

# College Course Evaluations

## SOSC 11300: Power, Identity, Resistance-3

### Section 04 - Spring 2015

**Instructor(s):** Craze, Joshua

**Number Enrolled:** 19

**Number of Responses:** 14

### Evaluation Comments

#### What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Joshua Craze is the best! He is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the texts. He is very opinionated and he grades fairly. +1 for the British accent.
- He's EXTREMELY SMART and WITTY. He was great, he really helped everyone understand the texts. His emails are too long and too many though.
- An amazing professor! He is incredibly intelligent but interacted with us as if everyone in the room was equal. He was really good at presented the overall stake in the argument of each of the texts that we read. And he also gave lots of great recommendations for outside reading. The movies were also a great addition
- Joshua Craze is brilliant. He knew how to lead class discussion in a direction that did not make it seem obvious but we would suddenly arrive at the main point of the argument or theory that an author writes about. Additionally, he spent a lot of time preparing for class and it was evident. Finally, he was really good at teaching us all how to improve our writing.
- Josh is absolutely wonderful. He's incredibly knowledgeable about every book we've read and he does a fantastic job guiding discussion. I really can't say enough about how excellent he is as a teacher.
- Prof. Craze is the best professor I have ever had. He really understands the text, goes through it page by page, and is hilariously funny while doing so. Take this class. You will not regret it. You think you will, because the first week he tries to scare you, but stick with it and IT WILL BE AWESOME. TAKE THIS CLASS.
- Joshua is one of the greatest professors I've had here. He's knowledgeable, enthusiastic, cares about his students, and he's funny. He does care a lot about this class and expects you to do the same, so if you're looking for a relaxed sosc class, his is not it.
- Josh is great. Great insights and a wonderful person who knows what he is talking about.
- Professor Craze was really smart, great at leading discussion, and had a clear understanding of the material. He held us to a high standard, which resulted in generally focused classes. The only issue was that we often didn't get through all the reading. Obviously it's impossible to cover 200 pages of dense reading in 120 minutes. However, I would have preferred it if Professor Craze had organized discussion in such a way that we got to all the major points from the reading and skipped over less important sections, rather than covering the first quarter or third of the reading in minute detail and not getting to the rest.
- Joshua Craze was an absolutely incredible instructor. He has the masterful skill to bring some of the most abstract concepts into concrete understandings. He was able to take lead of class discussion when necessary but ultimately allow the class to run its course. He is perhaps one of the most dedicated teachers I have ever had, stimulating thought even beyond the classroom. To exemplify this point, it should be noted that he extended his final office hours to nearly 10 hours (straight) just to ensure everyone in the class who wanted time to discuss

their writing had time to discuss it with him in person. He's the type of teacher to supplement our readings with a list of films just to deepen our understanding. His greatest weakness though: time. Let the man have control over his own syllabus!

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

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

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

- Nothing.
- No
- Maybe less reading so that we could focus more on what we were discussing
- I would lessen the amount of reading. This is not up to Josh, I know, but the department as a whole. How can you appreciate what you are reading if you don't have time to do it all? The reading should be more targeted in my opinion.
- Maybe a little less reading. It's practically impossible to keep up with the de Beauvoir readings, for example.
- Nothing. Nothing ever. Except maybe for Prof. Craze to stop taking smoke breaks, because that's unhealthy and he is unfortunately mortal.
- Too many books in each quarter. They begin to blend into one another.
- Nothing.
- Not much - just covering more of the reading in class.
- I would limit the amount of reading. There's no way we could come to appreciate these thinkers by the mass of pages we're expected to keep up with.

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

- No
- No
- No
- No

- Econ maybe for the first quarter. General philosophy, schools of philosophy.
- No
- No
- Nope
- No, it was very self-contained.

**Which texts were most useful?**

- All texts were useful. My favorites included The Second Sex and the speeches by MLK and Malcolm X.
- MLK, Malcolm X and Fanon
- All of them
- Nothing in particular
- All of them really
- All of them
- You had three papers a quarter but Joshua gave us many choices/let you propose your own topic.
- Fanon
- Kant and Nietzsche
- I particularly enjoyed Fanon, Foucault, and Nietzsche

**Which least?**

- I didn't really see a need for Arendt's On Revolution.
- Nothing in particular
- I can't think of a text I disliked.
- depends on what you write about
- Kant
- None come to mind.

**How productive was class discussion?**

- Class discussions were always engaging and challenging. Professor Craze did a great job of facilitating discussions, and there was a sense of unity within the class. Everyone seemed to really be interested in the subjects regardless of their majors.
- Very productive

- It was great. Professor Craze paid close attention to what every student said in order to tie it together
- I have never been in a better class. Though we did not necessarily cover a ton of the material in class because we would go slowly enough so that the important parts were clear, I learned more because of it. Josh knew which sequence of pages we needed to discuss so that the rest of the reading was still clear and relevant. Additionally, in class, he was excellent at drawing people in to the discussion and posing thought provoking and difficult questions.
- Very - I think everyone came out with a much better understanding of the texts, and perhaps more importantly, the issues at stake within the texts.
- So productive. Everyday we learned amazing things and had amazing discussions. I got to know the texts so incredibly intimately. Take this class.
- Very. Class revolved around it.
- Very.
- Class discussions could lag at times, but when we all found a point we wanted to talk about, things got very enjoyable. My classmates developed abilities to transform the authors' words into their own.

### How has this course contributed to your education?

- I certainly would not have taken this course if it was not a core requirement, and I am so glad that I did take it. Craze is a fantastic instructor and really encouraged us to delve into the texts and challenge ourselves. 10/10 would recommend.
- YES!!
- !!!!
- I have learned how to think constructively and to create a well-thought out argument, either for a paper or just a class discussion. Additionally, I have learned how to understand much more of my reading due to suggestions from Josh. Finally, I have learned about many different thought processes and am much more knowledgeable about a wide range of topics including revolution, morality, government, economics, and more.
- I'm a much better writer thanks to this sequence, and I've gotten acquainted with some really interesting viewpoints.
- It has made me a better student, a more inquisitive thinker, a better analyst, a better philosopher. This class made my life amazing. Take it.
- Sosc is one of those "so uchicago" classes. It's really thought-provoking and gives you knowledge about some of the greatest books and authors out there. I wouldn't have enjoyed this course or learned as much as I did had Joshua not been my professor. I very much recommend him if you're looking for a "life of the mind" experience.
- I feel smarter.
- It has helped me become aware of the complexities surrounding the many contemporary social issues still faced today. They are not as black-and-white as some may think.

### Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	13 / 93%
Instructor Reputation	6 / 43%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%

Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	2 / 14%
A student recommended it	2 / 14%
Topic interests me	5 / 36%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

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

Strongly Agree	3 / 21%
Agree	7 / 50%
Neutral	1 / 7%
Disagree	0 / 0%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

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

Low Answer	1
Average Answer	7.3
High Answer	15

**What proportion of classes did you attend?**

All	13 / 93%
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75%	0 / 0%
50%	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
None	0 / 0%

### Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	11 / 79%
No	1 / 7%

### The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>86%</b>
Presented clear lectures.	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>79%</b>
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>93%</b>
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>93%</b>
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>93%</b>
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>93%</b>
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>86%</b>
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>86%</b>

## The Readings

	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>86%</b>
Were reasonable in number.	0%	0%	21%	21%	<b>29%</b>	14%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	0%	21%	<b>71%</b>

### Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	<b>N/A</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>100%</b>
	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>57%</b>	7%

## The Assignments

	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
How helpful were the lectures and discussions in preparing for exams and completing assignments?	7%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>79%</b>
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	7%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>79%</b>
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	7%	0%	0%	0%	14%	<b>71%</b>
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	<b>86%</b>
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>93%</b>

**Overall**

	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>93%</b>
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>86%</b>
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>86%</b>
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>93%</b>
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	<b>86%</b>
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>86%</b>

**The Teaching Assistant(s)**

	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Were available outside of class.	<b>86%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%
Were helpful with assignments.	<b>86%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%

**Discussion Sections, Problem Sessions, Writing Tutorials**

	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Were well coordinated with this course and contributed to it.	<b>79%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%
Provided well-designed materials.	<b>79%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%



