



# SOSC 11600 16 - Power, Identity, Resistance III - Instructor(s) - Ryan Allen

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **8**

Number of Responses: **7**

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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: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

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

Comments
I learned both skills and content in this course. I have become a better reader, especially at reading large quantities of material and still being able to pick out the arguments and important details. I have become a better writer, especially at improving my voice and efficiency. I also learned about the specific authors and texts we have covered such that I now feel comfortable discussing them.
This course drastically improved my writing and my ability to read difficult texts correctly and deeply.
We learned about ascetic ideals, inequality in society, and a new way of thinking and comprehension.
How to read, think, and write
Social situations of the modern day

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

Comments
Discussions in lectures were the most helpful thing in this class. Professor Allen would direct the conversation in a super informative way, without ever shutting down different peoples ideas. This meant the conversation was quite free-flowing. Writing reflections (essentially a mini 500 word essay) for each text was helpful to really focus on a specific section of a text, made class discussions informative and very self-directed, and made writing the final paper super useful. Office hours with Professor Allen, especially close to writing a paper, was very directive and would often point out nuances from the text that you might not have identified.
In class, we balanced open discussion time with instruction from Professor Allen. Often on our first or last day of the text, Professor Allen would lecture more to make sure we had the proper context and understood the necessary arguments. On days with more open discussion, we would talk as a class, often in response to prompting by Professor Allen. We typically had questions to prepare responses to ahead of time to spark our thinking. Reflections provided a useful space to process and condense the material we were covering. Our papers tended to think about larger course themes, often comparing multiple authors.
This course cultivated a much deeper understanding of the texts then I would have gotten by reading them myself, and helped me gain the ability to read a text more thoroughly. Professor Allen's lectures and class discussion were always incredibly insightful. The prepared lecture segments provided very complete explanations of parts of the text, or its main idea, including its historical context. Professor Allen also almost always had an insightful answer to any student question, and, in turn, prepared questions that made me think of parts of the books that I thought were obvious, in a different light. Class discussion was well-directed and classes resulted in meaningful discussion of much of the content of every assigned reading. Professor Allen also assigned a five hundred word reflection essay on each of the texts we read. These essays encouraged me to read into the meaning of specific parts of an assigned reading more closely, and relate them to the rest of the reading in a way that illuminated complicated connections that I would not have noticed otherwise. In the view of the entire sequence, I believe these reflections thought me how to write more succulently and appreciate the nuance in the readings. So far, this sequence with prof. Allen has been, by far, the most interesting reading/writing based class I've taken. I believe a large part of that is prof. Allen's teaching.
Professor Allen came to class prepared and with an amazing wealth of knowledge which I haven't seen in any other SOSC or HUM class before. He provided interesting insights at times when the class wasn't as talkative, and allowed for the class to discuss portions of the book deeply with no interruption. Great teacher and great class setup.
The readings are definitely the bread and butter of the class. Ryan helps us get the most out of our readings with his reflection assignments and in class comments.
Helped me gain new insight into today's world

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
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.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Allen was also very available outside of course time, and was very willing to talk about the readings, or about my ideas for essays. These meeting were themselves an incredibly useful part of the course.
Professor Allen is probably the greatest teacher I have ever had in SOSC or HUM. Would recommend him for any course.
PIR is great!

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	14.29%	85.71%

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

Comments
I think the discussions in classes were the most useful. Every week we would get discussion questions for one of the classes which made class discussions interesting and flow a lot better – everyone had focused on specific areas of the text and had different opinions. Professor Allen knew how to direct the discussion in a way that made us notice the most important sections of the text. Professor Allen also would structure the lecture meaning the conversations we had were very directed, and we would also get a sense of what he saw as most important themes. k
Professor Allen provided ample feedback and was always willing to meet. He was also incredibly accommodating, which is always helpful.
He provided a wealth of information unrelated to the text when asked, allowing for a more complete understanding of the material. He provided witty and humorous comments to break up the monotony of discussions, and he came to class prepared and led discussions extremely efficiently and effectively. He provided extremely helpful feedback and meeting with him in office hours allowed him to impart lots of knowledge and ideas for papers or thinking outside of the class.
Of course allen is great in class, but I honestly am so thankful for how much effort he puts into giving feedback for essays and reflections. Every time he hands back an assignment, it is always filled to the edges with notes – almost every line is responded to in some way – and he really takes the effort to converse with what you are saying. I think this shows how much he cares for his students and their success, and it also makes me feel that my writing was actually being read!
Open forum days mixed with lecture days definitely helped to understand books we were reading.

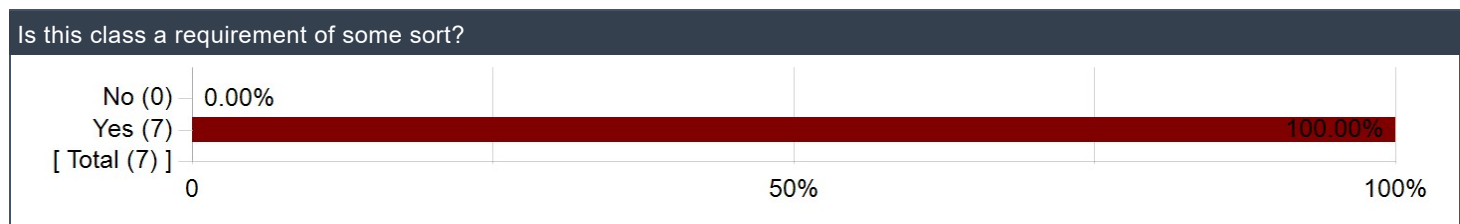
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think he did an amazing job all around.
When class discussion stalls, asking the right kinds of open-ended questions will spur more student engagement

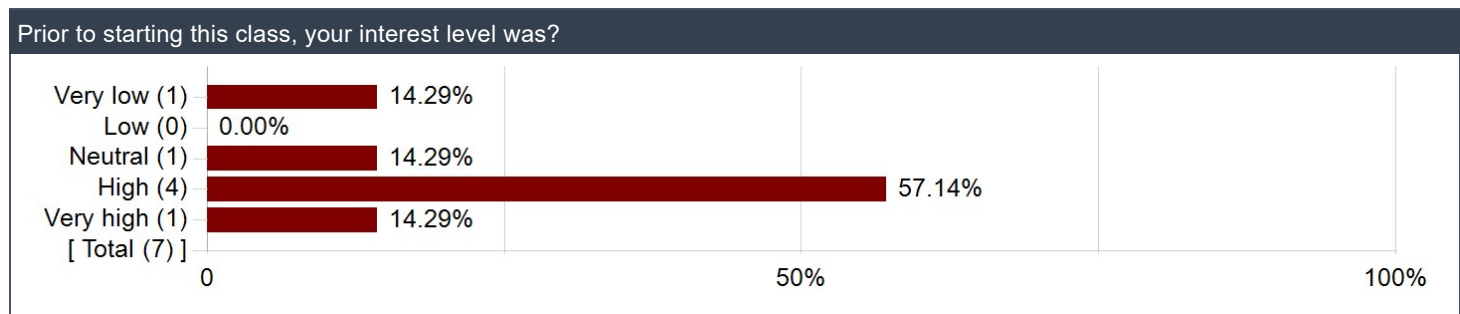
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	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.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%

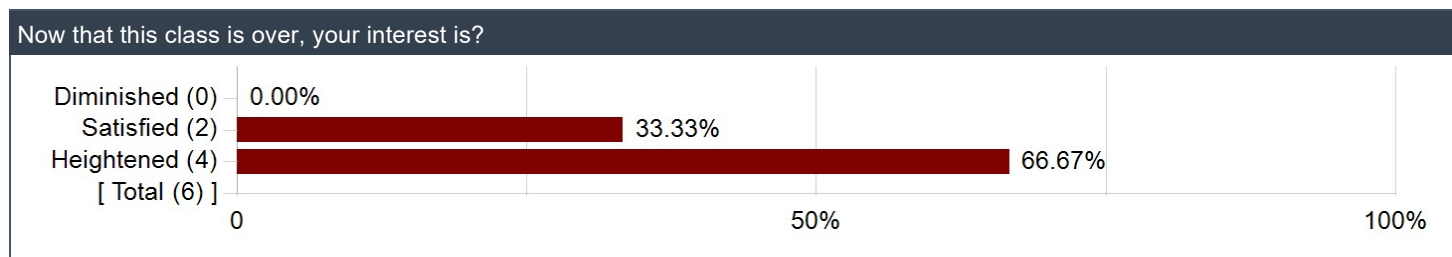
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



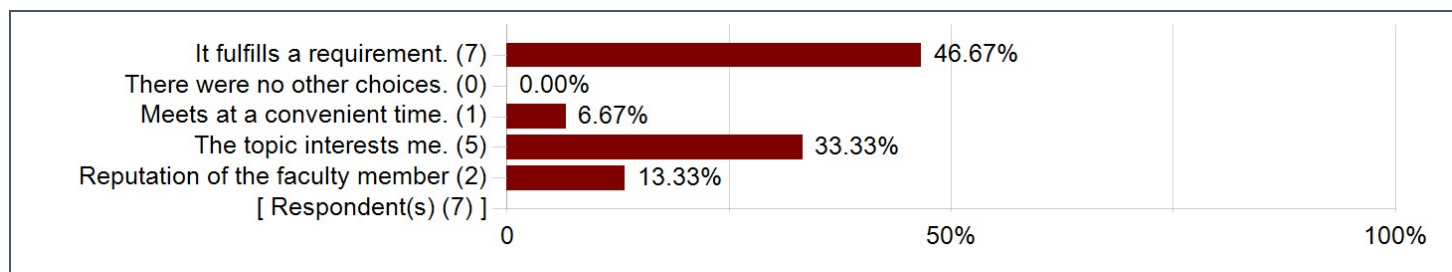
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



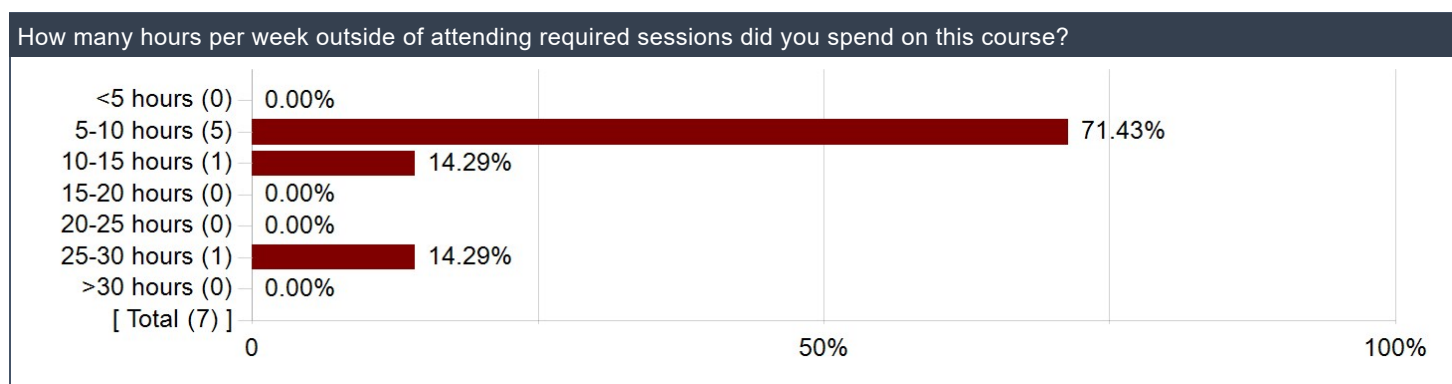
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



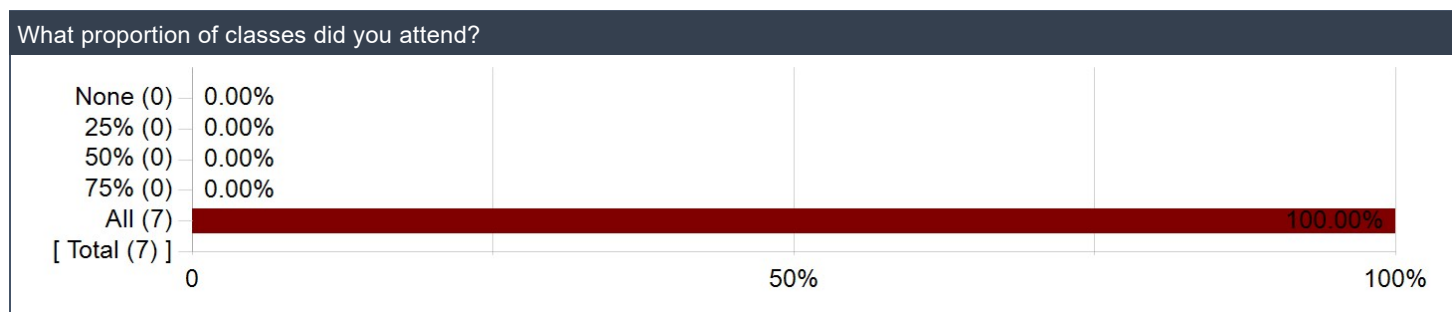
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Professor Allen is an incredible teacher. I had him for all three quarters of this sequence and he was incredibly supportive throughout the process, made the discussions informative and engaging, and taught me things that weren't just directly related to the readings. PIR is a hard SOSC, the readings are quite dense, but he makes the class so manageable and was an incredible professor. Easily my favorite class and professor I have had thus far.
The course is time intensive because there are lots of long readings. There are also frequent writing assignments and long papers. But if you commit to getting your work done and are open to instruction, the class is more than doable.
The readings were longer than I was used to, but otherwise the difficulty was reasonable.
Easy
PIR is a lot of work but allen makes sure you will do well as long as you put in the effort! His grading is fair if not on the chiller side so i felt very supported and not very worried about my grade throughout the whole course
Lot of reading that you have to get used to but it definitely helps not only with understanding the book but also developing good reading/writing skills
A little less readings than the second quarter, but much more philosophical.