

Yury V. BOSIN | Teaching Success

University of New Mexico • Department of Political Science • Room 2068
MSC05 3070 • 1 University of New Mexico • Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Telephone: (505) 277-5104 (office) • Fax: (505) 277-2821 • E-mail: ybosin@unm.edu • Web: www.unm.edu/~ybosin

The purpose of this memo is to provide a synopsis of my success in the classroom. I have extensive international and U.S. teaching experience. In 2001-2004, I taught various undergraduate and master level courses at Lomonosov State University of Moscow (MGU) focusing on politics and societies of Central and South Asia, and the Middle East. My courses covered a broad range of topics including internal and cross-border nationality problems, multilateral organizations, energy politics, and economic integration in the region. My average class size was about ten students. Since 2009, I have taught continuously for the Department of Political Science at the University of New Mexico. Over the course of the last five years, I have taught almost 500 undergraduates in eight classes. I have taught six classes of *Introduction to International Relations* (POLS 240) and two classes in *Insurgency* (POLS 340).

My evidence of teaching success is based on course evaluations that are administered to students at the end of the school semester by IDEA center.¹ My average score has been constantly in the top 30 % in both categories – Excellent Teacher and Excellent Course. The table and two figures below present a summary of my teaching effectiveness from 2009 through 2013. Table 1 reflects my scores of individual student responses on a 5-point scale with 1 indicating the lowest score and 5 indicating the highest. My highest scores in the category Excellent Teacher have been 4.9 in both POLS 240 and POLS 340. My highest scores in the category Excellent Course have been 4.6 in POLS 240 and 4.7 in POLS 340.

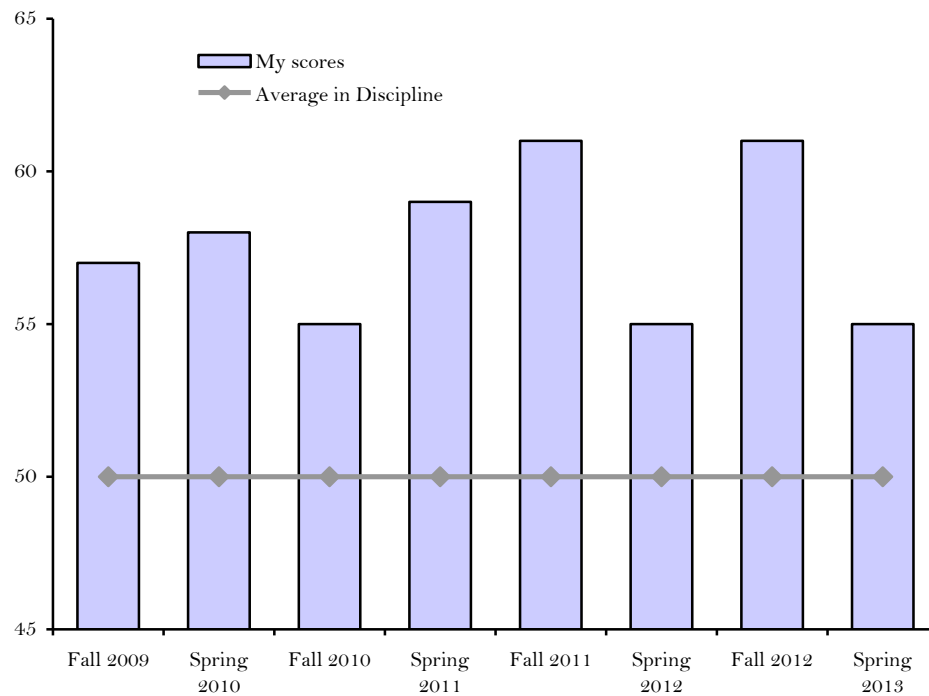
Table 1
My scores in the categories Excellent Teacher and Excellent Course in 2009-2012

	Introduction to International Relations (POLS 240)		Insurgencies (POLS 340)	
	Excellent teacher	Excellent course	Excellent teacher	Excellent course
Fall 2009	4.6	4.3		
Spring 2010	4.6	4.3		
Fall 2010			4.1	4.3
Spring 2011	4.9	4.6		
Fall 2011			4.9	4.7
Spring 2012	4.4	4.1		
Fall 2012	4.8	4.6		
Spring 2013	4.4	4.3		
Mean	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5

¹ More about IDEA methodology at <<http://www.theideacenter.org/sites/default/files/InterpretativeGuideDiagForm.pdf>>

Figure 1 compares my scores with the average scores in the discipline of *Political Science and Government* across all institutions in the IDEA database. All scores are standardized so that 50 points represent an average score and 10 points represent one standard deviation. Scores included in this figure reflect the Summary Evaluation of my teaching effectiveness.² The figure shows that my performance in classroom has been consistently well above the average in 2009-2013, and my highest score reached 61, which is more than one standard deviation above the average.

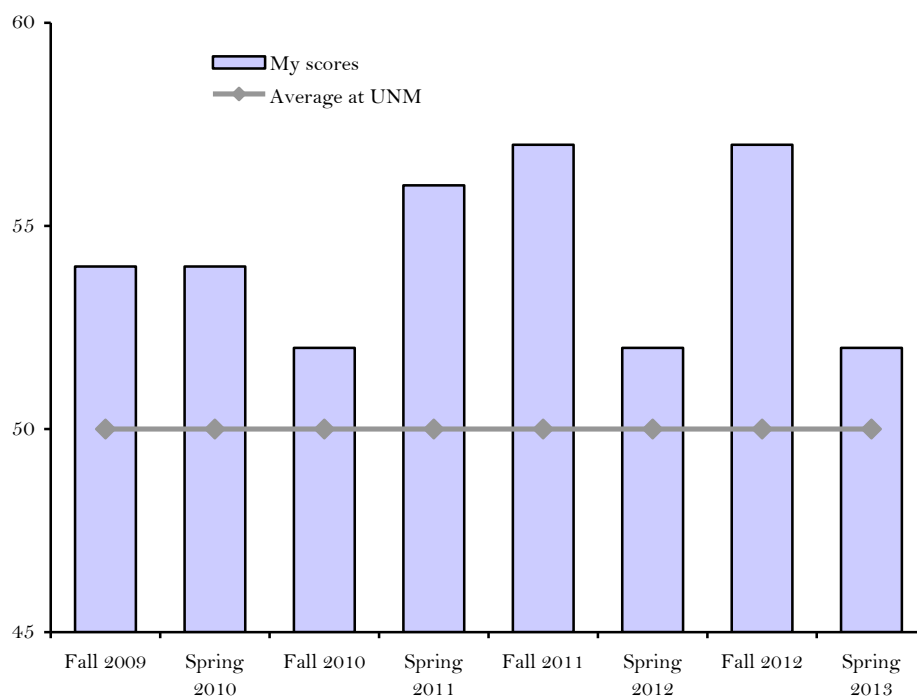
Figure 1
My scores compared with the average scores in the discipline of Political Science and Government across all institutions in the IDEA database in 2009-2013.



² According to IDEA's methodology, "Teaching effectiveness is assessed in two ways: **A. Progress on Relevant Objectives**, a weighted average rating of the progress they reported on objective selected as "Important" and "Essential" (double weighted) and **B. Overall Rating**, the average student agreement with statements that the teacher and the course were excellent. The **Summary Evaluation** is the average of these two measures."

Figure 2 is similar to Figure 1 but compares my scores with the average scores in all courses taught at the University of New Mexico in 2009-2013. My score has always been above the UNM average with the best score as high as 57.

Figure 2
My scores compared with the average scores in all courses taught at the University of New Mexico in 2009-2013.



In 2011, UNM's College of Arts and Sciences named me as the recipient of the Award for Teaching Excellence. Below is the quote from the reward letter:

"By this award, the Selection Committee members express how much they were impressed by the contributions you have made to the College's teaching mission through the quality, depth, and impact of your teaching activities. I agree completely with their assessment. It is clear that your work has not only benefited our College, but also made a difference in the lives of your students."

-- Brenda J. Claiborne, Dean

In addition to this memo, I have also included hard copies of my summary evaluations and a few selected comments from my former students.

SELECTED STUDENT COMMENTS

(the following comments were received from students upon completion of the classes)

"Professor Bosin teaches with a form of power and strength that intrigues students to not only sit on the edge of their seat, but ... to think for themselves and practice what they are taught. [He] not only has an amazing ability to teach, but to actively involve all students to participate in class and pose questions that students truly take to heart."

-- POLS 240, Fall 2009

"Yury Bosin made his International Politics class not only one of the most educational classes that I have taken but also thoroughly enjoyable. Professor Bosin's knowledge extends far beyond the syllabus and on the rare occasion that I could not be there, I felt like I was missing out on a gem of information that I would likely not get back. I can say with confidence that I would go out of my way to take one of his classes again."

-- POLS 240, Fall 2009

"Yuri's class was always interesting and fun. He is a great teacher who knows his field and genuinely cares about his students and their experience in his class. I learned a lot from Yuri and it was his class that influenced me to pursue a minor in international politics. I hope to work with him in the future."

-- POLS 240, Fall 2009

"I had a great time in his class. I would recommend anyone to take a class from Yury for two main reasons. One, he always knew the answer to any question you would ask and explain it until you completely understood. He was always available over email for any question and shot back with an immediate response. Second, Yury's teaching patterns allowed everyone to get involved and interested in the material."

-- POLS 240, Fall 2009

"I've never written to express my esteem for any professor I've had the privilege to work with, and I wouldn't do so if I hadn't been impressed by the intelligence, knowledge, and talent that Dr. Bosin displayed. He challenged his students to find their own answers, think independently of their lecture and reading material, and question the information they were presented with, while acting as a resource and giving us the necessary information and support."

-- POLS 340, Fall 2010

"I wanted you to know with this past course, your Insurgency course, is by far one of my favorite classes! You were a wonderful professor, Mr. Bosin! You really did want our input on what we thought and what we knew of the material. It was also quite refreshing when you, yourself added your own personal thoughts on the subjects."

-- POLS 340, Fall 2010

"Mr. Bosin expected his students to treat him with respect, and in return he treated us with respect. This reciprocity between the professor and student made the classroom a welcome and open environment. I always felt comfortable around Mr. Bosin especially when discussing course material. I would encourage any future student to take a Political Science course with Mr. Bosin."

-- POLS 240, Spring 2011

"I just wanted to say that I enjoyed your class immensely. I think your in-depth knowledge of the subject and your willingness to explore the many different angles and aspects gave all of us students an insight that was probably alien to us when the class began. In this, I also think we also confronted our own biases and greatly learned about analyzing and fixing problems instead of dishing out blame. Your class has definitely made us all better democratic citizens and far more knowledgeable people. Thank You. "

-- POLS 340, Fall 2011

"I came into Prof. Bosin's class with relatively little concern for international politics, but by the end of the semester I had developed my own opinions on the subject matter and came to realize the importance of international politics in world affairs and throughout history. I found his class to be an environment in which original thinking and a variety of different views and opinions were welcome. Prof. Bosin encouraged meaningful discussions and led a very interactive and engaging class experience, encouraging students to share their own ideas while always being a nonpartisan moderator..."

-- POLS 240, Spring 2011

"How I measure a good professor is if he or she has a class that teaches but also encourages students to do their best, professors whose passion comes out in their lectures. Dr. Bosin is one of these professors. His class is an engaging and rewarding experience. He helped each student to bring about their best showing that he cared about our performance. This in turn encouraged us to do better not only because he made the subjects we were studying interesting and the class engaging but because we wanted his respect. This was my favorite class this semester and I am going to miss it next."

-- POLS 240, Spring 2011

"2012 Spring semester was the 5th semester of my college career and up until this point I was never challenged in class discussions the way I was in Yury Bosin's class. The way he presented the information and addressed the questions to the class made me think much more critically about each topic. All in all I thoroughly enjoyed professor Bosin's class."

-- POLS 240, Fall 2012

"Yury was fantastic at providing examples and explaining various topics. He ... built his lessons, not only on facts, but encouraged student participation. I am proud to walk out of Yury's class with a better understanding of many international topics such as nuclear proliferation, international institutions, and civil wars --- just to name a few. These are just the concentrations I needed to move forward in the career in which I have always dreamed about. I'll even go as far as saying that I can speak for the whole class, and all would agree, that his teaching styles and approaches were not only appreciated, but were just at the right levels for each of us to be successful."

-- POLS 240, Fall 2012