



# SOSC 11400 16 - Power, Identity, Resistance I - Instructor(s): Ryan Allen

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

Number Enrolled: **11**

Number of Responses: **8**

---

## 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 the basis of political philosophy and how these philosophers described their views, articulate it and extrapolate it to a broader context. This class also taught me that philosophy is something I do not like and will never like.
Learned how to write better and expand on writing styles that I was lacking clarity in. As well as learn new writing techniques to help cut out a lot of unnecessary topics/words.
I acquired the skills for reading long texts and writing more within a short word limit.
Learning about the Social Contract tradition and seeing how thinkers derived their ideas from their perceptions of the state of nature
We read Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Diderot. I feel as though I have gained a solid understanding of the basics of each of their political philosophies and how they agree and disagree.
How to read difficult texts closely and write with clarity.
How to read classical political texts

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

Comments
Ryan gives you "reflections" due every week, and he marks it up with his red pen to show us how our writing skills are bad; however, I find this helpful to show me what I need to do for the next reflection. This class is extremely discussion-heavy, and being introverted, I felt nervous when I wanted to say something but I got over it once I raised my hand.
Learned more about my time management and getting the lengthy readings done on time before class. The long readings definitely challenged both my comprehension and attentiveness.
Discussions made me have full understanding to my readings (compared to my imperfect reading)
Discussions were productive. Sometimes Professor Allen would present on particular material he wanted us to notice or would model how to think about a text which was helpful. The weekly reflections were helpful because they allowed us to receive a lot of feedback on our writing and focused us to think deeply about the text as we read it.
The course included weekly reading reflections of 500 words. These assignments were meant to be focused on a specific topic in the reading and were held to a decently high standard. Doing the reflections improved my engagement with the readings significantly, and helped improve my writing.
Class was essential in fully understanding texts. Office hours with Prof. Allen were also incredibly helpful with writing help and essay advice.
Prof Allen is a wonderful instructor and always had very wise comments about the texts that challenged my understanding of the readings. Also, as slightly annoying as they were to do, the weekly reflections really helped me digest the material and improve as a writer.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	87.50%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Ryan is a very cool guy. he doesnt allow any technology in class so you need a notebook, pen/pencil, and the assigned reading.
Very well taught by the professor who did a good job of slowing things down when it was necessary for more understanding
Power is a great sequence and take it with Ryan Allen! He's honestly a great guy

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	25.00%	75.00%

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

Comments
Ryan, being a historian, he knows so much about these philosophers and tells us more about who they are and what they argued that goes beyond what we read. He is serious about what he does and his grading, while at times harsh, tell us what he wants to see for a quality paper.
Slowing down in certain areas of the reading allowed for more understanding and comprehension from the students which really helped to gain more knowledge of the topics.
explanation of author's theory
My writing improved a lot from the feedback on my reflections. Professor Allen's comments in discussion helped keep us true to the texts.
Professor Allen's comments about the reading were almost always very insightful, and often made me think of the texts in completely new ways. I think professor Allen is the best professor I've had in this aspect.
The comments on our writing assignments were always helpful in giving us a few things to focus on and improve. Prof. Allen was also helpful in facilitating discussion with our sometimes quiet class.
His prepared comments for each class are always very wise. I also appreciate how he tries to respond to and interact with what students say, so it makes me feel like he actually is listening to what I have to say. I think the aspect that helped me the most were his comments on each of my weekly reflections and papers. He always put a lot of effort into his feedback and returned it in a timely fashion, so it was very helpful for me to reference and improve upon. It is clear that he genuinely cares for his students' success. Also, he is very helpful and attentive during office hours.

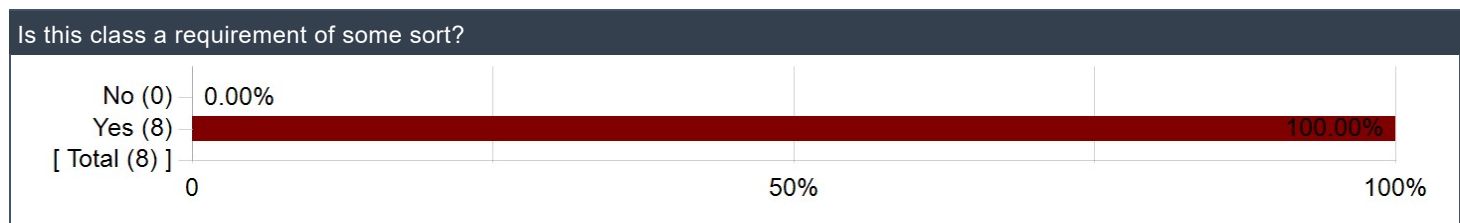
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
When I came to his office hours, he does show what I needed to work on for my papers, but I didn't get any specifics. He grades more holistically than anything else.
A clear rubric for writing assignments so it could be made more clear what the requirements are.
make the reading assignment for each class balances relative to the days passed between the classes.
Sometimes it seems that the professor has a specific, unstated direction he wants the discussion to move in and is unreceptive to other comments
Maybe allow some time between speakers for the last comment to sit in the room for a bit. It was sometimes like people were just throwing thoughts out just to talk rather than actually thinking about what others have said and responding to it.
Asking more directed questions will help center discussions more. Sometimes discussions can flow in messy directions so some more orientation would be good

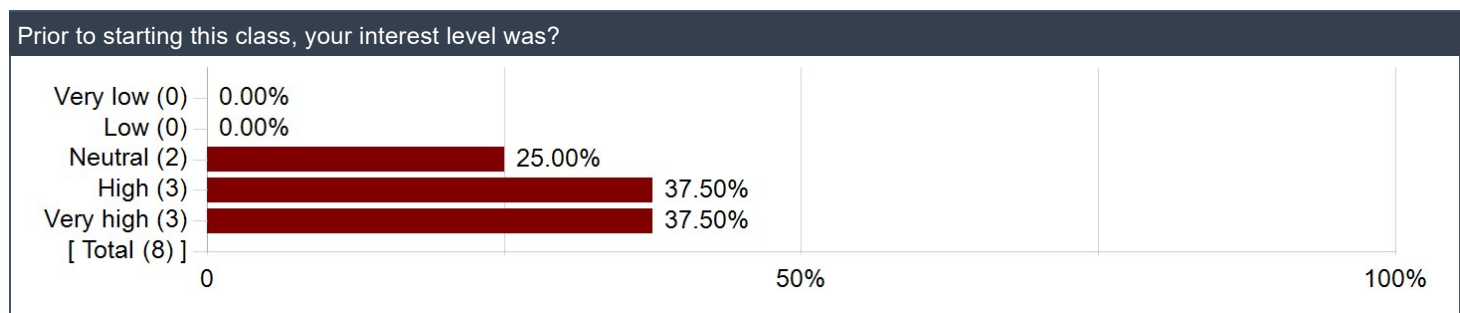
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%
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.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	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.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.43	5.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	12.50%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	62.50%	12.50%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%

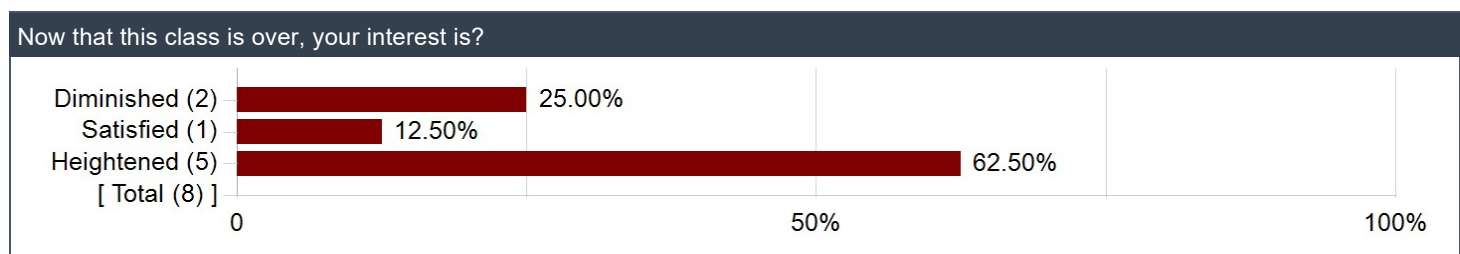
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



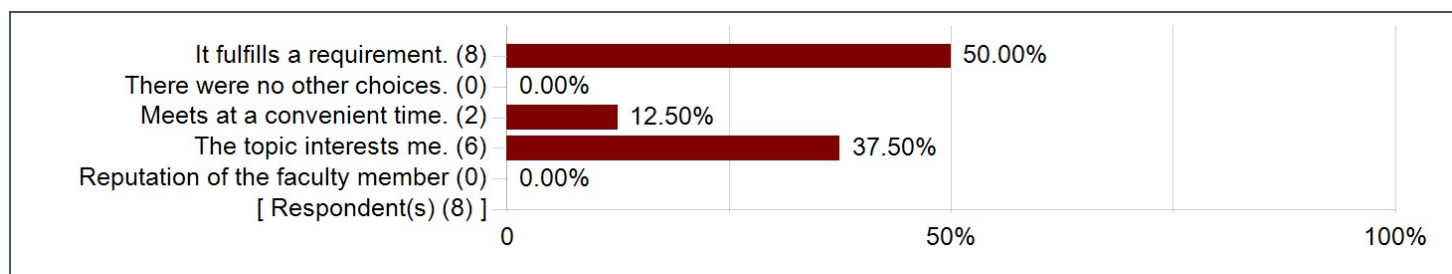
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



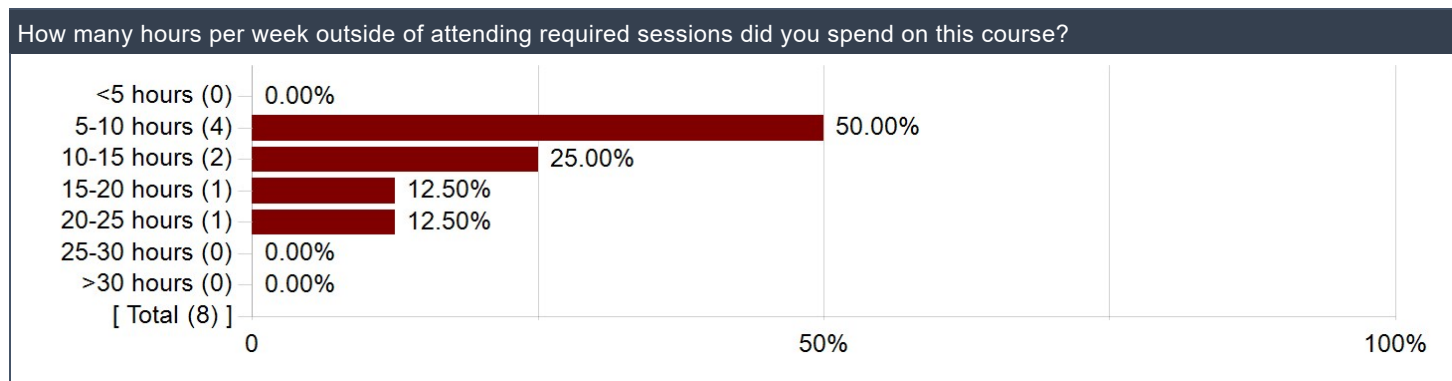
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



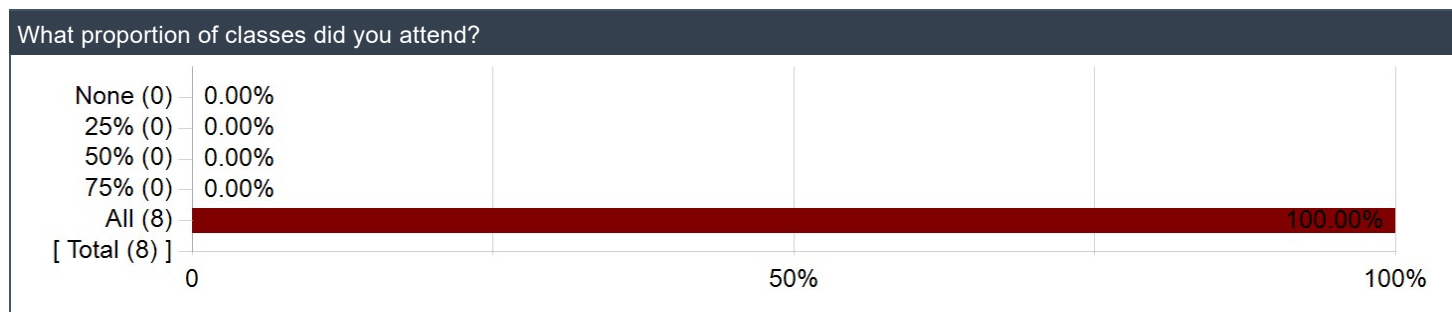
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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
On day 1, he said "this is not an easy course" and is very reading heavy. Anyone who says Power is an easy SOSC is lying.
Very rigorous
Much more reading than I thought, but it is easy to approach after a few classes (have a bit of prior experience)
The workload is much higher than I expected
The class is certainly more time consuming than anything I had previously taken outside of STEM classes. The actual material and work was doable.
The assignments are manageable but the course can be somewhat time consuming.
This class is tough. Especially if you don't have experience with reading dense texts, it can be a challenge. That being said, it is incredibly interesting content so if you're interested, absolutely take it. If you're looking for an easy SOSC, this would not be the one I'd pick.
Power is a lot of work but it is not impossible. If you put effort into it, it is immensely rewarding. My fav core course.

