This report shows the results for the evaluation questions for this course during the year and term listed. The values in italics are the averages for each question for all courses during the same year and term. The t-value shows whether the average for this course is statistically different from the cross-course average. A positive t-value (> 1.96) indicates that the course average is statistically higher than the cross-course average; a negative t-value (< -1.96) indicates that the course average is statistically lower than the cross-course average for that item.

### Course
PAM 2550 LEC 001 Waiting for Superman?

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**Instructor(s):** Matsudaira, Jordan D.

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**N01** I gained a good understanding of concepts and principles in this field.

**N02** I deepened my interest in the subject matter of this course.

**N03** I developed skills in the subject matter of this field.

**N04** The instructor stresses important points in the lecture or discussion.

**N05** The instructor puts material across in an interesting way.

**N06** The instructor is willing to meet with and help students outside of class.

**N07** The instructor keeps students informed of their progress.

**N08** The objectives of the course was clearly explained.

**N09** The amount of work required is appropriate for the credit received.

**N10** Written assignment are relevant to what is being presented in class.

**N11** Reading assignment are relevant to what is presented in class.

**N12** Grades are assigned fairly and impartially.

**N13** I would recommend this course to others.

**Comment Questions**

**C01** Comment on the quality of instruction in this course. What suggestions do you have for the instructor that could improve his/her teaching.

--I liked the professor's focus on research studies. The course had the potential to be very opinionated, but it was grounded instead in data. This and the use of class discussion were the strongest aspects.
Comment Questions

There were a lot of guest speakers this semester. I know that varies from year to year, but I think I would have preferred to have some more lectures from the professor and less guest lectures.

--I think the professor could change his overall approach to the classroom. The lecture type role is not cool; no one wants to be talked at, only to!

--The quality of the instruction improves throughout the course as the instructor engages the students more in class discussions. Instructor is always very prepared and knowledgeable about the research literature on different subject matters. Having the lecture slides posted beforehand allows students to follow through on their own computers and take notes. For improvement... I want to say cold calling, but come to think about it, I don't think I will appreciate cold calling on me.

--diversify the material that the speakers can provide, add more variety to perspective, experience in fields where we can't get it is valuable to impart on students through the guest speakers.

--Great work!

--Less guest speakers and more academic discussion or recaps by instructor.

--material is presented dryly...

--The instructor was very engaging and did an excellent job of facilitating discussion. He presented material through a variety of media, which was helpful.

--the quality of instruction was very high. I would suggest that to even a higher degree, the professor would respond in some way to everyone's comments in class. Otherwise I thought everything was great.

--The professor was very enthusiastic about the course material

--Maybe more small group discussions or some group presentations? Make more people become involved in the course. But overall, I really enjoyed the enthusiastic discussion format for this larger class. I would have also liked to hear the professor's assessment or a short debriefing of each guest speaker so that I could figure out if he was speaking the truth or if his statements were actually inaccurate. I'm not an expert in specific fields of education policy so I was never sure how accurate their opinions were.

--A little less reading. 3-4 before every lecture can be a lot and overwhelming.

Other than that, he did a great job effectively communicating goals and objectives of the courses and each lecture.

--This was a wonderful course! Professor Matsudaira is passionate about what he teaches and clearly shows that through his interesting lectures. I would have liked a little more discussion in the course and maybe less of a focus on teaching-evals and more on some other interesting areas of education policy.

--Does a good job instructing. Best part of the class is discussions and guest speakers.

--He is amazing - passionate and engages everyone

--I thought the professor was a good instructor and he engaged the class in provoking discussions often.

--Matsudaira is one of the best professors I've had at Cornell so far.

--I think the class would benefit from more discussion. When we had discussions this semester everyone seemed to be engaged. I also think it allows students to engage more with the material. Maybe instrument a bit of cold calling to encourage participation.
Course Evaluation
Spring 2013

Course
PAM 2550 LEC 001 Waiting for Superman?

Instructor(s): Instructors: Matsudaira, Jordan D.

Enrolled 53  Surveyed 34  Response Rate 64.2%

Comment Questions

--At first some of the lectures were a little dry, but Dr. M is such a cool guy, gave us a lot of freedom in how we were going to be evaluated grade-wise, opened the lecture up to engaging discussions, and brought in several awesome guest speakers. I definitely learned a lot and became passionate about education policy -- so lucky to take the course before he left to White House.

--Really nice guy, obviously passionate and knowledgeable of the subject matter and relevant current research. Could use more exciting presentation techniques and more engaging lecture style. Also would have LOVED to hear more of his personal opinions -- I felt like he should not have worried at all about presenting a biased view, I would have really liked to hear some of his presumably strong (and obviously informed) opinions about the education crisis. The value of having such an informed prof is to hear their personal take on the issues at hand!!!

--Guest speakers should be aware that we have read their research, because some of the guest lectures were not stimulating since we've read about it already. Also, it would be interesting to hear the professor's view on the material covered in class.

--less information on each powerpoint slide sometimes its overwhelming

C02 Which aspects of the course did you like the best.

--the guest speakers were really good
--guest speakers and in-class discussions
--Guest speakers.

--The guest speakers were great -- I have never taken a class with so many guest speakers before. It gave the class a sense of how current the issues we discussed really were. (Favorite speakers: Harold Levy, Teacher Panel, Doug Lemov).

I also really appreciated how Dr. M switched our second prelim 2 a take home. I think with the given material we learn more by having more time to research and perfect answers rather than wing them on the test. Also, the policy memo is a great way to wrap up the course -- incorporate voice/passion while incorporating research we have read from the semester.

In class discussions were also enjoyable. It's nice to turn a lecture into a discussion sometimes when it works out.

--The guest speakers were very informative and brought to life the material of the course.
--Guest lecturers, well-organized and informative lectures.

--I enjoyed the guest lectures the most.
--Guest lecturers, incorporation of videos into lecture, real-world application, class discussions are relevant
--Guest speakers. Class based discussions.

--I liked the style of the course. The easy to follow powerpoints and correlated reading. Just listening to Professor Matsudaira teach was a treat.
Course Evaluation
Spring 2013

Course
PAM 2550 LEC 001 Waiting for Superman?

Instructor(s): Instructors: Matsudaira, Jordan D.

Enrolled | Surveyed | Response Rate
---------|----------|-------------------
53       | 34       | 64.2%             

Comment Questions

--Very interesting material. Forced to think about education in a new and unique way. Lectures paced clearly and logically. The speakers brought in new and great perspectives.  
--Discussion format and the plethora of terrific guest speakers.  
--I really enjoyed the guest speakers  
--definitely the guest speakers were the best part of the course.  
--The material was very interesting  
--learned a lot of data-driven info in educ policy  
--I really enjoyed some of the guest speakers and lunches but still think we could use a few less speakers because they seem to cover the same material again and again. Debriefing session after some speakers was very valuable.  
--I loved the guest lectures  
--guest speakers and subsequent discussion, on blackboard and in class  
--A lot of guest lectures that bring in different perspectives, especially when they are very relevant and overlap with the course content.  
I also really enjoy the videos the instructor shows - they help enhance students’ learning and adds to the atmosphere in class.  
The class discussions are good. Even though it’s always the same few people who participate, I enjoy hearing the views from my fellow classmates.  
--the speaker series  
--The professor was excellent at facilitating discussion, especially for a large class.  

I really enjoyed the guest lectures by Doug Lemov, Eric Hanushek, and Eric Taylor.  

C03 Which aspects of the course did you like the least.  

--The distribution of readings. There were lots of readings in the beginning of the course and barely any readings at the end of the course.  
--The readings  
--the prelims? but that can’t be changed. I prefer prelims over papers.  
--readings were long and technical and redundant with the lecture presentations  
--Maybe some topics were covered too long  
--Blackboard discussions. I'd much rather have a few additional small but more formal assignments than the blackboard discussion.  
--too much emphasis on teacher eval. be more clear with test questions.  
--mostly i wish we just could have had more time for everything!  
--No debriefing after guest speakers.
Course Evaluation
Spring 2013

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PAM 2550 LEC 001 Waiting for Superman?

Enrolled 53
Surveyed 34
Response Rate 64.2%

Instructor(s): Instructors: Matsudaira,Jordan D.

Comment Questions
--We discussed improving teacher quality a few more times than desired.
--There were a lot of guest lecturers, and while they were insightful, many got a little redundant.
--Lectures tend to be very similar and are strictly power points. Not a very interactive learning style.
--Sometimes drags on and on, very long
--N/A
--Only a few evaluations
--The discussion posts were a good way to reflect but I wish we could have more discussions in class as well.
--The earlier lectures were a little boring ( the ones where we more or less went through power points). I liked guest speakers and discussions the best.

Also, readings were dry/long that I think most didn't even bother doing them. Shorter readings that are maybe tested the next day by an i-clicker question could be better.
--Professor's lectures that were very flat and presented only with powerpoint slides of information.
--none

C04  What changes would you like to see in the course in the future.

--more writing assignments that are shorter and allows us to voice our opinion on the class material
--More exciting/engaging presentations.
--I really enjoyed independently reflecting on the guest speakers using blackboard discussions, but after doing that, I wish I got to hear more of Dr. M's opinion for a little guidance. I always wonder what his educated opinion thought of speakers. Were they too biased? Were their facts skewed? Should we take what they say at face value or with a grain of salt?

Maybe after the posts were due he could submit an entry, or he could just discuss his opinion of the guest lecture the next day in lecture?
--More discussion before and after speakers. Maybe incorporate debates into the class so that students can really grasp the various sides of an issue.
--Change the way the way the lectures are taught....too boring
--N/A
--Having student some how participate more in the class and not so lecturing.
--I think there could be more writing assignments involved in addition to the final policy memo. I would have liked to write a paper on the subject.
--Intersperse guest speakers within the actual lectures so that they don't get bunched up back to back. Over winter break, students can be asked which lecturers they would like to see beforehand so a lecture schedule can be more comprehensive.
Course Evaluation
Spring 2013

Course
PAM 2550 LEC 001 Waiting for Superman?

Enrolled Surveyed Response Rate
53 34 64.2%

Instructor(s): Instructors: Matsudaira, Jordan D.

Comment Questions
--See above comments.
--I actually wish we had used the iclickers just to get a poll of the opinions of all the students. I also would have really liked more of a discussion about the guest speakers. I also would have liked to hear the professor's opinions, or at least some evaluation of the biases in the speaker's presentation and perhaps a discussion of what each speaker's hypothetical responses would be to the others.
--Maybe not so heavy on the statistics and numbers
--be more clear with test questions. prof overestimates undergrad ability.
--More material and case studies. Less guest speakers.
--since the professor will have some hands-on experience on advising the Obama administration next year, he should share a lot of his experiences with the course in the future!
--The primary principled being taught to be outlined and not just by happen chance discussed.
--More interactive blackboard posts. Maybe have students comment on each others' posts to create more of a conversation.

C05 Please comment on the balance between lecture and discussion in the course.

--Really good balance. Although it was a large class I felt like I got to know the professor and a number of the students well through regular discussion.
--It was cool.
--Good - balanced.
--Fairly good balance of discussion and lecture especially for only 3 credits.
--not enough discussion but that's fine because lecture is valuable!
--I think there couldve been a bit more small group discussions, but the large group ones worked well!
--I would have liked even more discussion, but overall the balance was good. If anything, I would have preferred to be able to talk about even more topics, but the discussion part of the course is invaluable
--Perfect--I loved how we could always raise our hand and make a comment during the lecture. It made the classroom atmosphere welcoming and interactive.
--good balance of lecture and discussion, especially discussions among the entire class
--It was a perfect balance. After learning the background info, the class could argue and discuss their own prior experiences and perspectives on education.
--There was room for more discussion, but that was difficult because much of the class time was taken up by guest lecturers.
--Mainly lecture. More discussion could be used, seemed to really engage the class.
--There was a good balance of lecture and discussion.
--Well-balanced.
--Would encourage more discussion.
Course Evaluation
Spring 2013

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Comment Questions

--I would love to see even more discussion. I feel like I remember more from our discussions than the powerpoint-guided lectures.
--Fine for the lecture style of class.
--more discussion should be generated in class, especially after a guest speaker comes in

C06 Is there sufficient attention to readings, too much, too little.

--sufficient
--Sufficient attention.
--Too much readings, but not enough emphasis on them to require us to actually complete them. Fewer, shorter readings and maybe more NYT/pop articles would be nice.
--Too many readings. I barely did any of the readings and did well in the course by just paying attention in lecture and reviewing the powerpoints. Professor does such a good job of explaining the articles in class that I found doing the reading outside of the course unnecessary.
--There are a little bit too many readings for a 3 credit class and as a result it becomes difficult to know what to focus on for exams.
--yes there was sufficient attention to readings
--Too little attention to readings. I would suggest tailoring down the readings but tying them more to the evaluations.
--There was sufficient attention to the course readings, but some were a little too dense to briefly discuss in class.
--Yes very much so, especially on tests.
--A lot of reading, but I doubt anyone does it all
--Too little. The reading wasn't essential to the course. I could have gotten away with doing none of the readings and understood the material just as well.
--A little too much, but nothing too extreme.
--readings assigned were not always/usually reviewed in class but were tested on exams
--Sufficient attention.
--I thought there was a perfect amount of attention to readings. I definitely wouldn't take out any more of the research-based articles, but the editorial-type ones were great to have as part of the readings
--It was hard to keep up with the readings in the end, because of all the guest lecturers. I feel like we didn't spend adequate time going over them in class. But, the readings were the appropriate amount, and oftentimes presented a nice diversity of viewpoints.
--yes. there is clear alignment of lecture material to our readings. sometimes, readings were a bit heavy, esp when you made us read dissertations. the challenge was good though!
--A course packet might make readings easier to follow and allow them to be more easily brought into discussions.
Course
PAM 2550 LEC 001 Waiting for Superman?

Instructor(s): Matsudaira, Jordan D.

Enrolled Surveyed Response Rate
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Comment Questions
- sometimes too much - but I just ended up not doing all the reading, and the instructor explains the key concepts and ideas from the reading so I think that was compensated for.
- Too Much without full explanation, only that you're wrong.
- Yes, the amount of reading was sufficient.

C07 Other Comments.

--Overall, I really enjoyed this course. I feel like a good a good grasp of the trends and current state of American K-12 public education. This would be a great option for someone who does not have much background in policy but is interested in learning about education policy.
--The course title is very misleading and needs to be Intro-Educational Thought: 101 There was little to no crisis presented, nor the true discussion of charter schools, which that title suggest would be discussed.
--Overall, I really enjoyed the class and learned a lot.
--Really enjoyed the class
--It was helpful to have guest lecturers after we had learned the background info because we had already done most of their readings and developed a perspective on education. Then it was up to the lecturers to change our minds or expand our views.
--Awesome professor!!!
--Good class for the most part. Would half recommend it if someone was interested in TFA or teaching as a profession.

--Congrats and Best of luck to you! Enjoy Washington D.C. and thank you for such a great class.
--All in all I very much enjoyed the course.
--Thank you--good luck at the White House!
--I enjoyed the class very much, it was very stimulating and the material was straightforward and easy to understand, I strongly recommend to anyone who wants to learn more about education.