

GOV 312 Survey of the Smith College Faculty, Fall 2009

The GOV 312 Survey was administered to the Smith College faculty between November 15 and November 20, 2009. Respondents took the survey via a survey-hosting web site. Overall, 170 members of the Smith College faculty responded to the survey; the response rate 57.2 percent. (FYI: Last year, when we conducted a similar survey among Smith College students, the response was 56.9 percent).

Students in the GOV 312 Political Behavior seminar constructed the survey instrument. Some of the questions were repeated from the 2008 survey of Smith College students. For two sets of questions, we varied the wording and administered different versions of the question each to half the sample. In the case of two specific questions reported here, there are notes that explain our motivation for including these particular questions.

Members of the Fall 2009 seminar were: Laurel Belton, Mary Darby, Elena Farrar, Gillian Flashner, Jennifer Henderson, Nygenia Jiles, Rohita Kadambi, Tessa Keefe, Elizabeth Mauro, Caitlin Moore, Tu Nguyen, Sarah Schwartz, and Claire Stein-Ross .

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AGGREGATE SURVEY RESULTS

What is your primary affiliation at Smith College? (N=169)

Div I (Humanities)	43.2%
Div II (Social Sciences)	25.4%
Div III (Sciences)	31.4%

Gender (N=170)

female	51.2%
male	48.8%

FEMALE RESPONDENTS ONLY: As an undergraduate, did you attend an all women's college? (N=87)

yes	29.9%
no	70.1%

FEMALE RESPONDENTS ONLY: If you were applying to college today, would you apply to Smith College? (N=87)

yes	39.1%
no	26.4%
don't know	34.5%

MALE RESPONDENTS ONLY: If you were female and applying to college today, would you apply to Smith College? (N=71)

yes	26.8%
no	26.8%
don't know	46.5%

What is your legal status? (N=169)

U.S. citizen	89.9%
Permanent resident	8.3%
Temporary visa	1.8%

U.S. CITIZENS ONLY: Did you vote in the 2008 presidential election? (N=152)

yes	99.3%
no	.7%

U.S. CITIZENS WHO VOTED: In the presidential election, did you vote for? (N=148)

McCain	3.4%
Nader	1.4%
Obama	92.6%
Other	2.7%

**U.S. CITIZENS ONLY: Did you vote in a 2008 presidential primary election or in a caucus?
(N=152)**

Dem primary/caucus	82.9%
Rep primary/caucus	2.0%
No primary/caucus vote	15.1%

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY/CAUCUS VOTERS: In the Democratic primary/caucus,
did you vote for? (N=125)**

Clinton	32.0%
Edwards	2.4%
Obama	63.2%
Other	2.4%

**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY/CAUCUS VOTERS: In the Republican primary/caucus,
did you vote for? (N=3)**

McCain	66.7%
Romney	33.3%

**U.S. CITIZENS ONLY: If the 2012 presidential election were held tomorrow, would you vote
for? (N=150)**

Obama	82.7%
Republican candidate	2.7%
Third party candidate	2.0%
Undecided	12.7%

U.S. CITIZENS ONLY: Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a(n)? (N=150)

Strong Democrat	55.3%
Weak Democrat	4.0%
Independent who leans Democratic	24.7%
Independent	4.0%
Independent who leans Republican	2.0%
Strong Republican	2.0%
Other	8.0%

What is your marital status? (N=162)

Married	72.8%
Divorced	8.6%
Separated	1.9%
Widowed	.6%
Never married	6.8%
Partnered, not married	9.3%

Do you have any children? (N=164)

Yes	72.0%
No	28.0%

What type of institution did you attend to obtain your undergraduate degree? (N=164)

Liberal Arts college	42.1%
University	53.7%
Agricultural, technical or specialized	1.8%
Other	2.4%

Did you attend a public or private college/university? (N=164)

Public	39.6%
Private	60.4%

What type of undergraduate degree did you obtain? (N=164)

B.A.	79.9%
B.S.	14.0%
Other	6.1%

Did you have another career before becoming a college professor? (N=164)

Yes	29.3%
No	70.7%

Where are you originally from? (N=153)

Outside the USA	17.6%
USA	82.4%

Where is your primary residence? (N=163)

In the Pioneer Valley	93.9%
Outside the Pioneer Valley	6.1%

How old are you? (N=162)

29 or younger	1.2%
30-39	16.0%
40-49	24.7%
50-59	29.0%
60-69	25.9%
70-79	3.1%

Do you identify as? (N=161)

Asian	3.1%
Black	1.9%
Hispanic	.6%
Multi-racial	3.1%
White	85.7%
Other	5.6%

What was your household income last year? (N=146)

Less than \$50,000	.7%
\$50,000-\$79,999	14.4%
\$80,000-\$99,999	15.8%
\$100,000-\$149,999	33.6%
\$150,000-\$199,999	21.2%
Greater than \$200,000	11.6%
Don't know	2.7%

Although the definition of sexuality is very personal and unique to each individual, society tends to place people in certain categories of sexual orientation. Which of the following categories BEST characterizes you? (N=155)

Bisexual	5.2%
Gay/lesbian	8.4%
Heterosexual	85.2%
Questioning	1.3%

How often do you go to religious services? (N=161)

Never	59.6%
Few times per year	26.1%
1-3 times per month	7.5%
Every week	6.8%

On average, how often do you exercise? (N=161)

Less than once per week	11.2%
Once per week	18.6%
2-3 times per week	33.5%
4-5 times per week	21.7%
More than 5 times per week	14.9%

How often do you read and/or watch the news? (N=162)

More than once per day	53.7%
Once per day	40.1%
Every other day	1.2%
Less than every other day	4.9%

What is your primary news source? (N=163)

TV	10.4%
Radio	19.0%
Newspapers and/or magazines	34.4%
Online newspapers and/or magazines	33.7%
Blogs	2.5%

When thinking about your political views, do you usually think of yourself as? (N=160)

Very liberal	38.8%
Liberal	43.1%
Slightly liberal	6.9%
Middle of the road	5.0%
Slightly conservative	1.9%
Conservative	2.5%
Very conservative	.6%
Don't know	1.3%

In your opinion, does the majority of the Smith faculty identify as? (N=160)

Very liberal	11.3%
Liberal	66.3%
Slightly liberal	19.4%
Middle of the road	2.5%
Slightly conservative	.6%

All in all, which is more important: conducting embryonic stem cell research that might result in new medical cures or not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research? (N=160)

More important to conduct research	93.1%
More important not to destroy embryos	3.1%
Don't know	3.8%

Should couples of the same sex be entitled to the same government benefits as married couples of the opposite sex, or should the government distinguish between them? (N=161)

Entitled to same benefits	95.7%
Government should distinguish between them	1.9%
Don't know	2.5%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation in Afghanistan? (N=161)

Approve	35.4%
Disapprove	29.8%
Don't know	34.8%

Would you favor or oppose the federal government offering everyone a government-administered health insurance plan -- something like the Medicare coverage that people 65 and older get -- that would compete with private health insurance plans? (N=162)

Favor	88.9%
Oppose	5.6%
Don't know	5.6%

Do you oppose or support the Solar Energy Credit Act that has been endorsed by President Obama, which removes the sunset clause from solar tax credit systems? (N=162) (SEE NOTE BELOW QUESTION)

Oppose	1.9%
Support	55.6%
Don't know	42.6%

(FYI: This question asks about a fictitious act. The objective was to measure respondents with non-opinions (i.e. those who provide a pseudo-opinion.))

What do you think is the most effective solution for dealing with Iran's nuclear program? (N=161)

American economic sanctions against Iran - cutting off investments to petroleum programs and technology, etc.	1.2%
Advocate for unilateral diplomacy between Iran, the U.S. and the UN, including increased access to nuclear sites.	26.1%
Allow Israel to bomb nuclear sites within Iran.	.6%
A combination of diplomacy and sanctions	50.9%
A combination of sanctions and military action	6.2%
Don't know	14.9%

If Iran continues with its nuclear research and is close to developing a nuclear weapon, do you believe that Israel has a right to initiate military action to destroy Iran's ability to make nuclear weapons? (N=161)

Israel does have a right to launch a preemptive strike	18.0%
Israel does not have the right to launch a preemptive strike	63.4%
Don't know	18.6%

In the Middle East conflict, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians? (N=160)

Israelis	17.5%
Palestinians	23.1%
Both	48.1%
Neither	8.1%
Don't know	3.1%

Would you favor or oppose a federal law that would lower the drinking age in all states to 18 years of age? (N=161)

Favor	51.6%
Oppose	25.5%
Don't know	23.0%

Would you favor or oppose a federal law that would allow one to carry small amounts of marijuana? (N=162)

Favor	67.3%
Oppose	16.7%
Don't know	16.0%

How active are you in politics? (N=161)

1 Not active at all	16.1%
2	22.4%
3	14.9%
4	17.4%
5	19.9%
6	6.2%
7 Very active	3.1%

In your view, do the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed? (N=158)

A third major party is needed	55.1%
The parties do an adequate job	29.1%
Don't know	15.8%

Did you make a financial contribution to any candidate in the last election cycle? (N=159)

Yes, to Democratic candidate(s)	63.5%
Yes, to Republican candidate(s)	1.9%
Yes, to candidates from more than one political party	1.3%
No, I did not contribute	33.3%

Assuming Barack Obama runs for re-election in 2012, which Republican candidate would be most capable of defeating him? (N=158)

Charlie Crist	7.0%
Newt Gingrich	3.2%
Mike Huckabee	7.0%
Bobby Jindal	3.2%
Sarah Palin	1.3%
Ron Paul	.6%
Tim Pawlenty	7.0%
Mitt Romney	15.2%
Other	2.5%
None of the above	19.0%
Don't know	34.2%

Who do you think is most likely capture the Republican nomination for president in 2012? (N=158)

Charlie Crist	2.5%
Newt Gingrich	3.2%
Mike Huckabee	3.8%
Bobby Jindal	1.3%
Sarah Palin	5.1%
Tim Pawlenty	7.0%
Mitt Romney	13.3%
Other	3.2%
None of the Above	8.2%
Don't know	52.5%

In your opinion, should Smith remain a women's college, or should it go co-ed? (N=159)

Smith should remain a women's college	64.2%
Smith should go co-ed	22.0%
Don't know	13.8%

In 2003 the SGA Constitution was amended to include gender neutral pronouns only. Do you think that all official Smith College literature (such as the Mission Statement, the course catalogue) should use gender neutral pronouns or do you think it should continue to use female pronouns? (N=158)

Gender neutral pronouns	20.9%
Female pronouns	66.5%
Don't know	12.7%

If someone is female-to-male transgendered, they were born with female reproductive organs but now identify as male. Do you think female-to-male transgendered people should be permitted to attend Smith? (N=155)

Yes	43.9%
No	24.5%
Don't know	31.6%

If someone is male-to-female transgendered, they were born with male reproductive organs but now identify as female. Do you think male-to-female transgendered people should be permitted to attend Smith? (N=155)

Yes	60.6%
No	9.7%
Don't know	29.7%

Do you think that all students should be required to take at least one quantitative course at Smith College? (N=158)

Yes	69.6%
No	25.3%
Don't know	5.1%

Do you allow students to use laptop computers during your lectures? (N=158)

Yes	76.6%
No	10.1%
Does not apply	13.3%

Should the tradition of Mountain Day should be continued as is, should Mountain Day be held on a pre-determined date, or should it be eliminated entirely? (N=159)

It should be continued as is	61.0%
It should be held on a pre-determined date	22.0%
It should be eliminated entirely	13.8%
Don't know	3.1%

Do you think that Smith College Public Safety officers should be armed with guns or should they remain unarmed? (N=155)

Armed with guns	12.9%
Remain unarmed	69.7%
Don't know	17.4%

How do you prefer your students to address you? (N=159)

Professor	25.2%
Mr./Ms./Mrs./Miss	13.2%
First name	34.0%
No preference	27.7%

On average, how much time per week do you spend meeting with students outside of class? (N=157)

Less than 1 hour	.6%
1-3 hours	35.0%
4-6 hours	45.9%
7-9 hours	12.7%
More than 9 hours	5.7%

On average, how many hours per week do you spend grading work? (N=152)

Less than 1 hour	2.6%
1-3 hours	25.7%
4-6 hours	42.8%
7-9 hours	19.7%
More than 9 hours	9.2%

On average, how many hours per week do you spend preparing for your classes? (N=157)

1-3 hours	7.6%
4-6 hours	24.8%
7-9 hours	33.8%
More than 9 hours	33.8%

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with being a faculty member at Smith College? (N=158)

1 Very dissatisfied	3.8%
2	2.5%
3	13.9%
4	27.8%
5 Very satisfied	51.9%

(Mean score =4.22)

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your opportunities to collaborate with other faculty members? (N=152)

1 Very dissatisfied	3.3%
2	12.5%
3	18.4%
4	23.7%
5 Very satisfied	42.1%

(Mean score =3.89)

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality of Smith College students? (N=158)

1 Very dissatisfied	0.0%
2	7.0%
3	23.4%
4	39.2%
5 Very satisfied	30.4%

(Mean score =3.93)

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the quality of the Smith College faculty? (N=156)

1 Very dissatisfied	.6%
2	1.3%
3	10.9%
4	37.8%
5 Very satisfied	49.4%

(Mean score =4.34)

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the behavior of Smith College students during Convocation? (N=93)

1 Very dissatisfied	26.9%
2	24.7%
3	18.3%
4	12.9%
5 Very satisfied	17.2%

(Mean score =2.69)

How much stress do you feel from: departmental politics? (N=154)

1 A great deal of stress	11.7
2	20.1
3	20.1
4	25.3
5 No stress at all	22.7

(Mean score =3.27)

How much stress do you feel from: campus politics? (N=150)

1 A great deal of stress	12.0%
2	18.0%
3	27.3%
4	24.0%
5 No stress at all	18.7%

(Mean score =3.19)

Do you think the typical Smith College student is more intelligent than the typical UMass student? (N=111)

The typical Smith student is more intelligent	48.6%
The students are equally intelligent	51.4%

Do you think the typical Smith College student is more intelligent than the typical Hampshire student? (N=108)

The typical Smith student is more intelligent	20.4%
The students are equally intelligent	76.9%
The typical Smith student is less intelligent	2.8%

Do you think the typical Smith College student is more intelligent than the typical Mt Holyoke student? (N=110)

The typical Smith student is more intelligent	20.0%
The students are equally intelligent	80.0%

Do you think the typical Smith College student is more intelligent than the typical Amherst student? (N=108)

The typical Smith student is more intelligent	2.8%
The students are equally intelligent	59.3%
The typical Smith student is less intelligent	38.0%

Have you ever eaten a meal in a Smith College residential dining hall? (N=161)

Yes	85.1%
No	14.9%

**AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE EATEN IN A SMITH RESIDENTIAL DINING HALL:
Overall, how would you describe the quality of the food you ate in the Smith
College residential dining hall? (N=137)**

Excellent	16.8%
Good	48.2%
Average	29.9%
Bad	4.4%
Don't know	.7%

**Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that Barack Obama is not
an American citizen? (N=160) (SEE NOTE BELOW QUESTION)**

Possible	5.6%
Impossible	90.6%
DK	3.8%

(FYI: The double negative in this question was intentional. It replicates a question asked in a 1993 survey. That survey asked: "Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened?" 22 percent of Americans said that they thought it was possible that the Holocaust never happened. When the question was properly re-worded in a subsequent survey, the percentage that doubted the Holocaust dropped to 1 percent.)

Aid to Africa Version 1

Since 2000, the United States has tripled its aid to Africa to fight AIDS and malaria. Do you oppose or support this increased aid? (N=88)

Oppose	2.3%
Support	90.9%
Don't know	6.8%

(This version of the question was administered to half of the sample.)

Aid to Africa Version 2

During his tenure in office, President George W. Bush tripled U.S. aid to Africa to fight AIDS and malaria. Do you oppose or support this increased aid? (N=69)

Oppose	2.9%
Support	91.3%
Don't know	5.8%

(This version of the question was administered to the other half of the sample.)

Media Attention Version 1

In the past year there has been a lot of media attention focused on the family of Sarah Palin. Do you think that the media ought to cover the families of politicians? (N=88)

Yes	37.5%
No	45.5%
Don't know	17.0%

(This version of the question was administered to half of the sample.)

Media Attention Version 2

In the past year there has been a lot of media attention focused on the family of Barack Obama. Do you think that the media ought to cover the families of politicians? (N=68)

Yes	42.6%
No	45.6%
Don't know	11.8%

(This version of the question was administered to the other half of the sample.)