

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11400: Power, Identity, Resistance -1

Section 22 - Autumn 2017

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua; Kaminski, Robert

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.

- Different and in-depth reading
- Course teaches you how to construct solid arguments, both verbally and in written format. Also challenges the reasoning behind things you think you believe.
- Learning how to write papers for SOSC, reading analytically, connecting authors we read to current events
- Phenomenal course, brilliant professor
- I learned how to do close reading in a serious way-- this sounds basic but it CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED. I read some of the toughest texts I have ever had to read for a class this quarter (and I'm sure the texts will keep getting tougher) but I am way more confident now that I can handle these readings.
- close reading skills, immensely improved ability to write argumentatively on a theoretical concept
- The course introduced me to the discipline of political philosophy, which I found to be extremely interesting. As a first year, I learned for the first time how to approach such dense readings, and formulate arguments based on my understanding of multiple texts.
- Politics is as much of an art as a science.

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

- Lectures are sooo eye-opening Discussion is interesting however not a big part Assignments include three paragraphs written for each class and three essays. The paragraphs provided fodder for the lectures. The essays were challenging.
- J Craze is very enthusiastic about teaching the course and is extremely knowledgeable.
- Lectures are often very engaging and help my understanding of the readings, when an essay is due I think it would be better if there are less readings, as it is difficult to finish both assignments. More group office hours would be good.
- The discussions were awesome, professor Craze is super engaging and makes the material infinitely more interesting than it seems upon first read.

- Lectures were amazing
- The lectures and class discussions are fast-paced and highly productive. Debating ideas back and forth with my classmates allowed me to gain significantly deeper insights into texts than which I would have by merely reading them. Essay prompts are challenging. They force me to read texts really closely and carefully examine my arguments.

| | 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% | 10% | 10% | 30% | 50% |
| I understood the standards for success on assignments. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30% | 30% | 40% |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30% | 10% | 60% |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve subsequent work. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 20% | 40% | 40% |
| My work was evaluated fairly. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 60% | 40% |
| I felt respected in this class. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 40% | 60% |
| Overall, this was an excellent course. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30% | 70% |

Additional Comments about this course:

- Tough, yet rewarding

I would recommend this course to:

highly motivated and well-prepared students

Yes

10 / 100%

No 0 / 0%

anyone interested in the topic

Yes 8 / 80%

No 2 / 20%

The Instructor

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

- Everything!
- The discussion facilitated was excellent and engaging. Craze knows how to make the topics relevant and interesting.
- The balance between lecture and discussion is really good.
- He is incredibly committed to teaching, puts an amazing amount of time into it.
- I really like Professor Craze's style of teaching, he is super engaging and honestly there were times this quarter when sosc was the only class I enjoyed being in. Every discussion is interesting and even if I hadn't done the reading I felt like I could still engage with the material and learn from the discussion-- this is to say our class close-reading was more than just a rehash of the textual material.
- Amazing lectures, really knew what he was talking about and understood the material to a deep level. I've probably grown more just from this class than any other I've ever taken in my life.
- Sometimes I regret taking Joshua's class because he significantly raised my expectations of professors at large. Many strengths: 1) Unbelievably intelligent and well-read, knows all course materials and beyond by heart, gives us optional supplemental readings which I find very helpful; 2) Excellent at facilitating class discussions, assigns thought-provoking prompts which could be difficult and nevertheless/therefore fun to write about; 3) Extremely responsible and dedicated, really cares about students and very generous in giving office hours (one-on-one and extra group office hours for essays); 4) Some personality perks: could appear a little intimidating at the beginning, but soon proved to be nice and laid-back (probably except for academic requirements). Besides, Joshua is truly passionate about what he teaches, and that just gives him an incredible charisma. To sum up: Joshua is phenomenal. Class experience with him is as enjoyable and worthwhile as itâ??s intense. Joshua is not the type of professors who coddle students, but he's THE choice if one wants to get 200% out of SOSC.

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

- Joshua is sooo good. But he is a bit intimidating in his competence and was in lecture-mode more often than not. I also wish that he could slow down his talking speed a bit. It's genuinely a challenge to keep up with him. But an enjoyable one nevertheless!
- n/a
- Perhaps to start with some fundamental passages and then go through our comments on paragraphs

- There is a WILD amount of reading, which many students complained about especially in the second half of the quarter. I don't think there is a good way to fix this (the readings are not up to my professor, there is a purpose to the volume of material we are given) but it can be brutal especially around midterm season.
- personally, the readings are quite heavy. lessening the reading would make it easier for me, but perhaps lessen the quality of the class as well.
- Occasionally moves a bit too fast, and could be hard to keep up.

| | N/A | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|----------|---------|------------|----------------|
| Organized the course clearly. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 40% | 50% |
| Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 20% | 60% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30% | 60% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 10% | 0% | 60% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30% | 50% |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30% | 50% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 40% | 40% |
| Motivated you to think independently. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 20% | 60% |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming environment. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 60% | 20% |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30% | 50% |

The Teaching Assistant, Course Assistant, Intern

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

Yes

9 / 90%

No

0 / 0%

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

- nothing
- Her openness to different perspectives on the readings, ability to lead discussion well by asking engaging questions, and hearing what we said about the readings. She also tied in themes from past readings.
- Bob taught one class that wasn't super helpful just because it feel as engaging as our usual discussion.
- Friendly, contributed to class discussions!

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

- I wish that he would be more harsh in terms of advice for our essay drafts. It would have been more helpful.
- Engage in the class. I think Bob made two comments in class over the course of 10 weeks.
- Giving a quick overview of the reading in the beginning of class might be nice
- I really liked it when Bob provided some historical context for the texts we read (especially Burke). I would love to hear Bob's thoughts more often, especially because he seems to know a lot about history.
- Maybe more involvement?

The TA/CA or Intern...

| | N/A | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Facilitated discussions that supported your learning. | 20% | 20% | 0% | 20% | 20% | 0% |
| Gave you useful feedback on your work. | 10% | 0% | 10% | 30% | 20% | 10% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course. | 20% | 10% | 10% | 20% | 10% | 10% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 20% | 10% | 10% | 20% | 10% | 10% |
| Helped you succeed in the class. | 10% | 10% | 10% | 30% | 10% | 10% |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|------------|-----|
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 20% | 0% | 0% | 20% | 40% | 0% |
| Overall, the TA/CA made a significant contribution to your learning. | 10% | 10% | 10% | 30% | 10% | 10% |

Additional feedback to the TA/CA/Intern:

- He can try to have more presence in class I suppose?

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 | 30% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Field Trips | 30% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Library Sessions | 30% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Review sessions | 30% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Writing Seminars | 30% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Student Information**Is this class a requirement of some sort?**

| | |
|-----|---------|
| Yes | 9 / 90% |
| No | 0 / 0% |

Prior to starting the class, my interest level was?

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Very Low | 1 / 10% |
| Low | 1 / 10% |
| Neutral | 5 / 50% |
| High | 1 / 10% |
| Very High | 1 / 10% |

Now that the course is over, my interest is?

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Diminished | 0 / 0% |
| Satisfied | 1 / 10% |
| Heightened | 8 / 80% |

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

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|-----------------------------|---------|
| It fulfills a requirement | 7 / 70% |
| There were no other choices | 1 / 10% |

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| Meets at a convenient time | 2 / 20% |
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| The topic interests me | 3 / 30% |
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| Reputation of the faculty member | 8 / 80% |
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How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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| < 5 Hours | 0 / 0% |
|-----------|--------|

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| 5-10 Hours | 6 / 60% |
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| > 10 Hours | 3 / 30% |
|------------|---------|

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

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| Very Easy | 0 / 0% |
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| Easy | 0 / 0% |
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| Average | 0 / 0% |
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| Difficult | 6 / 60% |
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| Very Difficult | 3 / 30% |
|----------------|---------|