Report Comments

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
The most important things I learned were the different views of liberalism, economic aspects of democracies with the Polanyi readings, and how populism has worked in America and abroad with the multiple readings on that. I think the populism readings were pretty relevant, so it was useful knowledge to gain.
The most important technical skill I learned in this course was how to analyze and digest dense primary sources. The most important intangible skill I learned, especially in the second and third quarter, was how to make connections between the academic concepts introduced in our readings and various events throughout history.
I learned how to dissect arguments and reconstruct them, as well as how to understand the nuances of political theories and historical phenomena. This course has genuinely taught me so much about democracy and governance and how to build complex arguments. I feel like I can understand the underlying patterns of past and present events so much better.
How to think and write, specifically how do develop and defend an argument properly.

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

Comments
The discussions were very lively and intellectually invigorating. Every discussion left me with further understanding on the readings we had done.
Class discussions contributed most to my learning.
Classes fun and engaging, def learned about democracy
The readings were important in order to understand the class discussion, but the class discussion itself was always so helpful and engaging. The professor would help to explain the more difficult concepts, but he would let us try to explain the rest of it by discussing it. He challenged me several times during class discussions and I feel like I am a better thinker because of it.
Discussions were helpful, hearing the thoughts of others and having our ideas challenged in a way that forced us to think more critically

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.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Excellent course with an excellent professor! I think everyone in this section including myself was actually interested in democracy, so that helped the classroom environment thrive, but I would recommend this course to anyone as it was interesting and taught very well.
I wish that when you read excerpts from the readings, that you'd say page numbers. Also congratulations on the baby!

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
I think the way Professor Brandel would break down the readings so we could understand what the author was trying to say personally really contributed to my learning because some of the readings were difficult to understand, like personally the Polanyi readings were hard, so his explanations of what an author was trying to get at were very helpful.
In–class discussions contributed most to my learning.
There is never a dull class with Prof. Brandel; I always walk in knowing I'm going to enjoy myself. But he is also a deep thinker who cares more about just teaching the concepts; he wants us to really understand and appreciate them. He is patient and encouraging but expects deep engagement with the material, which – if you find it interesting, like I did – shouldn't be difficult. He encourages everyone to look at the material in their own way, and he likes to let everyone be confused sometimes. He is so intelligent and he clearly loves what he does.
The instructor himself

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing, the instructor was absolutely great!
Some of the readings are quite long, and we didn't end up covering them in their entirety during class.
One thing I struggled with sometimes was understanding the standards for success on assignments. The assignments are typically pretty self–guided, which can be interesting but also it's easy to feel completely lost.
Nothing

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	20.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	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.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	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 |
|---|
| Emma Adler – very helpful in helping me make my arguments stronger. |
| Emma Adler – I dislike the writing tutor program and it's required meetings and workshops, they were a waste of everyone's time and not taken seriously. |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

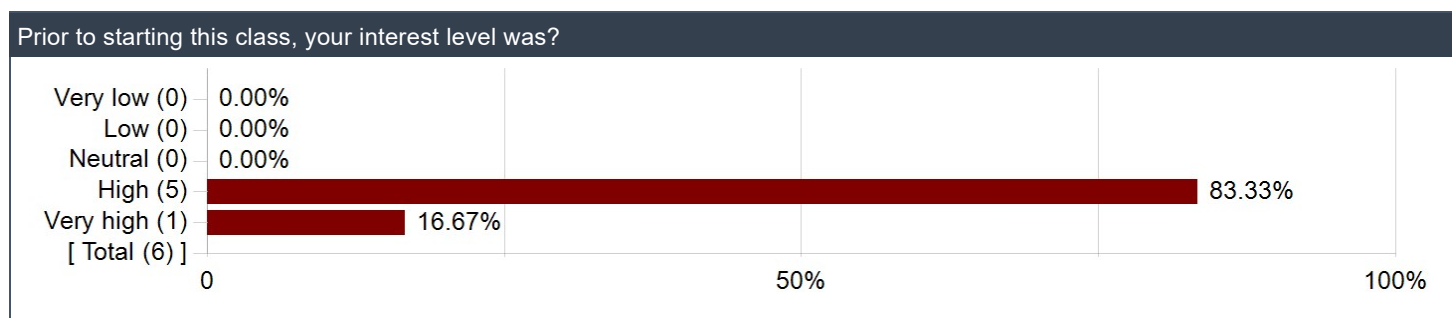|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	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%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	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	3.00	3.00	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?
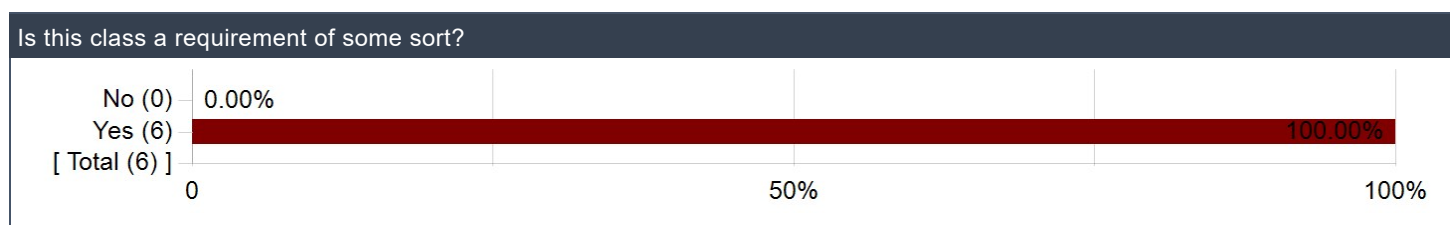
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (0)	0.00%
Yes (6)	100.00%
[Total (6)]	

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (0)	0.00%
Low (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
High (5)	83.33%
Very high (1)	16.67%
[Total (6)]	

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (0)	0.00%
Satisfied (3)	50.00%
Heightened (3)	50.00%
[Total (6)]	
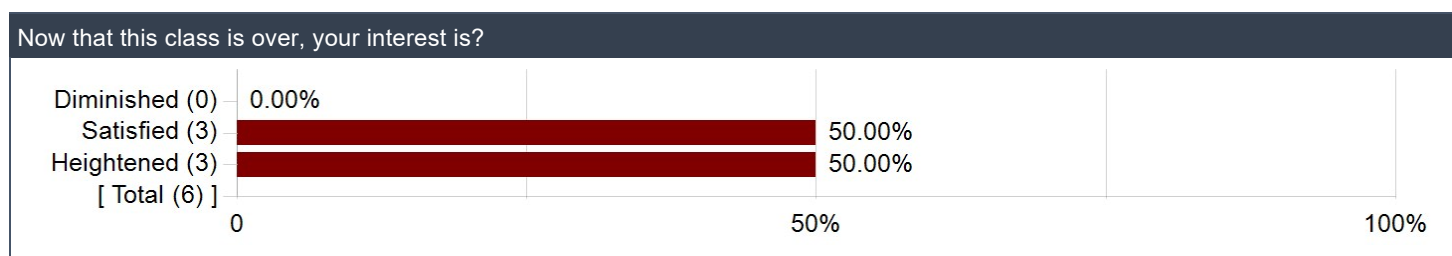
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
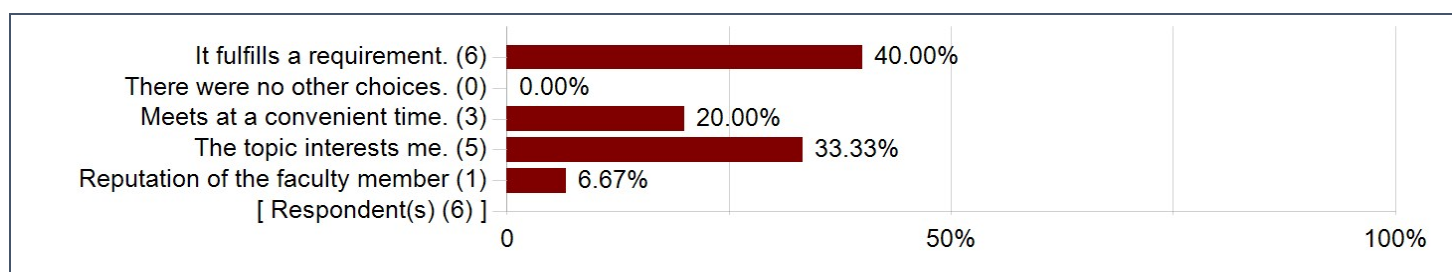
It fulfills a requirement. (6)	40.00%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (3)	20.00%
The topic interests me. (5)	33.33%
Reputation of the faculty member (1)	6.67%
[Respondent(s) (6)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

<5 hours (1)	16.67%
5-10 hours (5)	83.33%
10-15 hours (0)	0.00%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (6)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?		
None (0)	0.00%	
25% (0)	0.00%	
50% (0)	0.00%	
75% (0)	0.00%	
All (6)		100.00%
[Total (6)]		
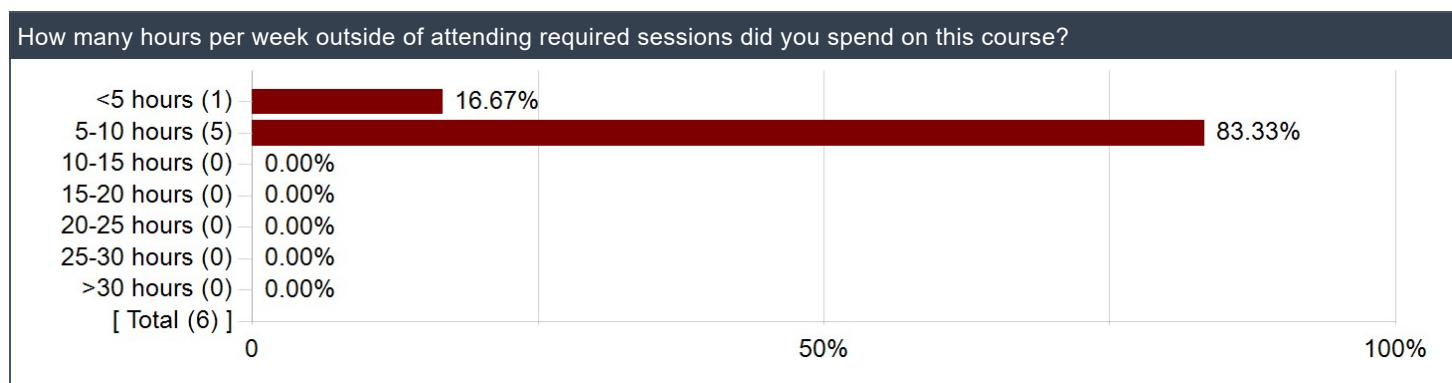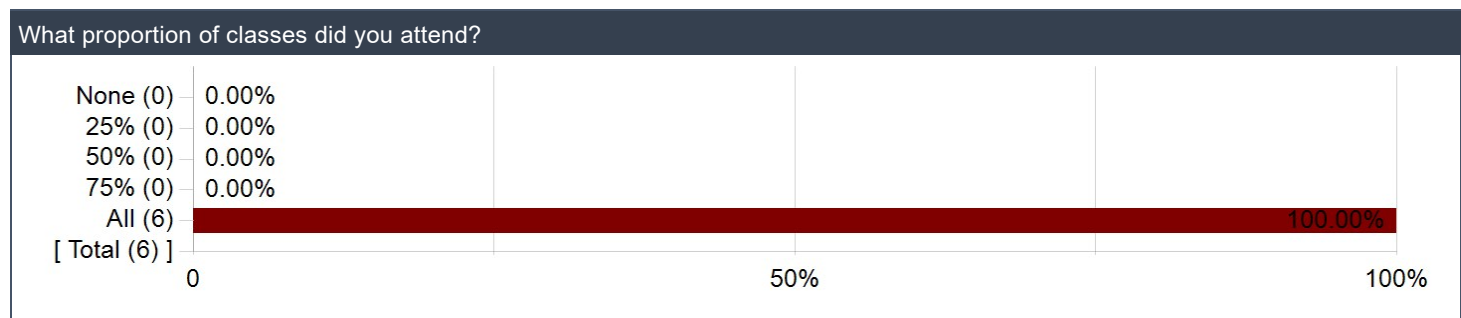
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
It was not very difficult, but like challenging intellectually in a good way. Some of the readings were difficult to understand, but they were explained well by the professor.
This course sequence served my introduction to the social sciences at UChicago coming straight out of high school. From my impressions relative to other SOSC cores, it's a little heavy on the reading but the overall difficulty is quite balanced.
Acceptable