



SOSC 15100 8 - Classics of Social and Political Thought I - Instructor(s): Jordan Jochim

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

Number Enrolled: **10**

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
I learned about distinct views on different forms of governments, mostly consisting of classical views but also of a more modern one (Machiavelli). This course aided me in close reading skills, as well as substantially improved my ability to make an argument as well as form original thoughts about a text.
A good introduction to political philosophy, beginning with the discipline's earliest thinkers
Some of the most important things I learned in this class were how to put two different, often contrasting, authors in conversation with one another in order to find both differences and overlaps in their arguments. I also learned how to think beyond the page, recognize the implicit ideas of an author, bring those hidden ideas forth, and analyze their role the ideas written on the page.
Introduction to approaching classical literature; I didn't have significant experience with reading full texts of Plato and Aristotle prior to this class. Learning how to synthesize their ideas and make sense of complex and philosophical viewpoints was a skill we developed over the course. Also learned argumentative/logical/deductive structure from philosophical thinkers and their applications.

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

Comments
Discussions were slightly helpful in further understanding the content. But, we didn't usually cover the entirety of the reading, only certain parts.
The many discussions allowed me to understand different perspectives about a certain topic, as well as elaborate and explore my own ideas with my peers. The professor was able to create a meaningful conversation with ample participation from students.
This is a discussion-based class. While the discussions were sometimes interesting they weren't super helpful when it came to writing the essay. The discussions feel much more like the point of the class than the essay though.
Group breakout discussions, weekly Canvas posts from other students, and more reading than writing largely contributed to my learning. The group discussions and Canvas posts from other students allowed me to see different perspectives of the same text and allowed me to build on the ideas of others. I also really appreciated this being a more reading-than-writing course because it allowed me to thoroughly understand the reading without having to worry about an assignment for every single class.
Class discussion was great—Professor Jochim steered the discussion in the right directions and gave us the push necessary during extended pauses. The weekly discussion post encouraged us to interact on a deeper level with the text, and I preferred them to the alternative of having more papers or close reading assignments; the talking points drove discussion and often made the writing of papers far simpler. Occasionally, our discussion came at the expense of certain parts of the text being rushed or not discussed altogether.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.50	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	50.00%	12.50%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.63	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%	25.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	37.50%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	12.50%	87.50%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

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

Comments
He gave helpful feedback on our papers and was always available outside of class.
Leading a focused and somewhat structured discussion
The discussions; they were very engaging and encouraging
The optional revision sessions he held for graded work and office hours
I most enjoyed Jochim's ability to build upon the discussion points given by the students. Rarely did a student bring forth a point or a question without Jochim's appreciation and elaboration which I really appreciated as a freshman still grappling with the complexities of UChicago and Class PoliSci literature.
Professor Jochim's involvement in discussions was great. I appreciated his viewpoints that we could take with authority as an expert on the subject but also question as I synthesized classical literature on first read. He also moved the discussion into efficient places where the text became clearer.
class was broken down into subcomponents of the previous readings. this was helpful to understanding the larger themes prevalent in our readings.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
He doesn't return any grades until the end of the quarter, so it's difficult to gauge your performance in the class.
N/A
Make discussions more engaging and vary more in format. The class atmosphere is very stiff and often, rather than being discussion, is just the professor lecturing. He's very nice and knowledgeable but it is difficult to pay attention for more than 6 minutes of his talking uninterrupted.
The breakout groups were a modification presented by students in the middle of the quarter, and Jochim implemented that quickly.
I think adding some supplementary texts could be helpful to introduce new perspectives on the literature. For example, having us read an excerpt of the interpretive essays at the end of some of the books, or critiques by established writers, could give us a more nuanced understanding of the text.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%	12.50%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	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
Mia Thacker assisted us in improving our writing, the workshops were great and aided in my writing
Mia Thacker
Mia Thacker; the writing seminars were helpful at times for structuring paragraphs and developing arguments. However, they occasionally felt not very engaging, which the rest of the seminar group recognized—this sometimes harmed the overall discussion.
Mia Thacker. She walked through the do's and don'ts for the papers. Was very informative

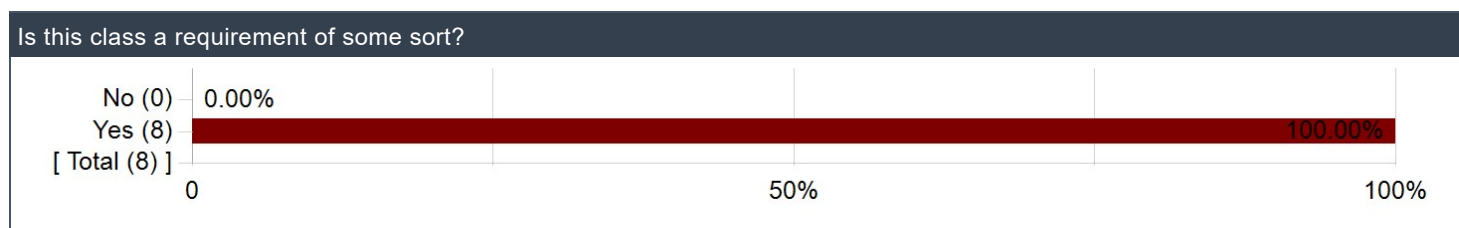
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.67	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.75	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.75	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.75	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%	0.00%

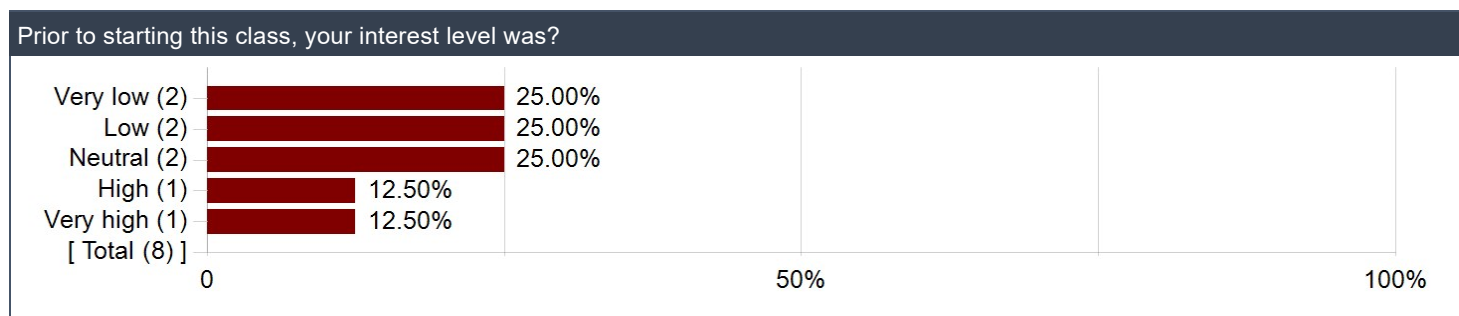
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	1.00	1.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%
Review Sessions	3.67	5.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%
Writing Seminars	3.17	3.50	33.33%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%

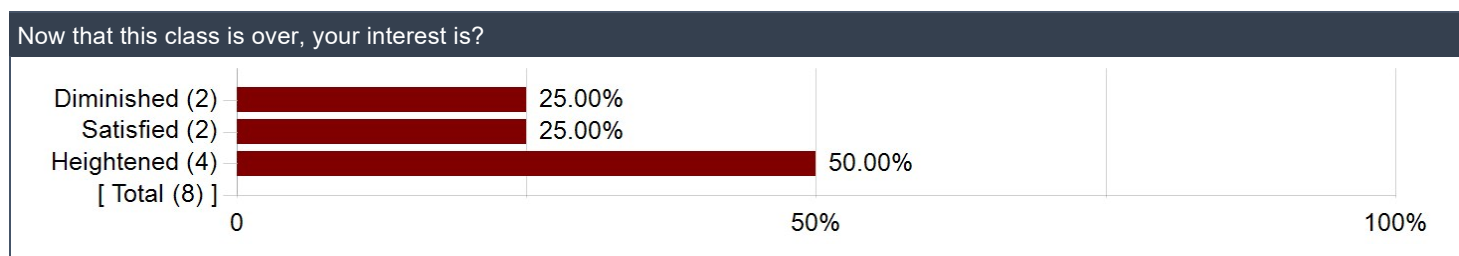
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



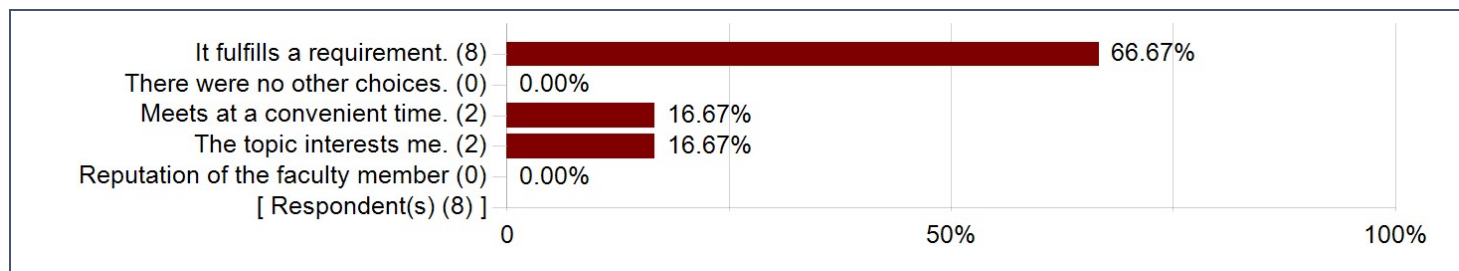
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



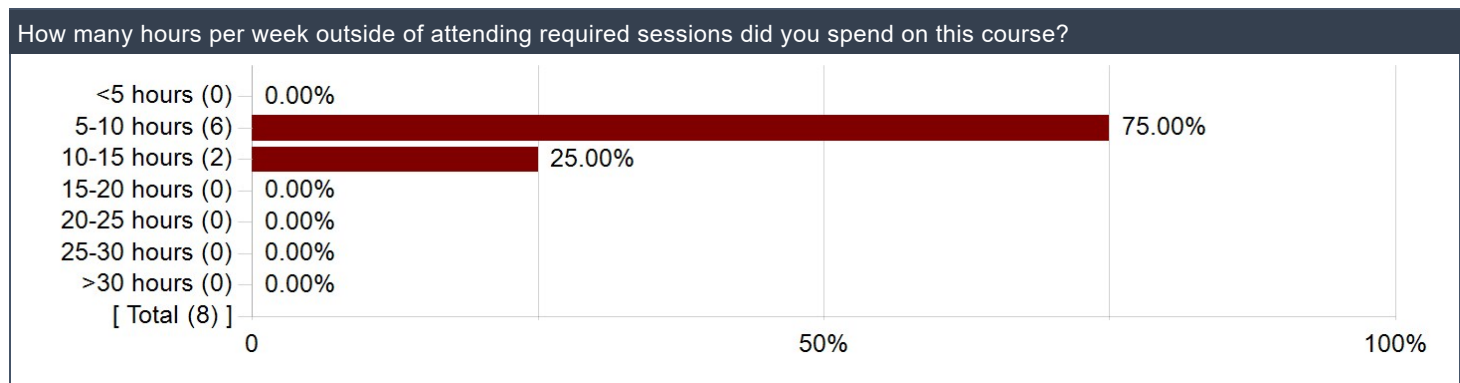
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



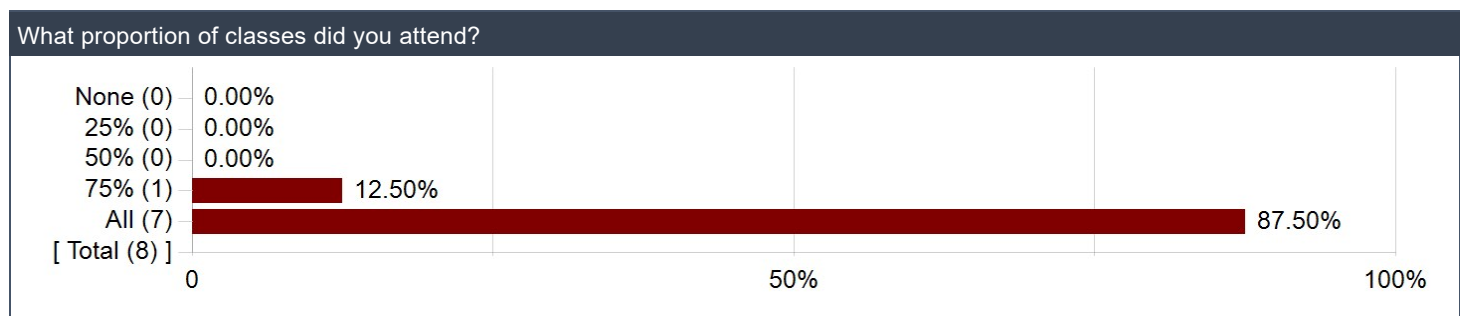
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
The readings were very long compared to my humanities course. Some of the readings were difficult, but it was harder to manage the courseload than the content itself.
Very doable for someone with no experience in the topic, provided the student keeps up with the readings
adequate level, not too hard but still challenged me
Its not terribly difficult, however reading philosophical texts in full was new for me and we sort of went straight in the deep end. It would be helpful if maybe we began by looking at some shorter excerpts in depth so we got the feel for reading and discussing political philosophy before we began reading texts in their entirety. Professor Jochim is a fair grader and from what I've heard nice compared to other classics profs.
Moderate level of difficulty; the course eases you into classical literature