

Student Response Survey Summary

Course: PS298 A: T: Conspiracies (CRN 10164; enrollment: 19)
Instructor: Benjamin Toll
Semester: Spring 2025

Question	% 1 SD	% 2	% 3	% 4	% 5 SA	NR/ NA	Val. Res.	Lo	Hi	Mean	Std. Dev.
1. satisfication with qualify of instruction	0%	0%	0%	43%	57%	0	7	4	5	4.57	0.49
2. course ran in way helpful to you	0%	0%	14%	43%	43%	0	7	3	5	4.29	0.70

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Comments for Question 1: Explain your rating.

1. While the grading method for this course leaves much to be desired, it really is the students responsibility to do the work and take the advice. It can be hard to explain that I have never seen a grade in this class to others, but I am confident in the quality of my work because of the feedback given to me. Love the class and the professors are great and engaging,

2. I rated the instruction as "satisfied" because the course was generally well-structured and the material was delivered in a clear way. Lectures and assignments aligned well with the course objectives, and the instructors demonstrated a strong understanding of the subject matter. Grading criteria were mostly clear, and feedback was more than helpful, although at times more detailed comments would have been appreciated. Overall, the course met my expectations and supported my learning effectively.

3. Different, but very interesting in comparison to any other class I've ever had. Course was delivered in a clear way, allowing the students to "contract" what grade they intended to have

4. The quality of the delivery of this course exceeded my already high expectations being taught by two legendary professors. The way they intersected psychology, sociology and political science into this course was extraordinary and not something you get in a lot of classes.

5. very theoretical thinking enjoyed being able to talk about topics not commonly talked about in school.

6. This was a new course this semester and I am so happy I took. I loved the teachers and learned a lot of new things related to conspiracies. I also liked the grading system where we had to sign a contract for the grade we wanted and you had to fulfill the requirements for that grade. This class was so much fun and interesting! Highly recommend this class!

7. I thought it was pretty good! It wasn't what I expected or hoped for out of a Conspiracy Theory class, but I still thought it was fun and interesting. I learned a lot and it's led me to some critical thinking. This class was, unfortunately, the liberal indoctrination my father fears.

Comments for Question 2: Explain your rating.

1. Syllabus was okay ish. That would be my only qualm about the course simply because I refer to it so often for assignments. It could be clearer and I felt like it should be followed. Did not like the fact that the last essay was optional because it kind of contradicted the grading style. Otherwise I like that it's the students responsibility for the grade received. Only students who don't care will suffer in this course and I like that.

2. I rated the course as "good" because it was organized in a way that generally supported my learning. The syllabus laid out expectations clearly. Most of the assignments and projects were relevant and contributed to a deeper understanding of the material, encouraging critical thinking and application. While there may have been occasional areas for improvement, like pacing, the overall setup helped me stay engaged and learn effectively.

3. Clear syllabus, instructors were always open to questions & discussion

4. The course was certainly set up to stimulate and perpetuate learning on a deeper, more critical thinking level. I had classes that left me thinking about every aspect of the social sciences and why people engage in conspiracies, always

battling my own thoughts with different research ideas and class discussion. The contractual grading made me more attentive (in an attendance sense) and increased my participation. It also made sure I produced work that not only fulfilled a 3.5-4.0 but that I was also proud to have my name at the top of, rather than just submitting an assignment to fit a requirement. However, while the medium assignments perpetuated my thinking and made me tackle assignments in a new way, the major assignments definitely need some tweaking assuming this class is to be taught again. They didn't allow for as much creative thinking or assignments that the syllabus argued was part of the reason for the contractual grading method. They certainly allowed for me to dig deeper into the research but didn't stimulate any new forms of thinking or creative processing as the medium assignments do. I also think the ones that did try to do this were all group or partner based and while I engage with classmates, I found it difficult to find ones who wanted to part take in a podcast/class discussion/presentation with their being so many clicks in the class.

5. the syllabus was clear and the assignments all related to class discussions while allowing students to also form their own opinions throughout them.

6. There was a lot of readings in this class. For every WTF when we had this class we had new readings everyday. I feel it was a lot but at the same time it was interesting. The assignments you do for whatever grade you chose, were hard at times but not something that one cannot do. I also liked how you had options to choose what assignment you wanted.

7. The syllabus wasn't 100% ready by the time the class started. I felt like most students were stressed out by the lack of specific assignment guidelines. I feel like the structure was good and I enjoy contract grading. I know this was just an experiment, so I think a more fleshed-out course will help in the future!