



SOSC 15100 12 - Classics of Social and Political Thought I - Instructor(s): Sarah Johnson

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **10**

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 |
|---|
| The most important thing I learned was how to analyze texts like The Republic on a far more foundational level, analyzing how the text itself works as a whole. |
| I began to learn how to interpret original philosophical writings in a way that I never did in high school. |
| Learning how to think and interpret arguments as well as write my own |
| How Plato defines justice, and the tenets of his city, Aristotle's views on ethics and politics, Aquinas' views on religion and morality, and Machiavelli's guide to being a 'prince.' I also learned how to structure a Uchicago historical essay and craft a strong argument. |
| Having read many texts and insights on political thought and philosophy is useful to have read and understand. Grasping the origin/foundation of early political ideology is not only useful, but resourceful in discussion and forming your own ideas and views on current political topics. |
| How to read and think about philosophical texts in the context of their thoughts on society and politics |

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

| Comments |
|---|
| The assignments were very helpful in forcing me to dig deeply into the texts and piece together what was happening, while class discussions were instrumental in helping me solidify my understanding of the texts. |
| The seminar aspect of the class was very helpful, but I wish far more discussions had happened in smaller groups. The long blocks meant that the class became very monotonous, and certainly need more variation in what we were doing. |
| The class discussions were incredibly helpful |
| The discussions were great ways to understand the reading and concepts. |
| Class discussions helped me think about the texts |

Please respond to the following:

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| This course challenged me intellectually. | 5.00 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% |
| I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it. | 4.67 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 33.33% | 66.67% |
| I understood the standards for success on assignments. | 4.33 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 66.67% | 33.33% |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments. | 4.56 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 44.44% | 55.56% |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work. | 4.78 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 22.22% | 77.78% |
| My work was evaluated fairly. | 4.78 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 22.22% | 77.78% |
| I felt respected in this class. | 4.89 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 88.89% |
| Overall, this was an excellent course. | 4.56 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 22.22% | 66.67% |

Additional comments about the course:

| Comments |
|---|
| The class is very relaxed except for when one is working on an essay. |

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 |
|--|
| I think Professor Johnson was very good at facilitating discussions and she helped fill in holes in our understanding that allowed us to better appreciate the text. |
| Pushed us above and beyond initial assumptions |
| The way in which the instructor directed the discussion was very useful and pointed me towards the most important passages in the text |
| I really loved how the instructor very clearly understood the text, but framed her speech in a way that would allow us to arrive at our own conclusions. Whenever someone would say something in the class that was slightly off-base, she would subtly identify and highlight the correct concepts in their point, and guide them to her understanding. |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

| Comments |
|--|
| I think that spending a little less time on The Republic and dealing with the Aristotle and Aquinas texts more completely could have been helpful. |
| More variation, don't just talk the entire time. Smaller breakout groups, writing activities, etc. |
| I definitely could have used more support in writing/crafting an argument. I didn't quite understand what the expectations for structure were. I would have loved for there to have been an opportunity for feedback on an ungraded essay draft just to see what the instructor was looking for. |

The Instructor . . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Organized the course clearly. | 4.67 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 11.11% | 77.78% | 0.00% |
| Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding. | 4.78 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 0.00% | 88.89% | 0.00% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful. | 4.67 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 11.11% | 77.78% | 0.00% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course. | 4.78 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 22.22% | 77.78% | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 4.89 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 88.89% | 0.00% |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content. | 4.89 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 88.89% | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.89 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 88.89% | 0.00% |
| Motivated you to think independently. | 4.89 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 88.89% | 0.00% |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. | 4.89 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 88.89% | 0.00% |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.89 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 88.89% | 0.00% |

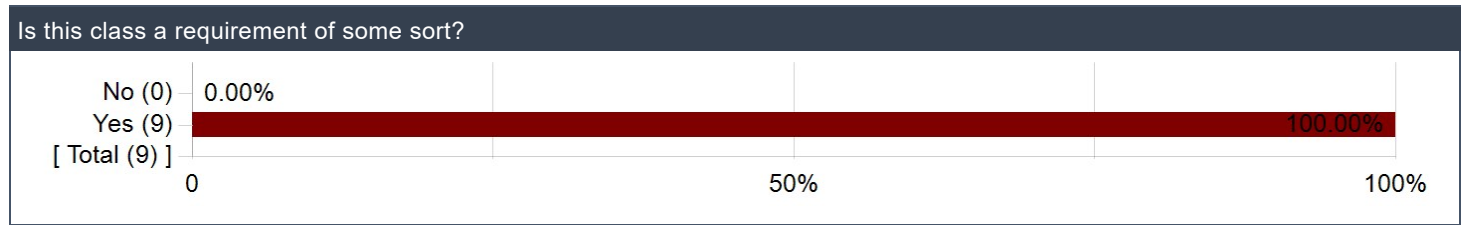
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

| Comments |
|---|
| Juan Curiel. I do not think I can say too much about him, since he only taught for part of one class. |
| The class lead by them was very interesting and engaging |
| Juan Curiel |

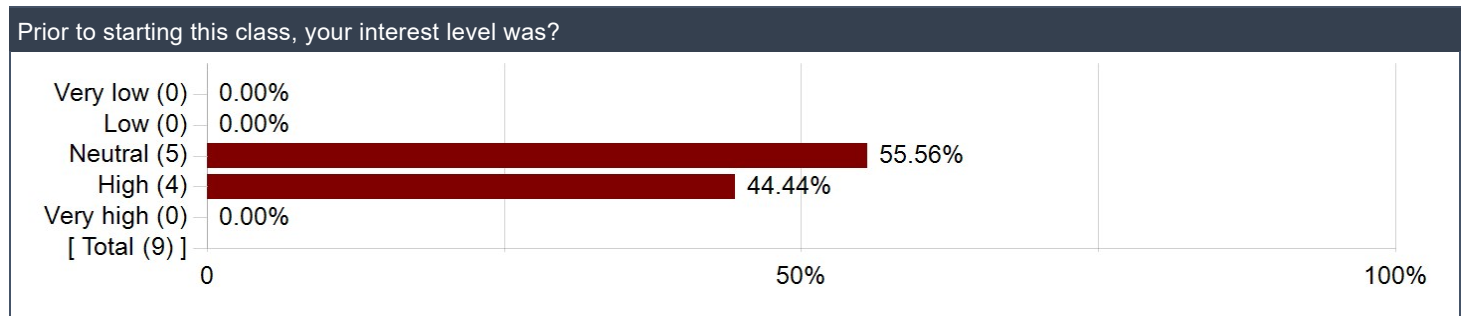
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Facilitated discussions that supported your learning. | 3.67 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 40.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% |
| Gave you useful feedback on your work. | 5.00 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 80.00% |
| 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. | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 60.00% |
| Helped you succeed in the class. | 5.00 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 80.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.33 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 40.00% |
| Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.00 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 60.00% |

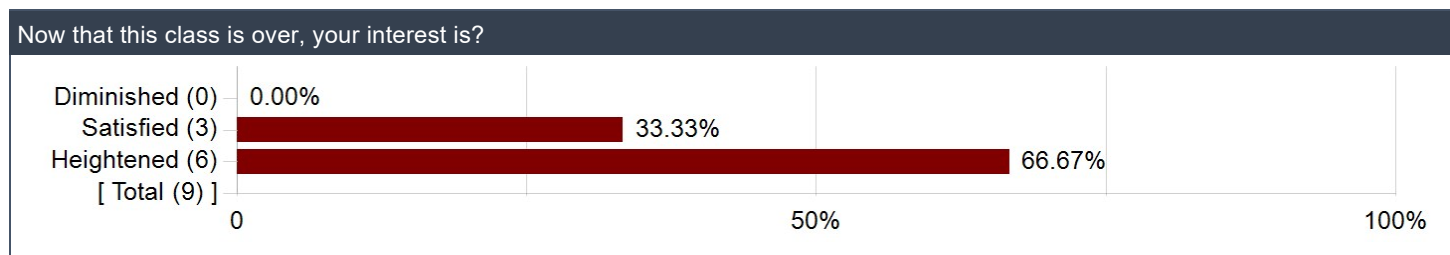
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



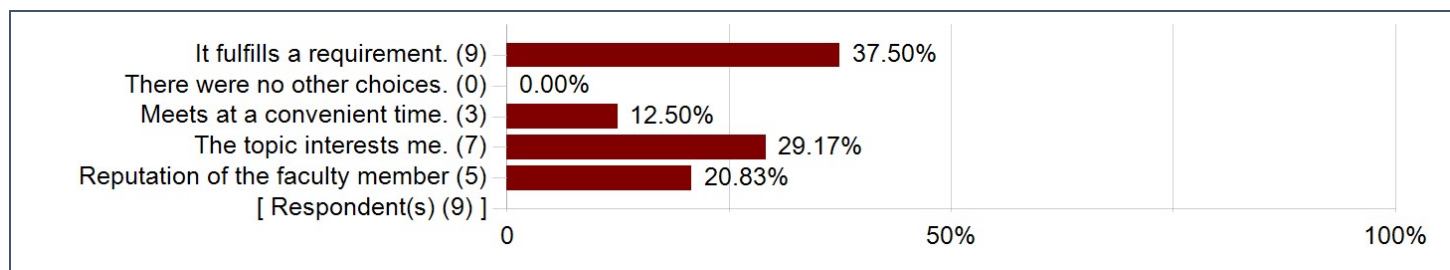
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



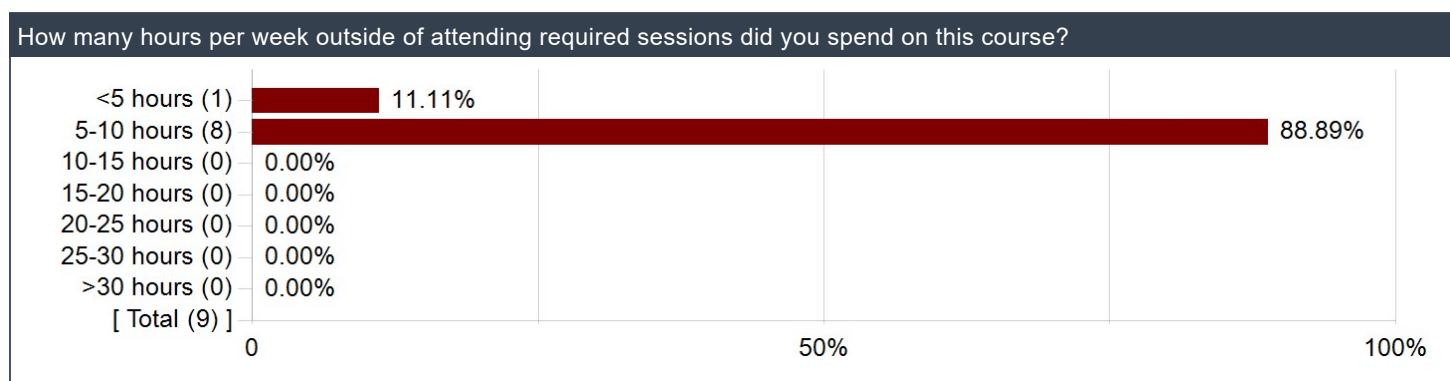
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



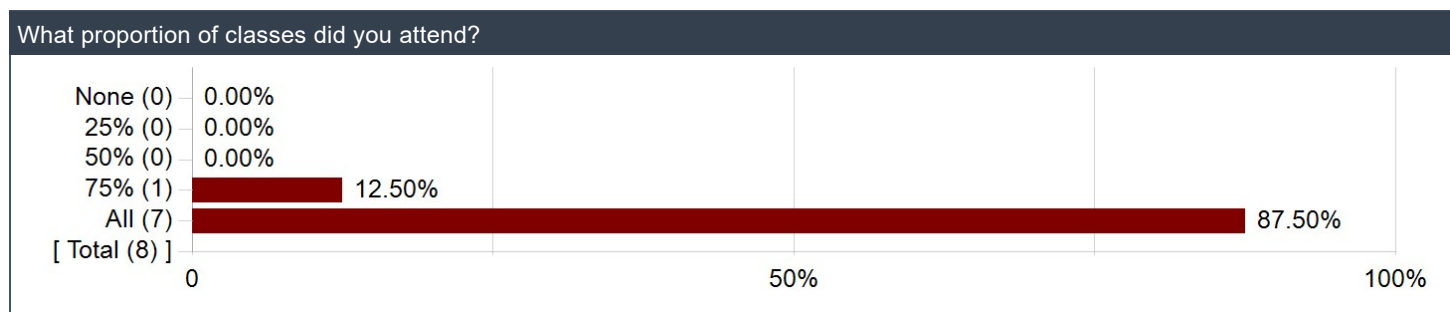
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 |
|---|
| This class was definitely a step up from HUM and Civ in the difficulty of the assignments, but it is manageable and accessible to everyone. |
| Challenging |
| I had a background more specifically in ethics, and I thought the concepts of this course were rather challenging. I definitely struggled with Plato, but the discussions helped. |