

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11100: Power, Identity, Resistance-1

Section 15 - Winter 2017

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua; Schoots, Leo

Number Enrolled: 18

Number of Responses: 8

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Professor Craze is a phenomenal instructor for three reasons: one, he is energetic and his enthusiasm permeates the room; two, he deeply understands the texts and wants to help students find new ways to think; three, he is stern and demanding in his requirements, but only in order to further the students' development. He really has no consistent teaching weaknesses, other than possibly assigning too much reading than can be covered in class.
- Craze is a phenomenal instructor. He understands all texts in relation to broader intellectual movements extremely well, especially Marx - the central text for the quarter, I will argue. He is also very kind and helpful, in making many office hour slots (which are filled pretty quickly) and guides to essay questions (which are interesting and challenging) available. The main weakness is perhaps the essays - they are terribly long and the grading appears pretty harsh.
- Joshua's class is not for the faint of heart. He has very high expectations and strict rules for classroom structure, with little to no allowances for tardiness, absences, late work, etc. He also expects a lot of time and thought being put into all the work and readings. That being said, you will get a lot more from this class if you put time into it. Joshua is an incredible instructor and there is never a dull moment in the classroom. You will leave this class with an understanding of the texts (at least Marx and Smith) that I don't think you can get from any other instructor. Frankly, however, if you have a heavy courseload or a lot of other stressors this quarter this class will hurt you more than it will help you. We had to respond extensively to the text by 5pm the night before each class. In addition to the three papers, there were also mandatory peer reviews with deadlines. To sum up for those who don't want to read this whole review: VERY REWARDING BUT ONLY IF YOU CAN HANDLE THE STRESS.
- Professor Craze has the amazing ability to keep a class focused for the entire 80 minutes, even when we were discussing the intricacies of Marxian thought. The classes were both entertaining and very thoughtful. The only issues is that the Craze's essay are much longer (minimum 2500 words) and more difficult than other professor's essay. However, he (and Johnathan) gave amazing and very helpful feedback.
- Craze is knowledgeable, interested, and did a great job I think of involving the class in discussion.
- Very strong knowledge of the material and very good at explaining material. He did most of the talking in class, which was not always a bad thing since he was very erudite, but there was not as much class room discussion.
- Super motivating and interesting. Eccentric. Incredibly demanding. 2500-word (minimum) essays.

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

- Jonathan made insightful comments when he participated and also did a great job of leading the discussion at times. He was also helpful in office hours for our essays and was a sensible grader.
- Jonathan is pretty good. His teaching premier (as I assume) was pretty successful. He is helpful outside of class, too.
- Jonathon is must chiller than Joshua. He led an interesting class and allowed for more discussion than Joshua does. Very likable and gives good feedback on papers. I didn't have much interaction with him but when I did he was helpful. I think he will make an amazing teacher.
- Johnathan was an amazing TA. The class he led was very fun and engaging, and his help and feedback on the essays was fantastic. No weaknesses.
- Jonathan was very helpful in discussing papers, and he did a really good job when leading class discussion.
- Very knowledgeable about the material and very good at providing feedback on assignments. Occasionally lost track of time in meetings, but was otherwise very helpful.
- Jonathan was amazing! helped make the material more accessible and had good insights.

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

- The reading in the syllabus could be better structured, but it also was not that bad - our journey through the texts was unconventional and progressed at the pace of the class.
- Make the essays shorter and more focused on displaying the level of understanding. Writing long essays that entertain very broad themes, as they now are, can be beyond the students' (first- and second-years with little exposure to political and social theory) abilities.
- I probably wouldn't have deadlines for the peer reviewers, especially since these deadlines were often mid-week. I appreciate peer reviewers but I thought Joshua babysitting the process was a little obnoxious. I thought all the time we spent on Marx was valuable, but only at the cost of less understanding of Foucault and Polanyi. If he continues to spend that much time on Marx I would cut out one of the final texts.
- Slightly shorter essays, but otherwise it was fine.
- Nothing, though I'd probably attach a sort of disclaimer that it is definitely a fair amount of work. The essays, with a 2400 word min, definitely do constitute a good deal of time commitment, and they will often align with other midterms. Nevertheless, I do appreciate the fact that this is a class where it is thoughtful/insightful enough that a word count of 2400 is not particularly difficult to attain.
- I would have had more class discussion about the texts rather than just attempts to comprehend the material.
- I would make Craze less demanding, but he is who he is. This sh*# is life of the mind, right here.

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

- N/A
- Maybe some modern European history - all the authors are into that. But this does not hinder understanding too much.
- Not really. I do sort of wish that, when given excerpts from Foucault, we had a better general understanding of how Foucault was writing his analysis, but aside from that it was a good introduction to all the authors and topics.
- Economics maybe, but this was not very necessary.

Which texts were most useful?

- All the texts were useful.

- Capital, hands down. Foucault is cool, too.
- All of them.
- Marx and Smith
- MARX

Which least?

- The Polanyi text was difficult to understand and we did not have enough time to really open it up.
- Polanyi does not rival the rest in terms of complexity and "maturity." But it is a nice read.
- None of them.
- Foucault
- idk

How productive was class discussion?

- Class discussion was incredibly productive in this class (make sure you take notes when you hear great insights from students or the professor, it will help you on your essays).
- Pretty. Especially during the Q&A style discussions, which really push me to think. The presentations are boosters of morale, but discourage in-depth reading of all texts assigned for the day, but only those to be presented.
- Joshua did a phenomenal job of explaining the texts and keeping the class engaged. Often it was not as much a group discussion as it was Joshua talking, though. Nevertheless, class was always helpful and enjoyable.
- Very.
- Good. We would sometimes get hung up on a particular section of the text, and therefore not cover a lot of the reading in one class, but that was usually compensated by either going faster in the next section or because we were talking about something particularly critical to the text.
- Very productive--I learned a lot.
- SUPER

How has this course contributed to your education?

- Furthered my understanding of economics and how it relates to the rest of society, how we can understand the economic within the scope of our lives.
- It invites me to re-think the society, particularly its economic organization, with which we are overly comfortable.
- I think it's definitely strengthened my handle on notions of political economy/theory. As someone whose major means I probably wouldn't have learned this material this well otherwise, I definitely appreciated it.
- Has definitely broadened my perspective.
- it may or may not have broken my spirit, but I think that if I were to go into it with greater efficiency I'd be better off and do it again. SO MANY MIXED FEELINGS. Craze is interesting and amazing, but his course will knock the s out of you at times.

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	7 / 88%
Instructor Reputation	3 / 38%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	0 / 0%
Meets at a convenient time	5 / 63%
A student recommended it	2 / 25%
Topic interests me	3 / 38%
Concentration elective	0 / 0%

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

Strongly Agree	4 / 50%
Agree	2 / 25%
Neutral	1 / 13%
Disagree	1 / 13%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

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

Low Answer	3
Average Answer	7.8

High Answer

12

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	8 / 100%
-----	----------

75%	0 / 0%
-----	--------

50%	0 / 0%
-----	--------

25%	0 / 0%
-----	--------

None	0 / 0%
------	--------

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	6 / 75%
-----	---------

No	2 / 25%
----	---------

The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	88%
Presented clear lectures.	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	88%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	75%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	75%

Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	75%
Was helpful during office hours.	0%	0%	0%	13%	25%	63%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	75%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	0%	0%	25%	13%	63%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	63%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	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?	13%	0%	0%	0%	13%	75%
How appropriately were the requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	88%

How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	88%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	38%	0%	63%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	25%	38%	38%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%	88%
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%	25%	75%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	13%	0%	13%	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.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%
Were helpful with assignments.	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%	88%

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.	50%	0%	0%	0%	13%	38%
Provided well-designed materials.	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%