SOSC 15200 10 - Classics of Social and Political Thought II - Instructor(s): Julia Brown

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

Number Enrolled: **18**
Number of Responses: **16**

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
fundamental government philospohy
I learned about Locke and Hobbes, which should be useful in the futre.
Interpretations of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau on political society and states of humanity.
Learning about Locke was fun.
How to analyze and compare political texts
how to analyze and connect ideologies from political philosophers throughout time
In–depth analysis of political texts.
State of Nature of mankind
Critical thinking, reading complex texts and writing about them.
The various political beliefs of writers like Hobbes, Rousseau and Locke, and how they relate to one another.
I think I got a much more comprehensive understanding of different political philosophies.
I learned about the political philosophy that is the basis for modern society. I learned to how to read, understand, and analyze it as well.
The most important thing I learned was close–reading challenging texts and understanding/reconstructing arguments accurately.
I learned about body politi and what it takes to build one.

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

Comments
all classes r discussions; helpful for dissecting; learn what professor wants to emphasize
Discussions were sometimes thought provoking.
In class discussions were helpful. The required lecture was not very helpful. Commonplace book assignments (annotation and reflections) were helpful. Writing seminars were somewhat helpful.
Discussions were quite complex.
The discussions were very beneficial and so were the commonplace assignments. Halfway through the quarter, Prof. Brown switched styles to add more "structure" to the class but I think it just lessened my understanding. I enjoyed the open discussions and felt they were a natural exchange of ideas.
the commonplace entries were way more fruitful than canvas posts
Weekly assignments were good practice sessions for the bigger essay we had to write. Discussions were massively helpful and generally put together pieces that I couldn't put together myself while reading.
– lectures are really developed and pointed towards different parts of the text (on the flip side, sometimes feels like there isnt enough big picture discussion)
Lectures were very helpful in breaking down terminologies used in the text and themes.
Discussions were super helpful in making sense of the readings.
The discussion in the class were very useful and helped me understand the content better.
The in–class seminars were definitely the most helpful in learning.
I liked lectures, and seminars, as well as the paper we were assigned.
Guided class discussion help me break down the readings and understand them on a deep level. I always come away from each class feeling like I understand the text infinitely better than when I read it on my own. I particularly benefit from visuals, such as diagram reconstruction of different arguments, and direct comparisons of different thinkers' assumptions and arguments.
The discussions were a large component to my learning, which clarified my understanding of texts.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	31.25%	68.75%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.06	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	25.00%	25.00%	43.75%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	6.25%	6.25%	31.25%	56.25%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	6.25%	12.50%	43.75%	37.50%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	37.50%	56.25%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
tough grader; you can get an A but don't slack off
N/A
Good professor. Expects a lot out of students.
Really enjoyable. Much more enjoyable than last quarter. If you're dreading a 2nd quarter of Classics, just know it gets MUCH better
Very good course. Professor was very helpful.
It was good all around

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	6.25%	93.75%
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
pedagogy
The questions.
Leading in class discussions.
The entire class is just a giant discussion.
Prof. Brown is very good at facilitating discussions and making sure everyone's voice is heard and everyone's ideas are shared while still making sure that they stay on topic. She's fantastic.
she really tried to implement things that the class wanted like small group
I really liked the time Julia gave to answering different questions in class and getting productive discussions going.
pointed teaching, providing reading questions
Prof. Brown changed her teaching style towards the end of the quarter which went towards more conventional lecturing/writing on the board. The visual cues were very helpful.
She’s a good teacher who’s well–versed in the texts that we read in class.
I think discussions and use of the whiteboard was really helpful.
I appreciated the guided discussions, diagrams on the board, and pushing us to be specific and accurate in our understanding of different arguments.
Her deep insight for each text really spearheaded the conversations in class.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
pace; perhaps becuase it's fast, the texts and what she wants us to glean is a bit confusing
Hard to stimulate students, but could try to be a bit more engaging.
I felt like essays could be given a bit more time to mull over (2 weeks from start to finish is a tad short compared to last quarter).
More prodding of people to speak. Class discussions dominated by a few individuals and lesser voices are not always heard.
I think the group work sometimes was a bit pointless and I would've enjoyed just staying in the open discussions.
More number of smaller essays. Then we get more feedback and it's easier to improve
incorporating different exercises to keep class feeling fresh and new
Less peer to peer discussion and more lecturing.
More contextualization of different texts in relation to each other and in their time periods.
She could add a little more external texts that are relevant to the main text we are reading.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.67%	53.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.43	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	46.67%	6.67%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	46.67%	46.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	26.67%	53.33%	6.67%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	20.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	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
Maya Shenoy
Sarah Jefferies. Great TA. Very kind. Very helpful.
Sarah Jeffries. She was really nice!
Sarah Jeffries – she was so helpful in giving advice for my essays and general writing tips!

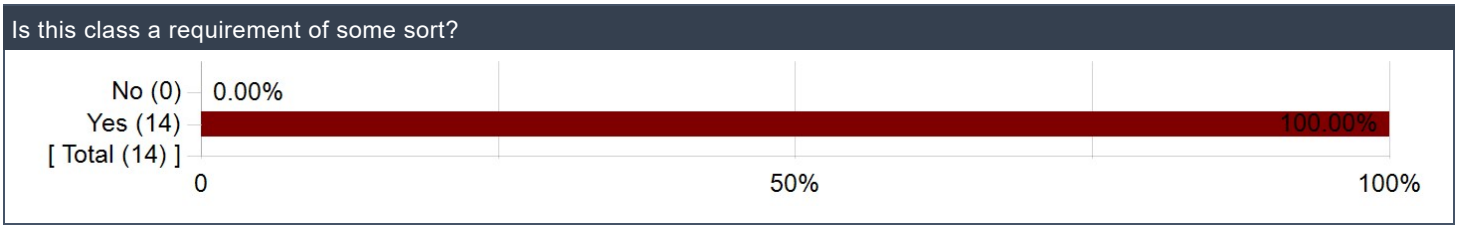
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%

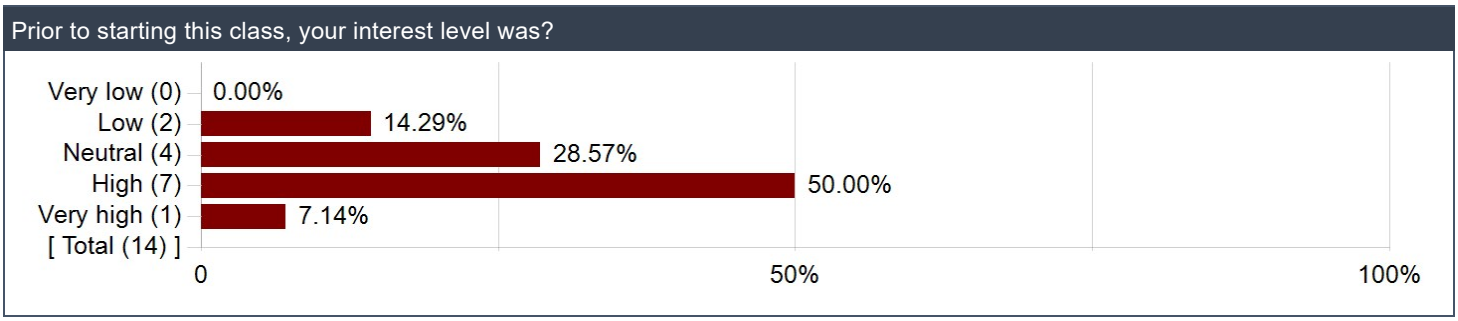
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Field Trips	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Library Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Review Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
Writing Seminars	3.00	3.00	11.11%	22.22%	44.44%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%

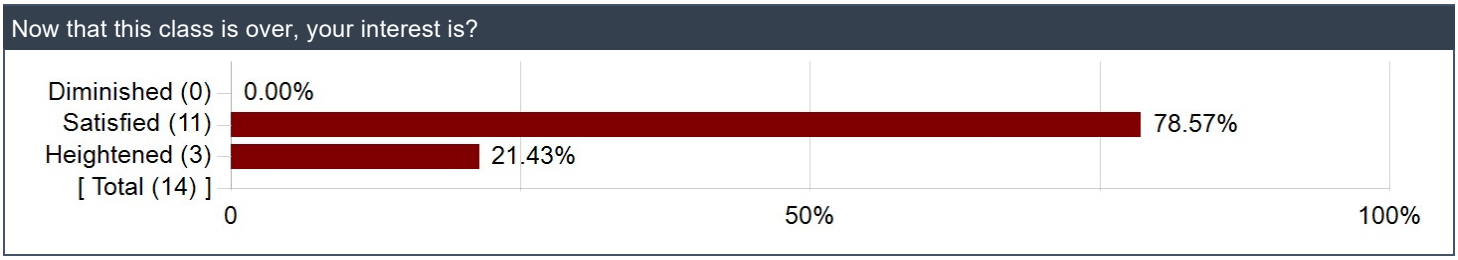
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



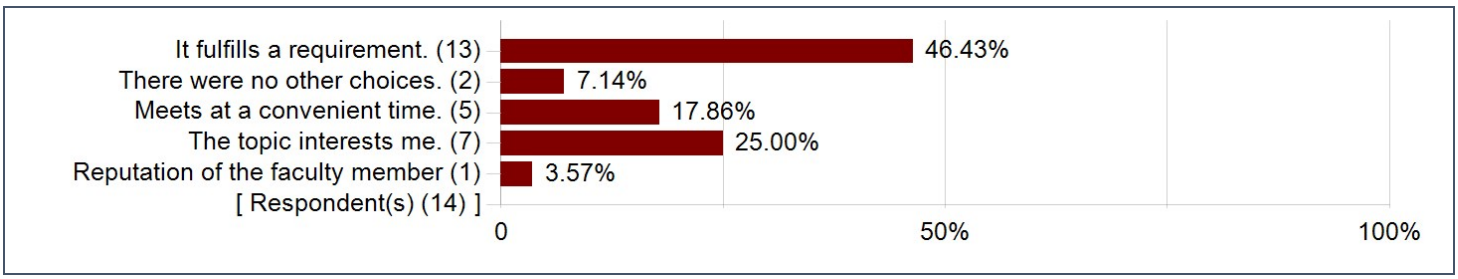
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



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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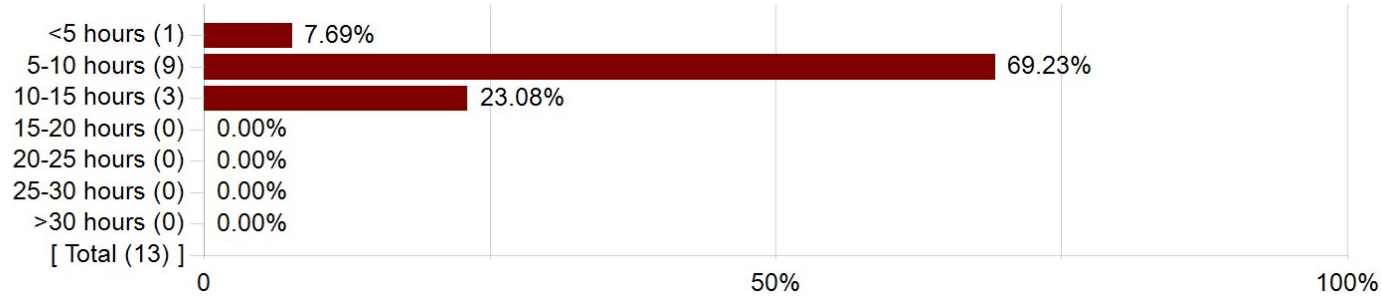

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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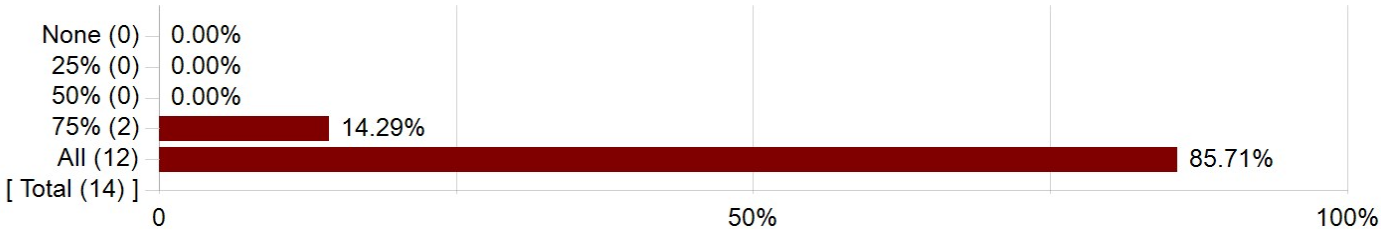

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
it's really not a hard course; the books are some of the greatest work of governmental philosophy ever so there's just a tonnnn to digest; interesting
Fairly high, due to stringent grading of essays.
Some readings in RS but no philosophy.
Very difficult
1st quarter felt very difficult but, once you gain the needed skills from it, the 2nd quarter becomes very enjoyable and manageable.
Difficult readings, but Julia's good at helping you through it
There was a significant increase in the amount of reading required in this class which I felt took up a disproportionate amount of time.
Manageble if you put the effort
I thought the course was challenging but definitely doable. There was the right level of guidance, so even with very limited philosophy experience I was able to understand most of the work well.
Moderate