



SOSC 15200 5 - Classics of Social and Political Thought II - Instructor(s): Daragh Grant

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **11**

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
Nothing really. This class is so fast paced you need to read very challenging texts really quickly which goes against the point of studying these in the first place. I found myself rushing to read and understand 3 books that normally you need more than a year to study them individually. Naturally, I got confused and learned nothing as I was grinding and struggling to understand all at once.
We read Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and we are supposed to read Wollstonecraft before the end.
The different philosophical branches
Reading dense texts and deconstructing ideas
I think this quarter was more informative in terms of the pieces we read, and I built a more robust view of political theory.
The progress of political thought in the 17–18th century through thinkers: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and one class on Mary Wollstonecraft. I also learned invaluable writing skills on how to write clearly for a wider audience as well as other personal writing developments.
I learned how to analyze influential works in the history of political thought, including Hobbes's Leviathan, Locke's Second Treatise, Rousseau's Second Discourse and the Social Contract, and Wollstonecraft's Vindication on the Rights of Women.
Writing; liberal political philosophy
The ability to read and critically think about early modern political texts, contextualizing them within the wider tradition of social and political thought. The ability to write clear, well–organized, effective arguments from texts.
How to think about political philosophers and track systematic thinkers.

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

Comments
Discussions didn't really help as the professor didn't really say what we expected of us. Class was male dominated and full of people who wanna show off knowledge they don't have. This was confusing as the professor didn't clarify what from the discussions was actually true and whatnot thus confusing us all.
Discussions, much like last quarter, have been absolutely fantastic. Daragh does a great job of intervening to guide the conversation, and his usage of the blackboards to diagram complex concepts helps immensely with understanding them.
Discussions were highly invigorating and facilitates the understanding of the texts
Discussions revealed new insights about the text and Daragh provided new perspectives for us to understand the authors' intentions
The lectures were excellent, and I did not mind the pre–class questions.
Class time and office hours were both superb. Daragh dedicates and absurd amount of time to his students and you can feel it. Class time is incredible. Daragh always comes prepared and ready to ask good questions as well as carefully lead a discussing such that it has breathing room but does not completely go off the rails. Office hours can last hours even if you have only scheduled an appointment for 15 minutes.
Discussions are definitely the most important part of the class for being able to understand the texts since I find them quite difficult to process on a first read–through. The essays, though difficult, are invaluable for diving deep into a text and understanding how and why the argument works.
Lectures were fantastic and taught the important concepts in each text. Essays forced you to understand the argument in the text
Lectures went over assigned readings, answering questions from pre–class reflections and building towards a larger understanding of each text's main purpose.
It was all great — discussions all moderated by Daragh's deft hand. An improvement from last quarter: I felt like the discussions we had in the winter were more helpful in preparing for the essay assignments, which was a welcome change.

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.	4.55	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.36	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	72.73%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.55	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.64	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%
I felt respected in this class.	4.55	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.64	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
It has been said that Daragh's ability to split the G is the stuff of legends.
Amazing professor
Found the texts this quarter to be slightly less interesting compared to Autumn, we got to see different takes of the social contract but this became somewhat repetitive over time. Also the reading for Hobbes was too long to the point that we skipped ard 50 pages in class. This may not be within Daragh's control, but we could have shorter reading assignments so that the class discussions don't lag behind?
Daragh is a goat
Classics is my favorite class at this school and Daragh Grant is a fantastic professor
The grading criteria for essays could be a bit nebulous, but Professor Grant and the writing advisor Danny Jacobs made plenty of time to give individual feedback on drafts.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	18.18%	81.82%

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

Comments
Daragh is very good with office hours and making time for you which definitely helped.
Daragh does a fantastic job of guiding discussions, but his diagrams and explanations are perhaps the most beneficial part of his teaching. Also, his office hours are incredibly useful, and he is quite flexible about booking them.
Ability to manage discussions
Daragh is incredibly well-spoken and so familiar with the texts that he can recite the paragraph numbers of relevant quotes off the cuff. His observations always gave me perspectives on the author's ideas. He is very responsive to class participation and listens attentively to all of our contributions, even when they are tentative or incomplete. Daragh's office hours were also very welcoming.
Daragh's explanations were clarifying and defining, I felt much more confident in my reading because of how he reads the books himself.
Daragh is always well prepared, a good leader in discussion and knows when and how to push and back and ask what you meant by a comment.
Daragh is very effective in leading discussion. He very often adds to the conversation, clearing up confusion and forcing people to defend the claims that they make. He creates a very safe and welcoming environment where people aren't scared to talk. Office hours are also VERY useful during the essay-writing process. I probably went to his office hours 10+ times this quarter.
Daragh is extremely active and engaging in class. He shares valuable insights and makes sure to defend/explain the author's arguments well. The discussion was rarely boring with him leading it. He is also very helpful during office hours and provides thorough feedback on essays.
Daragh's understanding of the texts is frankly mind-boggling, but an invaluable resource during class time. He's able to push back against claims that are brought up and challenge everybody to think and articulate those thoughts clearly.
His knowledge. He has read every text studied 10+ times, he knows the material like the back of his hand and it shows. Still, despite his deep understanding of the source material, he still encourages the students to take the discussion in whatever direction they wish.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Be more clear with expectations as well as clearly say what he thinks about the book because that is what he asks on essays.
Not sure
Not sure if the small group discussions are always that helpful, given that we would reiterate the same ideas later in a larger setting. Sometimes the first half of the discussion moved slower and came across more muddled, before Daragh moved in to clarify some misconceptions. Maybe we could have a more even coverage over the sections of reading, though I understand this is not always possible.
I only wish we had more time with him lecturing.
I really don't think he could do much better. Genuinely one of the best professors Ive had here. Actually, one tiny thing that would be nice would be to post the reading schedule in a separate document outside the syllabus.
provide a sample writing piece to make the standards for essays clearer
I wish the discussions could speed a long just a bit, since they often get stuck on concepts that occur early in each designated reading, not really progressing to the later portions.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	72.73%	18.18%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%

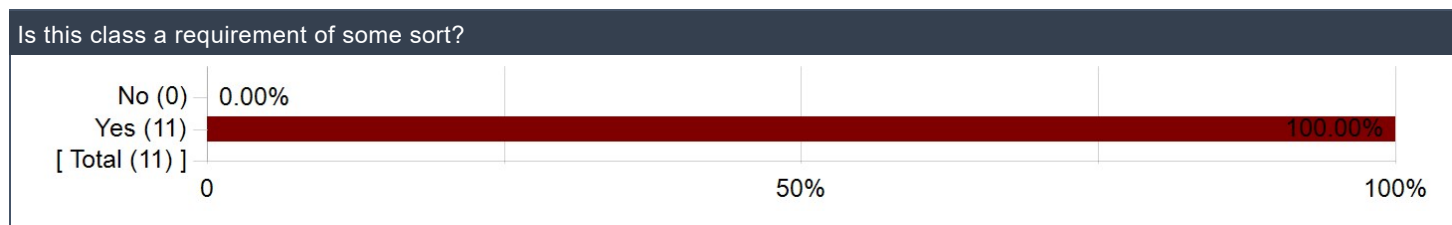
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Juan held discussions twice which were helpful and was available for office hours (though I didn't attend)
Juan Curiel, he stood in for a couple classes and carried the discussion very well.
Juan Curiel. Juan took us through a key section of Rousseau's Second Discourse. It was clear that he knew what was important and what we had to take away from that section of the text, and was effective in bringing us to the conclusions we needed to get to.
Juan — he taught two lectures.

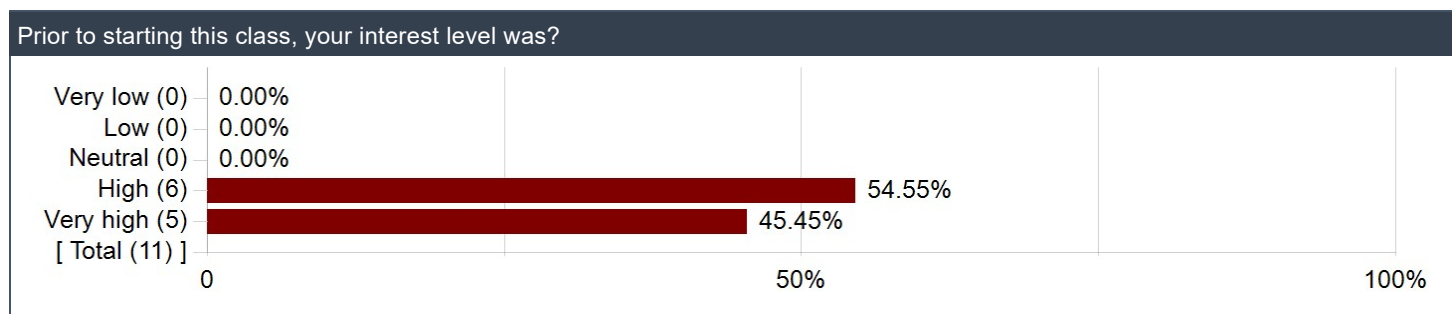
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	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.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%

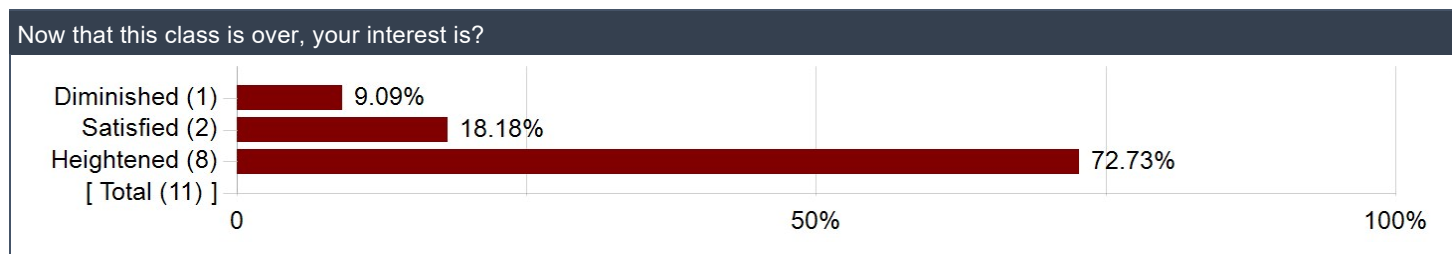
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



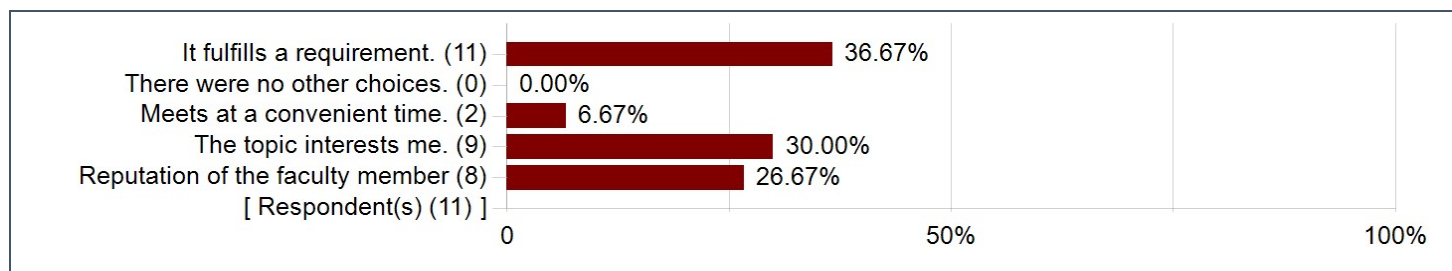
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



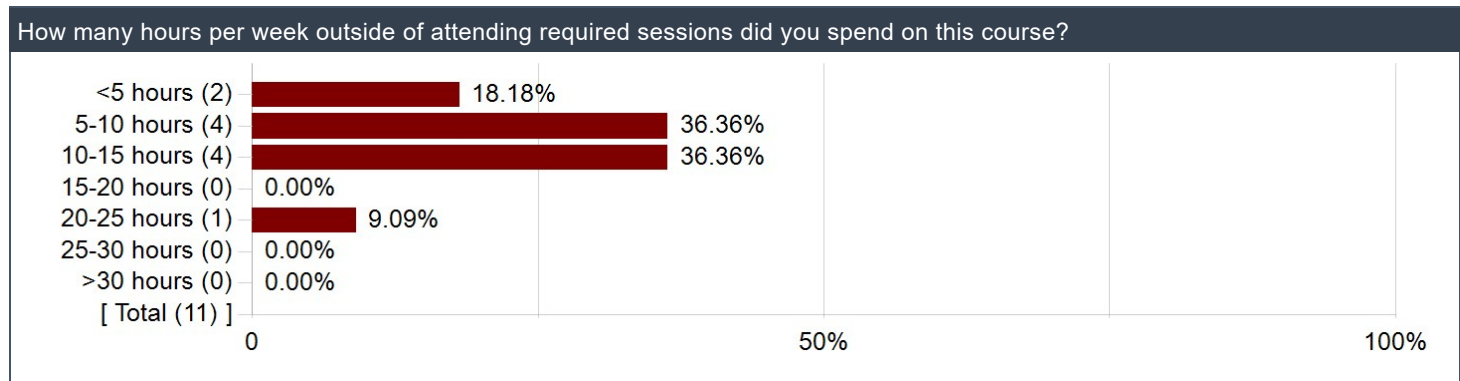
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



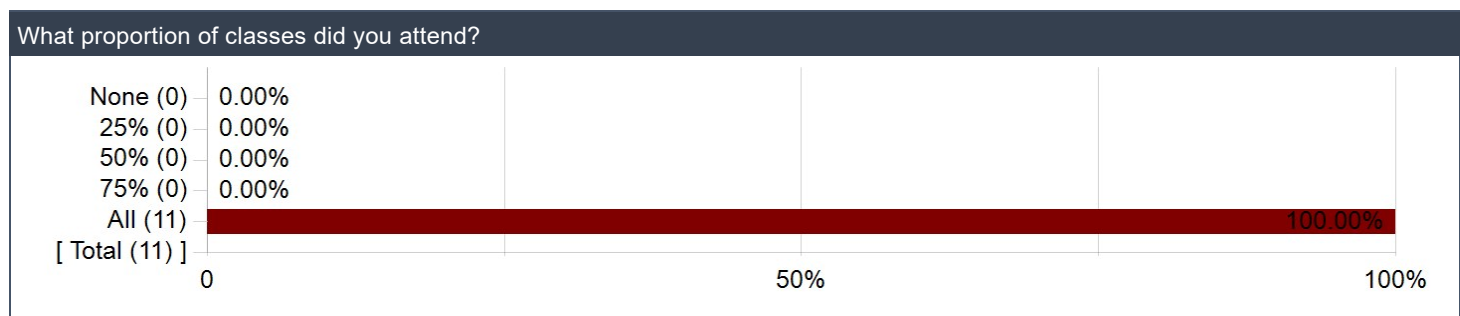
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Very difficult class. Don't take as a first year. I had a background on the texts yet still found it very challenging.
This is certainly a rigorous course (you have to actually do the readings) but as long as one remains engaged, the course is very manageable.
Difficult but fulfilling
Feels easier than Autumn given that we've gotten used to the course expectations. Locke was less interesting compared to other texts we've read but Hobbes, Rousseau and Wollstonecraft were worthwhile
It is not the easiest course, but very doable
The course was maybe not quite as difficult as last quarter now that I had a bit more experience reading and analyzing the types of texts that we read in this class. The essays are much the same format as last quarter, so I was also better prepared to write those.
Did not need any background
The amount of reading can be strenuous at times, and the level of intellectual rigor expected in the essays is high. Both things are achievable given enough time devoted to them.
By the second quarter you have developed some foundational skills which helps make the class just a touch easier. It is still challenging, though, requiring attentive reading.