

# College Course Evaluations

## SOSC 11200: Power, Identity, Resistance-2

### Section 24 - Winter 2016

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

**Number Enrolled:** 19

**Number of Responses:** 13

### Evaluation Comments

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

- My instructor was really good at helping us read through and fully understand the texts. He had a really nice balance between ensuring that we understood the text while at the same time allowing us to figure out what the text meant by ourselves. He was also really good at stimulating interesting discussions, and he seemed genuinely excited about the texts we were reading, which made me enjoy the class much more. Even though we didn't always have time to get through everything we read, I really felt like I understood everything.
- JOSHUA'STHEBOMB.COM
- Joshua is simply the best. He's good at leading discussions in class and he's also devoted to catering the materials to individual interests in office hours. I wish he 'lectured' more though, because his insights are so helpful.
- Prof. Craze understands the texts backward and forwards. He provides wonderful insight (though every once in a while he knows them so well that I'm not exactly sure what he's saying). He is a great instructor, being funny, charismatic, and helpful. I feel that I have learned so much in his course.
- Josh is incredible.
- Extremely witty, humorous, and didactic. Explanations were coherent, cogent, and strongly motivated further thinking. If we had twice as much time in a day, his class and teaching style would constitute the pinnacle of learning. A strength and a weakness is that he sometimes expects too much from us. He runs class expecting us to have thoroughly read through all the readings when we really have no time to do so. Also, essays are required to be ridiculously long, further extinguishing any hope in keeping up. But, we really do learn so much from him this way, and our writing improves greatly. He is extremely friendly, understanding, and supportive. A absolutely superb instructor that brings out the highest potential dormant within you. He marches you through the inferno (in a way that makes it seem like you are doing this out of your own volition) through which you temper your mind and soul. I no longer fear anything but his essays.
- Prof. Craze seems to know the material very well and was good at referencing material we had read earlier in later discussions, which made discussion more interesting. He has no major weaknesses.
- Professor Craze was generally a good discussion leader, although he sometimes would use extremely personal examples that made some people in the class uncomfortable. It's all a part of the persona he puts on, for the sake of "pedagogy" as he describes it. He's been pretty responsive to issues students have had with this though, generally, when they've brought them up.

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

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

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

- I wouldn't have discussion groups. It was useful to have peer review groups, but I didn't find the small group discussions about the text that productive.
- nothing. it was great
- I think the pace was too fast in the second half of the course (e.g., Paine and Wollstonecraft on one day)
- This course is set up very well. Sometimes, given the amount of works we are supposed to cover, I feel like we don't cover them deeply enough, but that would be my only complaint.
- Professor Craze is a pretty tough grader, but it motivates you to put in your best effort.
- A few things: 1) Less, but more focused reading. Brevity being the soul of wit: extreme amounts of reading makes us soulless, or worse, witless. 2) More guidance before and after the reading. Spend 10-15 min of class \*broadly\* explaining the concepts, the general takeaways of a reading, and only after confirming we have this basic understanding, lead us into discussion. The last lecture on Marx was, in my opinion, was most productive for this very reason. That, or some of the first lectures, when we were not so overwhelmed and sleep deprived. In both cases, readings were shorter and more focused. Don't just assign us a book and expect us to be experts on everything. There is simply no time; we cannot put in more labor that we don't possess. A few paragraphs, however, we can recognize and understand like the back of our hand. (Though how much do we recognize or understand the back of our hands anyway?) 3) Some more guidance with the essays. The group office hours are superb, but somewhat limited (understandably). The email with sample paragraphs was \*extremely\* helpful. It's more efficient and convenient for us (if you value that), and if anything, it gives us a worthy model to analyze and learn from. 4) Indulge the masochists less. Please.
- Maybe more diverse reading. It would be nice to read something that wasn't written by an old white man for a change. Maybe something Eastern? But otherwise, I understand how these readings provide a lot of the foundation for today's politics/society/economy etc. and they were helpful overall.
- Sometimes Professor Craze can be a bit too ambitious about how much reading we'll actually be able to get through discussing in class and will assign a lot that we end up not talking about. He tends to like to do close readings of pretty much everything, which is kind of unrealistic when the assignment is 60 pages of Hobbes, for example.

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

- No.
- nope
- No.
- Marx
- Philosophy, history, theology
- No
- The historical context of most of the things we read.

**Which texts were most useful?**

- Hobbes' "Leviathan" and Rousseau's "Social Contract."
- marx! but also the most intriguing
- Everything, especially Marx's On the Jewish Question
- Marx's On the Jewish Question, Rousseau's On the Social Contract, Hobbes's Leviathan. All of them were useful, though.
- Rousseau, Hobbes, Marx, Maybe Locke; de Maitre was also pretty fascinating
- Rousseau/Marx/Hobbes
- I thought they were all interesting.

**Which least?**

- I thought all the texts we read were really useful, but it was a bit frustrating that we had to buy books that (though they were very interesting to read) we only used for half a class.
- Wollstonecraft
- None.
- Burke, Wollstone, Paine... The ones that are constituted by dry, monologue filled diatribe. Those writers had "leisure" time to write those works, supported by labor and inequality of their societies. While we may have more inequalities, we do not have as much 'free' time to indulge them of their soliloquies.
- Burke/Locke/Paine
- We probably didn't need to read ALL of Burke/DeMaistre/Wollstonecraft, some of it wasn't super relevant.

**How productive was class discussion?**

- Class discussion was extremely productive. I always left class feeling like I understood the texts much more.
- productive!
- Great
- Prof. Craze encourages us to think for ourselves and prefers to act as a facilitator, providing insight when we are stuck. He promotes students to explain the works and help one another. We learn a lot from one another in our discussions, making them very productive.
- Always productive, often fun.
- Extremely. Sometimes I feel he knows more about the books than the authors that wrote them.
- Very.
- Pretty productive, students seemed to understand the readings pretty thoroughly.

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

- This class has given me a much greater understanding of political philosophies and has sparked my interest in that area.

- it has really opened up my mind! loved everything I learned this quarter
- I am so glad to have read these foundational works of modern political thought. They are all incredibly interesting and mind-opening. They help one to better understand the world and various perspectives while encouraging the questioning of one's own perspective. I feel like I am now much better-equipped to think politically. I would highly recommend taking Power, Identity, and Resistance (especially under Professor Craze)!
- This course has made me a man. It has brought to consciousness my universality. While I am still largely apathetic to politics, I now understand their ramblings to some degree. This course has made me a better thinker.
- It made me able to draw more connections between different subjects.
- Getting to read a lot of things I otherwise wouldn't.

### Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	8 / 62%
Instructor Reputation	5 / 39%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	2 / 15%
A student recommended it	1 / 8%
Topic interests me	5 / 39%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

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

Strongly Agree	4 / 31%
Agree	3 / 23%
Neutral	1 / 8%
Disagree	0 / 0%

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

Low Answer	4
Average Answer	7.3
High Answer	12

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	8 / 62%
75%	0 / 0%
50%	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
None	0 / 0%

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	7 / 54%
No	1 / 8%

The Instructor

N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>62%</b>
Presented clear lectures.	23%	0%	0%	0%	8%	<b>31%</b>
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	<b>54%</b>
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	<b>46%</b>
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	<b>54%</b>
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>62%</b>
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	<b>54%</b>
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	<b>46%</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%	0%	<b>62%</b>
Were reasonable in number.	0%	0%	8%	15%	15%	<b>23%</b>
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	<b>46%</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>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>

## 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?	15%	0%	0%	0%	8%	<b>39%</b>
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	0%	0%	23%	<b>39%</b>
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	0%	23%	<b>39%</b>
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	8%	15%	<b>39%</b>
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>31%</b>	<b>31%</b>

## Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	<b>46%</b>
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	<b>46%</b>
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	0%	0%	23%	<b>39%</b>
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	<b>54%</b>
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	<b>46%</b>
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	<b>46%</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>46%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Were helpful with assignments.	<b>46%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%

### 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>54%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Provided well-designed materials.	<b>54%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%