



SOSC 15100 9 - Classics of Social and Political Thought I - Instructor(s): Nina Valiquette Moreau

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

Number Enrolled: **16**

Number of Responses: **4**

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
We worked to learn how to dissect logic of small passages in the texts that we read, though I still find this hard even after working to improve all quarter
I learned about how to evaluate texts to determine the arguments made by the author, and to explain these arguments through writing. The course placed heavy emphasis on reading Plato's Republic, although we also went over much of Aristotle's Politics and touched on Aquinas as well.
I learned a lot about Plato and the Republic. The course was also great at teaching me how to effectively read and annotate, while taking meaningful notes that would help in class discussions. It also pushed me to word my thoughts concisely and to be able to say them out loud.
How to approach a text, understand its arguments, and say things about them.

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

Comments
office hours with professor Moreau were a must, for learning from our mistakes and preparing for writings. Also giving the close readings plenty of time (much more than you would expect to spend on typical "discussion posts" meant you could get the most out of them
The discussions in this course were very interesting, since the professor went over different sections of the texts that we were reading, connecting together different themes and ideas to further our understanding of the authors' arguments. Written assignments (close readings, essays) were useful for understanding how to write our our ideas and receive feedback on how to improve them.
The discussions were extremely helpful and of great depth, which significantly helped when writing papers. The close readings were also a great tool to practice argument reconstruction and have ideas ready before class.
Professor Moreau is an expert in ancient greek thought and had an answer to every question asked. Her lectures did a great job at helping us understand the text. She was incredible at guiding discussion and student thought, pushing us all to become better students and thinkers. She wouldn't let you BS a text or make claims that weren't supported, which was tough at first but has genuinely changed the way that I read and write. This was all around one of the most incredible and beneficial courses I've ever taken.

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	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
do NOT take this class if you need a professor to give you lots of positive feedback. Professor Moreau will be very hard on you, but it will be worth it. Also do NOT take this course if you are a premed-type worried about having the highest GPA possible as it will be very hard to get an A. That being said if your goal is to learn as much as possible and you can take a professor demanding hard and good work it is a fantastic class, definitely the best writing course I've taken in terms of learning. Professor Moreau gives as much if not more effort per student as we do; on the first essay I think she wrote almost as many or more words in (meaningful) comments on my paper than I had written.
This class was very interesting, but also extremely challenging. I think I learned a lot, however I do not believe that the amount of work I put in necessarily correlated with my over all grades in the class. While I spent considerable amounts of time working on the written assignments, I did not always fully understand how to complete them successfully, and was never sure if I was doing things correctly until after they were submitted which quickly sapped my confidence in this class. While this class is a good choice for students really interested in the topic and willing to put in considerable effort every night, students new to collegiate writing/amounts of reading should take this class if they have an otherwise light workload and are very interested in the content. My writing was always evaluated fairly, but I do not feel that I always had the tools with which to succeed.
This is the most challenging course I've ever taken but it is also the one I've learned the most from. I cannot recommend it enough to people that are interested in the topic and want to have a deeper understanding of the texts, this class was exceptional at that, but you need to know that it is very time-demanding and grades are usually not very high. Still, I really enjoyed it and am so glad to have taken it.
I cannot understate how brilliant Professor Moreau is. She's incredibly tough and commanding, which makes you really have to work hard. She's an expert in her field, so she was full of insight in our class discussions, and she knew immediately if you said something that wasn't supported by the text. As a result, she pushed us all really hard to become better at learning and speaking about complex texts. The paper prompt she gave us was very difficult, and I don't think I've ever struggled so much on a paper before. However, I came out of it a much better writer, and I know a lot more about how to develop original claims that are supported by text. Also, the amount of feedback she gave us on our paper was unreal. She clearly spent hours on each person's writing trying to help us as much as possible.
One of the most incredible things about Moreau is how kind she was in her office hours, and how much she genuinely cared about us growing. The first time I went to her office hours, I expected my ideas to be torn apart and rigorously dissected like she did in class, but instead, she worked through them with me in just a really compassionate and helpful way. Thank you, Professor Moreau, for making me a better learner, you are the best professor I've ever had. Please, take this course with Moreau, you will learn and grow so much.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	50.00%	50.00%

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

Comments
I appreciated the no-nonsense standards professor Moreau held for us. If someone in class was getting it wrong or coming up with theories that weren't founded she always corrected them and pulled us back to the text.
The instructor was incredibly generous with her time, agreeing to meet with students outside of class when necessary, and made substantial comments on most of our written assignments for how to improve in the future. The concepts described in these comments were not always clear, however talking with her individually in office hours was helpful for understanding them and working towards improvements. The instructor also gave us the unique opportunity to revise our papers (essentially submitting the same essay twice) which was really helpful for growing as a writer and better understanding the writing process.
Prof. Moreau is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about what she teaches, particularly Plato. She is very challenging in discussions but that only helps to get to think about the texts in an actual scholarly and profound way. She is also a tough grader but gives very helpful feedback and really pushes students to think and write in better ways. She was amazing to have as a professor.
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What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
If students cannot handle harsh criticism professor Moreau is definitely not the one for them. That being said I appreciate it and think it's more of just her style, so if students want this they should just register for a different professor.
The instructor could have been clearer with the instructions for close readings and essays. Although I read the instructions quite thoroughly, I did not fully understand them and did not know what was expected of me in the course. Despite this, I was repeatedly told that I was evidently not reading the instructions, and marked off in my grades accordingly. Although I recognize the concern that a sample close reading might have been imitated at first by students, I think it would nonetheless have been helpful for students unsure of where to begin. Additionally, the instructor could have coordinated more closely with the SOSC writing advisor assigned to this course. Although I recognize that writing advisors are meant to serve as additional resources, on certain instances suggestions made by my writing advisor for improvement were directly contradicted later by the instructor. This communication error perhaps could have been resolved earlier in the course by more clearly outlining expectations for different assignments.
The only thing I can think of is that sometimes the instructions or what she was expecting from an assignment were not clear from the beginning, but I think it was mostly due to the nature of those assignments. All of them were somewhat abstract and very challenging, so it's not necessarily something she could modify, but still something confusing about the course.
Literally nothing. She is the best professor I've ever had.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	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%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.00	4.50	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	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
Sarah — she was helpful for guiding our writing but her standards were not as high as professor Moreau so I think that if we really wanted to succeed we just needed to talk to her instead
Sarah was really nice! She had a lot of availability and she was very approachable.

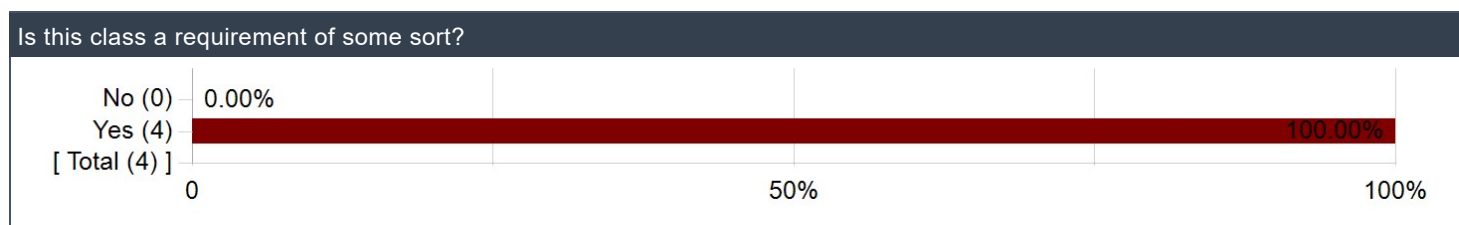
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

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

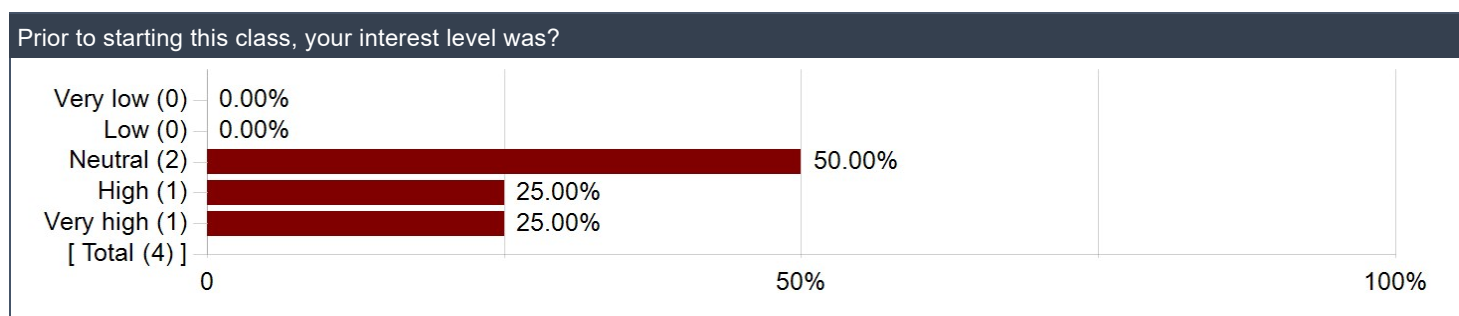
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	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	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%

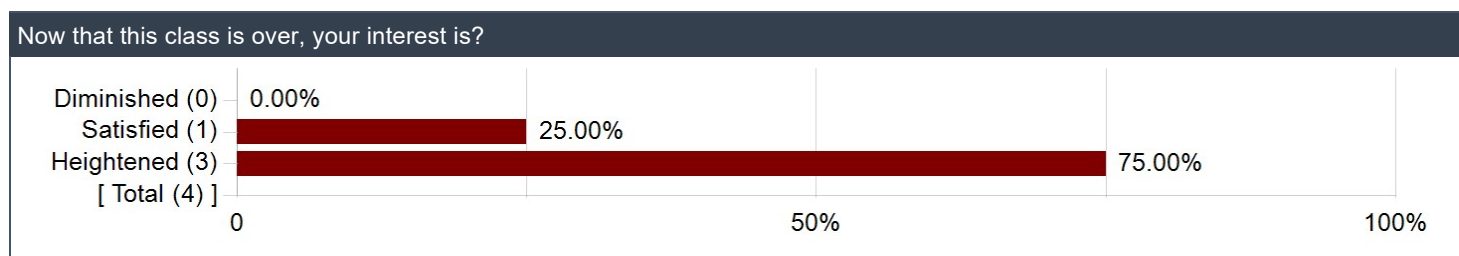
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



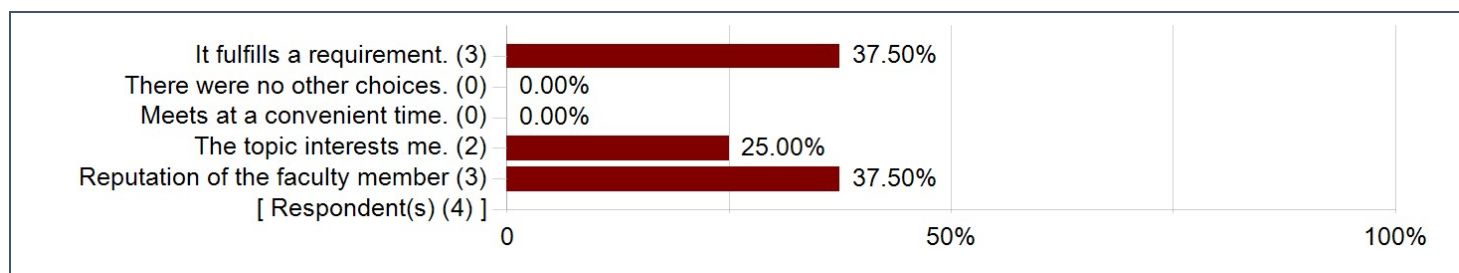
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



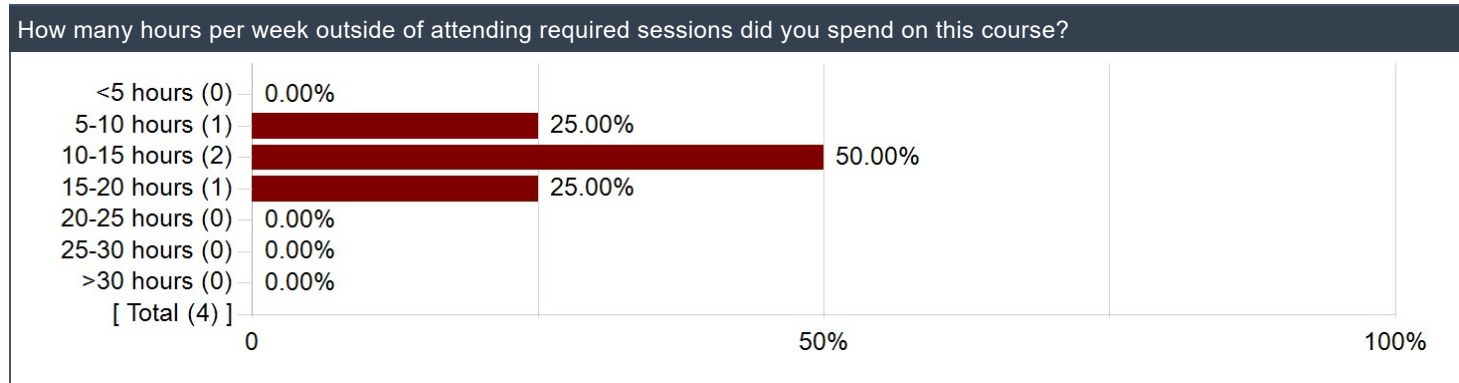
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



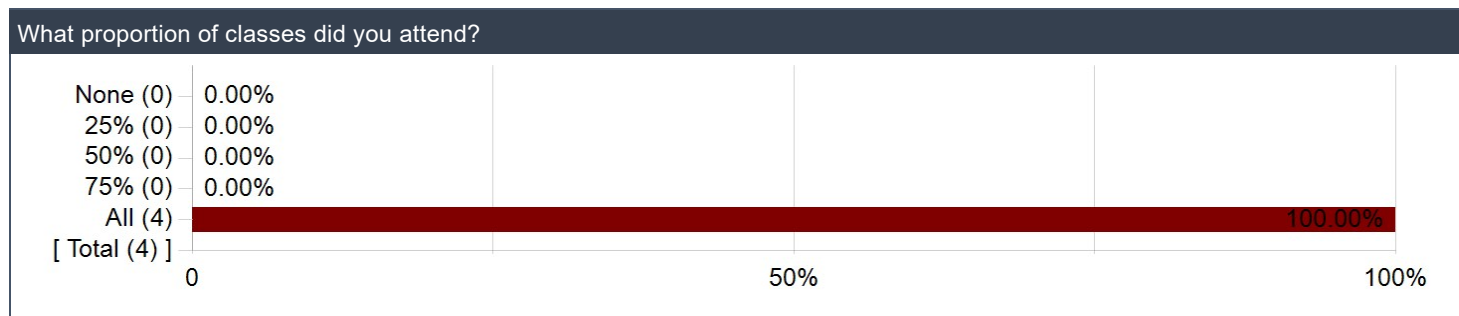
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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

so much harder than my hume classes, but so much more rewarding also

This course was difficult for me, as it required a much higher quality of writing and analysis than what was required of me last year in high school, and in my current humanities classes. The amount of reading required was extremely large, and I often felt overwhelmed by the amount of work expected of me for being able to participate effectively in class. This class is excellent for someone who is very interested in the Republic and willing to dedicate time and effort towards understanding it. However, for someone with no social sciences experience and a difficult course load, it may be hard to manage.

It was a very challenging course, mostly on the level of understanding of the texts that was required for discussions and assignments. I had very little experience with these texts, but I think regardless of your previous encounters with them, it'll still be a challenging class. It is very time-demanding as well, as there is a lot of heavy reading to do, which takes double the time than for example HUM readings.

At the end of the day, I think the amount you get out of a course in relation to its difficulty is what matters. I'll be honest, taking this course with Professor Moreau is probably the most difficult SOSC you can take. Definitely don't expect an easy A, or even an A-. But hear me out—Professor Moreau is incredibly supportive and will work with you to make sure that you do well. This course has been the most valuable course I've taken at UChicago, and I have grown an insane amount from it.