



# SOSC 11400 10 - Power, Identity, Resistance I - Instructor(s): Pamela Nogales

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

Number Enrolled: **16**

Number of Responses: **8**

---

## 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
Close reading, textual–based evidence gathering and reasoning, interpretation, etc.
reading historical pieces in an educated and useful way
I learned about sovereignty and read fundamental texts that led to the way freedom and liberty are shaped in society today.
How to digest and write about complex issues.
I learned about how commonwealths form, and how different thinkers viewed sovereignty. We read really important authors (Hobbes, Lock, Rousseau, Paine, Kant, Jefferson, etc).
Read Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Kant.
Philosophy and history of the Enlightenment, Classical Liberalism, and political theory.

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

Comments
Every aspect of this course builds off of one another so they all contribute to its culmination.
discussions with guided feedback
The lectures were semi–helpful. Prof. Nogales seems to know a lot about the literature and at times can make things clearer but at other times it could be the opposite and make it more unclear and confusing. Assignments were somewhat beneficial to understanding the content. There was a trip to the SMART museum that was very helpful and gave more context to what we were learning in class.
Discussions, group work, and office hours helped clarify concepts from the reading.
Lectures were very helpful and helped me gain better understanding of the readings.
Professor Nogales makes sure that we have a thorough understanding of the readings in class discussions.

**Please respond to the following:**

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.63	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%	25.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.13	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	0.00%	62.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.75	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	0.00%	37.50%
I felt respected in this class.	3.57	4.00	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	42.86%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
PIR is frequently regarded as a difficult course and rightfully so. However, particularly in this section, it is laid out exactly how to succeed. I came into this class hoping to gain a certain set of skills/improvements in foundational skills and this class I felt gave me the most improvement compared to any other SOSC offering.
the amount of reading was not an issue though the readings were very dense, and for someone who has a hard time reading older dense text where it is not immediately clear what the author is saying I would tread carefully. I would read some of Hobbes' "Leviathan" just to gauge how you would feel about reading and analyzing this text for several weeks. some of the readings, especially towards the end, were not as dense and time-consuming. a very specific comment on Prof. Nogales is that she can be very vague in the way she critiques so office hours are vital to actually getting a sense of what is expected of you in this class so I would keep that in mind as well.
I learned a lot and got better at writing.
Professor Nogales has a friendly and kind exterior but in her teaching capacities she can be brutal. Grading is extremely tough even by the standards of the SOSC Core and she is unafraid to chastise students in front of the class. Nogales can be intimidating but at the same time she knows her stuff and holding students to a high standards is a good way to get good results and build good habits. Her section is not for the faint of heart or those who are not willing to put the necessary work in to be prepared for class and to adhere to her strict expectations. For a dedicated student, however, she knows how to get the best out of you.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	12.50%	87.50%
Anyone interested in the topic	37.50%	62.50%

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

Comments
Prof. Nogales sets the tone for her courses on day one. With only 9 weeks, there's not much time to ease into class, nor time for deviation. Do the reading, show up, participate, and make sure you read the syllabus. Asking questions that deviate from the day's discussion such as "how long should our paper be?" will be brushed off with a stern reminder to read the syllabus. However, this only due to Prof. Nogales passion for this subject, and desire she has for all her students to grasp the material. Prof. Nogales gives an incredible amount of feedback on works, takes an incredible amount of patience and diligence in explaining topics which are confusing to students, curates museum trips to synthesize the works in class with the real world and other areas of study. Prof. Nogales aims for the success of each student who wants to succeed themselves, and this is the greatest contribution to my learning.
She made sure I did not lose my focus during class.
anything prof nogales said, she is very educated and her comments were very meaningful and educational
in the cases where there was a more specific zoomed into a part of the text question/topic, she was very helpful in knowing what was important to understand.
I think our group discussions were the most helpful. She facilitated them and helped explain how the authors were dialogue with each other.
Devoted class time to deconstructing the main arguments from the readings, which was very helpful for overall understanding. Would write a list of topics on the board and then explain them in detail and answer questions
In-class discussions were very thorough and made the material (and Professor Nogales's interpretation of the history) very clear.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Prof. Nogales could improve the introduction of the course by reinforcing/introducing philosophical critique goals. Philosophy is not an easy area of study, especially if this is a student's first attempt at a philosophy heavy course. Showing students how to find assumptions, locate areas of tension, or even showing students that they are allowed to challenge these writers who have been held in extremely high-regard, would be very beneficial moving forward. I feel this would help students not only grasp the material, but go further and need to know it well enough to challenge it in some way.
not much
The discussions were typically all very leading even when there were more complex or confusing elements there would be a thread that was continually being pushed, which had its pros and cons. Sometimes it was a topic that led to great class discussion while other times it led to a less productive discussion.
Participation was evaluated in part on contributions we made and questions we asked but it felt like there was not a lot of room for questions or real discussion beyond Professor Nogales's sprint through the key concepts of the material. It never felt like outside of peer work I got to engage in an organic conversation about the material in class because everything was railroaded into completing her rigid itinerary. Loosening discussions up and providing more dedicated question time would make fulfilling the participation expectations far more workable.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.14	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.71	5.00	28.57%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.14	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.86	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	71.43%	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
Hawkins Lewins
hawkins, very helpful outside of class for help on writing
Hawkins Lewis was very helpful and gave useful feedback. Writing seminars were well organized and informative.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
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.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	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.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%

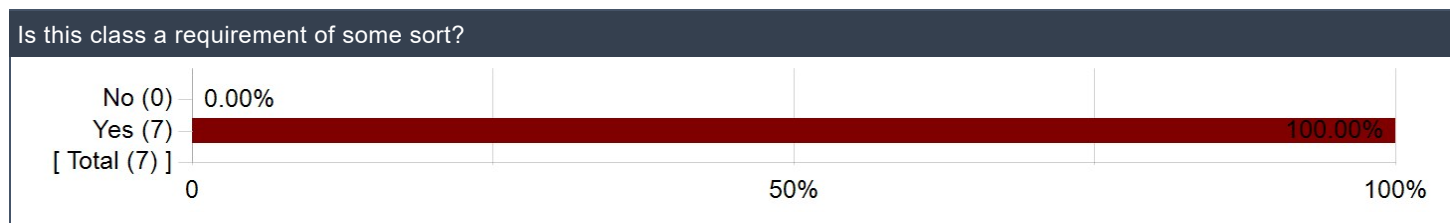
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
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	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%

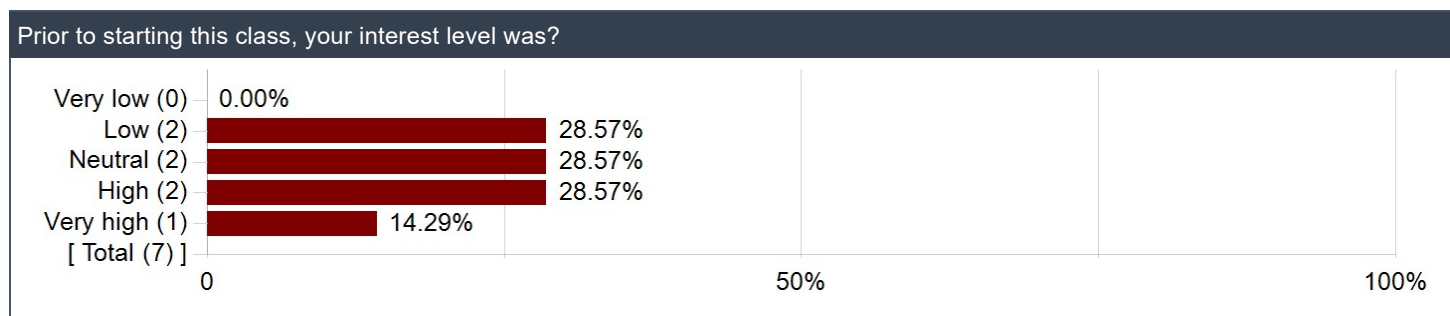
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
We took a field trip to the Smart Museum, which was great. Writing seminars were very helpful.

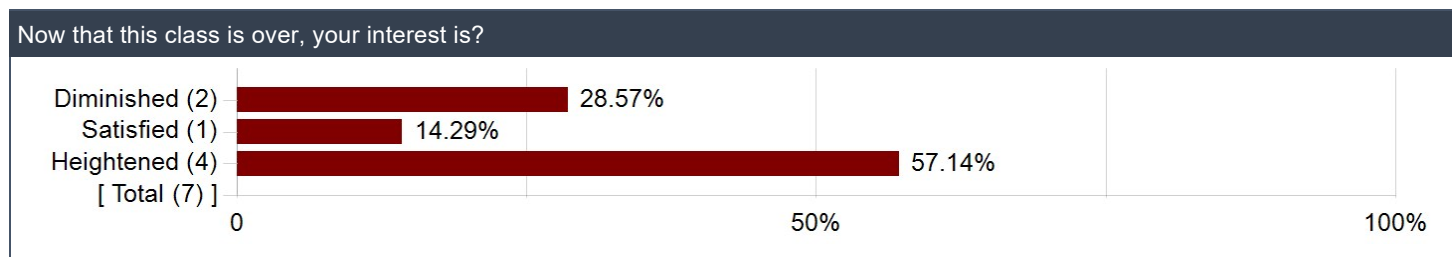
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



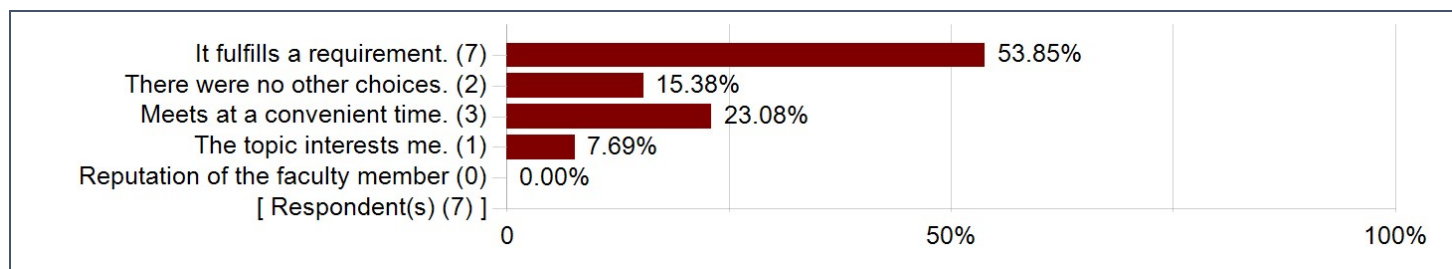
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



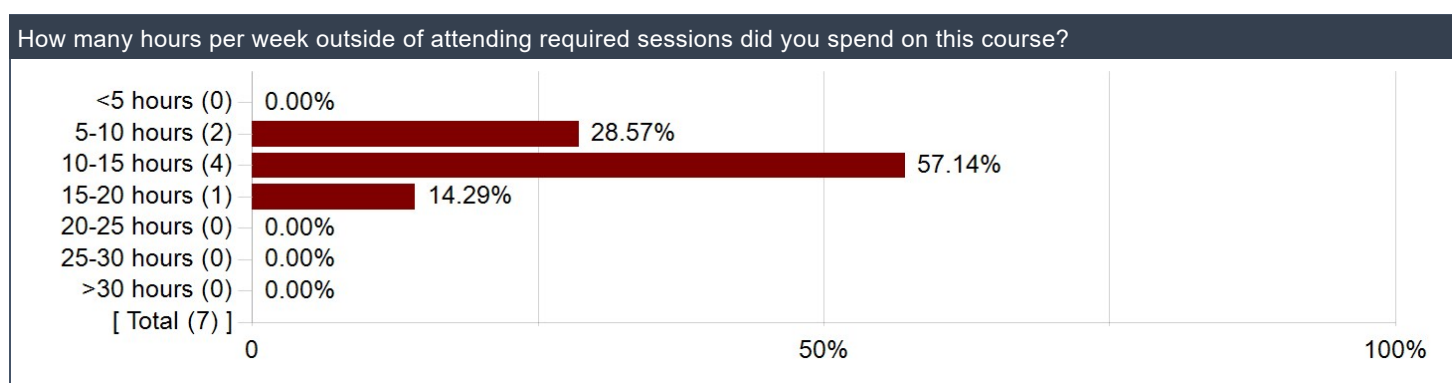
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



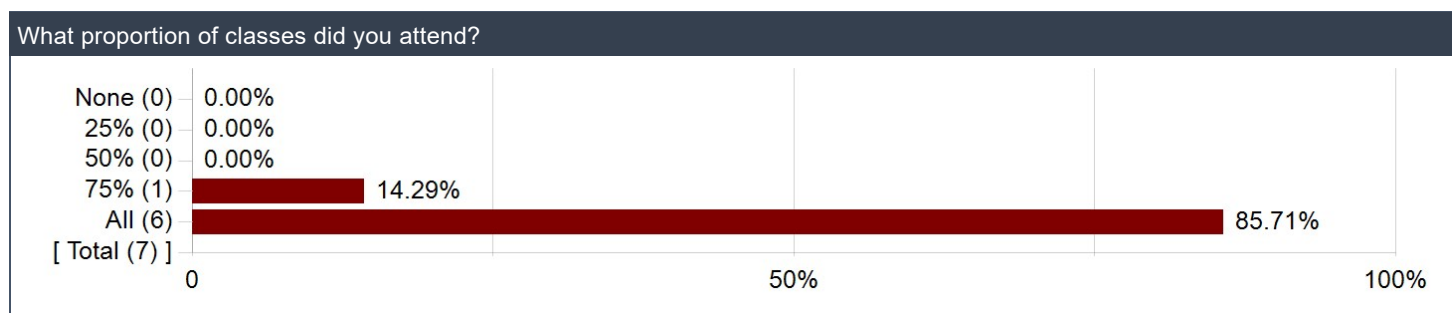
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
1–10; 6
Very high
somewhat difficult
some readings are dense and if you struggle with reading dense text this could be difficult, especially with a couple of the authors but overall if you have taken a HUM class the workload is generally not much more.
This is a difficult course, and your writing abilities will be tested. Even if you have a strong background in writing, you will still learn lots.
Be warned that there is A LOT of reading for every night. Budget your time wisely
Professor Nogales is the toughest grader I have ever heard of or encountered, including in the Power sequence. Be prepared for a significant challenge that will accept no nonsense.