



# SOSC 11600 1 - Power, Identity, Resistance III - Instructor(s) - Daniel Burnfin

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

Number Enrolled: **13**

Number of Responses: **7**

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## Report Comments

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

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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
Being a SOSC core, I do think the biggest takeaway is the ability to think critically and raise questions about certain phenomenons in the current society. Reading and writing skills are also acquired through the course.
Ideas on authenticity, recognition and power. How power manifests itself — how our existence is strongly related to our recognition of others. Existentialism...
From a general standpoint, the professor's expectations and respect for his students compelled me to read deeply, and I also appreciated the strict page restraint for the midterm essay, as it forced me to write concisely and clearly. Furthermore, I appreciated Professor Burnfin's remark that we can still learn from writers's work without agreeing with all their views.
The link between power, identity, and resistance was also clearest during this quarter (perhaps because it is the last quarter).
Learned a lot of philosophy which was awesome!
Learnt about how identity is shaped through recognition and its impact on power structure/dynamics.
For skills, I learned to condense my writing, write thoughtful conclusions, and relate/compare key ideas from multiple authors across a quarter. For knowledge, I engaged with multiple topics/ideas that I hadn't before which made my conception of animal ethics, colonization, and history of political well-rounded.

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

Comments
The discussions were extremely helpful in helping me develop/ further thoughts regarding the reading. But what I take to be the most helpful is Prof. Burnfin's wonderful introduction and breaking down of the reading materials. He would also provide the necessary context which is also helpful.
Professor Burnfin finds the perfect middle ground of lecturing and discussion. He lets us speak but is also able to condense the information and represent it to us in a clear and logical way.
(1) Lectures: I appreciated it when Professor Burnfin lectured on the material before opening things up to discussion. His analogies, drawings on the whiteboard, and lectures on the context behind the work we were reading were always illuminating.
(2) Print-out notes: Professor Burnfin prepared printed out notes for us for almost each lecture. These notes included particularly pertinent quotes from our readings, excerpts from other works that he believed may help provide context for the readings, and his analysis/ thoughts regarding the work (and this he would clearly note as being his own).
(3) The readings: I noticed that not all sections included Hegel within their reading lists, but I really appreciated the professor's inclusion of Hegel's excerpt on Self-Consciousness: Lordship and Bondage. While difficult to understand, I found Hegel referenced a lot throughout the rest of the course.
(4) Extra readings: When I spoke to him about my paper ideas during office ours, Professor Burnfin would sometimes print me extra excerpts/ pieces from the author I was interested in that he believed would be helpful, which I really appreciated.
(5) Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I appreciated the flexibility we had regarding topics for the midterm/ final essay (that is not to say that we aren't held to expectations of rigorous writing). In previous quarters, I've found the topics to often be very constraining.</li> <li>• The professor had each of us schedule a 20 minute time slot with him in which he read the essay, asked us questions, and gave us our grade. I really appreciated the dedication involved in his doing so.</li> </ul>
Didn't like discussion posts, thought they were a waste of time
Lectures/ Seminars were really helpful for understanding the concepts because that's when we unpacked the context of works and draw out meanings from the philosophical jargons used in the books.
The assignment aka discussion posts were helpful in that they helped me formulate my view independent of other opinions before class.
Discussion posts and assigned readings were plenty enough to motivate me to learn the material.
Prof Burnfin led great discussions

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%
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.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Truly wonderful course. Recommended to take!
Professor Burfin is an amazing professor who is very knowlegdeable. He is always available to talk to and has really pushed me in my academic journey. Definety take a class with him!
Professor Daniel is very knowledgeable about the books in general and the discussions are always enlightening.
Strict grader but assignments are reasonable

## 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
I am shocked by the vast knowledge background of Prof. Burnfin. He seems to know most of the background and nuances of the authors and the readings and he would not hesitate to share them with us. I find that and his handouts to be extremely helpful. How Prof. Burnfin broke down the words through their origins was also unique and provides a special insight towards understanding the material.
Very clear way of showing the ideas and how they relate to one another. Is very knowlegdeable so can anwser more complicated questions.
In "Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning" I already spoke about how different aspects of the Professor Burnfin's teaching contributed to my learning. If I had to chose one piece, I really appreciated his willingness to engage with me. If he felt like my interpretation of something may perhaps be contradicted by the readings we were given, he would point me towards the reading, his print-out notes, and was also happy to print me extra excerpts/pieces from the author I was interested in that he believed would be helpful.
He explained things very well which greatly enhanced my understanding of the readings
The unpacking of philosophical jargons really helped given that I was not familiar with such texts. I liked that he did not assume we knew certain terminologies and the breakdowns really improved my understanding and engagement with the text. Another thing that made the seminars really interesting and helpful were the analogies.
I loved it when the professor used the whiteboard. Different from other courses, he engaged with everyone's opinions about a topic from the reading and put it all on the board so we could get a reading on what everyone else is thinking. Also, his diagrams were very helpful and I took many pictures of them.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing really. Maybe share more of his wonderful ideas and understandings towards the time/society the readings were written?
Nothing
I really enjoyed this quarter, and I can't think of too much else. Here are two potential ideas: (1) A writing workshop where he analyzes previous student essays/ points us towards exemplar previous essays could be interesting, as I enjoyed chatting with him about the way I structured my essay (although I realize we also do have a writing instructor who also organized sessions similar to a writing workshop). (2) I enjoyed discussions in class, but since I really did find the Professor's lectures helpful, some more lecturing would be appreciated (in particular, when it came to Hegel).
Not sure, he did very well
One unique thing about this class (relative to my other classes) was the note taking. Basically, we had a notetaker for each session and the notes were shared with the rest of the class. It was pretty fair because everyone took turns to take notes. It was very helpful especially if you missed class and wanted to catch-up or just review concepts before writing essays. In my opinion, it also increased engagement because you only have to take detailed notes in one session and you can focus on the discussions in the rest of the sessions. I think this was valuable and it should continue.
Maybe making discussion posts once per week, especially for classes that start at 8:00 in the morning.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
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.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%

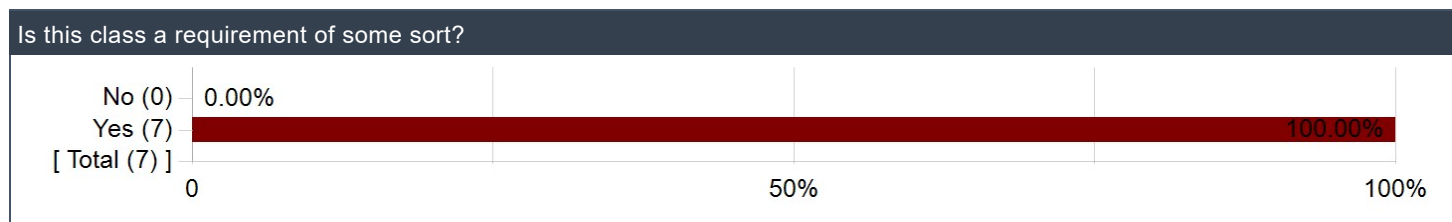
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

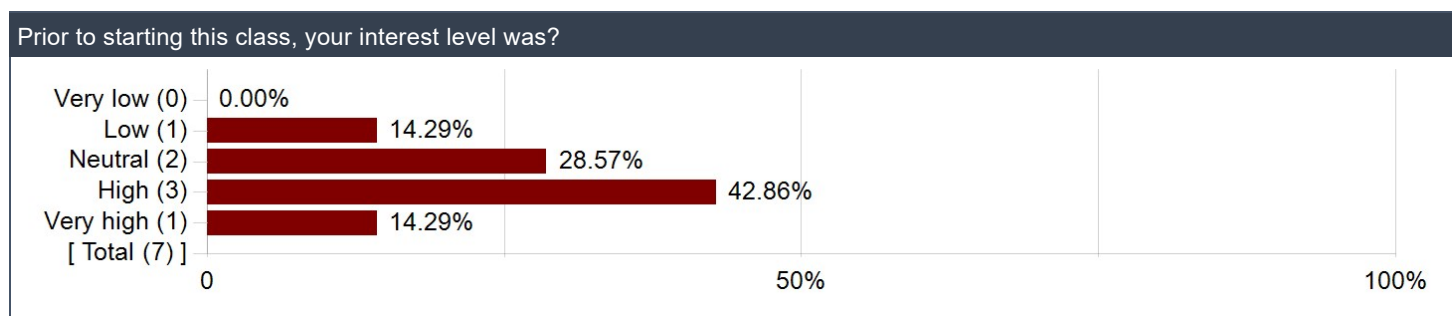
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%

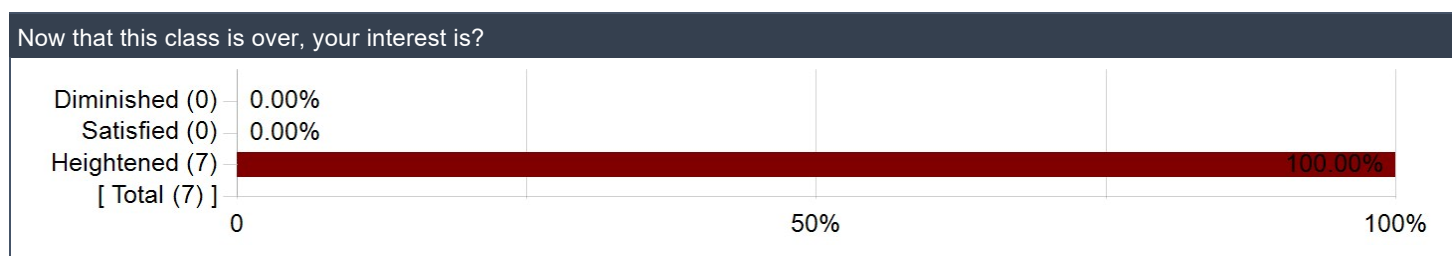
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



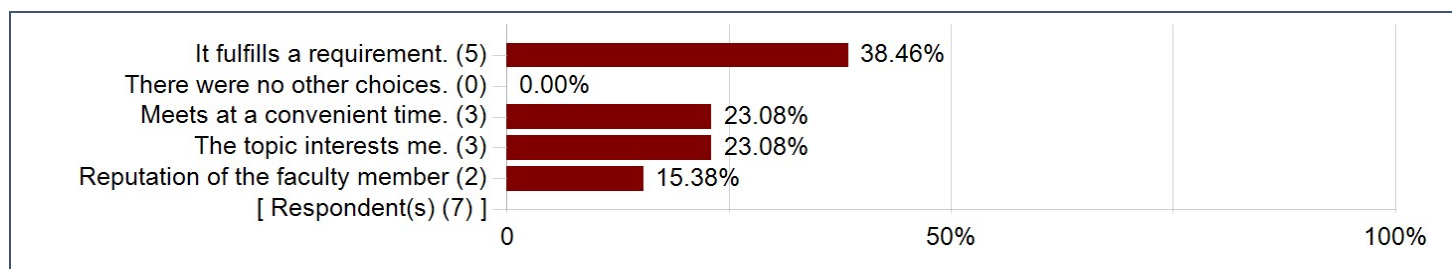
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



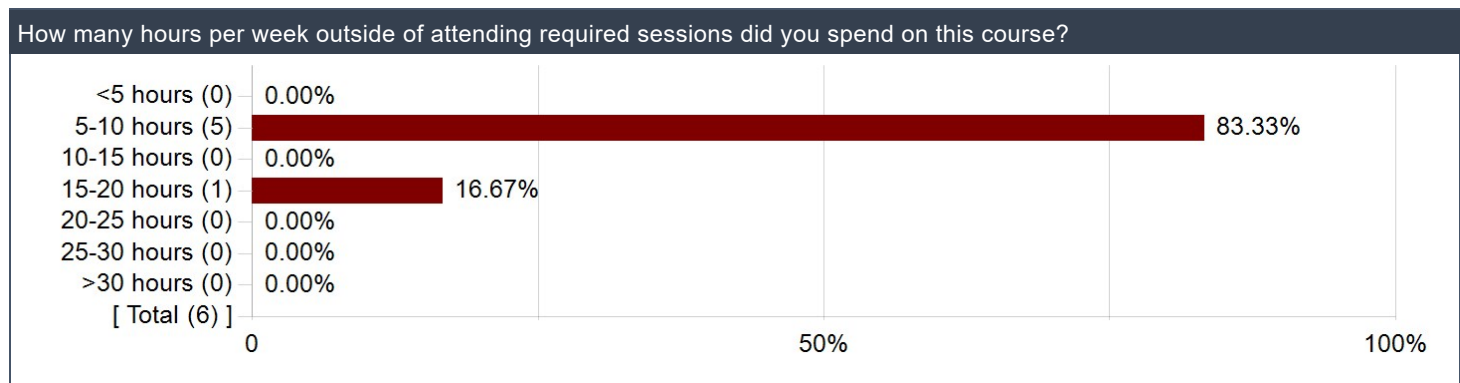
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



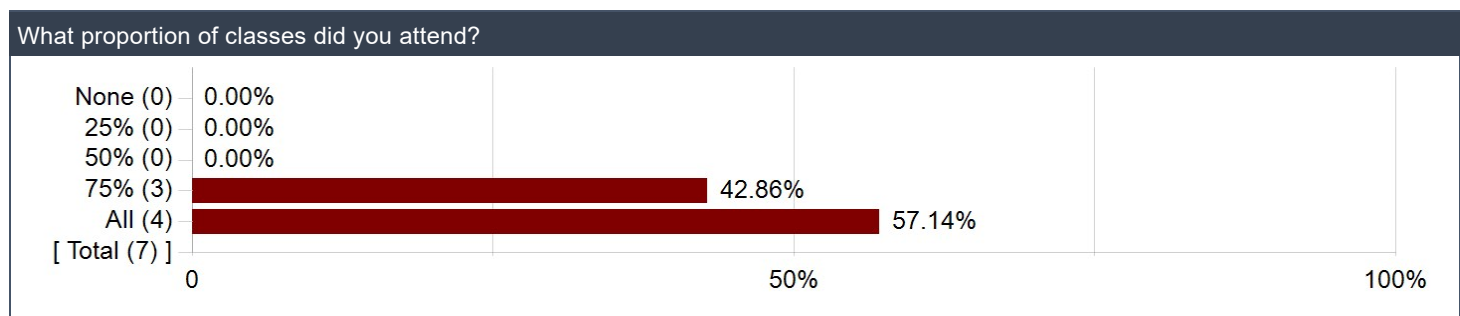
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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 challenging course even with two sessions under my belt as a first year. The readings were challenging but fun.
He is a great professor and there to help — he is not the easiest grader but is always there to help you if you need to improve and show you where you made mistakes
It's Sosc, it's not too difficult
It's difficult but doable. You will get a lot of clarity by attending lectures. Office hours help too!
It was pretty difficult for me and I'm usually good at classes like this. I would say that having the 8:00 am schedule for this class worsened the experience by 25%, so this class could've been even more fun.
fairly difficult for a core class