

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11100: Power, Identity, Resistance-1

Section 23 - Winter 2017

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua; Jones, Julius

Number Enrolled: 18

Number of Responses: 8

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Joshua definitely enjoyed what he taught and he definitely finds ways to make the content understandable. At times however, he does assume the whole class understands something and moves on. Nonetheless, he does effectively get his points across
- The professor is extremely intelligent and articulate, so he was very good at clearly explaining difficult concepts. He also provided really helpful feedback on our papers. He cared very much about us having a deep understanding of the texts. However, he sometimes acted eccentrically or said off-color things, making him a little intimidating to approach.
- Craze is an absolutely fantastic discussion leader/lecturer. He's keenly aware that the texts are difficult and, when no one has any idea what's going on, has no qualms about swooping in and clearing things up. Discussion was often focused more on understanding the text rather than commenting on it and this worked really well as Craze would often bring out the nuance of the author's argument rather than just recreating it. That said, he is a very demanding instructor and sets 3 pretty long papers and a huge amount of reading. Class with craze is a pain train, but a worthwhile one.
- Incredibly intelligent, has a clear command of the material and a contagious enthusiasm. Expects a lot, but gives a lot in return.
- The instructor know the material inside out. He makes class really exciting and interesting.
- Very sharp, deep understanding of the text, excellent at leading discussion, but there was a ton of work to the point where it didn't seem wortg it
- Amazing lecturer, prioritized knowledge and understanding of texts.

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

- Julius was without a doubt awful. I had only one experience with him, but it was enough to convince me to never seek help from him again. I had contacted him about setting up an office hour appointment and he stood me up. He gave no form of communication during or after the period in which we were supposed to meet, and when confronted about it, not only did he not apologize despite the fact that I did (which I shouldn't have in the first place), he also told me that he did not think we needed to meet. In class, he was silent a majority of the time and the few comments he did make were not helpful in the slightest. Overall I wondered why he was even here if he seemed like he didn't care about the material or the class.
- n/a
- I did not really speak to the teaching assistant and he never really spoke in class.

- He didn't really say much or make it clear why he was there or what he could do to help
- Did not interact with him much.

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

- The readings are not given appropriate time. We spend weeks on Marx and then we have to read all of Foucault or Polanyi in a matter of days. It's stressful, and it impedes my understanding of the material as well. I think a better distribution of time would help this course.
- I would maybe shorten the reading assignments. I know that some of the content is mandated, and that it is hard to appreciate an author without reading a good part of his/her work, but the reading was so long that we often never discussed all of it.
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- Perhaps a shorter length requirement for the essays.
- The readings were sometimes extremely long.
- Less reading. Maybe make the texts a bit more modern. There have got to be clearer and more convincing versions of Smith and Marx that relate more directly to our current world
- Nothing really. It is a bit rigorous for a core class, but worth it if one has the time.

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

- Economics. As someone who has never taken an economics course, I was hopelessly confused throughout a large part of the course.
- no
- More knowledge of 17th,18th,19th century European history.
- None
- It did not feel like a class where we were unprepared for, in terms of prior learning.
- No
- Not really
- Instructor was very good at providing context and background.

Which texts were most useful?

- Marx was actually the most useful and I wish we would have started with him. It is very dense, but also very repetitive, meaning his terms and ideas stick with you.
- I think Capital really taught me how to engage deeply with a text. Also, after reading it, I feel like I can understand anything!
- All useful
- All texts were equally useful
- I found Marx and Smith to be the best, though I wish I hadn't accidentally clicked next on the last page and left those fields blank. I do feel like we missed out on getting to spend a lot of time on the last few texts, like Polanyi and Foucault.

- All of them
- Marx, Foucault
- All of them really

Which least?

- Honestly, all the texts were important and useful.
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- Economics of Inequality, we didn't read much of it.
- All were helpful
- Polanyi

How productive was class discussion?

- Class discussion was productive for the most part, however there were times when the topic got derailed. It was also very fast paced, so participation was a little hard, but it tended to get better as the quarter went on.
- Class discussion was very productive--the professor let people speak but always made sure that we came away from discussion with a main idea or point.
- Literally the only reason I have any understanding of Marx
- Class discussion was always extremely helpful in understanding the texts.
- Very productive. It really helped me understand the texts.
- Very
- Very

How has this course contributed to your education?

- I have been exposed to very important authors and works. I also think that my writing has improved a lot, both in terms of style and argumentation, thanks to the professor's comments (and high standards!). It was an intense class, but definitely worth it.
- Absolutely
- Absolutely.
- It has given me a good understanding of some of the fundamental political economist texts
- It's made me learn how to grind
- Good furthering of reading and understanding material

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	7 / 88%
Instructor Reputation	0 / 0%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	1 / 13%
A student recommended it	0 / 0%
Topic interests me	2 / 25%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

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

Strongly Agree	2 / 25%
Agree	3 / 38%
Neutral	2 / 25%
Disagree	0 / 0%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

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

Low Answer	5
Average Answer	9

High Answer

15

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	7 / 88%
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75%	1 / 13%
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50%	0 / 0%
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25%	0 / 0%
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None	0 / 0%
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Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	6 / 75%
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No	2 / 25%
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The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%
Presented clear lectures.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	88%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	88%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%	88%

Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	13%	13%	38%	38%
Was helpful during office hours.	13%	0%	0%	0%	13%	75%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	88%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	75%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	25%	13%	13%	38%	13%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	13%	13%	13%	25%	38%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	63%	38%

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%	25%	75%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	13%	0%	25%	63%

How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	13%	38%	50%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	13%	25%	63%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	25%	25%	50%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	13%	0%	0%	0%	25%	63%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	88%
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%	88%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	13%	0%	13%	75%
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	0%	25%	0%	75%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	75%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	13%	25%	0%	0%	13%	50%
Were helpful with assignments.	25%	25%	13%	0%	0%	38%

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.	88%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%
Provided well-designed materials.	88%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%