



# SOSC 13110 1 - Social Science Inquiry: Formal Theory I - Instructor(s): Jingyuan Qian

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **14**

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## 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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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
social choice theory, game theory
Arrow's impossibility theorem, Nash equilibrium, and the importance of formal theory in the social sciences.
Theory of individual preferences, social choice theory, and game theory.
How to understand social theory in a rigorous and mathematical way.
Individual choice theory, social choice theory, game theory
Nash Equilibria, How to write using formal mathematical language
social choice theory, intro to game theory
How to think about set theory and proofs, game theory. In general this course made me think more analytically about choice, both individual and social.
We learned the formal theory behind social choice and decision-making for the first half of the course, and game theory and Nash Equilibrium for the second half.
I would say argumentation skills and collaboration. A lot of learning took place while working through problem sets with classmates and using the knowledge learned to defend our answers and concede when realizing someone else is correct.
Individual choice theory, Social choice theory, game theory, Nash equilibrium, choice functions, Arrow's Theorem
Social choice theory, game theory.

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

Comments
the lectures are well organized and the slides are useful. prof qian is very passionate about the subject he's teaching and he's also quite funny.
Visual and interactive elements of the lectures greatly contributed to my learning.
The problem sets gave us valuable opportunities to practice proofs as described in class. The lectures were great, and Juan's slides are very well-organized.
The lectures and the PPTs are very helpful for understanding the concepts.
Lectures were very helpful and the psets were helpful in solidifying concepts. Psets were difficult because they were largely proof-based but the professor was helpful in reaching a logical conclusion.
textbook was helpful but took a lot of time so I gave up reading it after week 2, lectures were very helpful, 3 psets for the quarter were helpful in giving concrete examples
Lectures were dull for the first half of the quarter, only were interesting in the game theory part.
Lectures definitely helped with learning material.
Lectures and posted slides were most helpful in learning the material of the course.
Lectures were helpful in learning topics, even if sometimes it was a little difficult to keep up. Office hours were a great resource to help clear up any confusion from lecture. Problem sets were helpful in applying knowledge, though I wish there were perhaps more frequent, smaller assignments for practice.
Lectures are well-paced and helpful, assignments are interesting and doesn't take up a lot of time. Readings are a joy to a math major
Lectures, problem sets, office hours! Textbook was hard to read, but professor explained the material of the book throughout the course in simplified way.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.23	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	46.15%	38.46%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	38.46%	53.85%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	23.08%	61.54%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	61.54%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%
I felt respected in this class.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	30.77%	53.85%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
It's a difficult course, but very interesting. Make sure to be prepared for lots of mathematical ideas. It will be different from other heavily discussion-based socs courses.
I can see how Professor Qian put a lot of effort into this class. I would recommend it to anyone interested in mathematical proofs/game theory, no previous knowledge required.
Even though social choice theory seems complicated and boring, professor Qian included interesting historical examples in lectures, which made them way more entertaining.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.69%	92.31%

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

Comments
prof qian motivates all the theoretical concepts of discussion with concrete, real-world examples which makes things every easy to visualized. As a single math major, I found it enjoyable to see rigorous application of math in a social science context.
The interaction with students during lecture was good. Also, his extensive knowledge on the topics was clear and obvious.
Juan's lectures were great, though the fact that he was very accessible outside of class was also immensely helpful.
A lot of examples are provided for a new concept given in the lectures.
Lectures
lectures and slides
He took the time to explain difficult concepts clearly.
Going to office hours for questions on the problem sets were pretty helpful.
Real world examples and diagrams drawn on the board
Lectures and Office Hours
One of my favorite classes at UChicago. Love the teacher
Lectures.

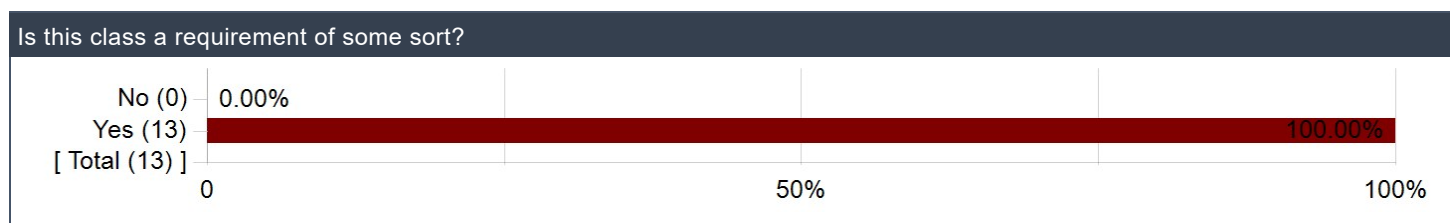
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think that posting the slides before class would help me keep up with the lecture more often as I found myself sometimes falling behind while the slides were sped through.
Honestly, I think this course could do with harder problem sets. He would assign difficulties to the questions on the PSets, and the "hard" ones often were not too hard, just more abstract.
The current textbook is a bit hard to follow. It will be better if we can have a more introductory textbook.
Explain how to do a logical proof
more consistent notation and more basic, concrete examples for social choice theory concepts
More examples, less definitions and proofs, especially in social choice theory.
Add more real-world examples to the social choice theory part.
I think slowing the entire course down, material (especially in the beginning) was hard to grasp and we had no time to reinforce those concepts.
Maybe less content on the slide show or releasing the slideshow right before class because it can be hard to keep up with taking notes on that

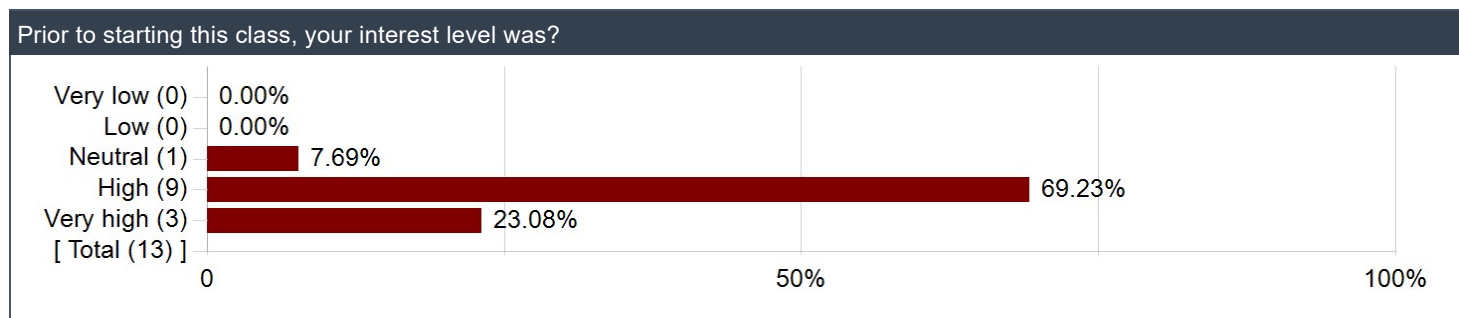
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	30.77%	53.85%	7.69%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	61.54%	7.69%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	30.77%	46.15%	15.38%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	7.69%	69.23%	7.69%
Challenged you to learn.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	69.23%	7.69%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	61.54%	7.69%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	61.54%	7.69%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	76.92%	7.69%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	76.92%	7.69%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	23.08%	61.54%	7.69%

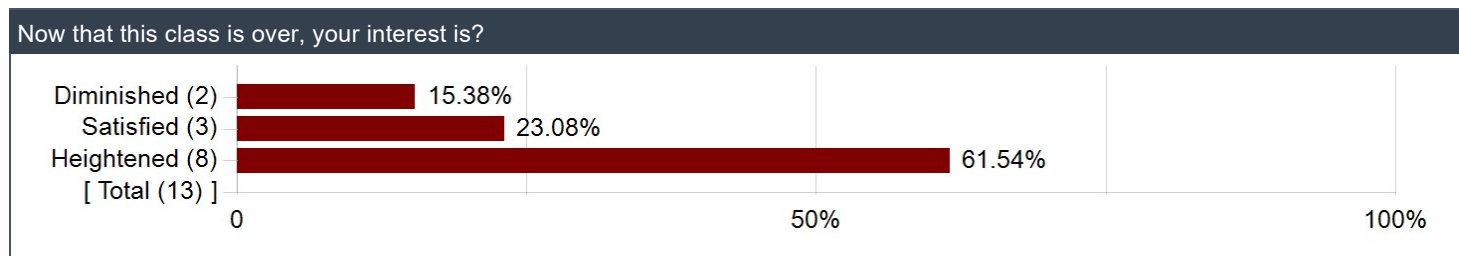
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



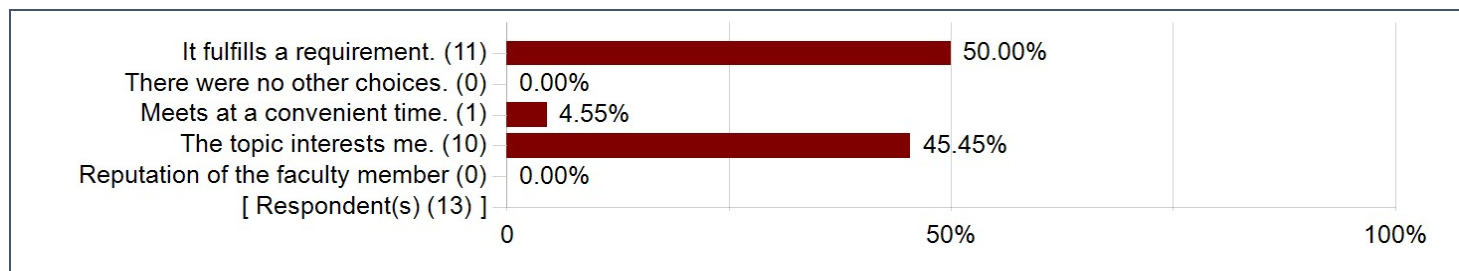
### Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



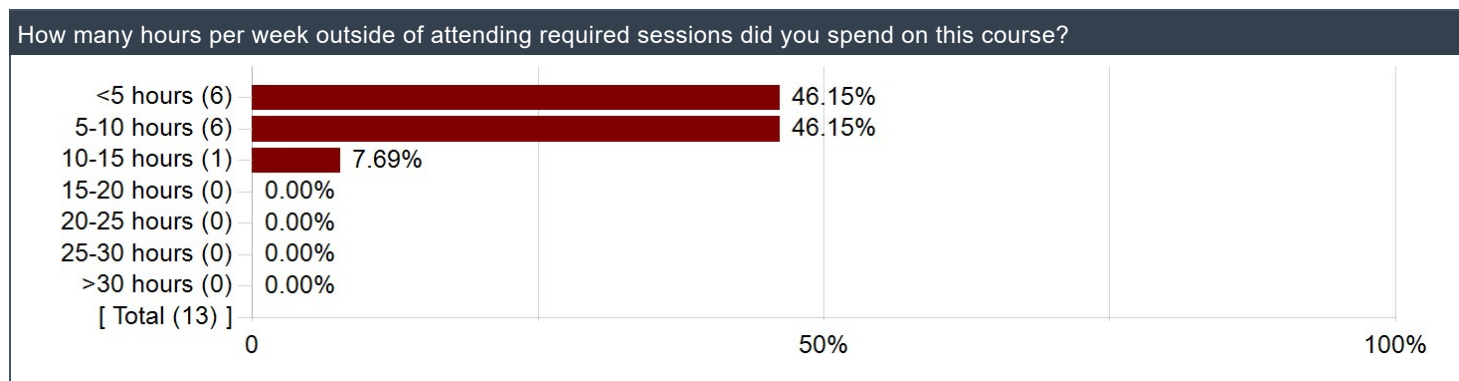
### Now that this class is over, your interest is?



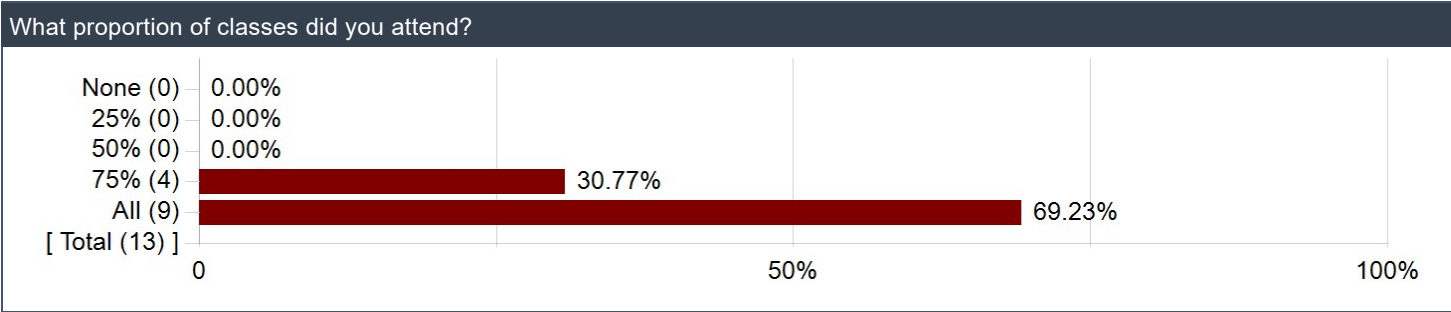
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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
Given my math background, this was a very manageable introduction to formal theory and none of it was particularly dull.
It is hard at the beginning, but doable after getting familiar with the level of rigorous in formal theory.
I had some background in game theory but no background in proofs. The game theory was really interesting but the proofs in the first half of the course were challenging.
The course was difficult but very manageable
Not very difficult after 3 quarters of IBL Honors Calc (relevant math experience is set theory, proof structure, and understanding mathematical language/terminology)
Not terribly difficult, but sometimes dull.
I found it perfect. It required some math, but most of it was intuitive.
I thought this course was very difficult, but I also had no prior experience.
Very difficult
It is definitely not the easiest SOSC, but definitely the most interesting and useful! Math component of social choice theory and proofs might be complicated for someone, but professor tried to simplify them, so it was not that bad.