



SOSC 11500 9 - Power, Identity, Resistance II - Instructor(s): Nicole Whalen

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **13**

Number of Responses: **9**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

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

Comments
How to interpret the text.
We read Smith's Wealth of Nations, Marx's Capital Volume I and Durkheim's The division of labor. Essentially learnt about capitalism and how each writer views it – Smith says it works but Marx says that's at the cost of the workers. Durkheim takes on a sociological view. It's overall pretty interesting, especially Marx's framework and Durkheim's methodology.
The course aimed to teach varying economic schools of thought using Durkheim, Smith, and Marx.
We discussed Smith, Marx, and Durkheim this quarter. We talked about their arguments and reconstructed them in class, which was helpful in learning how to write more effectively.
How to read and write and discuss better. Marx's Capital, Smith's Wealth of Nations, and Durkheim's The Division of Labor in Society.
Outside of the content of the class, which was all quite new for me, this class taught be how to reconstruct and evaluate arguments, and challenged me to learn new ways of writing.

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

Comments
She guided the discussions pretty well, keeping them within the range of understandability.
The discussions are helpful, and Professor Whalen does often provide valuable insights on text interpretations.
The entire class consisted of long reading assignments and group discussion in class. There was little to no lecturing. It was quite difficult to learn dense writers from peers that clearly didn't understand the material much either.
Discussions were extremely helpful and important in understanding each author's arguments. Writing seminars were helpful in learning different writing techniques.
Discussions were helpful with engaging with the text.
This class is all discussion-based with some student-led presentations. I think that, while we did miss some stuff because of the format (we as students aren't experts), it was an enriching experience.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	77.78%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.67	4.00	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	55.56%	22.22%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.78	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	22.22%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.67	3.00	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	11.11%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%
I felt respected in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.00	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	55.56%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I feel a bit let down by the professor. These seemed like interesting works but the way the class was run didn't do them justice. The discussion was haphazardly planned and it often felt like the professor was guessing/asking the students what was being said in the text. Her political views also weighed heavily on discussions nearly every single class, and effected what students' points she hailed or scoffed at ignoring the quality of the ideas. Our professor also missed four classes for interviews/campus visits for another position, while only allowing students one absence in that same quarter without significant grade markdowns. Overall very disappointed in this class, to the point where I've gone out of the way to write my first course eval.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	22.22%	77.78%
Anyone interested in the topic	22.22%	77.78%

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

Comments
She always makes detailed notes before class that she can reference during class. Her delivery is usually clear and logically sound.
Her friendliness to everyone in class, making the discussion environment really friendly to all, so we all felt comfortable sharing our thoughts and opinions.
The occasional lectures on the texts were very helpful to understand the material. The typical socratic seminar style was useless in learning the concepts.
Professor Whalen was a great discussion facilitator, and easily identified areas that the class was struggling to understand and focused on those. Discussions were very interesting and class always flew by. I felt like we could've kept talking for a long time afterwards.
The office hours to go over essay brainstorming and thesis checking was the most constructive for better writing and even understanding of the text. I wish discussions could be a flavor more like that.
Professor Whalen was great at leading and correcting and the conversation when we were off base or a discussion was getting too in the weeds, but she put trust in us as students to have a grasp on the content.
Professor Whalen is great at managing discussions, letting the class talk about what interests us but bringing it back before it wanders too far. Classes are more discussion-heavy, but the rare lectures are useful and interesting. Professor Whalen is also generally a very kind and lovely person, and I've really enjoyed learning from her.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I wish the discussions could be freer.
I sometimes feel like we meander around the text and don't necessarily have important themes/takeaways, so maybe if the discussions can be more oriented toward something that the professor wants us to take away with, I feel like that would be better.
The professor needs to put more effort into this class across the board. Nearly six weeks to get the midterm papers back (around when final papers were coming due), a handful of absences and very little lecturing made me feel like I was wasting my time by putting effort in myself.
Nothing, other than maybe more feedback on papers.
Some more regular office hours, even if virtual, may be more welcoming and helpful.
I can't think of anything! Professor Whalen is fantastic. She is brilliant and knowledgeable and she teaches the class very well.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.11	5.00	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.88	5.00	22.22%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	11.11%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.75	4.00	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	37.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.89	5.00	11.11%	11.11%	11.11%	11.11%	55.56%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	5.00	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.22	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.22	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	66.67%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Avi Waldman
Avi Waldman – She was very helpful in teaching writing techniques, and was available outside class for us to meet and talk about papers.
Avi. Very helpful during office hours and facilitated good group meetings that contributed to better writing on the essays.
Avi Waldman

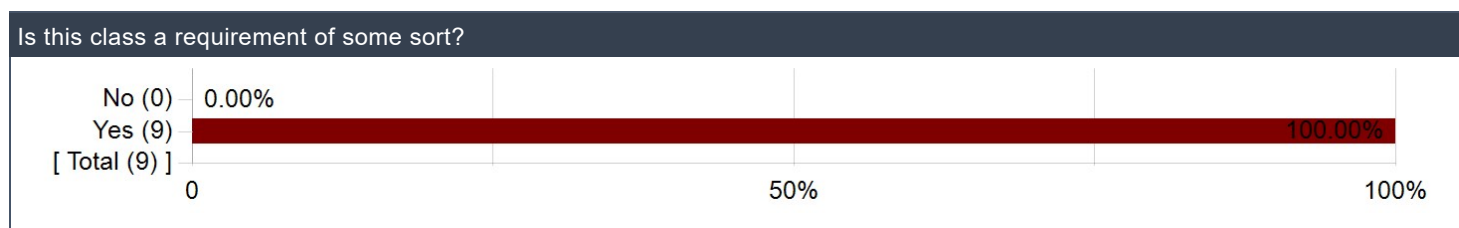
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%	40.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%	20.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	0.00%

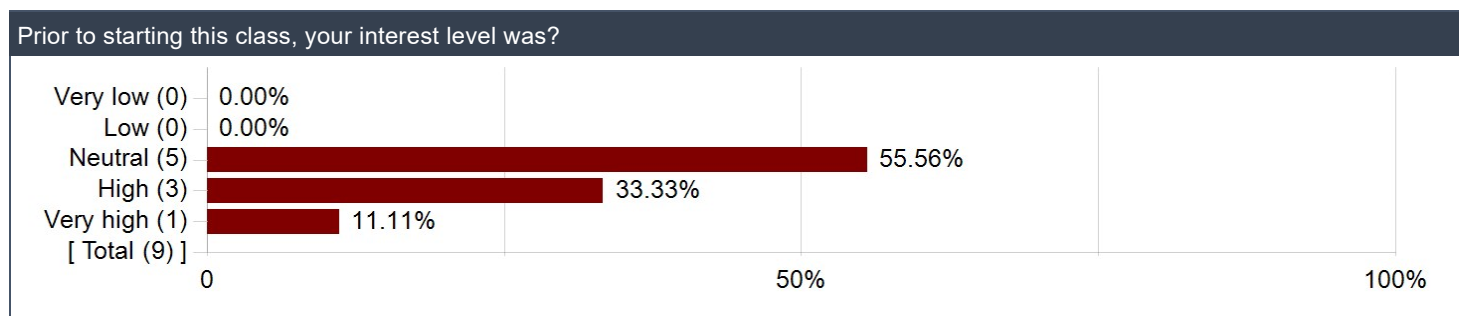
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	3.67	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%

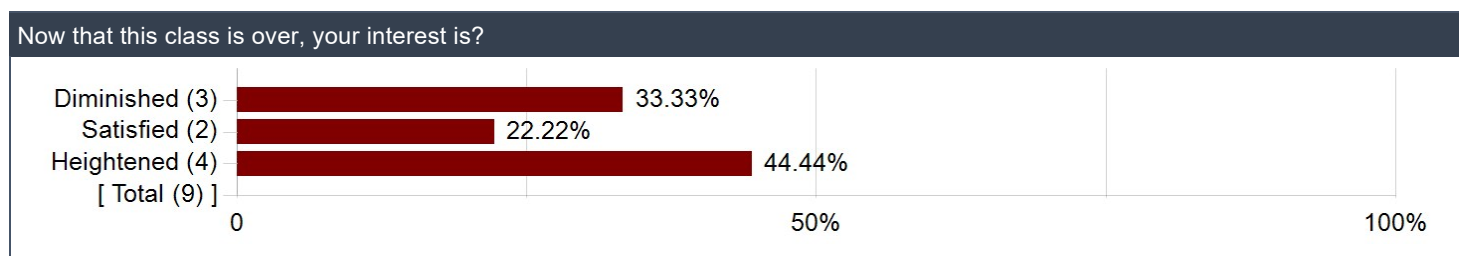
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



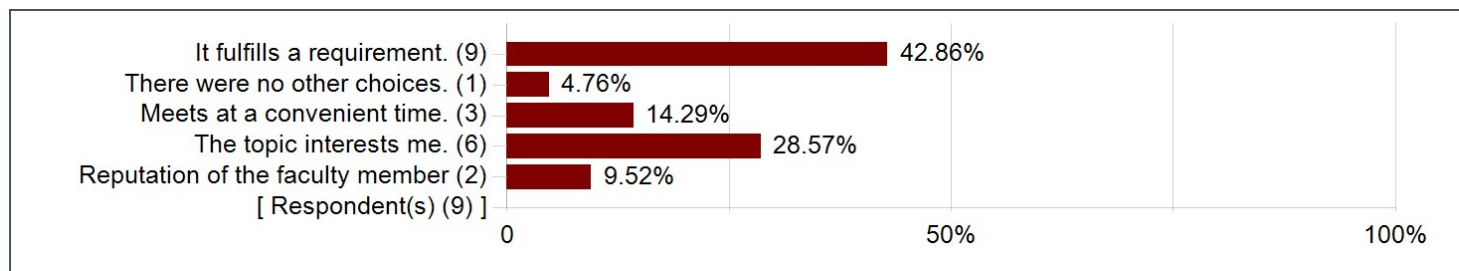
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



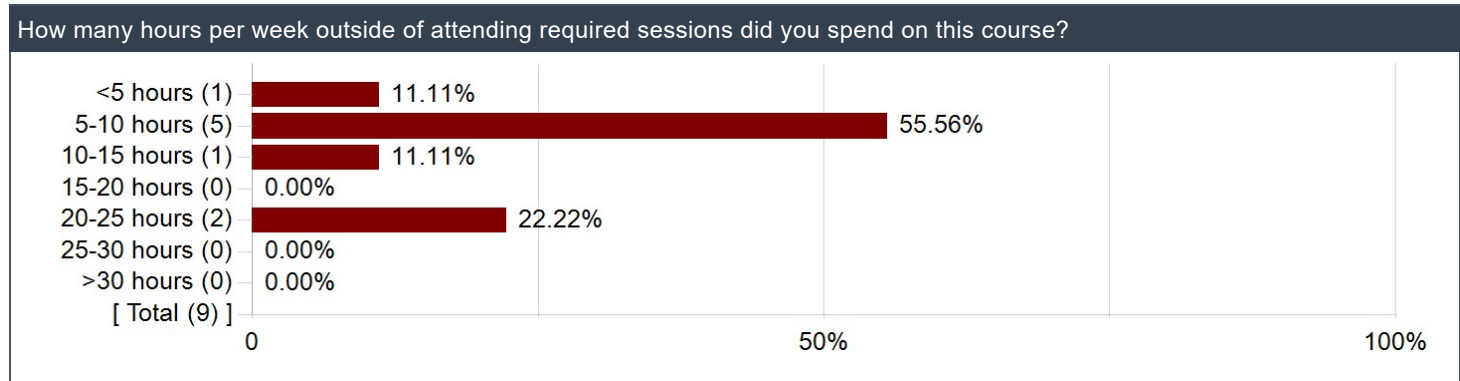
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



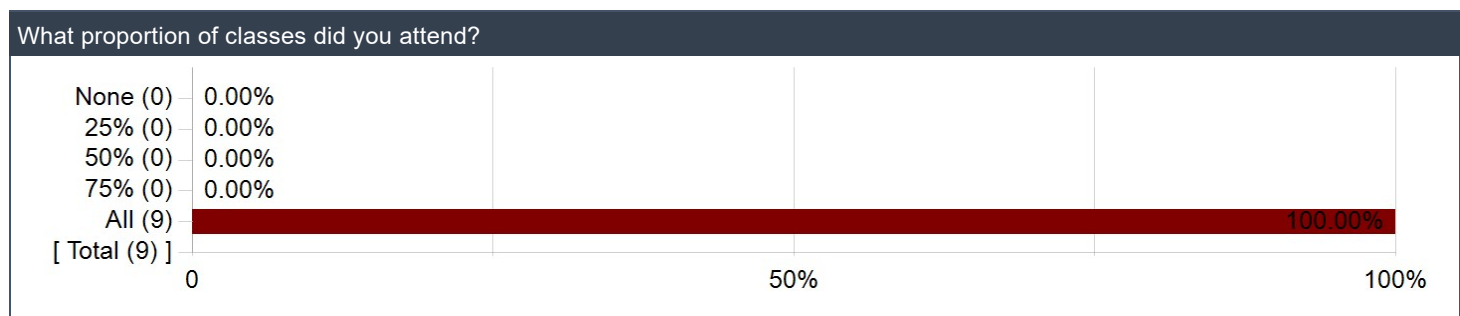
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
One of the relatively easier socs classes especially if you're into econ
Same old Power, I think the texts are relatively easier than in Autumn since they're more "economics"—y and less concerned with political authority etc. It's definitely interesting to read the milestone works of Smith and Marx, I'd say it's worth it! Reading can be quite heavy, but I think once you know what to read for/where the important ideas are, reading can be quite enjoyable.
The work was not overly difficult, but couldn't determine what grading criteria was
I felt that this class was my most intellectually challenging class. However, I feel that I learn so much just by attending that I do not mind at all. Power is definitely economics focused but lectures make it about more than just the economics.
PIR is known as one of the more difficult SOSC classes. From my experience thus far, I think it can start out rough, but if you work right (go to office hours, read the text, follow instructor comments on writing) there is real potential for improving writing.