THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SOSC 11400 15 - Power, Identity, Resistance -1 - Instructor(s) Nicole Whalen

Project Title: **College Course Evaluation - Autumn 2020**

Number Enrolled: **16**
Number of Responses: **9**

Report Comments
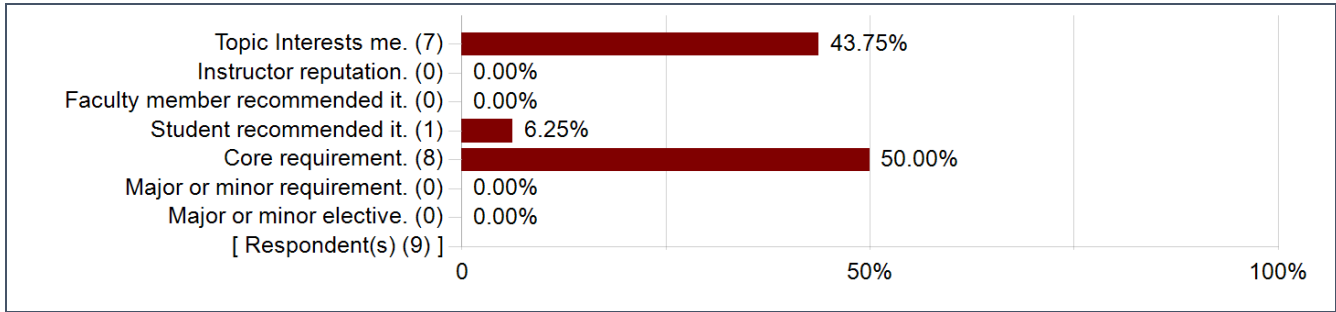
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specif course and do not represent the University.
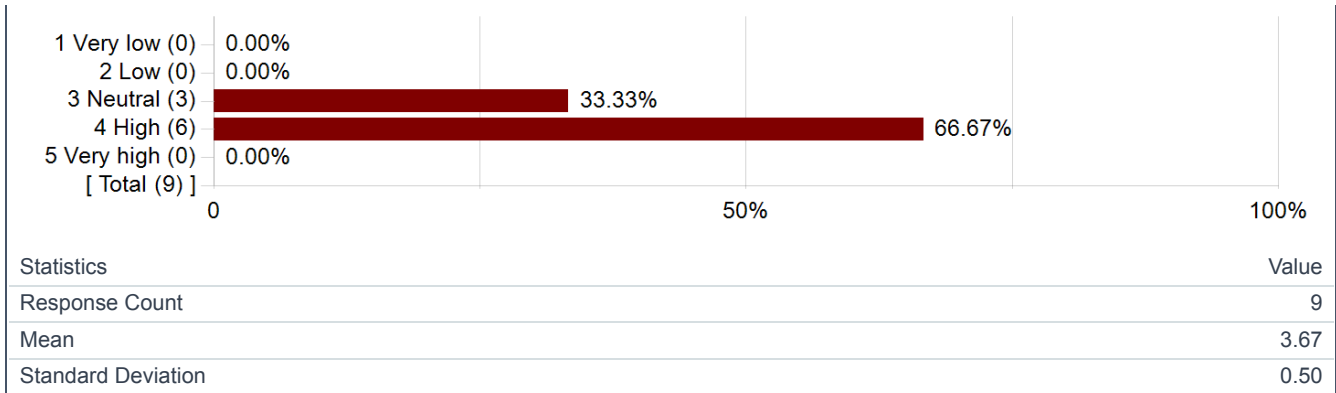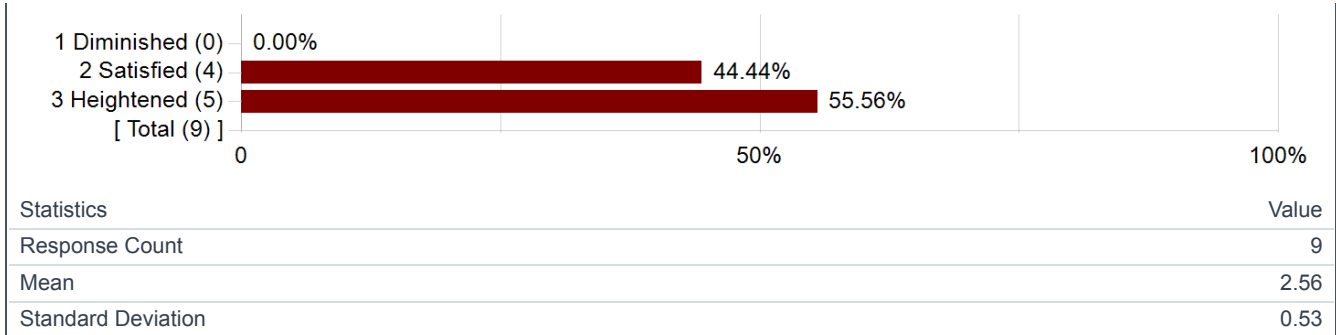
Creation Date: **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

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Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)

Topic Interests me. (7)	43.75%
Instructor reputation. (0)	0.00%
Faculty member recommended it. (0)	0.00%
Student recommended it. (1)	6.25%
Core requirement. (8)	50.00%
Major or minor requirement. (0)	0.00%
Major or minor elective. (0)	0.00%
[Respondent(s) (9)]	

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

1 Very low (0)	0.00%
2 Low (0)	0.00%
3 Neutral (3)	33.33%
4 High (6)	66.67%
5 Very high (0)	0.00%
[Total (9)]	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	3.67
Standard Deviation	0.50

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

1 Diminished (0)	0.00%
2 Satisfied (4)	44.44%
3 Heightened (5)	55.56%
[Total (9)]	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	2.56
Standard Deviation	0.53

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments

I learned how to read and analyze political and social theory in texts, and how to construct an argument about these texts.

Different understandings of human nature, state formation, social contract, etc. Writing skills also improved in forming a more clear thesis.

Early political theorists (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau) and how to write an argument based paper

the social contract

We talked about some of the founders of social contract theory (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau) and then read some more historical texts about the Haitian Revolution and French Revolution. My essay–writing definitely improved over the quarter— the professor's feedback was helpful, especially on how to construct a better argument.

Learned to critically read and analyze political philosophy.

how to read books and focusing on what is important

Exactly as the name describes. Learned a lot about reasoning behind power dynamics in society. Really interesting.

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Large group discussions and lectures helped me understand material and themes more broadly, while small group discussions contributed to closer analysis of specific ideas.
Professor Whalen was excellent at leading discussions, especially explaining ambiguous or complex concepts in our readings and also comparing the stances of different authors. The discussions significantly contributed to essay writing, because the major topics we discussed were often given out as paper prompts. The small group discussions were also great because Professor Whalen always had discussion questions prepared for us to think about in groups.
Class was always helpful in understanding the text and thinking of interesting ideas.
discussions were a fantastic way of compartmentalizing the info that we learned from the texts
The discussions were very helpful, especially the Thursday (small group) discussions. They were a good way to discuss the basic concepts of the reading with peers, especially for the more complicated text. I liked the essay prompts and I think they helped me engage with the content of the texts well analytically.
Discussions were organized and helped to work out the ideas within the texts. The small group assignments did a similar job, except in a closer–knit setting.
I enjoyed the smaller break out groups. This gave me the opportunity to share my thoughts when it was more difficult in the bigger zoom class.
strong lecture where the professor allowed us to discuss what we thought about certain topics
Discussions– SUPER helpful in understanding texts and others peoples' interpretations of them.

The Instructor(s) . . .

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
Provided a syllabus that allowed you to plan your learning and study time effectively.	4.22	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	9
Explained clearly the course objectives and expectations.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	9
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.22	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	9
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.22	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	9
Overall, the instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	8

What aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Professor Whalen is good at explaining difficult concepts and helping us develop and think through thoughts and criticisms we may have about the texts.
Organized lectures, including different formats of learning such as big discussions and small group discussions, canvas discussion posts. More specifically, I liked how she focused on a few major topics for each reading for us to talk about, as this greatly enhanced my understanding of the texts.
She lead a good class and navigated online learning well by dividing time between smaller breakout groups and larger discussion. She also balanced discussion well between her own inputs and students speaking.
her questions during discussions were incredibly engaging
I think she led discussions well, especially given the difficulties of having all our class over Zoom. I found office hours to be very helpful, especially when it came to talking about theses for the papers.
Prof. Whalen was great at leading discussions, and kept things very organized, especially considering that everything was done over Zoom.
Professor Whalen was super laid back during class discussions. Engaged when necessary but did not dominate. She was very good at explaining tough concepts and always encouraged people to share their thoughts.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing much :)
decreasing the reading requirements slightly
This has been improved recently, but sometimes on Thursdays all of the groups don't get to present so we don't hear about all of the key concepts from the reading.
Nothing
N/A. Loved her teaching. She's really kind too!

Remote Course Questions

How effective were the different modes of remote teaching in this course?

	Mean	Median	N/A	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Neutral	Effective	Very Effective	Total Responses
Synchronous Lectures	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	9
Asynchronous (prerecorded) Lectures	3.00	3.00	87.50%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	8
Large Discussions (everyone in the class)	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%	8
Small Discussions (zoom breakout rooms)	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	9
Short Quizzes	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7
Laboratories	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8
Timed Exams	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8
Written Work (take home exams, papers, problem sets, etc.)	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	9
Scheduled Faculty Office Hours	4.86	5.00	22.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	66.67%	9
Scheduled TA Office Hours	4.75	5.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	8

Please elaborate on the above.

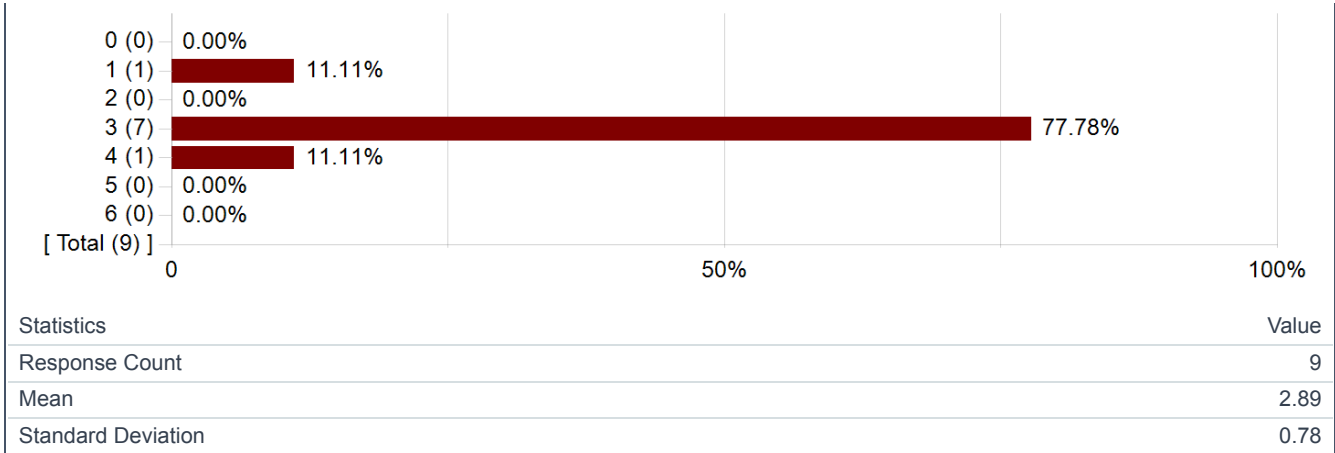| Comments |
|---|
| Discussion overall did contribute to my understanding of the work, and papers especially made me think deeply about concepts and arguments we'd discussed. |
| Everything was helpful and there was nothing unnecessary. |
| NA |
| The small discussions were often more productive than the big discussions, but I did like having a mix of both. I actually thought the discussion posts were a nice way to begin analyzing the texts on our own before class. |
| I enjoyed listening to my classmates in the large discussions; however, I found that it was difficult to participate sometimes. |
| available for office hours that allowed me to discuss the ideas of my essay |
| Only written work for us = discussion posts. They were due once a week. They weren't super difficult, and they ensured that everybody came to class at least knowing something about the text we had to read (even if you barely read a thing), so I found that they were effective assignments. |

Did the instructor make adjustments to the course mid-quarter? If so, please comment on the effectiveness of those adjustments.

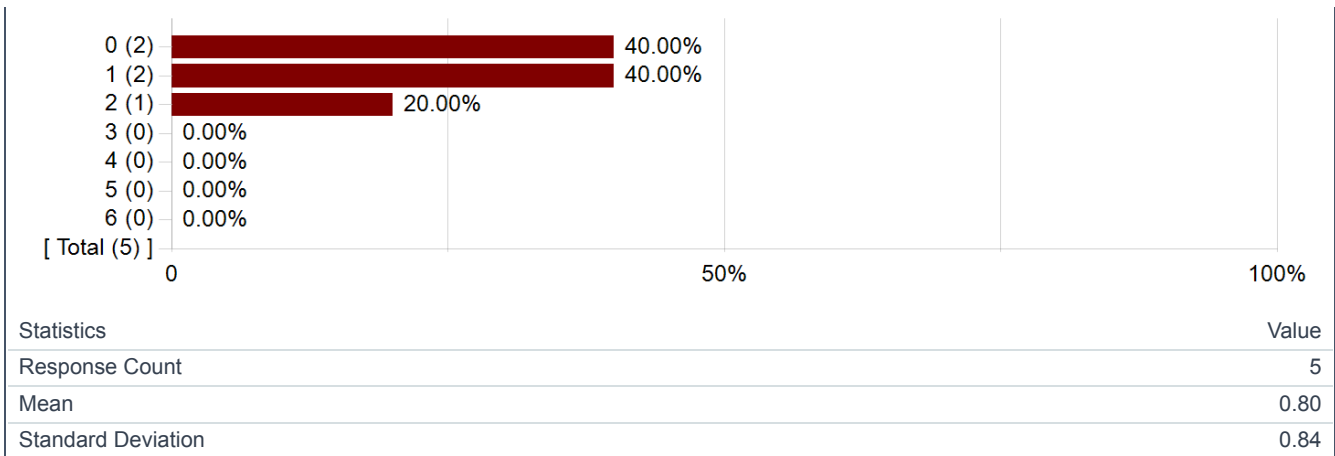| Comments |
|---|
| No |
| NA |
| Not significant ones that I've noticed, no. |
| Small breakout rooms to work discuss texts. Loved these because they were less intimidating than the larger group. Answering questions in a small group allowed us to bounce ideas off of each other and make sure that all of us within the group understood what the text was saying. |

Please describe any element of this course, including specific actions by the instructor, that improved your remote learning experience.

Comments
NA
The mix of small and large group discussion was helpful, as well as the discussion posts.
I like how Prof Whalen used the Zoom chat to organize discussions, keeping discussion time well–distributed and even–keeled.
Teacher was just really kind and open to all sorts of thoughts in class.

How many hours per week did you spend in lectures for this course (synchronous or asynchronous)?

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0 (0) — 0.00%
1 (1) — 11.11%
2 (0) — 0.00%
3 (7) — 77.78%
4 (1) — 11.11%
5 (0) — 0.00%
6 (0) — 0.00%
[ Total (9) ]
        0                    50%                   100%
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Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	2.89
Standard Deviation	0.78

How many hours per week did you spend in other scheduled activities for this course (labs, discussions, etc.)?

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0 (2) — 40.00%
1 (2) — 40.00%
2 (1) — 20.00%
3 (0) — 0.00%
4 (0) — 0.00%
5 (0) — 0.00%
6 (0) — 0.00%
[ Total (5) ]
        0                    50%                   100%
```

Statistics	Value
Response Count	5
Mean	0.80
Standard Deviation	0.84

How many additional hours per week did you spend on this course (reading, problem sets, writing, etc.)?

0 - 1 (1)	11.11%
2 - 3 (2)	22.22%
4 - 5 (4)	44.44%
6 - 7 (0)	0.00%
8 - 9 (1)	11.11%
10 - 11 (1)	11.11%
12 - 13 (0)	0.00%
14 - 15 (0)	0.00%
16 - 17 (0)	0.00%
18 - 20 (0)	0.00%
[Total (9)]	
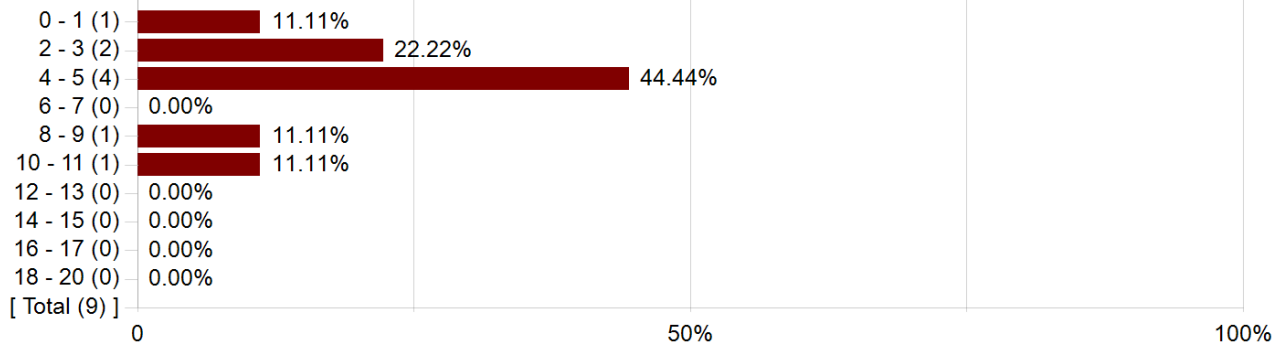
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.89
Standard Deviation	2.71

The overall workload of the course was appropriate.

1 Strongly Disagree (1)	11.11%
2 Disagree (0)	0.00%
3 Neutral (3)	33.33%
4 Agree (4)	44.44%
5 Strongly Agree (1)	11.11%
[Total (9)]	
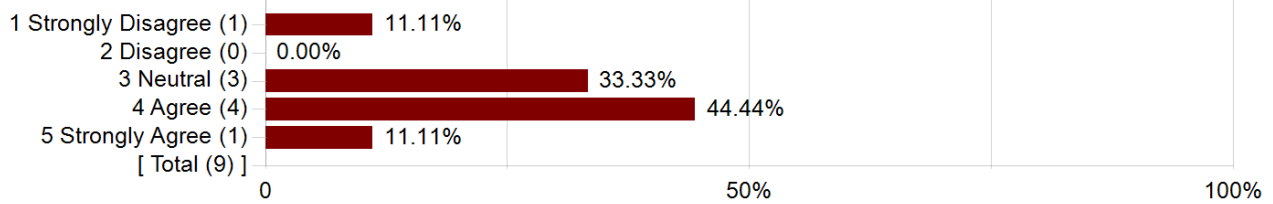
Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	3.44
Standard Deviation	1.13

Which of the following learning/educational issues continue to be a challenge for you? (check all that apply)

Finding time to participate in synchronous classes (e.g., live streaming or video co… (0)	0.00%
Unclear expectations around course/assignment requirements (0)	0.00%
Course lessons or activities that haven't translate well to a remote environment an… (0)	0.00%
Difficulty focusing or paying attention to remote instruction or activities (4)	100.00%
Instructor availability/responsiveness (0)	0.00%
Other (0)	0.00%
[Respondent(s) (4)]	

TA/CA/Intern Questions

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating.

Comments
Adam Sargent
Adam Sargent

What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Adam very thoroughly looked over my paper and provided constructive feedback that greatly improved the clarity of my arguments and the overall structure of my paper. He was also very available to schedule office hours.
SO HELPFUL when reviewing essays. Really took the time to understand peoples' essays and was excellent at revising areas of essays that needed reworking.

What could the TA modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A

Additional feedback to the TA/CA/Intern:

Comments
Super kind and always found time to help us.

Assignments and Participation

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
The assignments in the course were reasonable.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	33.33%	9
The assignments and classroom activities served the course objectives.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%	9
Instructor's feedback/comments on your assignments were clear, specific, and helpful.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	44.44%	33.33%	9
Assignments were returned to you in a timely manner.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	9
The class met regularly, on time, and for the entire period.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	9
If the class did not meet at the regularly scheduled time, were the changes and reasons behind them explained clearly.	4.00	4.00	88.89%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	9
You were prepared for classes and attended regularly.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	9