



SOSC 11500 23 - Power, Identity, Resistance II - Instructor(s): James Vaughn

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
The development of capitalist modernity and how that ties to the theme of the first quarter, liberalism. Also close reading and argument reconstruction with less hand–holding.
To somewhat admire Karl Marx
capitalist modernity, writing skills
Learned the origins of modern capitalist society by reading Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Emile Durkheim
History of and attitudes surrounding capitalism and commercial society
We learned about political economy, the capitalist system, and the division of labor.
The evolution and main ideas of modern capitalist society, and how thinkers have defined it and responded to it.
Capitalism and also its link with liberalism in SOSC1. More specifically, how capitalism has become a an autonomous system that runs above all individual will.
Modernity, the rise of commercial society, and capitalism
The inner workings of modern capitalist society.

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

Comments
The discussions are incredibly useful for understanding the readings and making connections.
Lectures were very well organized
discussions were helpful
Discussions revealed new insights into the texts
Lectures were very educational and discussions were well–facilitated and also informative. Readings were very valuable.
Discussions and essays were very helpful for understanding the material.
The discussions are always pretty useful – the readings can be opaque sometimes, but Professor Vaughn is really good at drawing out the main points and hammering them home.
Discussions & office hours have been immensely helpful. Helped me locate & focus on the most important aspects of the readings.
Class discussions and review presentations were instrumental
Class discussions stimulated my prior readings and provided different perspectives of the works. Essays allowed me to better understand my beliefs of the works.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
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.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
My work was evaluated fairly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
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
James was shill!
I like the class environment. I felt free to learn.
Just great! A really transformational experience and let me think much more deeply about basically everything. If you're to take power, take this one.
Pf. Vaughn is very precise and always makes sure we know what is expected of us. He also does a good job of guiding our understanding of topics that are harder to grasp.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	9.09%	90.91%

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

Comments
He is very good at building up our foundations for each reading – ensuring we understand the vocab and assumptions that the author is using before we get into their arguments. He also makes the sequence of the argument very clear while still encouraging us to make connections ourselves.
He was super motivated.
He is very effective in discussions by pointing out what is important
Professor Vaughn's discussions struck a perfect balance between guided and open, so that we reached important and unapparent points by the end of the class, but also had time to ask questions that interested us.
He was very good at facilitating and directing discussion, and his lectures during discussion were also very engaging and informative.
Prof. Vaugh is a highly enthusiastic instructor who provides detailed feedback on my work, which greatly improves my writing skills.
He asks lots of probing questions and repeats himself, so you end up really understanding the main points.
His very methodical and straightforward discussion style: he's really good at taking the readings and drawing out the main ideas – and he's not afraid to lay out the points and keep repeating them over and over. If you go to the classes, it's difficult not to understand what the authors are saying.
Prof Vaughn is really passionate about the topic; he is an excellent lecturer and explains the complexity and interconnections of ideas very well. He's also very willing to help in office hours. I basically just threw all the silly questions but he always answered. Also, he provides very detailed feedback on essays.
Guiding discussions when needed for harder concepts
Putting the texts into context and giving the class important insights whenever we felt confused or got off track.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I don't think there is anything I would change.
Provide feedback more efficiently
He sometimes sends comments later than expected, thus I wish I could receive my grade and feedback sooner so that I can begin writing my next essay.
Not much, I felt like I learned a lot.
Because of his very directed teaching style, our discussions aren't usually that organic. Most of the time, it's just Professor Vaughn asking leading questions to get us to the overall point he wants us to take away. I do appreciate that straightforwardness, but maybe there could be more of a balance (of course, it's also hard when students just don't want to speak). The last thing is that we often get sidetracked or spend too long on logistical details, making us fall behind on the readings and go over time.
Probably provide an outline of each book – sometimes I feel that the ideas in discussions can be a little repetitive.
N/a
A more student lead class discussion.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	90.91%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	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%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	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
Graham Certain. He organized good writing workshops that covered helpful topics and included exercises for us to work through. They helped develop the finer skills of writing essays for socs.
Graham Certain
Graham Certain is a good TA and helps me to understand how to structure my essay.
Graham Certain. Graham was a great writing advisor and was super helpful when I went to him for advice on an essay. He's experience with the texts you read and knows how to really dig into the word choices and lines of argument being used.
Graham Certain
Graham Certain. Writing Seminars allowed me to understand what was expected of my writing in my essays.

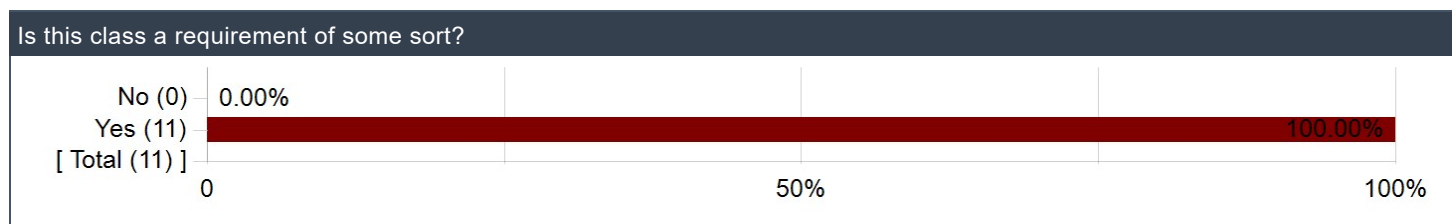
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%
Challenged you to learn.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	66.67%	16.67%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.20	5.00	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%

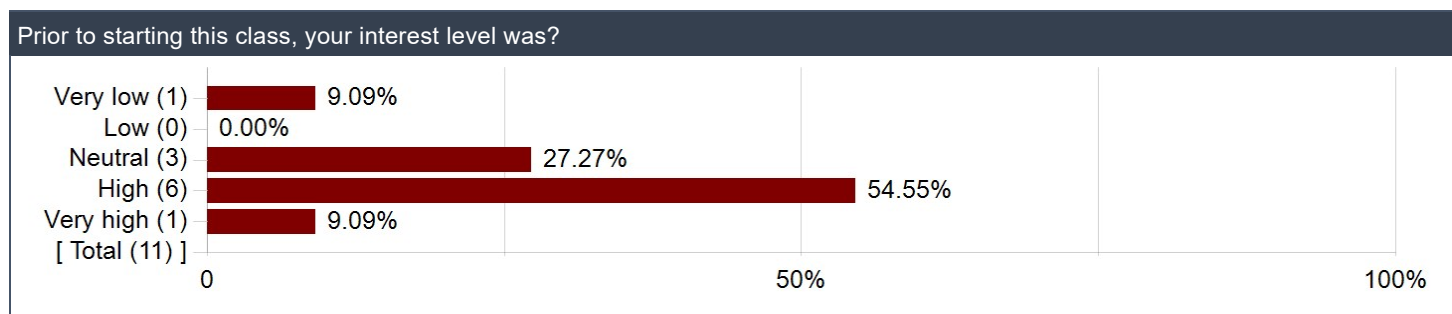
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	2.86	3.00	28.57%	0.00%	28.57%	42.86%	0.00%	0.00%

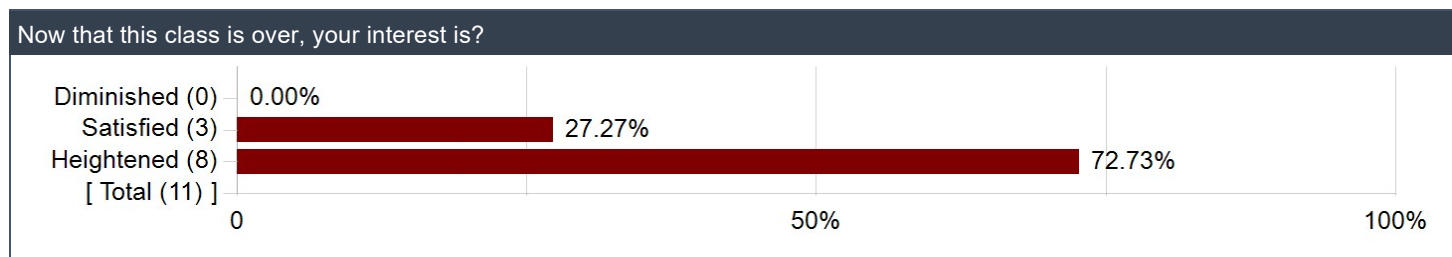
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



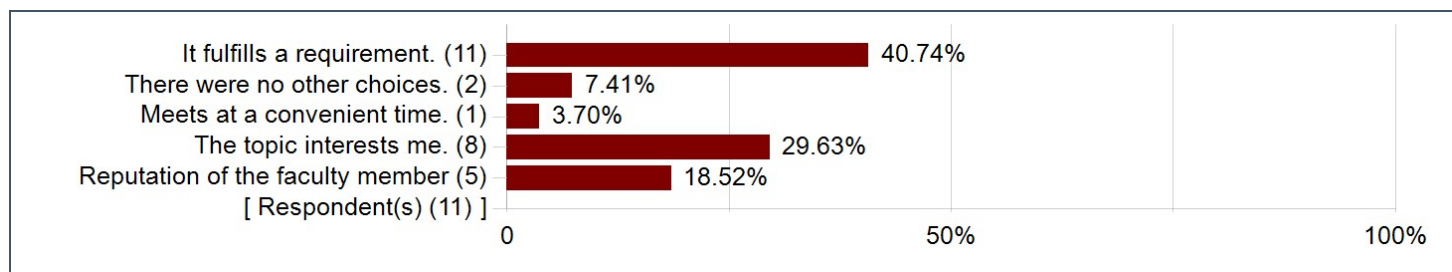
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



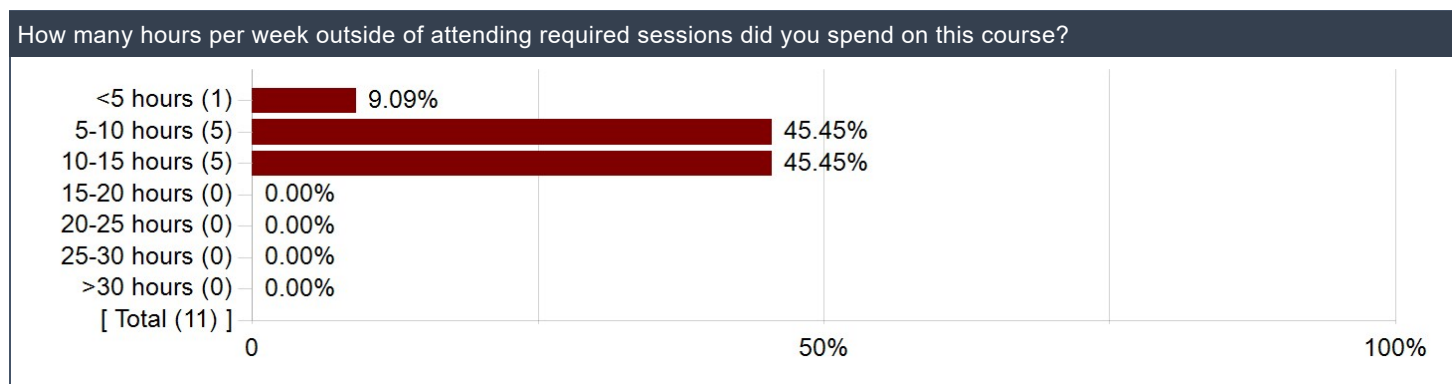
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



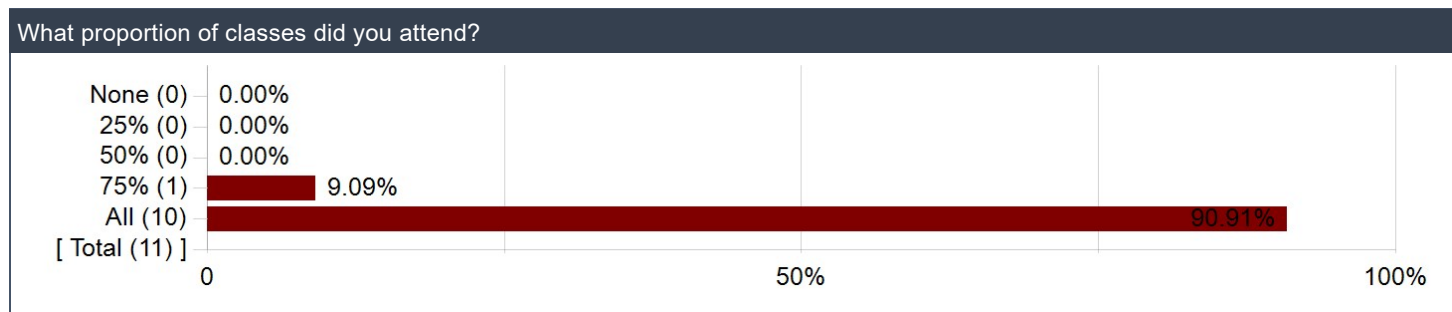
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Having gotten used to the expectations of the class after the first quarter, I found that I was fairly well prepared for this class. The readings did get longer and more challenging, and there were higher expectations for our essays, but the increase in difficulty was not unreasonable.
Needed to read Marx as background for my other courses, so if you're already familiar with his terminology, the course is not overly difficult
Readings were challenging but doable, expectations for papers were reasonable. Overall, probably around average difficulty for a UChicago core sequence.
The sheer amount of reading is difficult, but I'm a humanities person so I enjoyed it
Not bad at all – the readings are pretty typical for an average Core reading/writing class (if on the slightly longer side), and the essays are usually very straightforward.
As a humanities major, readings can be long and difficult; but Prof Vaughn is quite generous in terms of writing
Managable
This course was challenging but not too difficult as a person who is a STEM major.