

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11300: Power, Identity, Resistance-3

Section 15 - Spring 2017

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua

Number Enrolled: 13

Number of Responses: 9

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Professor Craze is the best professor I have had at UChicago thus far. He is deeply knowledgeable about the texts and their issues and committed to motivating discussion and independent student thinking. He does have a tendency to send lots of emails and miss some self-ascribed deadlines.
- Craze is a great lecturer; he is very knowledgeable about the course materials and political/social theory in general, and is (despite his initial augustness which turns out to be bluffing) a nice human being. His sections are significantly more engaging than the others, as we do a lot of close reading and critical thinking, on top of surveying the authors' main points (which simultaneously means they tend to be harder). This seems to me to be the only good way to really understand these very hard texts, or else why don't we just read SparkNotes for summaries? Writing assignments are not easy - they are long (1500/2500-4000 words) and topics are tailored (as opposed to mere summarizing) more toward either 1) a comparative study of inherent and unifying themes across several texts, or 2) an interaction between the classics we read and the contemporary world. But writing for this class is really a rewarding experience.
- Josh Craze might be the single smartest individual I've ever interacted with. This class is a must take. Craze will push you intellectually, but you will reap infinite benefits.
- Strengths: Craze's very in depth understanding of the material in tandem with his being funny meant that the class was generally involved & discussions were relatively productive. Weaknesses: None.
- Very engaging and knowledgeable. Unafraid to put forth views that students might be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with. Professor Craze was very helpful with getting to the core ideas of readings and ensuring that students really understood material before offering opinions on it.
- Time flies in this class. I have tried three different instructors for power, but this one has most productive discussion. Craze really puts effort to make you understand the material, and he does that well. I highly recommend.
- He had a great understanding of the material which we were covering.
- Smart, great, one of the best SOSC professors I got
- The discussions were very useful for clarifying the relevant ideas within the various works, however we tended to get a little off topic sometimes.

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

- N/A
- There wasn't any; there should be one, though.
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- n/a
- N/A
- na

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

- Possibly less reading per class period.
- Eliminate one or two texts. Doing all six in one quarter, with many of them being very difficult, is really hard. One way to do this is to delete Baldwin and Du Bois for being kind of out of place, as they are far less theoretical and scholarly than other texts for the quarter, and for the PIR sequence in general. Neither makes much sense to me, too, until I saw "I'm not your negro" for Baldwin.
- Nothing. Maybe less reading in general, but that's Sosc for you.
- Nothing.
- We spent a lot of time in class understanding the material and not as much time offering opinions on the writers' work. While this led to a very informative class, it could become a bit slow at times.
- Perhaps the time schedule. So, there is more than one day between the two class to do the readings.

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

- The gender issues
- Not really - Craze likes to explain.
- More Political Theory
- No.
- Just some history, but not that much background was needed.
- More of this, all.
- No
- For the works themselves, no. However, the professor would sometimes reference outside work that the class had never read or seen.

Which texts were most useful?

- The Origins of Totalitarianism, The Fire Next Time
- I enjoyed Arendt and Nietzsche the best. Other than its astounding difficulty, Foucault for this quarter is great, too.
- Really great line up. Loved them all.
- Origins of Totalitarianism was particularly interesting, given the current context (2016 elections/global populist movement)
- Nietzsche, Arendt, de Beauvoir, Baldwin.
- Nietzsche and Arendt.

Which least?

- The Second Sex, anything to do with Nietzsche
- The Darkwater. If any black thinker were to be kept, please just keep Baldwin and let everyone watch the doc alongside. Also, de Beauvoir was enjoyable at first, but much less so when she started to repeat herself - just pick readings from the Second Sex more selectively.
- None.
- None
- N/A
- They were all great.

How productive was class discussion?

- Class discussion was highly productive; pretty much everyone was engaged in what was happening.
- Pretty, especially when everybody seems to have carefully read the text beforehand (i.e., when it isn't too hard or too long, which happens).
- Incredibly.
- Pretty good.
- Very productive--the professor stimulated great discussions that were geared toward ensuring students truly grasped what they had read.
- n/a
- Extremely productive
- Very productive
- Very. We were able to post questions prior to class and the teacher endeavored to clarify them during the session.

How has this course contributed to your education?

- Furthered my analytical, writing, and communication abilities
- It builds on the first two quarters' material to engage me in thinking about the interaction between the political, the economic, and the social, with a particular focus on modern/contemporary inequality.

- I see the world in an entirely different light.
- I feel like I'm definitely both more articulate and more generally aware of the various themes regarding totalitarianism/power, racism, and sexuality that the course material discussed.
- It has provided me a grounding in philosophical work that forms the underpinning of many of the social and political movements of today, so it has helped me gain a better understanding for and appreciation of these works.
- Alot actually. Power I and II should have had more of the topics/ themes in III.
- It introduced me to a lot of the classic politic theory that continues to propagate today.

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	8 / 89%
Instructor Reputation	3 / 33%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	3 / 33%
A student recommended it	0 / 0%
Topic interests me	3 / 33%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

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

Strongly Agree	5 / 56%
Agree	2 / 22%
Neutral	0 / 0%
Disagree	0 / 0%

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

Low Answer	6
Average Answer	10.8
High Answer	20

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	8 / 89%
75%	1 / 11%
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%	89%

Presented clear lectures.	22%	0%	0%	0%	22%	56%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	78%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	89%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	89%
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	78%
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	0%	22%	78%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	89%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	89%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	0%	0%	0%	44%	56%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	67%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	67%	33%

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%	22%	78%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	11%	0%	0%	0%	33%	56%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	11%	0%	0%	0%	22%	67%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	0%	44%	56%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	11%	33%	56%

Overall

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

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	89%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%
Were helpful with assignments.	89%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%

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.	78%	0%	0%	0%	11%	11%
Provided well-designed materials.	78%	0%	0%	0%	11%	11%