

**Q1. UWM Political Science Department  
Course/Instructor Evaluations - Graduate Level**

Your responses are strictly confidential. We will not keep any identifying information, such as your name, email address, or IP address. Instructors will not view your anonymous responses until after the grades have been submitted.

**Fall 2020; Pol Sci 935-001; Seminar in Advanced Political Science Methodology  
Assistant Professor Patrick Kraft**

Q2. Are you currently enrolled as a student in the above-listed course?

- Yes  
 No

Q3. What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

I loved the instructor's useful, practical, hands-on, knowledge of the subject matter. The first 3 homework assignments we used R to reproduce results was the most helpful homeworks I have had in a long time. Getting to learn R through this course was my favorite part.

Q4. What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

I did not like the last 2 or 3 lessons regarding ethics and standards. Maybe a more concrete example would have made it seem less like businessman buzzwords.

Q5. Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you find least useful?

I thought all of our readings were great. There were several lessons that provided three different readings from three different perspectives or eras, and this was immensely useful in putting the subject into context. I also liked the articles used to introduce different methods. They were always timely and interesting.

Q6. In what ways would you change this seminar so as to improve it?

Provide a little more R help/tutorials/homeworks in the second half of the class. You were awesome at teaching it.

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Q3. What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

In 935, I have had the chance to practice the skills that I learned in 701 and 702. That being said, this is more of an applied course than it is a theoretical one, and I like it as an applied one. Specifically, this course is really a good opportunity to learn the language of R.

Q4. What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

I don't have anything to say for this part.

Q5. Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you find least useful?

I find Windt and Humphreys' 2016 article named "Crowdseeding in Eastern Congo: Using Cell Phones to Collect Conflict Events Data in Real Time" really useful and innovative in terms of the methodology being used. Other than that, the readings have all been to the point and accurate. They are assigned not to teach the technicalities of the relevant method but to show how that method can be used in a political science paper. In that sense, they were supplementary to the weekly class videos and the assigned book for this course.

Q6. In what ways would you change this seminar so as to improve it?

I believe the general flow of this course has really been successful. The only thing that I would add is to assign additional paper replication assignments that would cover the replication of the statistical method used in the assigned reading.

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Q3. What did you like most about this seminar? Please be specific.

The thing I liked most about this seminar was the hands-on nature of the course. While there was some theory, the main focus was learning the skills to be able to complete tasks in R. Professor took the extra time to set up practice code in the cloud so that we could follow along with the lectures at our own pace. The assignments were challenging, but the experience in dealing with large and difficult data sets will help me moving forward whatever career path I take after graduation.

Q4. What did you like least about this seminar? Please be specific.

It was a challenge having to take the course online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Professor Kraft went above and beyond to make sure we had multiple resources at our fingertips. He recorded lecture videos for us to watch ahead of time to really soak in the information so that our synchronous time together could be used a workshop of sorts or a Q/A session.

Q5. Please evaluate the readings assigned in the seminar. Which did you find most useful and which did you find least useful?

I loved the coursebook Bit by Bit. It was published recently and was easy to read and understand. It dealt with many subjects that as researchers we would encounter. The articles then went along with the subject of the week were helpful examples.

Q6. In what ways would you change this seminar so as to improve it?

I think just double-checking the course calendar and making sure assignments do not overlap with each other. Having assignments posted earlier would also be helpful.