

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11300: Power, Identity, Resistance-3

Section 07 - Spring 2015

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua

Number Enrolled: 18

Number of Responses: 9

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Incredibly smart and able to eloquently explain dense material in a comprehensible manner. Also very funny and approachable. A+
- He was incredibly smart and knowledgeable about the text. He created a positive environment that encouraged participation, and it never felt like what you had to say could ever be stupid. Even when we weren't as articulate, he knew what we meant and engaged with our thoughts. He was amazing. He's pretentious af but not really elitist. He would always suggest books or films we should read, and he really wanted to let this class be a place for personal growth and development. With this professor, this class could really change and effect you.
- Joshua Craze is objectively the smartest person I have ever met. He does an incredible job of explaining very complex arguments and facilitating stimulating discussion. Everyone should take a course with him. I am certainly going to try to take another course with him and go to his office hours even when I am not in his class.
- Josh is GREAT. Seriously, the best power instructor I could have asked for. At first, he seemed really tough, but honestly he is an incredibly intelligent guy. He makes the hardest readings easy to understand, but he motivates us to read deeply and understand them ourselves. He is so so supportive and such a smart dude, and also REALLY cares about his students. He is super available in office hours, very supportive of essays, and brings out the best in everyone. We all talk in discussion and I feel it was really productive. He's also sarcastic and just an all-around funny guy. TAKE THIS CLASS. IT CHANGED MY LIFE. Only weakness (if you can even call it that) is that we couldn't get through all the readings--I think this is more a flaw of "Power" than Craze's fault. He actually probably picked better readings than the department.
- Incredibly strong knowledge of the texts and is very passionate about them. Strong discussion facilitator. Good at explaining difficult concepts. Sometimes spoke too much, but realized it and would pressure the class to interrupt him and participate more.
- Professor Craze is an amazing lecturer, intellectual, and mentor. He was crucial to my learning experience at UChicago for multiple reasons. Throughout the whole year Joshua Craze was able to generate a fascination for the topics that we covered that created an incredibly vibrant and stimulating class environment. Every student I spoke to enjoyed his classes, even though they were always more work than the other soc sections. He was always available to students outside of class to go over material covered in class or to prepare for upcoming assignments. He also embodies what one envisions under an intellectual and manages to stimulate the same sort of interest in academic life among his students. On several occasions I would come to class fed up with my academic work and then walk out wanting to reread my readings. Undoubtedly the best professor I have had so far.
- He had great insight into all of the texts we read this year and was really great at facilitating discussion. At times, he would take over the discussion a little to make clear a certain point about the text but that was also really helpful. He took up all of the questions we asked in the class and facilitated discussion really well. He is brilliant.

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

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

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

- Nothing. It was perfect.
- Less reading so that people actually do it and can contribute to the class discussion. You don't need to read an entire book to learn how an author thinks, and it is in the engagement with the the author's thought that the value of this course lies.
- I don't want it to be over :(((
- maybe decrease the daily page-load a bit
- Reduce the assigned reading, which is not dependent on the professor, but the university in this case
- Nothing

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

- social science
- Moral philosophy.
- Just philosophy in general would have been nice.
- Hegel. Sartre.
- no
- no
- Not really

Which texts were most useful?

- Nietzsche was pretty sweet
- Nietzsche, Beauvoir, MLK Jr., Malcolm X, Fanon, and Foucault
- Nietzsche
- Oh man. All of them. MLK, Fanon, Malcolm X, Nietzsche, De Beauvoir, Foucault.

- Groundwork of the metaphysics of morals, wealth of nations, discourse on inequality
- all of them
- Marx, Durkheim, Nietzsche - all, to be honest, but perhaps Marx most of all.

Which least?

- Kant was less sweet
- Kant
- Fanon
- Kant? Just thought he was boring but I guess he's pretty important.
- n/a
- none
- Perhaps Aristotle at the very start.

How productive was class discussion?

- Very
- Very. Everyday felt like a reawakening. He led it very well.
- Very productive
- Very productive. Really helped us learn about the texts, and involved everyone. He would talk about very complicated parts of the text but otherwise everyone contributed and helped "decode" what the author was talking about. I came out feeling very informed about all sorts of texts.
- very productive
- Very productive and always entertaining.
- Very, in terms of the depth to which we would discuss the texts. Sometimes we didn't get all the way through the reading, but I still feel like we got a lot out of each text.

How has this course contributed to your education?

- i am now vaguely educated
- It made me very sure about what I wanted to major in and it made me realize how powerful these texts could be in altering my beliefs. By deciding to actually care about these texts and listen to the readers, I have developed/matured as a person, and it feels goooooood.
- Taught me to think more objectively about the largest systems to which we subscribe. (education system, religion, etc...)
- It honestly made me realize how much I like social science and I now am considering Poli Sci as a major. It was extremely influential in the development of my writing and critical thinking, and it changed the way I look at the world.
- Forced me to re-evaluate the current world through these texts and actually think about things rather than simply accepting them.

- Made me pursue an additional major in philosophy
- Tremendously. The discussions were informative and changed the way I perceive my own life, and the things in it. Office hours were also really valuable.

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	7 / 78%
Instructor Reputation	1 / 11%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	1 / 11%
A student recommended it	0 / 0%
Topic interests me	4 / 44%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

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

Strongly Agree	4 / 44%
Agree	1 / 11%
Neutral	0 / 0%
Disagree	0 / 0%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

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

Low Answer	1
Average Answer	5.6
High Answer	9

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	6 / 67%
75%	2 / 22%
50%	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
None	0 / 0%

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	7 / 78%
No	1 / 11%

The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	78%
Presented clear lectures.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	89%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	89%

Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	89%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	89%
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	89%
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	89%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	78%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	78%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	11%	0%	44%	11%	22%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	56%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%	0%

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%	0%	11%	11%	67%

How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	0%	11%	11%	56%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	0%	44%	44%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	11%	11%	67%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	11%	22%	56%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	67%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	89%
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	78%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	78%
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	11%	0%	11%	0%	67%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	78%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	78%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%

Were helpful with assignments.	78%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
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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.	89%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Provided well-designed materials.	89%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%