



SOSC 15100 2 - Classics of Social and Political Thought I - Instructor(s): Joshua Trubowitz

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

Number Enrolled: **17**

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
I learned to evaluate arguments concerning political communities, justice, citizenship, and happiness from various philosophical texts.
I learned how to reconstruct difficult arguments from historic texts. I now am able to closely dissect arguments from a myriad of writings with more ease. I also learned to be a more concise writer.
Philosophy. Fun to learn about the foundations of politics for my poli sci major/degree.
I learned about how to read different philosophical texts and get through difficult passages. I also learned how to pull their arguments from the text and isolate them.
Argument reconstruction.
How to approach philosophical and political texts.
I learned how to approach philosophy in a critical and productive manner.
We focused a lot on ancient works discussing politics, and developed skills in interacting with and discussing these texts effectively.
Although I'm not exactly sure how to quantify what I've learned in this class, I will certainly, at a minimum, walk away with a newfound appreciation for the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, and Machiavelli. All of which I found to be insightful and thought provoking in their own way.
I learned about the formation of a political community, about the foundation of laws and their relevance and applications, about the best ways in which rules should rule and many other concepts.

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

Comments
Discussions, essay prompts, and argument reconstructions all helped structure and guide our interactions with the text.
Lectures were all about dissecting arguments and getting to the core of what the author says.
Lecture + writing workshops; writing workshops were super helpful for learning standards of success.
It used free-form discussion which allowed us to really discuss the text, and we were always able to critique the authors and really interpret it in our own way. We rarely talked about what the philosopher meant as an absolute, and we only did so if it was simply a confusing passage and we were trying to figure out what he was saying in general.
The class discussion is really helpful to understand the readings.
His discussions were very good.
Discussions were key in understanding the text. Also, the discussions felt very applicable to life outside the classroom and felt as though I had a better understanding of my values.
The lectures were very engaging and interesting, and the discussion posts helped to focus my reading without requiring too much tedious work. I think the professor did a great job of incorporating a small assignment into the discussion during class very well. The essay topics were somewhat unclear at times, but otherwise were interesting and relevant to in class discussion. The professor also gave very good feedback on essays and made it very clear what he was looking for, which was great.
The readings weren't always easy to fully digest after the first read, as you would expect, but I always walked away from our in-class discussions feeling that I had a better grasp on the material. The amount of reading, while not light, never felt excessive or overwhelming. And, although mandatory reading responses on Canvas are something I that generally despise, I appreciated that they were shortened as the quarter went on and were clearly read and often thoughtfully addressed by Prof. Trubowitz during class. The two essays that were assigned felt very reasonable as far as both the prompts given and word count were concerned, we were also given plenty of time to complete them, and I felt that mine at least were graded fairly.
The discussions in the class were fabulous as my instructor really knew how to initiate meaningful conversation based on the concepts of the books we read.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	0.00%	16.67%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	8.33%	75.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Trubowitz was available outside of class time through his office hours and responded to emails quickly, which was extremely helpful.
Really interesting class if you are interested in philosophy and the way human beings operate
Very unexpectedly interesting course, I enjoyed it very much.
It was an amzaing course.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	8.33%	91.67%
Anyone interested in the topic	8.33%	91.67%

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

Comments
Professor Trubowitz spent a lot of time reading our discussion posts and argument reconstructions to ensure that we had a solid understanding of the texts. He made sure to clarify any areas that were difficult to grasp, and came to discussions ready to bring structure to the thoughts we shared. The class environment was very comfortable, even at points when classmates disagreed.
Great class discussion facilitator
Firstly, he was very organized, to the point and clear on what he expected from us. I enjoy the clarity of the class objective. Discussions were also very low pressure which I feel like encouraged everyone to share freely.
Everything tbh. Prof. Trubowitz is a very well spoken professor and works through philosophical texts in depth during class. Facilitates discussion well.
He asked guiding questions occasionally, but overall he let the class lead the discussion. It let us really get into the issues we were interested in.
His discussions.
He was a greater moderator for student discussion and never dismissed our ideas as wrong or unintelligible. He made the class a bright spot in my day.
Honestly I loved every part of the class. Everything we did was super helpful, including argument reconstructions, office hours, etc. The discussions in class were always great too.
I thought that Prof. Trubowitz did an excellent job of guiding our in-class discussions. He seemed to know all of the material very well and was always able to explain it in a way that brought greater insights than reading the text alone would have. I also appreciated his ability to remember everyone's name after the first day and ensure that everyone was included in discussions but without seeming to put undue pressure on anyone in particular. Any time we started to get off topic during discussions, he also did a great job of keeping the class focused and moving forward without feeling like the conversation was being stifled. I also found him to be very reasonable and appreciated his understanding and accommodation for some extenuating circumstances that I experienced during the quarter.
I really loved the fact that he made sure everyone in the class talked at least once per meeting and that he was highly successful in explaining concepts that were confusing for all.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
He gave out a sheet occasionally which gave all of the sub-sections of the chapters and their reference numbers. It really helped when the chapter was confusing, so more of those would have been nice.
Explain the concepts more clearly.
He could provide a little more instruction on SOSC writing skills and exactly what he is looking for.
I honestly don't have any complaints and wish that he would have been able to teach our section again next quarter.
I have no comments to make, he was excellent.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	75.00%	16.67%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	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
Elena Shafer
Elena Schafer, she was a lovely writing tutor. Always helped me with papers and gave great general advice to write successful arguments.
Writing workshop tutor Elena Schafer. She slayed, helped me an incredible amount on my final paper and is so nice and non-judgmental .
Elena Schafer
Elena Schafer; The two required writing seminars she led were helpful, and she gave good feedback during office hours as well.
Although Elena Schafer seemed a bit disorganized at the beginning of the quarter, she was enthusiastic, facilitated useful discussions during the writing seminars and provided insightful, actionable feedback on my writing.

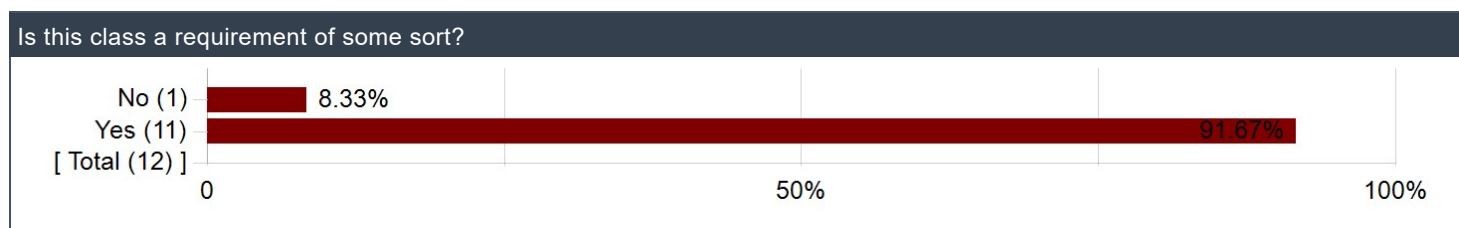
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	14.29%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	28.57%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.67	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	28.57%	14.29%	14.29%
Challenged you to learn.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	42.86%	28.57%	0.00%

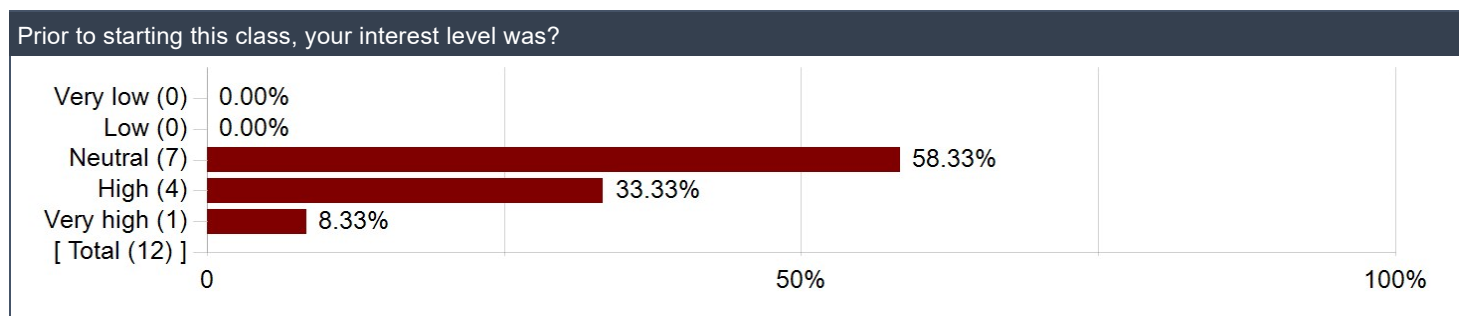
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%
Writing Seminars	3.75	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	0.00%

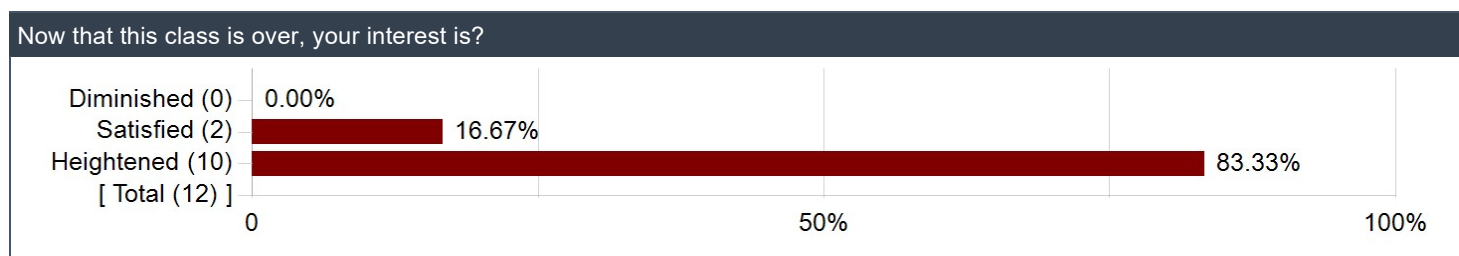
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



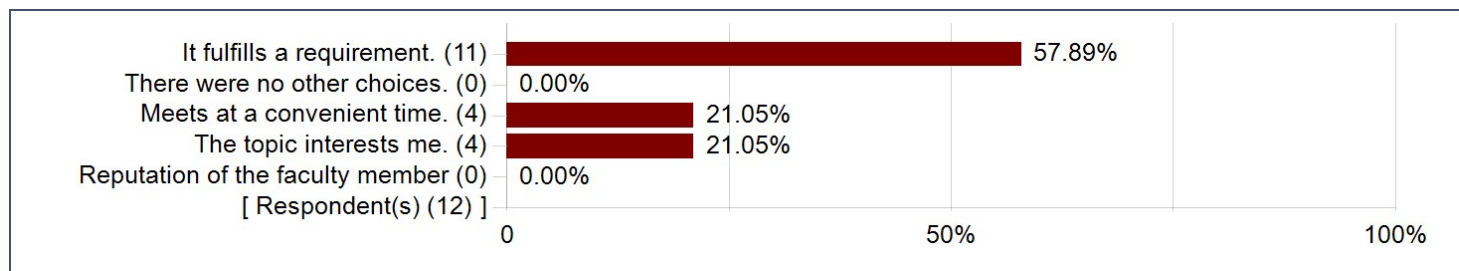
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



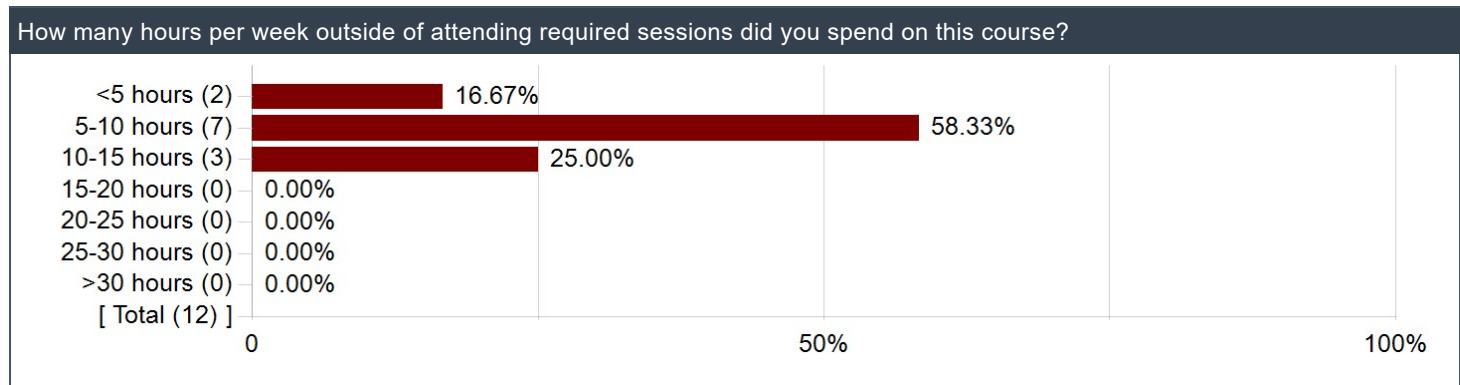
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



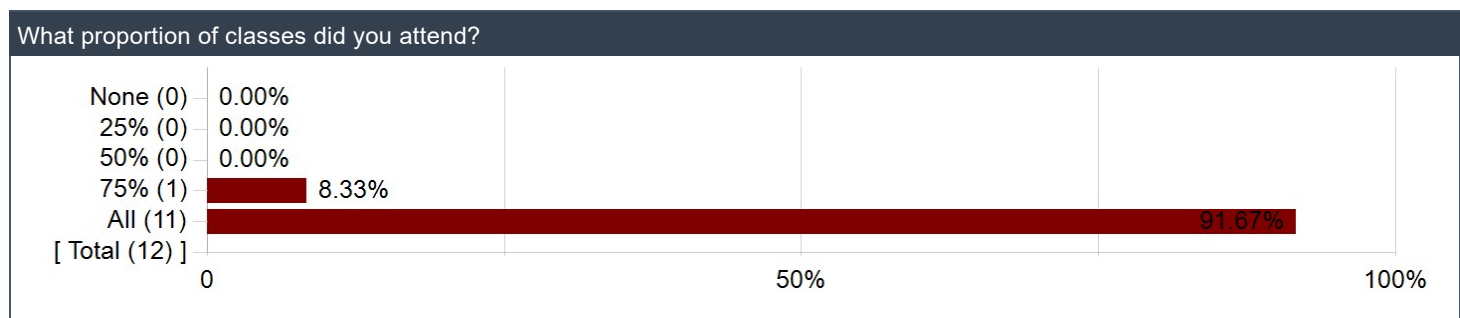
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Although I had no prior experience reading philosophical texts, Professor Trubowitz's class made engaging with material and writing papers accessible for any experience level!
No background in politics or philosophy. This class was difficult but really interesting. You don't need a background to engage in class discussions but must be willing to pay attention and contribute – almost all of my learning came from class discussions
I think this class is challenging, especially out of high school, but it is not impossible. You must work a fair amount, but not a crazy amount to succeed.
I had a very limited background going into the class, and it has been pretty challenging, especially the essays and the writing style.
It is a kind of hard to me as a non-native English speaker.
challenging but rewarding
The course required a good bit of reading and work, but it was manageable
Perhaps a bit more difficult than Phil Per but overall I thought it was very reasonable.
It was quite difficult at times because of the difficult concepts found in the books we read.