

Student Evaluations

For the purpose of succinctly giving an overview of students' evaluations, I include a reflection along with graphs of the metric data and a summary of what students wrote in. Please note that evaluations for Spanish in the Business World and Introduction to Hispanic Literatures are not included. I am currently teaching the business class and Indiana University cancelled evaluations for Spring 2019 when all classes were transferred online. Also, prior to 2017, evaluations were completed via scantron and contained different questions than the contemporary, electric versions. As such, there is some discrepancy in questions for the metric evaluations. All raw data is available upon request.

Written Reflection

Areas of Strength

Students routinely wrote in comments about my passion and enthusiasm for teaching. No matter the course, students wrote that they were encouraged by my energy and obvious excitement for being in the classroom. One student from my Introduction to Hispanic Cultures wrote, "I cannot express strongly enough how much I loved having this class with Caitlin. I've been studying Spanish for 7/8 years and this is the first Spanish class I've truly enjoyed since my sophomore year in high school. She is knowledgeable, engaging, caring, always willing to help, funny, and overall an amazing professor. She brought history to life in her lessons and motivated me to study hard and learn as much as I can. I've been able to apply what we've learned to other classes outside of the Spanish Department. This class has been the one I've looked forward to most every week, and I'm really going to miss being in Caitlin's class next semester."

I believe part of my success in motivating student boils down to respect. In terms of the metric data, I have continuously scored highest in this area. 99% of students from the Introductory Spanish course highly agreed or agreed that I respected them. 87% of the students from the introductory advanced and 90% of the intermediate advanced course agreed. In terms of the classes I designed, 100% of the Catalan class agreed as did 89% of the Introduction to Hispanic Cultures.

Areas of Weakness

Where I scored lowest depended on the course. For the Introductory course, 3% of student disagreed that I recognized when students struggled. Since teaching online, I have used zoom's poll feature to identify areas in which students struggle and then rectify them in class. In the Introductory Intermediate class, 18% of the student said I was only somewhat prepared for class, which is surprising and contradicts the data from all the other courses which say otherwise. Only 40% of the students from my Catalan class found the homework very helpful and 60% found it somewhat helpful. Fortunately, since having taught the class once, I would be better prepared to develop more efficient homework.

For the Introduction to Hispanic Cultures course, unfortunately 17% said that they would not rate the course as exceptional. I believe this is because many students wrote in that the course had too homework. After teaching in the fall of 2019, when teaching the course again in spring, I did reduce the quantity of readings and tried to incorporate more diverse sources. Instead of reading primarily from the textbook with a few documentaries and movies, students watched more documentaries, read more scholarly articles, and watched more cinematic movies. The complaints about work went from seven out of twenty-two students (32%) to ten out of forty-three (23%).

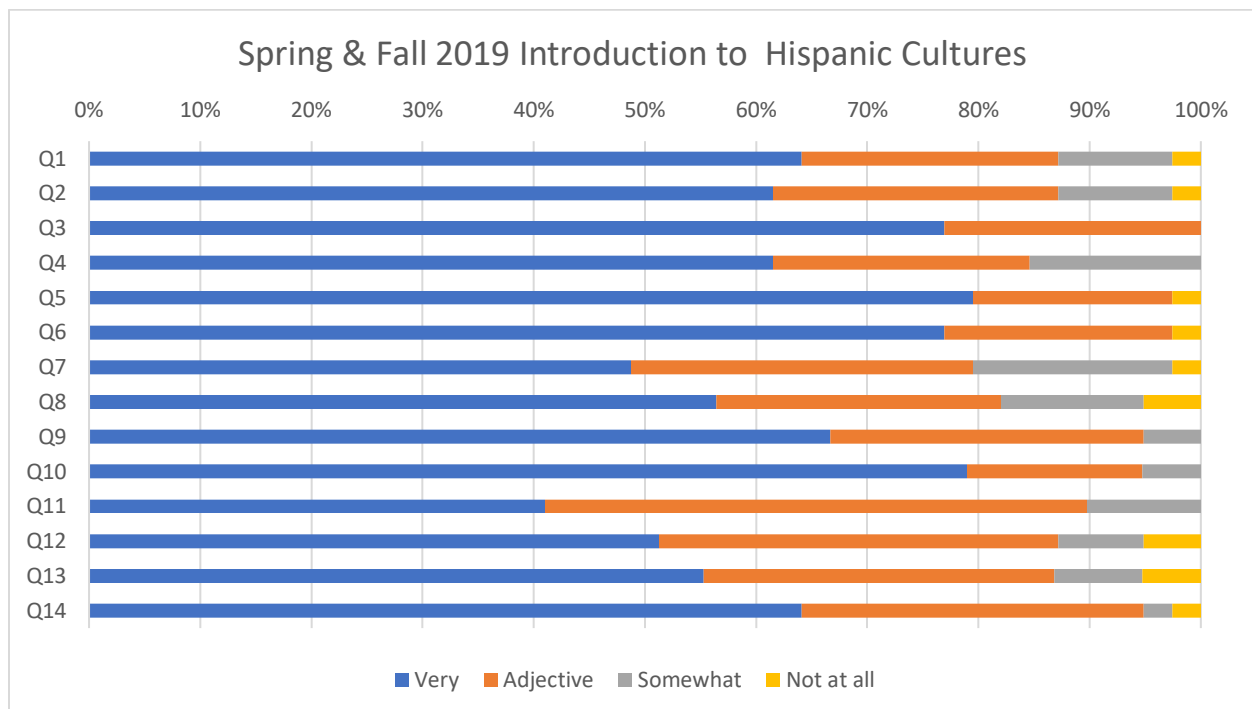
Graphs

Courses Designed and Implemented

Introduction to Hispanic Cultures

Please note: The category 'adjective' refers to the adjective used in the question. For example, In the question 'How clearly were course goals communicated?' the possible responses included: very clear, clear, somewhat clear, and not at all clear.

Total responses represented in the graph: 39 students



Questions

1. How clearly were course learning goals and objectives communicated to you?
2. How effectively was class time used to help you learn?
3. How available was the instructor to provide help when needed (in person, by email, office hours, etc.)?
4. How likely would you be to recommend this course with this instructor?
5. How much did the instructor motivate you to do your best work?
6. How much did the instructor emphasize student learning and development?
7. Overall, I would rate the quality of this course as outstanding.
8. Overall, I would rate this instructor as outstanding.
9. My instructor is well prepared for class meetings.
10. My instructor treats students with respect
11. This course helped me develop/improve my analytical and critical skills.
12. I learned a lot in this course.
13. My instructor designed and organized this class well.
14. My instructor is fair and impartial when dealing with students.

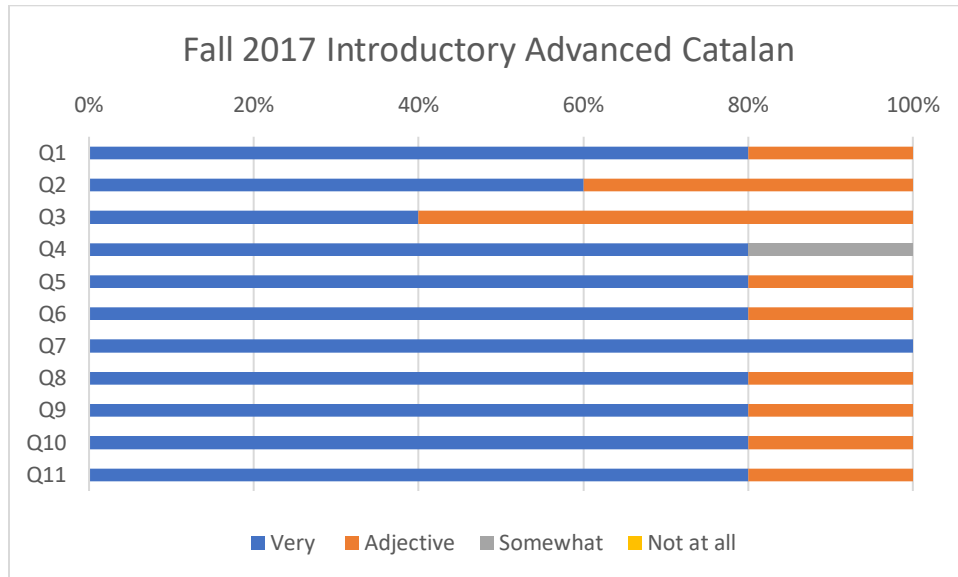
Summary of students' written comments:

Five students used the word "passionate" to discuss my teaching and three others used "engaging" while another three said "energetic" and one "jazzed" Three students discussed my knowledge of the material as impressive or extensive. Two students enjoyed how the course would jump between Spain and the Americas in a somewhat chronological way to get a larger perspective on global sociopolitical trends. Two students expressed that they enjoyed going over the homework in class to clarify misunderstandings about the readings while another said there was too much time reviewing the homework. Seventeen students said that the homework load was too much and similarly, another student said that there was too much information for one semester.

Introductory Advanced Catalan

Total responses represented in the graph: 5 students

Some questions eliminated because they did not include all 5 students' response



Questions

1. How clearly were course learning goals and objectives communicated to you?
2. How effectively was class time used to help you learn?
3. How effectively did out-of-class work (assignments, readings, practice, etc.) help you learn?
4. How available was the instructor to provide help when needed (in person, by email, office hours, etc.)?
5. How likely would you be to recommend this course with this instructor?
6. How much did the instructor motivate you to do your best work?
7. How much did the instructor emphasize student learning and development?
8. Overall, I would rate the quality of this course as outstanding.
9. My instructor is well prepared for class meetings.
10. My instructor treats students with respect.
11. Overall, I would rate this instructor as outstanding.

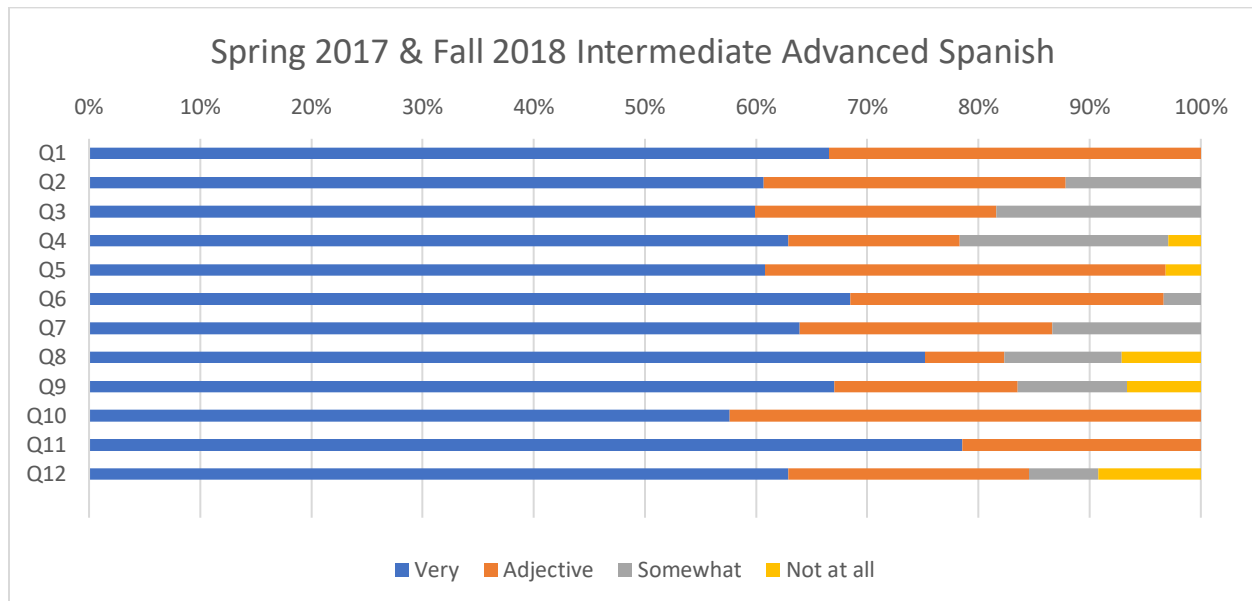
Summary of students' written comments:

Three students used the word enthusiastic to describe my teaching. One student applauded the fact that if I did not know something, I knew where to find the information. One student requested that we review the textbook more often because the explanations were in Catalan, making it difficult for novice learners.

Intermediate Advanced Spanish

Total responses represented in the graph: 10 students

*The response to questions 8 were strongly agree, agree, undecided, and disagree. The category 'somewhat' was used to mark undecided.



Questions

1. How clearly were course learning goals and objectives communicated to you?
2. How effectively was class time used to help you learn?
3. How available was the instructor to provide help when needed (in person, by email, office hours, etc.)?
4. How likely would you be to recommend this course with this instructor?
5. How much did the instructor motivate you to do your best work?
6. How much did the instructor emphasize student learning and development?
7. My instructor is well prepared for class meetings.
8. My instructor treats students with respect. *
- 9 Overall, I would rate this instructor as outstanding.
10. This course helped me develop/improve my analytical and critical skills.
11. I learned a lot in this course.
12. My instructor is fair and impartial when dealing with students.

Summary of students' written comments:

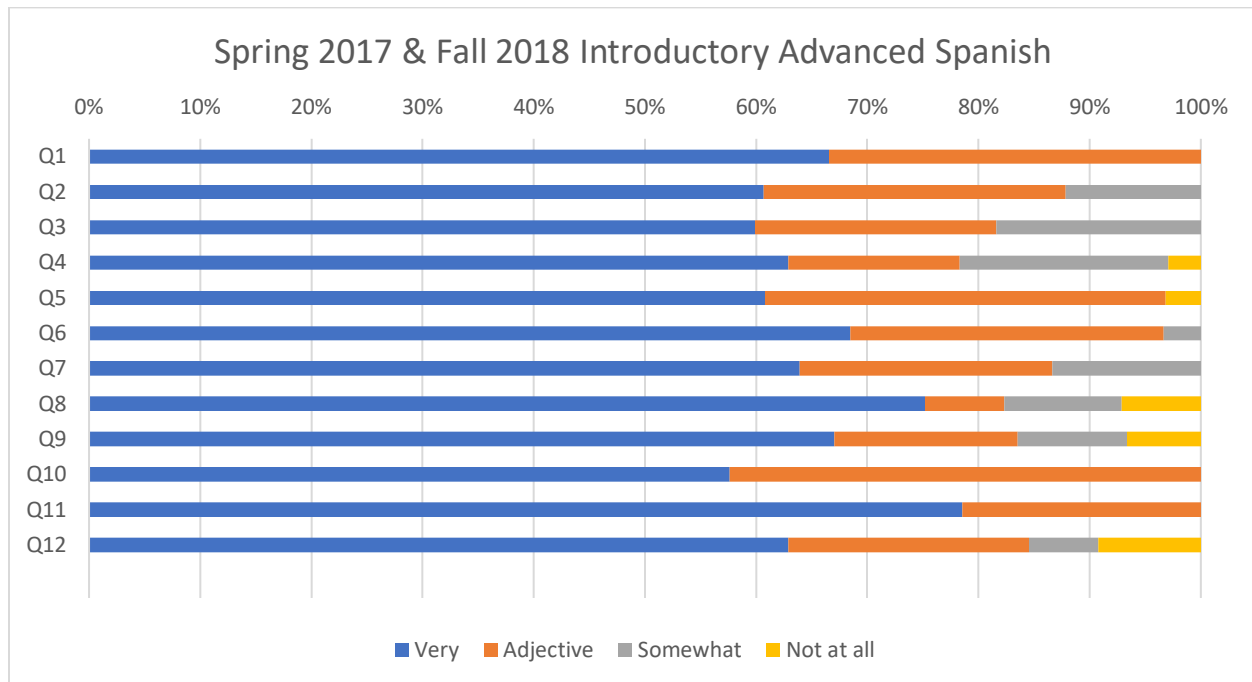
Three students named the areas in which they had specifically improved thanks to this class; two felt that improved their fluency because so much of the class was focused around discussion, while another mentioned that they had improved their persuasion skills thanks to the essay we had written in class. Three students discussed my passion for teaching. Two students felt that the class conversations were too political and felt that I should not express opinions because I was a professor, which was a title of power.

Introductory Advanced Spanish

Total responses represented in the graph: 67 students

*The response to questions 8 strongly agree, agree, undecided, and disagree. The category 'somewhat' was used to mark undecided.

Fall 2016 information not included because it was different format, a scantron



Questions

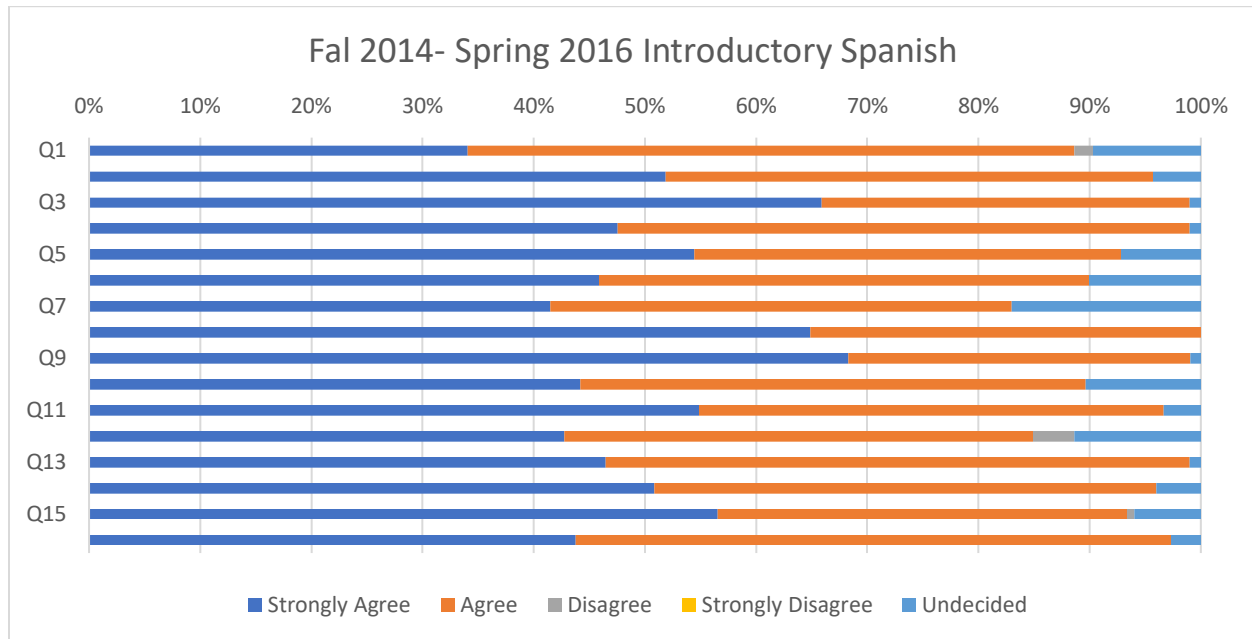
1. How clearly were course learning goals and objectives communicated to you?
2. How effectively was class time used to help you learn?
3. How available was the instructor to provide help when needed (in person, by email, office hours, etc.)?
4. How likely would you be to recommend this course with this instructor?
5. How much did the instructor motivate you to do your best work?
6. How much did the instructor emphasize student learning and development?
8. My instructor treats students with respect. *
9. My instructor is well prepared for class meetings.
10. Overall, I would rate this instructor as outstanding.
11. My instructor explains the material clearly.
12. My instructor is knowledgeable on course topics.
13. My instructor recognizes when students fail to comprehend.

Summary of students' written comments:

Fifteen students that wrote comments had very positive things to say about the class and my teaching that centered around enthusiasm or passion. One student wrote, "Caitlin made an 8 a.m. class exciting. She also was really encouraging about learning the material which was really helpful to me." Another student wrote, "I love the enthusiasm everyday that Mrs. Methvin brings to the class. This is the first time we that I really truly like to come to a Spanish class" Four students said that they wished I spoke English when explaining difficult concepts.

Introductory Spanish

Total responses represented in the graph: 58 students



Questions

1. Overall, I would rate the quality of this course as outstanding
2. Overall, I would rate this instructor as outstanding
3. My instructor is well prepared
4. My instructor explains material clearly
5. My instructor answers the questions carefully and completely
6. My instructor speaks clearly and is understood
7. My instructor stimulates my thinking
8. My instructor is knowledgeable on course topics
9. My instructor treats students with respect
10. My instructor is regularly available for consultation
11. My instructor is fair and impartial when dealing with students
12. My instructor recognizes when students fail to understand
13. My instructor listens attentively to what students want to say
14. My instructor makes me feel free to ask questions in class
15. My instructor announces course objectives
16. I know what is expected of me in this course

Summary of students' written comments:

Sixteen students student noted my enthusiasm, passion, or energy for the class. Three students asked that I use English to discuss difficult grammar concepts in class.