



SOSC 15100 13 - Classics of Social and Political Thought I - Instructor(s): Jordan Jochim

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

Number Enrolled: **10**

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: **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 ability to read and discuss complex philosophical texts
I learned how to discuss and analyze classical texts in writing and in person.
A new perspective on how to maintain balance between the forces that exist within an individual and within a larger organization such as a city. I really enjoyed taking the extra time to understand difficult concepts within the texts we read.
I got a solid understanding of ancient political and social theory. Most importantly however, I feel like I'm improved at reading and understanding difficult texts. I also was challenged in a new style of analytic writing, and feel I have improved in that area as well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How to read philosophical texts, especially less structured ones such as Plato's Republic. – How to draw connections between different thinkers, such as Plato and Aristotle's investigations into the nature and causes of faction. – How to write clearly about these thinkers' arguments without simply regurgitating quotes from the text.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –How to structure an essay and a paragraph more effectively –Classical underpinings of elements of modern philosophy –How to more effectively identify key terms in a passage and understand their implications
Without a doubt the most important skills that I've learned are the ability to read at a much higher level as well as the ability to form connections and responses based on what I've read. I've also learned a lot about the medium of philosophy, one that I have not spent any time on in the past. I definitely think that I am much more well-equipped to read and discuss denser, more philosophical texts because of this class.
Some of the most important things I gained in this course were learning how to interpret essay prompts, accurately respond to essay questions, and connect background information to our philosophy discussion to better understand what we were reading.
Political structures in ancient Greece, ancient political thought and evaluation of justice and virtue. Faction, divisions within society, laws and political functioning, and survival. Along with this knowledge, I have developed my writing and argumentative skills, and I've become more open-minded about different interpretations of the same text.

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

Comments
Both the discussions and the papers helped teach me through utilization of the skills. The most helpful part, however, was the shorter discussion posts and close readings which allowed me to organize my thoughts on a specific subject and focus in on it.
In-class discussion was the most beneficial aspect of the course in terms of contributing to my learning. I generally do not like discussion post assignments, however, they were helpful to see what insights other students took away from the reading.
I find the in class discussions very helpful. The readings themselves are often difficult, and breaking down big ideas in class was helpful. The professor is also always available for office hours.
I loved the class discussions which helped me to delve in-depth into the text, as well as the talking points which made sure that I did my reading conscientiously. Having to write talking points also ensured that I engaged critically with the text as I read it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Talking points and literary analyses contributed to close reading and analysis effectively –In class discussions gave a more in depth understanding of the material and of the relations between different texts and authors, as well as historical context
The discussion medium of this course really hindered me at first because I felt like I didn't know enough about the sources to contribute in a meaningful way in comparison to my peers. I think that once we started implementing small group discussions, I gained a lot more voice and confidence in what I was saying, allowing me to contribute and share my ideas more.
Our canvas posts and in-class discussions contributed the most to my learning. In-class discussions allowed me to get answers to things I was confused about in the readings. The canvas posts helped me understand how to better word my questions.
<p>Lectures – helped a lot with the context of the writers and explanation of key concepts in the text</p> <p>Discussions – exposed me to varied views on different social and political topics + it was always fun to share what I found really interesting and what others found interesting when reading the same text</p> <p>Labs – N/A</p> <p>Assignments – deepened my understanding due to intensive close reading of the text + improve my argumentative skills</p>

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
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.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%
I felt respected in this class.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Jochim is a fantastic instructor who is generous with his time and is more than willing to help out confused students during office hours. I loved the office hour conversations which helped me clarify my doubts about the texts, and we had the time to discuss things that were tangential / not directly relevant to the curriculum but were interesting and related to the classics nonetheless. I also appreciated having the chance to listen to Prof Kasimus's talk on democracy in ancient Greece which let me look at what we were studying (the Republic) through a new lens.
lots of reading, but very fun.
I definitely felt respected in this course. There weren't any instances of me being directly shamed for saying something, regardless of how wrong it was.
N/A

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
The structure of class discussions was very useful, as were the introductions he'd do each time we started a new text.
I think the instructors tying of students' comments to the text was extremely helpful in relating the discussion back to an analysis of the text, and thus most helpful in furthering my learning.
Organizing the topics we were going to discuss in class on the board was helpful in generating contributions that would progress the direction of the class. Also, the passages highlighted in the lecture were very helpful in approaching the assignments.
I found the discussions amongst my peers helpful, although the professor sometimes just explained a topic, which was also very helpful.
Prof Jochim ensured that everyone in class had the chance to speak up, be it to share their thoughts or ask questions. He created a very safe space for learning and lively discussion which helped me absorb new perspectives about the text from my classmates.
The historical context that Professor Jochim provided for each of the texts and authors was very important to understand the implications, reasoning, and prescriptions of each work.
The aspect that contributed the most was my professor's thorough feedback when it came to essays submitted and the clarity on what was expected that it resulted in. It helped me to structure my learning and focus on only what was important.
My instructor was best at allowing the in-class discussion to flow from one topic to the next. This was best because I felt that most of our questions got answered and it was interesting to see what my peers thought of each topic.
Instructor's teaching most contributed to understanding the different worlds across the different readings and then comparing those to our perception of the current world. He was also a fantastic moderator of discussion in class.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think that occasionally there was a lot of jumping about of subjects, since we covered a lot of material in the readings—far more than we could discuss in class. Narrowing the class discussions to one or two topics instead of three or four could help focus the discussion and allow for more depth of analysis.
Nothing in particular
Sometimes we would run out of time to fully discuss all the topics for that particular day, which was a pity because the discussions are truly so engaging!
For the readings, I think it could be helpful to provide an overview of what the specific topics of conversation will be before the day of because the texts we read are incredibly dense and so it was kinda difficult to contribute because the things I had focused on in the readings were not topics of conversation.
Our instructor started doing small group discussions before full class discussions later in the quarter. This was really nice to have because if I sort of understood something I could almost check with a peer first. If we did this all quarter it would have helped more.
More discussions and debates in class beyond just the chronology of the text eg. make us debate over different answers to the same essay prompts

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	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.	4.67	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 was very organized and had the workshops prepared in a manner that was very easy to follow and engage with. They were also very clear with the learning objectives during the workshop.
Mia Thacker, the TA, was very helpful in my learning of essay writing with the workshop on the work of a paragraph, and the office hours available to help with our essays.
Mia Thacker
Our writing advisor was very useful when it came to helping us understand how to write better. I don't have any negatives. She was very helpful and I feel like I learned a lot from our sessions.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%

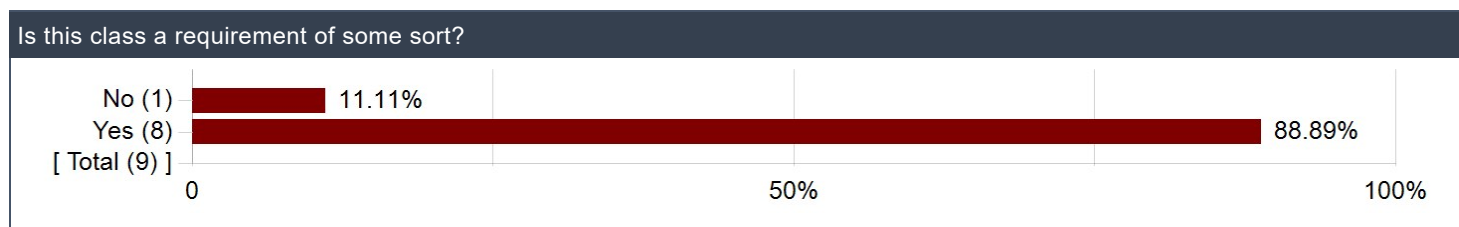
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Review Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Writing Seminars	3.88	5.00	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	62.50%	0.00%

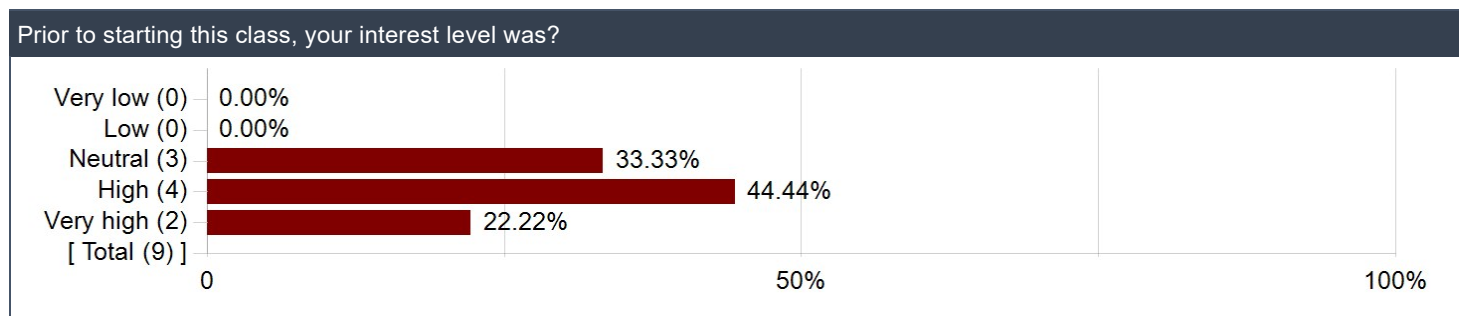
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
There was also a mandatory talk which was incredibly interesting
Lecture on conspiracy in ancient athens

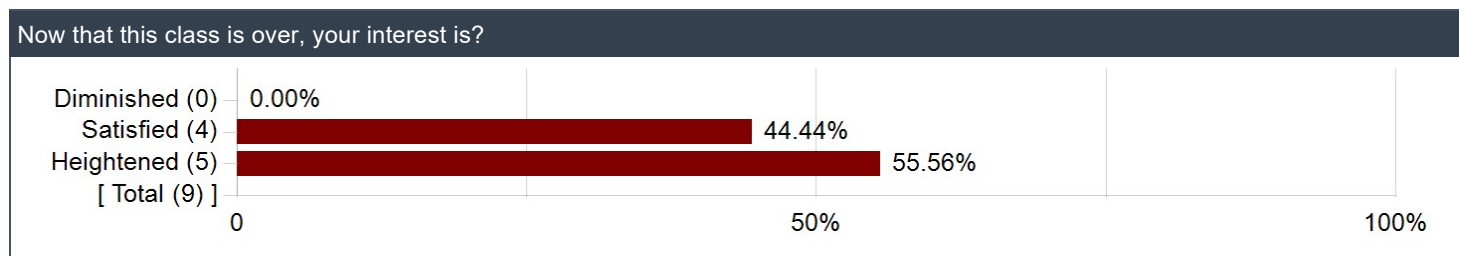
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



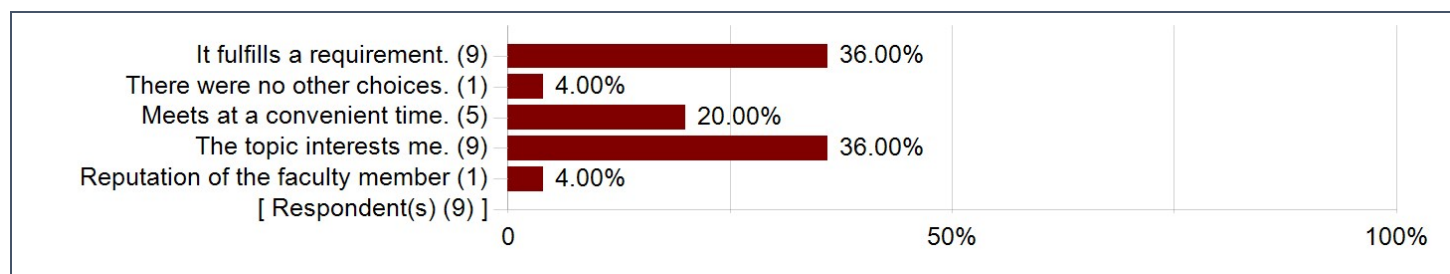
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



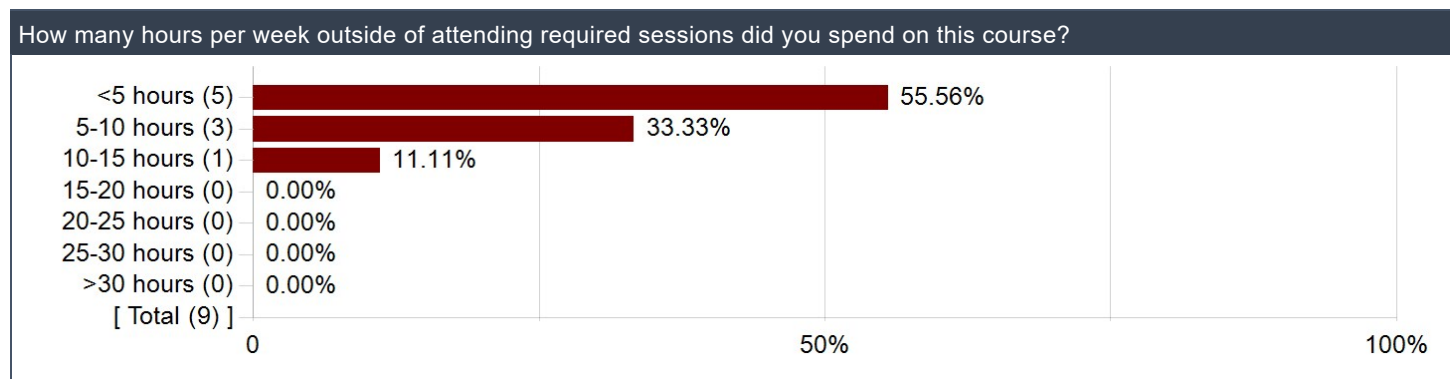
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



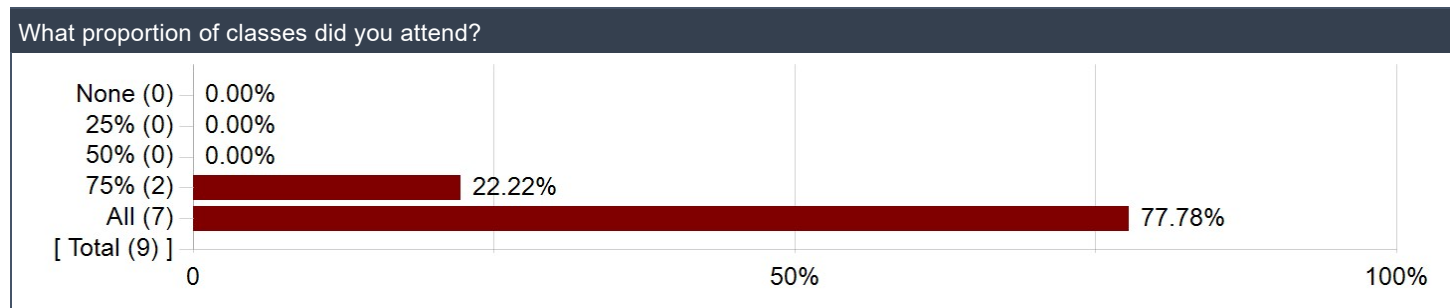
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 hadn't studied philosophy in a very long time, and I certainly hadn't ever engaged with texts like The Republic, so most of the aspects of this course were very new to me
This course was only difficult in the sense that it was bigger, i.e. there were longer readings, longer discussions, etc. The skills required for the class generally were familiar to me, although not necessarily easy.
Minimal
I found it a bit challenging as someone who reads a lot, and the writing was different than anything I had written before.
Having taken philosophy classes in high school definitely helped me get used to reading the texts, but anyone who is willing to sit down and devote their complete attention to the texts should be able to understand them with no problem.
If I had to describe the difficulty in one word, it would be "humanities." It was not more or less difficult than I or any reasonable person would expect from a course on this topic.
As a beginner in philosophy, this course was pretty difficult to start out with but not impossible. It's a good gateway into political philosophy.
The course was not too difficult as a first-year student.
The course was not that difficult. The readings and essays took considerable time but were actually very manageable (+ my reading speed increased over this course). Any issues I had in class were due to my own poor planning.