



SOSC 11400 15 - Power, Identity, Resistance I - Instructor(s): Benjamin Lessing, Isaac Hand

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

Number Enrolled: **13**

Number of Responses: **6**

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
I learned how to read and deconstruct dense philosophical texts (what are the main claims and different tensions within and between texts), as well as some of the Western fundamental ideas about society, the state, resistance, and the dissolution of the state.
Doing political science analysis
I learned how to read complicated texts and distill the author's central arguments, identifying key tensions and then constructing cogent arguments about those tensions.
How to close read and critically interact with a text on political thought
Views of various philosophers (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Wollstonecraft, Walker)
Putting different texts/authors in conversation with each other

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

Comments
In-class discussions were particularly helpful in aiding my understanding of the texts.
In the lectures we worked on some of the text, not all.
Discussions were particularly helpful in demystifying complex topics (often communicated in archaic language) and identifying the core components of an author's arguments.
We mostly stuck to discussing our assigned readings for that day and I would say that it was very useful in helping us work through the often times dense text and create a concrete interpretation.
Discussions very helpful in figuring out the underlying messages of the texts.
mostly just discussions

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	50.00%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
None-native English speakers, run,
For some particular writing assignments, the grading system was unclear (check -, check, check+, but we were not told what that translates to in terms of actual grades)

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	33.33%	66.67%

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

Comments
Ben and Isaac were both very good at facilitating discussions. They let students speak, but always found ways to take the conversation further, or introduced a new angle when the pacing of discussion slowed down.
The discussion.
Discussions
Lessing and Isaac were great in fostering discussions and guiding us through the topics even when they were hard to understand.
Going over specific passages that were crucial to the main ideas of the text.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Maybe more feedback on papers would be good, but overall Ben and Isaac did a great job.
Cover more of the reading instead of focusing on certain texts.
Nothing
In terms of learning about how to write well about these topics, potentially more shorter assignments might be helpful.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	33.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.75	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	66.67%	16.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.00	4.50	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	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
Mia Thacker – They were very kind and helpful, and were regularly available out of class!
Mia

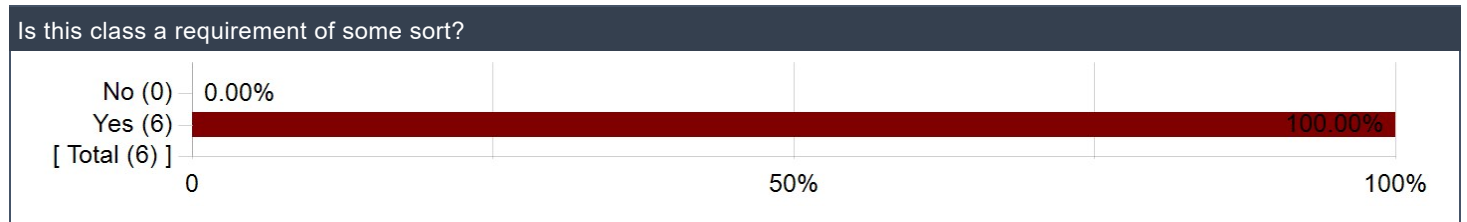
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%

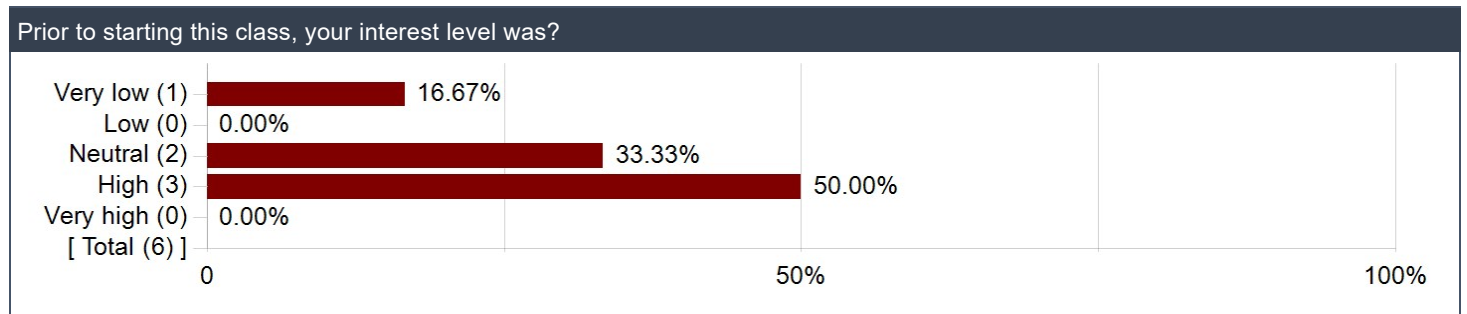
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

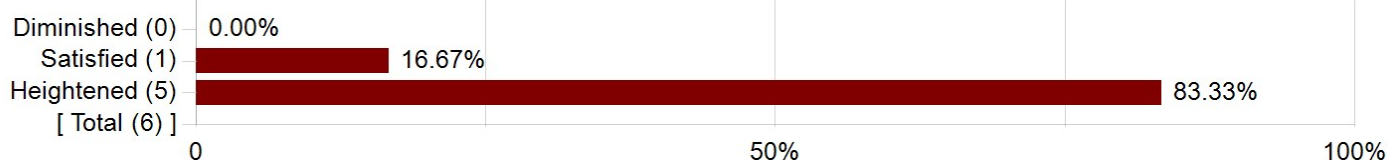


Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

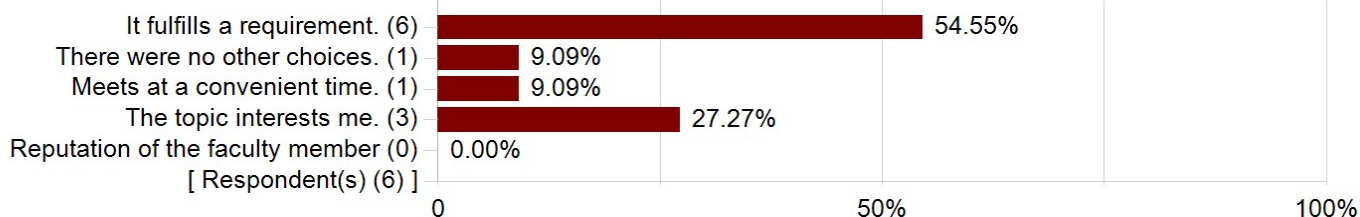


Now that this class is over, your interest is?

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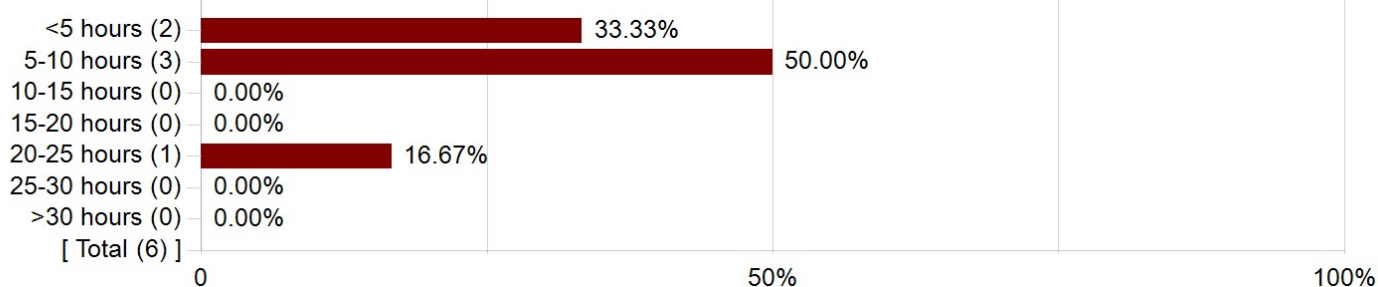


Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



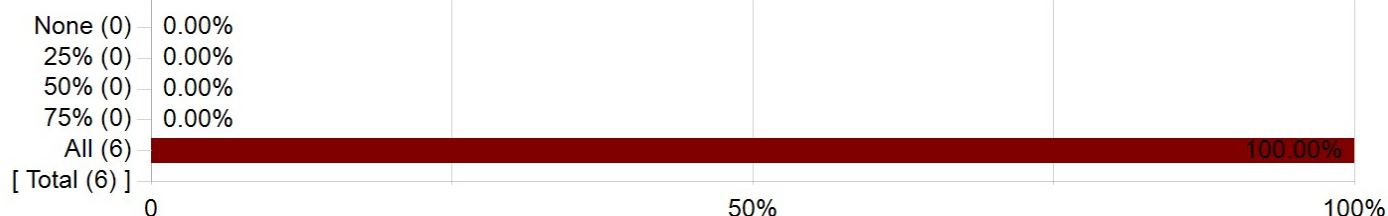
How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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What proportion of classes did you attend?

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

Comments
I'm a first year international student, and although the course was still relatively challenging, I found it managable and quite engaging. It may seem intimidating at first, especially when it comes to writing papers, but as long as you do your best to do the readings and participate in the discussions, I think you will be absolutely okay.
Very difficult
I didn't much more than a passing familiarity with the writers we discussed and although I'd say this course was difficult, it was entirely manageable.
Appropriately challenging
no experience in the subject, and found the material difficult, but not impossible if you're willing to put in the time and effort.