

PolicyMic

Here's How College Students Rated the Two Professors Battling For Eric Cantor's Seat

By Matt Connolly
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This might be the most unlikely political race of the year.

Republican David Brat, who beat out House Majority Leader Eric Cantor for the primary nomination, will face off against Democrat Jack Trammell for a congressional seat in Virginia. Both are professors at Randolph-Macon College, which might make the next faculty luncheon more than a little awkward.

Brat is the better-known of the two thanks to his upset victory. He was able to defeat the second-ranking House Republican despite spending less than 3% of what Cantor did. He's the first candidate ever to unseat a sitting House majority leader.

A tale of two professors: Brat teaches economics at Randolph-Macon and also serves as the director of the college's BB&T Moral Foundations of Capitalism program — controversial in academia due to its inclusion of Ayn Rand's ideas. (The program's funder, former BB&T Bank CEO John Allison, is a big Rand fan.)

Trammell teaches sociology and serves as the school's director of disability support services. He has worked on more than 21 books, mostly history and textbooks, though he's apparently planning a vampire novel.

David Brat



School: **Randolph-Macon College**

Location: **Ashland, VA**

Department: **Economics**

3.4
OVERALL QUALITY

3.5
HELPFULNESS

3.3
CLARITY

2.5
EASINESS

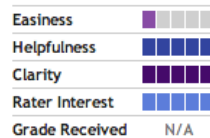
HOTNESS

[Submit a correction](#)

Number of ratings **24** / Average Grade: **A**

Here's what his students say:

8/5/10 ECON323 Good Quality



Dr. Brat is unparalleled in his knowledge, guidance with learning, caring about his students, and his ethics. He relates all content to real world scenarios and encourages healthy participation in class. Hint: Ask questions as they arise, visit during off hours for extra help, and don't procrastinate. This class was challenging but I learned a ton!

Report this rating

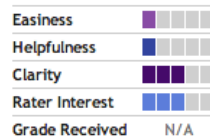
6/17/10 ECON323 Good Quality



The other comments that say he was not clear are BS. If you need clarity ask questions! I did and everything became very clear and apparent as to what I needed to do in order to accel in his class. Great teacher, really cares, great guy, cares even more about what you are doing with your life. Very busy man. A+++++

Report this rating

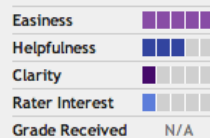
10/13/09 fye2 Poor Quality



He changed the assignments almost everyday. he never had set schedule for anything. he was forgetful of quizzes. For his papers, no one ever understood what he wanted for us to do. he was almost never there when we needed help. he read the book in for students to follow and lastly, he graded very critically without first giving you guidlines.



7/13/08 FYE165 Poor Quality



Brat changes assignments all the time, but he is so charming, you forget to be mad at him.



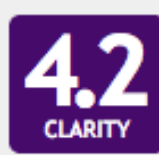
Jack Trammell



School: **Randolph-Macon College**

Location: **Ashland, VA**

Department: **Sociology**



Submit a correction

Number of ratings 5 / Average Grade: **A-**

Here's what his students say:

6/10/14	soc103	Good Quality	Brilliant, Really passionate about what he teaches. Extremely Helpful.	
		Easiness		
		Helpfulness		
		Clarity		
		Rater Interest		
		Grade Received A-		
6/10/14	Soc-103	Poor Quality	Unclear, rambles.	
		Easiness		
		Helpfulness		
		Clarity		
		Rater Interest		
		Grade Received A-		
12/11/08	Soc226	Good Quality	BEST PROFESSOR EVER!!!! I have never had a better professor. He is passionate about what he teaches and makes you want to learn. Take any and every class you can with him. :)	
		Easiness		
		Helpfulness		
		Clarity		
		Rater Interest		
		Grade Received N/A		

Image Credit: Rate My Professors

Both professors are well-regarded by students on Rate My Professors, with Trammell holding a slight edge with a 4.3 out of 5 overall score. Both also receive the highly coveted (maybe?) chili pepper rating from students, meaning they're hot. One of Brat's reviewers calls him "total eye candy," while another gives him a mediocre score but says "atleast [sic] he's hot!!"

So who's going to win? Brat grabbed the nomination with a hardline immigration stance that painted Cantor as an Obama-appeasing softie. Trammell is reworking his platform, but seems to push for education reform and student loan relief.

As evidenced by Cantor's previous success, though, the district they're looking to represent is pretty red: Mitt Romney won it by 15 points in 2012. That leaves long odds for Trammell, even if registered voters in the district are more open to immigration reform than the Republican primary makes them seem.

But, as evinced by Tuesday's outcome, stranger things have happened in electoral politics. No matter who the loser is, at least he'll have that Rate My Professors chili pepper. It's more than Eric Cantor can say.