

College Course Evaluations

SOSC 11600: Power, Identity, Resistance -3

Section 20 - Spring 2018

Instructor(s): Craze, Joshua; Fawell, Charles

Number Enrolled: 19

Number of Responses: 12

The Course

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

- The course not only taught me how to think but also what it means to think.
- I learned how to think, i learned how to reason, i learned so much.
- How to think critically.
- Changed the way I think.
- A set of vocabulary, with which I can engage in discourses of past and present.
- I learned in detail this quarter about the relationship between the government and its citizens. In class we also focused on the role of people coexisting with each other in one society. We explored these areas by reading a diversity of texts and watching films that go along with the books.
- How to read difficult texts, how to ask meaningful questions, how to (attempt to) answer difficult questions.
- It is difficult to pick the "most important things" when this class and its readings have changed the way that I view my world. We continued our deep reading techniques of analyzing these classic texts line-by-line. Our extensive writing assignments were challenging, but great practice for writing a thesis.
- We learned to understand the texts outside of the texts themselves.
- Important philosophical ideas and texts, how to write, how to read heavy, dense texts, how to think

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

- The readings were wonderful, allowing me to see a variety of opinions. The track one research paper gave me a great opportunity to explore a variety of topics.
- Lectures, Craze is very smart. Very demanding class taught me how to think into corners, shifted me to a philosophy major.
- The class discussions helped me to become a more active participant. I tend to be timid, but the environment is a comfortable one.
- Discussion style classes were a good way to learn together.

- The lectures and discussions in class are high-quality. The films paired with books significantly improved my understanding.
- This is a discussion based class that is focused around the text that were assigned for reading.
- Joshua Craze led discussion amazingly. Essays challenge you to think critically about the texts.
- We had weekly discussions in class where we talked about the books and thought aloud together. He also offered numerous office hours that allowed us to talk with him one-on-one.
- Discussions were amazing. Craze facilitated great discussions that actually change the way I think outside of the class.
- Lectures were amazing and extremely interesting. Writing assignments really helped me become better as a writer and formulate an ideological argument

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve subsequent work.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
My work was evaluated fairly.	0%	0%	0%	8%	17%	75%
I felt respected in this class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%

Additional Comments about this course:

- Prof. Craze was a wonderful professor!
- hard class thoe
- Best Power instructor ever

- I am so thankful that I took this class. It was the most difficult course I've taken, but also by far the most rewarding. I gained so much more out of this course than I ever thought that I would. It inspired me again to enjoy reading and thinking philosophically (and change my major). I wish Dr. Craze was coming back to UChicago because I would take any class by him in a heartbeat.

I would recommend this course to:

highly motivated and well-prepared students

Yes	12 / 100%
-----	-----------

No	0 / 0%
----	--------

anyone interested in the topic

Yes	11 / 92%
-----	----------

No	1 / 8%
----	--------

The Instructor

Thinking about your time in class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

- Joshua's class has been the greatest academic experience I had at UChicago. He is an awesome teacher and his enthusiasm about the material has successfully motivated me to explore what the great thinkers have to say. I cannot ask more from a class.
- Everything about this class was wonderful. Prof. Craze organized the discussion very smoothly, and he allowed us to not only to understand the text but also to develop our own opinions on the subject.
- discussions, availability, PASSION
- Joshua is a great guy, who creates a comfortable environment for discussions. Very knowledgeable.
- He did a great job balancing offering his own input with letting us talk.
- Taking SOSC with Joshua is undoubtedly one of the best decisions I made this year. His class is like an adventure through books, where he leads us to explore the texts in meticulous detail and develop our own understanding. Joshua taught me how to think, read, and write. He challenges me to see the world in a whole new light, to investigate and question things I've always taken for granted. Joshua is generous not only in the sense that he dedicates a lot of time and effort to teaching (long office hours, optional classes, ample feedback for essays). He also has so many interesting thoughts and experiences that he's willing to share with students. These, plus his passion for teaching and care for students, make his PIR an extraordinary learning experience. It's my gateway to political and social thought. If I keep reading this kind of books and thinking this kind of things in the future, I'd definitely hold this class accountable.

- Professor Craze is a great professor who led fascinating discussions about the different texts we read. I have gained a lot from my time in Professor Craze's class. I have become a stronger writer and have continued to improve on my close reading skills. I enjoyed every minute of my time in his class. Professor Craze has a passion for the subject he teaches and the success of his students. He is always willing to meet with students for office hours.
- Everything
- Joshua is an incredibly eloquent speaker, but he creates the space for us to discuss the texts and think for ourselves. His classrooms are primarily discussion where we practice ripping apart the texts and discussing their implications on our lives. He is incredibly accessible outside of class and he actively encourages us to meet weekly with just him to explore our own ideas further. He is inspiring and provides a great example of what it means to critically think.
- Professor craze is my favorite professor I've had so far. He forces us to read these texts as if they were alive. His seminars felt purposeful without feeling canned.
- Incredible lecturer/discussion facilitator. Really really understood the text and knew exactly how to convey it. Was extremely perceptive as to whether or not students understood, and approached important ideas again and again with different ways of understanding it until we understood, before moving on. Heavy emphasis on learning to think the way the author/thinker thought, and to live in the text to really understand his/her ideas. Clarified potentially objectional ideas within texts with a very open-minded approach, which was amazing because we actually got to see how people think and arrive at conclusions that most people would demonize. Responded to emails extremely fast. Was extremely clear about what your expectations were, and was very accountable. ruled with an iron but sympathetic fist.

What could she/he modify to help you learn more?

- nothing, really
- nothing, it was the best class at UChicago!
- less essays. Currently writing two essays in 4 days. sad
- No.
- N/A
- N/A
- Nothing
- This class is certainly not for the faint of heart. He assigns extra readings, movies, and extensive writing assignments. However, they all have a purpose. We can choose our level of investment and get out of it what we desire. If you're interested in getting lost in the 'life of the mind,' he is ready to guide you through a fantastic adventure. If anything to improve maybe to slow down his discussions. Although I enjoy thinking over what he said weeks later, this can be a high bar at the beginning. However, I think this just inspires us to think and speak in a similar way.
- Perhaps he could assign a little less reading at a time. It was pretty hard to actually read everything he asked us to. It may be better to assign less reading but really focus on what we did read, especially since that what we ended up doing anyway.
- Amazing all around. I really don't know how he could improve.

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	8%	0%	0%	0%	8%	83%

Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Challenged you to learn.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Motivated you to think independently.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming environment.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	92%

The Teaching Assistant, Course Assistant, Intern

Did this class include instruction by a TA, CA or Intern?

Yes	12 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

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

- ☐ it was great
- ☐ n/a
- ☐ He stimulated good discussions.
- ☐ Great feedback on papers.

- Charles taught a class on Fanon/Battle of Algiers. He clearly knows a lot about the materials, and engaged the class well.
- Charles is a great TA who led an interesting class discussion and gave very helpful feedback on all my papers.
- He led a really cool class about the Algerian war for independence/torture/Sartre. It was so cool. He put the reasons for reading Fanon (a rather abstract text) into context.
- Charles is an incredible lecturer. For his class, he picked a fascinating range of sources. He used a movie, CIA documents, and a Sartre essay to discuss the historic role of torture, its current forms, and the political philosophy of fear. His creative grouping of sources lead to a fascinating discussion about these topics from multiple vantage points. He was clear, engaging, and inspired me to learn more about this relevant issue.
- The one seminar he led was great. I was happy I could learn from him, even though it was only one day.

What could she/he modify to help you learn more?

- not much, Charles was great!
- n/a
- Was a little tough on grading of essays...
- N/A
- Idk
- As Charles' role is to learn how to teach himself, I think he did a fantastic job. He followed in the big footsteps of Dr. Craze and lead a unique and fascinating class. I would be interested to take more courses with Charles to see how he takes his great lecture into a full length class.

The TA/CA or Intern...

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	8%	0%	8%	0%	8%	67%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	25%	8%	0%	0%	17%	42%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	8%	0%	8%	0%	8%	67%
Challenged you to learn.	8%	0%	8%	0%	8%	67%
Helped you succeed in the class.	8%	0%	8%	8%	0%	67%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	33%	0%	8%	0%	0%	50%

Overall, the TA/CA made a significant contribution to your learning.	8%	0%	8%	0%	17%	58%
--	----	----	----	----	-----	------------

Additional feedback to the TA/CA/Intern:

- hard grader, sad

Additional Course Elements**Did this course include special design elements (labs, field trips, extra sessions, writing seminars)?**

Yes 0 / 0%

No 12 / 100%

How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	NA	No Gains	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain
Laboratory Experience	58%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Field Trips	58%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Library Sessions	58%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Review sessions	58%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Writing Seminars	58%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

- Joshua offered many office hours that served as writing seminars, individual discussion, and guided extra exploration time. He was available to discuss as far as we wanted to go. This created an extremely personal investment in the course and in learning. I am excited to apply this lesson to my future time here at UChicago and in the rest of my life.

Student Information**Is this class a requirement of some sort?**

Yes	12 / 100%
No	0 / 0%

Prior to starting the class, my interest level was?

Very Low	0 / 0%
Low	0 / 0%
Neutral	4 / 33%
High	5 / 42%
Very High	3 / 25%

Now that the course is over, my interest is?

Diminished	0 / 0%
Satisfied	0 / 0%
Heightened	12 / 100%

Why, primarily, did you take this course over others?

It fulfills a requirement	9 / 75%
There were no other choices	0 / 0%

Meets at a convenient time	3 / 25%
The topic interests me	9 / 75%
Reputation of the faculty member	9 / 75%

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

< 5 Hours	0 / 0%
5-10 Hours	2 / 17%
10-15	2 / 17%
15-20	7 / 58%
20-25	0 / 0%
25-30	0 / 0%
> 30	1 / 8%

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
50%	0 / 0%
75%	0 / 0%
All	12 / 100%

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

- most of the readings were hard to understand, but given enough time, the books will become a pleasure to read!
- hard, worth it, craze is amazing
- Relatively difficult.
- Very difficult but even more rewarding.
- Reasonable.