

CHBE/POLI Mix

Mike Bell Visit: Earth Jurisprudence

March 28, 2012

Instructor Feedback

Royann:

The only comment was the event was too short... my students really enjoyed mixing with pol sci students! They left only with unsolved issues, and a desire now to change the law! After the initial questioning round, maybe we can give them an additional exercise that they have to resolve together.

I spoke with Mike Bell, and he is so impressed by what happened. Every table had something different to add to the discussion! He and I are now convinced that mixers have the potential to bring important issues to the attention of students.

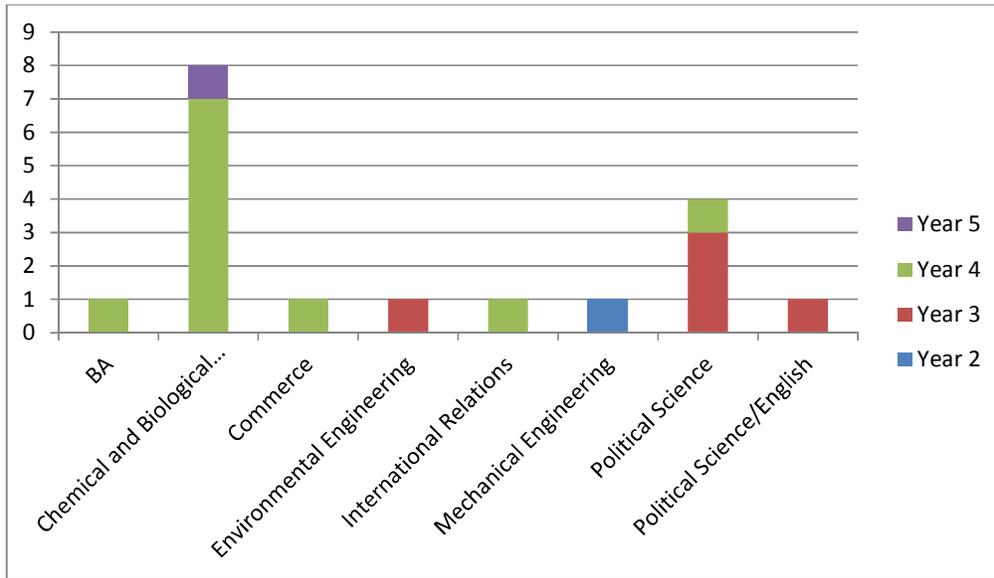
Kate:

Thanks, Royann and Natalie, for arranging this event and inviting participation from my class! The event was terrific, and in several conversations with my students, they expressed that they had greatly enjoyed both the talk and the subsequent conversations with Royann's students. One of the comments that came up a couple of times was that as environmental politics students, they often talk about interdisciplinary work (and many of them are also students of geography, philosophy, sociology, and such -- humanities and social sciences), but rarely interact with the applied sciences -- so the interaction with the engineering students was valuable.

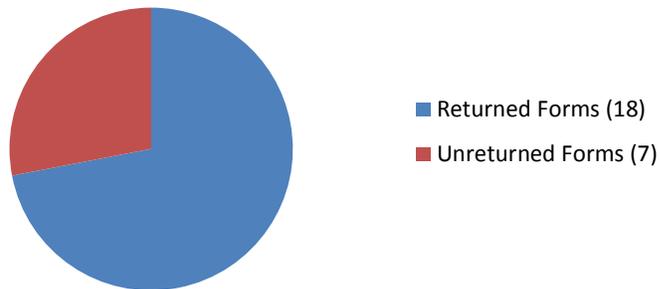
I also heard several comments about their appreciation of the practitioner, not just academic, perspectives. As we have had a more traditional course structure, we have not had the chance to interact with many people in the policy, advocacy, and activism communities directly, and so Mike's perspectives were of great interest to my students. They also found him funny and engaging.

In terms of challenges: I had about 13 students from my class attend -- the last minute date change was quite disruptive, and made it difficult for my students to attend. It also was quite challenging for me to negotiate, as I had created an incentive linked to an assignment in my course to encourage them to attend, and the time change made this difficult to carry out. Since this was owing to a change in circumstances out of anyone in this group's control, I don't know how to provide constructive criticism on this aspect, but I did want to flag that as a barrier to greater attendance for this particular event.

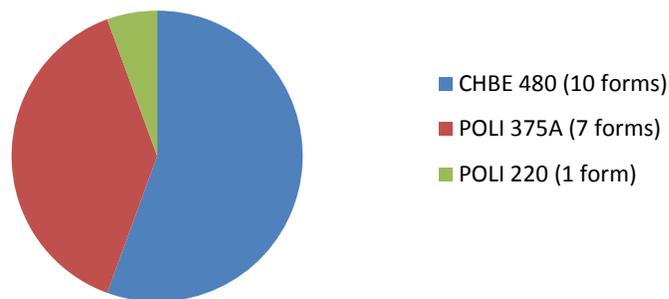
Student Profile (Degree/Year)



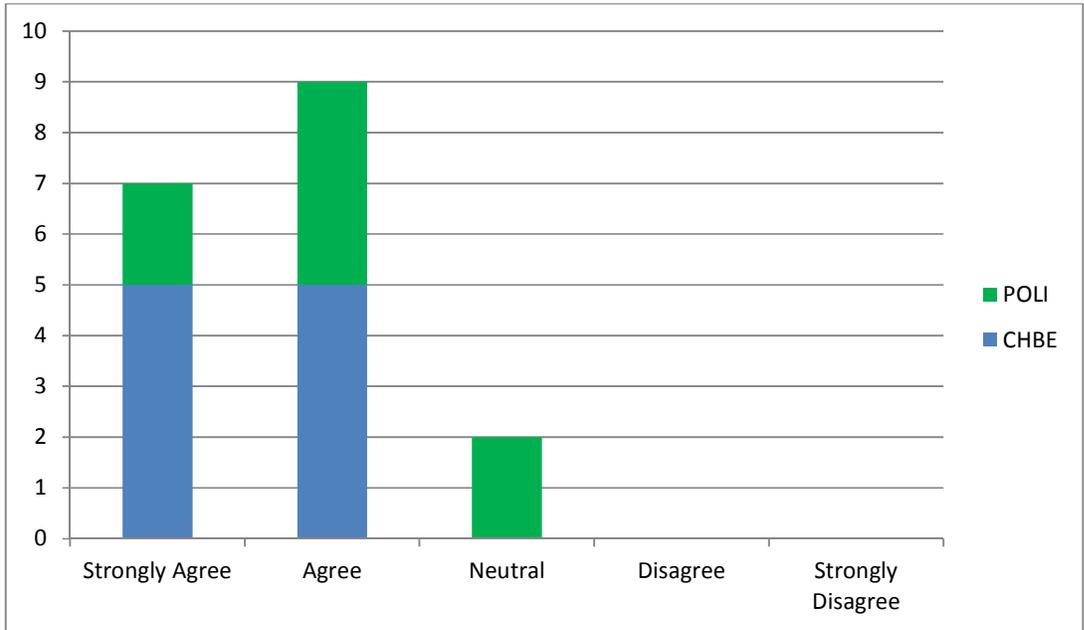
Feedback Response Rate (63%)



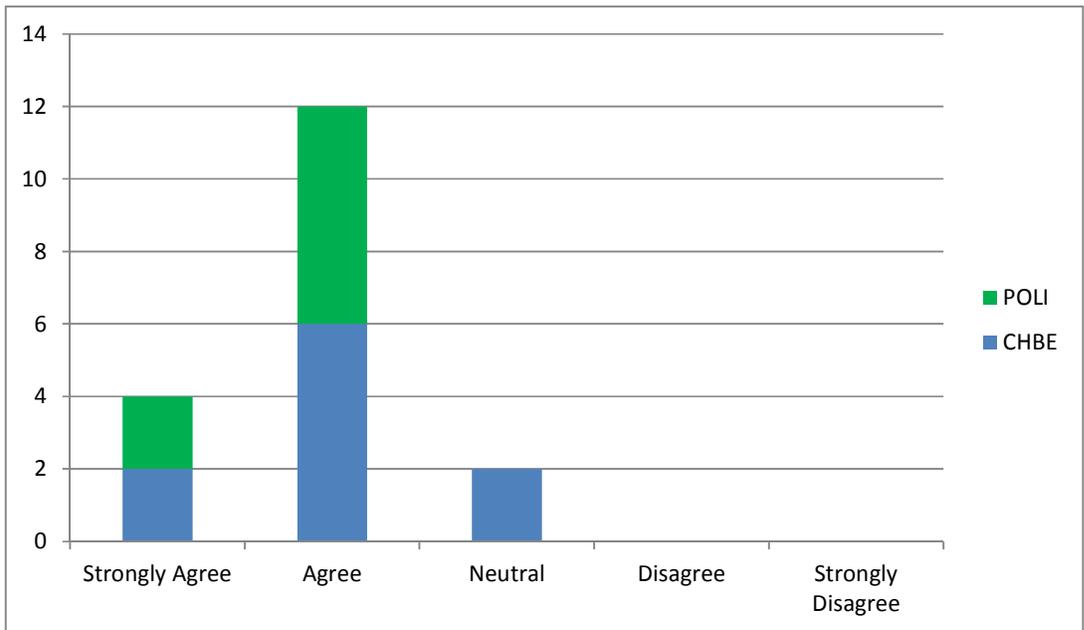
Feedback (Class Enrolment Specified)



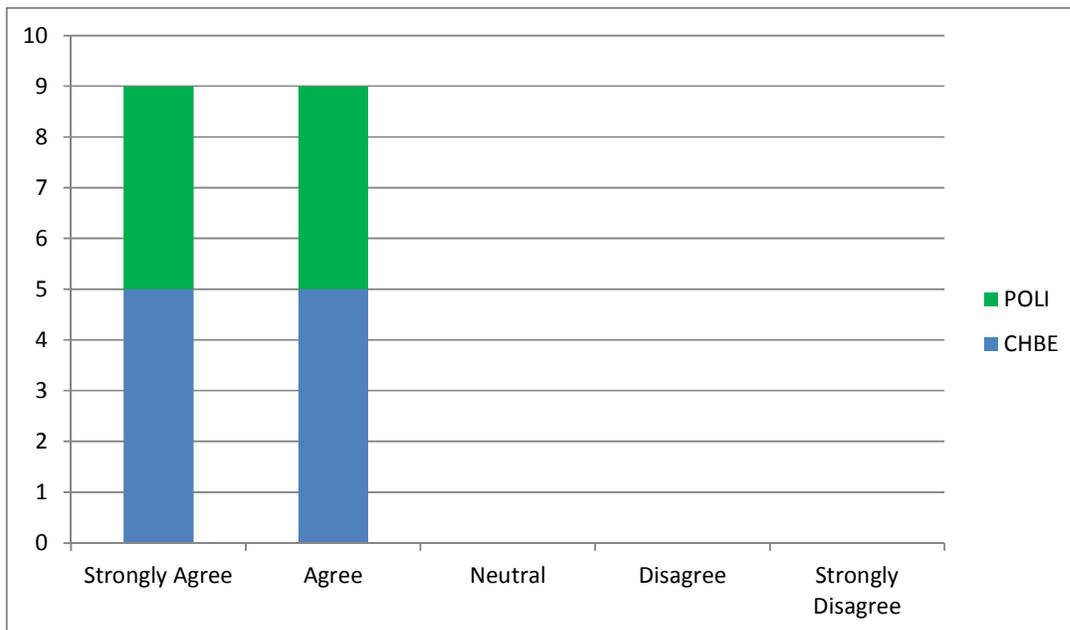
This event was educationally valuable to me.



The interdisciplinary nature of this event enhanced my learning.



In general, connecting with students and instructors in other disciplines enriches my education.



Student Comments

- Good set-up (CHBE student)
- Very cool to hear from a political science point of view
- This was a pretty neat opportunity that I wish I participated in a lot more interdisciplinary work (POLI student)
- This event is inspirational to my academic learning. It helps thinking outside the box and relate different areas of discipline together to real-life project (CHBE student)
- Thank you! (CHBE student)
- The interdisciplinary approach is one that fosters reflective insight from critical minds with different backgrounds (CHBE student)
- I found this session valuable (CHBE student)
- Mr. Bell's comments, while deeply moving, remind me of a pessimistic outlook on the world. This outlook is one of the deeply entrenched greed and self promotion that seems rampant as a principal mindset of the individual. In my staunch and humble opinion, without a paradigm shift of the world or a paradigm event which can destroy the principle/'concept' of growth, then it would be thoroughly impossible to implement such a system (CHBE student)

Jottings/Notes (back of feedback forms)

- CHBE Student:
 - Overlap between our courses:
 - Interdisciplinary backgrounds give a variety of perspectives of a subject
 - i.e. government -> nature is a tool for people

- First Nations peoples -> a part of a system
- Systems approach: Inequity between nature and its subjects
- Monitoring system that rewards us in a way to be environment
- Wealth -> the things you can afford to leave be
 - -> growing in social wealth
- Environmental law is not really protecting our environment
- CHBE Student:
 - [Notes likely written to fellow groupmate]
 - Would have been awesome!
 - I would start a debate if I talked and probably take half an hour to finish.
 - I don't agree with [student's name] at all.
- CHBE Student:
 - 1) Engineers cannot implement a new form of 'law'. How can a caste [?] which reinforces law presented to them, change the structure of law fundamentally, without undermining their own position? The engineer will design, will implement, will remediate, but innovation still follows the human-defined laws and confines.
 - Until engineers can be truly self-regulating without the confinements of the human society, free from the 'cost' and 'consequence' concepts in this material world, engineers cannot support the formation of a new law
 - All engineers can really do is wait for legislations to change. Without the process of change, engineers will still be left as the 'followers' of the law that stands in direct [conflict?] to what is moral/ethically/environmentally correct
 - 2) As individuals, the concept of common ground is something universally understood. Causality, the concept of identifying the source of the problem and linking to the consequence, is something that commonly influences the entire society as a whole. The presence of information, which determines regulations, is strictly controlled by individuals with a vested interest creating a biased situation
 - The presence of bias, cannot be removed by any one individual. By thinking in terms of 'sides', we have already pigeon-holed ourselves into believing in a 'no-win' situation. Rather than considering the situation with respect to the overall goal, everybody (regardless of faculty) has already taken to looking for a 'win' scenario.
 - (I believe, in my humble opinion, that the issue is in this mindset which cannot focus on two sides at the same time.)
 - THE WORLD HAS NO SENSE OF SELFLESSNESS. IT CANNOT SUSTAIN TRUE 'COMMON GROUND. IT CANNOT UPKEEP THE COST OF SUCH A VENTURE.