SOSC 11400 7 - Power, Identity, Resistance I - Instructor(s): Jennifer Spruill

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.

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What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Learned how to really analyze difficult texts like Leviathan, Locke, etc. Analyze meaning question their intent for agreeing/disagreeing with one another given many philosophical writers during this period were directly responding to each other.
Liberal notions of freedom are often premised on notions of unfreedom
How to analyze and interpret social theory texts
Different forms of reading to adapt to the level of work and dedication needed for the course.
Analysis of different philosophers throughout time.
You don't learn things in sosc you just read what a bunch of people think and write about it.
–Philosophies of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Walker, Wollstonecraft, and Burke –How to combine their philosophies with modern politics

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

Comments
The seminars were great, but sometimes I got lost in the discussion. Overall the seminars were helpful in understanding what concepts the Professor wanted to focus on in relation to others.
Spending time in class was very helpful for understanding the material
lectures were helpful in understanding different views from the readings.
Discussions were great so I could understand some parts of the reading
I think classroom discussions were extraordinarily well run by Professor Spruill, every class felt like I understood the arguments made by the authors of the books we would read better.
–Lectures were super insightful –Learned how to read in between the lines with professor's help

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.88	4.50	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.75	4.50	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	37.50%	37.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I dont think it's necessary to come in knowing much about Hobbes, Locke, etc. But it is definitely helpful to have some background info on what they're talking about before reading them if you have no experience.
Spruill made me genuinely interested in the topics we covered and look forward to going to class, which is really all I can ask for in a teacher.

I would recommend this course to:

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

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

Comments
The assignments during class were super useful so we didn't have to sit and talk in circles about the readings for the day. The assignments during class really provoked me to think on my feet and work quickly with others. Your given about 3–5 minutes to quickly analyze/compare texts from the week so this forces you to know each writer's methodology.
Spruill is brilliant! Just take the class
She encouraged us to examine the texts closely during class, prompting interesting discussion
She was careful to ensure that class work would be helpful for later assignments
She let us talk and arrive to a conclusion
We did a lot of small group work which was nice. In the larger class, discussions feel almost scripted, as it is so obvious that people talk because they get graded on it. With Spruill's small groups, we got to engage with the text without being forced to come up with a deep idea, so we were allowed to be candid and truly reflect on how it made us feel and think.
Her office hours and feedback on essays were so helpful. She is very easy to speak to about any concerns regarding essay help, grades, etc. Spruill is the best.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The discussions without the assignments in class would sometimes be aimless in that there was no clear objective to get out of the conversation. So maybe honing in on what specific concepts in relation to the texts were supposed to be focusing on more would help give us some sense of the goal of the discussions.
She could have provided more explanation in cases where the class was clearly struggling to understand the material
More time to review papers.
Nothing
I would appreciate less reading, as much as I liked the class I don't have time to read 60–80 pages from Tuesday to Thursday most weeks.
Less texts so we have more time to focus on thorough readings. It felt like we rushed through a lot of the texts and I didn't see it as worth it to purchase a text if we were only going to use the book for a week.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%	12.50%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	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 |
|---|
| Annemarie Catania was helpful in her explanations of how to approach writing prompts. However, we only had two workshops and one came after one of our papers. It felt like she was a bit absent throughout the quarter. |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

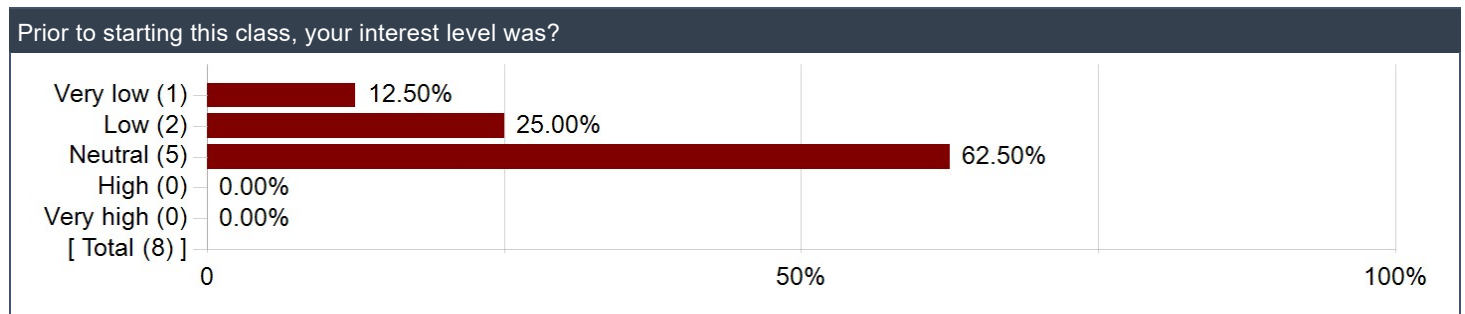|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	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%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	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	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%
Library Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%
Review Sessions	2.00	2.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	85.71%
Writing Seminars	2.29	2.00	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?
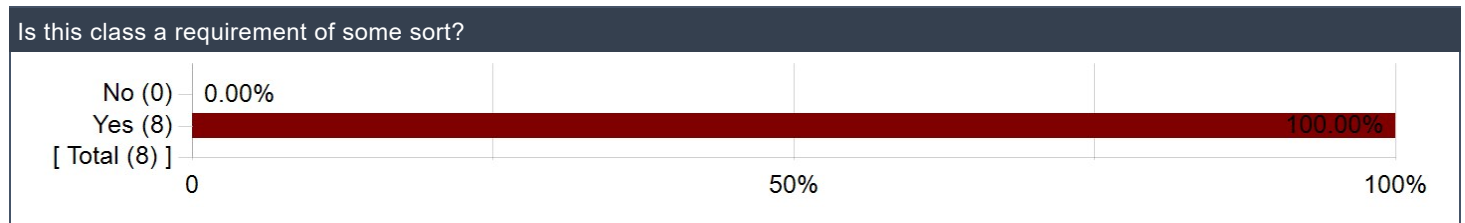
Is this class a requirement of some sort?	
No (0)	0.00%
Yes (8)	100.00%
[Total (8)]	

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?	
Very low (1)	12.50%
Low (2)	25.00%
Neutral (5)	62.50%
High (0)	0.00%
Very high (0)	0.00%
[Total (8)]	

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?	
Diminished (0)	0.00%
Satisfied (3)	37.50%
Heightened (5)	62.50%
[Total (8)]	
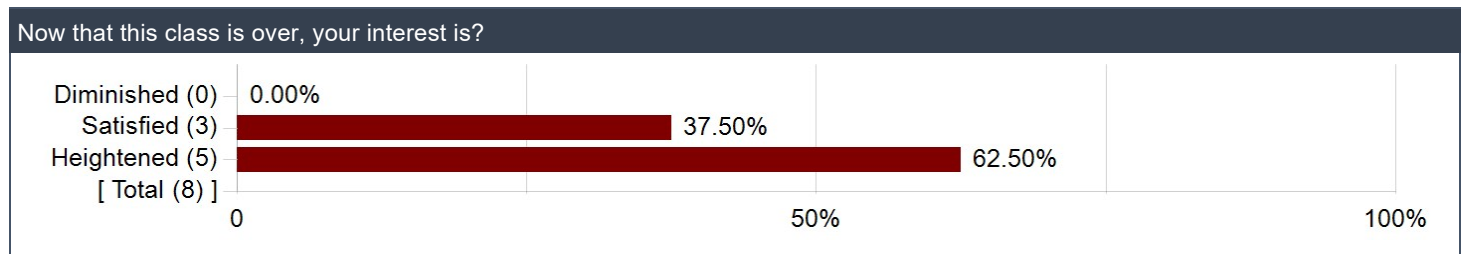
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
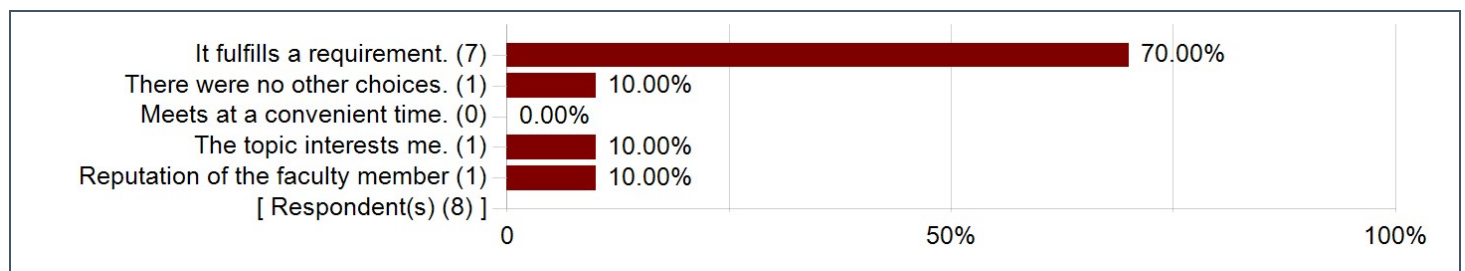
It fulfills a requirement. (7)	70.00%
There were no other choices. (1)	10.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (0)	0.00%
The topic interests me. (1)	10.00%
Reputation of the faculty member (1)	10.00%
[Respondent(s) (8)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

<5 hours (1)	12.50%
5-10 hours (3)	37.50%
10-15 hours (2)	25.00%
15-20 hours (2)	25.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (8)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (0)	0.00%
25% (0)	0.00%
50% (0)	0.00%
75% (2)	25.00%
All (6)	75.00%
[Total (8)]	
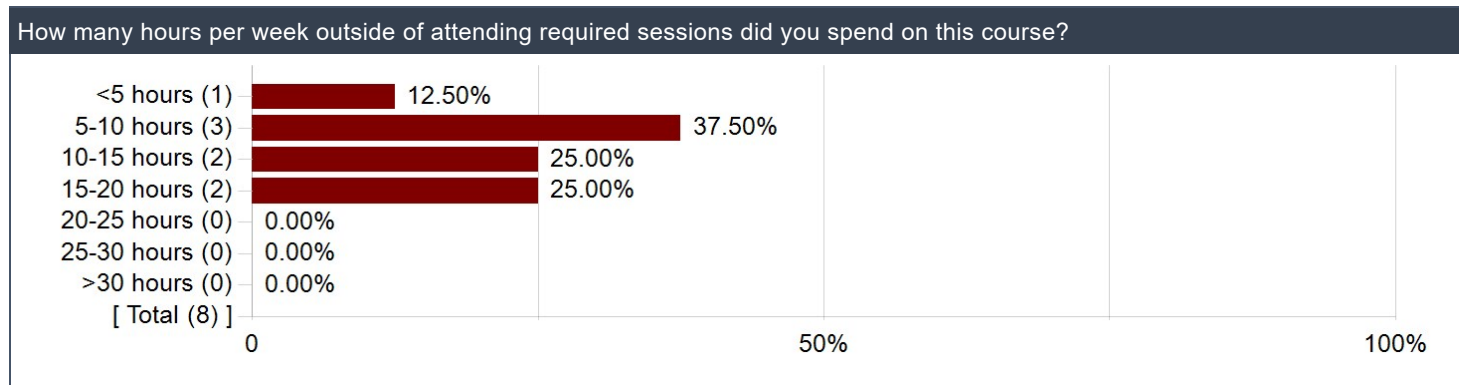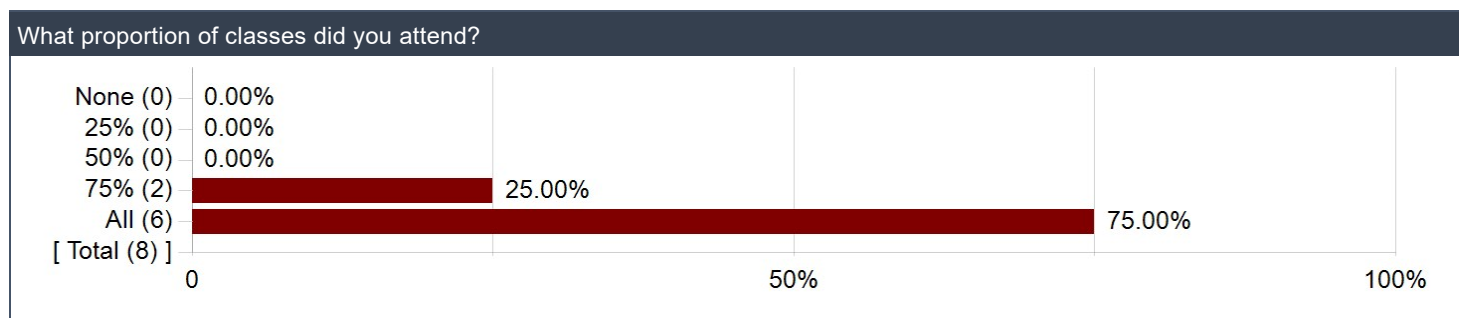
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
It's a bit difficult if you don't have experience reading philosophers like Hobbes, Locke, etc, but if you can read dense texts in short periods you'll be fine.
No experience with philosophy or political theory, but I am a history major. It was a good challenge, and interesting to take an intense reading class with mostly non humanities majors.
Very doable, provided that one is willing to take the time do the requisite readings and work
This was not a class that feels hard, but those paper grades are somewhat low sometimes.