SOSC 13100 1 - Social Science Inquiry I - Instructor(s): Eric Oliver

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

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **12**

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
Aspects of data collection and interpretation
Methods for both quantitative and qualitative analysis of social groups.
Analyzing the world as a social scientist and the tools to do so. How power influences humans and their actions.
The most important things I learned were the basics of quantitative research, such as making variables and developing experiments. I now have baseline knowledge concerning this process and I am more prepared to eventually conduct my own research.
How to analyze data, write effectively, and present a strong argument
ethonography, variable construction, internal and external validity, some marx, power theories
Learning the fundamentals of Social Science research
I learned how to think critically, write concisely, and tell stories about the social world using quantitative and qualitative data. I also learned how to construct variables and design experiments, as well as how to be aware of biases, heuristics, and possible errors in data collection and interpretation.

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

Comments
Readings and class discussions and essays were all heavily interlinked.
Five essays, with the first being ungraded. Very helpful feedback and willingness to provide extensions when necessary. Varied amounts of reading per week, anywhere from 10–100.
I found the lectures and discussions to be interesting and inclusive, but I felt that the assigned reading tended to be too much and not always essential to understanding the concepts, so it ended up feeling as a waste of time.
Discussions contributed to my learning by allowing me to participate in the process of outlining quantitative research, so I could think through my own background and positions on topics. Assignments contributed to my learning by applying our discussions into actual projects.
The lectures were very open and discussion based which was very engaging
lectures were okay – i felt like we covered a lot of concepts that were cool but the material used to cover them was covered shallowly, so i also felt like i didn't learn that much. But the 5 papers done in this class were good at reinforcing class concepts. I did not like that we had so many papers, but begrudgingly, i think they achieved their purpose of making my writing skills better. At the very least, i feel more comfortable writing papers and i think im better at pushing out some ideas into a short paper quicker.
In class meetings we discussed the assigned readings and more general ideas related to quantitative analysis, experimental design, and theories of power, social behavior, and culture, interrogating relevant examples of each.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	9.09%	45.45%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.27	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	9.09%	63.64%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	36.36%	45.45%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
I felt respected in this class.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Oliver was great
I do feel like, esp the early papers, i was hard to do assignment early because he would release the paper prompt the week before and up til the day before it was due, we would still go over some relevant material. Having done this course, I am more chill about the work and things Ive learned, but during it, I did not like writing the papers and did not feel like i was learning much. I twas hard to tell during the course what were the core ideas of this course. I think it was explained in the first class probably but was not getting that feeling of understanding much in the middle weeks.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	18.18%	81.82%
Anyone interested in the topic	18.18%	81.82%

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

Comments
The readings were well chosen and were constantly being brought up. Things were constantly being referenced and built upon
Professor Olivier did a great job of keeping class interesting with a focus on group discussions and back–and–forth debates intended to stimulate our growth.
He gave great examples to explain topics, generally was very good at simplifying complex topics. Gave clear expectations for assignments.
Professor Oliver guided us through our discussion with aspects of lectures, contributing to my learning by allowing us to participate but still always teaching us.
Open dialogue format
I appreciated most when the professor brought in examples of his own work in quantitative data analysis, as well as other relevant knowledge to the class discussions.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Reduce the reading to the most essential parts, so as to not overwhelm with the amount of reading and thus focus more on the important parts.
This would not have necessarily helped me learn more, but there were a couple issues in terms of organization and expectations. One time, a reading was added to the syllabus after I had already done the readings for that session, causing me to not know about that reading. Also, it was not made clear where the readings could be found, and I could not find one of them online. I wrote Professor Oliver two days before the reading was due and never received a response. Another time, he mentioned the parameters for a paper in class but the guidelines on Canvas were different. He stated in class a week later that the online instructions were incorrect, but he never changed them. Last, we were assigned to read a book over Thanksgiving break, but the discussion questions he expected us to answer on paper were provided at 4:00 the night before the first class after break, meaning I had to push back other homework I had planned on doing that night and go back through the book.
Having clearer standards for what makes a successful paper

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	45.45%	45.45%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	9.09%	72.73%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	72.73%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	18.18%	63.64%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.18	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	18.18%	54.55%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	18.18%	18.18%	18.18%	36.36%	9.09%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	72.73%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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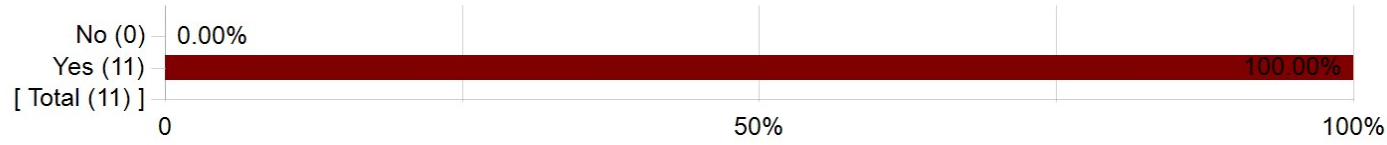

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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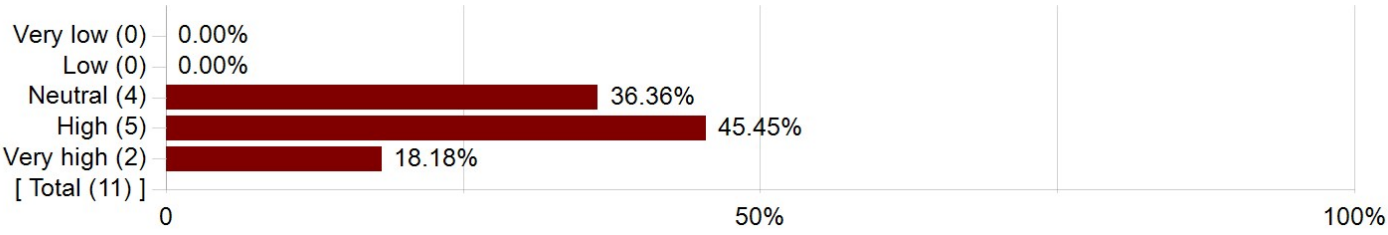

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

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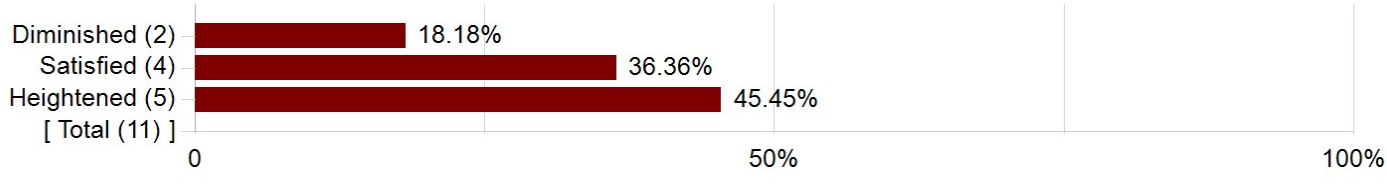
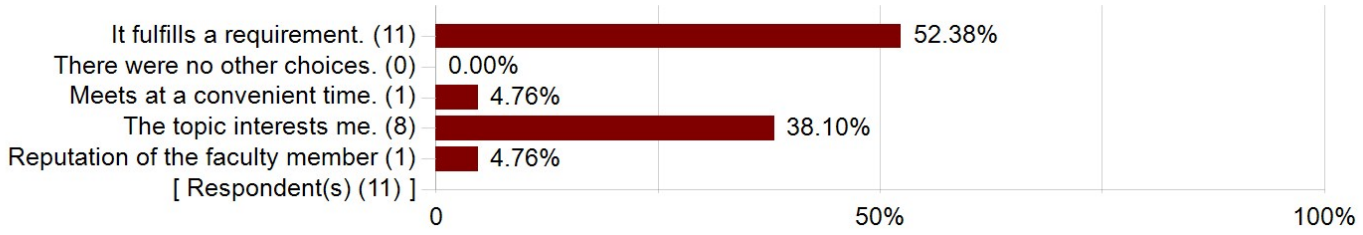


Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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

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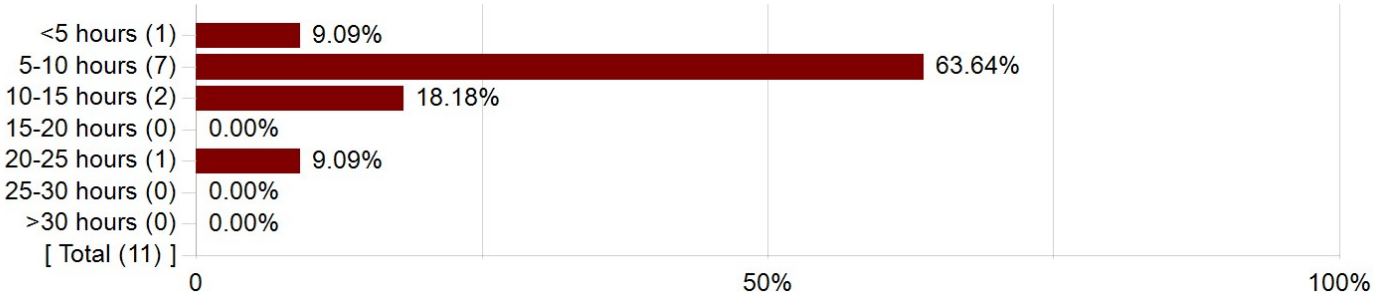

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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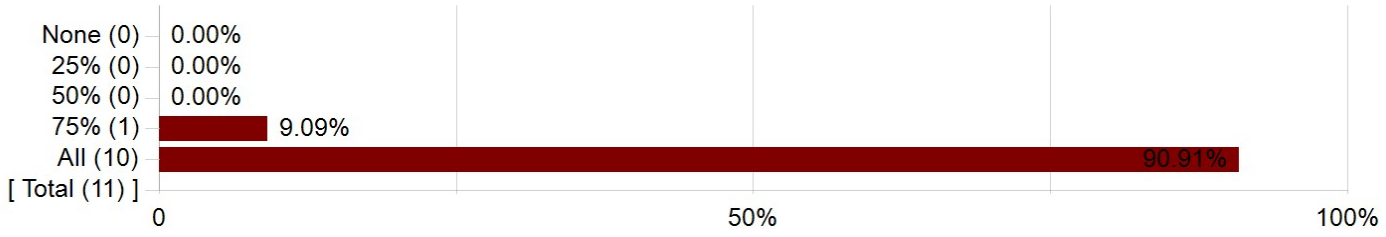

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Relatively chill class, enjoyable content and decently challenging essays.
I feel that anyone can take the course and be successful by attending class and doing the essential readings.
This course was relatively difficult, challenging me to think quantitatively in a way I had not before.