



SOSC 11400 14 - Power, Identity, Resistance -1 - Instructor(s) Nicole Whalen

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

Number Enrolled: **13**

Number of Responses: **11**

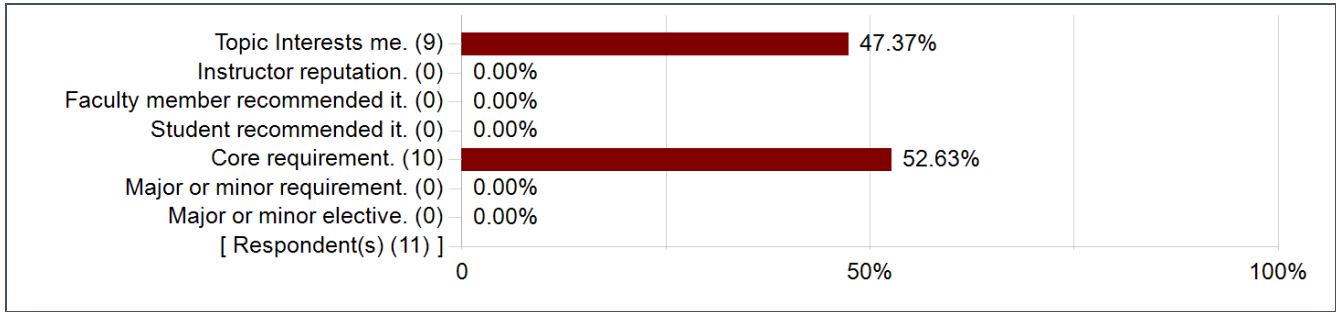
Report Comments

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

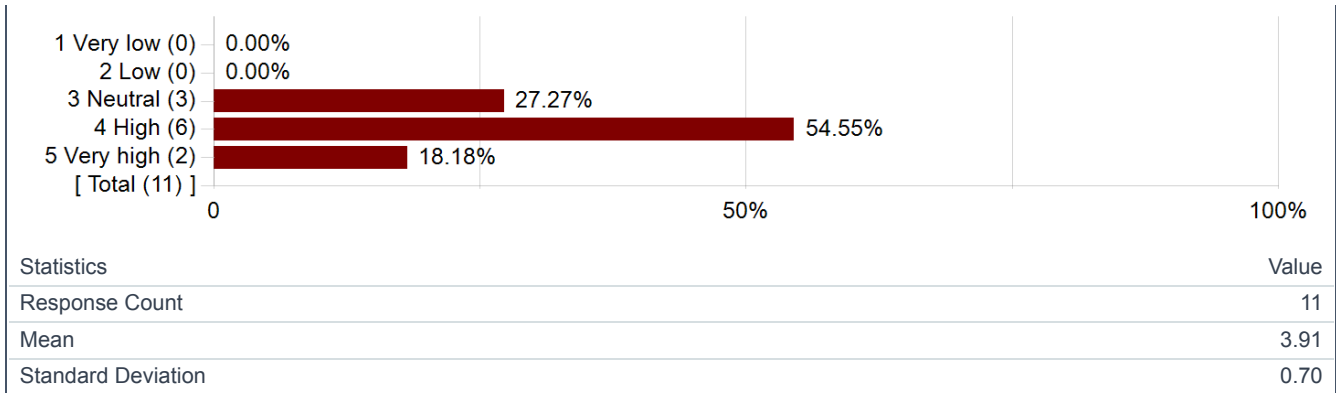
Creation Date: **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**



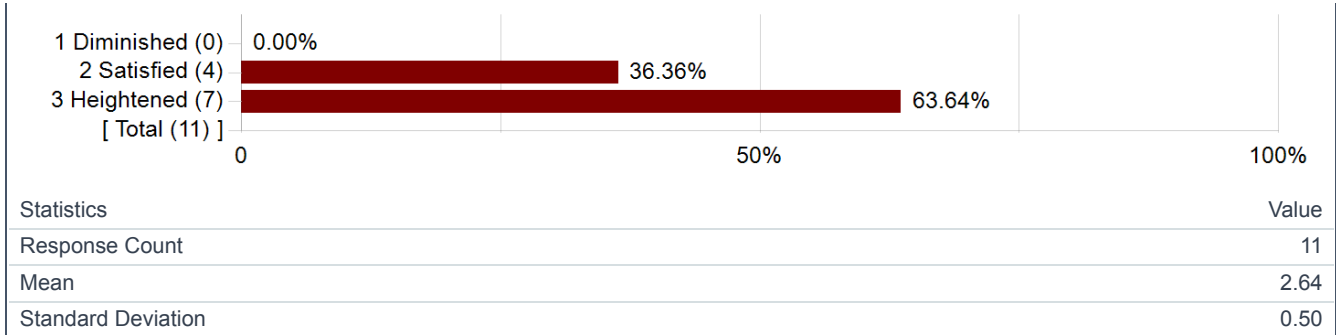
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
I learned to more effectively communicate with my writing, as well as to interact with dense texts. How to work through difficult texts and make solid claims about them
We learned about social contract theory and liberalism as it progressed from Hobbes to Locke to Rousseau to Wollstonecraft etc. We learned how to write cohesive and persuasive academic papers on political theory. The class encouraged honest and nuanced understanding of the theorists we reviewed.
I had never read political theory before, so I was introduced to a whole new subject in this course. Interacting with the texts in this course was much different than anything I have read before, and I feel like I gained a lot of new skills for reading philosophy and critiquing and learning from it through this class. I also learned how to better participate in discussions and how to improve my writing.
Establishing contestable claims, understanding complex texts, and formulating arguments
the state of nature can be interpreted infinitely. power is relative yet incredibly important in society. a lot of the issues we're pressed with in modern day are the same exact issues people were dealing with 100 years ago.
I learned about the social contract theorists, and the importance of property to the establishment of governments.
I learned how to do longer readings and to think critically about some of the most celebrated political theorists of all time.

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

Comments
Our discussions and readings were very comprehensive and multi-layered. It always felt as if what we were reading was important and pertinent to the modern world.
Writing seminars focused on a couple useful techniques for writing, small group discussions allowed for lots of questions to be asked about confusing passages
Class discussions were always interesting and sparked some sort of debate or another, which helped highlight the central problems or tensions in the texts. Writing assignments helped us practice analysis of political texts.
This class consisted mostly of discussions, both large discussions and small group discussions. I always found that they helped my understanding of the material.
Discussions helped to clarify and expand on texts and writing seminars helped with the papers on these texts.
i liked our group discussions. i did not really like the discussion posts (they just felt a bit intimidating, reading everyone else's writing) but i'm excited for the presentations next quarter. i truly think i learned a lot in every aspect though.
The discussion posts were helpful because it allowed me to collect my thoughts on the reading, but also see what other classmates thought about it.
The lectures were informative, and then breakout discussions were stimulating. The weekly discussion board helped me to gather my thoughts before class.

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.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%	10
Explained clearly the course objectives and expectations.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	10
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	10
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%	10
Overall, the instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	10

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

Comments
The way the instructor broke down the books into digestible parts and then helped guide discussion was very helpful and enlightening.
Asking specific, meaningful questions about each text
One-on-one discussions and personal feedback were very helpful in exploring complicated texts. Empowered us to feel confident to make critiques of the texts and helped us embrace confusion when it was there and build off of it into a productive discussion.
She guided discussions in a way that ensured they were always productive without interfering too much with the students talking. I also enjoyed going to office hours and talking with her about the texts we were reading. Overall, Professor Whalen was one of my favorite professors this quarter and I am extremely excited to continue taking Power with her next quarter.
Having open discussion in class contributed most to learning.
just how good she was at answering our questions. a lot of us are new to theory and sometimes it's really difficult to put our thoughts into words, but ms. whalen did a really incredible job of synthesizing our thoughts into coherence
I thought it was really helpful when she would go through more complex topics with the whole group, and allow us to just ask about things we didn't understand from the reading.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Maybe make the amount of reading more consistent throughout the quarter and not punctuate periods of little reading with days of cram reading.
Honestly, this was my favorite course; I'm not sure that I would change anything about how it worked.
Zoom always makes things difficult, but I found that the professor was receptive to ways to improve with digital learning and was always checking in with students to ensure the class format was working for them. I cannot really think of any additional modifications needed.
Having more lectures could help clarify concepts more.
i do think posting the paper topics before we finish the books would be really helpful. i like reading the text with some idea of what i need to write about- but i understand if that isn't possible!
In the beginning of the course we often got a specific portion of the reading to focus on, which was really helpful when trying to make sense of these complicated ideas, so having that again would be great.

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	4.63	5.00	27.27%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	45.45%	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)	4.18	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	54.55%	11
Small Discussions (zoom breakout rooms)	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	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.)	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%	11
Scheduled Faculty Office Hours	4.57	5.00	36.36%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	45.45%	11
Scheduled TA Office Hours	5.00	5.00	72.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	11

Please elaborate on the above.

Comments
The synchronous nature of the class lent itself well to online schooling.
I didn't end up going to any of the faculty office hours but I heard from others in the class that they were useful
Honest and helpful feedback; always felt like I had the tools to improve my writing. Discussions were engaging and helped us really dive into the texts.
Professor Whalen provided lots of opportunities for student participation, with small discussions, large discussions, and office hours. When I was confused about a concept she was able to explain it in a way that was helpful. She was also very helpful in advising me on how to improve my writing.
Being the first time interacting with these types of texts, having these materials were very important in my understanding and involvement with the material.
no
The small group breakout rooms were interesting, but I did generally feel like I got more out of the classes when we were in the large groups. I think hearing everyone's perspective on the reading helped me to understand it more.
The best part was the breakout rooms.

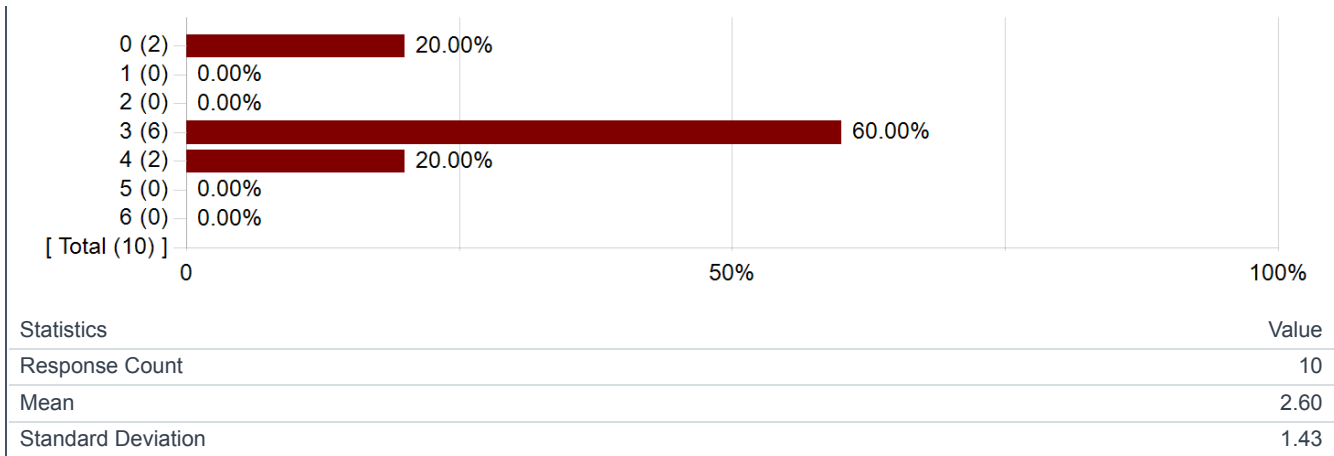
Did the instructor make adjustments to the course mid-quarter? If so, please comment on the effectiveness of those adjustments.

Comments
No adjustments.
The instructor pared down one of the readings and supplemented it with a shorter related text that allowed us to get into more detail
She began setting aside time to explain the historical lead-up to each new text and its author. It was nice for framing and helped us understand the context of these works' writing.
She adjusted some of the reading assignments because the quarter was shortened by a week.
No adjustments
we started doing the group assignments into the quarter i think and i actually really liked them. being in a smaller environment made it way easier to iron out where we were confused.
she also started a peer-review system, which i really really like!

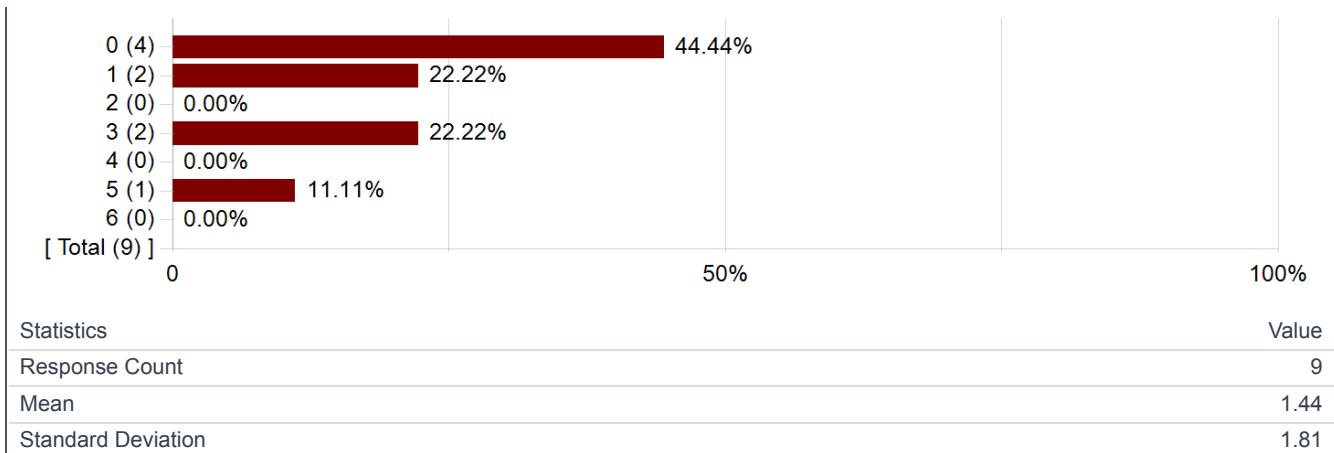
Please describe any element of this course, including specific actions by the instructor, that improved your remote learning experience.

Comments
Breakout rooms!
Utilizing breakout rooms every other class for small group discussion
Went out of her way to emphasize her availability for further discussion outside of class (even though she's already pretty busy, haha).
Having multiple seminar sessions in a socratic setting improved the remote learning experience.
the writing advisor, open office hours, and ms. whalen's flexibility with overall technological issues.
It was nice that we sometimes had short breakout rooms at the beginning of class just to catch up and talk before actually starting class.

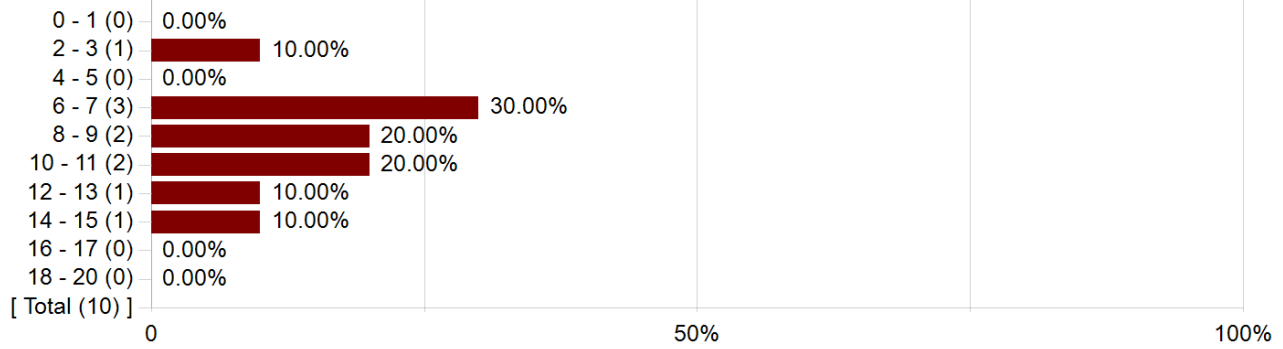
How many hours per week did you spend in lectures for this course (synchronous or asynchronous)?



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

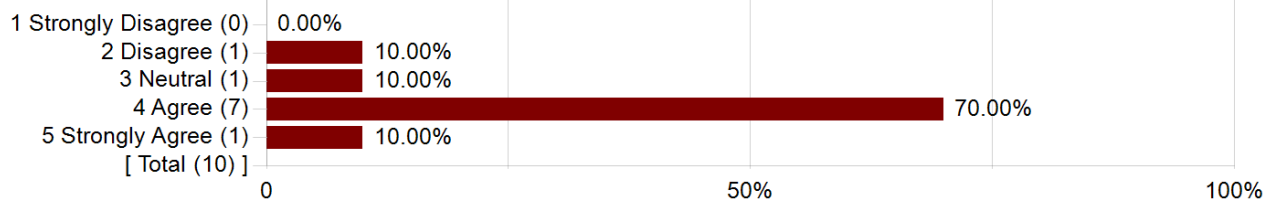


How many additional hours per week did you spend on this course (reading, problem sets, writing, etc.)?



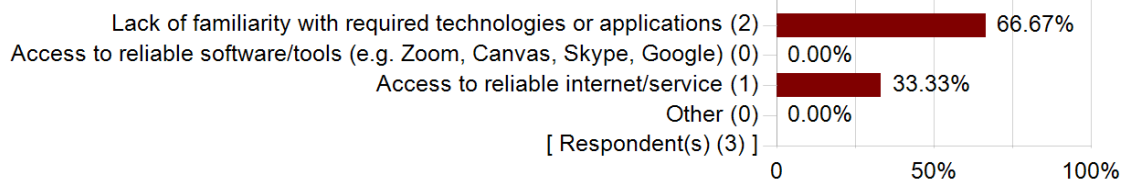
Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	8.50
Standard Deviation	3.47

The overall workload of the course was appropriate.

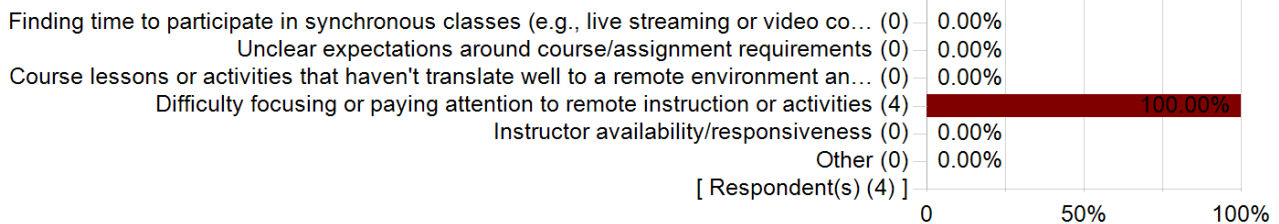


Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.80
Standard Deviation	0.79

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.

Comments

Adam Sargent

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

Comments

Being available for meetings to discuss papers a couple days before they were due

Assignments and Participation

	Mean	Median	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
The assignments in the course were reasonable.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%	10
The assignments and classroom activities served the course objectives.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	10
Instructor's feedback/comments on your assignments were clear, specific, and helpful.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	10
Assignments were returned to you in a timely manner.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	10
The class met regularly, on time, and for the entire period.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	10
If the class did not meet at the regularly scheduled time, were the changes and reasons behind them explained clearly.	5.00	5.00	80.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	10
You were prepared for classes and attended regularly.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	10