



GNSE 15003 7 - Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations II - Instructor(s): Leah M. Feldman

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **12**

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
For me, relating texts to real-life events and experiences and thoughts
This class taught me a lot about the intersection of gender and politics. I learned a lot about political thought and the history of identity.
I honestly did not learn much from this course.
Some interesting ideas and perspectives about queer theory
We learned about queerness, biopower, different forms of sexuality and sexual expression, and futurity.
Redefining queer, queer art and aesthetic, erotic, pleasure, sensuous, nonnormative sex practices and intimacies, Foucault's biopower, Judith Butler, other very relevant scholars.
I am leaving this course with a much improved idea of how power structures work to maintain a heterosexual norm in society.
read a lot of prominent gender/queer theories
I learned so much more about feminist theory and writers and about what queer means outside of the current social definition we usually consider. This quarter made me reflect on my own thoughts and views on what queerness meant and how I view sex and sex in public.

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

Comments
readings, discussion posts, classroom conversations
The lectures/discussions helped a lot. The class layout made me feel a bit nervous about talking, but overall was engaging.
The readings mainly
The class discussions were very key to my learning. Leah Feldman leads the best discussions that I have had the pleasure to participate in during my time at UChicago. They strike the perfect balance between experienced lecture and explanation from the professor and class discussion. I also thought the way that challenging questions and topics were addressed was very deft and lead to some interesting moments of reflection.
The best by far was the syllabus. I think the team did a great job selecting the works because each and every one of them was really rich and fascinating.
The classes were helpful in hearing from other students and exploring the ideas presented in the readings together. The professor usually provided some background information to help further discussion and understandings of the texts we read.
writing discussion posts.
The discussions were really great for breaking down the texts and understanding the different aspects of queerness and feminism. The discussion posts were good to help focus my own writing but the lack of feedback for any written work made it challenging to know how I was doing in class.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.18	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	18.18%	54.55%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.82	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	27.27%	27.27%	36.36%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.00	3.00	18.18%	27.27%	9.09%	27.27%	18.18%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.55	4.00	9.09%	27.27%	0.00%	27.27%	36.36%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	2.36	2.00	45.45%	18.18%	0.00%	27.27%	9.09%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.64	3.00	9.09%	0.00%	45.45%	9.09%	36.36%
I felt respected in this class.	3.82	4.00	9.09%	18.18%	0.00%	27.27%	45.45%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.82	4.00	9.09%	18.18%	0.00%	27.27%	45.45%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
take this class!
I like the topic but Prof. Feldman's teaching style makes it very difficult to engage with the readings outside of a comp lit marxist lens, which I have no background on and therefore found it difficult to participate. She also shuts down any ideas that are remotely unrelated to her reading of the text making it difficult for the conversation to be engaging and inclusive of everyone.
Reading was difficult to motivate occasionally
This professor does not encourage you to speak in class. The passive aggressiveness and lack of ability to sit in silence (to allow students to think before speaking) made me feel it was very difficult to engage. Questions would be thrown out and if someone did not respond in the next second then a very different question would be asked, it feels like even if you formulated a thought for a previous question, 5 questions have been asked since so your thoughts are no longer relevant. There is definitely a "wrong" thing to say and you feel ridiculed. Amazing curriculum ruined by the teaching and discussion leading of the material
It was frustrating that we received no feedback on our work before submitting our final portfolio. I would have appreciate the professor providing feedback on at least one of the discussion posts we were required to submit in order to have some idea of how to be successful in the final portfolio.
professor is very difficult to deal with. doesn't grant extensions regardless of the situation you're facing. class discussion is very, very obscure for someone who doesn't have a strong gender study background. i think prof. feldman is a great researcher and has very strong academic background but being her student is HARD.
I truly enjoyed this class and genuinely feel like I've grown as a person and learning new ways to view the world, and myself.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	8.33%	91.67%
Anyone interested in the topic	25.00%	75.00%

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

Comments
the conversations
She was able to describe things fairly easily and it helped me understand very dense texts.
Not much
Leah Feldman presented the key ideas and topics in the course very clearly and thoroughly in each section. She was also able to guide the discussion seamlessly where it still felt like a class discussion that was driven by the students but there was never an occasion where I felt we strayed too far off topic
None. I think that this professor is very intelligent but clearly does not enjoy teaching or college students and it shows.
The professor answered questions well and was available outside of class frequently. The additional information provided in the lectures for background or context to the readings was helpful. At times, I felt that the professor struggled to lead conversations in class. Often the conversation starters she proposed were worded strangely or not suitable for our level of understanding at the time.
hmmm..
Professor Feldman was a good discussion leader, considering how quiet my class was I think she did a great job trying to engage everyone and encourages us to talk with each other. She also stepped in whenever conflicting comments were made which made me as a queer person feel very safe and respected in her class.

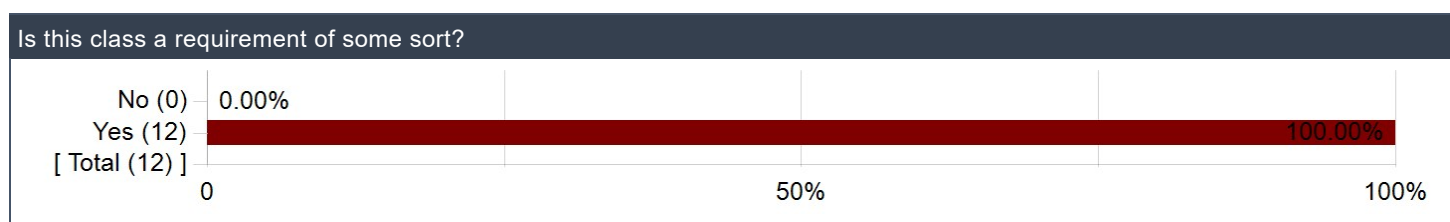
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I wish that I felt a little more free to speak. I was a bit nervous about being wrong. Admittedly, that was on me, but I feel the class environment contributed to it. Also, please give more feedback.
Learn how to facilitate discussion about topics outside of the text (i.e. let people who have not done the reading or who do not understand it participate easier)
Incentivize the reading better
Nothing that I can think of
There were no clear instructions for the assignments this quarter, and its clear that the professor is not interested in engaging with the students' evolving thought processes as we have received 0 feedback this entire class. I did not feel motivated to engage with the material with the way the assignments were or the way the discussion was held. Rude and disrespectful at times.
The biggest improvement for the class would be to provide feedback on at least one discussion post per student before they submitted their portfolio. It was frustrating to have no idea of how I was performing in the class and have no idea how to improve my work due to complete lack of feedback from the professor.
I wish that she could be less harsh on her students. although it's not professors' responsibilities to take students' mental health into consideration (is it? maybe it is???), but being more supportive and understanding would be more helpful to students' health and learning
I felt that discussion topics changed abruptly at times, and I would have appreciated more opportunities to add any last comments. Otherwise, class-wide discussions felt very thoughtful and productive.
I think giving feedback on our critical reflections or responses would have been helpful both to have us the students more engaged and so that we could know how we were doing in the class overall.

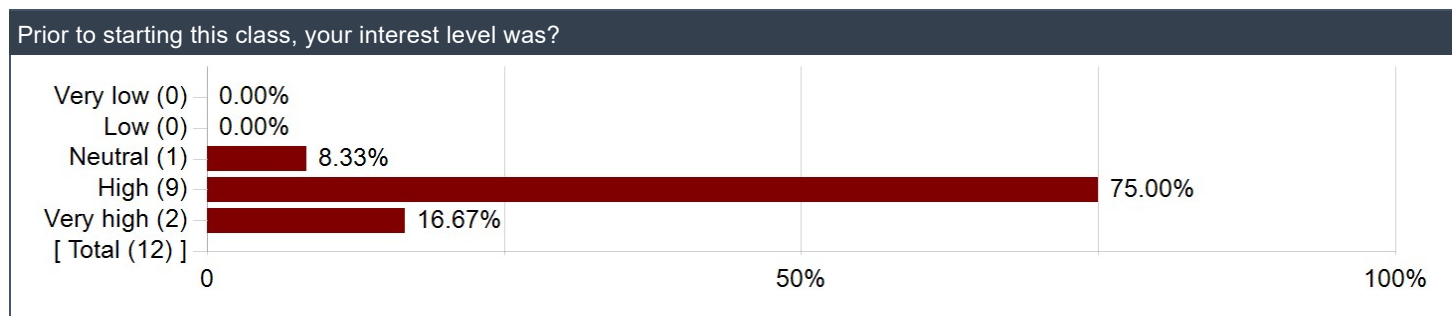
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.82	4.00	9.09%	18.18%	0.00%	27.27%	45.45%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.09	5.00	0.00%	18.18%	9.09%	18.18%	54.55%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.82	5.00	9.09%	18.18%	9.09%	9.09%	54.55%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.09	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	45.45%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	4.50	0.00%	20.00%	10.00%	20.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.18	5.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.09	5.00	18.18%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	63.64%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.91	4.00	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	27.27%	45.45%	0.00%

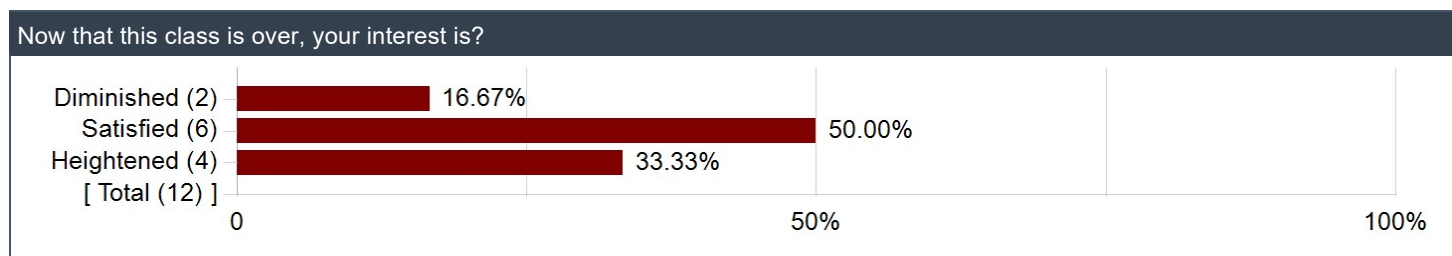
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



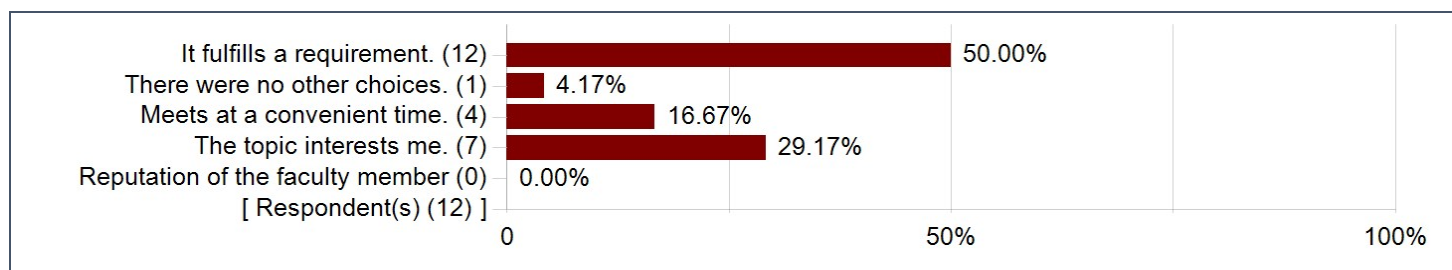
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



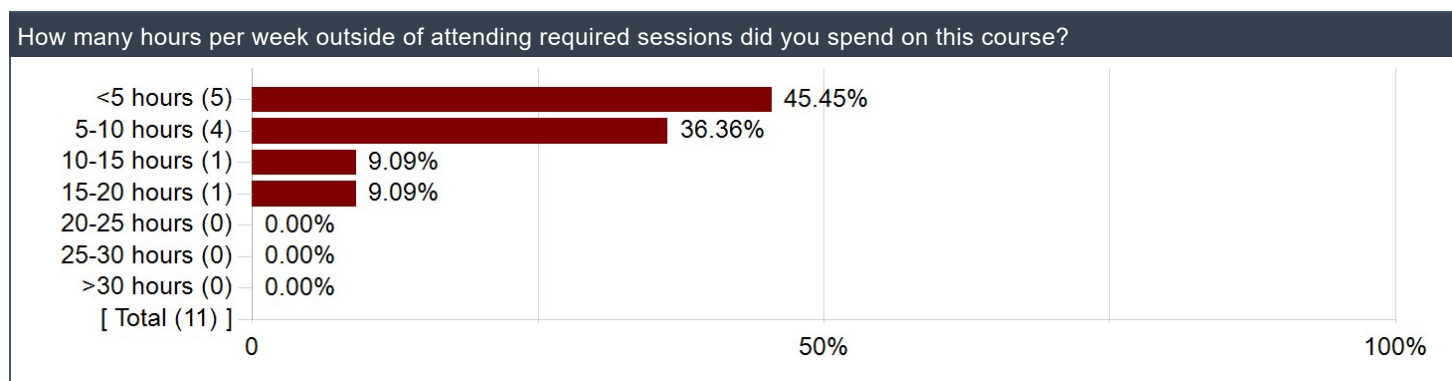
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



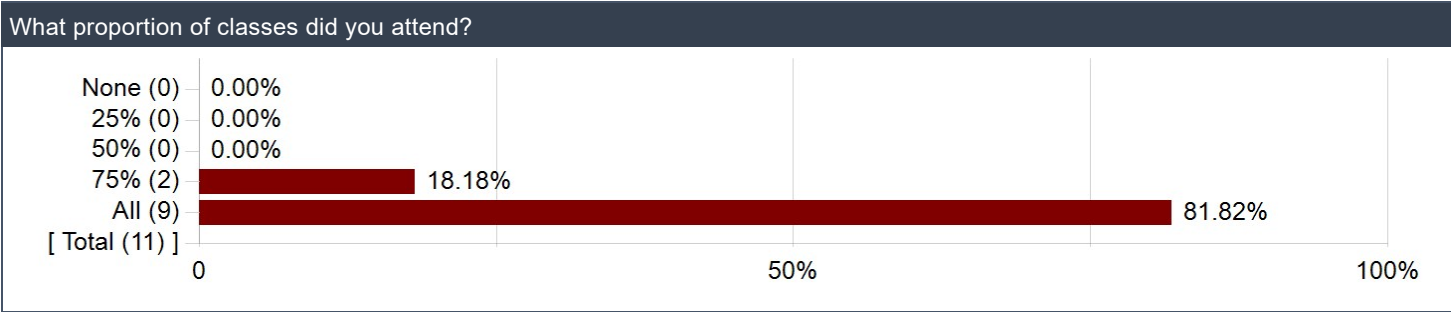
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Not difficult
Ideal level of difficulty and work load for a core class
Gender Civ is wonderful, definitely take it with a different professor.
This class does a great job of building off the foundations we gain in the first quarter and I appreciated the focus on feminism and feminist theory