



SOSC 11500 11 - Power, Identity, Resistance II - Instructor(s): Michael Fisch

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

Number Enrolled: **13**

Number of Responses: **7**

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
Idea of the political economy, Smith's foundations of capital, Marx's critique
I learned how to read difficult texts closely, understanding new topics and then applying that understanding into my writing. My writing definitely improved over the course of the quarter, as I learned to properly structure my thoughts within a new form of prompt/writing assignment than I have previously had experience with.
I learned how to think critically about influential texts in the social sciences. I also learned how to analyze an argument and explain the implications within it.
close reading of smith and marx, really in depth with marx!
Political Economies and how to understand them in a social context
How to use critical analysis to think with texts as opposed to just understanding them. Also deep knowledge of Das Capital.
An amazing understanding of Marx's Capital as well as improvements in writing.

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

Comments
Foundations of Western economic thought
The class discussions helped me gain insight into the context of these texts as well as highlighted important aspects of the reading as a whole. I heard from my peers and their thinking process in relation to the text at hand, which in turn enhanced my understanding. The writing assignments gave space to explore questions regarding the assigned reading portion, which led me to be more investigative.
Class discussions were the most helpful. They really helped me understand the material.
discussion was vital!
Discussions in class really contributed to my learning
Lectures were super helpful in breaking down aspects of the books I did not understand.
Discussions always productive and interesting. Professor Fisch is very knowledgeable but expects a lot.

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.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.57	4.00	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	57.14%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%
I felt respected in this class.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This class pushed me to learn in ways I had not considered and regarding themes I had no prior knowledge with. Regularly, after class discussion, my classmate would say "I can actively feel my brain thinking in a different way," and I feel the same. This class was very rewarding and interesting. I learned a lot and greatly appreciate the professor's facilitation and knowledge he shared!
expectations for the written weekly assignments were a little unclear
Take Professor Fisch!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	14.29%	85.71%

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

Comments
Definitely incredibly experienced, and evidently knows how to teach. He definitely has his own interpretations of the texts, but I didn't mind that.
Professor Fisch's in depth understanding of the themes and authors we were exploring definitely enhanced my own understanding. His short lectures/additional information helped guide our reading and understanding of complicated writings.
Professor Fisch is great at dissecting complex arguments. He encouraged us to think about the contents of the texts we read and how they connect to the author's main arguments. He also fully encouraged us to engage with the material not to identify truths, but to work with the authors and understand their thinking.
our discussion really helped us grasp better understanding of the reading
Him directing in-class discussions. The weekly papers is extra work but it is SO much more useful than weekly discussion posts since Professor Fisch really annotates and responds to them.
Professor Fisch is great at leading the class to the right answer in a discussion

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
(1) We were meant to read 3 books: Smith, Marx, Durkheim. Although he did briefly ask us in class, he otherwise unilaterally decided to take off Durkheim. At first it seemed fine, but spending 2/3rd of the course on Marx is tedious (should've just shortened Smith's chapters). Durkheim's ideas on conscience, morality and regulation would probably be better in contributing to 'Identity and Resistance', something missing. (2) The assignments and weekly reflections were not thesis-based but question-based, which is interesting for a core class. But it also meant a lot of general confusion on what 'interesting' meant, and I struggled to understand what qualified as an 'interesting' question and what didn't. This isn't a negative, but I think if he went over his grading style early on, rather than before the essays themselves, I would understand faster. (3) He prefers thinking with the text, rather than criticizing the text. This is one of my first classes, so maybe this works better pedagogically, but I think not criticizing texts while reading them misses something out.
N/A
I think professor Fisch is great. I was a bit intimidated by him at first, mostly because he is very knowledgeable of the course material, but he is a very active and engaging professor. His class was very enjoyable.
sometimes the language was too complex or academic and it made it harder to understand what was being said
Nothing
Maybe a little more discussion amongst the class
Make response paper expectations clearer earlier.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	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
Margaret Rothrock hosted several writing seminars regarding how to structure arguments in writing.
Maggie, she was wonderful!

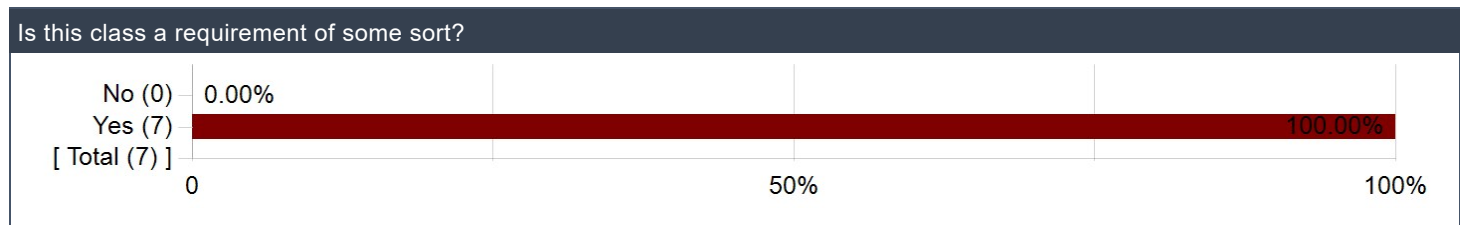
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	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%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
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%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%

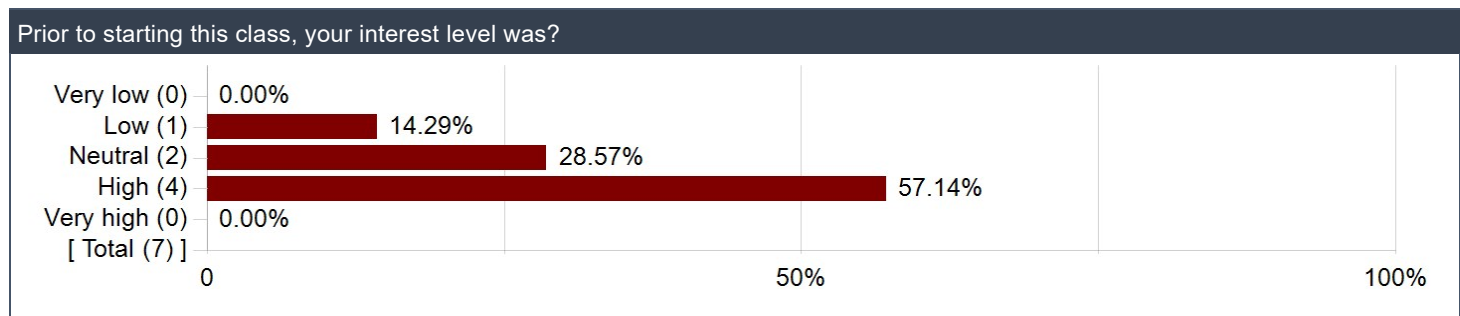
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.60	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%	0.00%

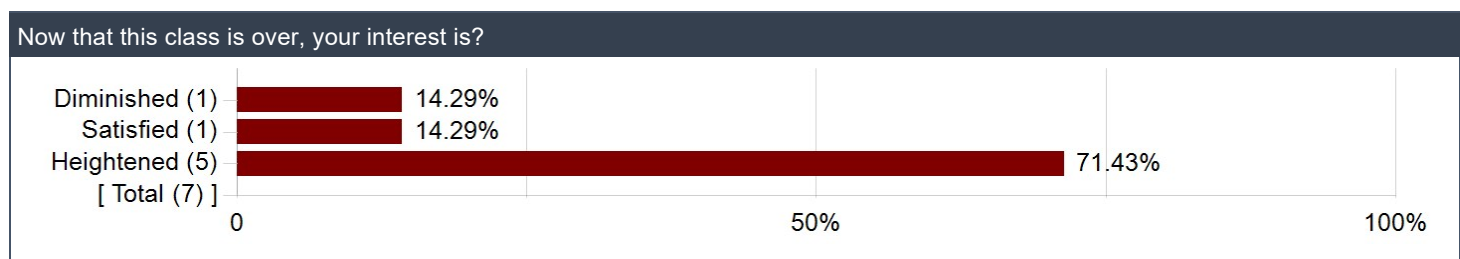
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



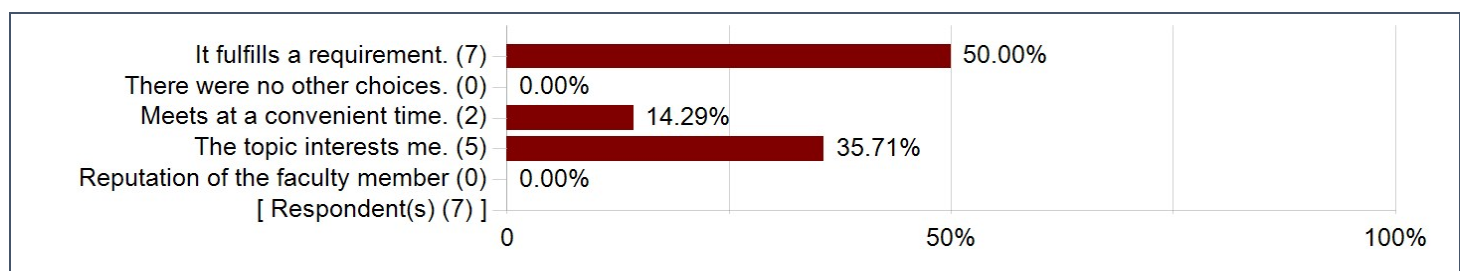
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



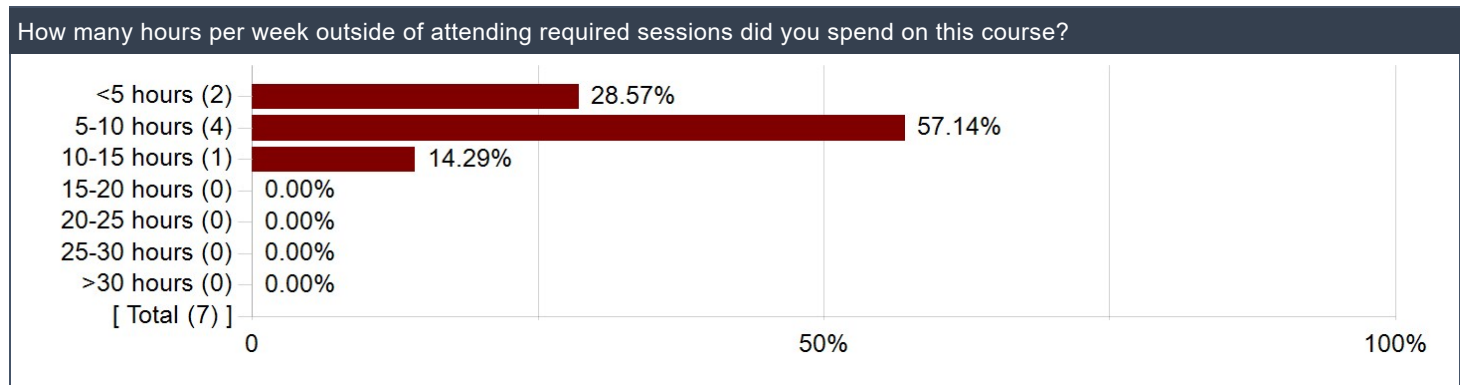
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



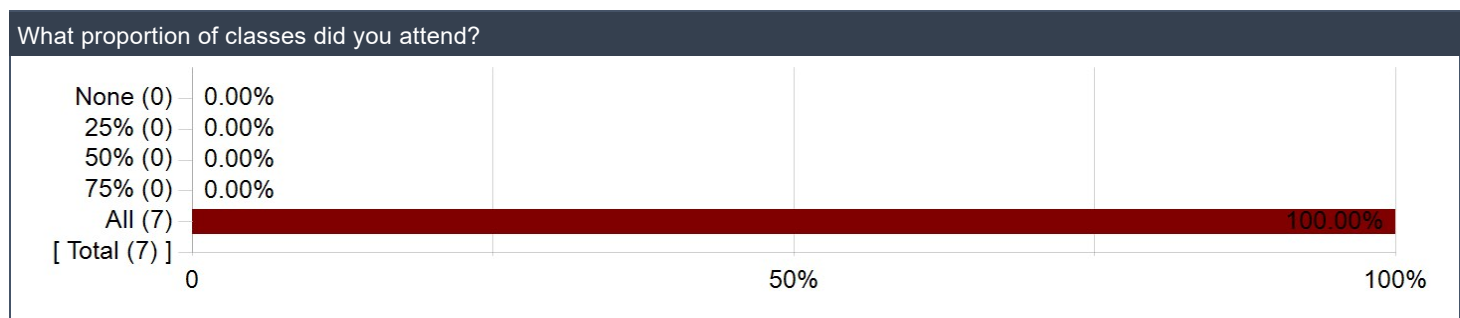
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Fairly Difficult, but very rewarding
This course is fitting for anyone capable of thinking critically about a text. The readings for this class are hefty and they are necessary to truly engage with the course, so definitely account for a sufficient time commitment outside of class.
Moderately challenging but is really rewarding.