

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11300: Power, Identity, Resistance-3

Section 15 - Spring 2016

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua

Number Enrolled: 19

Number of Responses: 11

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Josh is an amazing professor. He really looks to engage us with the texts that we're reading and his vast expanse of knowledge is beyond impressive and admirable
- Joshua Craze is an amazing instructor. He obviously puts a lot of time, thought, and care into preparing for class and leading class discussion, and it shows by his questions and thoughts on the texts that he poses to the class. He is also extremely helpful and available outside of class in office hours where he offers stellar feedback on essays, ways of improvements, and ideas on how to approach essay prompts. The class is structured in a way that you're forced to put in effort, which if you're looking for an easy SOSC class can be off-putting, but it's because Joshua cares a lot about teaching us and having us understand texts in relation to the world, so he holds the class to high standards and expects us to reach them. All in all, take the class if you're actually interested and invested in learning, not if you want an easy time.
- Strengths: obviously enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the material, and, as a result, very engaging; made class an absolute pleasure Weaknesses: perhaps moving at a brisker pace through the material would have been good
- Hands down the best professor I've had at this university. Professor Craze really cares about his students, and is great at motivating independent thinking. Could be a little more timely in returning papers, but that's just a minor aside.
- The best and most insightful teacher I have ever had.
- Craze is a phenomenal instructor. He clearly cares about his students whether or not they are getting good grades in his class and, more importantly, he has the body of knowledge and the perceptive skill to guide you to what is at the heart of what is going on in an author's conceptual scheme. This class was the thing I looked forward to most every week.
- As in the first two quarters, Joshua was a phenomenal professor. This class changed the way I think.

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

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

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

- I do not know how many times this has been said, but let the instructors have control over their syllabi! We read much more interesting and relevant readings than the ones on the syllabus, and starting with Hegel first thing this quarter was such an incredibly bad decision.
- Remove Hegel, and possibly reduce the number of authors read, so as to be able to focus in more detail on the remaining ones
- I wish we had time to finish at least one of the books we read! The only readings we went through completely were MLK and Malcolm X. Also where was Foucault?!?!!
- Let Joshua choose our reading requirements!
- We don't need to read Hegel in an introduction to political philosophy class!!! It's a waste of time if we don't have the philosophical background or the time to put into actually understanding it! It didn't contribute a great deal to anything to come after because I just didn't get it.

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

- European History, especially French History. That would have made Fanon much easier to understand.
- Everything.
- Hegel, clearly. Also existentialism generally; we could have read Sartre with De Beauvoir to see how they were playing off of each other, particularly given the brief exposure to Fanon.

Which texts were most useful?

- de Beauvoir and Nietzsche.
- Nietzsche, Fanon
- Marx.
- Fanon was super interesting, and Arendt. Nietzsche was also useful although not necessarily politically.

Which least?

- HEGEL. TAKE HEGEL OFF THE SYLLABUS. PUT SOMEONE ELSE BACK ON, LITERALLY ANYONE BUT HEGEL.
- Hegel, Arendt
- n/a
- I think that the MLK and Malcolm X were difficult to talk about for a reason I can't quite put my finger on, but that may just mean that their place in the syllabus needs to be adjusted. The length of the De Beauvoir was a bit much, but that doesn't mean that it should be cut entirely. Hegel was functionally useless.

How productive was class discussion?

- Somewhat, it depended on the text.
- Class discussion was very productive when we all had a good handle on the reading, which sometimes didn't happen. This wasn't because of Joshua and his teaching, but the texts themselves were oftentimes unclear and ambiguous in their meanings which made discussion hard to facilitate.

- Generally productive and engaging; however, it did not always translate to being useful for essay-writing
- Very.
- I think that class discussion was hindered slightly by the massive amounts of reading we were supposed to do. By the end of the quarter, students were just kind of giving up I think which clearly negatively effected the quality of discussion. Craze, as always, was eloquent and good at summarizing points that we had missed, and his insights always super helpful in understanding the texts when nobody else volunteered any thoughts, but I think that there is utility in working through the finer points of the text as a group coming towards it for the first time.

How has this course contributed to your education?

- This course has really expanded how I think about events and ideas in the world, and has allowed me to develop skills to thinking more critically about ideas and arguments presented to me.
- In every way. This course is the single most formative course I have ever taken.
- Beyond my capability to summarize it here.

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	8 / 73%
Instructor Reputation	5 / 46%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	1 / 9%
A student recommended it	1 / 9%
Topic interests me	4 / 36%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

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

Strongly Agree	8 / 73%
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Agree	1 / 9%
Neutral	0 / 0%
Disagree	0 / 0%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

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

Low Answer	4
Average Answer	9.1
High Answer	15

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	9 / 82%
75%	0 / 0%
50%	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
None	0 / 0%

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	8 / 73%
No	1 / 9%

The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	64%
Presented clear lectures.	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	64%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	73%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	73%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	64%
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	46%
Was helpful during office hours.	9%	0%	0%	0%	9%	46%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	64%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	46%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	0%	18%	9%	9%	27%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	9%	18%	36%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

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

46%

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%	0%	18%	46%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	46%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	55%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	9%	9%	46%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	55%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	55%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	64%
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	55%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	55%

I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	27%	36%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	64%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	46%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%
Were helpful with assignments.	46%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%

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.	55%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%
Provided well-designed materials.	55%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%