



**UVic CES Instructor Report 201601 - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO SOCI:
CULTURE+SOCIALZTN - SOCI 100A - A01 (CRN 22828)**

UVic Course Experience Survey - Spring 2016

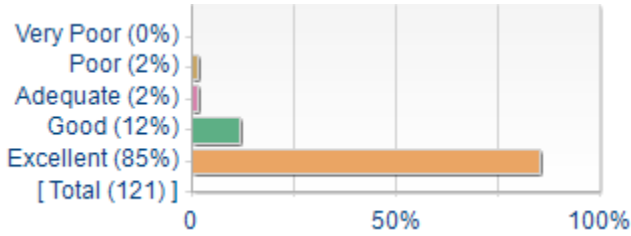
Project Audience 222
Responses Received 121
Response Ratio 55%

Creation Date Sat, Apr 30, 2016



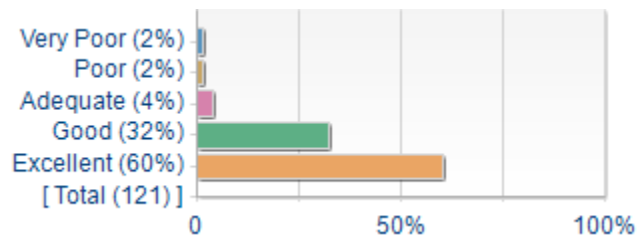
I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



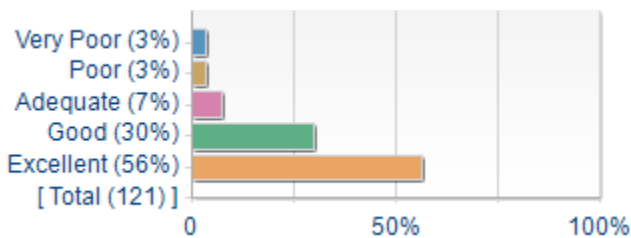
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.80
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.54

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



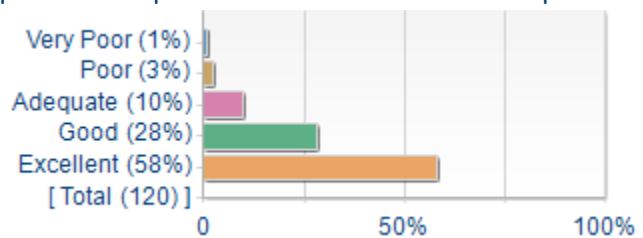
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.48
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.80

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



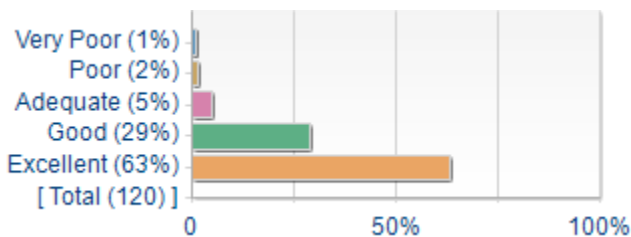
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.32
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.99

4. The instructor was available to answer your questions or provide extra assistance as required



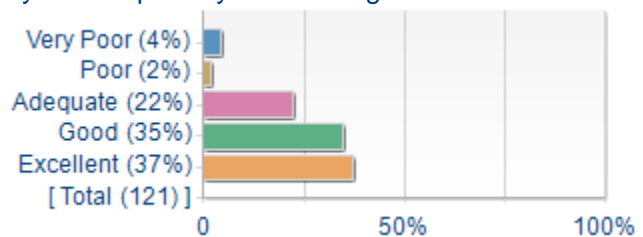
Statistics	Value
Response Count	120
Mean	4.41
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.84

5. The instructor ensured that your assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time



Statistics	Value
Response Count	120
Mean	4.53
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.74

6. The instructor was helpful in providing feedback to you to improve your learning in this course

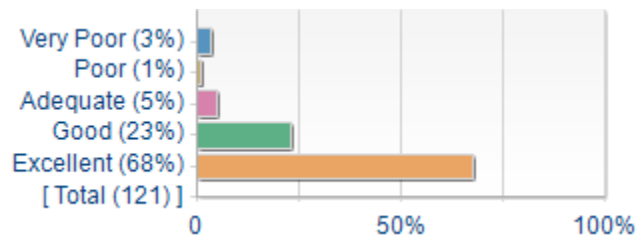
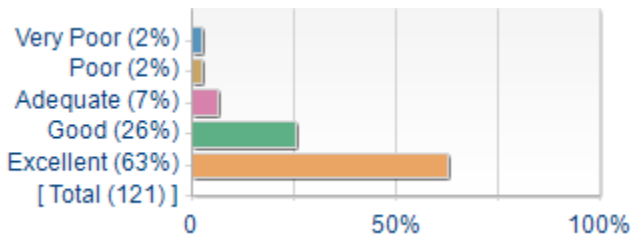


Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	3.99
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.02

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas

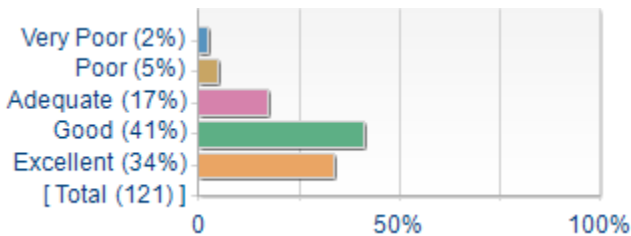


Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.44
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.91

Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.51
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.90

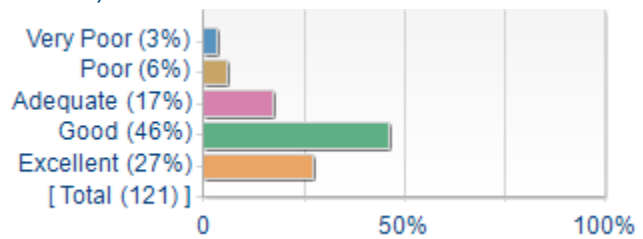
II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



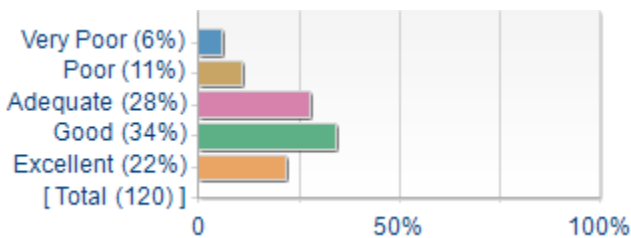
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	3.99
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.97

2. The materials provided for learning the course content (e.g. handouts, posted material, lab manuals) were clear



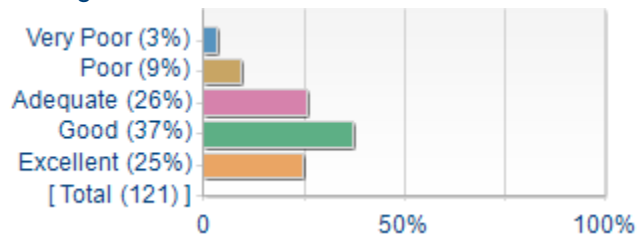
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	3.88
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.98

3. The assigned work helped your understanding of the course content



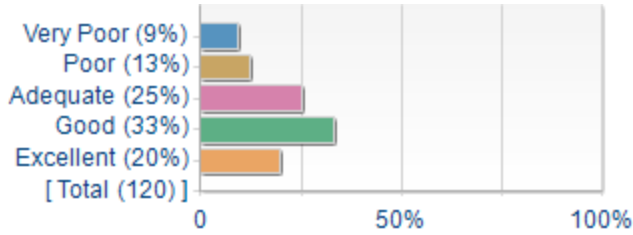
Statistics	Value
Response Count	120
Mean	3.55
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.12

4. The course provided opportunities for you to become engaged with the course material, for example through class discussions, group work, student presentations, on-line chat, or experiential learning



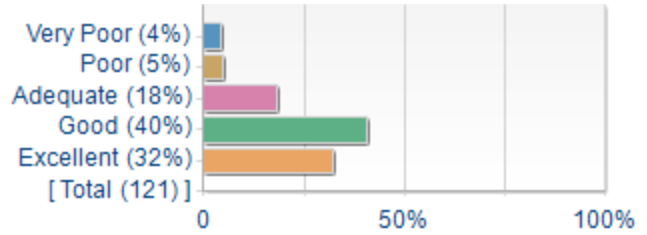
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	3.71
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.04

5. The methods of assessment used to evaluate your learning in the course were fair



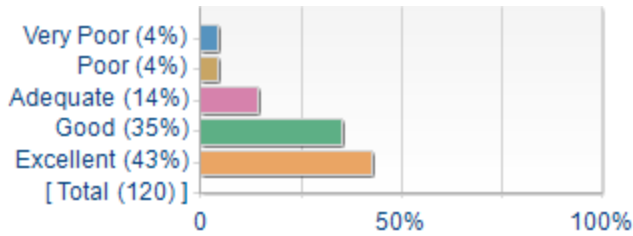
Statistics	Value
Response Count	120
Mean	3.43
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.21

6. The course provided relevant skills and information (e.g. to other courses, your future career, or other contexts)



Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	3.92
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.04

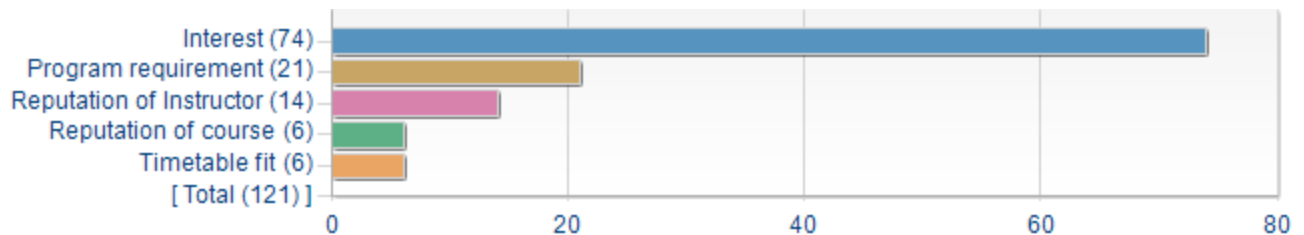
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



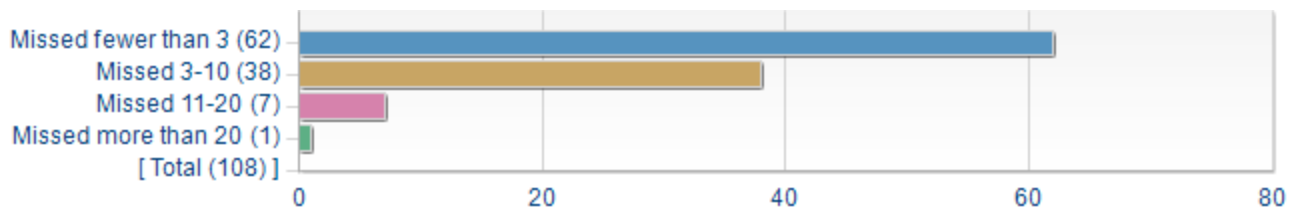
Statistics	Value
Response Count	120
Mean	4.08
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.05

III Statements About The Students:

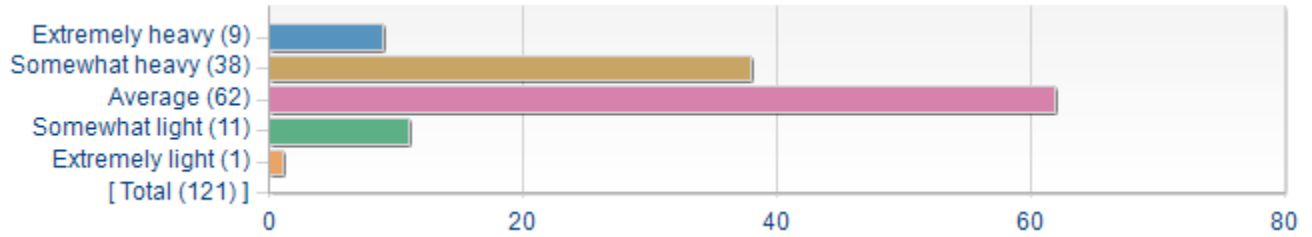
My primary reason for taking the course.



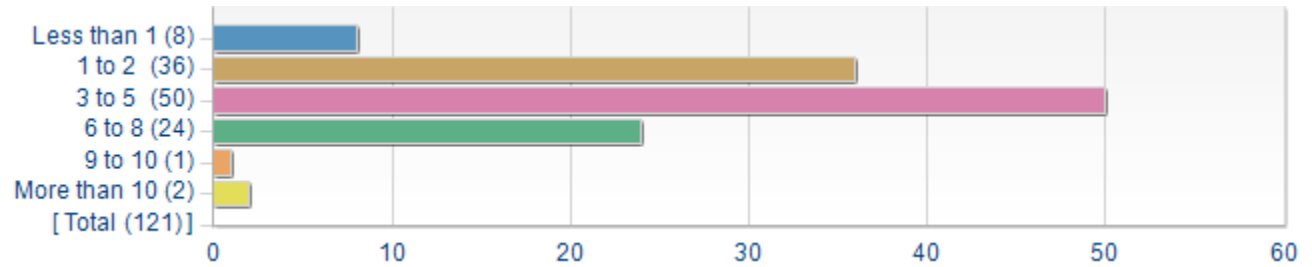
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



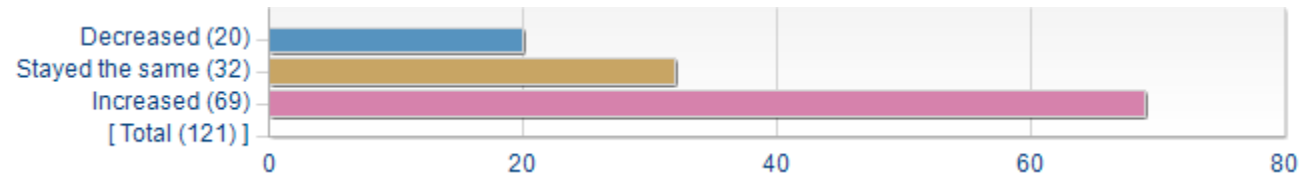
Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was



The approximate number of hours per week I spent studying for this course outside of class time:



As a result of my experience in this course, my interest in the material:



IIV Student Comments:

What strengths did your instructor (Bruce Ravelli) demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?

Comment
He has engaging lectures that were relevant to contemporary society, and he always had very clear expectations.
AMAZING lectures so passionate
great lectures, motivating
Incredibly knowledgeable, charismatic, engaging. Made the class very enjoyable and interesting.
Extremely knowledgeable and engaged with the material and the students. Even in a large lecture I felt as though I was getting a small classroom experience. Made examples interesting, relevant and poignant; I would often end up mulling over concepts for weeks after class. All concepts were explained extremely clearly, which was a breath of fresh air. I love the format of the exams, I felt as though it was a very comprehensive testing method. Felt well prepared for exams from tutorials as well. Encouraged discussion and expansion of ideas, never shut down people who spoke up against him or the material, simply helped them develop their opinions. He seems to genuinely care about each student and their experiences. Made time for everyone to get his full attention during office hours even when it was busy. Very, very impressed, Bruce is honestly in a league of his own.
Very captivating lectures and introduced a lot of concepts, which were not new to me, in a new light. Tough me to see things differently.
His lectures were very engaging, and he offered clear examples to help me understand the course content.
He made the material interesting and relevant to our lives.
Bruce was a very engaging prof. He was always really interesting to listen to, and I really enjoyed how he would tell personal stories to relate the course material to a real life situation. Bruce is a cool guy and a great prof!
Excellent teacher
Engaging and funny teacher, he provides interesting and awesome examples relevant to real life. Made me want to come to class!
Is passionate for this course and is very clear in how he teaches and what he expects.
Very passionate about the subject and Clear explanations of concepts. Very interesting lectures.
he knows lots about the topics covered in class and is very up to date on things happening around the world. he tried to make his examples in ways that we would understand, sometimes it came off a bit childish
Ravelli is passionate about sociology.
Engaging lectures
Voice recordings of information for midterms
Dr. Ravelli was always prepared for class, with interesting lectures. He also provided extra sessions that we could attend. I really enjoyed the session about religion!
-had a positive interest and insight on the material he was teaching -engaged with the students and material he was teaching
Very passionate and knowledgeable on the subject, and gives extremely interesting, entertaining lectures Provided notes and mp3s online which was very helpful Always willing to help students and provides a lot of extra resources on his website
everything he was the best prof i've ever had
Bruce is very effective at getting ideas across to students through examples we can relate to. Using names like "Brad" and "Brittany" frequently in the course when doing examples ending up drawing all the ideas from the course together.
having content that was controversial in class made it interesting.
Super engaging speaker, one of the best public speakers I have ever encountered. Very effective in holding the class' attention. Showed a good sense of humour as well.
Wonderful engaging lectures. I hated missing class, but it's so nice of him to put the mp3s online for later listening.

Bruce used great examples, and really helped me see things differently.

Very good speaker, engaging, knowledgeable.

He was a genius. Bruce demonstrated the material so well and made it very easy to understand the concepts we were learning in the way that the sociology course wants you to learn it. He was always very enthusiastic and easy to listen to. He was very precise with his timing of everything. Hands down the best professor I have ever had.

Bruce is a great speaker that provides the most engaging lectures and seems to be able to make anything interesting. His Car story was cinematic quality and possibly the funniest thing I have ever heard in my life. His explanations of concepts were absolutely perfect and i feel like I learned a lot.

All of his lectures were engaging and interesting. The class notes provided were helpful and concise.

Dr.Ravelli is a very effective professor who promotes learning and new ways of thinking.

Very helpful lecture notes and website posts

A clear passion and genuine interest in what he was teaching, told great stories, great attitude, good notes and book

Great lectures.

By far my favourite teacher. Held respect from students and made each class extremely engaging, would suggest this class to many people.

enthusiastic presenter, passionate about the material

Ability to teach the material that was easy to understand and fun, posting all material (lecture notes, MP3's, etc.) on website.

literally none, could not stand the guy so I stopped going to class

He provided very well elaborated examples that demonstrated concepts very clearly

Clear explanations, good sense of humour and use of stories to make the material more interesting. Obviously very invested in what he teaches.

He is a very animated professor and a great public speaker. This helped us to stay interested and motivated.

Good speaker

Organized, thoughtful, engaging, excellent delivery of material

Recording lectures

His passion for the subject showed when he lectured, it grabbed my attention and made me focus and be interested in the topic

He explained his concepts really well but at the same time was engaging

Very clear and precise when explaining concepts. He hammers the content into our heads until everyone understands . Bruce was very approachable and kind . One of the best profs I have ever had.

Passionate , clear

He is a VERY good lecturer. He is always prepared and ready to go with his lectures. He is also very animated and enthusiastic in class.

Clear and focused lectures that were very engaging.

Really knew what he was talking about he gave great examples in class and was very engaging.

Thinking about things from all perspectives

Very passionate and interesting lecturer!

Very engaging and fun lectures

He was passionate about the teachings and course material. Engaging.

His enthusiasm towards the course

Always very prepared and clearly very passionate about everything he was teaching.

He understand the concepts very well and understands that we have never taken sociology before so has very good explanations

i also like his stories and how he made us laugh with his dry humour

His understanding of the knowledge that he taught us was very strong, he knows the material very well and was able to teach us everything in a clear way. I was able to understand what he was saying and he always got the class engaged.

Very engaging classes
-
He's a great speaker and professor. His examples/stories for all of his concepts and teachings make going to a 9:30 lecture worth going to. Probably one of the best instructor's I have had in University
-interesting examples and discussions
Very good speaker
Great lectures !
Very interested in material, showed outward enthusiasm. Always engaged class with interesting personal examples
Very clear explanations and very interesting with his own stories that made it super easy to understand and remember the concepts
Enthusiasm
Really knowledgeable and enthusiastic
He was very good at explaining concepts and told great stories to keep me interested
Amazing lecturer, very passionate. He actually cared about what you had to say when you talked to him
Bruce was very engaged in the subject material and made the course very interesting
Very in-tune with what he was teaching, which made it easier to understand.
Funny, I guess.
Engaging during lecture, used stories and relevant topics to explain concepts which was easier to understand
His passion, stories, and video clips were excellent.
-really good lectures
-tries hard to answer student questions thoroughly
-reviewing lectures is easy(mp3 files of lecture + notes on website)
-Points out what questions and concepts are need to know(for tests) as well as how they will be asked
He was very knowledgeable in the course material and knew the role he was playing very well.
Very clear and thorough on all concepts. Very passionate teacher which made class lessons very interesting.
Extremely engaging, very knowledgeable of the course material
Bruce is an excellent public speaker, this helped me to stay engaged with material. Bruce is able to explain concepts and illustrate them well with relevant examples. This leads to good comprehension.
Great lectures.
He is a very engaging, inspiring professor and he inspires us to think about the world and sociology.
Could teach anybody sociology
Exciting in class, interesting topics.
Bruce is an excellent lecturer. He has excellent story telling ability and is an engaging and interesting speaker. He provides all the materials students need to succeed in the course and he is honest about what it takes to get a good mark. Bruce is also respectful of people's ideas and is willing to discuss with the class. He also makes people think about what it means to be a sociologist and how to be more aware of oneself in society.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor (Bruce Ravelli) could have helped you learn more effectively.

Comment
Smaller assignments/quizzes in between midterms would've helped retain information a bit more.
He managed to twist his ideas so they would work with whatever he was talking about and our ideas wouldn't none
Bruce had amazing lectures. Good job, keep it up!
Nothing to change
If you feel like it, get a mic that you clip to your collar. The quality of mp3's posted online is not great.

Nothing

I feel like Ravelli has taught this course a million times and could do this in his sleep. I also feel like he is a bit hypocritical about engaging students in deep sociological thought, but then requiring mindless regurgitation on the midterms. I feel like this course could benefit from smaller class sizes to engage students in more critical thought and more valuable time with Ravelli in class discussion.

-more time to write exams

N/A

none

Posting the notes each day in addition to the lectures would make it easier to understand the concepts and review after each day when its fresh.

Possibly making the essay questions a little more descriptive in the question so that we can answer the question correctly.

Give more examples of the types of things he's looking for in midterms

I don't have any suggestions, Bruce was great.

Perhaps have a class dedicated to reviewing the questions before each exam, or changed the due dates of the tutorial assignments/review tutorials.

N/A

-

In my opinion, everything in the course was great!

N/a

Not much. As a prof he was excellent.

More notes on the assignment papers would be helpful as it guides students what went well and what went wrong

Definitely displayed ideological biases; as someone who often disagreed, found this to be distracting from the course material. May be helpful for these biases to be stated outright, so students can see the line between personal opinion and academic teaching.

He could have posted the slides right before the lecture so that we could have followed along when he skipped through slides too fast.

I found it slightly off putting when he would ask a questions knowing exactly how the average person would answer, and then tell them how wrong they were, I understand this can be an effective way to dismiss a false common notion but it seems unnecessary that it has to be at the expense of the student being helpfull

N/A

Retire

Communicate more with the T.A.'s and let them help us by teaching/reviewing the material and prep for exams (not enough feedback from T.A.'s).

More detailed assignment instructions

Not very motivating as we were continually told its hard to receive an A. I felt I did what was necessary to get the "B" but did not do that well.

Could have had more office hours or a prep session to show how exactly to be ready/ know what is being looked for in the exams.

I wish the midterms were not the way they were. Its hard for me to memorize things and write it in specific prestigious language that they expected. That was such a struggle in all honesty. My mark did not demonstrate what I know at all and its saddening.

more office hours during exam period for the TAs

-

N/A

Possibly make higher grades slightly easier to achieve. Tough marking throughout.

Better exam prep. More clear examples of important concepts. Clearer expectations

More clear examples for terms

Provide more assignments that are worth less
more feedbackr
More constructive comments. Writing "weak" and putting "generous" on my Mark doesn't tell me what to improve.
... not sure.
Honestly fairly well structured course. It was a program requirement so I had little interest in class material.
Some sort of attendance method that includes getting marks for showing up. Even if it's just 5% it would motivate more people to go when the class is so early in the morning.
Unfair grading regarding an intro course
N/a
-
I think Bruce is a great professor.
God tier explanation of all terms
Use coursespaces instead of his weird website.
Bruce was an effective teacher.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Comment
The work could be marked easier. It felt very difficult to improve my work. Better and more feedback.
No further suggestions. Very much enjoyed the course.
The grading. Wish there was something more than just essays and a huge writing assignment to be graded on as some peoples strengths aren't just in writing, but in other test areas.
none
I felt like I learned a lot, but I do not feel like my performance on the tests accurately demonstrated my knowledge. I take notes and study, but I am a very slow and not-so-good writer and I felt that because all the test (lecture and lab) assessments were written, that my grade suffered from it. I would have preferred a more diverse form of assessment.
I felt that with 4 questions to prepare for for the exams, I found myself struggling to answer them all to the best of my ability. I understand the concept of it- that we prepare for four, and get two, and through the process we study and learn, But, I feel that we should know which ones we will be tested on because four questions was too many to remember and too much information especially because we didn't know which two we were actually writing on.
Only ended up having two classes dedicated to open topics in tutorial classes.. I don't know how this could be helped, but was unfortunate.
The tutorial assignment is somewhat unclear and confusing and wasn't as intense as I had thought it was supposed to be. Created stress. Each ta grades differently which can create a difference between grades and quality.
Having online quizzes or in tutorial homework would be nice- not to just have grade be based off of three exams and two papers.
I didnt like the layout for the Tutorial assignment, i was very confused by them. I would have preferred to have done them a different way
Make the class smaller, more creative opportunity, engage students more instead of feeding answers from past theories?
there should be more examples of how to get an A+ on the exams
Not talking to the class as if we are all heterosexual (even when talking about heteronormativity)
I really liked the essay format, with the tutorial sessions. Additionally, I found not having the online "busy work" very helpful.
More fair testing, adding short answer or multiple choice questions to accommodate students who may not be as strong on purely written tests
none
The way the midterms are graded and the way the course is designed could use a reformation.

The essay questions were too vague in there asking for the essays.

More consistency among TA marking.

Online weekly quizzes on textbook/lecture material would be nice. They wouldn't have to be worth much, but it would help encourage students to stay on top of the material.

Better constructed tutorials.

This class is great.

I think that the cut of contact with our specific TA's before the final exam will not be helpful in my preparation for the final exam. I feel as if our TA's have guided us this far, why are we not allowed contact with them before the exam? Not to mention, that the exam is the most significant part of our mark.

Maybe making the website a little bit clearer, or adding a search bar. It is sometimes hard to find exactly what you are looking for when all of the material is in one long line.

N/a

Redesign structure of assignments and midterms. The way they currently are structured is confusing and difficult to do well with.

Each test/assignment is worth a lot, would be nice to not have as much pressure on each exam

more standardized marking of assignments and tests.

horrible testing structure - didn't make me retain any information, only what was on tests. some sort of multiple choice/definitions/short answer test would make people learn all of the material more thoroughly

An A is very difficult to get in this class, and lowering standards (even just a little bit) would be extremely helpful

I think that while the material is very good and captivating, the method of examination is very unfair and not representative of effort put into the material. Coming from a physical sciences background where all examination is objective (multiple choice and so on), I found that the marking of the material was very much stacked against me, which in my mind does not accurately reflect the amount of effort put into learning the material.

N/A

Remove it

More standardized marking between TAs

More help from T.A.'s provided. Better exam prep methods.

More smaller assignments for content retention.

The work load is very heavy. We are expected to really know our answers for the exams but I feel like we didn't get enough information to answer the questions. We're expected to really understand what we are talking about. I find that they are marked very subjectively and it's hard to even get a B when it should be easier. I felt like this course was too difficult for first year especially if I'm not interested in a sociology degree.

TAs should all have the same rubric.

Different format of grading. The tutorial assignments were fine and helpful but the midterms were so hard.

In my English class every now and then we had writing assignments that were marked on completion and we had to attend that class. We who write them on a short story we had read then they were due in class the day we discuss that short story. I think applying this method for the midterm questions that need to be brought in for the tutorial where we discuss the midterm would prompt students to be more prepared. Making this worth about 2.5 % of the grade per midterm I think would improve the overall grade hugely

More detail into the instructions for the assignments in the tutorials.

I think it is completely unfair that students in [NAME] tutorial received an extra week to work on their second assignment. If they have the same assignment and grading rubric they should have the same amount of time as the other students.

-

The fact that the T.A.'s mark differently. My TA even told us how he is a "hard marker". I would have to appeal to get my mark up. I would leave the midterms getting 80% after studying really hard and then receiving a 55%, while my peers with different TAs that studied a lot less than me would get 70% with little knowledge and half a page written.

-the format of the exam is very tough to prepare for and memorize all of the content needed to get an A

Testable material other than just essays

Exam marking needs to be better standardized, seemed a bit random. Expectations not always clear

N/a

The only negative comment I have is regarding the TAs. I'm taking 100A and 100B simultaneously, and have noticed that the TAs really make all the difference. I know Bruce said to find one that suited your learning style at the beginning of the semester, but the difference I've had between my two TAs is huge. One is enthusiastic, engaging, and most importantly, clear in his expectations. The other is so disengaged, rude, and vague about what he's expecting for the exams. There was a significant difference in my grades for each course because of this even though I was studying the exact same way and putting in the same effort for both course. If I had just had the one poor TA, I don't think I would have taken another sociology course. It was really discouraging - especially for a first year course.

Provide more assignments/work that are worth less (more opportunities to improve grade)

instead of large tutorial assignments that require a lot of effort for such a low portion of our final mark (15% each), in my opinion i believe that this course should be structured with small write ups or assignments maybe due each tutorial which would add up to that 30% in the end, this would be able to be marked much faster and would, in my opinion, keep students more engaged in the course material

Online quizzes

The content analysis was not explained thoroughly

One less paper. Two midterms and two papers are a lot of work.

It's a very solid course. In an ideal world the lecture span of one hour could be slightly tweaked. As it is that time span feels a little short for going over concepts, and then listening to disscussion. An extra 15 minutes would probably not push the time span into the realm of boredom. But it would give a bit more time to focus on the concepts.

The tutorial assignments were marked very hard for a first year class. I find it is taken a bit too seriously and even tho the assignments are clearly laid out it is still really hard to get a good mark

Lower expectations of students - it causes unnessesary stress regarding midterms/finals

Tutorial assignment did not help my understanding of course material. It seemed quite separate and irrelevant. An explanation as to why it is a helpful assignment would have been good. For example Is this the type of thing sociologists do?

Don't know sorry

I wish all of the assignments for all the tutorial sections were due on the same day, its a little unfair for early in the week tutorial classes.

Group discussions

Change tutorial assignments. Make all TAs consistent, not fair that some TA's let their group do APA referencing when everyone else does ASA, also not fair when entire tutorials get a week extension on assignments.

I would have liked more of the midterm questions to be open ended questions asking students about their opinions on certain theories or asking students to argue for or against the relevancy of a certain concept. I think argumentative writing where a position is created and defended with evidence leads to stronger understanding of material.

My Instructor gave time in class to complete this survey.

Options	Count	Percentage
Yes	105	89%
No	13	11%
Does not apply (online course, field course, etc.)	0	0%