GLOBAL POLITICS AND MEDIA
COURSE EVALUATION – SUMMARY

Spring 2014
Course Number: PLSC 125b / GLBL 353b
Instructor: Zachary D. Kaufman, J.D., Ph.D.

All students in the course anonymously provided responses to the evaluation. Below are the ratings and illustrative quotations from these evaluations.

Rating: Yale University asks students for a single numerical rating that reflects the quality of the teaching and course. This question reads: "What is your overall assessment of this course?" The students' average rating—on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning "excellent"—was 4.7.

Illustrative quotations: Yale University provides students with the option of responding to each of four qualitative questions. The following are illustrative quotations:

Overall about the course or instructor:
- "This was the best course I have taken at Yale."
- "This was one of the best classes I've taken at Yale, if not the best."
- "One of the best professors I've ever had."
- "Professor Kaufman is really great! Definitely one of the best professors that I've had at Yale!"
- "This was one of my favorite courses at Yale, mostly because of Professor Kaufman."
- "This class was one of my favorites in my time at Yale."

More detailed quotations about the course or instructor:
- "I could tell [Kaufman] had a genuine interest in what we had to say and wanted to make our seminar enjoyable. . . . . His class was probably one of the few seminars I've come away with feeling like I've grown as an academic."
- "Excellent course! I learned more than I can articulate in this text box, and I've left class with a more practical understanding about the intersection of law, media, and politics than I had before."
- "If there's a reason to take this class, [Kaufman] would be it. Very engaging person and personable, great towards students."
- "[Kaufman's] comments on papers and presentations were always tremendously helpful."
- "Professor Kaufman was one of the best professors I have come across. He had a special interest in creating a relationship with each one of his students. He genuinely cared about our interests and what we wanted to learn and focus on. He was also very friendly and willing to provide guidance for our futures."
- "Professor Kaufman was extraordinary . . . he cares about his students and his teaching, and this is evident in the way he conducts class, provides feedback, and treats his students. Thank you for an amazing semester . . . ."
- "[Kaufman] was a superb pedagog; unambiguous and demanding in his expectations but ultimately supportive and committed, he managed class conversations excellently and introduced nuance into conversations many of us have had before. His attention to detail, both in and out of the classroom—in selecting readings, in making sure he called on every student before again calling someone who had spoken before, in giving feedback on essays—is really without peer. Very pleased to have had him as a professor and hopefully have him as a future mentor!"
- "The clarity of Prof. Kaufman's expectations for class and written work was, for me, unprecedented in a Yale course . . . . He followed through on those expectations in class, but also ensured that the atmosphere in class was flexible and open enough to make students feel comfortable engaging in discussion. I appreciated his respectfulness and attentiveness when speaking with the class either individually or as a group: he made me feel

that I was a valuable contributor to any conversation and that what I had to say mattered, which is an especially great quality in a professor."

- "Professor Kaufman pushes his students to do the very best. He is very responsible in his role as a professor, quickly clarifying misunderstandings and responding quickly to emails. He also makes an effort to take time out of his busy schedule to get to know his students."
- "Professor Kaufman was great! He is extremely knowledgeable in the subject and always led interesting class discussions. He also gave detailed feedback to improve class work, which I greatly appreciated."