



SOSC 15300 11 - Classics of Social and Political Thought III - Instructor(s) - Julia Brown

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **16**

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
This was an excellent course. I gained writing skills applicable for argumentative writing in general, and I grew much more comfortable analyzing dense texts and parsing them for meaning.
Analyzing texts and deconstructing arguments.
Learning how to read and discuss difficult materials in class.
Continuing off of the previous quarter, we learned more about social and political issues, specifically alineation and oppressive tensions and issues. I learned how to analyze text specifically and also in a broader sense
I learned how to analyze dense and heavy texts, break them down, and reconstruct arguments from what I read.
More modern schools of thought regarding societal structures and understanding of hierarchies
How to think critically about texts, and what specific thinker argued
The concepts of the texts were deeply illuminating. It served the purpose I would hope a "great books" course would accomplish.
How to analyze texts and present my ideas.
I learned how to read very convoluted texts where not all of the information is particularly discernible.
In this course, I learned about several different perspectives on how society is currently built/organized and how it should be organized in an ideal scenario, and looking specifically at many different kinds of societal struggles with their own complexities: race, gender, economic class, and more.
The way you approach and deliver information can have a large effect on the audience's understanding. Such as how hobbs chose to start from the beginning unlike some of the rest.

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

Comments
Class discussions were incredibly helpful. Julia is very patient and asks really interesting questions to get the conversation flowing. When there is lull in the conversation, or the class is particularly sleepy, Julia adapts her lesson to keep students engaged.
Commonplace Entries each week helped focus in on specific passages of the reading.
discussions were helpful for my understanding of difficult texts.
This is a seminar class with assigned readings before each class meeting. This type of seminar-based class is helpful when trying to delve deeper into texts and how to better understand issues that are present.
The class discussions were incredibly helpful in understanding the material and breaking down the text.
The way that seminar was facilitated was effective in providing meaningful discussion, rather than being led into tangential/unrelated topics.
Discussions and assignments were helpful for thinking about and understanding course content
I did not enjoy the small group discussions... but they were definitely helpful. The commonplace entries did little but ensure I actually did the readings for the day
Forced me to bounce ideas off of classmates and challenge my own thoughts internally before presenting them forth.
Class discussions helped parse very complicated parts of the text.
Class time helped a lot with gaining clarity on the main points in the reading – before discussion, I knew pieces of what an author was trying to say but discussing with classmates and especially professor commentary/critique of our discussion helped me put these pieces together. We also often talked about the themes/questions that were asked to write essays on, so the notes I had from discussion were very helpful for building a good essay.
Lectures helped explain content

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	26.67%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	13.33%	73.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	78.57%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%
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.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	13.33%	73.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
fun
The course is definitely more focused on understanding the authors we read, rather than thinking critically about the implications of the arguments they are making (most of the discussion focuses on what the authors mean, rather than whether they are right or not)

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	6.67%	93.33%

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

Comments
This is the best Core class I've taken yet, and that was because it was with Julia. She facilitated really lively and intriguing class discussions, and I never felt like class was a waste of time – it was always enriching to be there.
Julia was a wonderful professor. No complaints about how she managed class discussions because she was inclusive and respectful, which is not something I have always experienced with professors, especially in SOSC.
Professor Brown explained passages of the text well and had facilitated small group discussions on specific questions to help us think about the text.
The way the instructor used small groups and text excerpts to guide the class discussion.
Julia is very specific in the way she guides the class. She has specific topics regarding that day's reading and guides the conversation and discussion in a very useful and helpful way.
Any time Professor Brown used the whiteboard or had a handout, that was really useful.
While difficult to find time for at certain points, the commonplace entries ensured that we were keeping track of our understanding of a given text for the amount of time we spent with it. This, in addition to how we had smaller group discussion allowed for a greater depth of understanding for what are often very obtuse concepts
Good balance between instruction and discussion
Whiteboard walkthroughs were very helpful.
Her ability to facilitate discussion and keep us on track.
Questions and topics to discuss going into the lecture

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing.
In general, I felt lost when it came to essays. While having a writing instructor helped, it didn't feel like communication between the instructor and the professor was as good as it could have been. Thus, what worked for me with the writing instructor did not always translate well to graded essays, even when I felt I understood the topic.
more focused readings
N/a
Professor Brown did a great job
Not sure
Though I understood every answer was accepted equally and given equal attention I still felt there was some type of "right" answer, or answer closer to being right

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	57.14%	14.29%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	15.38%	76.92%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	28.57%	64.29%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	78.57%	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
forgot
Sarah Jeffries
Sarah Jeffries

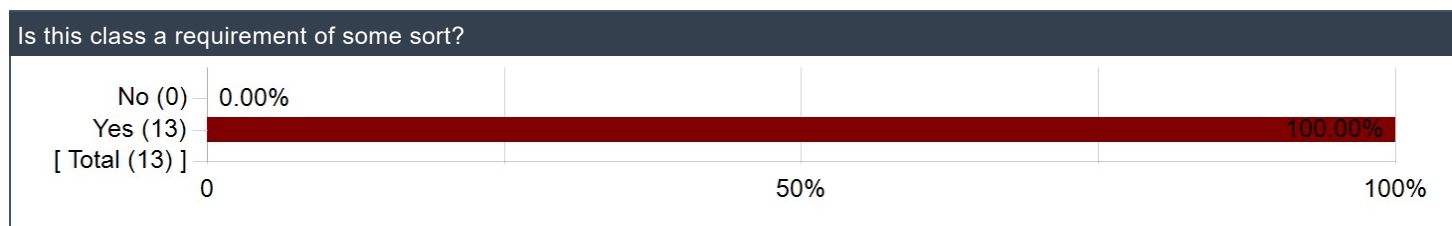
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%

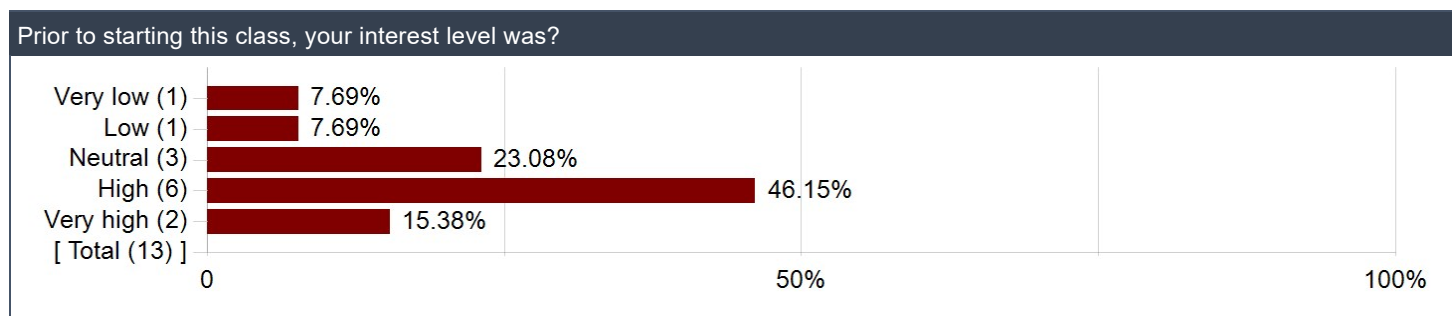
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	3.00	3.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Field Trips	3.00	3.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Library Sessions	3.00	3.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Review Sessions	3.00	3.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%
Writing Seminars	4.00	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	37.50%	37.50%	0.00%

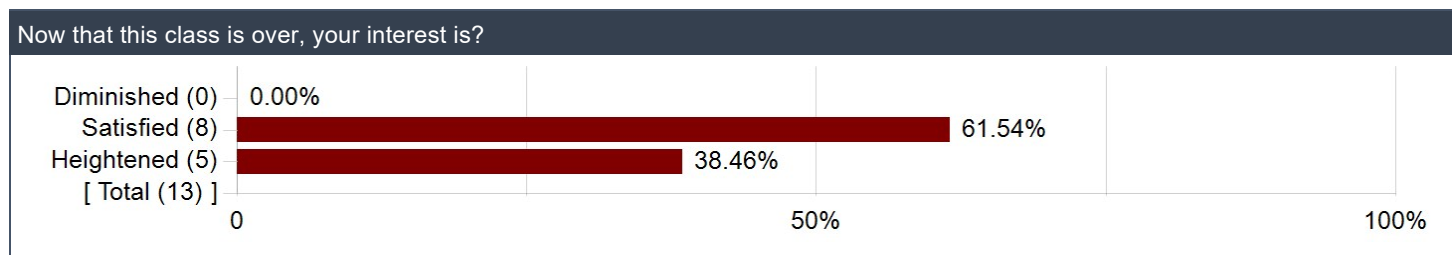
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



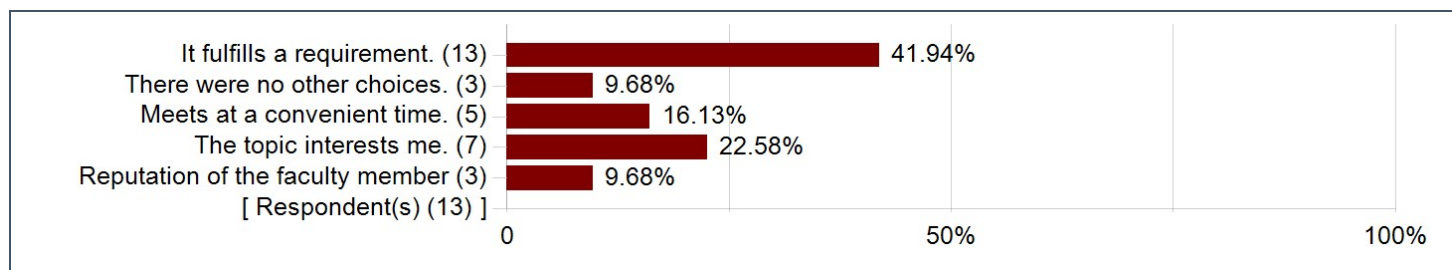
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



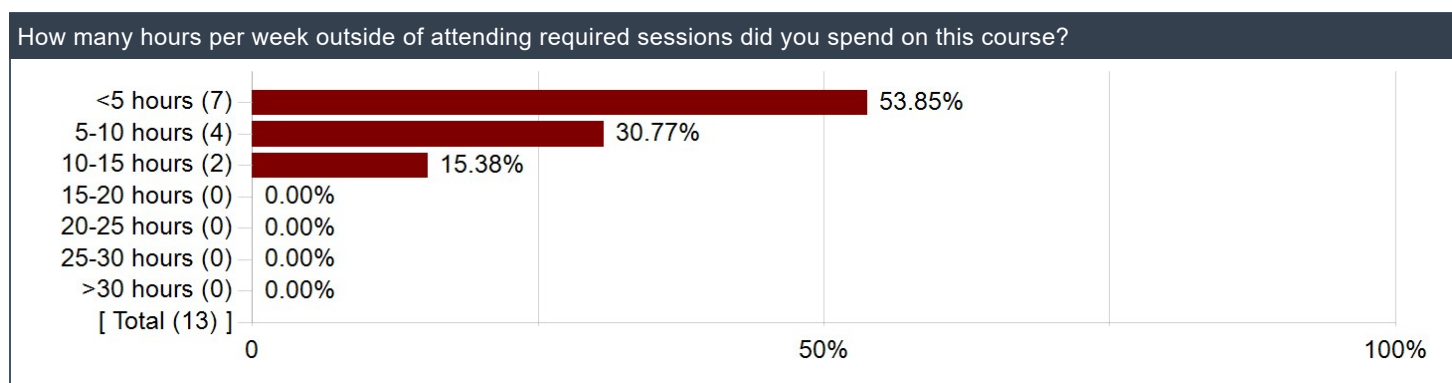
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



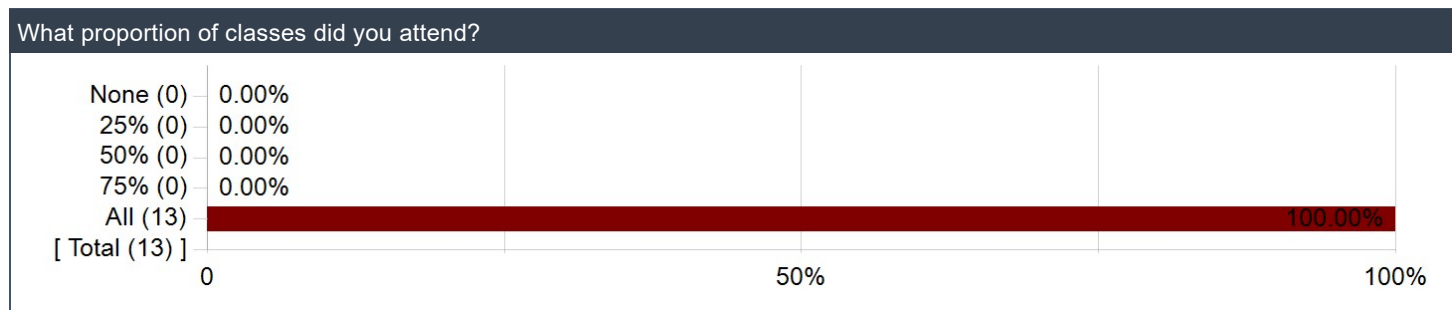
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
It was a similar level to the previous courses in the sequence.
fair
The course is difficult simply if you don't have background on reading denser texts and analyzing them. My experience before this class was very low but Julia helps you understand what you are reading plus the broader implications
Definitely on the reading-heavy side but not too difficult intellectually