



SOSC 11400 21 - Power, Identity, Resistance I - Instructor(s): Ryan Allen

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

Number Enrolled: **8**

Number of Responses: **7**

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
Writing in a concise and argumentative way.
learnt all about social contracts, states of nature, the formations of governments and how to read very rich, dense text in an effective way.
My writing ability significantly improved over the course of the quarter with papers and reflections; instructor comments on papers helped greatly in making clearer arguments and writing higher-quality papers.
I learned how to read and analyze texts about political theory and philosophy. I not only learned how to understand these texts, but also how to compare them in context of their time periods, discuss them in an academic setting, and how to write about them in a concise manner.
I gained a valuable understanding on the Western liberal understanding of how political societies were created. I also gained a valuable insight into the intersection of anthropology, psychology, and political society. Understanding where rights originate from is something I can apply to present political life. This course also greatly improved my writing skills.
In terms of content, the course was mainly focused on the progression of social contract theory. But in terms of skills, so much of it has focused on improving our abilities both as a writer and as a reader

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

Comments
Reflection papers, readings, and in class discussions were great practice for thinking critically.
lectures were amazing. Professor Allen helped me so much with understanding the content and starting discussions in class that were engaging and useful for the assignments
Class discussion questions supplemented reading and added to the content of the course, reflection assignments allowed students to hone in on one specific topic that was interesting them to craft a central argument about the work.
The class discussions were invaluable to understanding the texts and for hearing other students' and the professor's interpretations of them. The weekly written assignments helped me to greatly improve my writing skills and also taught me to write about difficult topics.
The discussions and explanations of certain comparisons between authors and texts were the most helpful because they helped make connections across all of the readings, which was especially useful for paper-writing.
This class is solely discussion based. The discussions facilitated me to share my interpretation of these writers and see how it compares with those of my peers and that of the Professor. We also had 6 weekly 'reflections' to write, which is a 500 word essay on the assigned readings. The reflections were incredibly helpful for two reasons: firstly, they greatly improved my writing skills but secondly they taught me how to critique these writers rather than just read them to understand them.
Professor Allen is very good at guiding/focusing discussions, and his contextual mini-lectures before discussions at the beginning of class are also very interesting and useful. The readings are A Lot, and you do really need to do them to keep up with the class, but given how much important information is in the readings, it's worth it. We also have weekly reflections, which Professor Allen grades harshly like essays, so you are forced to become a better writer each week as well.

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.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I felt respected in this class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Great experience, likely my favorite class I've taken at the university so far.
Professor Allen accords you the respect you accord his class, which is completely fair. If you put forth the appropriate effort for every assignment and reading, this class is exceptional. It is also impossible to skirt the readings if you want to participate in class; all discussions are targeted to specific passages.
One thing to note about this course is that Prof. Allen is a bit anti-technology. He doesn't let you use tech in class, so all notes have to be on paper and you have to have physical copies of all the books. Also, there's no Canvas page for the class, and all written work has to be printed out and turned in physically. It's neither here nor there in my opinion, but I thought it was worth mentioning.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	33.33%	66.67%

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

Comments
How the professor structured the course with time for both open and guided discussions was great. Everything he says is gold.
professor Allen is an incredibly engaging professor, who sparks conversations in class that help with the assignments and papers that we have. he provides us with discussion questions for one of the classes which aids the flow and richness of discussion. we write reflections (essentially 500 word mini papers) every week that also contribute to a productive discussion in class.
Classes split between lecture and discussion, background provided on readings, handout papers to heighten understanding of material.
The Professor was able to clearly explain in a few sentences what took the writers pages to give a murky picture of. The professor clearly knows these texts well and his insights were beyond helpful in understanding them.
Prof Allen had a strong balance of open discussion sessions and guided discussion sessions. As a result, I was able to develop my own interpretation while contrasting it to the interpretation of someone extremely knowledgeable in these works.
Prof. Allen is very good at guiding discussions! He comes into every class with a plan of everything we're going to talk about, and he makes sure we talk about everything and understand it all. Hearing from other students in the discussions is very useful as well.

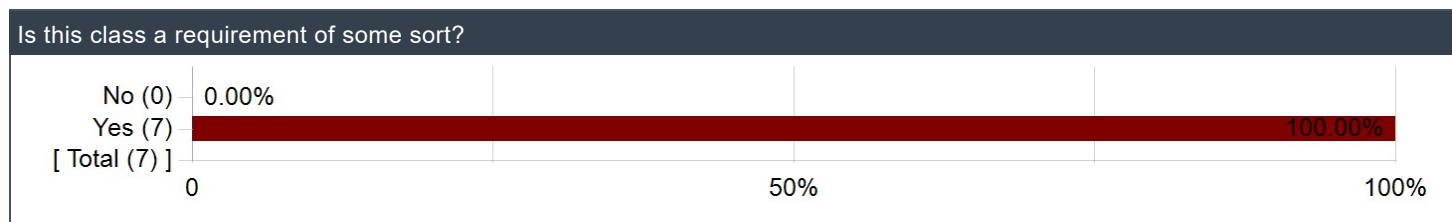
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The readings were very heavy at times and certain portions were harder to understand, discussions would have been more helpful at times if we spent time focusing on certain areas of the texts which were not as easily understood.
All discussions were very specific to certain parts of the texts we were reading. It would be helpful if we could step back and look at the bigger picture sometimes. For example, if we could hear more about the author and the world's historical context in writing this book, the actual impact it had, and overall thought schools these authors could be placed into, I would be able to place individual readings into a broader context.
Some days, it felt like there was too much reading assigned to be able to absorb it all fully, and I was forced to skim/skip parts of the reading to get it done (especially considering work for other classes as well). I think trimming down / focusing some of those larger readings could improve my learning overall.

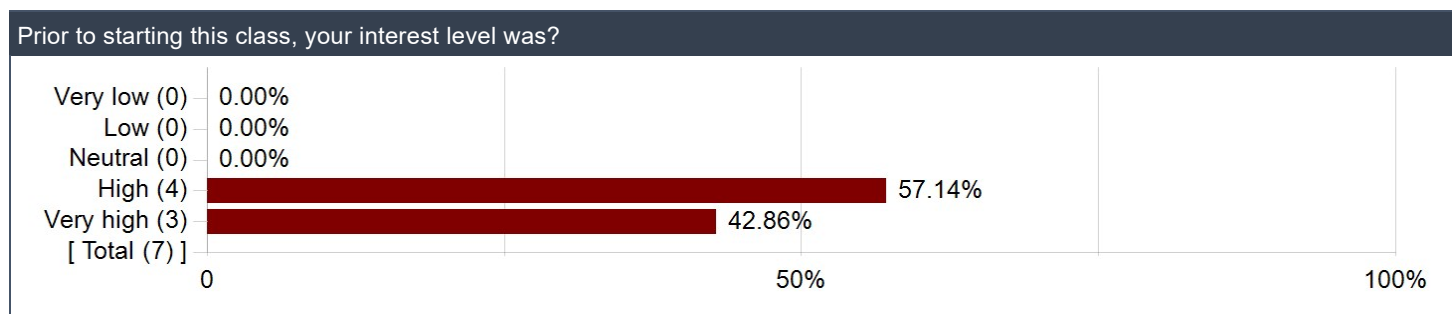
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	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.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	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.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

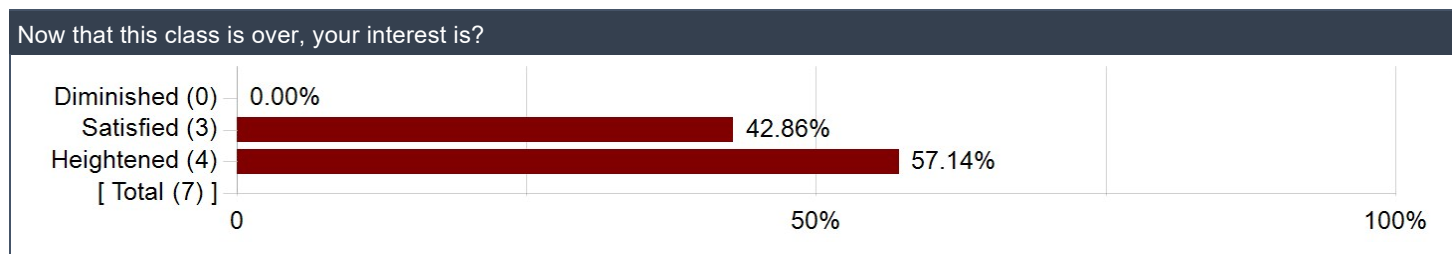
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



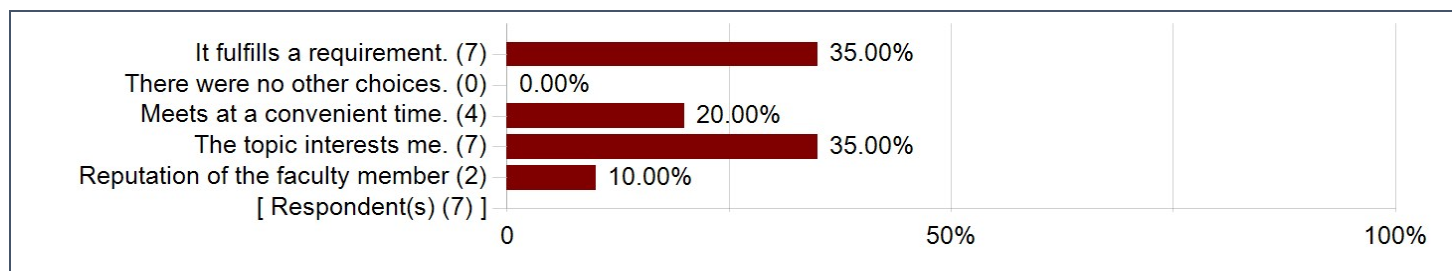
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



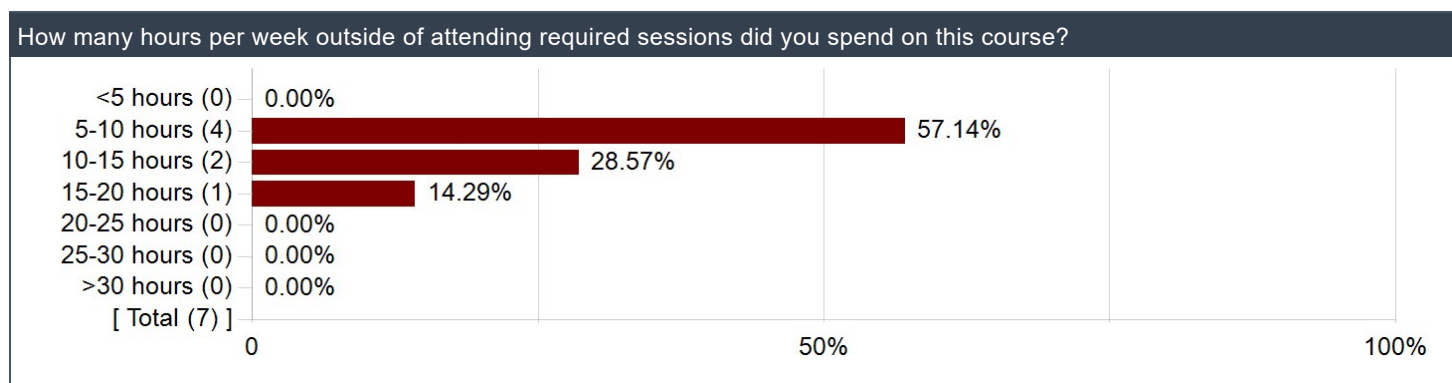
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



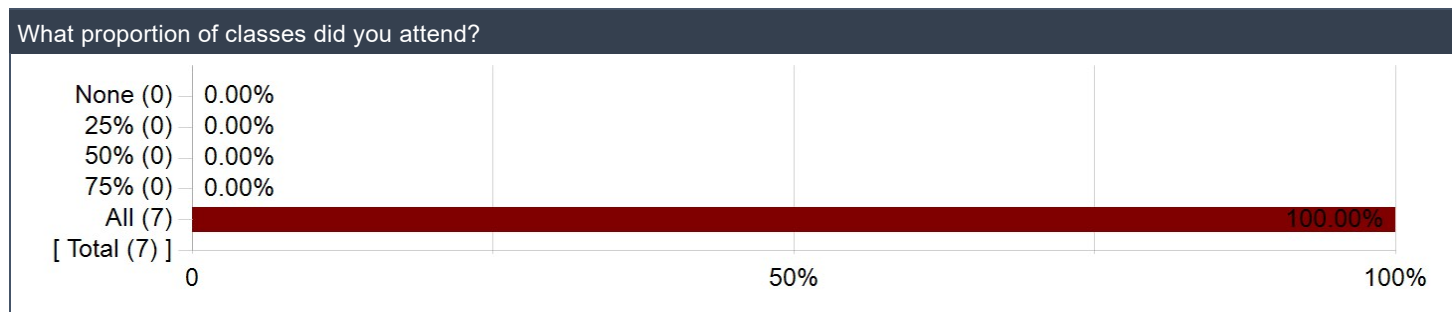
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
the reading is hard. its very dense and rich, it often takes me 3–4 hours per reading plus time spent on reflection papers and actual papers. with time the reading becomes easier as you get accustomed to the writing but its still a big time commitment to read in depth
Difficult content and workload but was manageable
This was by far the most challenging course that I took this quarter. I have never had to read books as complicated and dense as these, nor had to write at the level that was required of me. While it took some time for me to get used to working at this level, I believe that I have greatly benefited from taking this course.
Difficult, but very rewarding
This is a very hard class! Do not take it if you want something easy. The reading is dense and complex, and there's just so much of it. The weekly reflections are hard too, since Prof. Allen grades them as if they were essays and is very nitpicky. He doesn't grade the actual essays any harder than the essays though (thankfully). That said, it can also be a rewarding class too—there are so many interesting ideas in the readings, and doing well on assignments can feel very gratifying.