



SOSC 15100 7 - Classics of Social and Political Thought I - Instructor(s): Joshua Trubowitz

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **9**

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 a great deal about political philosophy and its origins. I also gained discussion skills, reading skills, and writing skills.
how to understand philosopher's writing
How to analyze arguments in a logical manner
Core ideas of many critical texts in philosophy, for example Aristotle's Politics. I feel I have gained a big picture understanding of a number of difficult materials, as well as methods for breaking down complex arguments.
This class introduced important concepts of political philosophy and methods to reconstruct textual arguments which helped with my own argument writing.
Insofar as this course allowed me time and space to read, think, and write carefully about some of the world's foundational and timeless questions/concerns and proposed answers, I think the skills developed are self-evident. I'm not quite sure how many "things" (to use the language of this improperly formed question) I've learned, but I suppose I can say that I now have a richer understanding of the taxonomy of political communities (and their causes and ends) as well as the goods most central to human happiness and flourishing. And then, of course, there was Machiavelli who, compared to the ancients and scholastics, is fascinatingly and refreshingly sui generis.

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

Comments
The discussions were very beneficial to increase my understanding of the content.
i wouldn't have gotten through this class without discussions.
The discussions were far and away the best part of this course. They were engaging and fun with a nice structure and often went by in an instant as the class was very invested.
Class discussions were engaging and were facilitated very well. We did not get off track and delved into the arguments of the text, clarifying and analyzing important and difficult ideas.
First and foremost, I would point to the careful attention paid to reconstructing the arguments of the thinkers we covered in class. On the basis of this exercise I would say that I gained an appreciation for how much and how easily I tend to overlook even the basic building blocks of an argument. And also how natural it was to fall into a kind of complacency of believing that I understood the flow of an argument when in fact I did not. Just because the argument is masterfully laid out on the page which your eyes happen to have traversed is a far cry from proper engagement and true understanding. Josh's argument reconstruction assignments not only revealed my ignorance and blind spots (which is the first step in correcting any error), but also helped me improve the coherence and rigor of my own writing and argumentation.
Seminars were very helpful to understand the reading

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	55.56%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I felt respected in this class.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	12.50%	87.50%

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

Comments
He was excellent at orchestrating the discussions in a way that everyone was able to participate, while at the same time, he was able to provide his own insight that was beneficial to helping me understand the content.
his guidance during discussions
The discussions were generally informative and interesting
Professor Trubowitz was especially adept at maintaining a firm hold on the core of the discussion while allowing us to take it in directions we wanted. He always got his points across and kept us from deviating too far from the material, but we were able to speak on almost everything that interested us.
Josh did a great job presenting the logical structure and steps of arguments and effectively directing the attention of the class to especially important premises and assumptions.
He is very smart, approachable, straightforward, and easy to understand. He was good at leading the seminars in constructive directions.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
i wish he would make his expectations clear before the writing is assigned rather than give us feedback after about what he wanted
I think the class could have benefited from more historical and philosophical contextualization of the covered works. Essentially some more extratextual background to situate these works as responding to certain questions and previous philosophical treatments, and the notable points of divergence and development between them.
Maybe having a single means of communication. Sometimes it felt like things (including homework assignments) were coming through email, or through canvas's inmail, or through canvas posts, or other sources (e.g. announced in class.)

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.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	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.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	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.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
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%

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
Elena Schafer held writing seminars that I would say was beneficial to helping me improve my writing. She provided an seminars that were able to effectively improve my understanding of how to write.
Elena Schafer was very friendly and available for tailored writing help.
Elena Schafer

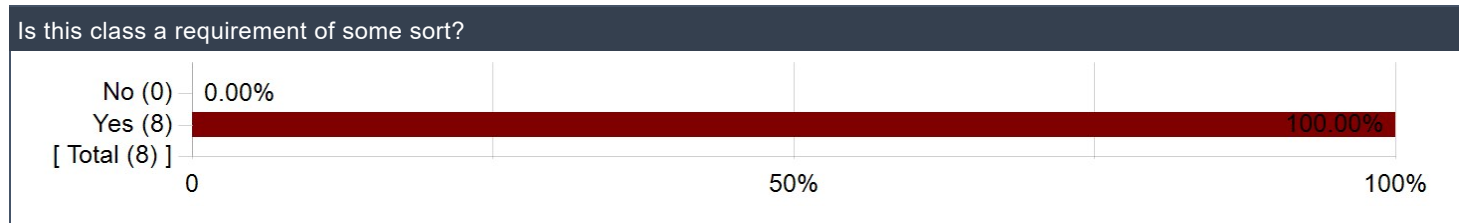
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%
Challenged you to learn.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	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.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%

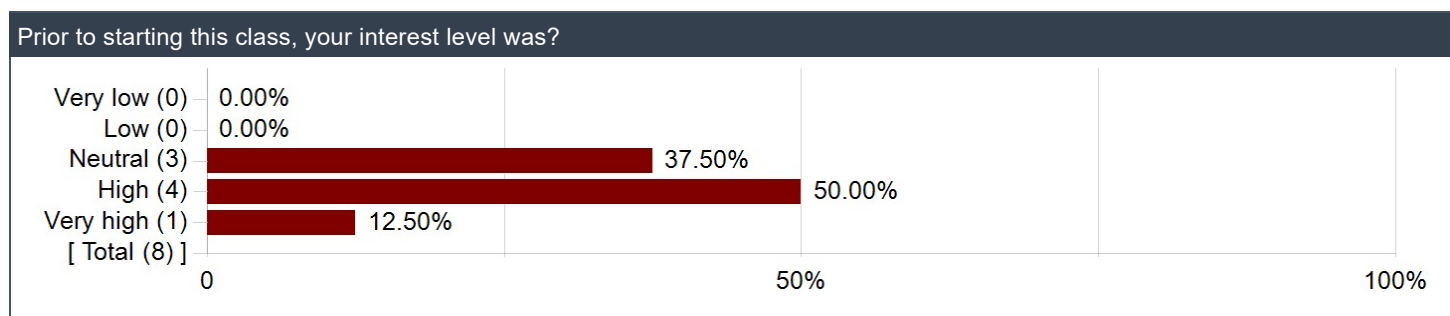
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.50	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%

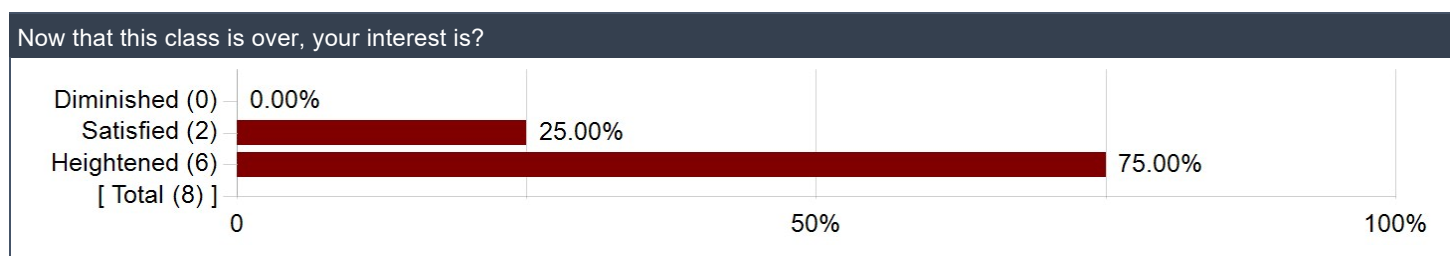
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



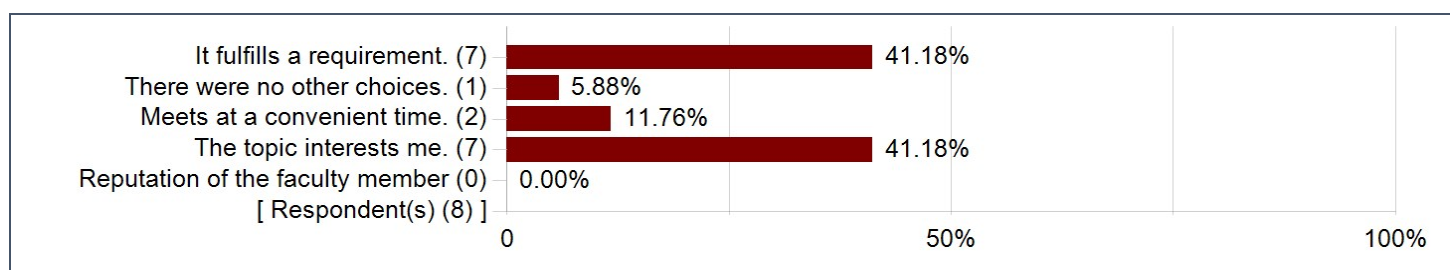
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



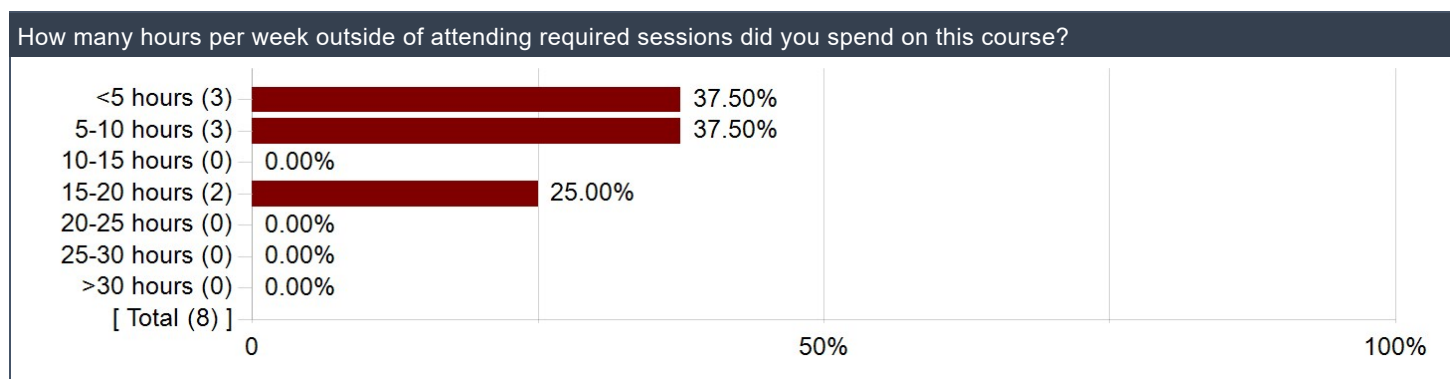
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



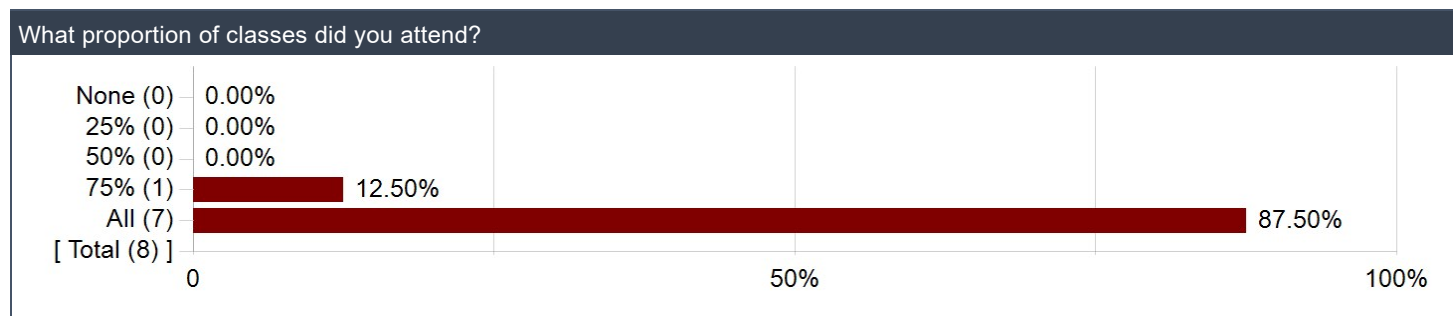
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
I would say I felt less intellectually challenged than I am accustomed to because, I think, I have more experience reading philosophy inside and outside of an academic context than most of the other students in the class.
It felt reasonable.