

Course Evaluations For Jesse Driscoll: 2015-2017

I have developed five courses since arriving at UCSD: Geopolitics and Insurgency in Weak States, Debating U.S. Grand Strategy, Humanitarian Interventions, Nongovernmental Organizations (no longer taught), and a Capstone course on social science research design (taught under various titles, sometimes jointly with other GPS faculty). My most popular courses, based on student demand, are electives on topics related to state-building, international security, and U.S. foreign policy. My elective courses tend to place a strong emphasis on developing students' oral presentation and writing skills. Comments on course evaluations suggest that students exit my courses unusually appreciative and satisfied.

I have twice been honored with an "Academic Mentorship Award" from the student-founded Security Studies Group (SSG). This group was conceptualized and founded in 2015 to facilitate networking between active military personnel from different countries and from different service branches in the U.S. military, integrating diverse UCSD students and alumni with the wider defense community in the greater San Diego area. I was also recognized as the "Best Professor For Veterans" by the UCSD Student Veterans Association in 2016.

**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRGN 429 - Geopol/Insurgence/WeakStates
Section ID 896591
Section Number A00
Winter 2017

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 14
Number of Students Enrolled: 18

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

3 (21.4%): Core Course Requirement
3 (21.4%): Subject Area Requirement
6 (42.9%): Elective
2 (14.3%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

13 (92.9%): Strongly Agree
1 (7.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

13 (92.9%): Strongly Agree
1 (7.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

11 (78.6%): Strongly Agree
3 (21.4%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

13 (92.9%): Strongly Agree
1 (7.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

12 (85.7%): Strongly Agree
2 (14.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

12 (85.7%): Strongly Agree
2 (14.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

13 (92.9%): Strongly Agree
1 (7.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

14 (100.0%): Excellent
0 (0.0%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Dr. Driscoll is hands-down the most effective instructor i have worked with thus far at UCSD. His treatment of the theoretical literature and use of it to examine historical and modern issues helped me develop a deep and nuanced understanding of the extremely complicated issues that are generally either not taught or heavily skewed towards a biased narrative. While we covered a lot of ground at break-neck speed, his strategy for engaging with complicated issues with the theoretical foundations has made it considerably easier for me to engage later on much deeper levels. Further, the labs were great. Applying a point based incentive structure to drive home and make many of the theories feel "real" was fun and very engaging. Jesse encouraged me to come to UCSD and, after finally taking a course with him, i am beyond pleased at having made that choice.
- He is passionate about teaching and the subject matter and that is contagious.
- I think Dr. Driscoll is an amazing professor, I think he is really excited about what he teaches and he is really excited about teaching us what he is excited about so that we can be excited about it too. The flip side of that coin is that he can sometimes get very distracted and his lectures sometimes ramble off topic and while it's interesting to hear, it's very difficult to follow and especially difficult to take notes on. My only recommendation for him would be that he make the organization/structure of the lecture a little easier for students to follow along. I also wish to note how awesome it is, as a graduate student, to have a professor who actually cares about his students and gives us feedback based specifically on what we wrote or said, as opposed to the things that we didn't write or say.
- If every class at GPS was taught like Professor Driscoll's class, my enjoyment, learning, development, and more would increase. What I wanted in education here is being taught by Professor Driscoll.
- Instructor is excellent. I had extremely limited knowledge in this subject area and he was very thorough.
- Jesse is engaging and dynamic and he makes every single lecture a tour de force that just smacks you with knowledge.
- My favorite professor of the quarter (or perhaps even the year). Extremely charismatic, captivating and insightful. It was very evident the professor put in a considerable amount of work into preparing the lectures, picking the readings, reading our papers and providing constructive criticism. I am very appreciative of his care and consideration put into creating this truly interesting class.
- One of the best prof's I've had, thus far! Engaging, clear, funny, fair
- One of the most enthusiastic instructor's I've encountered.

- The class was very engaging and the teacher extremely energetic about all topics.
- Well prepared and very enthusiastic.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

11 (78.6%): Strongly Agree
 1 (7.1%): Agree
 2 (14.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Disagree
 0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

12 (85.7%): Excellent
 1 (7.1%): Above Average
 1 (7.1%): Average
 0 (0.0%): Below Average
 0 (0.0%): Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- Class participation. I'm not a math person, Professor Driscoll tricked us all into learning the concepts game theory sprinkled throughout the class, without doing the math. I don't know that I would have been as enthusiastic to the concepts without learning the concepts in the way introduced by Professor Driscoll.
- Great overview of the different regions and countries. This provided better explanation of actions specific to the politics and motivations of actors/countries discussed in class.
- It's a super interesting topic and I think it's important stuff to study and understand, especially for those of us interested in development work or in international policy-making. The readings were really enlightening.
- The liveliness of instruction, the relevance of the material and the depth and breadth of reading material. I look forward to taking more classes with Prof. Driscoll.
- The wide range of topics and the regions it covered. Absolutely amazing readings assigned, I will keep many of them with me for life. This course really changed the way I now view the world, especially in regard to foreign aid, civil wars, rebellions and regional topics. I particularly enjoyed sections about the cold war, Middle East, American Civil War and Soviet Union.
- There are lots of strengths, the class was great.
- Very effective match of theoretical literature to real world cases. This course uncovered the internal mechanisms occurring under the hood of the state that have set me up for further, more pointed, analysis of state power, civil wars, and insurrection.
- Wide depth of knowledge, allowing students' interests to be incorporated in instruction.
- You can write your Tuesday Papers about almost anything you have an interest in, which makes

you feel as if you have more control in the course and your input is heard, which is great for students who want to explore certain topics and areas of focus.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- A little more structure, a little less game-playing.
- A more defined syllabus.
- Halfway through the quarter we switched rooms to a smaller conference style room, this had a wonderful effect on discussion and the overall feel of the class, I recommend this type of classroom be used in the future. Another recommendation is to post the readings on TritonEd in their own folder on the 'Content' page. This would help with organization.
- It was somewhat unclear what Dr. Driscoll wanted out of the Tuesday assigned papers.
- The "Tuesday Papers" were a great idea. I would have enjoyed having a specific topic to write about. It was a struggle to create a topic not knowing if it was relevant to the readings.
- The lectures sometimes got to be too intense. There is A LOT in this class that I did not know, and I feel like I did not get to learn the basics just because we got to go so in depth into one subject just to change the topic very drastically during the next class.
- This course is almost perfect but I do have one suggestion: make the lab assignments worth a higher percentage of the grade. When lab assignments were team based it was extremely hard to incentivize members to collaborate and work together, and I think this was due to the fact that the lab assignments were only 15% of the grade so students were sometimes apathetic in group work. Some of these lab assignments involved many hours of work and thus, I think, should count for a larger portion of the grade. Keep the warlord lab assignment, it was painful at first but totally worth it in the end and really shapes the entire class.

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Comparison of politics and decisions of actors/countries. It gave me better understanding of the geopolitical environment both International and the U.S.
- Countries have many reasons to go into war.
- I think about IR in a different way now. Ethnic conflict as a driver, or as important relative to Great Power struggles, is an interesting concept. Comparing the merits of competing IR theories on world events was made very clear to me from this class.
- More than one, but primarily the skill set to critically consider when third party interventions are needed, how rebellions form, how to realistically state build and why this pattern cannot be randomly applied to any region in the world--and so many more. I hope to work in defense analysis and I know the content I learned in this class will definitely apply.
- The relevance of game theory in understanding interstate conflict. I had only heard of the concept and even though this was not a game theory course, its relevance was made very clear and we saw how it can be as asset to understanding conflict.
- warlord coalition politics, applied Hobbesian principles, and the value of order first policies. This course has helped develop an analytical framework i can use to assess why states are weak, what makes them strong, and who can (and is) really pulling the levers of power.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- I enjoyed taking this class. It was challenging but taught me a great deal. Thank you.
- Jesse's passion and enthusiasm has made me absolutely love this course and I cannot wait to take future courses with him.
- Limit the lectures, there are too many to reasonably complete, especially on a full load. Additionally, in addition to the mandatory readings there are optional ones that add to the load.
- Professor Driscoll is a unique teacher of the type not commonly found at the university level. He is an asset to GPS and a credit to UCSD.
- Professor Driscoll reads everyone's papers! The constructive criticism given in this class on all of our papers was intense and must take Professor Driscoll a lot of time and thought to complete, and it is very appreciated. Tons of constructive criticism on how to improve as a writer when papers come back is very helpful, rather than a one sentence summary and a grade. In addition to the subject matter, this part of Professor Driscoll's efforts was much appreciated. Not all the professors here put such careful attention into evaluating the student's work, and then helping them improve.
- Really, really amazing class. Extremely relevant. I have already recommended it to many of my classmates to take next year. Thank you.

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRGN 433 - Debates US Security Policy
Section ID 887511
Section Number A00
Winter 2017

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 8
Number of Students Enrolled: 14

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

0 (0.0%): Core Course Requirement
2 (25.0%): Subject Area Requirement
2 (25.0%): Elective
4 (50.0%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

6 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
1 (12.5%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

6 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
2 (25.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

6 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
2 (25.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

7 (87.5%): Excellent
1 (12.5%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Aside from an obvious mastery in the material and the discipline, Professor Driscoll is really, really good at constructive feedback. Sometimes I've found that educators are needlessly critical or overly supportive without a happy medium, leaving students respectively disheartened or complacent. In this class, I think I've found a happy medium where I feel extremely and continuously challenged, but not pushed to the verge of surrender. This speaks volumes to Professor Driscoll's talents as an educator and I have immense respect and appreciation.
- Excellent explanations of topics, infectious passion and energy, constructive criticism of oral summaries
- Excellent performance. Looking forward to taking additional classes from the instructor. Thank you for all your hard work!
- Very engaging and energetic about the subject.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

6 (75.0%): Excellent
2 (25.0%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- The course itself is broad enough to provide a comprehensive overview of its subject matter. The assignments allow for deeper exploration of a few selections and for application of the sometimes lofty concepts to real-world scenarios. A rhetorical focus on the theoretical

components of the course confers effective tools for using the concepts rather than just understanding them.

- The writing assignments provided close examination of the U.S. security policy in a very creative way.
- There was in depth study of the topics.
- Very interesting topic, class participation built into the class with oral summaries

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- -
- Although expectations for assignments were very clear, I personally tend to learn best by example. And with such open-ended, realistic assignments, I found it difficult to zero in on what constitute "good" examples with components to emulate. Granted, there were great examples given in class and in the readings. Moreover, I realize that setting out rigid guidelines increases the risk of limiting creativity and diversity in class submissions. But I feel that I'm not yet at a point where I have a sufficiently sophisticated rhetorical palette in the field to craft truly excellent arguments for assignments, and found myself relying on instinct to a higher degree than I am normally comfortable.
- Change the format. The endless parade of students briefing causes students to get distracted away from the class. Lectures are more effective and command more attention. Having students summarize topics isn't effective except for the student doing the reading. It encourages not doing the readings.
- more research focus
- Perhaps focus the reading and summary assignments more, less but meaningful readings. But overall, I am very satisfied with the readings

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Looking at International Relations at 30,000 ft. This will facilitate viewing the world issues and politics with a wider lens.
- Political communication like writing speeches and op-eds
- realism
- The course readings and discussions provided me with a canonical overview of International Relations and International Security theory that I had previously lacked. In many ways, it showed me what I know, what I don't know, and where I need to invest more time to round out my knowledge base.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- -
- Thoroughly enjoyed the class. Thank you Prof. Driscoll.

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**IRGN 434 - Interventions
Section ID 903535
Section Number A00
Spring 2017**Number of Evaluations Submitted: 6**
Number of Students Enrolled: 8

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

0 (0.0%):	Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Subject Area Requirement
4 (66.7%):	Elective
2 (33.3%):	Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

5 (83.3%):	Strongly Agree
1 (16.7%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

6 (100.0%):	Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

5 (83.3%): Strongly Agree
1 (16.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

5 (83.3%): Strongly Agree
1 (16.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

6 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

4 (66.7%): Strongly Agree
1 (16.7%): Agree
1 (16.7%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

5 (83.3%): Strongly Agree
1 (16.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

5 (83.3%): Excellent
1 (16.7%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Dr. Driscoll is an outstanding instructor. He effectively communicates very complex issues and has a unique capability to relate these issues, and the people behind them, to his students. He is among the most engaging professors i have ever worked with, and certainly compels me to stay on top of the assigned material as aggressively as possible so that i can take advantage of class-time to unpack theories, models, and intricate details of world events. He succeeds in creating both a serious and relaxing environment which helps foster high participation and stimulating conversations. Outside of class, his feedback on written assignments is exhaustive, providing constructive criticism on many of the details of my arguments and prose. Because of this i have become a better writer and have a much stronger and intuitive understanding of the often dense material covered in his courses.
- Excellent, committed to teaching, thought provoking, real world research experience.
- Jesse is honestly my favorite professor at UCSD. I have had the pleasure to be in more than one of his courses and they never cease to disappoint. His command of the material is mind-blowing and he is always able to provide students with an engaging and thought-provoking lecture every single week.
- Loved this course, loved breaking out of the Pacific region.
- Professor Driscoll presents topics that are sensitive in nature in a manner that allows constrictive discussion and understanding.
- The professor was very energetic, captivating and passionate about the subject. I enjoyed the atmosphere of this class since it was very 'traditional' in the sense there were no powerpoint presentations or use of computers. It was refreshing to walk into class with a book, a pen, paper and my thoughts. The professor asked questions that allowed for constructive discussion and reflection.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

6 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

5 (83.3%): Excellent
1 (16.7%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- Conversation, emphasis on writing, exposure to important books and records.
- It covers a wide array of regions and events that provide for a global outlook of conflicts and interventions.
- Learning about events that I might have never understood.
- Major strength of this course was its book-club feel. The framework of reading through a quality book and discussing it with both Dr. Driscoll and the class was very insightful. It allowed for both a group conversation with my peers, but also for a guided framework in which to apply theories of civil-war settlement and intervention to real cases. This contextualized many of the theories and models we have learned, while helped develop a considerably deeper understanding of many of the atrocities of the 20th and early 21st century.
- The book selection allowed me to learn and understand more about parts of the world that are not usually covered at GPS. The books we read for the course were heavily focused on Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. As someone who did not have previous background in these areas, learning about these regions, their histories and how they fit into global strategic interests was worth it.

I also thoroughly enjoyed the format of the class. The first half of the class was a discussion on the background, history and political factors that led to an eventual conflict and intervention (or lack thereof). The latter half of the class was usually dedicated to the act of intervention itself. I really enjoyed this format and it gave me a well-rounded understanding of the intervention and its country. Not all interventions (or lack of one) are the same.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- A small handful of the books could be replaced for more theory/ model based applied literature. By comparison, Driscoll's and Petersens' books left me with a much more satisfying understanding of the post-Soviet and Yugoslav wars, respectively, than did those more ethnographic books such as *City of Thorns* and *The Girl Who Escaped ISIS*. I also recommend expanding on the first week readings to help develop a stronger framework of what types of interventions are plausible. Lastly, a common theme throughout the course is the broad understanding that a humanitarian crisis is either developing or unfolding - literature on how analysts and academics properly assess these would be helpful. What are the indicators that a crisis will occur - then literature on how "we" can respond...
- All the reading assignments for the course were quite interesting. Charles Lister's book was probably my least favorite.
- Overall the course was amazing and I have no regrets taking it.

However, it would have been nice if there was some summary or ultimate take-away the professor wanted us to have on the very last day of class. Many times I left the class quite heavy (of course, the topics were dark and complicated), with a sense of overwhelming gloom that humanitarian interventions do more harm than good or end up as wasted effort. I do not know if that was the intent of the course, but that seemed to be a constant theme at the end of many classes. I do not think this was the instructor's intent... my assumption is that he wanted us to think more critically about humanitarian interventions, its complexities and how actors should think twice before intervening--which I definitely did. However, it would have been helpful if the instructor told us in his own words what he wanted us to take away from this class and the whole concept of intervening. All of the intervention cases introduced in this course ended very badly, and it made me wonder if any positive or worthwhile cases of humanitarian intervention actually exist. If there are any truly good case studies or books that show that humanitarian interventions are not always failures, that might make a good addition to the course material.

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- I will take the knowledge, history and insight into Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans to my future employer. My entire view on interventions and the refugee situation has changed completely thanks to this course.
- Interventions are complex.
- Interventions may not work but we have to keep trying.
- Roger Petersen's model for explaining the rise of violence.
- That humanitarian interventions are considerably harder than the vast majority of "advocates" think, which explains much of the international communities failure to respond to crises of the late 20th century and early 21st. More specifically, the concepts the strategic use of emotion in interventions, covered by Roger Petersen, and analysis of warlord coalition politics, covered by Jesse Driscoll, stand out as particularly insightful in assessing future interventions.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Just a few comments regarding the books:

Keepers: Black Hawk Down, Roger Peterson's Book, The Syrian Jihad, Warlords and Coalition Politics (the warlord equilibrium is a must-learn for everyone in IR), City of Thorns, Darfur (the handbook for modern-day genocide is mind-blowing--plus Prunier is a fantastic writer)

Maybe: The Girl Who Escaped ISIS. It is a great complement to the the Syrian Jihad, but not essential to the course. The Kuperman book.

Reconsider: Tim Judah's book. Many classmates did not have a full understanding of the Yugoslavian Conflict, and without this background understanding Tim Judah's Kosovo book is extremely difficult. Assigning a more comprehensive book regarding not only Kosovo, but the entire breakup of Yugoslavia, would have helped immensely. There has to be a better and more comprehensive book regarding Kosovo and Yugoslavia.

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRCO 483 - Workshop/Policy in Pacific Rim
Section ID 903527
Section Number A00
Spring 2017

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 9
Number of Students Enrolled: 15

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

9 (100.0%): Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%): Subject Area Requirement
0 (0.0%): Elective
0 (0.0%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

8 (88.9%): Strongly Agree
1 (11.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

9 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

6 (66.7%): Strongly Agree
1 (11.1%): Agree
1 (11.1%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (11.1%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

8 (88.9%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (11.1%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

8 (88.9%): Strongly Agree
1 (11.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

7 (77.8%): Strongly Agree
2 (22.2%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

8 (88.9%): Strongly Agree
1 (11.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

8 (88.9%): Excellent
1 (11.1%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Excellent! The best at GPS.
- Professor Driscoll is a great instructor. His courses are intellectually stimulating. He is extremely informative and gives excellent constructive feedback on presentations and papers. He is extremely intelligent and quite amusing. I enjoyed his classes and I would recommend that others take courses that he teaches.
- Professor Driscoll was always professional and well prepared. He was readily available to meet and flexible in finding ways to meet to accommodate scheduling difficulties students had He provided consistent feedback on projects and assignments that was constructive and clear on his expectations.
- Professor Driscoll's reputation speaks for itself. He is a proven asset within the GPS community as evidenced by the sheer number of times he's been voted the best instructor. He is a passionate subject-matter expert who is able to clearly articulate his thoughts to the students.
- Sometimes felt like Jesse shut me and others down in class, humiliated us in front of colleagues and generally bullied us when we didn't ask/answer in ways acceptable to him.
- Superior.
- This was my first experience with Professor Driscoll, and I really enjoyed his class and teaching style. He is very energetic and passionate, so there was never a dull moment during the quarter. You can tell that he really cares about what he is doing, the students and the process; and he always made himself available outside of classes for guidance, which was greatly appreciated given our group's collectively misaligned schedule.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

6 (66.7%): Strongly Agree
1 (11.1%): Agree
1 (11.1%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (11.1%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

5 (55.6%):	Excellent
1 (11.1%):	Above Average
3 (33.3%):	Average
0 (0.0%):	Below Average
0 (0.0%):	Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- I enjoyed the fact that it was a progressive, learning-by-doing course. I appreciated the minimal amount of assigned reading and liked the fact that we practiced speaking (and defending) our thoughts in front of others.
- I particularly appreciate the time that was afforded to conduct research outside of class. Lessening the reading load while providing a foundation of research fundamentals and the right balance of theory during class lectures was an invaluable use of time. Additionally, the example presentations provided by both John and Professor Driscoll did a great job of demonstrating expectations and illustrating both best practices and the art of the 'pitch' process.
- Instructor feedback was detailed and purposeful. Students were allowed to direct their own research projects.
- It is beneficial to students who plan a career in academia or social sciences research
- Peer critiques were helpful in providing additional points of view. While presentations were often similar from week to week, they provided multiple opportunities to practice professional speaking. The hostile presentation was particularly helpful in ensuring we fully thought out issues in our projects. It is rare to get the chance to practice that kind of presentation, so while it was challenging I think it was worthwhile.
- Professor Driscoll allowed us to choose the direction of our projects rather than dictating what we needed to do. Our teacher's assistant was really great also.
- The research work and team effort to create a final product.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- Allow students to select their own groups. My group dynamics were such that we struggled the entire quarter with more time being spent arguing and trying to get everyone to contribute than actually working on the assignment. It made it difficult to focus on the assignment and complete the requirements.
- I am not a fan of group work. This capstone is a disappointing ending to the year.
- I would suggest incorporating a different mechanism for soliciting and voicing weekly feedback on groups' progress. In most cases our research was so dynamic with constantly shifting focuses that by the time we received feedback papers on a previous week's update, the points raised would be irrelevant to determining our path forward. Not that a diverse mix of feedback was not welcomed, it's just that often the feedback received from other groups wasn't timely in relation to the guidance provided by the Professor or the previous week's update and therefore created second or third lines of effort. And many times a direction that John might guide our research was not what Professor Driscoll may have envisioned as the best way forward. I'm all about

sharing ideas, but if guidance was more real-time and filtered for Professor buy-in, it would be both useful and cut down on unnecessary distractions. Maybe instead of weekly feedback papers, each group could provide their update on Friday (current status quo), but for the following week's class each group (vice each person) would evaluate and provide feedback for an assigned team's update. They would owe a paper at the beginning of class, and the group could address all raised questions/feedback in the 10min following the presentation. If their constructive criticism was not in line with the Professor's intent for the project, he would be able to openly veto it on the spot. Conversely, if the feedback were complimentary to his aims, then he could champion it and provide his approval. This method could rotate as many times as desired (1 feedback paper/group) and/or rotate with Professor provided feedback to better divide the labor.

- Let students pick their own teams for the group project. Personalities matter! This is a lot to accomplish in a short time. Personalities need to complement each other for this project.
- Please, instead of weekly presentations, plan on having one every other week. This is will provide the teams ample material to present.
- The capstone course is a group project. I think students should have the option of doing their projects individually. Also, groups were assigned which caused some friction within the groups. My group was great and we worked well together, but after talking to the other groups it seemed many of them had problems. Also, it would have been nice to have some class time to work on our projects rather than have to do them entirely outside of class.

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Aside from gaining insights on research methodology and how to conduct social science, I learned a bit about myself and with which IR lens or bias I view the world. I learned that I am more of a realist than a liberalist as it relates to U.S. foreign policy and our role in the world. I also learned that while I intrinsically support an abolitionist grand strategy with regard to nuclear non-proliferation, I am more practically an advocate of liberal hegemony.
- I never want to do social science research
- That group work is inefficient and detrimental to quality work.
- The best method to prepare for a formal lecture.
- The critical approach to research with credible sources and not so credible.
- We were given suggested formats for presentation / talks of varying lengths. I think that was extremely useful and effective and I plan on using that in the future.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- I very much enjoyed the course, even with the difficulty of collective effort. It was worth the hard work.
- Professor Driscoll made this course an enjoyable and rewarding experience.
- The instructor is excellent and makes the most of the capstone.

- The professor uses an excessive number of nuclear detonations photos in his PowerPoint slide decks. Class members tend to stare at that and it get depressing.

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRGN 429 - Geopol/Insurgence/WeakStates
Section ID 853532
Section Number A00
Fall 2015

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 7
Number of Students Enrolled: 11

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

1 (14.3%): Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%): Subject Area Requirement
2 (28.6%): Elective
4 (57.1%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

6 (85.7%): Strongly Agree
1 (14.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

7 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

7 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

6 (85.7%): Strongly Agree
1 (14.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

5 (71.4%): Strongly Agree
2 (28.6%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

5 (71.4%): Strongly Agree
2 (28.6%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

7 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

7 (100.0%): Excellent
0 (0.0%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

- Jesse never failed to make class interesting and engaging. Personally speaking, this was and is my favorite class at GPS. It was challenging, demanding and very different from the "normal" style of teaching.
- Professor Driscoll is a fantastic teacher. He is excited to be in class, teaching students who want to learn. His energy is infectious.
- Professor Driscoll is a passionate and inspiring professor who drives his students to think about the course material. He supports and rouses class discussion and gives assignments that are thought provoking and which demonstrate the material creative ways. Professor Driscoll is an irreplaceable professor at GPS, his class is challenging and I look forward to taking his classes in the future.
- Professor Driscoll is passionate and extremely well-informed. His body of knowledge is outside the beaten path of other GPS faculty, and is appreciated. He has high expectations but made me feel inspired to meet them- to truly put in the time and master what he asked of us- because I trusted him completely to curate valuable course material, which he never failed to do. Professor Driscoll created a classroom environment of camaraderie and seriousness about subject matter that I have not experienced before. He also demonstrated remarkable respect and care for every student as an individual. Class and assigned work flew by every week and my peers and I spent hours outside of class discussing the new ideas Professor Driscoll had planted. He is an enormous asset to GPS and I feel privileged to have been a student of his.
- Professor Driscoll is undoubtedly the best professor I have had at GPS. He knows the material extremely well, uses a good mix of qualitative and quantitative material in the reading list and in class, and keeps class lively and enjoyable. The lab assignments for each week really helped with solidifying material or seeing how games/simulations should play out.
- The instructor makes the class fun.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

7 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

7 (100.0%): Excellent
0 (0.0%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- Entertaining lectures(!), game theory in application, recommending and providing alternative readings outside the scope of the course.
- New subject matter complementing core course material and completely different from any other courses at GPS, perfect mix of theory and case study/application/current events, extremely strong syllabus of readings and careful parsing of required readings so as to be realistic while still challenging, energizing classroom atmosphere with a phenomenal lecture component by Professor Driscoll and simulation component that worked perfectly to mold with the class as we developed and push our boundaries.
- The lab assignments were extremely helpful. With the large amount of reading for the course, the lab assignments and in-class discussions really helped me focus on what I should really focus on understanding for the purposes of the course.
- The subject matter is outside of my normal purview and Professor Driscoll is extremely effective at making students think about things in a different light. This is the best qualitative class I've taken at GPS. His feedback on papers is highly valuable - not many professors take time to provide constructive writing feedback (which I value).

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- In principle, the importance of each reading carries equal weight, but knowing which ones to really focus on for class discussion for the next week would, in my opinion, create a better in-class discussion/participation.
- Keep it small (I liked our class size). A much larger class may have diluted its effectiveness.
- Leaving the topic for written papers open ended makes it difficult to write for the class to get a grade. Having some prompts to write on would be generally helpful.
- Maybe two essay instead of three and those ones longer in order to get make a stronger and more comprehensive argument.
- Take some of the regional classes out (SE Asia, Lat America) to dive further into the other course material.

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Building a state is difficult especially if there are various groups competing to take charge.

- International development is not international development without state building. They cannot and should not be separated as conversations. One cannot understand international development without understanding history, war, and myriad other areas unfairly lumped into "international politics" for most studying international development. This should be a required course for international development track students.
- It is too difficult to narrow down to one concept. The different 2x2s discussed in class will stick with me though.
- Many things stuck with me that are difficult to single down to one concept. I really enjoyed the lab assignment and the interactive games that we played and to observe and shape the social coordination among our classmates. The concept that is most present in my head is Laitin's and Fearon's argument that civil war may not be due to ethnic diversity.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please provide any additional constructive comments

- Great professor, great course.
- More courses like this one.

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRGN 433 - Debates US Security Policy
Section ID 844675
Section Number A00
Fall 2015

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 11
Number of Students Enrolled: 13

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

1 (9.1%): Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%): Subject Area Requirement
6 (54.5%): Elective
4 (36.4%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

6 (54.5%): Strongly Agree
5 (45.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

6 (54.5%): Strongly Agree
5 (45.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

9 (81.8%): Strongly Agree
2 (18.2%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

8 (72.7%): Strongly Agree
3 (27.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

7 (63.6%): Strongly Agree
4 (36.4%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

6 (54.5%): Strongly Agree
5 (45.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

9 (81.8%): Strongly Agree
2 (18.2%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

8 (72.7%): Excellent
3 (27.3%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

- Excellent instructor with impressive knowledge of topics and presentation abilities
- Excellent, best instruction I have received at UCSD
- Has the ability to make a 3-hour night class not feel like 3-hours. That alone suggests a very strong performance. Also was always thoughtful in questions and comments.
- He was very passionate about the material
- I greatly enjoyed professor Driscoll's class. He was very easy to listen to and understand. I really like the fact that he presented an objective point of view which kept me guessing as to what his specific point of view was unless directly stated. I like his blunt and attention grabbing style. I also appreciated that he was very aware of his time constraints of the class.
- I loved the way that Professor Driscoll challenged the class and taught the subject matter with enthusiasm.
- Professor Driscoll brought incredible energy and passion to every single lecture. His lectures were captivating and thorough. Even with an evening class that was 3 hours long, it always seemed to fly by.
- Professor Driscoll has to be one of the most unique, passionate, fair, and knowledgeable teachers I had so far in this program. He makes you think about real issues and at the same time mixes it with history and humor that not many teachers can pull off.
- There are so many things to understand in such a short period of time. He did a good job in making sure we learn what we need to know.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

7 (63.6%): Strongly Agree
4 (36.4%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

8 (72.7%): Excellent
3 (27.3%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- All was good. Particularly liked Prof. Driscoll speaking on contemporary topics.
- Covered a wide range of topics and different ways to view international politics. He had a unique way of teaching us the theory behind international politics which I enjoyed.
- Great sense of humor, active speaking, very engaging, and absolutely fair and cares about the success of his students.
- interactive, thought-provoking
- It prompted a lot of real world problems that don't have a specific methodology in addressing and challenged you to do it. For example taking large swaths of information i.e., hundreds of pages and compressing it into a ten minute speech.
- Lectures were very interesting
Student's public speaking improved
Students learned to look at security differently than before the class
Analytical skills increased
- Professor Driscoll had a great balance of interesting lectures and debate among the students. I found it to be incredibly engaging and intellectually stimulating.
- The opportunity to practice public speaking and professional presentation in a variety of settings was excellent. Communication skills are essential throughout life and in many vocations. If you do not have the ability to communicate information to others clearly and in a way that they can relate to, it really doesn't matter what you know.
- The presentations (and the comments afterwards).
- Very focused on professional skills, just as advertised. The focus was on skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, professional writing (as opposed to strictly academic writing), and even professional dress. Most of these skills are not emphasized in other classes.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- A bit more videos or lecture slides would be good, but not really necessary because of Professor Driscoll's ability to keep people active and engaged.
- Giving more than 5 minutes of speaking time to describe the material, which might mean fewer reading overall. It was effective in speech giving, but on the receiving end of the material, it was a bit hard to learn the content of the material.
- I would have liked to have more direct and specific constructive criticism from the professor and/or from others in the class after I presented. With written or verbal critiques I could

improve on my speeches week to week. Speaking in front of the class made me more comfortable with public speaking but I wasn't sure what I was doing right and what I needed to change/work on. Sometimes I felt that professor Driscoll was very concerned with offending me at the expense of not providing a critical review but only telling me what I did well. While it is great to hear what your strengths are, I'd also like to hear more on what areas need improving so that I can work on it as the quarter progresses. This allows positive feedback to be even more meaningful if I am able to grow and change something that I previously was not doing so well at.

- If possible, being directed to some examples for the writing assignments and pre-Thanksgiving speech would have been helpful.
- May not be necessary to require the purchase of all of the books, as we only read small portions of a couple of them.
- Move it earlier? Night classes are relatively harder to follow because of exhaustion and sleepiness
- Perhaps provide examples to students of how political staffers write for politicians in case they didn't have experience with this before.
- Recommended tailoring down the amount of public speaking (maybe one or two) and more reading about contemporary issues and less Cold War era theories of IR.
- scheduling the course in a classroom that hasn't been hollowed out

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Among the many concepts that will likely shape my future: I need to remember pathos, ethos, & originality.
 - Being myself when public speaking is the best, even if the topic is one that I'm not extremely comfortable with. Don't try to fit into a different mold - being who I am works and is the most genuine.
 - Political history and philosophy still play major roles on the way policies and attitudes towards foreign policy in particular are formed in an ever changing international system.
 - problem solving before speech giving.
 - Sharpened sense of how nations make decisions and what drives them. Same with specific groups of people.
 - Social Science models which espouse trendy data do not actually have highly accurate predictive powers.
 - The biggest security concern is not terrorism--its nuclear proliferation. And really, so much more!
 - The introduction to the Realist "canon" was very valuable and now plays a major role in my perspective.
 - Understanding how liberal and conservative politicians work, make decisions and campaign
- Having a keen understanding of how US security is impacted by troubles in the Middle East,

what the media doesn't share, and to always look deeper into civil struggles that can become global epidemics.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please provide any additional constructive comments

- dont let this instructor leave!
- Honestly, this type of course is exactly what I hoped for in returning to Graduate School. I absolutely loved this course. It has been one of, if not the best class I have had at GPS.
- Professor Driscoll is an individual that is meant to teach. I really enjoyed this class for its realistic, professional, but at the same time laid back feel that promotes more learning in a real world manner.
- Thank you for a great course! I learned a lot and have fun too.
- Thank you for a great quarter and intriguing class!
- Thank you for one of my favorite classes at GPS.
- Thank you for seeing the need for a course that includes public speaking and for pushing us in our abilities to analyze and verbally articulate information.
- Were those dungeon and dragons dices?

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRGN 433 - Debates US Security Policy
Section ID 844675
Section Number A00
Fall 2015

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 11
Number of Students Enrolled: 13

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

1 (9.1%): Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%): Subject Area Requirement
6 (54.5%): Elective
4 (36.4%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

6 (54.5%): Strongly Agree
5 (45.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

6 (54.5%): Strongly Agree
5 (45.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

9 (81.8%): Strongly Agree
2 (18.2%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

8 (72.7%): Strongly Agree
3 (27.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

7 (63.6%): Strongly Agree
4 (36.4%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

6 (54.5%): Strongly Agree
5 (45.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

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2 (18.2%): Agree
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3 (27.3%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

- Excellent instructor with impressive knowledge of topics and presentation abilities
- Excellent, best instruction I have received at UCSD
- Has the ability to make a 3-hour night class not feel like 3-hours. That alone suggests a very strong performance. Also was always thoughtful in questions and comments.
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- Professor Driscoll brought incredible energy and passion to every single lecture. His lectures were captivating and thorough. Even with an evening class that was 3 hours long, it always seemed to fly by.
- Professor Driscoll has to be one of the most unique, passionate, fair, and knowledgeable teachers I had so far in this program. He makes you think about real issues and at the same time mixes it with history and humor that not many teachers can pull off.
- There are so many things to understand in such a short period of time. He did a good job in making sure we learn what we need to know.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

7 (63.6%): Strongly Agree
4 (36.4%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

8 (72.7%): Excellent
3 (27.3%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- All was good. Particularly liked Prof. Driscoll speaking on contemporary topics.
- Covered a wide range of topics and different ways to view international politics. He had a unique way of teaching us the theory behind international politics which I enjoyed.
- Great sense of humor, active speaking, very engaging, and absolutely fair and cares about the success of his students.
- interactive, thought-provoking
- It prompted a lot of real world problems that don't have a specific methodology in addressing and challenged you to do it. For example taking large swaths of information i.e., hundreds of pages and compressing it into a ten minute speech.
- Lectures were very interesting
Student's public speaking improved
Students learned to look at security differently than before the class
Analytical skills increased
- Professor Driscoll had a great balance of interesting lectures and debate among the students. I found it to be incredibly engaging and intellectually stimulating.
- The opportunity to practice public speaking and professional presentation in a variety of settings was excellent. Communication skills are essential throughout life and in many vocations. If you do not have the ability to communicate information to others clearly and in a way that they can relate to, it really doesn't matter what you know.
- The presentations (and the comments afterwards).
- Very focused on professional skills, just as advertised. The focus was on skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, professional writing (as opposed to strictly academic writing), and even professional dress. Most of these skills are not emphasized in other classes.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- A bit more videos or lecture slides would be good, but not really necessary because of Professor Driscoll's ability to keep people active and engaged.
- Giving more than 5 minutes of speaking time to describe the material, which might mean fewer reading overall. It was effective in speech giving, but on the receiving end of the material, it was a bit hard to learn the content of the material.
- I would have liked to have more direct and specific constructive criticism from the professor and/or from others in the class after I presented. With written or verbal critiques I could

improve on my speeches week to week. Speaking in front of the class made me more comfortable with public speaking but I wasn't sure what I was doing right and what I needed to change/work on. Sometimes I felt that professor Driscoll was very concerned with offending me at the expense of not providing a critical review but only telling me what I did well. While it is great to hear what your strengths are, I'd also like to hear more on what areas need improving so that I can work on it as the quarter progresses. This allows positive feedback to be even more meaningful if I am able to grow and change something that I previously was not doing so well at.

- If possible, being directed to some examples for the writing assignments and pre-Thanksgiving speech would have been helpful.
- May not be necessary to require the purchase of all of the books, as we only read small portions of a couple of them.
- Move it earlier? Night classes are relatively harder to follow because of exhaustion and sleepiness
- Perhaps provide examples to students of how political staffers write for politicians in case they didn't have experience with this before.
- Recommended tailoring down the amount of public speaking (maybe one or two) and more reading about contemporary issues and less Cold War era theories of IR.
- scheduling the course in a classroom that hasnt been hollowed out

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Among the many concepts that will likely shape my future: I need to remember pathos, ethos, & originality.
 - Being myself when public speaking is the best, even if the topic is one that I'm not extremely comfortable with. Don't try to fit into a different mold - being who I am works and is the most genuine.
 - Political history and philosophy still play major roles on the way policies and attitudes towards foreign policy in particular are formed in an ever changing international system.
 - problem solving before speech giving.
 - Sharpened sense of how nations make decisions and what drives them. Same with specific groups of people.
 - Social Science models which espouse trendy data do not actually have highly accurate predictive powers.
 - The biggest security concern is not terrorism--its nuclear proliferation. And really, so much more!
 - The introduction to the Realist "canon" was very valuable and now plays a major role in my perspective.
 - Understanding how liberal and conservative politicians work, make decisions and campaign
- Having a keen understanding of how US security is impacted by troubles in the Middle East,

what the media doesn't share, and to always look deeper into civil struggles that can become global epidemics.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please provide any additional constructive comments

- dont let this instructor leave!
- Honestly, this type of course is exactly what I hoped for in returning to Graduate School. I absolutely loved this course. It has been one of, if not the best class I have had at GPS.
- Professor Driscoll is an individual that is meant to teach. I really enjoyed this class for its realistic, professional, but at the same time laid back feel that promotes more learning in a real world manner.
- Thank you for a great course! I learned a lot and have fun too.
- Thank you for a great quarter and intriguing class!
- Thank you for one of my favorite classes at GPS.
- Thank you for seeing the need for a course that includes public speaking and for pushing us in our abilities to analyze and verbally articulate information.
- Were those dungeon and dragons dices?

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRGN 490 - Sp Top/Intern Pacific Affairs
Section ID 859534
Section Number H00
Winter 2016

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 8
Number of Students Enrolled: 11

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

1 (12.5%): Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%): Subject Area Requirement
4 (50.0%): Elective
3 (37.5%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

6 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
2 (25.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

8 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

8 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

8 (100.0%): Strongly Agree
0 (0.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

8 (100.0%): Excellent
0 (0.0%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

- Always thoroughly prepared to lead the discussion and expected the same from students. Likewise, continually brought enthusiasm and passion to the lecture at hand.
- Excellent instructor, clear subject matter expert, does a very good job of challenging the existing views of students.
- Hands down the most prepared lectures that I have experienced while in the program. Professor Driscoll has a passion that he brings into the classroom that excites and evokes a desire to become involved with the readings and in class discussions.
- One of my favorite professors. Great amount of knowledge and excellent presentation style. He encourages debates that get outside the "safe space" that others are afraid to leave. Speaks his mind and is able to see multiple perspectives.
- Professor Driscoll can teach really well in this topic. Please keep up the good work!
- Professor Driscoll continues to amaze me. Every single lecture he brings so much energy and insight into the material. I've said it before, but it is worth repeating. Professor Driscoll's courses are exactly the type of learning environment I hoped to receive in Graduate School.
- Professor Driscoll is very engaging and an excellent lecturer. His knowledge and passion for what he teaches comes through in each class. The expectations for assignments are somewhat vague, which does make it difficult to know how to complete the assignment.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

7 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
1 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

8 (100.0%): Excellent
0 (0.0%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- 1. Run like a book club that requires you to read one book per week. For me, this is the best so far that I've experienced as a way to take in a wealth of information and knowledge and still not be overwhelmed by it and be able to make sense of it.
- 2. The essays allow you to retain the material you have absorbed from book reading.
- 3. The classroom discussions are so spontaneous, like you're just talking to a friend who will reason with you in a way that you're both learning from each other. Professor's a very humble guy, too!
- Assignment of a book per week is good vehicle to show the diversity of challenges in the humanitarian field. Instructor had clearly thought out almost all angles in order to engage with students ideas and views. Class structure encouraged ample discussion and debate between students.
- I like the "book club" learning method in this class as it helps the students gain more knowledge on the issue through reading well-written books.
- Professor Driscoll, class discussion
- Really enjoyed the book club format and discussion. I thought the course structure was great, and students were able to actively engage with each other and the professor regarding their views on the topic. I liked the op ed assignment, and would enjoy doing an op ed each week so students can really express their particular feelings on a topic.
- The course load was intense at first look but the pace overall was very manageable. Some of the assigned books did not include much background on the conflicts in question but the lectures would tie everything together. I really enjoyed the writing of, re-writing of and discussions of the OP-Ed pieces.
- The non-media based lectures (no PowerPoint) that required students to read the materials and come ready to participate in a discussion. Also the reality with which the topic was approached, in that it was acceptable (and even encouraged) to express differing viewpoints and then discuss and analyze varying ones in order to better understand views and opinions held by others.
- This course was challenging and informative. Each week was unique and fascinating in it's own way.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- Class assignments (the papers) structured in a way that is challenging towards people without experience in writing literature reviews. Variety in assignments in the future might help encourage even more in-class discussion and debate.
- Continue with the same tone and framework.
- Focus each week on a particular incident and cover it in depth for that week and then move on to another (as opposed to two books on Kosovo). Preferably doing that in chronological order of when said events occurred would facilitate lectures/discussions in a historical building-block sense (i.e. talking about Iraq, Somalia, then Rwanda, then Bosnia, then Kosovo, then ISIS, etc.) would facilitate a better understanding of how the former incidents influenced the responses/actions in the latter. Also, it seemed a bit of a stretch that Tajikistan and Georgia were humanitarian interventions but was still a worthwhile mental exercise to discuss it in the context of a Russian viewpoint, maybe just not a whole class that could have covered another

intervention. Other lectures could have covered interventions that should have occurred but didn't (i.e 1988 Iraq, etc.).

- Greater clarity in expectations for writing assignments so students can spend more time absorbing the material and less time trying to figure out how to write a paper that meets the professor's expectations.
- Perhaps broaden the scope to not only include US (and Russia)-centric interventions. Having a guest lecturer to discuss his/her point of view in a discussion would also help.
- The final paper is pretty long. I would prefer to write on another book or two within the syllabus.
- The reading was heavy. There was at least a couple books I couldn't entirely finish. While I really liked discussing the books for that week, I think the course would go the extra mile by pairing a discussion of the book with an organized lecture of the professor's view on the ethnic/cultural/historical background of the particular country that is being read about.

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- His book, particularly, will inform and influence my decision-making in my future operations. You take away something that's really out of the box. I know this is a vague statement but I'd rather not expose my key takeaway from his class so that our country can maintain its edge over the enemies of the free world.
- Human suffering is real but it doesn't play in international political considerations unless it encompasses another area of interest for interveners.
- Humanitarian intervention doesn't always work. There are a lot of bad people in the world who will do whatever is in their power to push their agenda. Genocide is sometime overused and sometime underused. Africa and the Middle East have a long way to go in getting their stuff together...
- Humanitarian interventions are a pandoras box filled with a necessity but an inability to predict the amount required at times and can be difficult to validate if effected successfully.
- Humanitarian interventions are messy and even when good is intended, they don't always work. However, to stop intervening on behalf of those unable to defend themselves would be morally abhorrent. Therefore, we need to learn from the past and intervene with an understanding of what can go wrong in effort to not repeat past mistakes.
- R2P is a joke (jk).
- The phrase "Humanitarian Intervention" will be the justification for many regional wars in the future.
- This course made me much more perceptive to biased analysis.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please provide any additional constructive comments

- Good luck raising Elly!
- Great job as always!

- I'm not particularly familiar with the politics of academia, professorship, tenure, etc. but I have seen that Jesse Driscoll is a phenomenal teacher, incredibly intelligent on a variety of subjects, and passionate about what he does while still being grounded and humble which are not characteristics that all professors have and/or display. I'll be sure to reference and draw on what I learned in this class in my future endeavors in whatever career, and I wouldn't be surprised if one day I say 'I was a student of Professor Driscoll' when referring to great accomplishments he has made to academia or otherwise.
- Please have JD read this. Thanks!

The course has been great and your book club design for the class is really awesome. For one, it gave me a renewed sense of confidence in my research abilities through book reading at a pace of one per week. I find this amazing because it is very beneficial for ESLs (english as a second language) like me to be trained in this way and still successfully absorb the material.

- The subject matter is difficult and at times depressing. However, to ignore it and "change the channel" is not justifiable either. I appreciate Professor Driscoll's ability to address and tackle these tough issues and to encourage students to engage in discussions and arguments that may not have a "right" answer. He challenges us to read and think objectively and in new ways rather than just accepting what we have been told.
- This course and Professor Driscoll are both highly unique among the heavily data-monkey offerings at GPS. My friends in other IR programs have also said courses that look over this issue across a worldwide spectrum are rare. Professor Driscoll is the most impressive lecturer I have encountered in GPS and it was a pleasure to have taken his classes.

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**Graduate Course Evaluation for Jesse Driscoll
School of Global Policy and Strategy**

IRCO 483 - Workshop/Policy in Pacific Rim
Section ID 870577
Section Number A00
Spring 2016

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 12
Number of Students Enrolled: 18

1. What is your reason for taking this class?

12 (100.0%): Core Course Requirement
0 (0.0%): Subject Area Requirement
0 (0.0%): Elective
0 (0.0%): Interest

2. The Instructor was clear about course expectations.

9 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
3 (25.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

3. The Instructor was well-prepared for class.

10 (83.3%): Strongly Agree
2 (16.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

4. The Instructor organized class activities in a way that promoted learning.

9 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
2 (16.7%): Agree
1 (8.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

5. The Instructor promoted and encouraged questions and discussion.

11 (91.7%): Strongly Agree
1 (8.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

6. The Instructor provided feedback (written/oral) in a way that promoted learning.

9 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
3 (25.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

7. The Instructor was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

10 (83.3%): Strongly Agree
2 (16.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

8. I would recommend this instructor overall.

10 (83.3%): Strongly Agree
2 (16.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

9. What is your overall rating of the Instructor?

11 (91.7%): Excellent
1 (8.3%): Above Average
0 (0.0%): Average
0 (0.0%): Below Average
0 (0.0%): Poor

10. General comments about the Instructor's performance

- Excellent professor. You can tell he is very passionate about what he teaches and is genuinely very very intelligent, not only about his own field but has a lot of general knowledge about various subjects. He is one of the very few professors at GPS that I can pay full attention to for three hours. Most lectures seemed to pass very quickly because of his energetic teaching style. Professor Driscoll is one of the GPS professors that I will remember for a very long time. Very glad to have taken his class.
- Fantastic all around. Excellently prepared, driven, enlightening, supportive.
- Fantastic guidance for our future professional careers. Small groups, focused lectures and excellent advice on how to research, write and present at a real professional level was incredibly worthwhile. Professor Driscoll makes himself constantly available and is genuinely interested in each group's research topic to the point that it seemed like each group had him as an additional contributor to their team.
- Great Instructor. Great class. I have learnt a lot with my project
- Great performance. It was a pleasure to be in his class.
- Great professor, always prepared and available. Good teaching techniques
- Prof Driscoll was the "best" professor I had at GPS. He was consistently the most prepared for class and the most engaging while lecturing. He provides excellent feedback on graded events, and was able to guide and mentor groups during the capstone research project. This class would have been very different if Prof Driscoll had not proctored the class, and I believe he was the best choice for this class. I cannot overstate what an invaluable asset Prof Driscoll is to GPS.
- Professor Driscoll holds himself to a very high standard and is incredibly knowledgeable, pushing all of us to perform at a very high level. However, there were some changes in the assignments on the syllabus (or perhaps the assignments were just unclear from the beginning), which caused some frustration, but these were relatively minor issues.
- Professor Driscoll is by far one of the most knowledgeable, original and engaged professors I've had. I have made it a point to take a class with him every quarter since my arrival at UCSD.
- Professor Driscoll is very real and engaging. I appreciate the way he teaches and feel as though I learn a lot from him.
- The instructor was knowledgeable, open to discussion and student-friendly. However, the course itself was not well-structured and objective-oriented. Before conducting a research, as a student I need to acquire the needed skills to do the research process and improve these skills while conducting the research.
- Without a doubt, Professor Driscoll is the best instructor I have had at UCSD. He was available at all times, providing support, direction and insight throughout the course.

11. I would recommend this course overall.

7 (58.3%):	Strongly Agree
4 (33.3%):	Agree
1 (8.3%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree

12. What is your overall rating of this course?

7 (58.3%):	Excellent
3 (25.0%):	Above Average
1 (8.3%):	Average
1 (8.3%):	Below Average
0 (0.0%):	Poor

13. What were the particular strengths of this course?

- Allowing students to pick their own topics of interest to research.
- Developing research methods and topics. Working on presenting skills.
- Good pace and enjoyable project overall.
- I feel as though this class could be very boring but I thought Professor Driscoll did a great job in making it engaging. While I don't think some of the class presentations directly assisted our research and developing the case studies we are working on, I do believe that they are great life lessons for presentations in our futures.
- Improving presentation skills
- Knowledge of the instructor
Accesibility
- The class was very challenging but promoted learning and enhanced my research and public speaking skills.
- The direction and candid feedback from peers and instructors was remarkably helpful. I really learned a great deal from the exchange of ideas and regular presentation of findings.
- The presentation structure, it makes you prepare and be ready for real life experiences
- This course did a great job pulling together all the skills we learned at GPS, and I personally appreciated the attention paid on "real world" expectations for researching and presenting. I have already incorporated some of the techniques and practices I have been learning in this course into my current job, and have received excellent feedback... This stuff works. This is the kind of education that I came to GPS for, and I have been thrilled to be a part of this class.

14. What suggestions do you have for making this course more effective?

- A lecture or two about how exactly to conduct research (not just about researching) would be very helpful. I felt like some of the students were not exactly clear on research methodology.
- Don't scheduled the class on days that will fall on a holiday. 10 weeks is too short for any type of research.
- Give a class on each topic from the groups.
- I would focus the classes more in the research project field in order to help us more with our research project
- I'm not sure that the Capstone is overly effective for showcasing our abilities. I feel like it ends up being focused only on getting the project completed, rather than learning anything of significant value in the process. I do think that dividing the class based on interest is of value, but in general the group work is still a challenge.
- It has to focus more on how to conduct either a basic or applied research. This includes introducing to how to make a research design, strategy, methodology and techniques.
- Learning to give peer feedback is great, and something that I do in my job regularly. The ability to give and receive honest, effective constructive criticism is really useful, especially the ability to divorce personal and professional criticisms. I thought the weekly group critique papers were definitely a useful exercise, but maybe incorporating something like that into our weekly presentations would be useful as well. This is definitely challenging because most students don't want to directly confront or be confronted on in class performance, but I think it would be beneficial if effectively implemented.
- Maybe a little more direction in the beginning for some of the groups or a predesigned project idea or clarification that the groups could pick topics that do not fall in line with the original prompts.
- The Friday 5:00 PM weekly deliverable deadlines were a challenge for those working full time. Pushing that to late Friday or early Saturday would be helpful.
- Would recommend more in depth discussion of research methods during lectures to link everything we are doing together. Got some exposure, but would have preferred more since it was the first time seeing it.

15. What one concept did you take from this class that will shape your future?

- Briefing style and effective collaboration.
- Group work is very very difficult, but a part of life.
- I believe the course didn't take me that far.
- International relations research trumps comparative politics! Trying to look at big ideas and concepts in IR is more satisfying and applicable.
- Oral presentations
- Really just learned a great deal about building a long term research approach and tweaking along the way. Really helpful in my career immediately.

- That every time I create or present my work, it will contribute to my cumulative professional identity. This class was an excellent opportunity to practice the dedication and motivation to "nail it" 100% every time. Professor Driscoll showed this work ethic each time he gave a lecture, assignment or even email in and out of class, and will certainly be the most valuable takeaway among many that I have from this course.
- The ability to share information through presentation while also making it unique to you, engaging and informative. You really can achieve them all at the same time if you know the material, are prepared and are comfortable with yourself.
- The investigation process, the question attitude and presentation skills, all really good.

16. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please provide any additional constructive comments

- Classes, professors and experiences like the one provided in this class are -the- reason I came to GPS. This is what I was hoping from a masters level program, and it delivered beyond all my expectations.
- I believe this course should be more about what the student needs rather than about what the professor wants. I suggest to conduct an open discussion between, the professor, faculty and students to come with a more productive and beneficial course structure. Let it be a two way-process rather than one way.
- One of the best instructors in the whole year
- Professor Driscoll made this course more interesting than it probably would have been without him.
- Really enjoyed Professor Driscoll's lectures - I understand the need for the group work and presentations, but feel that hearing from him is more valuable in terms of what I'm able to learn and take away from the class.
- Thanks so much for great classes and sharing so much knowledge with us!!! You were very real while also supportive and legitimately interested in us and our research...it was noticed and appreciated.
- The best teacher throughout the program. Truly a dedicated professor and mentor.
- This is the third time I have had the pleasure of taking one of Professor Driscoll's courses. Every single lecture or class was a reminder of why I went back to graduate school. He was the most prepared, engaging and available professor I have ever had and I was incredibly fortunate to learn from him at UCSD.

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