

# Occidental College

## 2025 Spring General Course Evaluations

**Course:** POLS300\_0: Research Meth/Pols & Pub Pol  
**Instructor:** Isaac Hale \*

### 1 - 1. How would you describe your level of engagement in this course? How did you engage in class? For example: Did you come to class prepared? Did you seek help from the instructor, peers, or other supports when needed?

Response Rate	7/19 (36.84%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This class was one of the most challenging classes for me this semester, I have never taken a research methods class. Professor Halle was extremely helpful as was Evan. I went to his office hours every week as well as meeting extra with Evan. I did all the readings and problem sets.</li> <li>Very... I sat in the front for this specific reason! I wanted to do well in this course, as it is important for my future work towards my degree.</li> <li>I came to class ready and always happy to participate! Professor Hale encouraged collaboration and office hours attendance so if I ever needed help I wasn't afraid to ask.</li> <li>Very engaged! The structure of the class is very organized and the amount of assigned readings are reasonable for each week. Reading the materials before coming to class helped me understand the lectures better. People participated in the class by answering the questions that professor asked or simply shared their perspectives. Professor Hale and Evan (the TA) were extremely helpful throughout the course! They welcomed our questions about the materials or the problem sets. They both offered extra office hours when there were problem sets assigned and especially toward the end of the semester when students needed more help with completing their posters.</li> <li>I was engaged in class and went to office hours multiple times.</li> <li>I felt very prepared coming to class, but it was very lecture heavy. I did enjoy the class and the programming days. Of course lecture is important with all our information we have to get through. But maybe something a little more interactive for understanding and learning to help with the engagement. Overall though, I truly was able to learn a lot.</li> <li>I could have been more engaged in this course, I didn't always come to class prepared but I did go to office hours.</li> </ul>	

### 2 - 2. How did this course influence, change, or help shape your understanding of the subject matter?

Response Rate	7/19 (36.84%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This course taught me a lot about STATA, and just how political science experiments work and happen.</li> <li>It is a key aspect to my future work towards my degree. Having this knowledge moving forward was extremely helpful and Professor Hale was a great and invaluable resource for me to reach my goal!</li> <li>Before this I knew literally nothing about coding or computer science at all, and the last math class I took was junior year of high school. After this class I have a pretty decent knowledge of coding in Stata, which is something I never thought I'd be able to say. I was able to make graphs and run regressions and run code which felt so so cool.</li> <li>Learning how to code in STATA was like learning another foreign language! This subject was completely new to me and it was very challenging at first, but I found office hours really helpful. Now that I gained this skill, whenever I read quantitative research papers, I feel more comfortable in interpreting the data and how the scholars create the knowledge. I also understand the components of a research project better such as forming a clear research question that has both independent and dependent variables. This course allowed me to understand that there is tremendous work going on behind writing research paper just to argue that something has an effect on another thing. It makes me appreciate the way knowledge is created more.</li> <li>This course introduced me to a lot of the subject matter such as coding in Stata etc.</li> <li>It help me learn a lot and shaped my understanding of the subjects matter entirely. I'm glad I took the class and now know how to do it!</li> <li>This course helped me develop skills to be able to evaluate data and understand the processes of analyzing data. I liked that we got to do our own projects and problem sets because we got to practice these methods and do them ourselves.</li> </ul>	

### 3 - 3. What skills or capacities did you expect to gain from this course? How and to what extent did the course help you to develop those skills or capacities?

Response Rate	7/19 (36.84%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I expected to learn exactly what I did learn, having a basic understanding of STATA and being able to apply it to my poster and own research. Helping prepare me for Comps next year.</li> <li>Stata. I can understand it much more now!</li> <li>I knew I would learn how to code a little bit I didn't expect to be able to learn as much as I did as fast as I did, this was a skill that felt so foreign and scary to me and all of the sudden I was getting better day by day.</li> <li>I gained my ability to use a statistical tool, such as STATA, that adds value to my research skills. From our weekly lab days, I learned how to build graphs on STATA, use ttest, regression analysis, and etc. These skills help me determine the statistical significance that helps illuminate the reality in front of me. Professor Hale has also shared with us some important sources of Dataset that are credible, so we use them in the future by ourselves.</li> <li>I expected to gain coding and analytical skills from this course and that's exactly what I did.</li> <li>I can code! I can research and create a large scale project such as this one!</li> <li>I learned how to use Stata and what to code, and I like that we got to be hands-on and do it ourselves because that helped us learn how to do it. It also helps me analyze/evaluate data from sources in the future and understand how to clean raw data and recode variables to better understand certain relationships.</li> </ul>	

### 4 - 4. What aspects/features of the instruction were particularly effective or ineffective? What aspects/features of the course facilitated or impeded your learning? For example: How well did the professor structure class periods (e.g., discussion facilitation, group work, in-class exercises, lectures, handouts, etc), reading questions, assignments, exams, community-based work, field work, laboratory work, studio work, etc.?

Response Rate	7/19 (36.84%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the class was lectures, and on Friday's we did programming days. I loved how everything was connected and flowed very smoothly. However sometimes during coding days all we did was just copy and paste the code that was already made, I think it would be more beneficial if there was more individual coding, really making sure you have to try it yourself.</li> <li>Using real world examples, including the blunders, I think helps put your mind at ease as you put together your poster presentation. The Friday coding days were the biggest help though!</li> <li>I really liked the structure of the class where two out of the three days in a week we would learn about statistics and surveys through lectures, and on Friday we would have coding practice led by professor Hale. It was a good balance where I got good background on the concepts before putting them into practice. Professor Hale is a FANTASTIC teacher.</li> <li>I like that the course is structured into MWF as it makes it easier to digest all the information. Unless my other social science classes, there wasn't a group discussion in this class, but this is something the department can experiment to see if students learn better about this subject through discussions? The way it is now are mainly lectures and lab days. I like the way it is structured though. The Canvas site is really organized. I appreciate being able to look at the slides after the lectures (they are all posted on Canvas on time).</li> <li>The slideshows were helpful and posting them after class was also helpful.</li> <li>Like I said , a little less lecture heavy, but overall the way the classes was structured was still effective!</li> <li>I enjoyed programming days and thought problem sets were very helpful. Lectures were engaging and funny</li> </ul>	

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#### 5 - 5. What aspects of the course or instruction helped or hindered the creation of an inclusive learning environment that is responsive to, and promotes the success of, a diverse group of students?

**Response Rate** 7/19 (36.84%)

- The class tutor Evan really helped me throughout this semester, without him I do not think I would have been able to finish my poster project.
- Lots of opportunities to answer questions and be involved from Professor Hale. It always felt inclusive!
- Professor Hale was very explicit that we were encouraged to work with our classmates and come in for office hours if we needed any help or had any questions. Also the lecture format was very interactive so I always felt like I had something to add to the class and I could ask questions if I was ever confused.
- Professor always encouraged new voices to speak up when he posed the questions. He encouraged students to speak up by asking them questions and asking for their perspectives.
- All aspects of the course helped an inclusive learning environment.
- None really! It was very supportive and was able to seek help whenever I could!
- Professor Hale did a good job of meeting students where they were. He also made sure to call on different people.

#### 6 - 6. What other suggestions (if any) do you have for the next time the course is taught?

**Response Rate** 4/19 (21.05%)

- Do the same thing. I have no suggestions for improvement!
- None! It was so so helpful, and taught me something I thought I would never be able to learn. It was a very accessible course, and made a very daunting task much more approachable.
- N/A
- Thank you to my professor!

#### 7 - 7. What else (if anything) would you like to share about the course or the instruction?

**Response Rate** 6/19 (31.58%)

- Longer office hours- having only one hour is pretty restrictive especially when it starts at 10 and a majority of people have. a 10:40 class.
- I had a great time, and was an important learning experience for me. Thank you!
- Professor Hale is great and I wouldn't have asked for anything more, this was a really cool course that made coding accessible for me.
- Thank you Professor Hale (and Evan) for all your help! Learning how to conduct quantitative research is a scholarly asset to me.
- N/A
- None!