

Online Course Evaluation Summary

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- EVALUATION SUMMARY**
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Overview of Evaluations for Steven Bilakovics

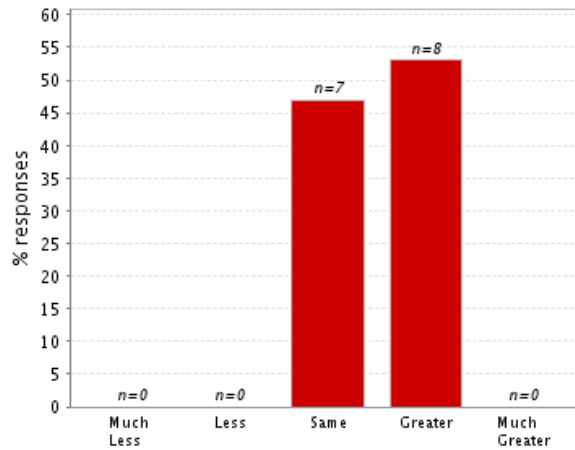
PLSC 274 01

Spring 2010:

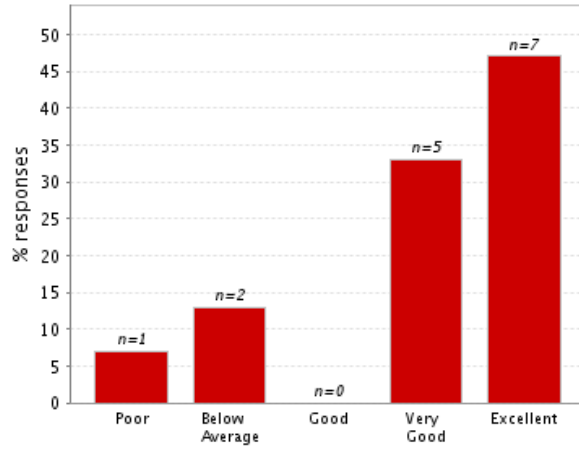
25141 PLSC 274 01 Exploring the American Dream

Total number of students:	19
Evaluations completed:	16 84%
Number of declines	3 16%
Number of non-respondents:	0 0%

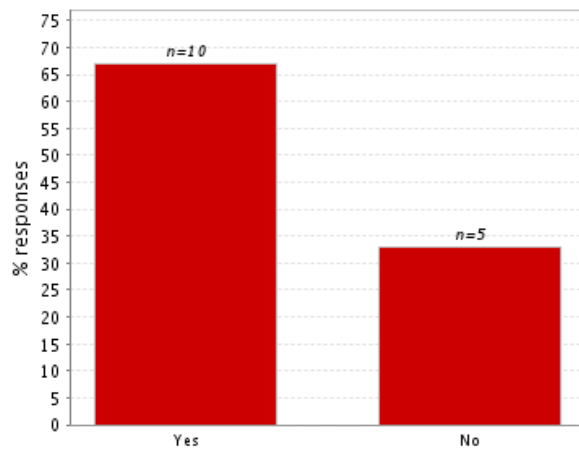
Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken?



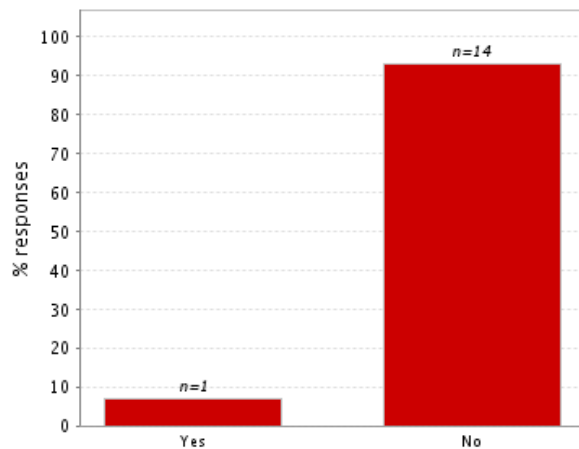
What is your overall assessment of this course?



Do you expect to use this class for credit toward your major, or toward a pre-professional program?



Do you expect to use this class for credit toward the Yale College distribution requirements?



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Looking back on Political Science 274 01, what is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might it be improved?

Response 1

Tocqueville's great.

Response 2

Excellent course with great variety of material. Would have liked to have more time to round up the many topics and discussions at the end of the semester.

Response 3

A great class that covers the great classics that helped shape or describe the American understanding of the American Dream. Every class discussion was riveting for me and we debate the modern aspects of unceasing debates in this country. A must take for anyone interested in American politics; it will change the way you view this country, your goals in life, and the underlying psyche that is taking over the world.

Response 4

A terrific class covering all the best nooks and crannies of important Americana. The material is excellent and seminal; the themes, timeless. Take. This. Course.

Response 5

I took this course mainly because I wanted to go through Tocqueville in an academic setting, and was very much satisfied in that dimension. We also went through a lot of other interesting material, and I feel like my understanding of a lot of thought about American uniqueness / as it pertains to the American Dream has been much improved. It was a fun and interesting course in that respect. One thing I was a little frustrated about was ambiguity about expectations for reading responses, initially; most of all, though, I felt like too few people contributed to the class discussion. When the silent people did talk, they had good things to say! But didn't speak up as much as I would have wanted.

Response 6

A wonderful class, Professor Bilakovics is a wonderful teacher who really knows his stuff.

Response 7

This was an interesting exploration of evolving conceptions of the American Dream and the essence of American identity. It had engaging readings and a workable course load.

Response 8

It was not my type of course.

Response 9

This class was sweet. Great discussions, great readings, and it really made me think about a lot of topics that were only indirectly related to the material. Very useful for future thoughts and ponderings.

Response 10

This was an excellent course, but don't be fooled by the title. Though we sometimes touched on the notion of the American Dream, this course was basically a survey of American political theory. But it was an excellent survey. We touched on every prominent American political thinker, and the Europeans who inspired them. The Tocqueville portion was especially interesting, and I learned A LOT from the 4 weeks we spent carefully reading "Democracy in America."

Response 11

This. Course. Is. Fantastic! A fascinating and engaging seminar that faces many of the difficult questions and contradictions of American history and political thought, stimulating comparison and analysis. There is a seven-page midterm paper and a ten-page final; Prof. Bilakovics puts a large emphasis on directness and precision in topics: the topic you choose must be thoroughly treated within that length of essay. There are also four two-page response papers. Professor Bilakovics is extremely well-qualified and very articulate; though one of his primary specialties is Alexis de Tocqueville (and the four weeks spent on "Democracy in America" obviously reflect that), his knowledge and evaluation extend far beyond it. Perhaps the only weak point would be the prevalence in some seminars of a lecture style; however, this was counterbalanced by several classes in which conversation ruled. It is an especially good class for those who like discussion. Just remember to not be intimidated by your classmates! If that happens, it is likely only a few very talkative students will govern the discussion. Professor Bilakovics especially appreciates it when quieter students (or non-political science majors) contribute. Probably my favorite class of my time at Yale! Take. This. Class.

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Please evaluate each instructor of Political Science 274 01. What are the instructor's strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might his/her teaching be improved?

Response 1

Steven Bilakovics

Great. Knows his shit.

Response 2

Steven Bilakovics

Great professor, very knowledgeable and excellent teaching style. Very approachable and good a stimulating discussion.

Response 3

Steven Bilakovics

Professor Bilakovics is a clear and forceful leader of the class. He knows how to lead discussion and layout the points for us in a very interesting fashion. He's also fond of class surveys and shows of hands that really start off conversations well. He has the knowledge so clearly aligned in his head, it's amazing. Great professor, but he could stand to open up the conversation at bit more. He can go on for too long or let the same individuals control the conversation, so he could be a bit more proactive in coaxing others to participate.

Response 4

Steven Bilakovics

Prof. Bilakovics is a phenomenal guy and excellent instructor. He clearly elucidates the themes, enlivens passionate class discussion, and sets realistically high expectations for intellectual engagement. This guy is a rising star in the department, and both of his courses have gone beyond the pail. He's also hilarious; best dry sense of humor of any professor I've met.

Response 5

Steven Bilakovics

Prof. Bilakovics had a good sense of humor and an interesting approach to teaching the class. One problem was that sometimes

I think he erred too far towards lecture, instead of promoting discussion. I wish that he did more to promote the silent people to join the discussion.

Response 6

Steven Bilakovics

A fantastic professor. You will learn a ton; I couldn't recommend him more highly.

Response 7

Steven Bilakovics

Steve was a great professor. He understood the material and could clearly explain the ideas pertinent to the class. He occasionally dominated conversation to the point of stifling student input, but he made a point of trying to generally avoid this. He did a great job of encouraging diverse participation from the entire class and playing devil's advocate to challenge people on their ideas.

Response 8

Steven Bilakovics

Professor Bilakovics is a good professor

Response 9

Steven Bilakovics

This guy is the man. I have a feeling that some students will comment negatively about his tendency to lecture in seminar, but they are probably just typical Yalies who like nothing better than the sound of their own voice. He talks in the amounts and at the times that he needs to in order to explain the material when it is confusing. He also is great at stimulating conversation and making people rethink their opinions because he will play devil's advocate with practically anything you say, usually with great skill.

Response 10

Steven Bilakovics

Prof. Bilakovics was a very good teacher, though he did rub some people the wrong way. One problem was that he let a few people dominate class discussions, and didn't seem to care much that so many people were completely disengaged. As with any Poli Sci class, there are DS and YPU kids who love the sound of their voices, and Prof. B wasn't so great at shutting those people down. Nonetheless, he is incredibly skilled at guiding students through readings, especially with Tocqueville. He was excellent at methodically explaining complex political theories in a way I've never seen before.

Response 11

Steven Bilakovics

Professor Bilakovics is a wonderful professor, extremely knowledgeable in the field and very engaging in the classroom. I feel he has a manner of connecting with students, but maintaining a high level of intellectual rigor while often discussing the applications of the class in pop culture. He is very equitable, unafraid to shut down preposterous student commentaries or point out flaws in the reasoning of those who speak too much while encouraging the quieter members of the class to speak up, seriously considering their opinions. He encourages creative application of the material. He was also greatly helpful when I visited him in office hours to talk over my papers; he gave me excellent feedback and helped me work through my ideas. His comments on my response papers were also great.



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How would you summarize Political Science 274 01 for a fellow student? Would you recommend Political Science 274 01 to another student? Why or why not?

Response 1

Yes. Interesting class, just make sure no one from DS is in it with you, or conversation get...erudite.

Response 2

Yes!! Excellent course with really interesting material and a great professor who is fun and really knowledgeable.

Response 3

Yes, yes! It is a wonderful seminar and I'm so happy I took it.

Response 4

Take this class, and any class taught by Bilakovics. You won't regret it.

Response 5

I took this course mainly because I wanted to go through Tocqueville in an academic setting, and was very much satisfied in that dimension. We also went through a lot of other interesting material, and I feel like my understanding of a lot of thought about American uniqueness / as it pertains to the American Dream has been much improved. It was a fun and interesting course in that respect. Take this class if you are interested in what 'the American dream' means and want to study that in class quite at length, over different epochs!

Response 6

It's a great course in which to study Tocqueville and evolving ideas of what it means to be American. It's accessible to those not well versed in philosophy but still engaging for DS alums.

Response 7

If you are interested in political theory then sure this course. If you are like me and hate political theory and philosophy than DO NOT take this course. I did not like it at all. I thought the class was going to be a lot different than it turned out to be. I thought we were going to look at case studies and concrete examples of inequality in America to analyze the American Dream.

But that was not what the class was about. What we ended up doing was debating the meanings of equality, freedom, individuality, materialism, etc. So if that's what you like to study in class, than take it. Professor Bilakovics is great. There is a lot of work though- a fair amount of reading, reading responses, a midterm paper, and a final paper. He is also a tough grader.

Response 8

If you're interested in America and you like talking about political theory and history then it's a must take. Great class.

Response 9

If you're fine with a lot of political theory, then go for it. Getting to read and really understand Tocqueville was a treat, and it will change the way you think about American politics. History majors like myself may be a bit disappointed that almost none of what we talked about was grounded in historical fact. Things Manifest Destiny, the rise of the welfare state, or modern conservatism had absolutely no historical context attached, which I think detracted from understanding them. But this is still a great class with truly interesting readings and a very engaged professor.

Response 10

An overview of the American Dream from the inception of the American colonies to the present day, including analysis of its various formulations and the tensions and contradictions within and between those conceptions. I absolutely loved this class. It helped me understand modern American society in a historical context and provided me tools with which to evaluate it. The readings were fascinating, classes were marvelous, the work was not overbearing. The most personally rewarding class I've taken at Yale! Take! This! Class!

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View By Question - Steven Bilakovics

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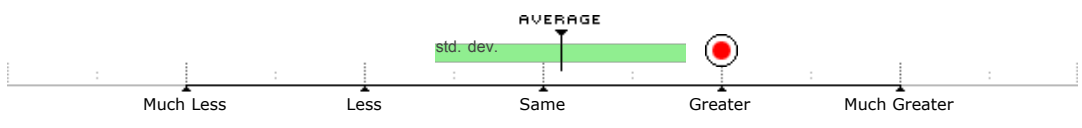
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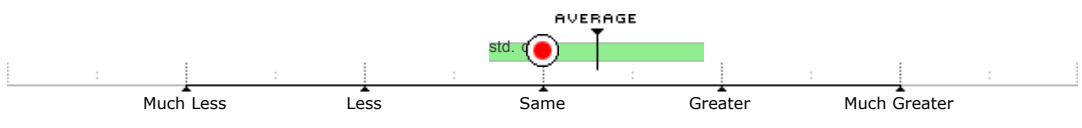
Question 5

Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken?

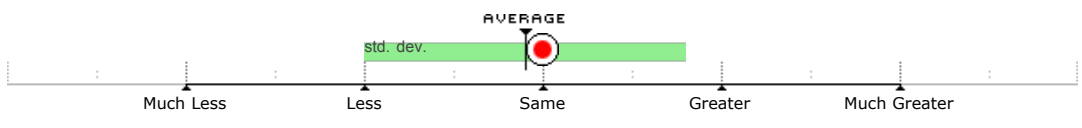
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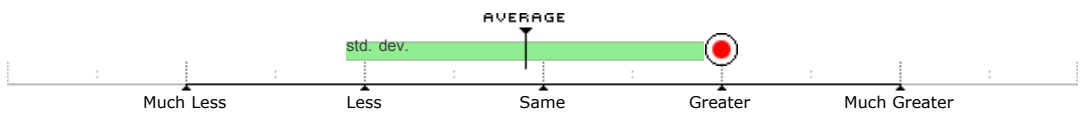
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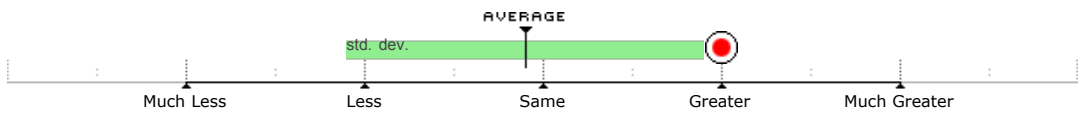
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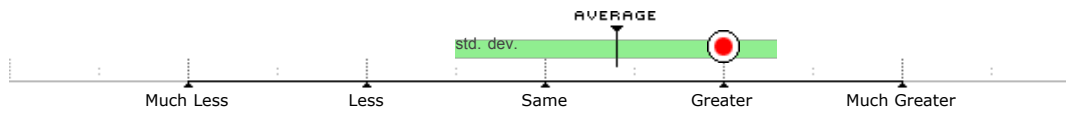
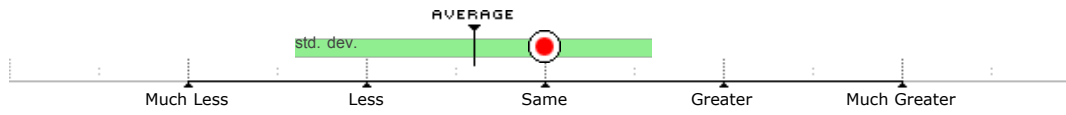
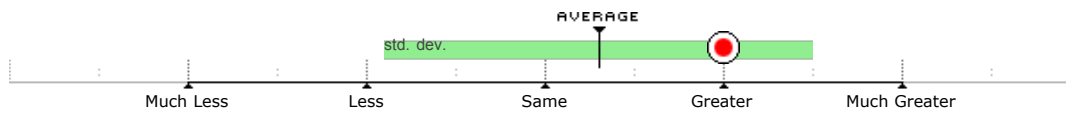
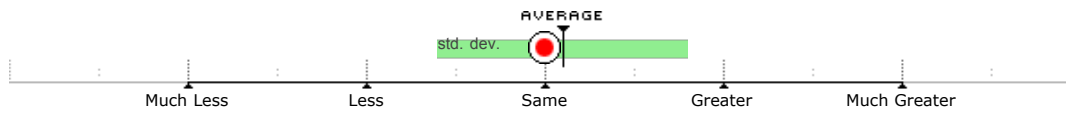
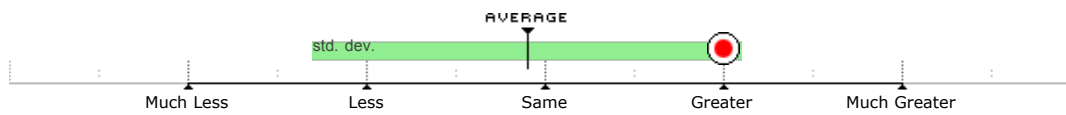
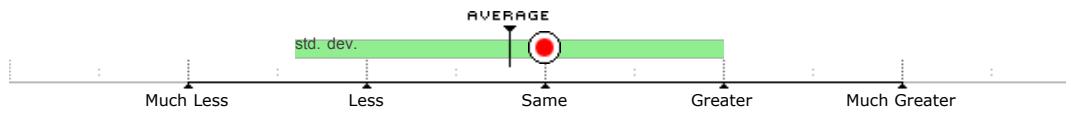
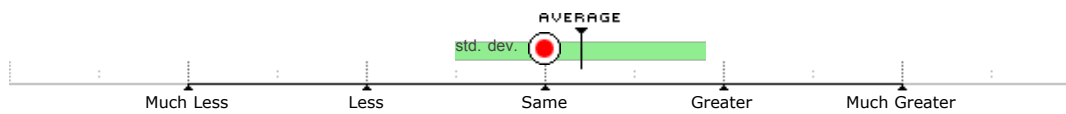
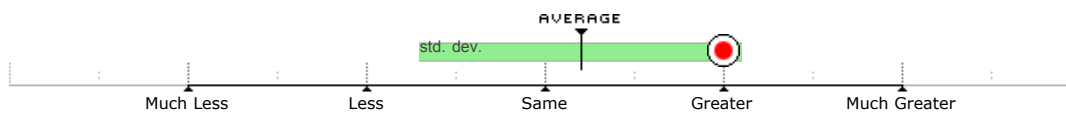


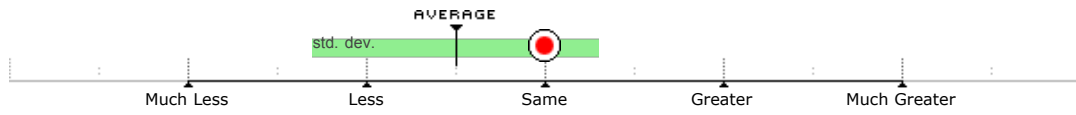
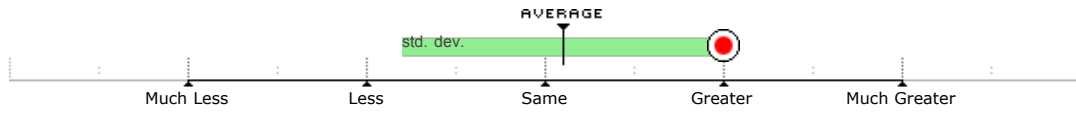
Response 4



Response 5



Response 6**Response 7****Response 8****Response 9****Response 10****Response 11****Response 12****Response 13****Response 14**

**Response 15**

Answer selected by student

AVERAGE

Student's mean (average) answer for this question across all classes evaluated



Standard deviation of a student's answers: a narrow bar indicates that a student's answers to this question tend to cluster around the mean, while a wider bar indicates more variability.



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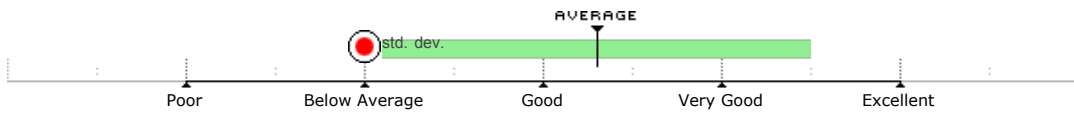
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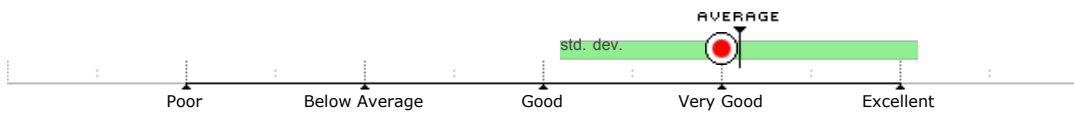
Question 6

What is your overall assessment of this course?

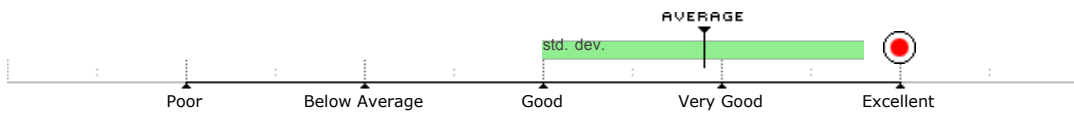
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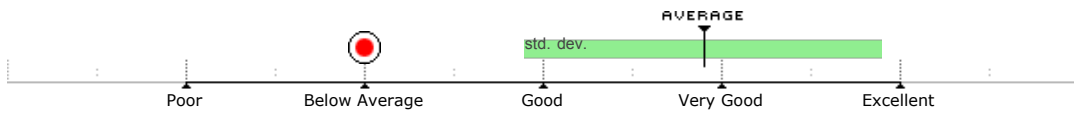
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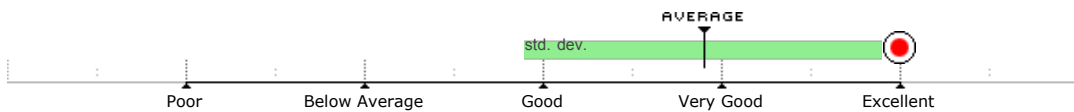
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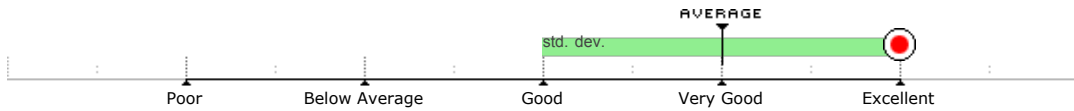
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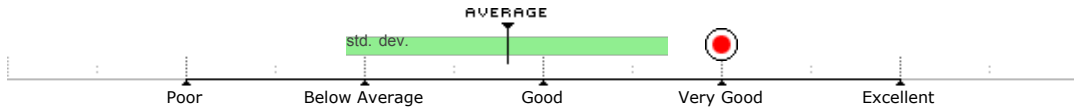
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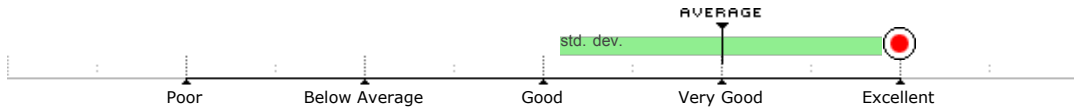
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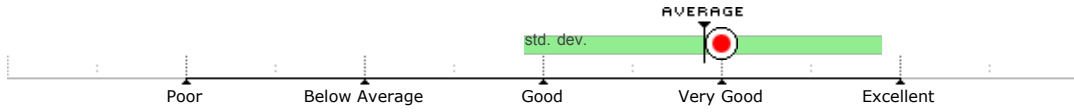
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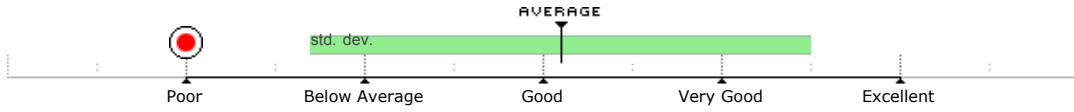
Response 8



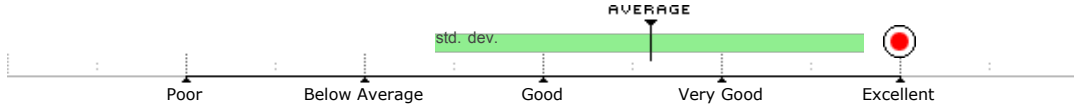
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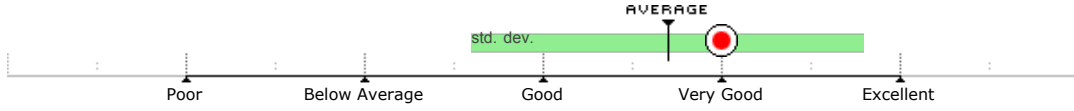
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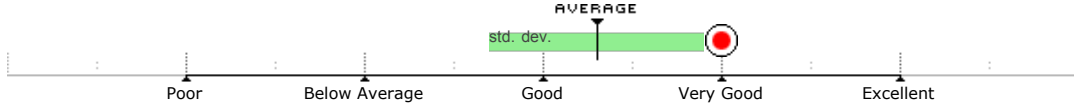
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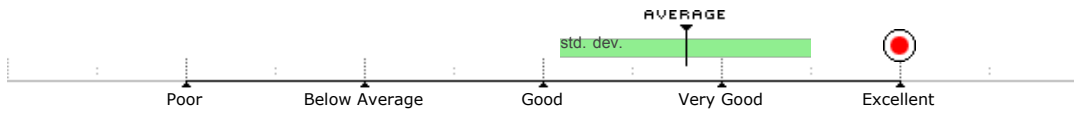
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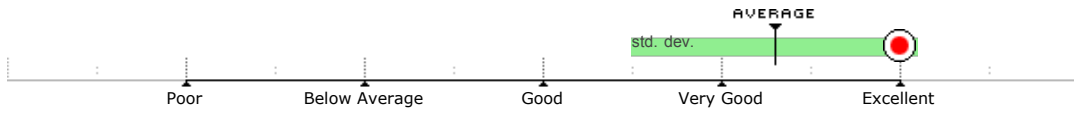
Response 13






Response 14



Response 15



-  Answer selected by student
-  Student's mean (average) answer for this question across all classes evaluated
-  Standard deviation of a student's answers: a narrow bar indicates that a student's answers to this question tend to cluster around the mean, while a wider bar indicates more variability.



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