



SOSC 13100 3 - Social Science Inquiry I - Instructor(s): Anton Strezhnev

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

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **9**

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 gained interesting information about how to recognize a well–designed study or experiment in the Social Sciences.
Causal inference and looking at studies critically
What makes an experiment effective and intentional
I learned how to read and analyze research experiments and think about the identification of casual effects.
Analyze social science studies – internal/external validity, sources of bias/things that break experiments, lab experiments, observational designs, instrumental variables, differences–in–differences, etc. (all techniques used by researchers to identify causal effects).
How to think about research designs and what to look for to verify that the results they are getting are valid.

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

Comments
Lectures would have been helpful if they were explained more thoroughly to people with no prior experience.
The lectures definitely contributed the most to my learning.
The essays were good in reviewing/refining what we learned in lecture
Lectures sparked interesting discussion, office hours were quite helpful too
The lectures in class were very helpful and I felt they did a better job at conveying class topics than the readings.
Lectures were useful and class notes were provided on canvas. Readings were somewhat useful but I didn't have time to read most of them and my comprehension of course content suffered as a result.
The classes were mostly lecture with discussions throughout which helped me stay engaged. I liked that the slides were posted on Canvas, it was very helpful when writing essays. Discussing different aspects of papers with a partner and then as a whole class helped me apply the concepts.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	44.44%	33.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	66.67%	22.22%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	44.44%	22.22%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%	22.22%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	44.44%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.11	5.00	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%
I felt respected in this class.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.56	4.00	22.22%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
It was a well–designed and well–executed course, but I realized over the course of the quarter that I was not remotely interested in the course content.
I would recommend if you are interested in social science research, but if you are not really interested in research designs then I wouldn't recommend taking the first quarter of this sequence as you will find the readings boring (at least I did). lectures are much more engaging than the reading though.
I really enjoyed this course and would recommend it to people who aren't very interested in the "traditional" SOSC core and are more interested in research.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	11.11%	88.89%
Anyone interested in the topic	11.11%	88.89%

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

Comments
My professor was always well prepared and made a point of making sure we understood the concepts by prompting student participation.
discussion and answering questions
Practice and examples in class with difficult concepts we discussed, organization and constructive criticism
The lectures were engaging and provided many example studies to explain class topics. Also, feedback from office hours and over email was very helpful for essay assignments.
I found the parts of lecture and discussion when we were applying the course concepts to actual papers to be the most helpful to my understanding.

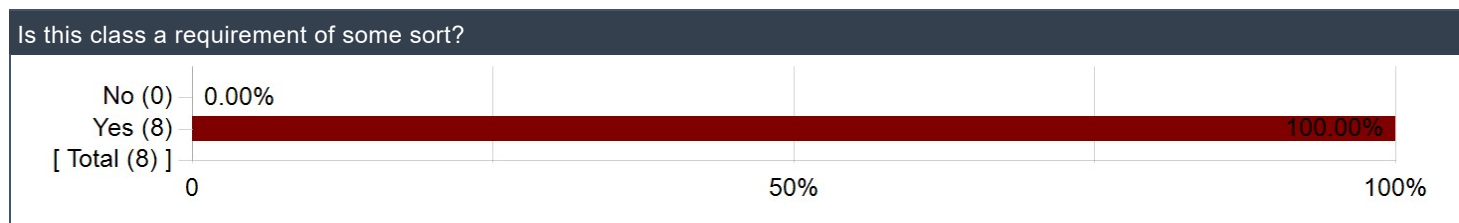
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Explain more clearly what he wants in essays and move more slowly in class
At times I felt the reading could be excessive in comparison to the knowledge I gained from it, so maybe decrease the reading a bit.
I think a class period dedicated to writing specifically within the context of SSI 1 would be helpful.
Sending an announcement when reading assignments were changed.

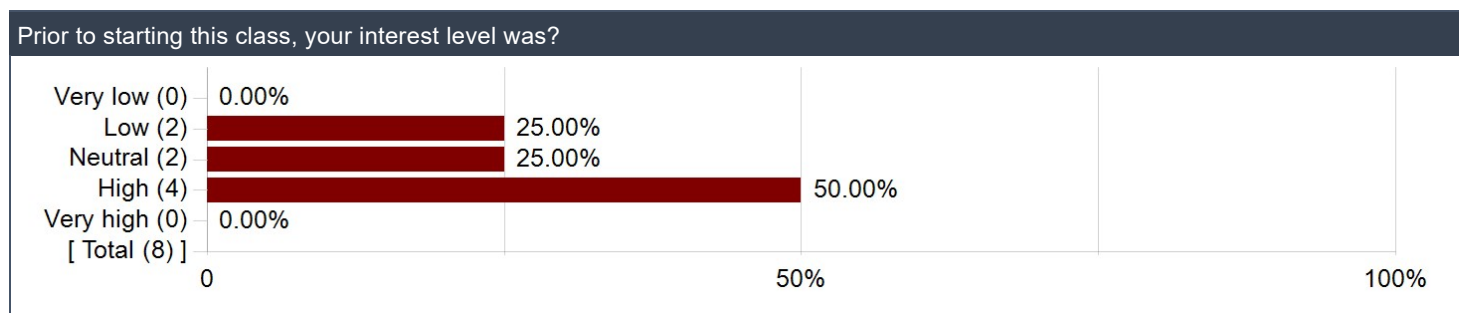
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.78	4.00	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	33.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.56	4.00	22.22%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	22.22%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.78	4.00	11.11%	11.11%	11.11%	22.22%	44.44%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	11.11%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.67	4.00	22.22%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	44.44%	0.00%

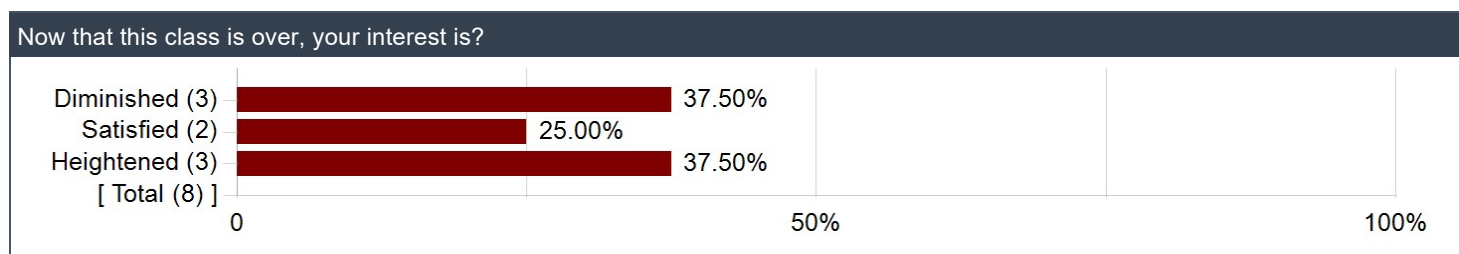
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



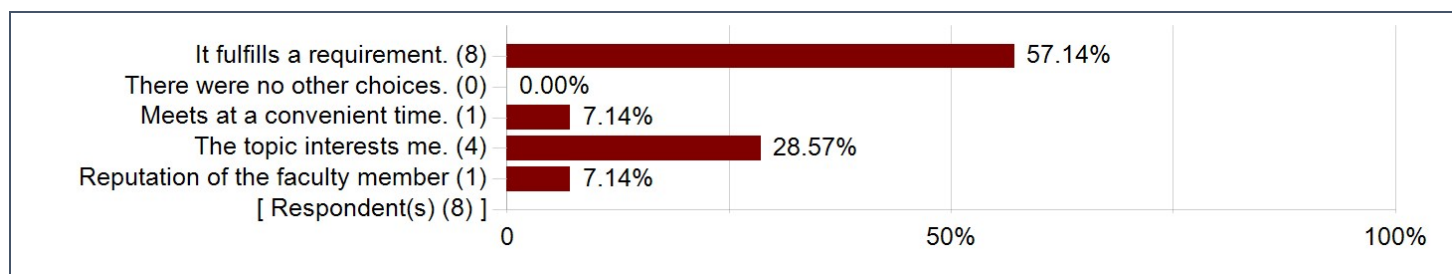
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



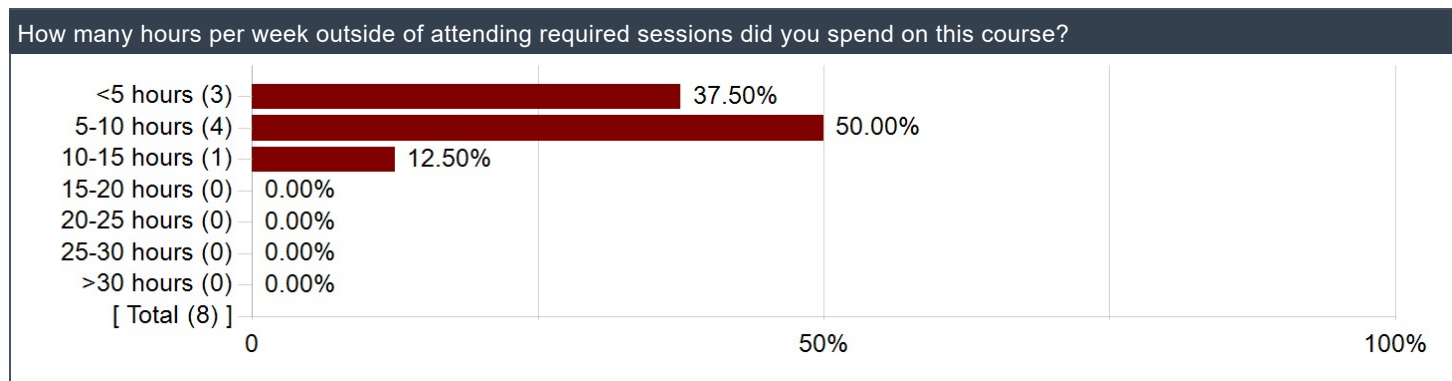
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



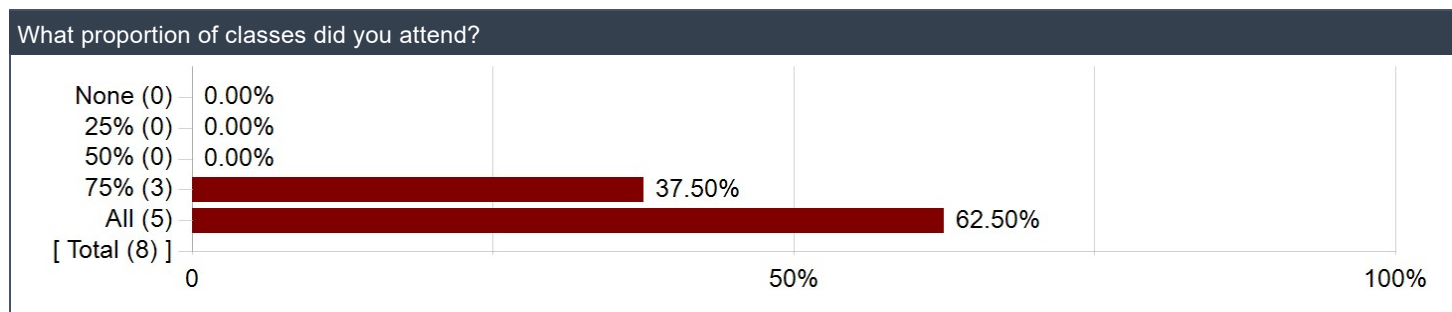
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
No prior experience. Extremely difficult
Should be normal UChicago SOSC course difficulty, not too difficult if you are familiar with research processes already
I found this course more difficult than HUM. The mean and median of the essays which make up most of the grades have often been around the low to mid 80s. However, I think anyone who puts in the work, attends office hours, and asks for feedback can succeed in this course and achieve the results they want.
Somewhat difficult to understand the topics if you don't have time to do most of the readings. Essays are evaluated on the content of your argument and not really writing style. Would recommend taking multiple days to write essays and ask questions to Prof. Strezhnev about the ideas you want to write about (he is very nice).
As a second year who took Phil Per as my HUM, I found this course much more manageable in terms of reading assignments and essay topics. The readings were mostly short and easy to skim if I was short on time without negatively impacting my class experience.

