

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11300: Power, Identity, Resistance-3

Section 23 - Spring 2017

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua; Seegers, Sharon

Number Enrolled: 18

Number of Responses: 11

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- The instructor was incredible--he made sure we had a thorough understanding of the text through good questions/facilitations, and he provided even more guidance in office hours. He was also very personable; I felt very comfortable asking him questions. He also provided really thorough feedback on papers (albeit a bit late after submission).
- Joshua Craze is easily one of the best professors I've taken a class with at this university. He has a clear command of the material and his discussions are always engaging and productive. He asks a lot of students but gives a lot in return. If you're willing to put in the work for this course I can't recommend it enough.
- Very good instructor - excelled at leading a class and conveying the material, ensuring that students had a very strong understanding. Added humor was a plus.
- Craze is extraordinarily interesting during lectures. He provides deep insight into the texts and clearly understands and examines them thoroughly.
- Professor Craze is the BEST professor I have ever had during my two years at the University of Chicago. His deep knowledge of the text, his prompt interaction with students, and his attractive characteristics all make him an exceedingly intelligent and at the same time personable instructor. After the class, I have learnt a lot about politics, sociology, and economics. This course not only taught me about historical events and political theories, but also prompted me to reflect upon my own relationship with the society that I live in. There are people who say that Professor Craze is hard. And I do not disagree. He demands a very high-quality of work to be delivered, and he can quickly spot incoherences in our arguments. He also has Spring Break homework... which made me spend my last holiday day in a public library reading Nietzsche. But I definitely believe that all the efforts pay off. If I am to do it again, I will definitely choose Professor Craze for Power. This is the class that makes my UChicago life amazing.
- Craze is such a great professor. Unlike the other power classes, we actually learned and understood all the readers. Also, he's hilarious and honest about himself. He isn't stuffy like other professors. The class can be a bit of a pain train....often, and especially around paper due dates, because he expects so much from you, but in my mind, what I learned and how my writing and analytical abilities increased was well worth it.
- Joshua Craze is one of my favorite teachers/professors I have ever had. He truly has a gift for facilitating discussion in class, especially considering the difficulty of the texts. He is incredibly smart and well-read, and I feel like he still genuinely feels that his students' ideas and thoughts are interesting. He is definitely demanding, I would say more so than probably any other Power section, but if you are willing to put in the effort and really enhance your analytical and writing skills, take this class. He adds very interesting texts to the syllabus, and is always available to discuss the readings/outside texts in office hours, which I haven't found in a lot of professors.
- no weaknesses extremely knowledgeable about the materials and very good at presenting them while giving students the opportunity to think independently about the text don't be intimidated by his emails; a very understanding kind and nice person indeed

- Joshua is exceptionally brilliant. He will make you love learning again. His wit makes you take notes not just on the material, but on how to own a room in conversation. He has a mastery of the material that is second to none. The class is demanding, but in the end you have to try hard to not improve as a scholar.
- Absolutely fantastic professor. Really engaged the class and held my attention. I am really glad I took Spring quarter socs with professor Craze because he presented the material in illuminating ways while encouraging students to think independently. As a plus, he is a funny guy with a great accent.

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

- The TA facilitated discussion well.
- She was very engaged during class and clearly cared about the texts
- Not much interaction.
- Sharon Seegers was wonderful. She's honestly much more knowledgeable and prepared to teach a class than any other grad student I've had.
- Sharon taught one class on "History of Sexuality," and I thought that she did a really good job. She did well with balancing lecture, student question, and student input.
- no weaknesses organized, very good at pointing out important ideas in the text and engaging students
- Sharon was really good at giving practical examples for the concepts that Foucault would try to argue. She also really engaged students well and helped us think through problems
- Great assistant- held engaging discussions.

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

- I would maybe lighten the reading. I often had to skip or skim parts of it in an attempt to keep up, and then we ended up not even discussing it (in fact, the instructor seemed to sometimes predict that no one would do all the reading, which makes me question why it was assigned in the first place).
- I think it may be simply the nature of the class itself but I'd love to read all of a smaller selection of works in smaller chunks to go into better depth.
- Shorter readings so I can absorb the material
- N/A
- Less ambitious reading assignments! Joshua, you wanted to cover way too many books, give the amount of time we spent on each book! Also, the nightly readings were sometimes way too long, and you know a lot of people didn't finish. Maybe have fewer books so that you can accomplish the depth you want.
- Maybe just how quickly we go through the texts, but I LOVE Power.
- less number of books to read but more depth and time on each one
- Toomuch reading. It was amazing the first week of class when everyone wants to recommit themselves to learning for the year vs. the middle of midterms when the majority of students didn't even read the front cover. To get the most out of PIR, one must dive deep into concise sections.
- Nothing!

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

- No, I felt that the course was appropriate for someone with no prior experience reading these authors.
- None

- no
- European History.
- Nope!
- Nope
- no
- Marx, Speech-Act Theory
- No

Which texts were most useful?

- All of them, but especially Nietzsche, Arendt, Baldwin, and de Beauvoir
- Useful is probably the wrong word but I particularly enjoyed The Fire Next Time and Origins of Totalitarianism.
- De Beauvoir, Foucault, Arendt
- Hannah Arendt - Origins of Totalitarianism
- de Beauvoir- The Second Sex- and Arendt- The Origins of Totalitarianism.
- All of the ones listed
- the genealogy of morality the history of sexuality fire next time
- Nietzsche , / Du Bois, Arendt

Which least?

- None
- all were interesting
- Foucault - A History of Sexuality
- Anything by Foucault. I'm sorry, but if you cut anything, cut him.
- n/a
- de Beauvoir, Baldwin

How productive was class discussion?

- Very--I always left with a profound understanding. The only problem was since this type of insight took time, we only got through a small part of the reading each class.
- Always productive
- Very

- Very productive. Craze is one of the best discussion leaders/lecturers I have ever had
- Very productive - Professor Craze is amazing at facilitating productive and inclusive discussions.
- Very productive. Joshua somehow manages to engage the entire room, even when people have no interest in what we're reading.
- So, so, so productive.
- very productive
- Extremely, when we did the reading.
- Very! I looked forward to going to class because of how much I would learn.

How has this course contributed to your education?

- I now have a better understanding of canonical authors/works. Furthermore, I can see how many of their ideas are still relevant today, even to my own education/life, and I am sure I will carry them with me for a long time.
- I think I'm a better writer and much more familiar with a range of great thinkers and ideas as a result of this course
- definitely
- Great Contribution.
- Definitely taught me how to analytically think and write better arguments- as an English major, it was a pleasant surprise to learn so much about writing in a Core class.
- This course helped me find a major that is much, much better suited for me. Power has been my favorite class for the past two quarters. I feel more educated now than I did when I started it in the fall.
- finally got to read the books
- It makes me see the world in terms of exploitation and incentives.

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	11 / 100%
Instructor Reputation	4 / 36%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	2 / 18%
A student recommended it	1 / 9%

Topic interests me	4 / 36%
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Concentration elective	0 / 0%
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In summary, I had a strong desire to take this course

Strongly Agree	5 / 46%
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Agree	5 / 46%
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Neutral	0 / 0%
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Disagree	0 / 0%
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Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%
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How many hours per week did you spend on this course?

Low Answer	7
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Average Answer	11
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High Answer	20
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What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	10 / 91%
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75%	1 / 9%
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50%	0 / 0%
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25%	0 / 0%
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None

0 / 0%

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes

10 / 91%

No

0 / 0%

The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Presented clear lectures.	9%	0%	0%	0%	9%	82%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	91%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	9%	9%	82%

Were reasonable in number.	0%	9%	9%	18%	27%	36%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	18%	36%	46%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	55%	27%

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%	0%	100%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	0%	27%	73%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	91%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	0%	27%	73%
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	82%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	73%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	36%	0%	0%	0%	9%	55%
Were helpful with assignments.	36%	0%	0%	9%	9%	46%

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.	64%	0%	0%	0%	9%	27%
Provided well-designed materials.	64%	0%	0%	0%	9%	27%

