encouragement and guidance with regard to my future research endeavors and have felt so inspired by his. Julian is an instructor that I truly hope to stay in touch with, and, as Professor Murillo knows, I have felt so lucky all semester to have ended up in Julian's discussion section.
- Julian was always willing to answer questions and help out with any confusion. He was willing to work with my schedule many times and his help made me feel better equipped to study for exams and helped me bring up my grade. He's a great teacher!
- Julian is a great TA. He tried to diversify his teaching style depending on the sections : sometimes more lecture- style after exams knowing some students might not have had the time to read the new readings, sometimes more discussion based. It was also great when he used his tablet, so we could break down the theories and arguments of the readings. He is also really available to answer the students' questions. Julian also tried to include everyone in the discussion and payed attention for example to the "speaking time" of the students to make sure that everyone had a chance to express himself/herself during the class.
- Julian was a great TA, always available to help us out and to clarify confusing points. I loved his recitations and I think he will make an amazing professor one day!
- Julian Gerez was an amazing TA. He answered emails quickly and was very helpful in answering questions about the course. His feedback when he returned grades was particularly detailed and useful for the completion of future assignments. His role as a discussion section leader was also particularly remarkable, and he provided comprehensive ways of understanding more complicated topics and readings of the class, an invaluable skill. His explanations truly made my experience of the course much more enjoyable, and his cheerful, engaging and reassuring personality made participating in discussion much less daunting.
- Julian was an awesome TA!!! He is super nice and really smart! He was great at facilitating discussion and making people's perspectives feel appreciated. He is also very good at breaking down big concepts and readings for us.
- As I previously mentioned in the TA evaluation, Julian is a standout TA. He's always available for questions both during discussion and outside of it, quick to respond to emails, and concise in his advice. During discussion, it felt like he was genuinely wanting to get to know his students, often encouraging our own extrapolations and interests within the course. He was skilled enough to incorporate his own background in qualitative analysis into the course, showing us how certain data charts or tables should be read, and informing us of the various sides of the field of political science. I would highly recommend Julian as anyone's TA.

2 - What is the overall teaching effectiveness of Julian Gerez in the current modality?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Excellent	(5)	13	92.86%			4.93	
Very Good	(4)	1	7.14%				
Good	(3)	0	0.00%				
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%				
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%				
				0 25 50 100	Question		
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median	
14/49 (28.57%)				4.93	0.27	5.00	

Columbia University: Arts & Sciences
A&S Fall 2020 Standard Evaluation

Course: POLSGU4466_005_2020_3-LATINAMERPOLITICS-DISC: POLSGU4466_005_2020_3 - LATIN AMER POLITICS-DISC

Instructor: Julian Gerez *

Response Rate: 7/13 (53.85 %)

1 - How did you experience the class this semester? Check off as many as apply: The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses
In-person	(1)	0	0.00%	
Live online	(2)	7	100.00%	██████████
Recorded	(3)	1	14.29%	█
Response Rate	7/13 (53.85%)			

2 - What did you learn - in terms of knowledge, skills, or perspectives - in this course? The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Rate	6/13 (46.15%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed important topics in Latin American Politics, learned how to interpret different readings and studies. • We went more in depth with the material covered in lecture and had a chance to discuss the readings assigned and different perspectives on it during class. • I learned about Latin American politics : the breakdown of democracies and dictatorships, the Democratic transition, the turn to the left with Chavez, Morales etc, about populism, about inequalities and corruption, about gender, LGBTQ and ethnic/racial issues in the region etc. • I learned a lot about Latin American politics spanning an entire century, but I also learned really great skills in Julian's section for how to dissect political science literature, and social science literature in general. • I came into this course to get a general understanding of the political history of Latin America. Throughout the course, we'd focus on various countries as we moved chronologically throughout their histories. Having finished the course, I can say that I've learned more about political ideologies and trends both in and out of Latin America, as well as the U.S.' role as a colonizing force in the region. • I learned a lot about Latin America that I certainly did not know beforehand. I really really really enjoyed this class. I also appreciated its emphasis on democracy 	

3 - What percentage of the work (including reading) assigned for this course did you complete on schedule?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
All or almost all	(1)	4	57.14%	██████████	
Most	(2)	2	28.57%	██	
Some	(3)	0	0.00%		
This question is not applicable	(4)	1	14.29%	█	
0 25 50 100					
Response Rate					
7/13 (53.85%)					

4 - What is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths? In what ways might it be improved? In answering this question, you might address the value of readings and assignments, the structure of the course (including the relationship of sections to lectures), the contribution of the course to your knowledge of the subject matter and to the development of your analytical and reasoning skills, etc. We encourage you to use specific examples where possible.

Response Rate	6/13 (46.15%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really great course, would recommend if you're interested in comparative politics and have an interest in latin america as well as current events. Provided a really comprehensive look, explained most of the history as well. • The sections were very complimentary as they did not repeat the content of lectures but rather supplemented it with additional information and more thorough discussion. • Regarding the class in general : The class was really good. I like the structure of the class and the different units. I liked also how the class was composed of lecture, discussion, watching videos or discussing graphs or tables. I also feel that it was good to have an evaluation per unit rather than a midterm and final. I feel that thanks to this partition and the review sessions I assimilated way better the content than when it is the traditional midterm and final structure. The readings were also really interesting and I enjoyed that we had readings more about theories and that we had also news articles and videos, tying these theories to present issues when we moved to the more contemporary part of the class. I liked also that we had to read a fiction book in the first class or that we could watch a movie. I think if possible, it could be great to add a list of recommendations of other books or movies linked to the class Regarding the discussion section: We covered all the main points of the readings. We sometimes also had times to broaden the discussion which was great, as for instance in the two last classes we talked about how to measure corruption, how to fight against corruption or crime etc. • Discussion based classes can be really hard over Zoom, but this discussion section was engaging and exciting! I think time spent connection readings to lectures and breaking down the readings visually (with note charts, etc.) was really helpful. The discussion sections both clarified the material from lectures and prepared me well for exams. The informal tone of discussions I think really allowed students to think about the material more deeply. • This is one of those courses that I think really benefitted from the fact that it was taught on Zoom. Being able to come to lecture having done the readings and explore the theories I'd been learning about was really important, but the ability to return to said lectures after class via Zoom recordings was even more crucial. The professor was much better than other lecturers I've had in terms of staying on topic, being engaging (both academically and as a person), and being kind to her students. The TAs were always available for any questions and really did a lot to showcase their own individual talents throughout the course. The readings for the course were as I expected; the textbook readings were obviously longer, but emailing the TAs and discussing ways to read through efficiently did wonders. I'll also say that the textbook did a great job on catching me up on the history of various countries, and the non-textbook readings often showcased political theory in a digestible way. While the readings could be a lot at times, I believe they were all definitely manageable and you'll cover them so much in lecture and discussion that you shouldn't have trouble understanding them. Sections were once a week and just provided a quick overview of the readings and their keypoints, and allowed room for questions. • I loved this class! The lectures were always really interesting and professor and the TAs are all so kind and helpful! The only improvement I would suggest would be for there to be more review of previous modules as we go along. Something as small as "in last class we talked about..." would be really helpful to jog my memory since we do talk about a lot of different topics and a lot of different countries. 	

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Course: POLSGU4466_005_2020_3-LATINAMERPOLITICS-DISC: POLSGU4466_005_2020_3 - LATIN AMER POLITICS-DISC
Instructor: Julian Gerez *
Response Rate: 7/13 (53.85 %)

5 - What is your overall assessment of the course in the current modality?The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Excellent	(5)	5	71.43%		4.71
Very Good	(4)	2	28.57%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate			Mean	STD	Median
7/13 (53.85%)			4.71	0.49	5.00

6 - Would you recommend this course in its current modality to another student?The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Definitely recommend	(1)	7	100.00%		
Probably recommend	(2)	0	0.00%		
I'm not sure I'd recommend	(3)	0	0.00%		
Probably not recommend	(4)	0	0.00%		
Definitely not recommend	(5)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	
Response Rate			Response Rate		
7/13 (53.85%)			7/13 (53.85%)		

7 - Please qualify your recommendations if you wish.The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Rate	1/13 (7.69%)
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• Julian was a great TA, always available to answer questions. He conducted really well the sections, making sure we had understood all the main arguments and theories of the readings, while at the same time ensuring that everyone had a chance to express himself/herself during the class.

8 - How does the workload in this course compare to Columbia courses with a similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar, laboratory, or language course)?The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Much heavier workload	(1)	0	0.00%		
Heavier workload	(2)	1	14.29%		
Similar workload	(3)	6	85.71%		
Lighter workload	(4)	0	0.00%		
Much lighter workload	(5)	0	0.00%		
No basis for comparison	(6)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	
Response Rate			Response Rate		
7/13 (53.85%)			7/13 (53.85%)		

9 - How many hours a week did you devote to this course? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including managing the technology of online instruction, class time, discussion sections, readings, assignments, studying, etc.)The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Rate	5/13 (38.46%)
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• 4 for class, maybe like 2 or 3 for readings
 • 2-3 hours
 • 3 hours in class + 1 in discussion section + 8 hours for the readings, videos etc + reviewing notes and studying 1 full day or 2 before an exam.
 • 9
 • 2 1/2 hours of class, probably 2-3 hours of reading depending on the week (and assuming moderate to good efficiency), with assignments scattered throughout the semester

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Instructor: Julian Gerez *

Response Rate: 7/13 (53.85 %)

10 - Please evaluate Julian Gerez. What are Julian Gerez's strengths? In what ways might their teaching be improved? In answering this question, you might address the clarity of the lectures or presentations and their relationship to the other elements of the course, the ability of Julian Gerez to generate enthusiasm and facilitate discussion, the quality of feedback, availability, the timeliness of the return assignment, etc. -

Response Rate	6/13 (46.15%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great TA, really helpful and nice, explains things well while still being attentive and considerate of our own opinions. He makes discussions as interesting as possible given the online format, and is really approachable during office hours and through email. • Julian is an amazing TA, this is the second time that he was my TA and he was honestly one of the best I've had at Columbia. He really cares about his students and is very good at underscoring the important parts of the course materials which is always helpful. His teaching style is interactive but not too much, as he wants to make points very clear. • Julian is a great TA. He tried to diversify his teaching style depending on the sections : sometimes more lecture- style after exams knowing some students might not have had the time to read the new readings, sometimes more discussion based. It was also great when he used his tablet like a board, so we could break down the theories and arguments of the readings. Overall, he was really clear and easy to follow, but also dynamic. He also tried to include everyone in the discussion, making sure that everyone had a chance to express himself/herself during the class. In addition, Julian knew how to expand or add to the points made by the students. In the last classes he suggested for instance different readings and papers on the subjects of crime or corruption if the students wanted to learn more. Julian is also really available to answer the students' questions, by email or in office hours. Lastly, the assignments were returned fast, and the comments were useful to know how we could have improved ou answers. • Julian is a fantastic instructor! Despite the challenges of online discussion leading in times of COVID, Julian has brought us all together and made discussions valuable and exciting. Giving people reason to listen, interact and leave their cameras on is a feat in and of itself. Julian is truly gifted with his students. He is clear about the technical knowledge and has a fun way of communicating it to everyone. It's clear that he really cares about his students and their differing intellectual opinions. Beyond the Zoom room, Julian is incredibly responsive when it comes to emails and was willing to meet with me one on one about my own academic interests, hopes and dreams. And through the mental health struggles I had this semester, Julian expressed so much empathy and patience while still pushing me academically when it suited my emotional state and my learning capacities. I truly hope Julian is someone I can maintain a relationship with moving forward, I'm excited to hopefully one day read his dissertation, and, as Professor Murillo knows, I have felt so lucky all semester to have ended up in Julian's section. • As I previously mentioned Julian (and the other TAs) were more than helpful. Having seen Julian TA in a previous course (Intro to Comparative Politics), I had no doubts that he would be the right TA to have. His knowledge of statistical analysis and data software provided a more quantitative understanding of an otherwise primarily qualitative course, and while I myself am not great with numbers, Julian was more than happy to explain things in easily palatable ways. From cracking jokes with students to staying after to answer questions to responding to my constant emailing, Julian did a great job at handling the course (especially given that it's its first time being taught online). He helped me craft my own studying routine to better digest the course material, and I saw visible improvements following our conversation. I would highly recommend him as a TA to others. • julian was an awesome TA!!! He is super nice and really smart! He was great at facilitating discussion and making people's perspectives feel appreciated. He is also very good at breaking down big concepts and readings for us. 	

11 - What is the overall teaching effectiveness of the Julian Gerez in the current modality? -

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Excellent	(5)	7	100.00%		5.00	
Very Good	(4)	0	0.00%			
Good	(3)	0	0.00%			
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%			
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
7/13 (53.85%)				5.00	0.00	5.00

12 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader) as an instructor, and how might 's teaching be improved?

Response Rate	0/13 (0%)
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13 - What is the overall teaching effectiveness of in the current modality?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Excellent	(5)	0	0.00%		0.00	
Very Good	(4)	0	0.00%			
Good	(3)	0	0.00%			
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%			
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
0/13 (0.00%)				0.00	0.00	0.00

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Course: POLSGU4466_006_2020_3-LATINAMERPOLITICS-DISC: POLSGU4466_006_2020_3 - LATIN AMER POLITICS-DISC
Instructor: Julian Gerez *
Response Rate: 4/7 (57.14 %)

1 - How did you experience the class this semester? Check off as many as apply: The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	
In-person	(1)	1	25.00%		
Live online	(2)	3	75.00%		
Recorded	(3)	0	0.00%		
Response Rate		4/7 (57.14%)			

2 - What did you learn - in terms of knowledge, skills, or perspectives - in this course? The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.	
Response Rate	0/7 (0%)

3 - What percentage of the work (including reading) assigned for this course did you complete on schedule?					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
All or almost all	(1)	2	50.00%		
Most	(2)	2	50.00%		
Some	(3)	0	0.00%		
This question is not applicable	(4)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	
Response Rate		4/7 (57.14%)			

4 - What is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths? In what ways might it be improved? In answering this question, you might address the value of readings and assignments, the structure of the course (including the relationship of sections to lectures), the contribution of the course to your knowledge of the subject matter and to the development of your analytical and reasoning skills, etc. We encourage you to use specific examples where possible.	
Response Rate	0/7 (0%)

5 - What is your overall assessment of the course in the current modality? The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Excellent	(5)	3	75.00%		4.75
Very Good	(4)	1	25.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate		Mean		STD	Median
4/7 (57.14%)		4.75		0.50	5.00

6 - Would you recommend this course in its current modality to another student? The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Definitely recommend	(1)	3	75.00%		
Probably recommend	(2)	1	25.00%		
I'm not sure I'd recommend	(3)	0	0.00%		
Probably not recommend	(4)	0	0.00%		
Definitely not recommend	(5)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	
Response Rate		4/7 (57.14%)			

7 - Please qualify your recommendations if you wish: The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.	
Response Rate	0/7 (0%)

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Course: POLSGU4466_006_2020_3-LATINAMERPOLITICS-DISC: POLSGU4466_006_2020_3 - LATIN AMER POLITICS-DISC

Instructor: Julian Gerez *

Response Rate: 4/7 (57.14 %)

8 - How does the workload in this course compare to Columbia courses with a similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar, laboratory, or language course)?The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Much heavier workload	(1)	0	0.00%		
Heavier workload	(2)	0	0.00%		
Similar workload	(3)	3	75.00%	██████████	
Lighter workload	(4)	0	0.00%		
Much lighter workload	(5)	0	0.00%		
No basis for comparison	(6)	1	25.00%	███	
				0 25 50 100	
Response Rate				4/7 (57.14%)	

9 - How many hours a week did you devote to this course? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including managing the technology of online instruction, class time, discussion sections, readings, assignments, studying, etc.)The answer to this question will generally be available in Vergil.

Response Rate	0/7 (0%)
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10 - Please evaluate Julian Gerez. What are Julian Gerez's strengths? In what ways might their teaching be improved? In answering this question, you might address the clarity of the lectures or presentations and their relationship to the other elements of the course, the ability of Julian Gerez to generate enthusiasm and facilitate discussion, the quality of feedback, availability, the timeliness of the return assignment, etc. -

Response Rate	1/7 (14.29%)
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• Julian is very dedicated to his section and students. He's always willing to help and find new ways that work for students. He is genuinely interested in discussing topics and questions with everyone.

11 - What is the overall teaching effectiveness of the Julian Gerez in the current modality? -

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Excellent	(5)	4	100.00%	██████████		
Very Good	(4)	0	0.00%			
Good	(3)	0	0.00%			
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%			
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			
				0 25 50 100	Question	
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
4/7 (57.14%)				5.00	0.00	5.00

12 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader) as an instructor, and how might 's teaching be improved?

Response Rate	0/7 (0%)
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13 - What is the overall teaching effectiveness of in the current modality?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means	
Excellent	(5)	0	0.00%			
Very Good	(4)	0	0.00%			
Good	(3)	0	0.00%			
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%			
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%			
				0 25 50 100	Question	
Response Rate				Mean	STD	Median
0/7 (0.00%)				0.00	0.00	0.00