

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11400: Power, Identity, Resistance -1

Section 20 - Autumn 2017

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua; Diwakar, Pranathi

Number Enrolled: 18

Number of Responses: 10

The Course

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

- Joshua is honestly an amazing professor. He is one of the more demanding teachers in the Power Section but his class is always so engaging.
- I learnt the political thoughts of several western major thinkers from 17th century to 19th century, and also how their thoughts interact, complement, or conflict with each other.
- Some canonical texts in political philosophy were studied. Many interesting questions about freedom, political structures, and legitimacy were raised, and I think the answers in the text, found to be not entirely straightforward but lending themselves to different interpretations, improved my ability to interpret or process texts.
- I learned how to write argumentative papers and how to really engage with a classroom discussion. Also, I've started to learn how to read difficult texts, and gain an understanding of basic political theory.
- Learn to think critically
- The most important thing that I gained from this course was how to read and understand these authors. Also this class has greatly helped improved my writing ability and style.
- I learned about many different ideas of political thought that I would not have exposed myself to otherwise.
- Wow I learned a lot. I learned to think critically, read smartly. Overall best intellectual course I took this quarter

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

- I think the lectures were the best part. We would always have a very good discussion led by Joshua but then he would also go off a bit and talk to us.
- The discussions and lectures in class have been very useful in terms of clarifying concepts in the books and deepening understanding of the authors' thoughts. Writing essays in response to the challenging writing prompts further solidify that understanding. The large amount of reading for each assignment also improved my critical thinking skill and reading comprehension.
- This was a very discussion-based class. Joshua made sure to always balance letting people voice their questions and concerns with explaining the core of the material that he felt was necessary to be explained. There were three papers assigned, and the two so far that I've completed have challenged me--but Joshua was always more than willing to offer support.
- Lectures present all sides of the arguments, and assignment allows us to develop our own independent thinking

- This is a discussion course. Professor Craze engages all his students and encourages all of them to participate within the classroom. He facilitates discussion based on his own questions to help guide us through these difficult texts and questions from our weekly paragraphs.
- Lectures were very productive and well guided.
- Discussions were fascinating and gave a lot of insight

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	90%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	80%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	80%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	90%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve subsequent work.	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	80%
My work was evaluated fairly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	70%
I felt respected in this class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	70%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%

Additional Comments about this course:

- Very interesting class, professor very knowledgeable on the topic

I would recommend this course to:

highly motivated and well-prepared students

Yes	10 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

anyone interested in the topic

Yes	10 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

The Instructor

Thinking about your time in class, what aspects of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

- lectures, discussions, office hours
- The professor has a great understanding of the texts and is able to draw on his knowledge to both clarify the ideas and complicate our understandings. He puts the different authors into conversation with each other, which further challenges us to engage with the texts.
- Joshua was SO dedicated to this class; it was incredible. He offered office hours frequently and offered recorded office hours on Canvas regarding essay topic questions. He's also hilarious and savage, which makes the class fun to be in.
- great lecturer, great discussion director, funny, very intelligent and well read
- Interesting lecture, smooth transition between each book
- Professor Craze facilitates engaging and fascinating discussions. He encourages everyone to participate. Through these discussion I have learned greatly from him and my peers. Professor Craze has created a collaborative learning environment where students are not only learning from each other, but are also working with each other in and outside of the classroom. Also my writing ability and style has improved. I now look at my writing when editing it in a different way. Lastly, Professor Craze cares about the success of his students with making himself available through email and through his numerous hours of office hours that he holds.
- The way class discussions were led I thought were very productive and insightful.
- Craze is very good at leading discussions. Active discussions contributed to great understandings of the readings. Overall, great lecturer

What could she/he modify to help you learn more?

- n/a
- Sometimes because the assignment is consisted of a large amount of reading, we don't cover all we read in class. It would be more helpful if, instead of skipping over those portions of the readings, the professor just briefly comments on those portions not discussed.
- We had groups to discuss the essay topic starting with the second essay; I feel that in the future, Professor Craze could introduce the groups earlier in the quarter. Also, this isn't the instructor's fault, but whoever assigned the readings for Power needs to MAKE THEM SHORTER. Lastly, for certain topics, Joshua's style of going very in depth worked very well (like

for Hobbes and Rousseau), but for certain writers, like Mill, I think a more general overview would have helped us more (instead of going in depth for the first 15 pages, we could have discussed key sections from each of the five parts of the book).

- read passages out loud more slowly. but honestly he's perfect, great instructor
- None, its very good
- It would be helpful if he specified which sections out of the long chapter readings would be the most relevant so that I could really focus on those chapters; however, this being said, I understand that by doing this many students would likely not do any other reading... so take that as you will.
- Less reading

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	90%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	10%	0%	0%	0%	10%	80%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	90%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	90%
Challenged you to learn.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	10%	30%	60%
Motivated you to think independently.	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	80%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming environment.	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	90%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	90%

The Teaching Assistant, Course Assistant, Intern

Did this class include instruction by a TA, CA or Intern?

Yes	10 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning?

- I loved the class Pranathi taught on Wollstonecraft. She led a very engaging conversation.
- Her occasional comments on the text contribute to our better understanding of what the author is talking about.
- It was very helpful to talk to Pranathi outside of class, asking for help on how to write essays. Her advice was critical to my improving on the subsequent essay assignment.
- Pranathi would always chime in with really enlightening and interesting thoughts during class discussion. Furthermore, she was great at letting the discussion flow during the class she taught on Wollstonecraft.
- In class, she gives examples in the real life that reflects the concept of book. Help us resolve any confusion, and led to a clearer understanding of the text in general.
- Pranathi led a great class discussion and always contributes interesting points of views that challenge us to think about what the authors are saying in the text.
- She had her one office hours and helped me understand how to better formulate an argument for academic essays! She also did an amazing lecture helping me better understand Wollstonecraft!
- Led interesting discussions

What could she/he modify to help you learn more?

- None, she did very well
- Hmm... the only thing I can really think of is I would love the feedback on our essays to be a bit more extensive...but she was always available to meet to help go over anything!
- More office hour opportunities

The TA/CA or Intern...

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	70%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	20%	0%	0%	0%	20%	50%
Stimulated your interest in the core	0%	0%	0%	10%	20%	60%

ideas of the course.

Challenged you to learn.	0%	0%	0%	10%	20%	60%
Helped you succeed in the class.	0%	0%	0%	10%	20%	60%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	20%	0%	0%	0%	10%	60%
Overall, the TA/CA made a significant contribution to your learning.	10%	0%	0%	20%	10%	50%

Additional feedback to the TA/CA/Intern:

- Very good TA, help us better understand the text.
- LOVE HER
- I liked her a lot

Additional Course Elements

Did this course include special design elements (labs, field trips, extra sessions, writing seminars)?

Yes	0 / 0%
No	10 / 100%

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

	NA	No Gains	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain
Laboratory Experience	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Field Trips	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Library Sessions	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Review sessions	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Writing Seminars	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Student Information

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Yes	10 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

Prior to starting the class, my interest level was?

Very Low	0 / 0%
Low	0 / 0%
Neutral	3 / 30%
High	3 / 30%
Very High	4 / 40%

Now that the course is over, my interest is?

Diminished	1 / 10%
Satisfied	1 / 10%
Heightened	8 / 80%

Why, primarily, did you take this course over others?

It fulfills a requirement	9 / 90%
There were no other choices	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	2 / 20%
The topic interests me	10 / 100%
Reputation of the faculty member	6 / 60%

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

< 5 Hours	1 / 10%
5-10 Hours	7 / 70%
> 10 Hours	2 / 20%

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

Very Easy	0 / 0%
Easy	0 / 0%
Average	1 / 10%
Difficult	6 / 60%
Very Difficult	3 / 30%

