



SOSC 11600 13 - Power, Identity, Resistance III - Instructor(s) - Marco Garrido

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
Read Alexis de Tocqueville, Carl Schmitt, John Stuart Mill, Hannah Arendt, Partha Chatterjee, Tongdong Bai
The third quarter of Power contextualizes and provides critiques of what you do in the first two quarters; Prof Garrido is very interested in democracy specifically. Readings included Alexis de Tocqueville, John Stuart Mill, Hannah Arendt, Tongdong Bai amongst others.
Tocqueville in early American democracy through Schmitt and mill up to chatterjee and bai's global views on liberalism and equality
The foundations of liberal democracies. Arguments for and against these liberal democracies through a wide variety of authors.
How to analyze complex political and philosophical texts, how to approach readings and gain an understanding beyond a surface-level read

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

Comments
Professor Garrido is a captivating instructor — in the top tier in my experience at UChicago. He is extremely well-versed in the material and brings in knowledge from personal experience, meaning that discussions are very engaging every day. He is passionate about his class, and expects his students to appreciate the authors' arguments in their respective context, regardless of whether they seem agreeable today — an approach I quite respect. The one-page discussion post requirement per class is not that bad; it keeps you accountable and engaged with the reading, and it's balanced out by there only being one paper required for the quarter.
Seminars were great and very open — students got to provide their perspectives and yet take a lot away from class sessions because of how they're organized and the philosophy Prof Garrido takes towards classes. Only one essay in the quarter, which is great, but the downside is 1-page long discussion posts for every class session (though these quickly got less and less tedious).
Discussions were amazing. I can't emphasize enough how great Garrido was at facilitating them and explaining complex concepts in the text to us in ways that were clear to understand without losing the nuance
Lectures contributed the most to my learning. Professor Garrido's (1) enthusiasm for the authors and the text and (2) highly organized class structure (going through each handout point one by one) was super helpful in understanding dense texts. It was a privilege to take a class from him and provided an experience far superior to my prior PIR instructor.
We had daily discussion posts but they were pretty informal, but they greatly helped us all to prep for class
The discussions were great — Professor Garrido does a really good job of structuring the discussions using a list of topics / sections he wants us to touch upon from the reading, which we usually didn't get all the way through because everyone was interested in the conversation and always had a lot to say about each of them, and we would run out of class time!

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	50.00%	16.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
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.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
One of the best courses I've taken at UChicago.

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
Was definitely skeptical of Prof Garrido's methods at the start but they really grew on me. His appreciation and intimate knowledge of the texts really came through and he guided class discussions in a very organized and enlightening way.
Facilitating discussions and asking us questions that guided us to the most important part of the text.
Lectures. Handouts.
He was a really good professor and I really enjoyed the course. In the past two quarters, I didn't really click with the PIR syllabus and most of the stuff we had read, but created his own syllabus that allowed for so many different perspectives of power. We never spent very long on one text which kept interest fresh and gave us the opportunity to read all sorts of different things.
guiding discussions and engaging in the conversation, giving feedback on our points and encouraging us to think more deeply about the topic/text we were discussing

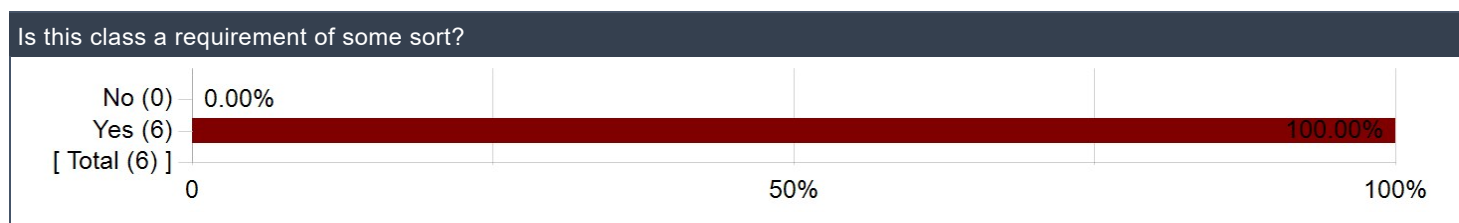
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
He could give more feedback about how students are performing in the class; given that discussion posts aren't graded, participation is kind of subjective, and the only paper is due at the end of the quarter, it's sort of hard to gauge how we're doing.
More clear specs for the final paper would've been appreciated because there was just too little information to start with. I understand why he chose to make it as free as possible, though.
Nothing
Feedback on our discussion posts. I personally put a lot of thinking into the discussion posts without knowing whether what I was writing was correct.
Some feedback on our discussion posts, even if it was only a comment on a few of them, would have been helpful – with the way the course was structured, we had 1–page discussion posts (that didn't need to be structured or formal writing, just voicing our thoughts on the readings) due each class, but only 1 essay, which didn't have a defined prompt. While I really enjoyed the open-endedness of a lot of this course and the freedom to explore topics we were interested in, it definitely would have been helpful to have some feedback on our writing or just our general thought processes before the final paper, especially since it required pulling together a large amount of our readings and course material.

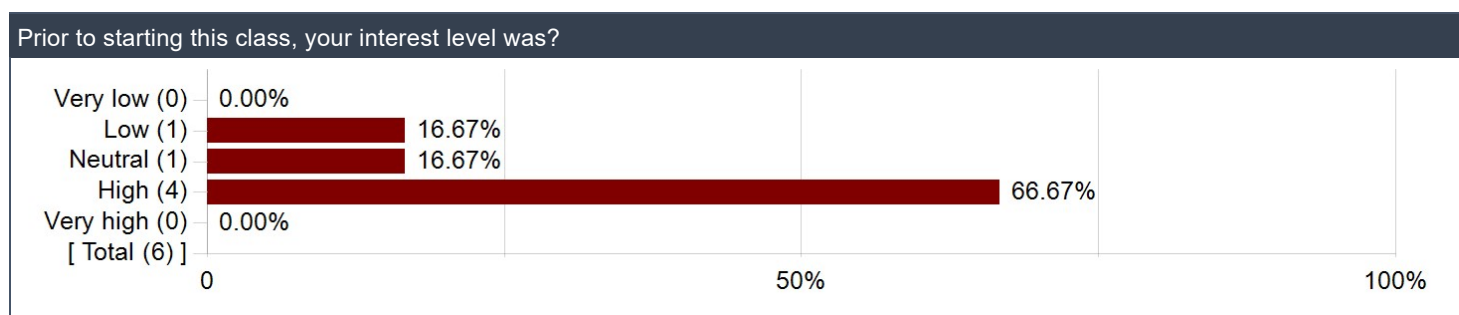
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.17	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%

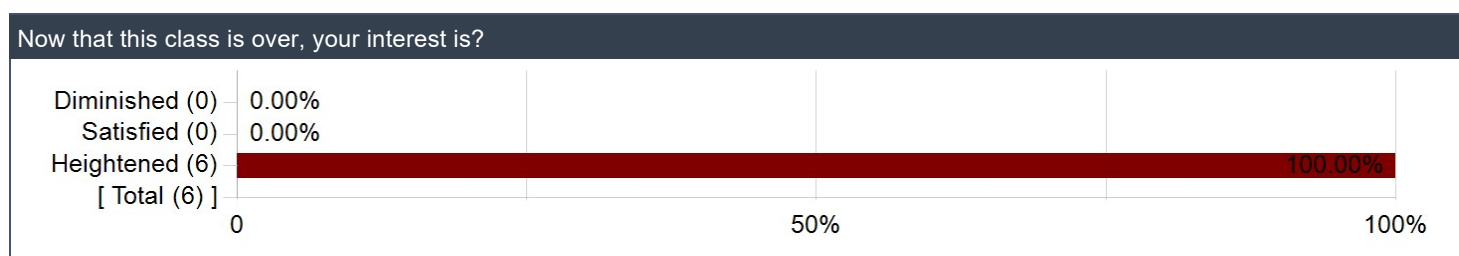
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



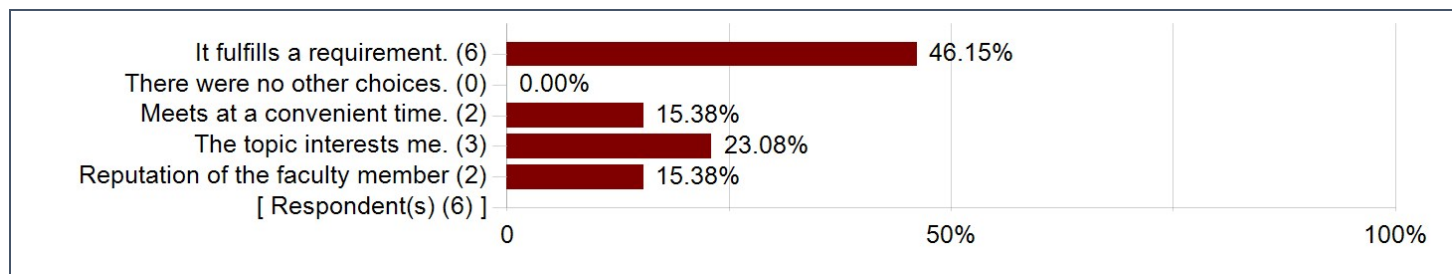
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



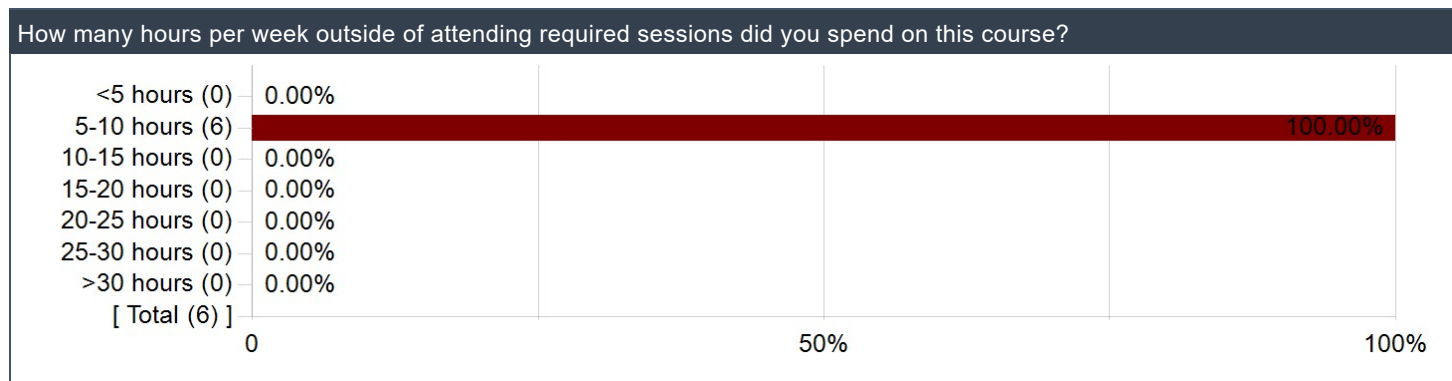
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



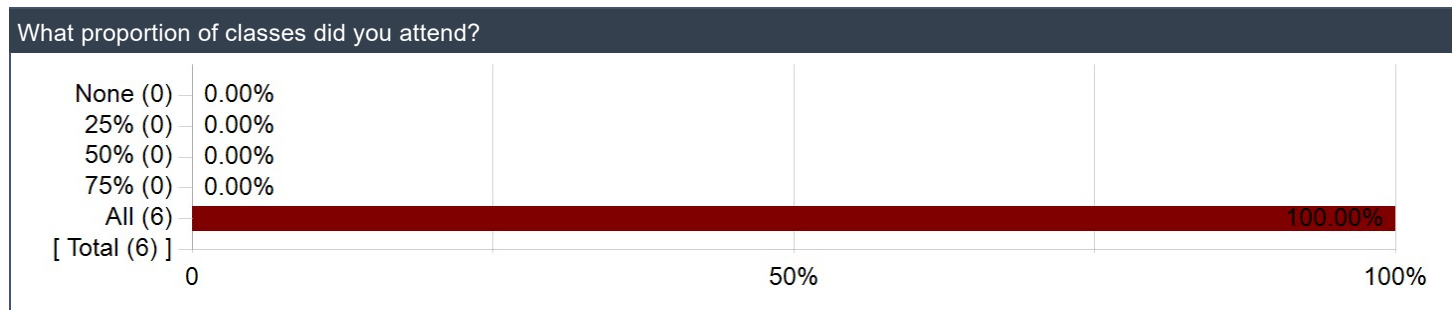
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Very manageable and much more enjoyable compared to my PIR professor the previous quarters.
It's Power – it's a lot of reading but by the 3rd quarter you're used to it
Relatively the same level of difficulty/workload as this course taken with a different professor in other quarters, but much more interesting readings and discussions in my opinion, which made it feel like less. Be prepared to do a significant amount of reading in enough depth that you can write a full page about it and discuss it all in class, but the topics are interesting so it doesn't feel like too much. For my course, there was also only 1 paper, plus the 1 page (ungraded) writings for each class.