Columbia University: International & Public Affairs
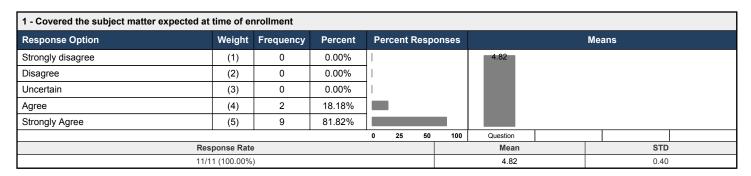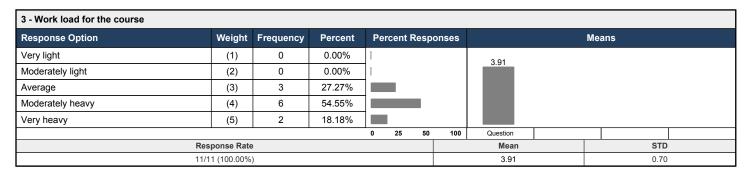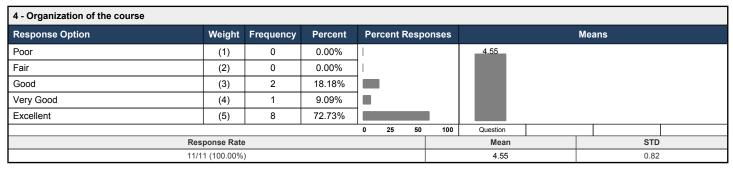# SIPA Course Evaluation - Spring 2020

Course: INAFU6549_001_2020_1 - Peacebuilding After Mass Violence
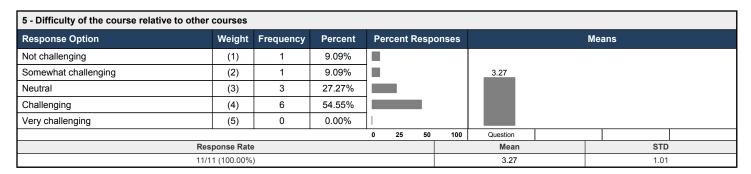**Instructor:** Severine Autesserre *
Response Rate: 11/11 (100.00 %)

1 - Covered the subject matter expected at time of enrollment

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	2	18.18%		4.82
Strongly Agree	(5)	9	81.82%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		4.82	0.40

2 - Nature of the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Very Practical	(1)	1	9.09%		
Mostly Practical	(2)	5	45.45%		
Neutral	(3)	2	18.18%		2.64
Mostly Theoretical	(4)	3	27.27%		
Very Theoretical	(5)	0	0.00%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		2.64	1.03

3 - Work load for the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Very light	(1)	0	0.00%		
Moderately light	(2)	0	0.00%		
Average	(3)	3	27.27%		3.91
Moderately heavy	(4)	6	54.55%		
Very heavy	(5)	2	18.18%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		3.91	0.70

4 - Organization of the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	2	18.18%		4.55
Very Good	(4)	1	9.09%		
Excellent	(5)	8	72.73%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		4.55	0.82

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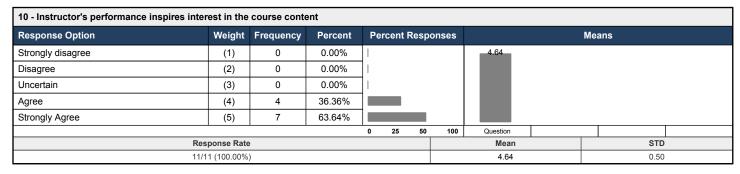
Course:	INAFU6549_001_2020_1 - Peacebuilding After Mass Violence
Instructor:	Severine Autesserre *
Response Rate:	11/11 (100.00 %)

5 - Difficulty of the course relative to other courses

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Not challenging	(1)	1	9.09%		
Somewhat challenging	(2)	1	9.09%		3.27
Neutral	(3)	3	27.27%		
Challenging	(4)	6	54.55%		
Very challenging	(5)	0	0.00%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		3.27	1.01

6 - Relevance and quality of assigned readings

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.45
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	6	54.55%		
Excellent	(5)	5	45.45%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		4.45	0.52

7 - Relevance and quality of the written assignments

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.64
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	1	9.09%		
Very Good	(4)	2	18.18%		
Excellent	(5)	8	72.73%		
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		4.64	0.67

8 - Overall evaluation of the course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.36
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	1	9.09%		
Very Good	(4)	5	45.45%		
Excellent	(5)	5	45.45%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		4.36	0.67

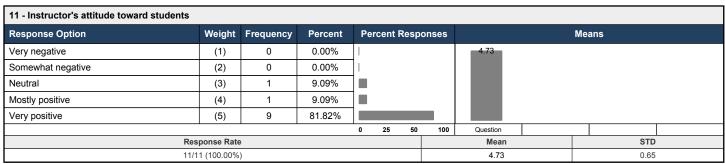|	
Course:	INAFU6549_001_2020_1 - Peacebuilding After Mass Violence
Instructor:	Severine Autesserre *
Response Rate:	11/11 (100.00 %)

9 - Please provide brief, specific, and constructive comments on the overall course organization and subject matter:
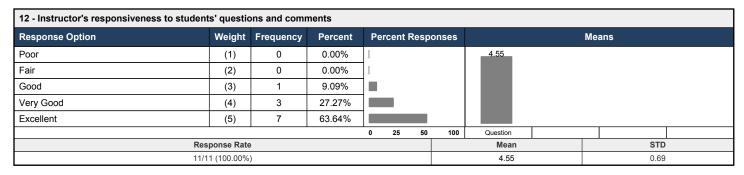
Response Rate	11/11 (100%)

• The course was well organized, and despite the current situation, we were able to cover all necessary materials in order to better understand the subject matter.

• Found this course too easy; I'd rather spend more time talking through more differences of opinion among students in regard to harder material, rather than spending time discussing the basics of research puzzle creation, oral presentations and library research (all of which I already felt very comfortable with when I started the class.)

• A look into the fundamentals of peacebuilding

• It was very helpful to break up the research paper into smaller assignments (research question, paper outline, actual paper) since that got me thinking early on about the eventual structure that the paper would take.

• I have no complaints about the course organization and the seminar style of the course. I wish we also had the opportunity to learn from the instructor about her specific research areas but the course was already packed with things to learn and do.

• The course includes diverse form of activities : role play (peace negotiation), oral presentation, research paper, reading review, etc. Every activity has been beneficial and good to learn how to improve. However, it was a bit time consuming to explain logistic issues and make sure everybody understand what, and how it supposed to be done. It would have been more beneficial if we had kicked off class material directly or earlier rather than explaining these things for a quite long time.

• Course was phenomenal. Learned about new areas of study and possibilities for research and careers. While all of the readings were relevant and interesting, the workload was very tough to manage. It would have been great to have more time for the Congo exercise.

• The class was more practical then theoretical, but I find that it had strong theoretical background and was well balanced. I find the required amount of reading little heavy and challenging.

• This course was thoughtfully designed and implemented. The syllabus was literally the roadmap throughout the semester, as well as a helpful resource with lots of recommended readings in addition to the required readings each week.

• Originally the workload was extremely heavy and difficult to keep up with. However, the professor reorganized with the outbreak of COVID-19 and balanced learning objectives with a more manageable workload. Excellent adaptation. Very clear expectations and excellent organization of course. Discussions felt over-structured at times. Would have appreciated more content on structural violence and underlying causes that often are barriers to Peacebuilding and conflict resolution (such as patriarchy and white supremacy). Also would have like to have read more about conflicts outside of Africa (Asia, etc.)

• The course was extremely well organized and thoughtfully designed, both in terms of the progression of the course content, and in the application of pedagogical frameworks and teaching methods. The various methods applied in class - including class-led discussions, role play exercises, and presentations - were extremely effective in fostering the critical thinking skills necessary for the transformation of information into knowledge and for integrating theory and practice. More specifically, related to the subject matter, the course's critical, social science approach based on reflective practice, treated the subject of peacebuilding with the complexity required for critically assessing existing frameworks, potential negative outcomes of interventions, and the roles and functions of interveners in the peacebuilding system, all of which are essential for preparing students to become reflective and responsible practitioners. The course was also effective in examining many factors underlying peacebuilding successes and failures, and in particular the need for interventions based on meaningful partnerships and sustained engagement with local stakeholders, rather than on universal templates. For these reasons, I feel this is one of the most important courses you can take at SIPA - not only within the field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding - but as it relates to any international intervention.
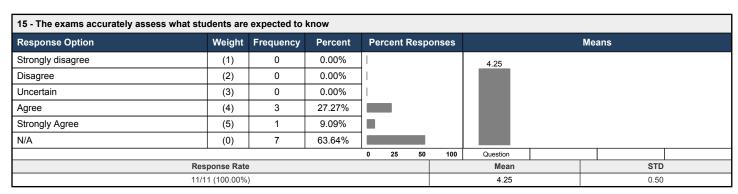
10 - Instructor's performance inspires interest in the course content

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		4.64
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	4	36.36%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	7	63.64%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)	4.64	0.50

11 - Instructor's attitude toward students

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Very negative	(1)	0	0.00%		4.73
Somewhat negative	(2)	0	0.00%		
Neutral	(3)	1	9.09%		
Mostly positive	(4)	1	9.09%		
Very positive	(5)	9	81.82%		

Response Rate	Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)	4.73	0.65

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Instructor: Severine Autesserre *
Response Rate: 11/11 (100.00 %)

12 - Instructor's responsiveness to students' questions and comments

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	1	9.09%		
Very Good	(4)	3	27.27%		
Excellent	(5)	7	63.64%		4.55

Response Rate				Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)				4.55	0.69

13 - Instructor's presentation of expectations to students

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	1	9.09%		
Excellent	(5)	10	90.91%		4.91

Response Rate				Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)				4.91	0.30

14 - Instructor's ability to make complex material easy to understand

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Very Good	(4)	5	45.45%		
Excellent	(5)	6	54.55%		4.55

Response Rate				Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)				4.55	0.52

15 - The exams accurately assess what students are expected to know

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	3	27.27%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	1	9.09%		4.25
N/A	(0)	7	63.64%		

Response Rate				Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)				4.25	0.50

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Course: INAFU6549_001_2020_1 - Peacebuilding After Mass Violence
Instructor: Severine Autesserre *
Response Rate: 11/11 (100.00 %)

16 - Given the circumstances, the instructor adapted well to online teaching

Severine Autesserre

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	11	100.00%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		5.00	0.00

• Dr. Autesserre graciously adapted the class to suit the climate. She is the only professor that I have had that has done so/

• The role play actually worked out really well with the online format, being able to change names, backgrounds, and send private messages

• Professor adapted well by becoming familiar with Zoom and using its features to encourage class learning despite being online and checked in on us and our well being.

• From the activities we did in class, it was clear that Dr. Autesserre took the time to understand not only how to teach via Zoom, but to innovate using its features.

• Dr. Autesserre was effective at adapting the course material for online teaching, and found innovative and creative ways to use the tools available on zoom (e.g. for the peacebuilding role play exercise and student presentations).

17 - Please provide constructive feedback on the instructor's teaching online

Severine Autesserre

Response Rate	11/11 (100%)

• Our professor used the online platform such that it was to our advantage with regards to completing assignments and engaging with the subject matter during class time.

• Clear and effective

• Excellent.

• Severine was very understanding about students' situations and did not force any sort of expectations on performance

• It's always considerate to make time for administrative issues at the beginning of the class but some of this could be offlined or reduced.

• She had no problem teaching online and we had in general good environment for studying. No complaint about this.

• The recommendation for recording and rewatching our presentations will help me improve my public speaking skills. I think more utilization of breakout rooms may have been helpful for some group learning exercises.

• It was smooth and she also communicated clearly on the changes and the different requirements due to changes. It was the most organized response I had from all my courses combined.

• Dr. Autesserre adapted very well to online teaching. She managed to structure Zoom sessions in a way that was almost equally engaging as in-person classes.

• Sometimes logistics and how to use online tools were over explained. Overall very good pivot to online teaching.

• Dr. Autesserre's adroitness at teaching and at facilitating class discussion translated well to online instruction. She found numerous ways to adapt the class material to the online platform to ensure the material and class discussions were engaging.
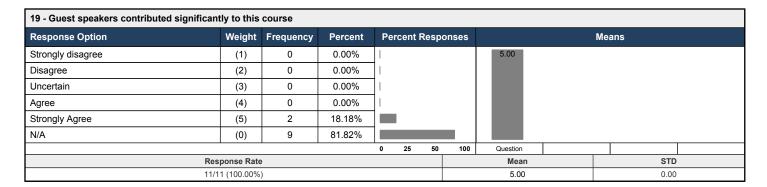
18 - Overall evaluation of the course instructor

Severine Autesserre

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		4.55
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Good	(3)	1	9.09%		
Very Good	(4)	3	27.27%		
Excellent	(5)	7	63.64%		

Response Rate		Mean	STD
11/11 (100.00%)		4.55	0.69

Course: INAFU6549_001_2020_1 - Peacebuilding After Mass Violence

Instructor: Severine Autesserre *

Response Rate: 11/11 (100.00 %)

19 - Guest speakers contributed significantly to this course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.00
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	2	18.18%		
N/A	(0)	9	81.82%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate				**Mean**	**STD**
11/11 (100.00%)				5.00	0.00

20 - Please provide brief, specific, and constructive comments on the instructor's performance:

Severine Autesserre	
Response Rate	11/11 (100%)

• The course was great and very well-organized. The professor covered everything that was outlined at the beginning of term, and made it engaging.

• Great teacher! Could push the class harder and farther though, both in discussions themselves and over the course of the semester (COVID complications aside.)

• I wish this course spent more time discussing race/ethnicity, gender, and class. I did not feel as though the instructor created a safe or inviting environment to discuss these themes.

• Could have spent less time on administrative issues each class and left more time to share her thoughts on the content of each week's topic

• Given that this was a seminar style course, it was not the best platform to evaluate 'lecture' performance this but the facilitation was effective. I only wish we had seen more involved mediation during the role play. Overall, it was a very methodically designed course with clear instructions and expectations and very good readings.

• I love what and how professor Severine Autesserre has taught this semester especially given crazy circumstances under COVID 19. She has extremely passionate and positive attitude which could also influence students in a good way. I enjoyed the course and strongly recommend her courses!

• Excellent professor. Strongly recommend becoming one of her students.

• I enjoyed the structure of the class- active exchange with everyone. The syllabus is also creative and engaging! I was worried about how this will continue after 2 canceled classes, especially because this course had more load compared to others I take. My personal situation since then has changed to make pursuing school very difficult. I very much appreciated her flexibility and rapid adjustment in consideration of students. I also find that the adjustment she made kept everyone engaged and interested in discussion, while key leanings still delivered.

• Dr. Autesserre's ability to plan class so that everyone remains focused and engaged is generally a strength. However, she can become impatient and will sometimes interrupt students when their questions or contributions do not seem immediately relevant to the point she is trying to make. It could be beneficial to allow for students to think a little more expansively, even if this ends up redirecting the course of the discussion or taking up more time than originally allotted.

• Extremely professional and knowledgeable about Peacebuilding. Honest and candid even in the face of tough questions. Nice to have a Professor who is both a practitioner and an academic. Has high expectations of students, but provides a lot of support to get them there.

• Dr. Autesserre is an exceptional teacher who not only brings years of experience, expertise, and insights to the class, but also a keen understanding of pedagogy and teaching methods. In addition, her genuine concern, investment, and support for the learning of all her students, really showed through in her interaction and engagement with the class. This was by far the best seminar course I've taken at SIPA!

21 - The Teaching Assistants (TAs) contributed significantly to this course

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Uncertain	(3)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(4)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Agree	(5)	0	0.00%		
N/A	(0)	0	0.00%		0.00
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate				**Mean**	**STD**
0/11 (0.00%)				0.00	0.00

22 - Please provide brief, specific, and constructive comments on the TA's performance (if applicable)

Response Rate	0/11 (0%)