SOSC 15200 15 - Classics of Social and Political Thought II - Instructor(s): Julia Brown

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

Number Enrolled: **8**
Number of Responses: **8**

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, March 28, 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 a lot about political and social theory.
How to fit in at UChicago: Love Hobbes. Hate Hobbes. Have an opinion on Hobbes.
Text analysis
How to interpret prominent social and political texts
How to read and analyze denser texts as well as form an opinion in regards to that text.
How to analyze texts and an appreciation for the intellectual work that social/political theorists are doing.
I learned about the importance of close–reading, even in longer texts because then it is possible to identify multiple interpretations.
The most important knowledge I gained was a general understanding of political philosophy.

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

Comments
The lectures were very helpful. Professor Brown facilitated discussion well and discussing with other students helped me to learn.
Seminars are super helpful (and pretty much the only part of the course). Discussions, surprisingly, were extremely interesting
The commonplace book entries we had to do every week was actually really helpful in helping me practice slow reading and dissecting the claims being made by the author.
Lectures are very discussion heavy based off of the assigned reading. It encouraged me to read closely and look for patterns within the text.
Julia does an awesome job at facilitating class discussions. She really gets people to think about issues in the text that they care about and think through ways of solving them.
The discussions were very helpful in solidifying understanding of the assigned readings, and the weekly Commonplace book entries helped me learn how to more carefully examine/ close read these texts.
The reading was important for participation in discussion, but when the reading workload was too high, I often struggled to do it all, and sometimes did only part of the reading. The last few weeks had less reading, which I feel let me spend more time and attention on the assigned material. Discussion was the heart of this class, and helped me not only deepen my understanding of the text, but broaden my perspective as well.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%	12.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	37.50%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%
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.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This was an excellent course.
Julia is the best SOSC prof. here, I can't recommend her and this class enough.
Professor Brown is a very good teacher
N/A

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
The moments where Professor Brown would give us background or explained a topic or concept clearly / on the board were great. Professor Brown is great!
Because we had such a small section, Julia let us guide discussions and was able to redirect us constructively if she felt we were straying too far from the text. I really appreciated how much liberty we had with discussion topics.
Seminars
Professor Brown is really good at guiding the discussion
She allowed for discussions to flow but made sure to keep it on track with important insights and redirections.
Julia facilitates great discussions to help us think through the text and engage in real genuine conversation with each other.
Julia's insightfulness and vast knowledge on the texts we discussed was very helpful to my learning. She did very well in facilitating the in–class discussions!
Her ability to lead discussion in a productive direction.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
This course was good with this, but I always like it when the professor tells you when you're wrong.
Nothing, she's amazing.
Just a little bit more of a rubric of how they will grade essays could be helpful
Towards the end, lectures became more structured and I enjoyed those conversations more.
I would have liked her to give more of her own reading and interpretation of the text. Her discussions meant that she wasn't giving her reading of the text. Also with only one essay there was not much space to implement feedback on writing to actually improve writing.
N/A Julia is amazing!
A bit more guidance in the first weeks, it felt like it was lacking a bit of structure initially.

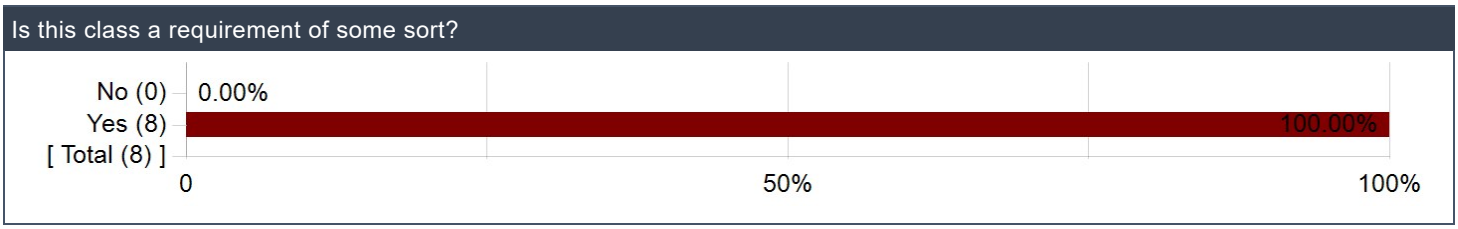
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%	12.50%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%

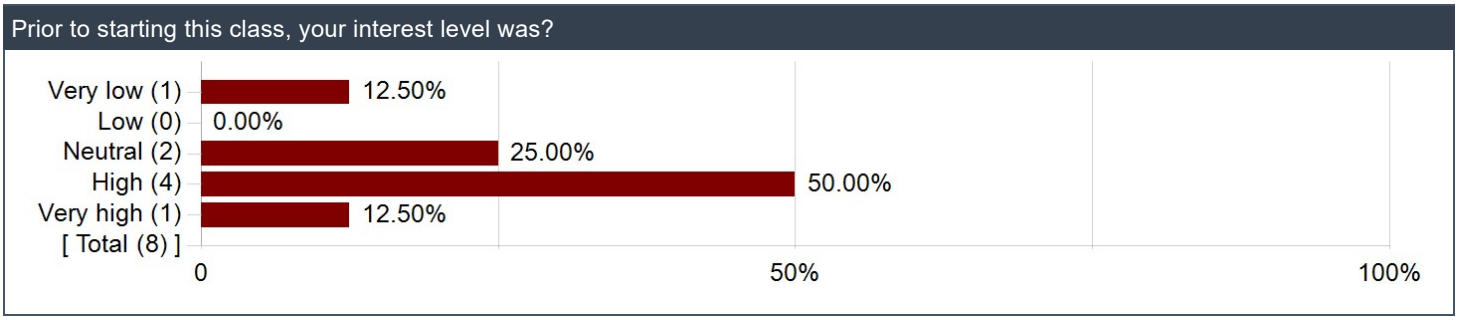
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?



Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



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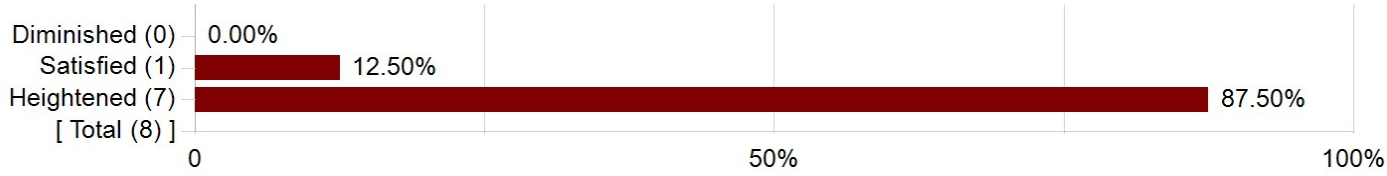
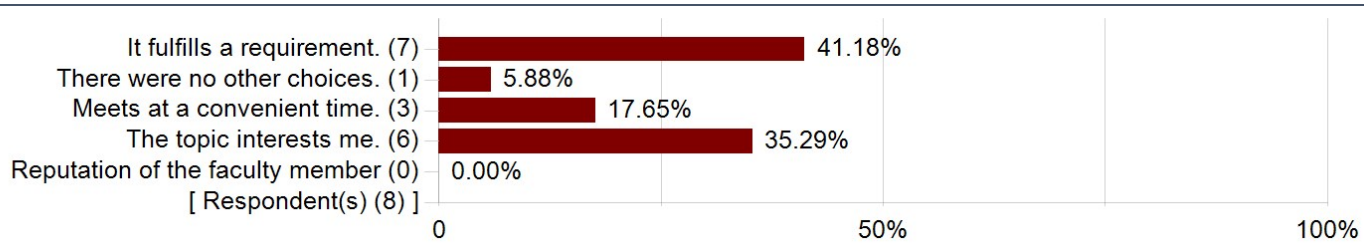


Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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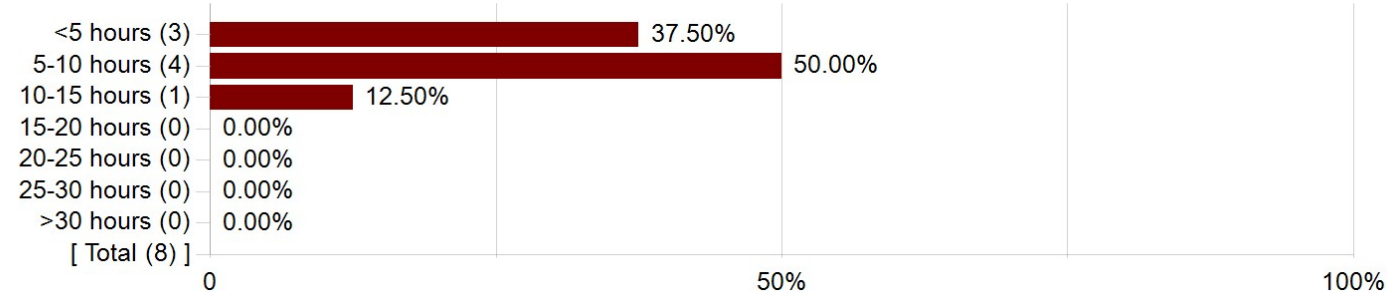

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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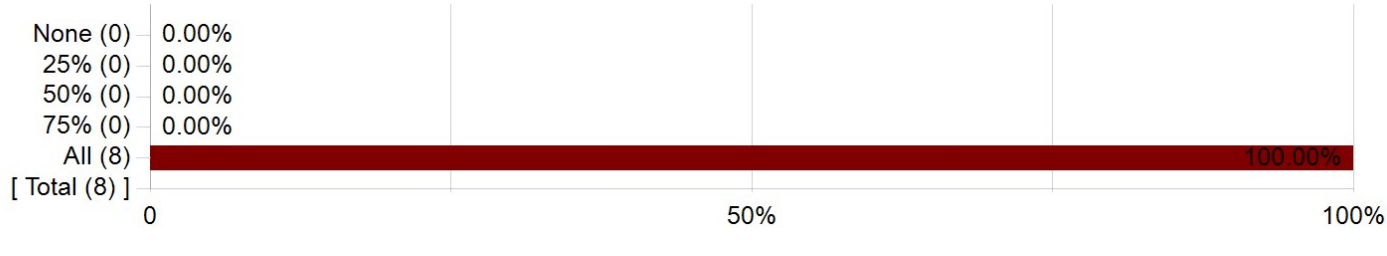

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
This course wasn't easy, but it wasn't very difficult, either.
The previous quarter of SOSC prepared me well!