SOSC 11400 13 - Power, Identity, Resistance I - Instructor(s): Nicole Whalen

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

Number Enrolled: **12**
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 have learned how to extract the most important ideas out of a dense text.
The meaning of Human Supremacy
Social contract, formation of gov, intro into poli sci
The most important skill I learned through this is probably argument reconstruction. I had a vague understanding of it from an ethics class I'd taken in high school, but the writing assistant really helped me flesh out my abilities.
Political concepts of the 'state of nature' and 'social contract' in Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau. How to mix skimming with close reading to be best prepared for discussions.
One of the most interesting things I learned in this course comes from the contemporary work Professor Whalen added to the syllabus. It discusses the concept of anthropocentrism (a concept I previously knew as an academic jargon) in a political lens and exposes the absurdity of social constructionism. It was a really interesting addition outside of the political philosophy theories we learned.
Social Contract theory from Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau.

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

Comments
The discussions are helpful to help you gain different perspectives on the texts; however, they can be quite hard to follow as they are very theoretical.
Discussion help me understand text better
Discussions gave some insight into the text.
The discussions in every class made a massive impact on my understandings of the readings. Any questions I had could either be answered by my peers, or in more difficult circumstances my professor.
Discussions were a great chance to fill in any details that you missed from the reading, or to provide a different interpretation of a passage/idea.
The course is mainly discussion–based, with weekly discussion posts highlight a specific portion of the texts we read. Discussions in class are able to help build my understanding brick–by–brick.
In–class discussions and assignments contributed greatly towards my learning. Professor Whalen facilitated insightful class discussions which were very inclusive and welcoming to those who are quieter students. Very happy to take the time to respond to questions outside of class.

Please respond to the following:

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

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The workload is heavy: there are discussion posts (250 to 300 words) every week to write and about 70 pages of philosophical texts to read during the week.
PIR was a relatively difficult course. It requires lots of time and study to understand the concepts. However, Professor Whalen made it very fulfilling from an academic standpoint.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	37.50%	62.50%

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

Comments
I think the way she leads the discussions and summarizes the main points definitely helps.
when she explained a tricky/confusing passage in our readiings
Explanations
I think the aspect that helped me the most was when she would ask "how would the author reply to that?" In the instances where we did know how an author would reply to a question, it would boost our discussion, but in cases where we have no idea, she'd offer up a passage for us to read that contained some of what we were looking for. It consistently helped us push the class forward when we were a little bit stuck.
Professor Whalen is very knowledgable on the writers we looked at. She did a great job of guiding discussions and providing occasional insights. Lecturing very infrequently, she gave everyone plenty of space to share, and created a relaxed enough environment that it didn't feel stressful to give your opinion. In terms of grading, she provided constructive feedback on the essays. She's a somewhat harsh grader, but will keep you honest and push you to improve and do your best work, and is always happy to schedule a meeting to discuss essay ideas.
She is really patient in office hour. She would walk you through your reasoning and ensure that you grasp the thinkers' main argument if you're struggling. In class, she guides the discussion with critical questions.
Asking insightful questions to the class that facilitated our learning.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Maybe provide more guidance toward what is expected in the essays.
N/A
I think discussions should not require us to raise our hands as that slows down discussion and makes it feel less natural.
It might be beneficial to learn how to better skim a reading to orient yourself or get a good first impression of the content of a reading.
Nothing really. Maybe provide some guiding questions before each reading so that we know what to look for.
Professor Whalen is really good! Not much!
N/A

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%
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.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	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%	25.00%	0.00%	62.50%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	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
Avi Waldman. She was very helpful for brainstorming and answered any question I had. I think there should be more worskshops/writing seminars though.
Avi Waldman. She led two writing seminars before and after our first essay, which was useful, and she was available to schedule a meeting to help with essays.
Avi Waldman

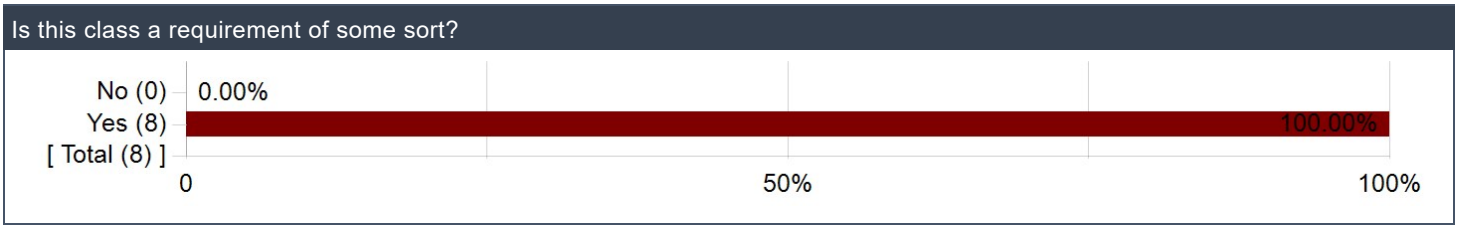
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	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.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	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%

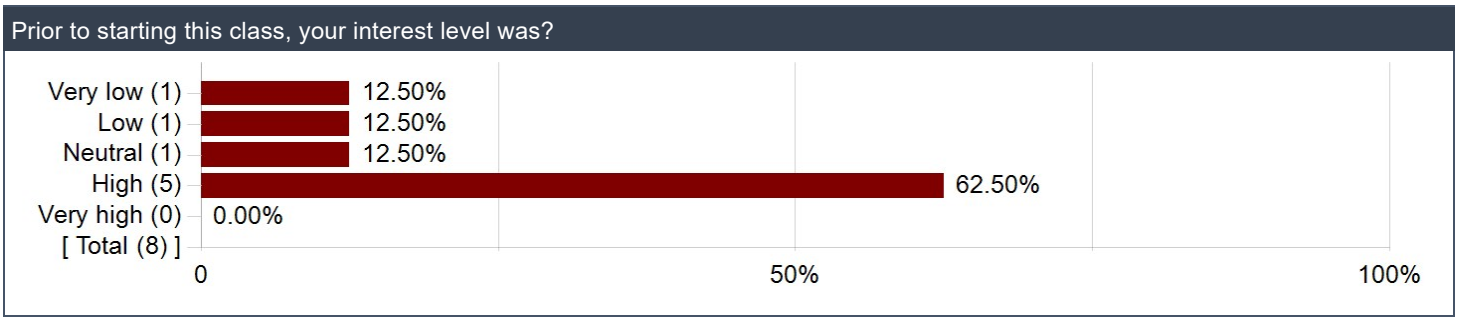
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	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	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%
Writing Seminars	3.25	3.50	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%

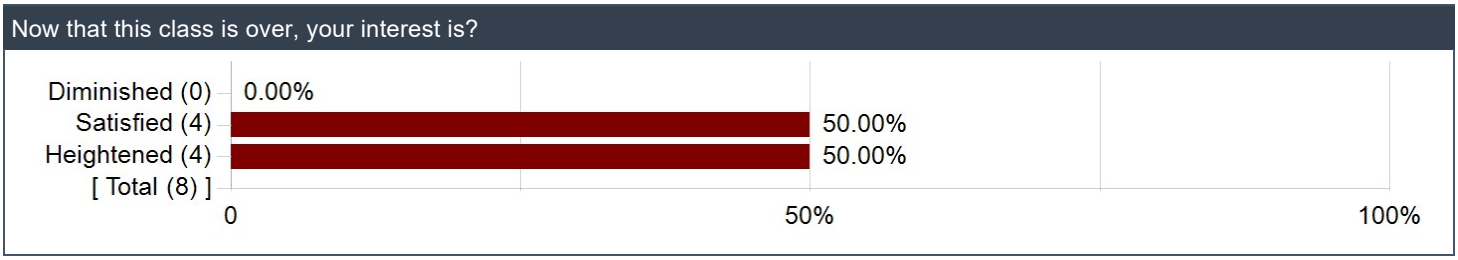
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



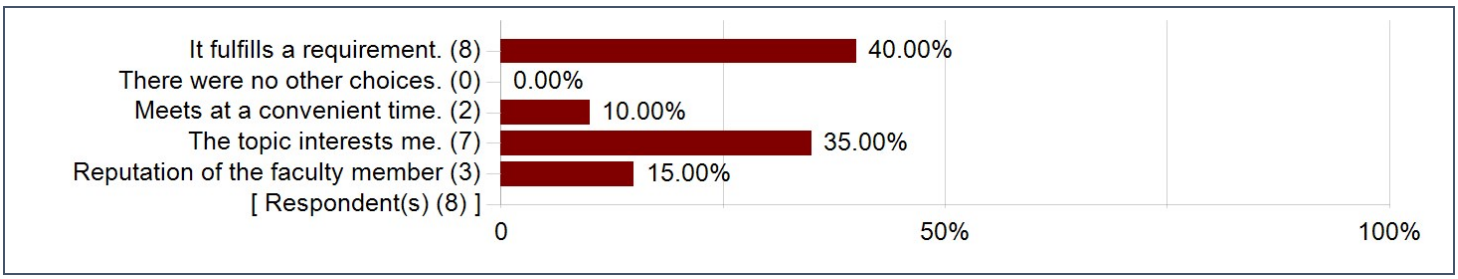
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



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?

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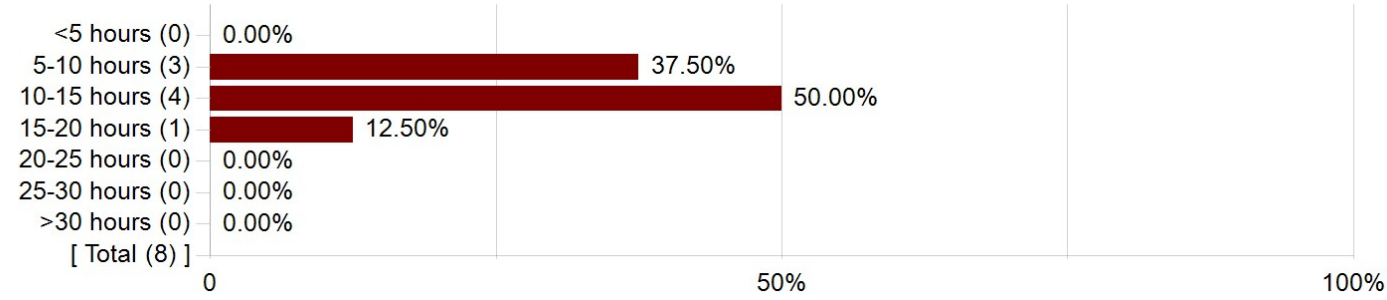

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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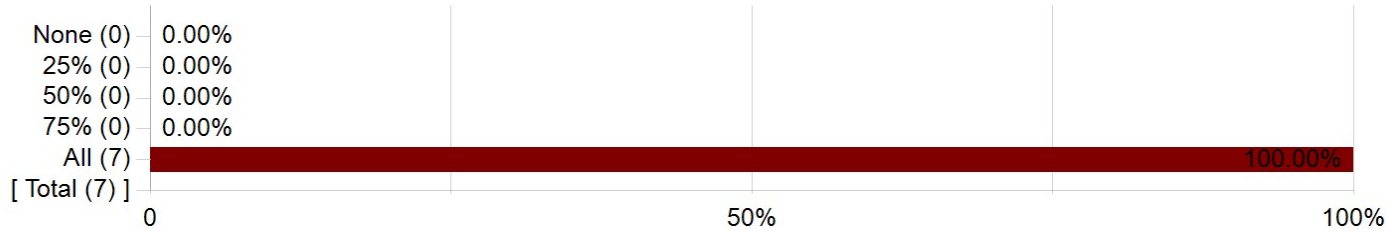

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
It helps to know the philosophers; however, keep in mind that usually in high school you only read extracts, not the full books. So prepare for that!
yeh a bit difficult and lots of readings
Moderately difficult. Large amounts of writing.
It's difficult, but worthwhile. I have a strong background in discussion based courses about dense, philosophical readings, but even I had some trouble at times.
Not too bad if you've had experience with dense writing before.
This course was the most academically demanding course I've taken.