



SOSC 18500 1 - Democracy: Equality, Liberty, and the Dilemmas of Self-Government II - Instructor(s): Clifford Ando

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

Number Enrolled: **17**

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
Learning about different revolutions and the different factors, democratic and non–democratic, that led to their creation. I learned how to better analyze political texts and learn from them information about the era and the historical context. I learned how to compare and contrast different revolutions and their democratic aspects.
I learned about essential arguments posed during various different revolutions: Glorious (English), American, French, Haitian, Weimar, and India. This was not a history course, so the precise timelines and factual details were not as emphasized, but I learned that too.
I would say the most important thing I learned was how even revolutions which occurred in different places and with different motivations shared common intellectual histories.
Revolution and democracy are not coherent, at least not to the extent of the course designer. Also, I understood that history should not be addressed with a strong view of topic. History is history; it is not a playing ground for ideology and historiographical thoughts. It is ok for individuals to view history in a specific way/through a specific doctrine, but please do to press such doctrine against others. That would be greatly appreciated.
Revolutions and their causes. We went over the Glorious, American, French, Haitian, Weimar, and Indian Revolutions.

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

Comments
The discussions were beneficial as Professor Ando often provided very insightful analysis into the documents and often connected one class's readings with other readings we have done.
The readings were relatively comprehensive and helpful. As is usual with humanities–type classes, you really learn when writing as it forces you to wrestle with your thoughts. As such, the essays and, perhaps more significantly, the Canvas discussion posts were extremely helpful in my overall comprehension of the course material.
Prof. Ando is a great lecturer, and does so in a way that prompts students to be able to have informative discussions. I learned a lot from him and from my fellow students.
Greatly unsatisfied with the planning of the course. How could democracy be the dominant concept in revolutions? Only in rare cases did revolution give rise to democracy; revolution does not link with democracy as closely as the course designer thought. I really hope they revise the syllabus to focus on democratic thought in revolution. Democracy doesn't even play a major role in most revolutions. It is true that democratic thoughts are formed in revolutions, but that doesn't mean that they are executed or that they stay executed. Overall the course is coherent if the "little" flaw of the natural conflict in the two core concept of the curriculum is ignored.
Papers
The class lectures by Professor Ando were extremely insightful, as he frequently brought up niche–but–interesting examples from his area of expertise (Rome). Moreover, the class discussions were always something to look forward to, as there were always very interesting points brought up.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.63	4.00	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	37.50%	25.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Ando is a gem: he is extremely approachable and knowledgeable on almost any piece of European history, no matter how long ago or how recent.
Otherwise, as Ando remarked, the syllabus is too packed: there should be less revolutions covered (perhaps limited to the 18th and/or 19th century, for example). Two days for the American is far too little! Either don't do it or do it properly, and the same goes for most of them.
The expectations for the assignments seemed unclear at time, though I don't believe this was Professor Andy's fault, as he was working off of a preexisting syllabus.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	12.50%	87.50%
Anyone interested in the topic	14.29%	85.71%

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

Comments
Professor Ando explained in detail the different readings we had and often provided a perspective I had not thought before on them.
As mentioned, the depth and breadth of Professor Ando's knowledge is amazing, so it was great to hear various connections to recent/current events. This could not have simply been learned from the readings.
Insightful comments of the instructor
Lectures! Professor Ando would frequently bring up tangentially related topics that were just interesting to hear about; once, he started talking about the political significance of one of the differences between the Harry Potter books and movies.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I certainly loved Professor Ando's various tangents, even if distantly related. However, sometimes the class would veer a little off track by hyper focusing on one subject and class discussion faltered.
I think just a bit more feedback on returned works would be helpful.
Let the class speak more
Make the assignments more clear; we were often given just a vague prompt to work with, which was a bit difficult in writing our paper.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	62.50%	25.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	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
Elena Schafer
Elena Schafer
Elena Schafer was a great writing specialist, and she did a very good job organizing lessons such that I gained the ability to dissect and respond to different arguments made.
Elena Schafer (writing TA)

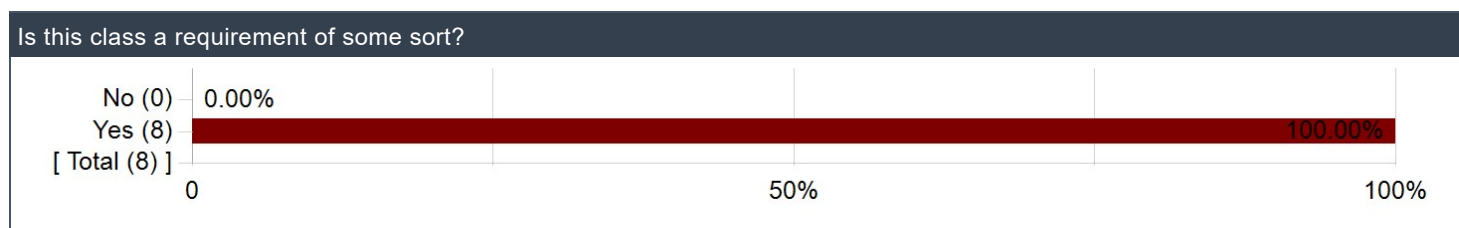
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	20.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%

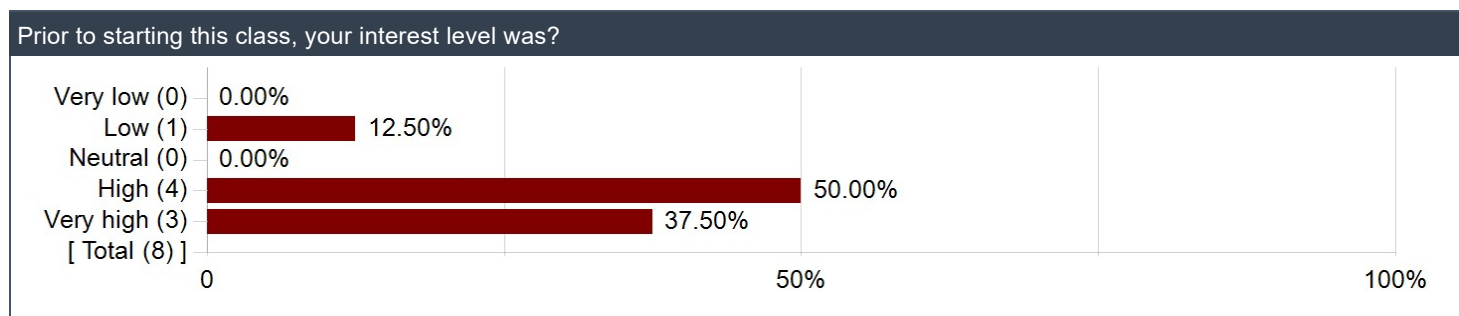
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.00	3.00	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	3.75	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%

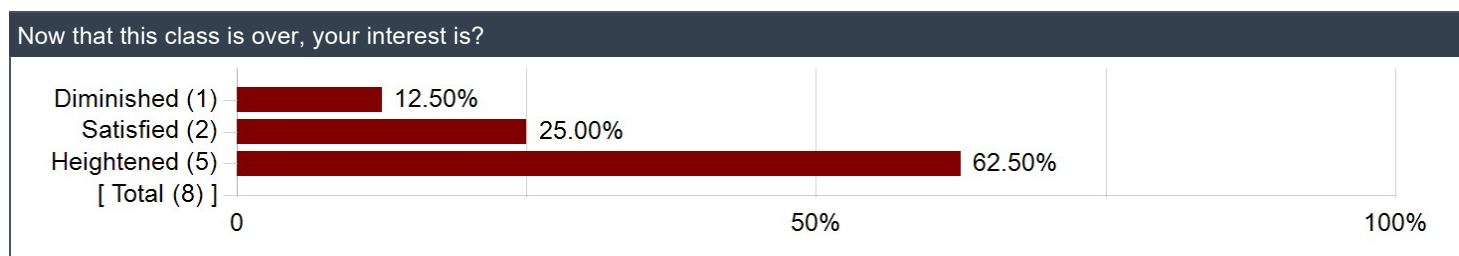
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



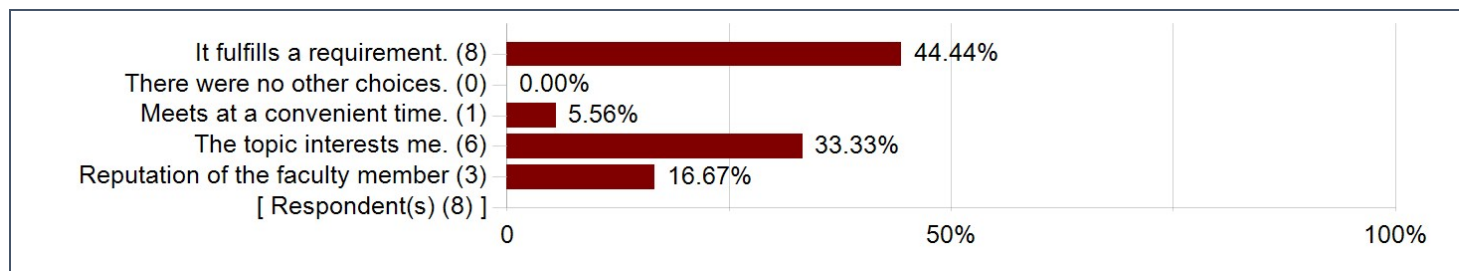
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



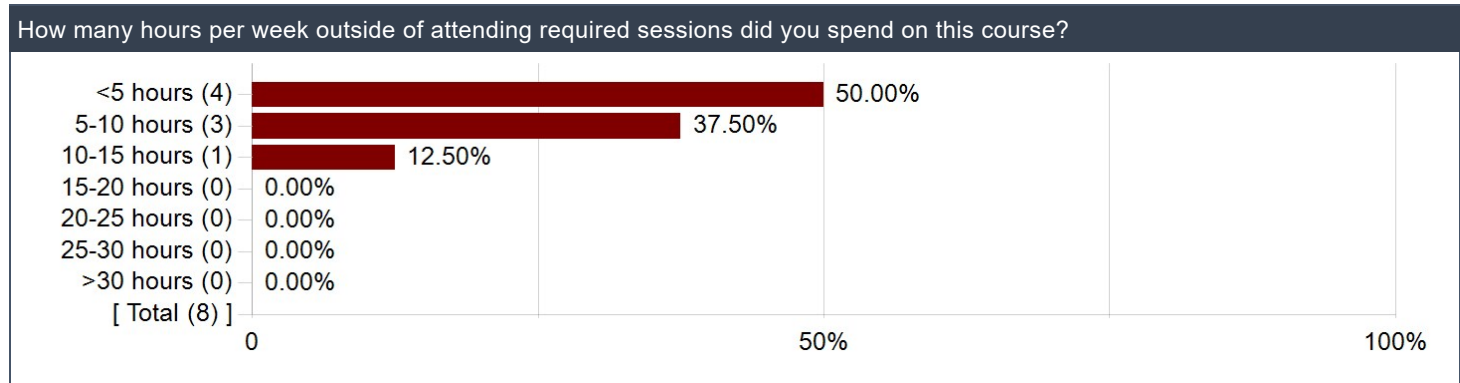
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



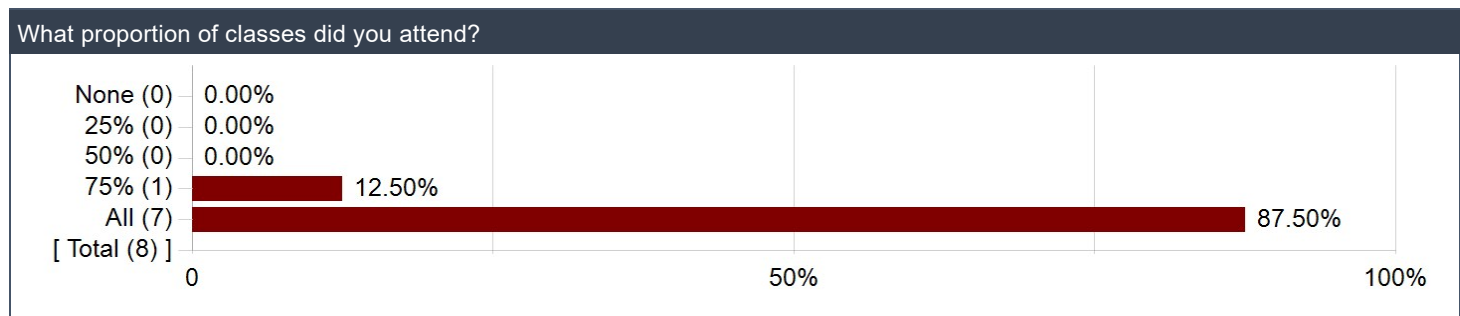
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
The content is not particularly difficult.
I am a first-year, so any previous experience is all core (i.e., last quarter's SOSC and HUMA). Though we have not received our final grades, so far it has seemed you do not need much background knowledge to succeed. For the first papers, you learn everything you need from the readings.
Decently difficult
The expectations for our papers were higher in this course than the previous quarter, but not insurmountable at all.