



SOSC 13100 6 - Social Science Inquiry I - Instructor(s): John Brehm

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

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: **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
how to think like a social science researcher and how to design experiments
good
How experimental designs worked, different types of experimentation methods, and the do's and don'ts of social science experimentation.
Experiment design– different ways to collect data, important considerations about what you can do with your results, and generally how studies can make useful observations about the world.
Designing studies & experiments, measurements, testing for validity
Different ways to conduct social experiments and what experiments are in different scenarios to create the desired outcomes.
How to think like a social scientist and how to think critically about research in the social sciences. I also read a lot of influential works (studies/research. papers) in the social sciences that were interesting.
experimental design, how to test social questions, how to approach problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –How to correctly conduct research within the Social Sciences –Which famous experiments were poorly done –Multiple types of SSI research, and their pros and cons
social science
You learned how good and bad experiments work, and how to set up a good experiment. I found that the skills learned in this class are highly applicable throughout all fields.
"How to study social life scientifically" through various methods (experimental and observational) that focus on providing specific statements on causes and effects.

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

Comments
In–class discussion, prof. Brehm is extremely knowledgeable in so many areas it was so interesting to come to class every week
good
I liked how class discussions were not just talking about the required readings, but the professor himself explained a lot of confusion about the reading and added more content for us to learn.
Classes are lectures, which I personally enjoyed. Discussions usually involved the concepts underlying whatever we'd been assigned to read that week, usually some study in the social sciences. Prof. Brehm can get a little wordy, but overall the lectures are informative even if you haven't done that week's reading. The assigned papers let you choose from a few different options, which is nice in that it lets you focus on your strengths.
Reading for homework was helpful and discussions during class
Discussions often times were small group lectures.
The class time is helpful as Professor Brehm not only makes us think about and discuss the exact topic at hand (which can at times be pretty specific because of the content/material of the course) but also makes us think about social phenomena more generally and in context.
lectures were good, prof brehm is a good lecturer and makes the class interactive, essays also reflected lecture content, and office hours were very helpful in getting feedback on essays or clarifying questions
The discussions allowed us to talk about the readings and understand the research methods we spoke of
discussions were good
Brehm is a great professor who has highly interesting classes. I was not once bored, and I was always interested to go to the next class.
Seminars were the most engaging and useful seminars I've taken so far (compared to HUM and my art requirement). Professor Brehm focused on elucidating the course content and methods by including us in in–class examples that mimicked the examples in the papers we read. We had the opportunity to suggest examples ourselves and work through how we might set up an experiment using them.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.42	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	58.33%	41.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	33.33%	41.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.08	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	50.00%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
highly recommend this course!
A great course for people who are interested in the process behind experiments, and a nice introduction to the process of social science design. Would definitely recommend this to anyone looking at a social science major as a nice tie-in or intro.
Prof Brehm showed up 30 minutes late to our first class, and he brought a bad attitude to the first day. He was on time for every class after that and was never as rude as he was the first day.

I would recommend this course to:

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

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

Comments
in-class discussion. Prof would always go over what we needed to know from the readings, so even if you did not understand the whole thing you could follow along.
talking
The professor is really good at being considerate about what his students have to say, thus creating meaningful and informative discussions.
Brehm's explanations can get long, but they're usually very thorough, which is good for making sure the point is made.
Just the discussions we've had in class and Professor Brehm making us think critically about social phenomena.
office hours were helpful
Explaining stories, experiments and situations related to the topics we were studying
His lectures, and ability to relate the readings to the "real world." Not once did something seem unnecessary or too niche that it seemed impractical.
Professor Brehm didn't really lecture during seminars, and when he was speaking, he was always explaining a point about which we asked or facilitating participation amongst students. Keeping us engaged made the course enjoyable and helped us propose ideas for experiments that we could use in our own papers sometimes. Class time always seemed to fly by.

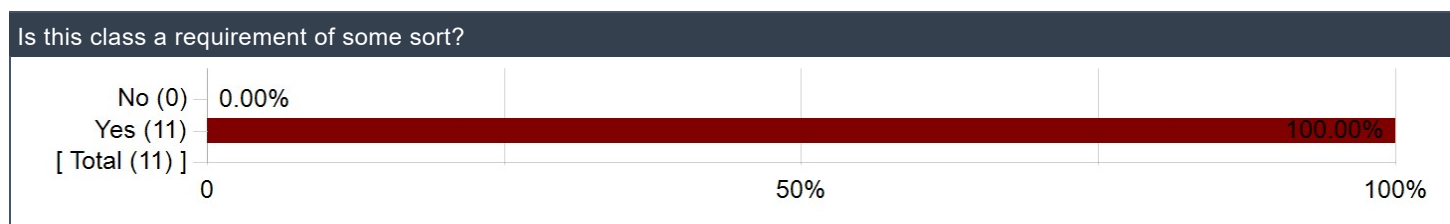
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing! great class
nothing
Discussion of the concepts is a little lacking, which is understandable given that there's not much room for debate on the core precepts behind running experiments. Still, it would be nice to see a little more opportunity for peer-to-peer exchange of ideas.
Perhaps have a lesson dedicated to writing essays for the SSI sequence as it can be quite different to essays for other classes.
N/A
Lot of papers (4), once every 2 weeks. Hard to manage if you are taking more difficult classes.
Absolutely nothing.
N/A

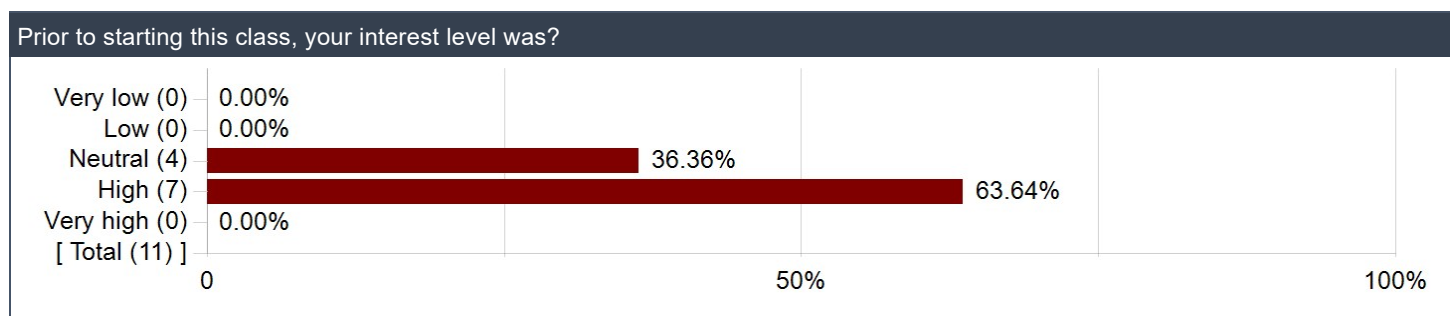
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	63.64%	9.09%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	72.73%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.18	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	18.18%	54.55%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	72.73%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	72.73%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	0.00%	81.82%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%

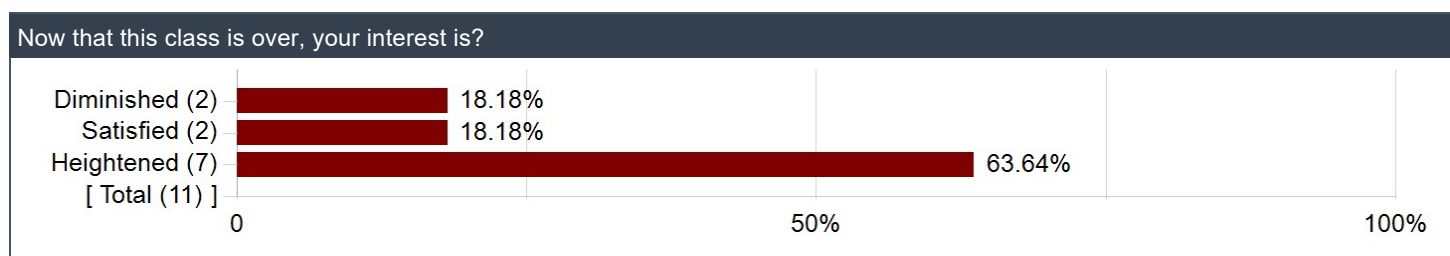
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



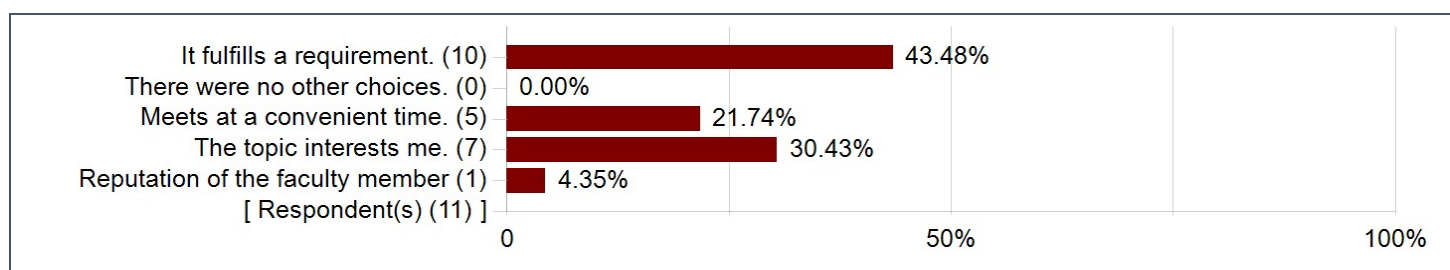
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



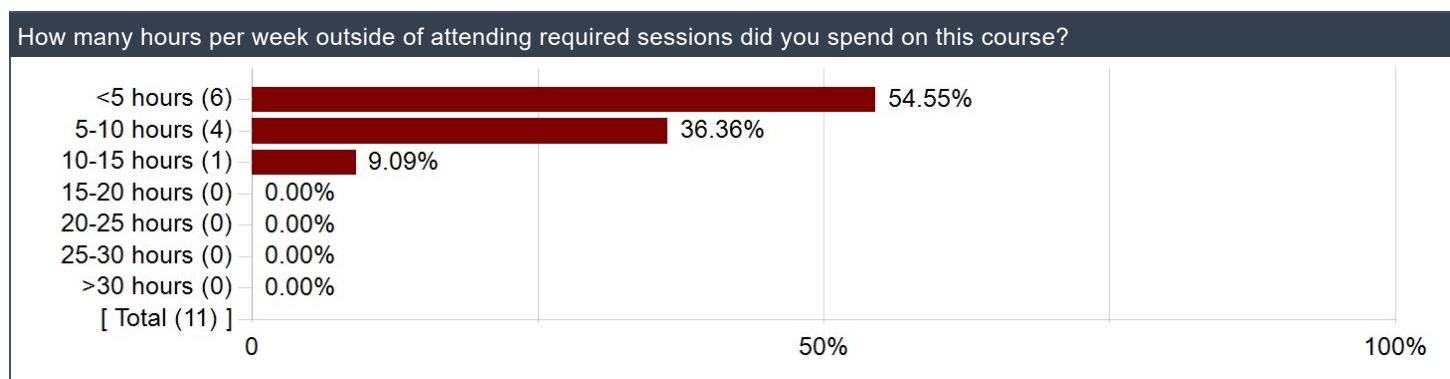
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



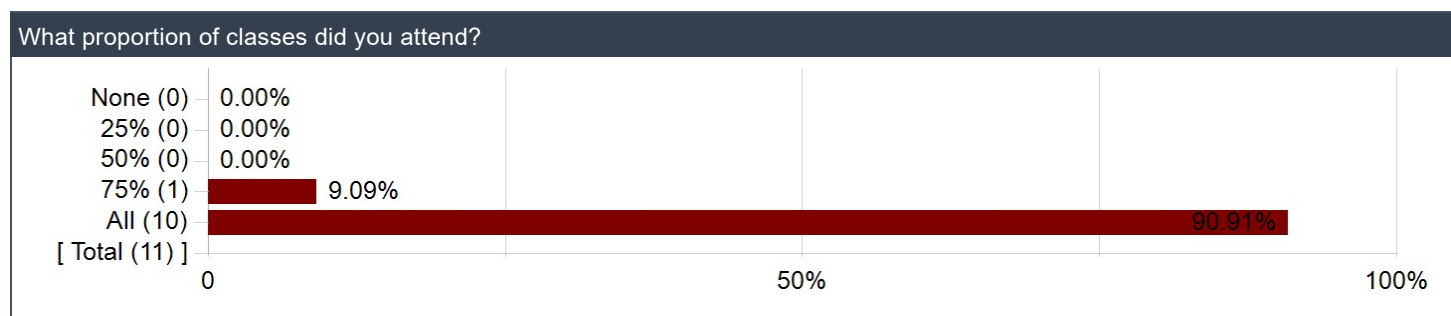
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
As someone with some stats knowledge but no social science experience per se, the course was a very nice gradual introduction to basic concepts. Nothing too hard for a beginner.
Easy class. You not need to do the readings to follow along and participate during class, but it would definitely help to read. Write 4 strong papers and you are good. 20% of your grade for each paper, and 20% is for participation.
Good level of difficulty. SSI is unlike any other class possibly anywhere (and especially compared to what I have done previously), so can't really compare.
moderate
Had no idea how to do social science research prior to this; it was still very manageable
I didn't have much experience with a social science class like this, but it was easy to understand and apply most of the concepts from the papers we read in our own assignments.