

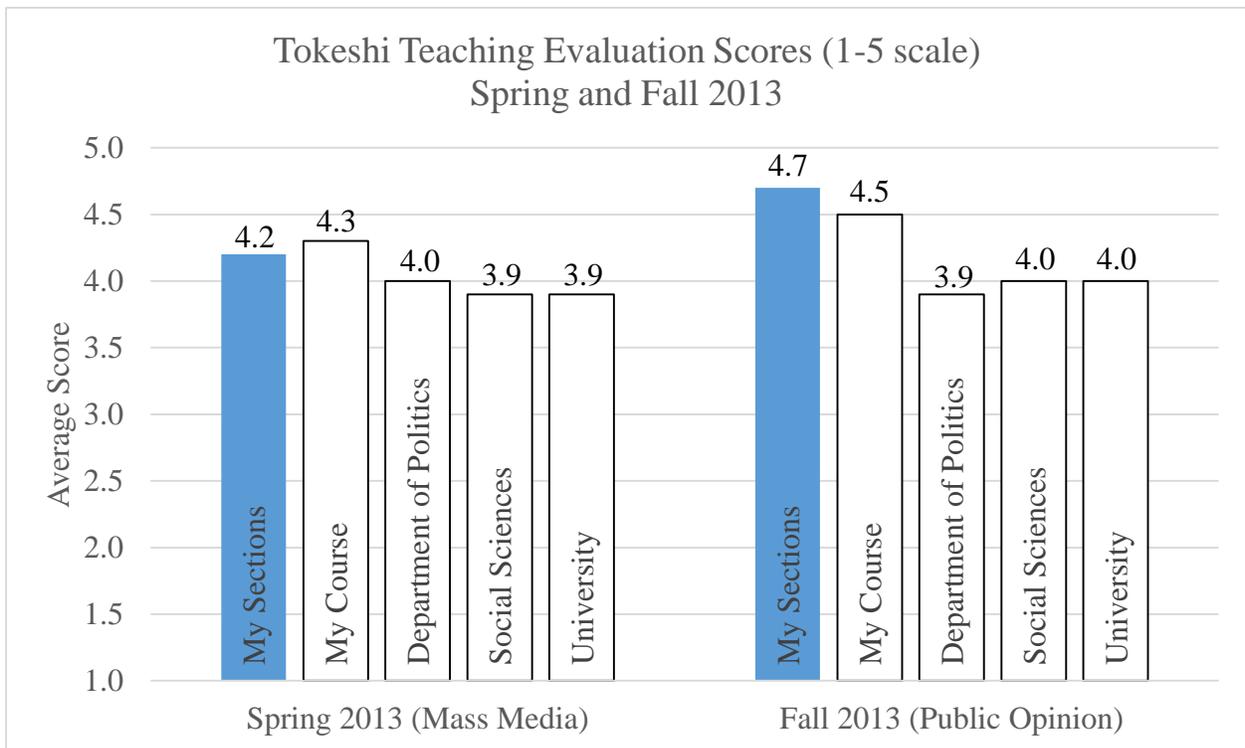
## Teaching Evaluations

Matthew Tokeshi

At the end of each semester, the Princeton University Registrar administers course evaluations with an online survey that asks students to rate discussion section (“precept”) quality on a 1-5 scale (1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=very good, 5=excellent) and to provide open-ended feedback about their discussion section leaders (“preceptors”).

Based on this data, I have compiled a summary of my performance for the three precepts that I led for POL 327 (“Mass Media in American Politics”) during the Spring 2013 semester and the three precepts that I led for POL 322 (“Public Opinion”) during the Fall 2013 semester. On the next page, I list the distribution of numerical evaluations I received for each of the six precepts I led. Pages 3-6 list the complete open-ended responses from each of my precepts.

The figure below compares the average numerical ratings for the precepts I led (shaded blue) compared to the average ratings for all of the precepts in my courses (both mine and those led by other preceptors), all Politics Department precepts, all social science precepts, and all Princeton precepts.



Summary of Numerical Evaluations

		Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Avg. Score (1-5)
<b>POL 327 Mass Media Spring 2013</b>	Precept 01A (Tokeshi)	5	3	0	0	0	4.63
	Precept 02 (Tokeshi)	4	2	2	1	0	4.00
	Precept 03 (Tokeshi)	2	4	2	0	0	4.00
	Total (Tokeshi)	11	9	4	1	0	4.20
<b>POL 322 Public Opinion Fall 2013</b>	Precept 02 (Tokeshi)	2	0	0	0	0	5.00
	Precept 03 (Tokeshi)	9	0	0	0	0	5.00
	Precept 05 (Tokeshi)	4	3	2	0	0	4.22
	Total (Tokeshi)	15	3	2	0	0	4.65

## Open-Ended Feedback

In the following pages, I present an unedited list of *all* of the comments I received from each of the six precepts I led.

Comments from POL 327 (Mass Media and American Politics, Spring 2013):

### Precept 01A

- Matt guided our discussions by raising questions and clarifying information. He led the precept well. That said, our precept could have run itself. Students were particularly talkative on relevant material.
- Good preceptor. I liked it the most when he explained important things rather than relying on students to try to explain it. Sometimes he asked very basic and obvious questions to get the discussion going, which didn't always work out that well
- Excellent precepts. Particularly good at pacing precepts
- Matt did an excellent job- this is one of the best precepts that I have been in thus far. Discussions were engaging and balanced between clarifying the material and allowing us to discuss our ideas.
- I really believe that Matt is going to be really, really good at this thing someday -- probably the most engaged non-lecturer-preceptor I've ever had. I wish that he could've let us go free a little more in precepts – sometimes staying on task doesn't necessarily always help us get the information as well as moving the discussion to our own personal experiences might, but, seriously, I really think Matt is going to be very good at this for some college students very soon.
- One of the best preceptors I've had. He was great at stimulating discussion and condensing main points.
- Great preceptor, very approachable in person and over email, made efforts to engage active precept discussions

### Precept 02

- Matt is a fantastic preceptor. He got us very engaged in the readings and the course.
- Precepts are good, and helped to clarify course material. However, too much emphasis is put on class discussion and the preceptor does not help to outline the important aspects of lecture much.
- Pretty good.

- Matt was a great preceptor! He was very organized and insightful and you could tell he really cares about the material. Even though all of the students in our precept were relatively quiet, he constantly encouraged participation and discussion, rather than just lecturing
- Tokeshi was great, and kept the energy going, even when it was evident that not many people had done the readings. Made himself very accessible and open, which I think made the precept better to attend.
- great guy, better teacher
- I loved Matt. I thought he was structured and led a great precept that was comfortable and informative. He did a great job.

### Precept 03

- Good precepts; raised interesting points and encouraged participation. I appreciated getting feedback midway through
- Precepts were valuable as reviews of that week's readings and helped further my understanding of each perspective. However, I felt that precepts in general could have focused more on debate and critical thinking rather than review.
- Great precept - he guided our discussions well, hit on the important points each week. Would love to have him as a preceptor again.
- Precept was interesting and I felt comfortable contributing.
- The precepts were so helpful in helping me understand the concepts that I couldn't from just the readings and lectures. Also, the precepts helped me exercise thinking of counter perspectives and opposing mindsets from the topics learned in lecture, which would later translate usefully in the paper writing. Matt Tokeshi was always positive, welcoming, extremely informing, and really stressed in solidly backing all the points made in class so that they did not seem flakey. He was a great first politics preceptor to have.
- Most of the learning in this class was done in lecture and independently by completing the readings. Precept was useful for going over important topics from the week. Matt definitely took his role as preceptor seriously and I feel that everyone benefited from this. I feel like the best lesson Matt taught the group was to always question analytical studies, usually by scrutinizing the method by which the study proceeds. For instance Baum included "Jerry Springer" in a list of daytime television shows with little political information - but anybody familiar with the show knows it has no political connotation. Great precept overall.

Comments from POL 322 (Public Opinion, Fall 2013):

## Precept 02

- Matt was an excellent preceptor. He was very prepared every week and made the precept a fun, engaging place to discuss the material. Although he led the discussion, there was a ton of opportunity for students to voice their opinion. My only point of criticism is that precept should maybe be a bit less formal in the future. For example, I find that in precepts where students do not have to raise their hand, people speak more and the conversations are less formal. Overall, Matt was a great preceptor, always made himself available students, and was very helpful in terms of learning the material.

## Precept 03

- Matt was a great preceptor. He went over and explained all of the readings and lecture topics very well. Precept was engaging and helpful.
- Matt was definitely the best preceptor I've had in the politics department. He clearly came up with his own lesson plans and didn't just rely on random debate among students, which preceptors often do. I felt like I would not have learned as much without his help. He came up with innovative ways to explain concepts that I had thought were easy and I understood, but realized I hadn't exactly. He memorized all of his students' names the first week and I think that meant a lot to everyone in feeling more comfortable in precept. I really enjoyed when he filled in for Professor Mendelberg in lecture- he's so animated and cares so much about what he's doing, it's great.
- I felt the precepts were very good. They covered the main points of all the readings. The preceptor did a very good job of clarifying readings and presenting questions for students to consider. The Matt Tokeshi was a very easily approachable person who was open to questions and opinions of students. He was effective in communicating through email as well.
- Matt went the extra mile to keep us engaged with the material. Sometimes precepts felt less controversial than they could have been, but they were enjoyable and he integrated other information to make our topics externally relevant.
- Amazing preceptor, probably the best i've had.
- Matt was one of the best preceptors I've ever had. He was always very prepared and encouraging. Because of him, I got a lot more out of this precept than I do with most other classes.
- Precepts were good ways to understand some of the more complicated readings through discussion with Matt and the other students. Matt helped us connect the concepts to real world events in order to understand which theories are relevant in various contexts. He encouraged participation and provided a stimulating setting for discussion and debate.

- One of the best precepts I've ever had--super organized, and Matt was always very enthusiastic and passionate about the topic.

#### Precept 05

- Engaging and interesting. Helped me further learn the material. At times though I felt like he got frustrated at the class.
- You can tell Matt really cares about your wellbeing and understanding of the materials. He won't take any messing around though, and can see right through you if you haven't read. Is overall very sweet but can be quick-tempered. You can tell he loves the material though.
- The preceptor was very good at clarifying the course material and stimulating interesting discussion. He was always receptive to students, answering all questions and considering all contributions to discussions.
- Great preceptor, he went through all the readings pretty well.
- Matt was a wonderful preceptor. He was always engaging and energetic. He skillfully used warmup exercises to get us to approach the subject at hand in a more rigorous way. He was helpful with clarification questions and very approachable.
- I thought that Matt did a fantastic job of clarifying the lecture material and connecting it to current political situations and situations from our own lives. Matt was always available for meeting after class and during office hours as well. I always enjoyed attending these precepts.
- The precepts were relevant and furthered the information of the course.
- Matt takes his field very seriously and it shows in his precepts. He is an extremely knowledgeable and organized guy, and seems always willing go above and beyond what is required of him. He is also exceedingly respectful and approachable, and spares no effort in providing feedback to students, however small the assignment.
- Matt was a very good preceptor. He encouraged good discussion in class that supplemented the lectures well. He also gave good feedback on my papers.