SOSC 11500 13 - Power, Identity, Resistance II - Instructor(s): Nicole Whalen

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

Number Enrolled: **14**
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.

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What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
I learned I must build my human capital.
History of economic thought – Smith, Marx, Durkheim, etc. We learned the skills of reading historically important texts and comparing them to each other. We learned how to write academic papers and create theses based on works we've read.
Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations", Marx's "Capital" and Durkheim's "Division of Labor in Society"
We focused a lot on capitalism this quarter, specifically employer–worker relations. It was interesting but generally not my thing
This quarter, we encountered two very big texts —— The Wealth of Nations (by Adam Smith) and Capital Volume 1 (by Karl Marx). It was definitely challenging and demanding. However, by walking us through these two texts slowly, I was able to gain an insight on how to read longer theoretical texts and reconstruct their argumentation in a nuanced perspective.
I learned a lot about the origins of a lot of modern political/economic theory. Both are fascinating.
How to understand logical arguments and build our own from important texts
How to think about political economy. I also learned about the functioning of the market and the economy.

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

Comments
Reading
The lectures were very helpful in facilitating my understanding of the texts and how to draw conclusions from the texts and construct coherent narratives based on them.
Seminars were helpful in understanding the content of very dense texts.
The discussions were always engaging and students were encouraged to share their thoughts, which helped further my learning as I tend to be more quiet in class so I benefitted from hearing others
The class is usually a discussion guided by Professor Whalen and one of the students presenting on the reading. The assignments are weekly canvas post discussions.
The discussions always helped to cement the knowledge I'd acquired from the readings.
Discussions were critical to understanding the readings we did.
Discussions and short lectures were helpful to unpack the texts.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.13	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.75	4.00	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	37.50%	37.50%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.13	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Very hard grading
NA

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
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
Lecture
She was very prepared and familiar with the texts and immediately took students' comments and fit them into a larger narrative about the texts. She had us all do presentations, which was very helpful in getting us prepared to present individual theories or theses about the texts.
Seminars were helpful in understanding dense texts.
Whenever someone spoke, she supplemented what they said and explained it in a way the rest of the class could understand. She engaged with us a lot which was very helpful
Professor Whalen knows the texts really well —— which is impressive because of how much content was in the texts. She was able to quickly pull out relevant quotes that facilitate and push the discussions further. The questions she asked seem fundamental but were able to get to the core of the argument really quickly and bring ideas into our head.
The greatest contribution of the instructor was absolutely the attention she drew to specific passages in order to help us understand the complex topics we were discussing.
Breaking down the readings at a close level and discussion the implications helped me understand the philosophers larger points.
Professor Whalen would explain concepts multiple times and draw them on the board which I found to be very helpful.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think more essay feedback and a quicker turnaround on grading. Getting the essay 6 weeks after submission was quite brutal and unhelpful.
Nothing – Prof Whalen's the best!
Reduce time needed between paper submission and feedback. We did not receive feedback for midterm (week 3/4) until a few days before we had to submit our final paper (Week 10). The feedback that we did receive was limited.
Often times I felt that she took the material too seriously and that she had her opinions as to whether our thoughts were right or wrong, which created a more hostile and quiet environment at times. If no one had solid thoughts, they would not talk out of fear of being wrong
N.A.
Nothing
Maybe to identify the main concepts a bit more because sometimes I just felt lost in the text.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.13	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%	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 |
|---|
| Avi Waldman |
| Avi Waldman |
| Avi Waldman |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

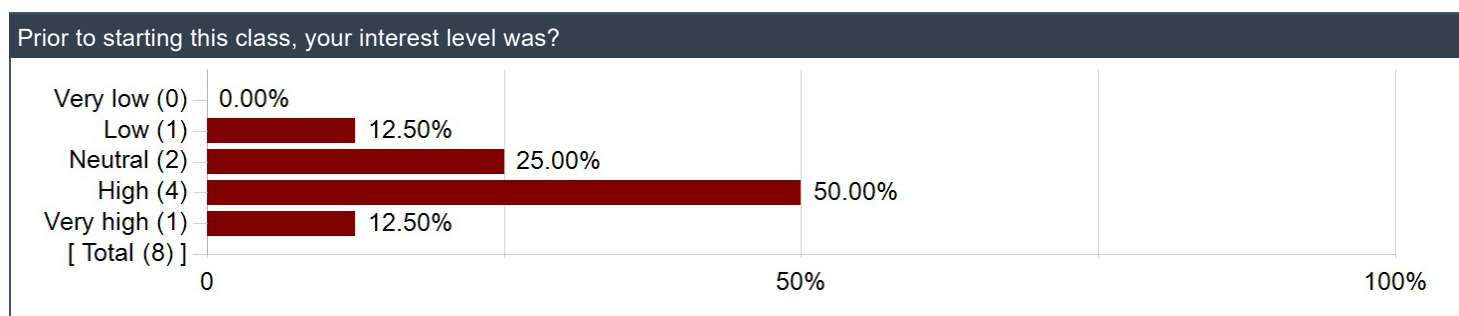|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	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.	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.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	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	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	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?
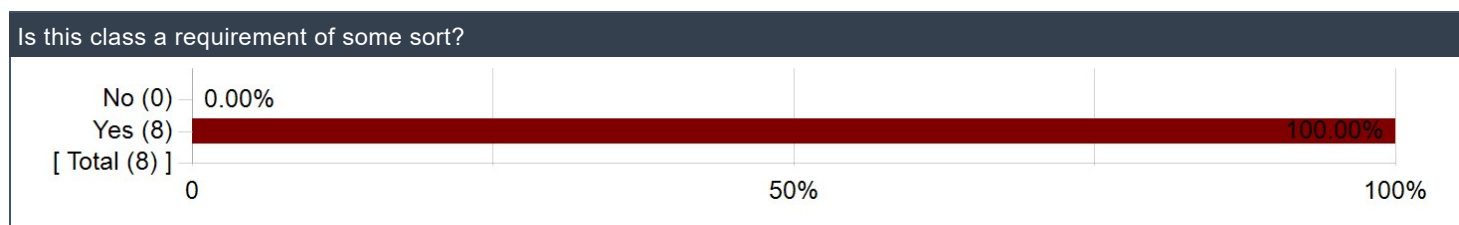
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

- No (0) — 0.00%
- Yes (8) — 100.00%
- [Total (8)]

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

- Very low (0) — 0.00%
- Low (1) — 12.50%
- Neutral (2) — 25.00%
- High (4) — 50.00%
- Very high (1) — 12.50%
- [Total (8)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

- Diminished (2) — 25.00%
- Satisfied (3) — 37.50%
- Heightened (3) — 37.50%
- [Total (8)]
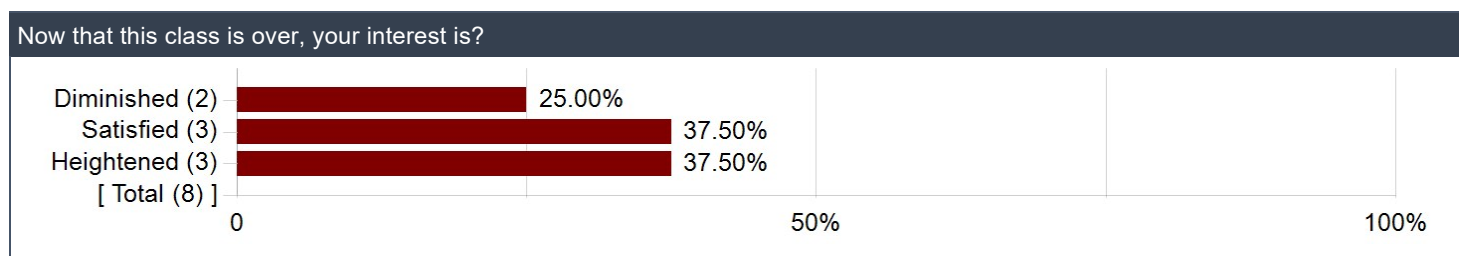
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
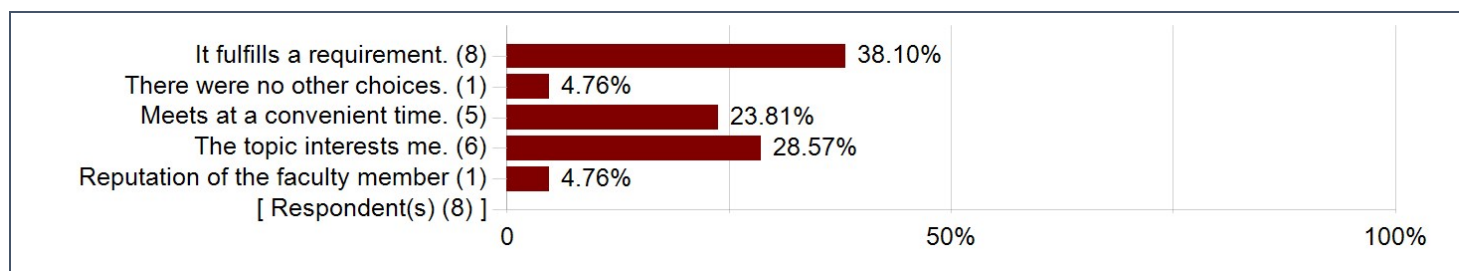
- It fulfills a requirement. (8) — 38.10%
- There were no other choices. (1) — 4.76%
- Meets at a convenient time. (5) — 23.81%
- The topic interests me. (6) — 28.57%
- Reputation of the faculty member (1) — 4.76%
- [Respondent(s) (8)]

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

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    <5 hours (1) ──■■■■■■  12.50%
   5-10 hours (1) ──■■■■■■  12.50%
  10-15 hours (4) ──■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■  50.00%
  15-20 hours (2) ──■■■■■■■■■■■■■  25.00%
  20-25 hours (0) ──  0.00%
  25-30 hours (0) ──  0.00%
    >30 hours (0) ──  0.00%
    [ Total (8) ]
                    0                        50%                      100%
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What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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      None (0) ──  0.00%
       25% (0) ──  0.00%
       50% (0) ──  0.00%
       75% (0) ──  0.00%
        All (8) ──■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■  100.00%
    [ Total (8) ]
                 0                        50%                      100%
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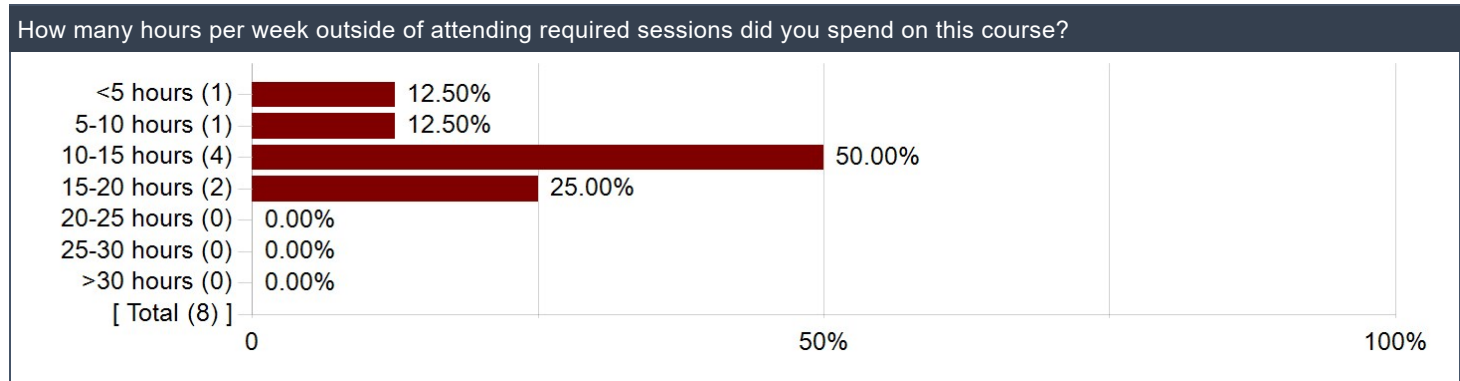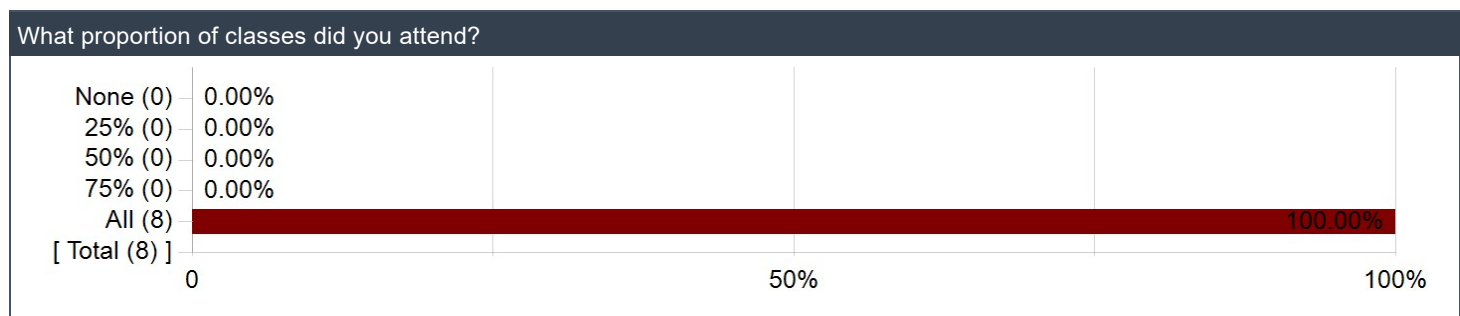
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Medium writing experience. Not much experience reading philosophy. First Year.
The texts were long and dense, but the professor and the class discussions made them much more digestible.
I would not describe myself as a very political person so this class was challenging and uninteresting to me, but I understand that a lot of people love it
It is definitely a challenging course. However, it is worth the effort. And as long as you spend time on the texts, you can succeed.
Challenging, but not excessively so
I feel like this quarter was more challenging because I have no background in economy so when the authors would develop their arguments on financial phenomenons I was a bit lost and confused.