

## YSS4274-SMALL STATES IN PEACE AND WAR (SEMINAR-STYLE COURSE CLASS)

2023/2024 Semester 2 | Stephen Monroe

### Teaching Score Analysis

#### Response Rate

Raters	Student
Responded	8
Invited	10
Response Ratio	80%

### Quantitative

#### Overall Mean Score

Competency	Course Score
Overall Mean - Courses	4.33
Overall - Teacher	4.38

#### Breakdown Mean Score for each statement (Courses)

	# Response	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable	Standard Deviation	Mean
The course was effectively organized.	8	0	0	0	4	4	0	0.53	4.50
The course clearly articulated objectives and expectations.	8	0	0	1	3	4	0	0.74	4.38
The course assignments helped me learn.	8	0	1	0	4	3	0	0.99	4.13

#### Breakdown Mean Score for each statement (Teachers)

	# Response	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable	Standard Deviation	Mean
The instructor helped me understand course materials and concepts.	8	0	1	0	4	3	0	0.99	4.13
The instructor encouraged student participation and/or engagement.	8	0	0	1	2	5	0	0.76	4.50
The instructor provided constructive feedback on my work.	8	0	0	0	5	3	0	0.52	4.38
The instructor was helpful outside of class.	8	0	0	1	2	5	0	0.76	4.50



## Course Comments

### What were the main concepts and skills you learned in this course?

Comments
This class delved around themes and issues concerning small states around the world. Didn't learn any specific skill nor concept, but got to be more aware about certain small states I hadn't taken into consideration when studying global affairs themes before this class.
Small states, international trade, and development
Learned more about the way small states operate and how they leverage upon their size to achieve their national goals. Learned to apply theoretical ideas into real-world cases. Also learned technical skills, like how to write an op-ed and a research paper.
Defining Small States, Small states in IR, Small states' development and climate change
Different lens of analysis for small state interactions, not to view them as a monolith. Understanding different priorities that small states have to contend with both domestically and internationally.
I learnt alot more about the small states academia world and theories associated with small states.
Other than that, an extremely useful skill that I learned was the different qualitative and quantitative methods that researchers used for their research design, and this was extremely helpful to me as a student.
IR theory, economics, climate, gender representation, government power broadcasting, small state behaviours, bandwagoning, exceptionalism
I learnt about the strategies small states develop to tackle conflicts and vulnerabilities in relation to larger states. By enhancing multilateral engagements, small states can integrate themselves onto the security and geopolitical development agendas of more powerful nations. However, this course also discusses the limitations of small states geographical size on their economies and foreign policy ambitions.

### What helped you learn? Please provide examples such as reading materials, activities, assignments, and the instructor's distinctive teaching methods.

Comments
Honestly this class was really really challenging. I get, its a 4 level class, but I felt like sometimes Prof. Monroe was really harsh and forgot we had other classes and other assignments other than his class. His grading is extremely picky and severe, often cutting off students just few points under a better grade (for instance I got a 89.5/100 on a short essay equivalent to B+ but I feel like he could have been more kind and flexible and adding that half point to get me to obtain an A-). These details might be insignificant for him, but matter a lot to us especially as seniors applying to Graduate schools where our grades are considered. I also felt he was a bit too pushy when it came to participation. I get it, we have to participate and the point also as a teacher is getting his students out of their comfort box. But sometimes some of us work more efficiently when listening to our peers instead of talking and participating just for the sake of doing it. I felt very uncomfortable in the class and the fact that participation is graded severely is even more stressful, above all the assignments that are already stressful as they are.
The mix of presentations, discussions and lectures is helpful for making an engaging class
Reading materials were really interesting. The way Professor Monroe structured the class and gave everyone the space to participate in class was also immensely helpful.
Reading materials and class discussions. There are a lot of reading but sometimes class discussions only touch on the surface arguments of these readings – it could be more fulfilling to focus on less readings wth more depth, rather than more readings with less depth.
Instructor organized the course and each lesson effectively, there was a clear structure and agenda every class. This helped with my learning greatly, as I could see the learning outcomes easily every class. The instructor is also very helpful in office hours, providing guidance and constructive feedback for assignments.
Group activities and links to contemporary issues makes the concepts we learned in class very relevant. I really liked how the class assignments are structured as well; especially the presentations and OP-Ed. The presentations allowed us to dive deeper into critical thinking and ensuring that we are able to tell these information to our peers in an engaging and clear/accessible way, whereas the OP-Ed allowed us to bring relevance to the various concepts and theories we learned in class; allowing us to link it to our everyday lives and impart these knowledge in an accessible way.
Lectures, reading materials, case studies
Readings were critical in highlighting dominant theories in small states scholarship. Group discussions were further helpful in deepening my insights.

**Please elaborate on your previous responses or address other issues such as class dynamics or atmosphere.**

Comments
NA
The class has a lot of interesting group discussions and requires applying one's research skills.
Everyone in class was eager to learn and contribute and this made for a great class dynamic in my opinion!
Class dynamics are generally engaging, but may depend on the theme of discussion. Instructor encourages all students to participate in class, but sometimes discussions could feel a bit too structured (e.g., only 10 minutes to discuss one topic when we could be interested in exploring further using 20 minutes). Injecting slightly more organic dynamism into class discussions would make things more fun!
The instructor is easygoing and creates an atmosphere in class that encourages students to actively participate in class.
I really liked the class dynamics and atmosphere; it was a genuine seminar style where I did not feel intimidated to contribute to class discussions. The myriad of class activities planned also kept the class very engaging, and helped us to link the 'critical thinking' areas of our brain to the 'real-world' areas of our brain.
I really really enjoyed this class and this was one of the best classes I took in my undergrad so far!
Lectures – were clear and concept-driven Reading materials – provided more evidence and explanation Case studies – provided context
Class is largely attentive and encouraged to participate, especially during student presentations.

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**Custom Course Comments (if any)**