



SOSC 13100 7 - Social Science Inquiry I - Instructor(s): Richard Cooley

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **14**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Experimental and non-experimental techniques.
Learned different aspects of and types of studies and how to read research reports
Statistics
Fundamentals of social science research design: experimental methods, internal and external validity, regression discontinuity design, difference-in-differences design, etc.
Lots and lots about social science research. Went through many case studies and techniques used to analyze social science research. Professor was amazing and made sure we learned the necessary skills.
I learned the basics of research methods and design and how social scientists think about complex problems/causal relationships.
How studies are done in sociology and the different techniques that researchers employ to do them.
basics of causal inference, regression discontinuity design, difference in differences, instrumental variables and their uses in real-world applications
I learned how to conduct an effective experiment, how to analyze data, and how to read a dense research article.
How to analyse, create, and answer research questions.

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Discussions in class.
Writing assignments were always very related to the content we learned in class and helped reinforce information from discussions
Readings and writing assignments are helpful.
Readings were often very interesting (though could be 50+ pages each at times). Professor Cooley is an amazing lecturer, a very very kind grader, and overall one of my favorite professors I've had at this school. Would definitely recommend taking this course with him.
Lectures and readings were both great and useful. Some readings were a bit unnecessary but all lectures had major takeaways and had use.
Most of the readings were very engaging and not overly long – it was much more interesting to read academic papers on a variety of topics than any one longer book. Some got very technical and were near-impossible for me to follow, though. The lectures were good and synthesized the readings well, and the small group discussions in class also helped elevate my understanding.
Prof. Cooley does a fantastic job explaining concepts during in-class lectures, and discussions are more than helpful.
The readings were very interesting. Each class was a discussion, and hearing others thoughts on the papers was helpful in understanding the denser parts of the papers.
Our discussions and assignments were always very helpful in helping me understand the topics we were learning about.
Discussions were amazing, Professor Cooley is fantastic.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
N/A
Cooley is a very nice professor and easy grader.
Really enjoyable SOSC core! Prof. Cooley is great and you get to think about really interesting research questions.
This is such a good class. Professor Cooley is reasonable with deadlines, able to explain topics well, and just a good guy overall.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Professor Cooley's availability and willingness to discuss each paper before it is due.
Went over more applications of the concepts we learned from readings
Writing assignments consolidate my learning.
His engagement of our class was really good. He would often ask specific follow up questions instead of just opening up the floor for discussion which I really appreciated with this course.
The slides were easy to follow and available on Canvas to review later on, which was helpful when writing papers. The questions asked in class were helpful in understanding what the major takeaways were from our readings and discussions.
During class when he would go over examples of the concepts the research papers had used.
His ability to lead discussions and talk about the topics when we were noticeably confused.
Small discussion groups.

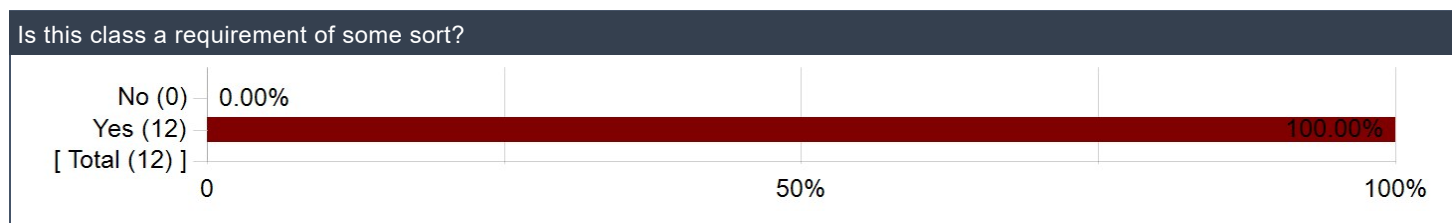
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Less readings.
Nothing, Professor Cooley's teaching style is great
Less readings (although it is already less than other professors)
Nothing. He is the best!
The last couple weeks of class became rather confusing (DAGs, IVs, etc.) – I feel like it might be good to lead into these with some sort of slightly intuitive explanation to contextualize the concepts and hopefully make them more digestible.
Not much. Course was organized in the right pace and structure.
Sometimes discussion fizzled out, but he did a good job of managing it.
Nothing, I believe the content is interesting and the class is running smoothly
Nothing. He's amazing.

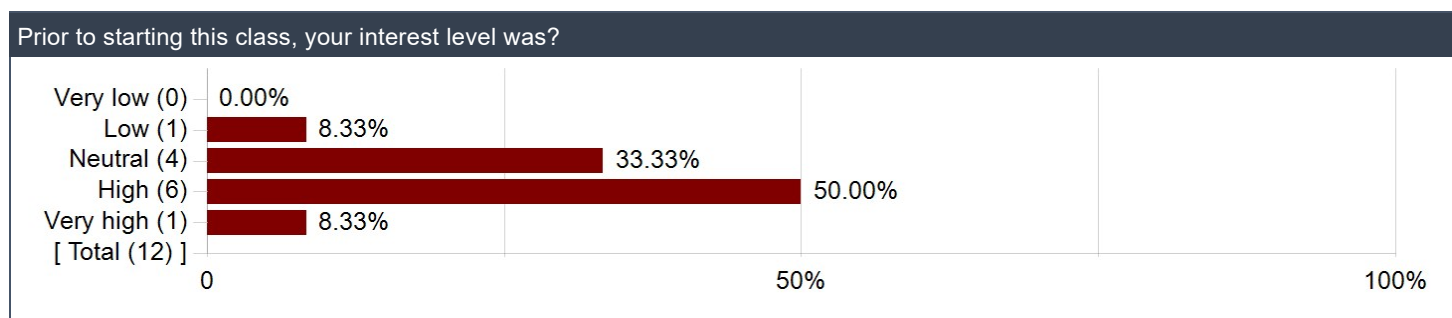
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%

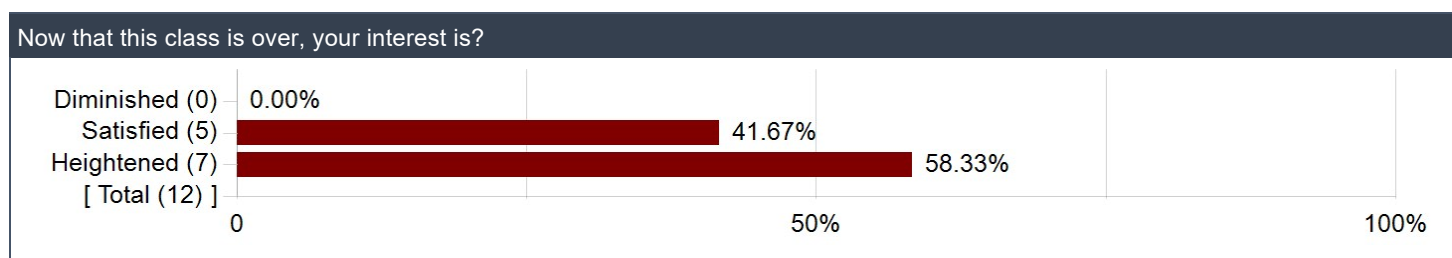
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



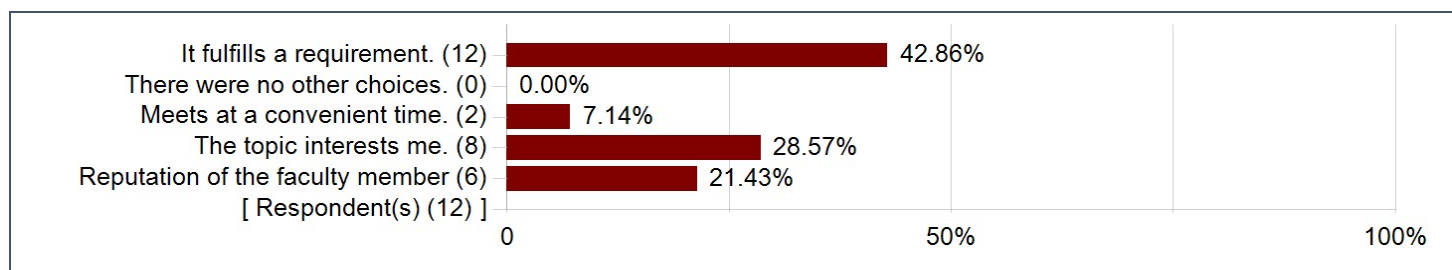
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



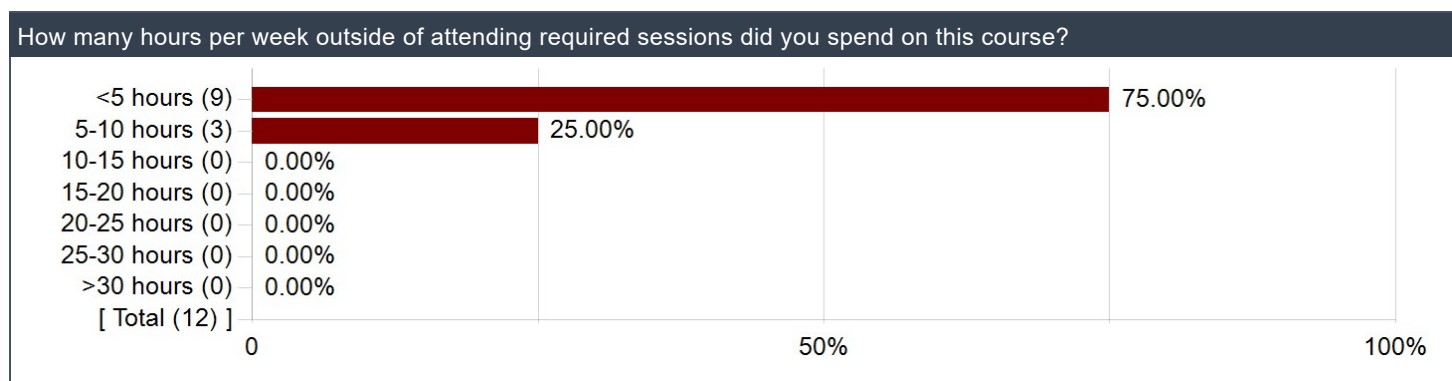
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



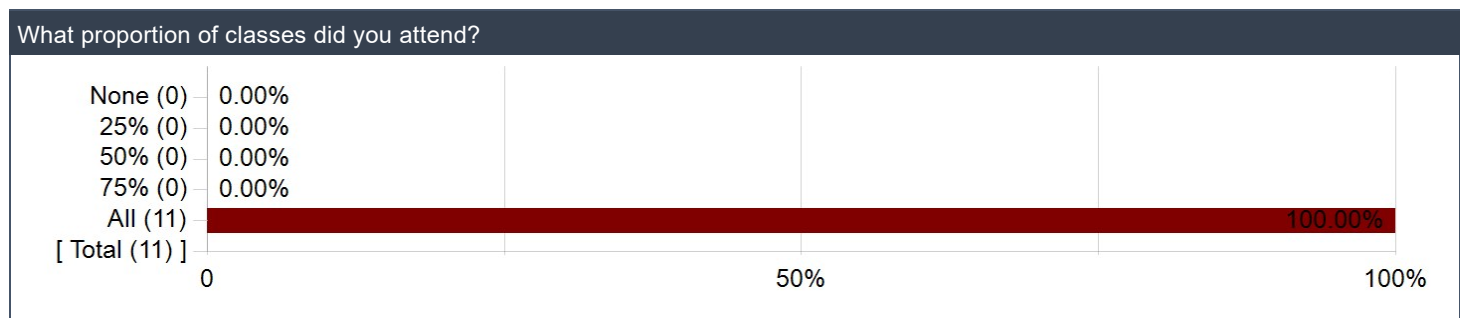
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
I took AP Statistics in high school. This class is roughly the same difficulty.
Approachable for anyone, a little stats knowledge can be helpful but not at all necessary
Not that difficult. Fairly intuitive material and Prof Cooley is great at clarifying/breaking down the material in a way that is digestable.
On the easy side. Not super super easy though.
The course was easily understandable for the most part – didn't require any advanced mathematical background (although I never took stats, it wasn't an issue, although having some stats background probably makes things slightly easier). The writing assignments were fairly intuitive and the expectations were clear while ensuring I understood the course content yet not being overly difficult. Would definitely recommend the course!
Doable for students of all backgrounds and experience.
This was a really interesting course and was the first time I've seen math being applied to very real world scenarios. Professor Cooley is a fair (and generous) grader and if you understand the basics of the concepts as some are slightly challenging, you will get the A.
Not too difficult.