

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11100: Power, Identity, Resistance-1

Section 04 - Autumn 2014

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua

Number Enrolled: 20

Number of Responses: 12

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- He was well organized and extremely knowledgeable on the topics.
- Prof. Craze stimulated really interesting discussions during class and he was clearly extremely knowledgeable on all the subject matter. However, office hours were sometimes hard to schedule, understandably because he was teaching two sections without a TA; even when we went to office hours, they were sometimes a little limited in length per student slot. He should seriously consider getting a TA for future quarters or years, since I think it would be really helpful for students especially for helping students out with drafts of essays, grading, etc. Also, I think that I can see why many people struggled with the essays, especially first years for whom these may be some of the first essays in college they've ever written; I think a little more instruction on how to write essays and expectations for essays would be really helpful.
- Joshua may be the smartest person with who I have ever spoken. He knew the readings back to front, literally. He was chock-full of funny anecdotes about his life and his English accent made listening easy. The only drawback was sometimes he would employ French phrases which no one understood, or he assumed we were familiar with something with which we were not. But this mostly served to make the class more interesting. A fantastic instructor.
- Incredibly elegant in his explanations. He did not reveal all the secrets of the text. Instead, he led us through and would provide insight from time to time. When he did, it was beautifully worded and helpful for both my understanding of the text and my interest in the material. The prompts for Marx and Durkheim were also very thought provoking. Difficult to respond to without really thinking about the question. I didn't like the prompt for Smith nearly as much though
- Joshua is very knowledgeable, but assigns expects too much from the essays he assigns.
- Prof. Craze is a wonderful person. Hugely knowledgeable and wonderfully brilliant, but very chill and doesn't come across the least bit self-important or pretentious. He came to class everyday in jeans and a hoodie. Very down-to-earth, hum-hum kind of guy. Lovely person. Great professor.
- Joshua was an incredible resource. Very knowledgeable about the material. Because of the design of the course, I don't really know too many of his weaknesses.
- The instructor was very smart and great at leading class discussions. Sometimes he would ask a question before referencing a page in the text which made it a little difficult to keep up.
- Well-spoken, accessible, fun to listen to, especially during discussions on books he liked.
- Instructor was good at guiding discussions so that students arrived at key ideas independently

What were the teaching assistant's or writing intern's strengths? Weaknesses?

- N/A
- NA
- N/A
- n/a
- N/A
- N/a

What, if anything, what would you change about this course and why?

- Less reading but a closer reading of parts of the texts. The amount of reading was ridiculous and we couldn't even get into the richness of the texts at the pace that we went.
- Our class was a little dead sometimes, probably because there was just way too much reading to get through in a single class sometimes (though this is not necessarily Prof. Craze's fault since he didn't get to write the syllabus this year). I'm assuming he'll revise the syllabus to either reflect a more appropriate amount of reading (read: less), or if the same amount of reading is assigned, at least to point out the most important parts of the reading we should especially focus on.
- Shorter reading. We read so much that it actually worked against our understanding of the texts.
- More questions to guide us through the readings
- Shorter papers.
- More participation from the class, slightly slower reading schedule. We had to crunch some of the readings together at the end because we kept getting delayed and that was stressful.
- Too much reading to go into the level of detail I believe would most benefit the class.
- I thought the course was very good and should not be changed.
- Less readings. I ended up skimming a lot of the readings because they were too long, and hard to digest if you read the whole thing.

Is there any topic in this course that you wished you had had previous background in?

- no
- French sociology
- No
- Having a background in econ was super helpful
- n/a
- I wish I had a little bit more economics background but at the same time this class provided me with one.
- No.

Which texts were most useful?

- marx's capital and smith's the division of labor
- Marxxx
- All of them. Each was necessary to understand the next.
- All
- Smith, Marx
- I really enjoyed reading Marx. It's amazing to read one of the greatest critiques of one of the most widely-accepted beliefs.
- Karl Marx's Capital was most useful.
- Kapital Vol. 1

Which least?

- smith's a theory of moral sentiments
- None.
- NA
- Durkheim--I hated him
- Durkheim. The translation was awful. I spent more time on my essay trying to figure out where the independent clause went than I did interpreting the actual meaning.
- I do not know which one was least useful.
- The Division of Labor in Society.

How productive was class discussion?

- Class discussion was quite productive and useful in general to better understanding these complex texts; I especially enjoyed the points when Prof. Craze would talk about random things, as he is particularly fascinating when he opens his mouth.
- Very productive. If I didn't understand something I'd read, I usually did after discussion was over.
- Depended from day to day
- N/A
- People didn't always talk a whole lot, but Prof. Craze was good at teasing out the material so that people felt comfortable enough to comment. His guiding questions through the text made it easy to understand what we were supposed to be looking for.
- It certainly went to a halt quite a few times, but otherwise it was very fascinating to go over these topics.
- Class discussion was very productive and usually gave us an understanding of the author's ideas to be applied to our own essays.
- Very.
- quite productive

How has this course contributed to your education?

- It made me think critically and logically about paper writing and I learned more about the division of labor, economics, and society, than I thought possible,
- In a very positive way. It challenged many of my assumptions about political economy.
- Taught me more about economic and social theory, made me better at writing/arguing
- This was the sort of quintessential Uchicago core class I had expected going into this University.
- The course has broadened my mind on how the world has developed and progressed and allows me to understand deep rooted theories within the economy.
- I now have a greater understanding of basic economic theory and social theory; many of the ideas discussed in these books are thrown around as strawmen or manipulated to fit the argument, so knowing the core arguments of these thinkers will help me discern fact from fiction in the future.
- It has introduced me to important thinkers and texts and has increased my ability to critically think

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	10 / 83%
Instructor Reputation	0 / 0%
Faculty member recommended it	1 / 8%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	3 / 25%
A student recommended it	0 / 0%
Topic interests me	5 / 42%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

In summary, I had a strong desire to take this course

Strongly Agree	3 / 25%
Agree	4 / 33%

Neutral	2 / 17%
Disagree	0 / 0%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

How many hours per week did you spend on this course?

Low Answer	4
Average Answer	9.4
High Answer	20

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	10 / 83%
75%	1 / 8%
50%	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
None	0 / 0%

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	8 / 67%
No	3 / 25%

The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	8%	0%	42%	42%
Presented clear lectures.	8%	0%	8%	0%	25%	50%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	8%	17%	67%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	8%	25%	58%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	8%	8%	17%	58%
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	8%	8%	8%	67%
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	8%	42%	42%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	8%	8%	8%	67%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	17%	17%	58%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	17%	33%	0%	17%	25%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	8%	0%	8%	50%	25%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	50%

The Assignments

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
How helpful were the lectures and discussions in preparing for exams and completing assignments?	0%	0%	8%	8%	17%	58%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	8%	0%	8%	8%	25%	42%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	8%	0%	8%	8%	25%	42%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	8%	25%	33%	25%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	8%	0%	17%	25%	42%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	8%	8%	25%	50%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	75%
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	17%	8%	8%	58%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	17%	42%	33%
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	0%	8%	25%	58%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	8%	25%	33%	25%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	92%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Were helpful with assignments.	92%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Discussion Sections, Problem Sessions, Writing Tutorials

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were well coordinated with this course and contributed to it.	83%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Provided well-designed materials.	83%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%