

Erin Rossiter – Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness (University of Notre Dame)

This document includes a summary of my teaching evaluations for five courses taught at the University of Notre Dame as an Assistant Professor. One course is an American Politics seminar called Social Influence in Politics taught to seniors (Fall 2021) and juniors (Fall 2022). The other three courses are graduate-level quantitative methodology courses, including Introduction to Quantitative Methods (Fall 2022), Experimental Design (Spring 2022), and Programming for the Social Sciences (Spring 2023).

First, I report quantitative summary of student feedback in the table. The prompt is: "Rate this course on the following. Please consider your overall experience in the course, rather than isolated incidents." The response options are the following: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, Poor, Very Poor. Percent of responses as either "Excellent," "Very Good," or "Good" are reported.

1. Overall organization of the course
2. Availability of appropriate help or learning resources outside class
3. Helpfulness of required assignments (readings, projects, etc.) in facilitating my learning
4. Usefulness of the feedback I received concerning my work in the course
5. Instructor’s preparation for each class
6. Instructor’s clarity of communication
7. Instructor’s fairness and impartiality in conducting the class
8. Instructor’s effort to help me develop mastery of the course material
9. Instructor’s stimulation of my interest in the subject matter
10. Overall promotion of my creative, analytical or critical thinking

Below the table, I provide student responses to the question of the “greatest strengths of the instructor’s teaching” for each course. I am happy to provide a copy of the official evaluations upon request.

	Social Influence in Politics (undergraduate)		Introduction to Quantative Methods (graduate)	Experimental Design (graduate)	Programming for the Social Sciences (graduate)
	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2022	Spring 2023
Organization	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Resources	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Assignments	88%	92%	80%	100%	100%
Feedback	96%	92%	60%	100%	100%
Preparation	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Clarity	100%	100%	60%	100%	100%
Fairness	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Develop Mastery	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Stimulate Interest	94%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Promote Thinking	94%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Num. Responses	16	13	5	3	11
Num. Students Enrolled	17	15	6	5	14

Note: Table reports the percent of students that chose "Excellent," "Very Good," or "Good" for each item.

Student responses to “greatest strengths of instructor’s teaching”

Social Influence in Politics, Fall 2021 (select comments for space)

- She was really good at explaining things multiple ways to make sure people understood. She was always very well prepared and the class was organized very effectively so the things we learned could be applied later and everything was added on to everything else. She gave a lot of helpful feedback, which was very nice as well and I felt like my paper looked so much better as we went through the editing stages. Her feedback on presentations felt very helpful for the real world as well. One reason I was so invested in this class is because it felt very relevant to people’s lives in the future. This class felt like it was about more than just the particular material we were learning. I felt like I learned lots of skills to apply in my professional life, in addition to learning about social science. Better than lots of my other professors who are much more experienced. I think it would be a huge benefit to students if she taught freshmen a lot of these skills. I think she could also get people in required classes more interested in political science and psychology/sociology. Overall great professor.
- Well-informed on not only past scholarship in the subject area, but also on extremely new and relevant topics.
- Professor Rossiter’s greatest strengths are her profound knowledge in and experience with the social science that underlies politics, and her ability to explain difficult concepts with ease; which I think is truly valuable.
- Prof. Rossiter is very willing to engage with students both in and out of the classroom. Her enthusiasm goes a long way in starting discussions in class.
- I thought that she has a lot of knowledge on the subject and genuinely cares about helping us understand the content. I also appreciate the freedom we were given with our papers to choose a subject that interests us - and then she would help provide resources that help us along the way.
- Prof. Rossiter communicates course expectations effectively, which helped me with this course a lot. She gave helpful feedback on all assignments and was always available to discuss the assignments. She also did a great job explaining concepts I’d never been introduced to before and made me much more interested in social science
- Professor Rossiter was very organized during the entire class. I always knew when something was due and the readings were very clear. She was also incredibly kind and understanding!

Social Influence in Politics, Fall 2022 (select comments for space)

- All of the work she assigned made sense for the class and I understood why we were doing it. This is impressive given how many of my classes just have busy work. This was my favorite class this semester.
- The greatest strengths are her enthusiasm, use of diagrams and arrows, and ability to understand how we are doing in the class. She understands we have busy lives and helps us with understanding the readings. I think she also cares about all of her students. She feels that we can all succeed. It’s nice to have someone who believes in you. Her class is very accessible and thought provoking.
- I feel like she puts students at the forefront of the class. In discussions, she always wanted everyone to say whatever was on their mind and she encouraged dialogue between students,

often being more of a moderator than a lecturer. This is a tremendous strength and helps the class be engaging and fun.

- Keeps us on track, asks good questions to make us think deeper, big on feedback!! Getting feedback throughout the semester was great!! It really helped me feel like I was actually making progress and growing over the semester.
- I think that this instructor did a great job of choosing readings for the class and also clarifying what is important to read and get out of those readings which were very helpful for longer readings. I also think that the way in which she guided us through our final projects was great. I appreciated the input she would give and how she broke the assignment up so it to not be so daunting in the end. I think the complete discussion-based nature of the class was a great way to keep everyone engaged.
- She was very good about being accessible when we needed support, and asking good questions that increased conversation in class.
- The concept of a seminar, especially one based on political research, was new to me and many other students. Yet Professor Rossiter acknowledged this setback very quickly, and constructed the course in such a way that both pushed us to new academic boundaries but also helped with a great amount of feedback where needed.
- Facilitated great discussion and helped in the writing development process!

Introduction to Quantitative Methods, Fall 2022 (all comments)

- Prof. Rossiter made an incredible effort to take us every step of the way in learning the more fundamental topics in Intro to Quant. I really appreciated her dedication in teaching us the theoretical background: while it was challenging for me in the beginning, I feel more confident in understanding how it is applied. She was also very accessible outside of class and always wanted to make sure we got the concepts and definitions correctly.
- Great knowledge of the subject material, and willingness to help outside of the classroom.
- Erin applied a massive amount of common sense and was very reasonable in her approach to this course. She made no assumptions about prior knowledge of statistical concepts and provided baseline knowledge and instruction from which to build upon in future semesters. I really liked her flexible approach and willingness to modify content during times when the class needed reinforcement on particular areas. She is personable, approachable, and very professional.
- The professor was very approachable, and encouraged office hours. She went out of her way to address concepts that were confusing to the class.
- Clear examples given in multiple formats (slides, board walk-throughs, R)

Experimental Design, Spring 2022 (all comments)

- Erin always made sure we understood the logic behind the concepts we were discussing before moving on. I think it helped that our class was smaller but it really allowed us to ask questions and to pause the discussion before moving on to make sure everyone understood before moving on. I think this class is particularly important because of how the discipline is moving and Erin really prepared us to keep up the best practices in experiments.

- Erin did a great job of adjusting plans when we needed more instruction during class. She also did a great job of more generally explaining concepts to us throughout the semester.
- Erin's ability to explain complex topics to individuals with a variety of statistical/methodological backgrounds is so impressive. She really made sure to repeatedly explain the important aspects of each reading to give us multiple opportunities to ask questions. She made class fun and relaxed while giving us so many opportunities to learn. If a potential student was asking me what classes they should take if possible, this class would be at the top of my list.

Programming for the Social Science, Spring 2023 (all comments)

- She is extremely patient in helping every student debug. This is so valuable in a highly technical course, so students develop the confidence to learn on our own and tackle our own challenges.
- Erin is such a supportive professor, and she has the capacity to bridge in the understanding of each one of us and at each level of our R knowledge in one class session, she was able to explain highly complex codes in a very efficient manner. She is also super sweet and funny in a professional manner! I would love to take more classes with her.
- Prof. Rossiter was very thoughtful and her enthusiasm in teaching this course is definitely contagious. I appreciated her effort and availability to help students in fixing their codes throughout the course and I believe she created a great environment in class.
- the problem sets were challenging and stimulated my interest and growth in learning R. Erin was also patient with re-explaining difficult concepts which is a great strength. She also provided easy code with clear guidelines which made it easy to follow along.
- She knows the most recent tools and techniques. I also really appreciate her patient with students who do not have a background in computer programming work. She has done excellent job in keeping the class focused and interested in learning new methods to conduct quantitative analysis
- She is always available outside of class and helpful in class.
- She is very flexible while still having high standards.
- Erin is a fantastic teacher, the classes were engaging and well organised and she was willing to patiently answer our questions and tailor the course to our interests. I feel like we all benefitted from her expertise and clear communication.
- Erin did a fantastic job of preparing problem sets and lectures that increased our knowledge and understanding of programming and advanced social science methodology. This course increased my rudimentary understanding of R substantially, so that it is now something I can both put on my resume and use to envision research pathways I would not have imagined possible earlier. The final presentations with their creativity and impact, are a testament to Erin's careful preparation and pedagogy in providing us with the tools to consider new avenues of research and inquiry.
- Professor Rossiter is inspiring. She is very approachable, personable, and encouraging to students, especially when this class is full of new and challenging skills. She motivates me to learn and try new topics/techniques of working with R.