



SOSC 11400 3 - Power, Identity, Resistance I - Instructor(s): Paul Staniland

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

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **11**

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
Writing skills
I really enjoy the foundations for political system's that we discussed. I understand not everything has to be Locke, Hobbes, or Rousseau based; but it feels like most arguments for a state can be understood or at minimum discussed through the the foundation provided from this course.
critical thinking
Learned about several different influential political/economic writers including Hobbes, Jean–Jacques Rousseau, John Locke, Emmanuel Sieyes, Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, Marx & Engels, and more.
Political philosophies and theories of the drivers of civil society; various conceptions of human nature, rights, government, sovereignty, and society; how to compare different thinkers, across time periods and ideology
Learned about optimal state construction, the rights individuals have, the representation individuals deserve to have, and how government can best respond to inequality present in society. Learned how to reconstruct arguments and postulate arguments of our own.
I feel like I learned a lot about how to write analytic papers and structuring effective arguments.
Did a lot of readings on political theory on rights, types of government
A lot of different views on the origination of government. We read Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau, and other authors were sprinkled in. Discussion of similarities, differences, and overall themes of the readers.
hobbes, locke, rousseau, and other thinkers. History of political philosophy from 17th century to end of 19th

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

Comments
discussions were okay. Mostly ended up being the professor talking for 80 minutes, which got a bit old
The seminars made me understood what my beliefs fall into or at least how they can be structured to be represented.
Analyzing texts in class, class discussions
The most important parts were lectures and discussions, really helped for understanding the book.
Discussions were the primary mode of learning in the class. Professor Staniland leads engaging class conversation, allowing for majority student ideas with a thoughtful mix of his own perspectives, ensuring that we were paying attention to the key parts and tensions in the readings. Sometimes he would start class with a 10–15 minute lecture, usually when we were beginning a new text/author in order to provide important historical context. Overall, class was really engaging and intersting, especially when the texts can sometimes feel old or inconsistent with today's world.
Discussions in class were quite helpful. Professor Staniland asked very pointed questions, and after hearing all the ideas presented by students, would summarize the ideas and provide a closing argument of his own on the subject.
assignments and class discussions.
I loved the socratic discussions we had. Dr. Stanisland has really interesting opinions, and he guides the conversation in a great way.
The seminars were very useful
Every class is a discussion of the reading. Some of the readings at the beginning are very long, but Professor Staniland is amazing at providing historical background and facilitating discussion for students. Even if you don't have any background in philosophy he wants to hear what you have to say.
Good at explaining and leading discussion

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	63.64%	36.36%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	63.64%	36.36%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%
I felt respected in this class.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
NA
N/A
About 50% of your grade is participation-based. This is awesome since it encourages you to engage in discussions and really get familiar with the readings.
Nothing

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.09%	90.91%
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
Private discussions mostly
I like the atmosphere created during seminars and my professor's view of the topic. With his background being in political science, I feel I got a more broad understanding of the material discussed. The professor was also very understanding in relation to circumstances effecting one's abilities as a student.
Reflecting about different student perspectives
His explanation of concepts and emphasis on the most important themes. He also helped create connections between the philosophies and ideas of the different writers.
Professor Staniland is great– he holds students to a high standard, but it is supportive and helpful. In addition to engaging class discussions, he was timely with essay feedback and was available to meet during office hours to discuss previous and upcoming essays. The in–person conversation with him, in lieu of a final paper/exam, was very comfortable and stress–free, simply a chance to talk about the material in a reflective manner and show what you know.
I found Professor Staniland's summaries of key moments in the text to be quite succinct and to the point. It became very easy to understand the key ideas behind each author because he knows where in the text to look.
Professor Staniland was always eager to hear what everyone thought about the reading an pushed us to really engage with the material and develop our own opinions on it.
How he helped guide the discussion, but also inputted his own takes on the authors.
Staniland's expertise on the subject
His lectures were very helpful in breaking down the more complex readings.
Helpful outside of class

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
alter the class structure a bit. Doing the same thing every class got annoying
In all honesty, I don't know how to improve the course without taking something I enjoyed out of the course.
Not much
Create readable notes for historical background. His handwriting is actually atrocious and makes it hard to take organized notes.
His office hour times can be a little hard to book into because he also has many grad students vying for his time. Booking far in advance was the best way to ensure your slot, but that can be hard if something unpredictable comes up.
Perhaps allow students to discuss with one another and respond to each other. Most of Prof. Staniland's discussions revolved around responding to him.
I felt like I was mostly talking to the professor during class discussions and not really engaging with my other classmates directly.
Nothing
Honestly I think he doesn't need to change anything.

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%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	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
Danny Jacobs was the writing advisor for this course and he was very helpful. The required writing workshops can feel a little unnecessary and boring, but I think that was due to their design/curriculum, not Danny. Meeting one-on-one with him when writing my papers was really helpful to make sure I was on the right track with my writing. He also helped get the due date on our second paper moved from the day after Thanksgiving break ended to a couple days later, meaning there was actually time to meet with him and the professor before it was due.
Danny Jacobs. Found his workshops to be quite good, but my office hours experience wasn't the best. I went in hoping to get feedback on my arguments, but the discussion ultimately turned into me "vomiting" words and ideas down in response to questioning from him without a statement on whether or not my argument was good.
Daniel Jacobs. Very helpful for helping with structuring your essay. There were two writing intern meetings which were similar to writing seminars in HUM.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

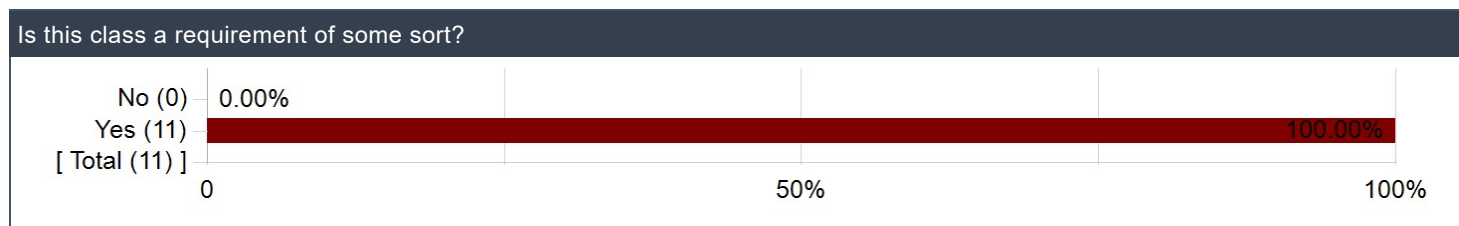
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	4.11	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%

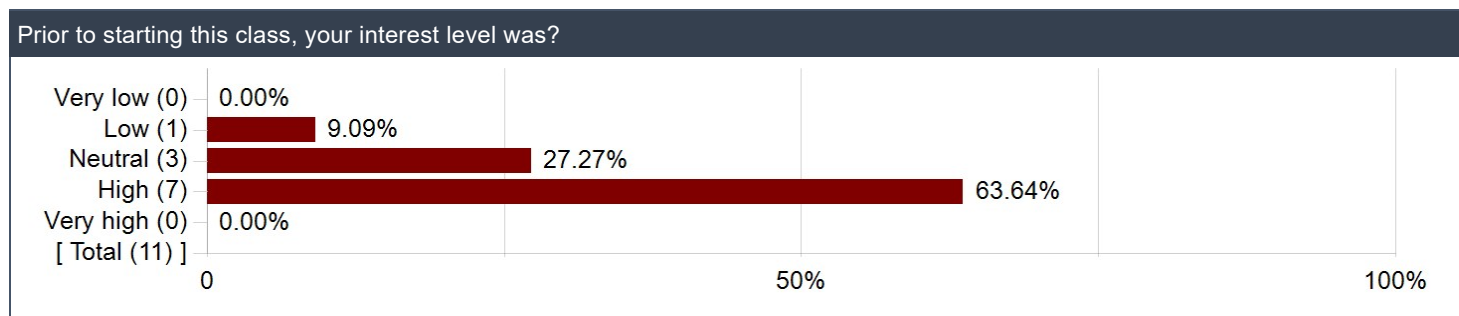
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A

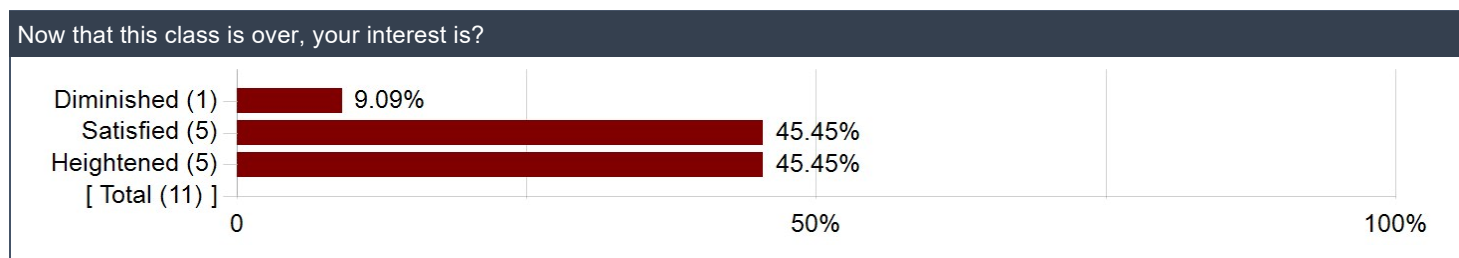
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



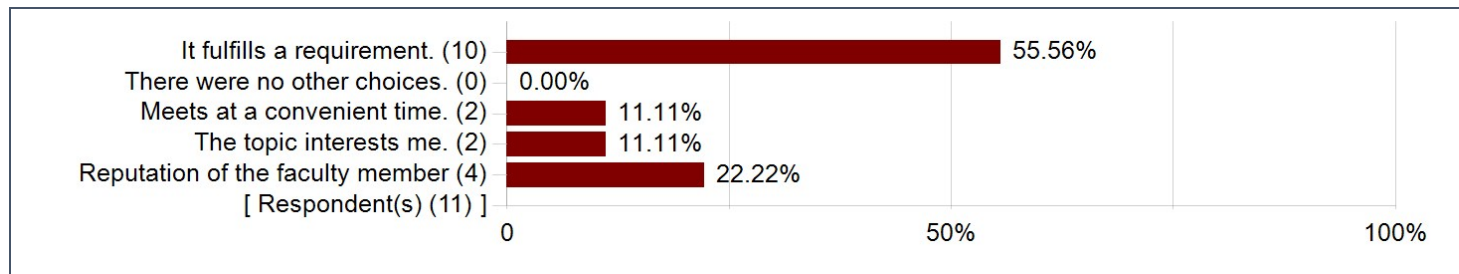
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



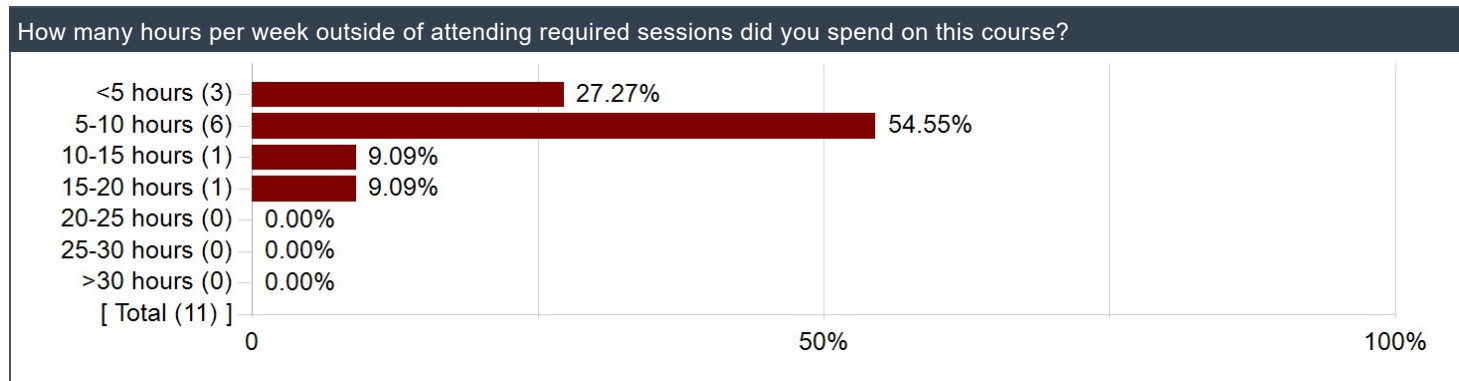
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



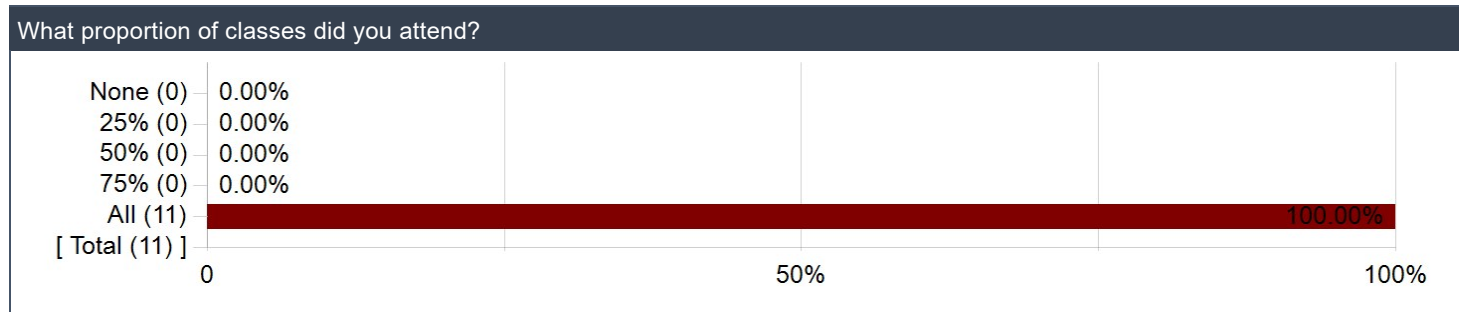
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Not hard, just a lot of reading
This course is extremely difficult, for everyone. Your background won't really help you, just take notes on your reading and during class or else the 8 page essays will destroy you.
Power overall is a difficult course because the texts are complicated and dense at times, but Professor Staniland supplemented the three major texts with really interesting, and often shorter, readings that built off of the main texts really well, making the reading load more manageable in the second half of the course. Writing is definitely held to a high standard but that's just how UChicago works. No final is great (just two papers and an in-person convo with the professor about the texts at the end of the quarter).
Manageable class in terms of reading workload and number of essays; being able to write well is not sufficient to succeed, though. 50% of the grade is made up of your ability to express these ideas in class and at an oral end-of-quarter conversation with Prof. Staniland.
Mild
not difficult if you put in the work

