



SOSC 11600 14 - Power, Identity, Resistance -3 - Instructor(s) Nicole Whalen

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2021**

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **11**

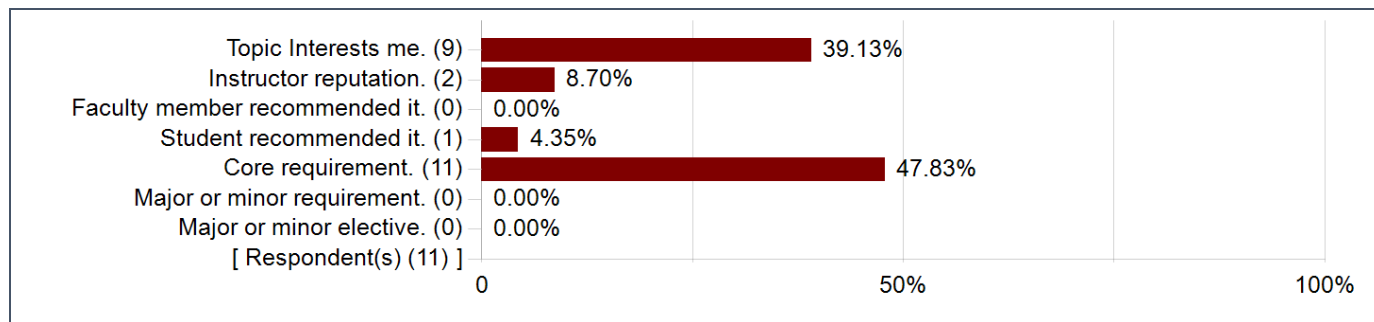
Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

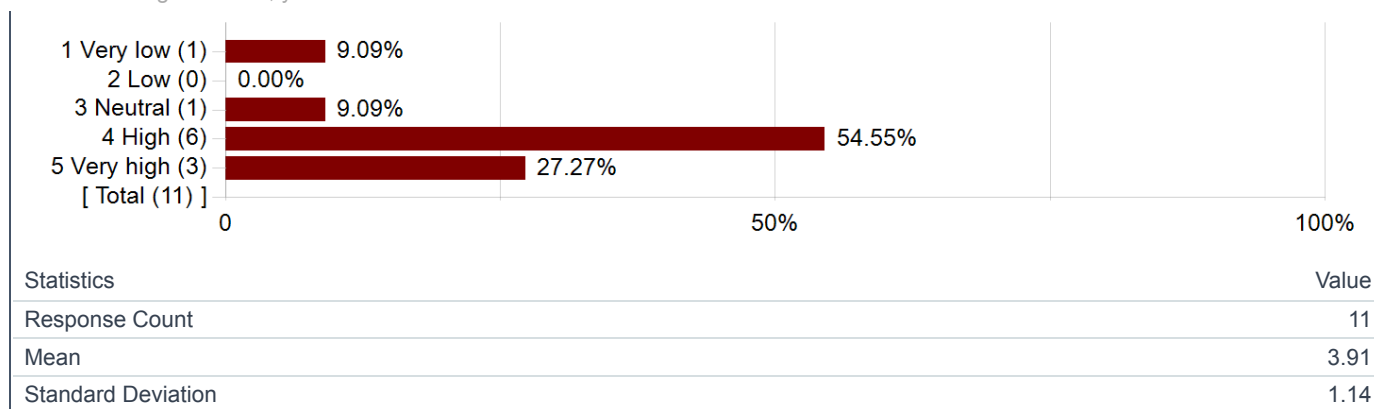
Creation Date: **Monday, June 28, 2021**



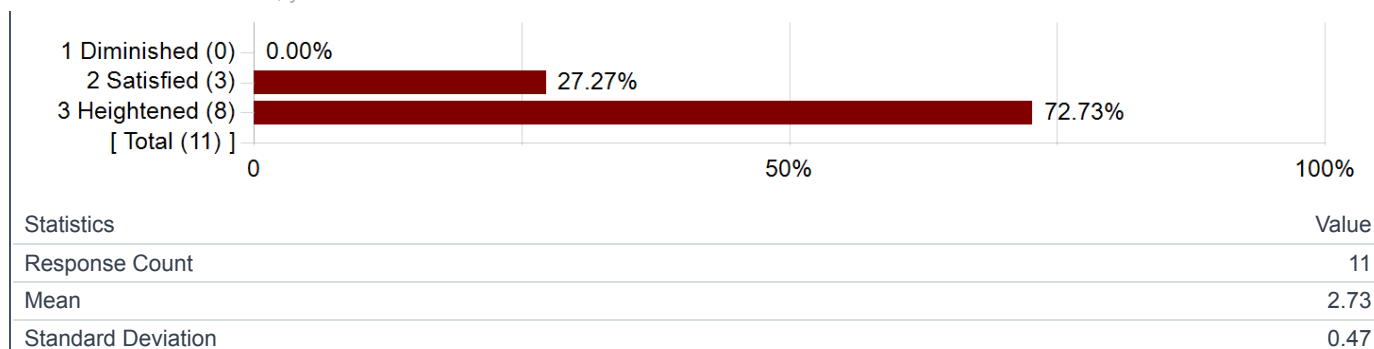
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Now that this class is over, your interest is?



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

Comments
How to read and construct an argument about philosophy.
I learned how to read hard texts and I felt like the professor was really understanding of the way that the texts were difficult. I learned to engage with my classmates on difficult and dense issues.
Writing and reading hard things
I think my critical thinking abilities and my capability to read, critique, and write well increased tenfold because of this class.
How to write and read critically by identifying tensions in a text.
This was the most valuable course that I took this year. We learned how to thoroughly read texts with good faith and a critical eye. We learned a host of concepts and frameworks of analysis that, we came to discuss, are directly relevant to the current political and social climate. We had fruitful and intelligent discussions. We learned how to construct effective, true, and persuasive arguments in our essays.
I learned how to better interpret and appreciate texts of the sociological canon, additionally I developed confidence in my writing and gained exposure to more contemporary texts.
How to engage with political texts from an analytical and personal perspective.
I learned how to make my way through difficult, older texts and how to analyze these texts in papers.

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

Comments
Lectures and discussions were amazing.
Discussions were great. Prof Whalen is the best prof I've had at UChicago. Give her a raise and tenure her. Better than 90% other phil profs
Professor Whalen curated an environment in which class discussions were stimulating but not intimidating, so students were able to have an open and frank conversation without feeling pressure.
Discussions really helped me understand the text better and engage more critically with the authors' claims. Professor Whalen emphasized different elements of the day's reading that were incredibly helpful when brainstorming paper ideas.
In-class discussions, office hours, and essays all contributed roughly equally to my improvement in ability and confidence in this subject.
Nicole's discussions were very engaging and illuminating. She also supplemented the class material with fascinating articles and extra material.
Discussions were helpful in clearing up what I was confused by and by listening to other perspectives
I genuinely found the readings to be very interesting and thought provoking, but it is the class discussions that really made this class one of my favorites. Professor Whalen did a great job moderating the discussion and I was always interested in hearing what she had to say on the texts. She knew how to guide the discussion and make sure people got the main takeaways from the text without speaking over students.

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.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%	11
Explained clearly the course objectives and expectations.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%	11
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%	11
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%	11
Overall, the instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%	11

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

Comments
She was a great lecturer! She was extremely helpful with providing feedback on papers.
Really great office hours, really prepared for class discussions, really good at finding the right balance between stepping back and being part of the conversation. Really contributed to my understanding.
Professor Whalen is a fantastic instructor. She doesn't lecture often, and normally just guides the discussion, but when she does lecture it's to help clarify complex topics and is extremely helpful. Professor Whalen sets up opportunities for students to lead the discussion and ask questions, but also makes sure to keep the general discussion focused. Her grading for essays is usually fairly quick and is clear and concise. This class did radically change many of my beliefs and I think that Professor Whalen's style of teaching and discussion leading contributed to how well I understood and internalized these topics.
Always available for office hours and talking about papers. Helped modify readings to make it manageable
Her quick grading, efficiency, and ability to concretely explain nuanced topics in a simple and understandable way really helped us learn. Also, students could really tell that Professor Whalen was invested and passionate not just in the syllabus content but also in the success of her students.
She led discussions really well, briefly summarizing key insights at the beginning of class and letting us ask questions and respond throughout the rest of class.
Professor Whalen was always available in office hours, which contributed greatly to my grasp of the more difficult concepts in the texts. She created very challenging and productive questions and conversations in class, which always ended up pretty lively and deep. The feedback she gave was very helpful; she was keeping us on our toes to make sure that we were asking *all* the questions that needed to be asked.
Nicole is extremely knowledgeable and very effective at communicating complicated and nuanced material. She is also inspiring since she shows a real love for the texts and offers fascinating commentary.
Dr. Whalen did a fantastic job of leading discussions, especially on zoom. Compared to other classes, the discussion never felt stale and there weren't long cues of kids repeating the same thing. she was also really great at clarifying and explaining at the appropriate times. Commentary on papers is extensive and super helpful.
I really loved office hours and getting to dive deeper into the ideas of the texts. Professor Whalen was always very easy to get a hold of, and I found meetings with her about papers to be very helpful as well. Professor Whalen was very organized and always had a clear plan for each day in class, which was very helpful. She was also clearly knowledgeable about the texts and able to provide great background information on them.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing! maybe less readers, but thats not really negotiable.
I think maybe some more synthesis of themes from book to book would help students establish a stronger understanding of certain tropes.
She was really available outside of class to discuss thesis ideas. I also wanted to attend office hours but it overlapped with another class I had
Not much that I could think of!
I'm happy with the course as it is!

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	4.89	5.00	18.18%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	72.73%	11
Asynchronous (prerecorded) Lectures	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10
Large Discussions (everyone in the class)	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	11
Small Discussions (zoom breakout rooms)	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	11
Short Quizzes	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11
Laboratories	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11
Timed Exams	N/A	N/A	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11
Written Work (take home exams, papers, problem sets, etc.)	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	11
Scheduled Faculty Office Hours	5.00	5.00	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	10
Scheduled TA Office Hours	5.00	5.00	80.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	10

Please elaborate on the above.

Comments
We were able to create a bonded student group despite being on zoom.
For a class that often covers very difficult material, I think the balance was excellent and allowed us to make the most of our intellectual potential.
Nicole and Adam (writing intern) were incredibly helpful in the writing process.

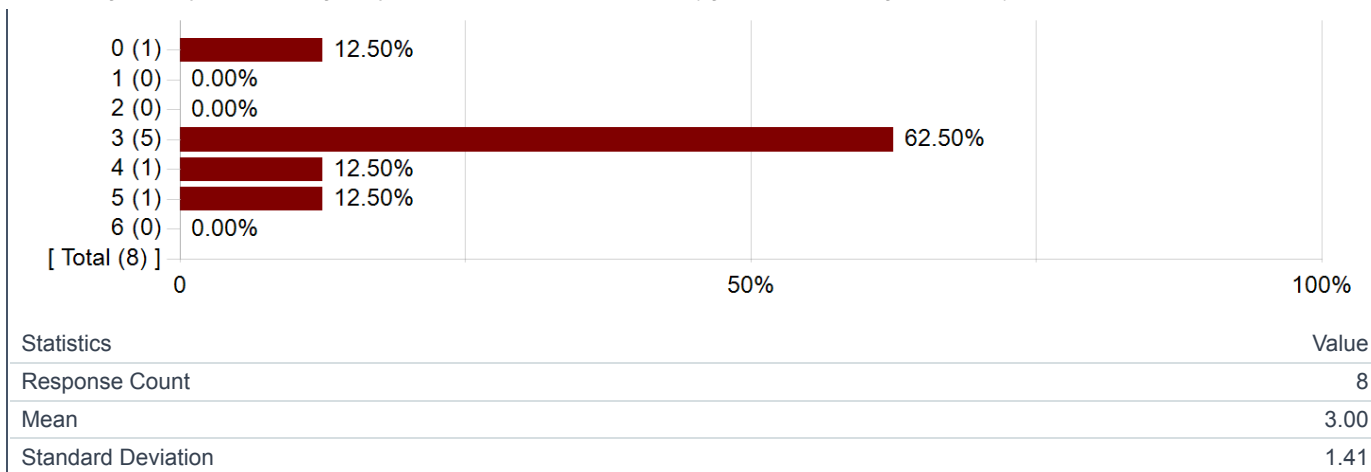
Did the instructor make adjustments to the course mid-quarter? If so, please comment on the effectiveness of those adjustments.

Comments
No
Based on feedback from the previous two quarters, Professor Whalen proceeded this quarter with an (I think) very solid course plan that did not end up changing.
No adjustments, except adding important additional reading.

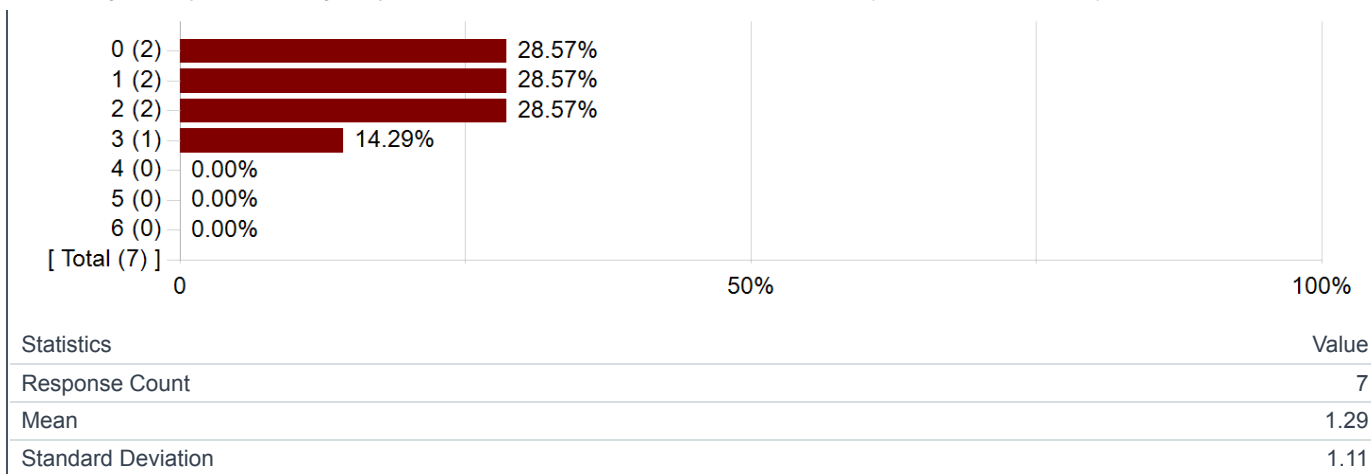
Please describe any element of this course, including specific actions by the instructor, that improved your remote learning experience.

Comments
The zoom breakout rooms were great because they provided a nice break from a lot of zoom lecturing and allowed us to chat with one another.
Discussion posts and presentations were a good way to understand how other students were thinking.
Professor Whalen was great with pressing topics in a challenging yet constructive way. She also made sure that everyone who wanted to contribute something had ample opportunity to do so, and was able to get more out of students who I noticed were much quieter at the beginning of the quarter!
Nicole has been the only instructor I've had that consistently returns assignments in a timely manner.

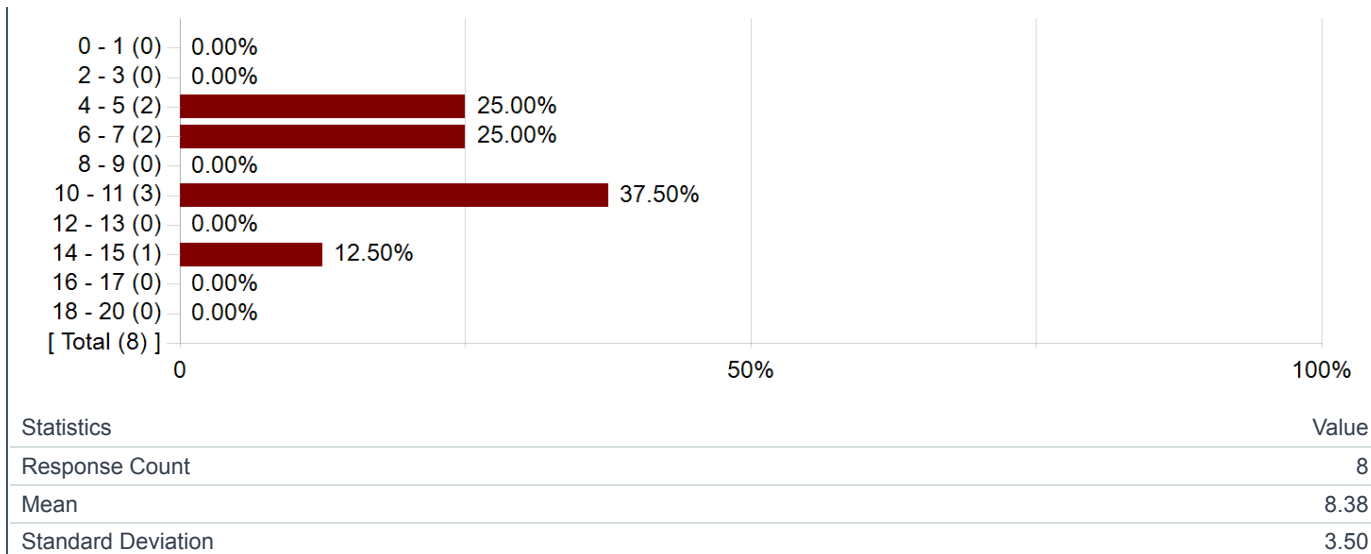
How many hours per week did you spend in lectures for this course (synchronous or asynchronous)?



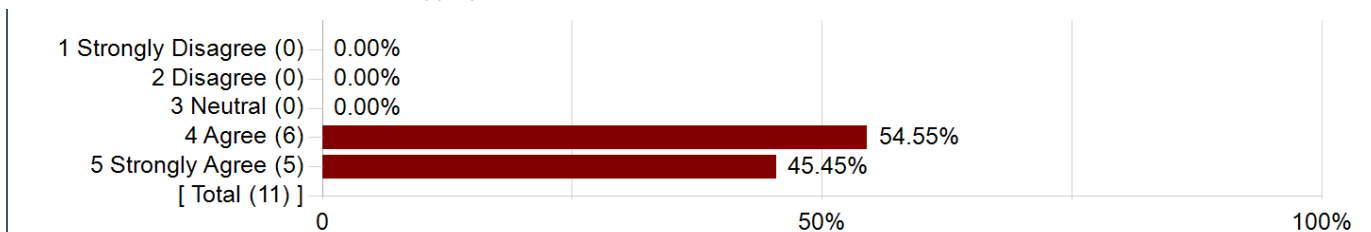
How many hours per week did you spend in other scheduled activities for this course (labs, discussions, etc.)?



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

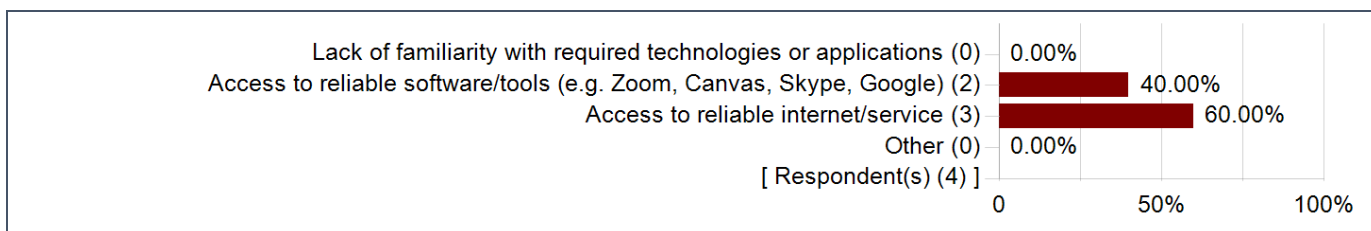


The overall workload of the course was appropriate.

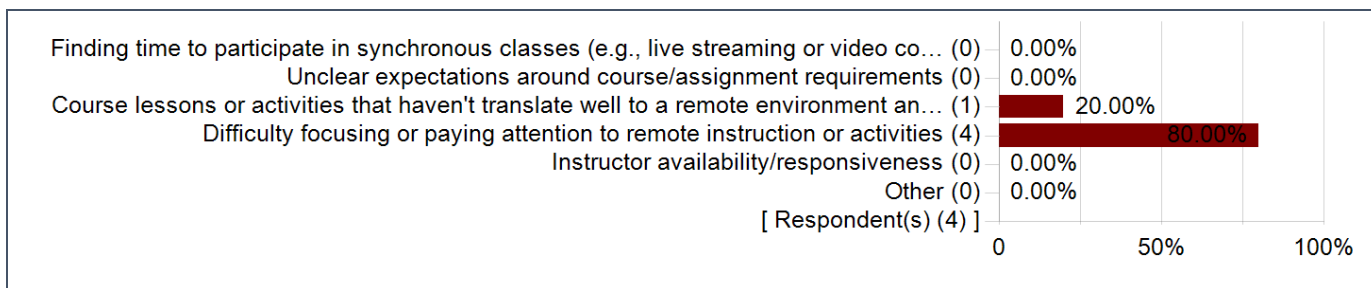


Statistics	Value
Response Count	11
Mean	4.45
Standard Deviation	0.52

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



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



TA/CA/Intern Questions

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Adam was super available and had a lot of office hours to talk about our writing.
Adam Sargent: Adam is very clever and great to talk to. You get the feeling that he cares about improving your writing and that he has the experience to do so. Endlessly helpful and a great communicator.

Assignments and Participation

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
The assignments in the course were reasonable.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	11
The assignments and classroom activities served the course objectives.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	80.00%	10
Instructor's feedback/comments on your assignments were clear, specific, and helpful.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%	11
Assignments were returned to you in a timely manner.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	81.82%	11
The class met regularly, on time, and for the entire period.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%	10
If the class did not meet at the regularly scheduled time, were the changes and reasons behind them explained clearly.	3.40	5.00	54.55%	18.18%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	11
You were prepared for classes and attended regularly.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	11