



SOSC 18600 1 - Democracy: Equality, Liberty, and the Dilemmas of Self-Government III - Instructor(s) - Elisabeth Clemens

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

Number Enrolled: **14**

Number of Responses: **6**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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 about the complex interactions between various factors in a democracy, viz. international markets and how political parties get organized.
Tensions on democracy in current eras. Though this course didn't provide us with definite solutions towards a more democratic future, a "Robert Owen" hat as well as ideas on Double Movement and Goldilocks help explain how Western democratic ideals are.
Gained a greater appreciation for the various different factors that can either help to make or break a democracy whether in the developing or developed world. There were various interesting perspectives from both sociologists and political scientists that were grappled with..
I learned about democracy through a variety of texts. I learned how to analyze these lenses of thinking and apply them to real-world situations.

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

Comments
As with most humanities classes, class discussions and especially writing is where you learn. That is, through the various discussion board posts and papers, I was forced to grapple with the complicated arguments of the writers we read.
Discussions are well structured and have a purpose. Prof. Clemen's outlines on blackboard are good help for building a basic structure for better understandings.
The discussion in class were always very engaging and the professor was always good at ensuring that the discussion followed a certain course and was able to cover various different key aspects of the reading. The professor was very good at explaining any needed background and clarifying any remaining confusion about a reading.
I found the readings and discussions very good. I very much liked how the class was structured in that regard.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	80.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
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.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Clemens is extremely knowledgeable about history and sociology, which makes for amazing conversation. I would say that perhaps some further freedom during class discussion would be nice, though.
Prof. Clemens' policy on discussion posts is by far the best one in my core classes. She ACTUALLY reads our discussion posts and give DETAILED comments on them, which had never happened in other core classes I took. I get an impression of my ideas are respected, though often challenged, by her and by the class. For non-native speakers the readings are intensive and in many times too challenging. Though I would admit I still didn't understand some of them to full extent, Prof. Clemens provided helpful blackboard outlines in bullet points which dramatically enhanced my understandings on the readings.
The Democracy sequence—and all three of our professors—fostered the creation of a great, tight-knit community in my class where everyone wanted to participate. This made our meetings much more intellectually stimulating and made me look forward to coming to class.

I would recommend this course to:

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

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

Comments
Professor Clemens' expertise made discussion always valuable and informative. Also, she took the time to reply to *every* discussion board post in a substantive manner.
Definitely outlines on blackboards and also the discussion are actually structured based on our discussion posts. The classmates are awesome and bring up thoughtful and rigorous ideas, which is then elaborated by her. Sometimes she does have a definite answer or standings that she would like to persuade us, but I generally feel she is open to ideas and will give constructive comments.
The professor's ability to guide the discussion so that is able to cover the various different important aspects of a reading and be able to articulate and summarize rather complex readings in a way that made the readings and its ideas completely understandable to the class.
Professor Clemens had some great contributions to the content. She struck a great balance between talking too much and not talking enough. I very much enjoyed having her as my professor.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Though no one wants additional papers, I think some further practice with writing about big ideas in such a concise way would be helpful. Previous papers in the sequence usually dealt with less topics in similar or even longer page limits.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%
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.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

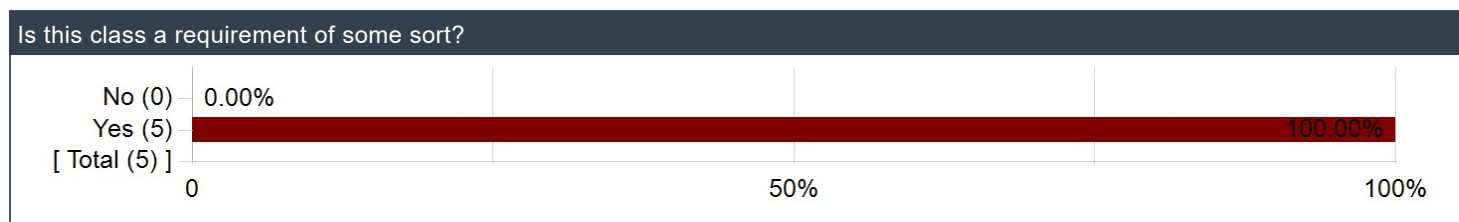
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%
Review Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%
Writing Seminars	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%

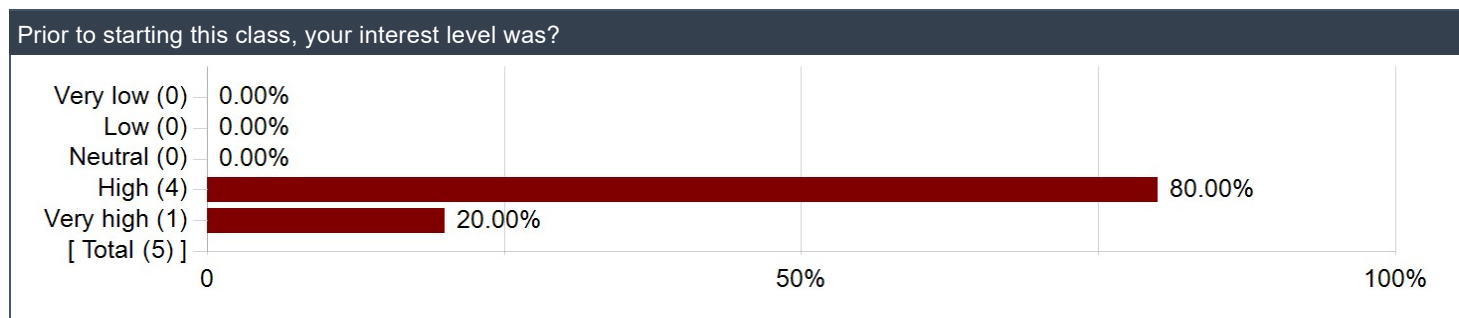
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
The writing seminars with Elena were quite helpful

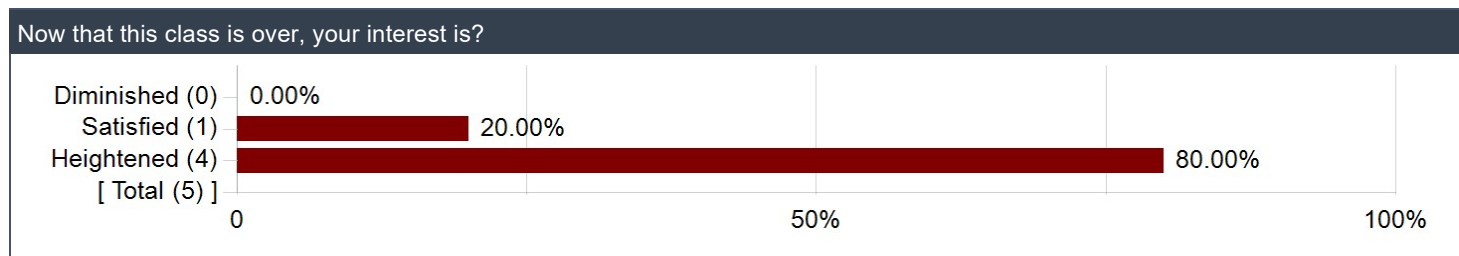
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



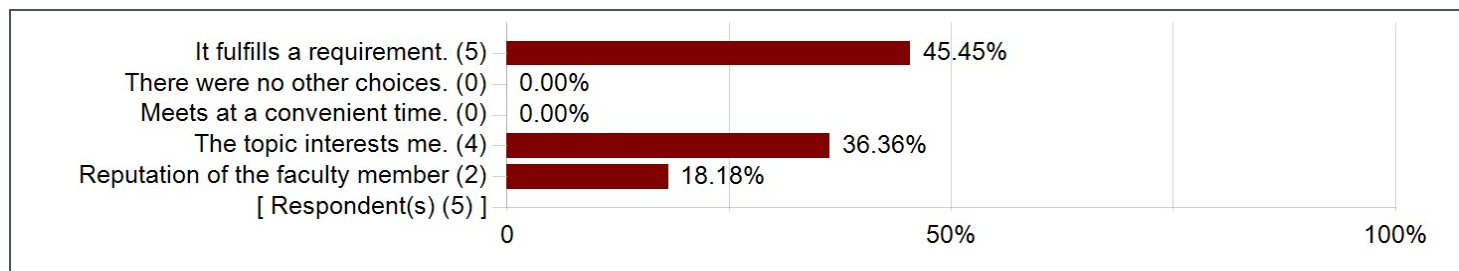
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



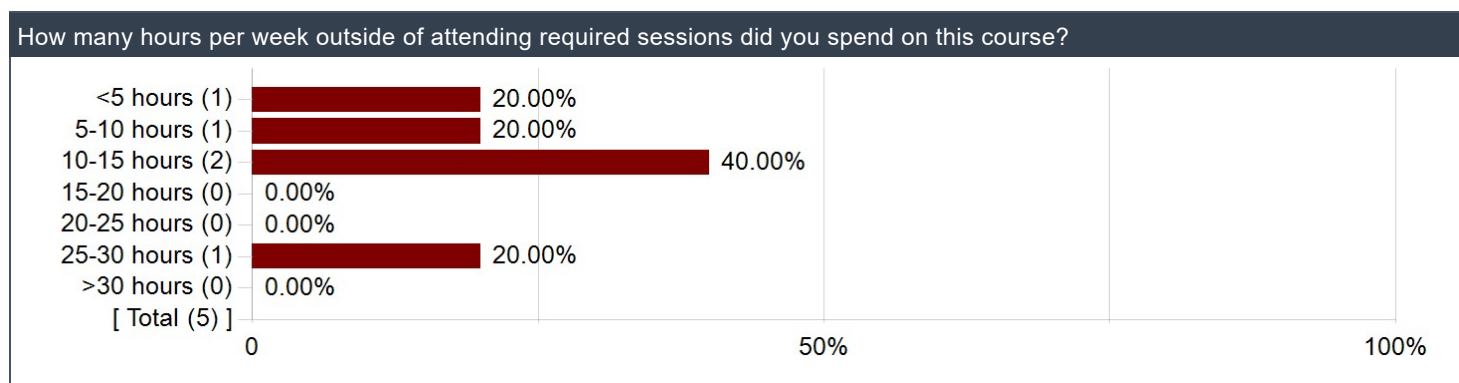
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



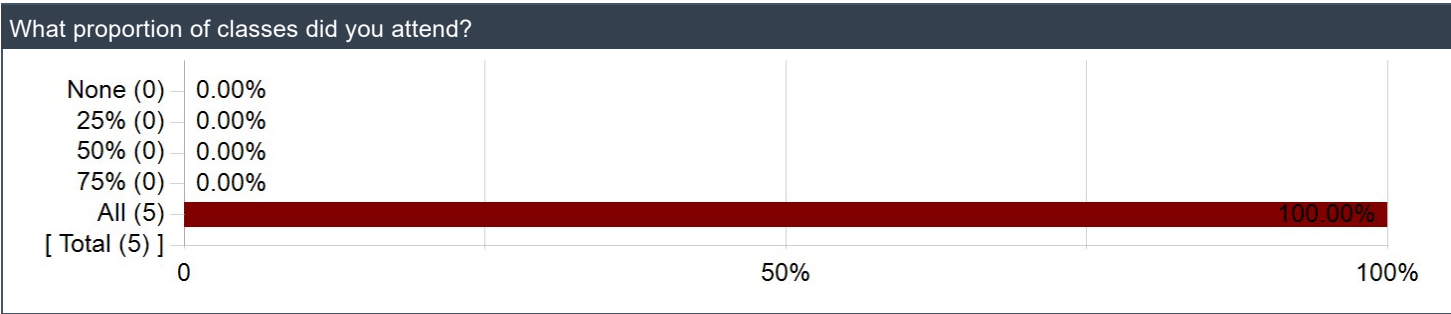
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
This is hard to answer without actually getting the final grade, but this felt on par with previous courses in the Democracy sequence. I would say that the paper topics felt more challenging, though, but that may have been because of space constraints.
VERY INTENSIVE for a non–native speaker and non–political science major like me. However, Prof. Clemens' discussions did help me a lot in understanding the materials.
Not very difficult