

Title: **SIPA Spring 2016 Course Evaluation**

Dates: **04/26/2016 - 05/11/2016**

Course: **INAFU8869\_001\_2016\_1/Civil Wars and Peace Settlements**

Responses: **11/14 - 78.57%**

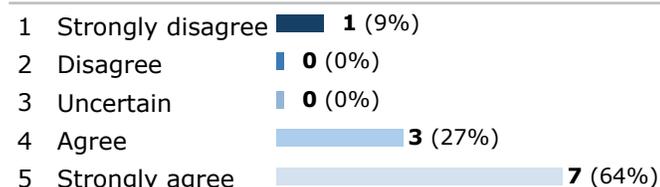
Instructors: **Severine Autesserre**

Number of Participants: **14**

Enrollment of All Students: **14**

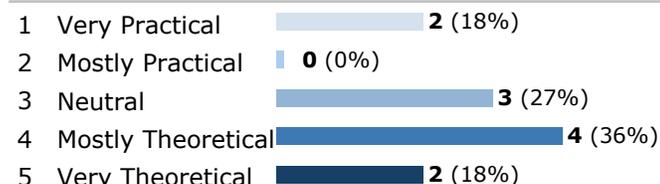
Graph Course Questions

**1 Covered the subject matter expected at time of enrollment N=11**



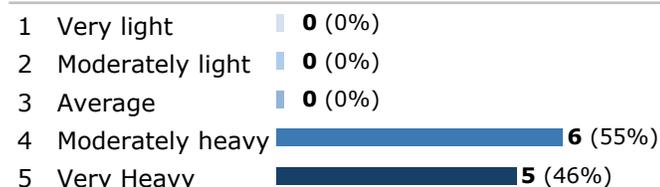
Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.71** Mean **4.36** Std Dev **1.21**

**2 Nature of the course N=11**



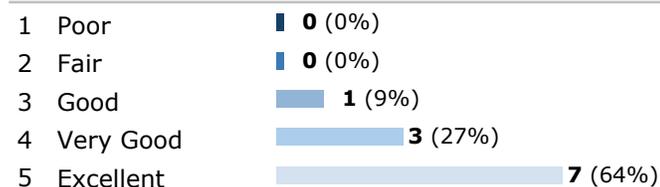
Median **4** Interpolated Median **3.63** Mean **3.36** Std Dev **1.36**

**3 Work load for the course N=11**



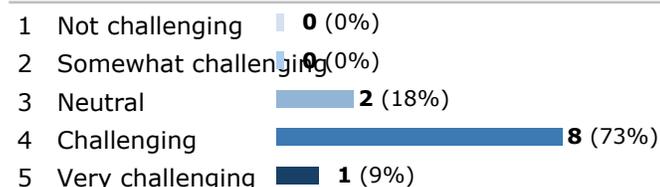
Median **4** Interpolated Median **4.42** Mean **4.45** Std Dev **0.52**

**4 Organization of the course N=11**



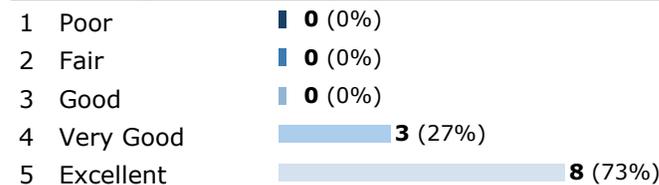
Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.71** Mean **4.55** Std Dev **0.69**

**5 Difficulty of the course relative to other courses N=11**



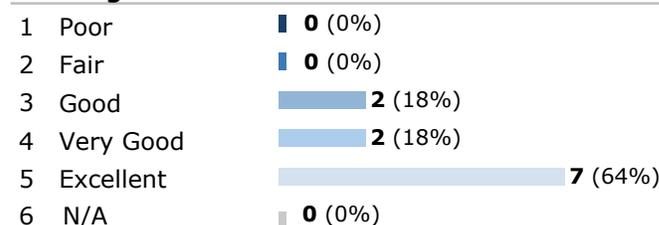
Median **4** Interpolated Median **3.94** Mean **3.91** Std Dev **0.54**

**6 Relevance and quality of assigned readings N=11**



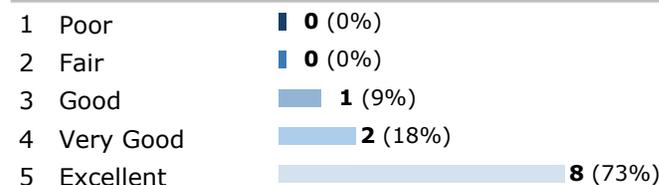
Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.81** Mean **4.73** Std Dev **0.47**

**7 Relevance and quality of the written assignments N=11**



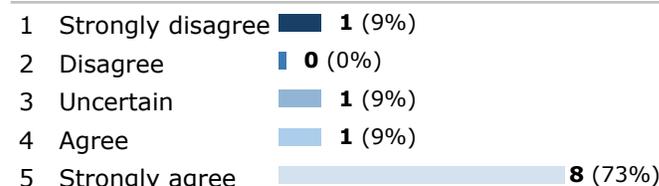
Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.71** Mean **4.45** Std Dev **0.82**

**8 Overall evaluation of the course N=11**



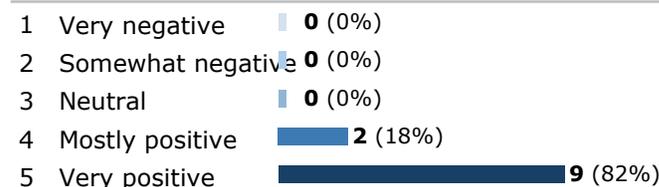
Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.81** Mean **4.64** Std Dev **0.67**

**9 Instructor's performance inspires interest in the course content N=11**



Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.81** Mean **4.36** Std Dev **1.29**

**10 Instructor's attitude toward students N=11**



Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.89** Mean **4.82** Std Dev **0.40**

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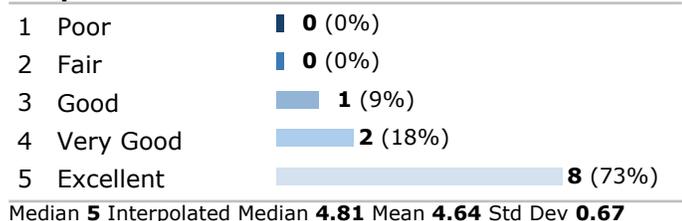
Instructors: **Severine Autesserre**

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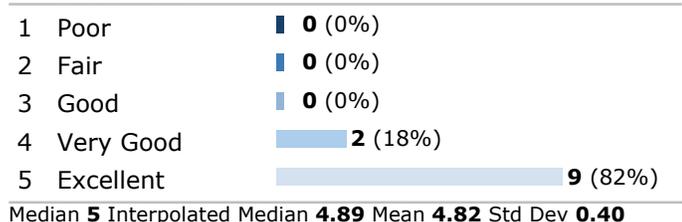
Enrollment of All Students: **14**

Graph Course Questions

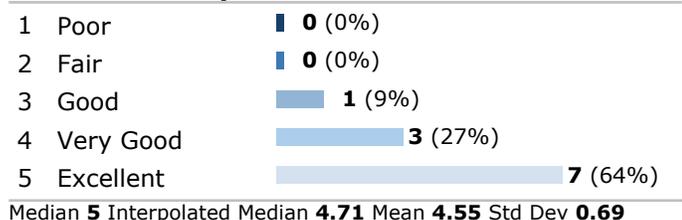
**11 Instructor's responsiveness to students' questions and comments N=11**



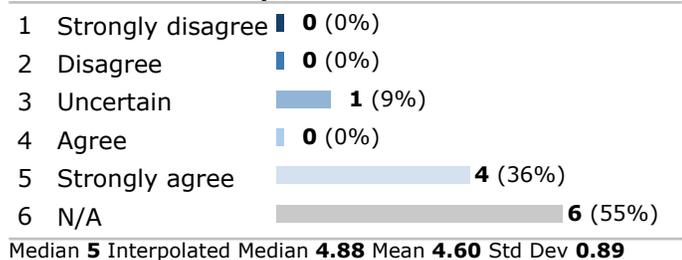
**12 Instructor's presentation of expectations to students N=11**



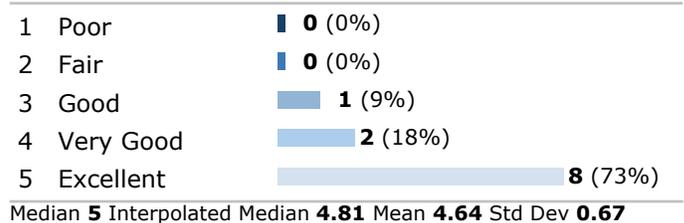
**13 Instructor's ability to make complex material easy to understand N=11**



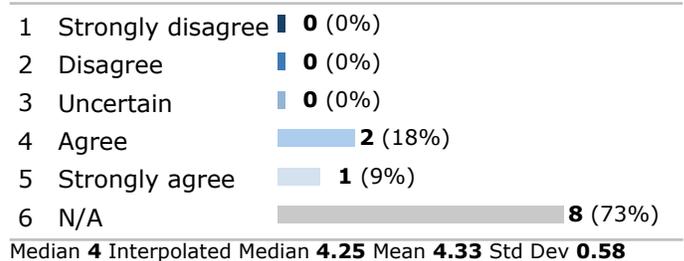
**14 The exams accurately assess what students are expected to know N=11**



**15 Overall evaluation of the course instructor N=11**



**16 Guest speakers contributed significantly to this course N=11**



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Instructors: **Severine Autesserre**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**14**

Enrollment of All Students:**14**

Comments Course Questions

**Q1 Please provide brief, specific and constructive comments on the overall course organization and subject matter:**

- I think this has been the best course I've taken at SIPA so far and I highly recommend it for anyone interested in a broad study of causes of civil wars and how policymakers approach peacebuilding and peacekeeping. In particular, the final paper gives students a chance to really engage with a case study that they find interesting and connect the material studied to a further analysis of the case study. I also thought the readings were excellent, and I enjoyed how much discussion time we had; it's a small class, so students are very much held responsible for knowing the material before class starts.
- This is one of the best courses I've take at SIPA! It is extremely well-organized and draws from historical and contemporary works to help students better understand civil wars, peace processes, and settlements. It is sufficiently challenging, and gives students important takeaways with tangible real-world and policy implications. It is also an excellent course to strengthen students' research and writing skills. Being able to commit an entire semester to improving your research topic and paper was extremely valuable. I particularly appreciated the peer editing sessions. A must-take for any student interested in war and/or peace studies (and work)!
- Perfect combination of practical and theoretical, and it gives am amazing overview of conflict theory. Will also improve your research skills!
- This course is potentially the best I have taken in my academic career, and I am so glad I was able to take it this semester. It provides you with the vocabulary and the toolbox you need to work with conflict and conflict prevention. The professor described the course as all the things she wished she had learned before entering the field, and I would say that statement accurately portrays the course.
- This course covers a lot of material, from theoretical explanations of violence to specific case studies and peacebuilding practice. Therefore there is a lot of reading, and the seminar format means it's hard to get away without doing most of it each week. But class discussion is very well-organized in a way that makes sure you actually understand the material, and builds off of the readings very well. In other words, it's worth it. While I understand why the Professor wants to keep a certain distance from her own work, I do think the class would benefit with more commentary based on her research and field experiences, especially when reading "Congo" and "Peaceland." Many students were expecting a bit more insider, first-person analysis on the experience of conducting and publishing that research. As many of us are considering going into conflict resolution, and are inspired by Prof. Autesserre's career, a few more personal touches throughout the semester would be welcome!
- The only issue was that the second half of the course on peacebuilding felt too short. I think a few more weeks could have been spent on that, instead of the presentation of papers. While requiring peer reviews was helpful, the presentations were less interesting and ultimately time that could have been better spent.

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Comments Course Questions

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**Q2 Please provide brief, specific and constructive comments on the instructor's performance:**

- Professor Autessere is AMAZING.
  - I am disappointed only that Professor Autesserre is leaving on a two-year sabbatical/research leave and that I will not have another opportunity to take a class with her before I graduate. She has so much knowledge on the subject, and clearly cares a lot about her students and how they understand and engage with the material. Office hours were always helpful. She also doesn't waste a minute of class time, which is great because the class only meets for two hours a week.
  - The professor was very inspiring and genuine. Sometimes, the class felt like an undergraduate course because she was not critical of students and our ideas. I would have preferred to have more guidance in the class discussions because it felt like anyone can say anything (even wrong things) without being corrected, which is not helpful or conducive to learning. She is very nice in this way, but I would have preferred that class time was spent more on critical thinking and not just saying anything anyone wants.
  - I cannot say enough good things about Severine. She was knowledgeable and passionate about the material, and while the readings were dense she made them understandable and entertaining. She also had a sense of humor and a way of facilitating conversation that allowed feedback from everyone. I would take any class she taught.
  - Séverine is an incredible scholar and instructor. She has a wealth of knowledge that she humbly shares with students, while also encouraging them to develop their own perspectives on the often controversial topics discussed. She is extremely well organized and has a genuine interest in the academic success of her students. A true gem and invaluable addition to the SIPA faculty.
  - Professor Autesserre is already a very accomplished peacebuilding practitioner, researcher, and scholar--the kind of person whose books you will likely be assigned in other conflict resolution courses--yet she cares deeply about her seminar students, patiently explains difficult concepts, and facilitates discussions where everyone in the class feels motivated to contribute. It's rather rare to find someone with both an inspiring career in the field and the skills of a great teacher, but Prof. Autesserre is one of them!
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