



**UVic CES Instructor Report 201601 - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO  
SOCI:INSTUTNS+SCL CHNG - SOCI 100B - A02 (CRN 22842)**

**UVic Course Experience Survey - Spring 2016**

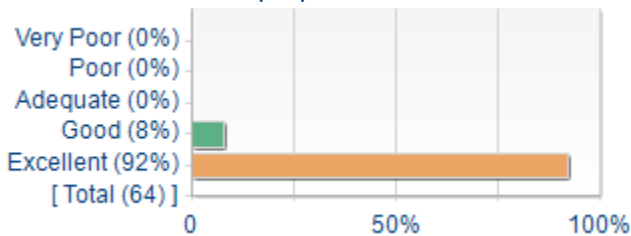
Project Audience 111  
Responses Received 64  
Response Ratio 58%

**Creation Date** Sat, Apr 30, 2016



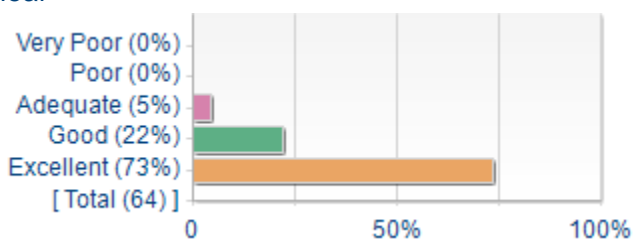
## I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



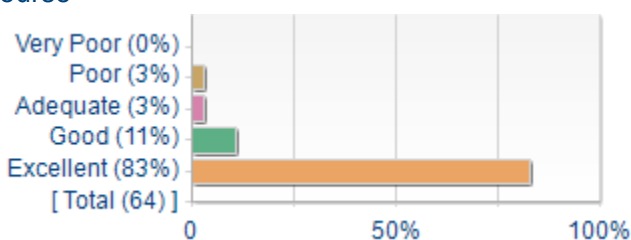
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.92
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.27

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



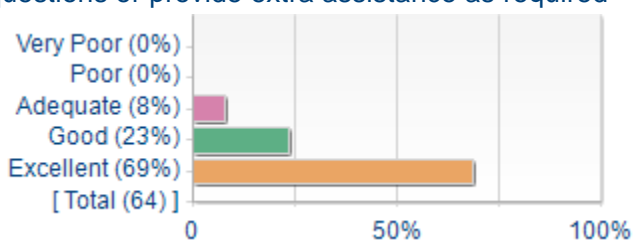
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.69
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.56

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



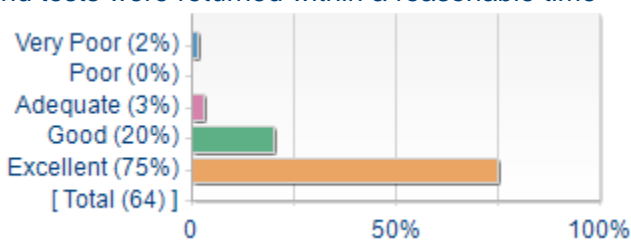
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.73
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.67

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



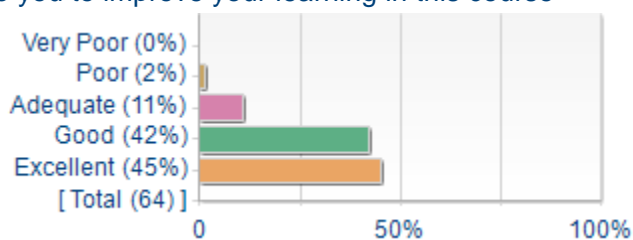
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.61
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.63

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.69

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

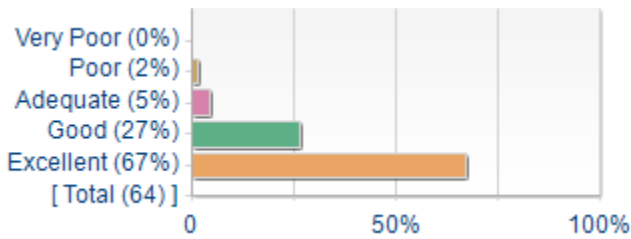


Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.31
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.73

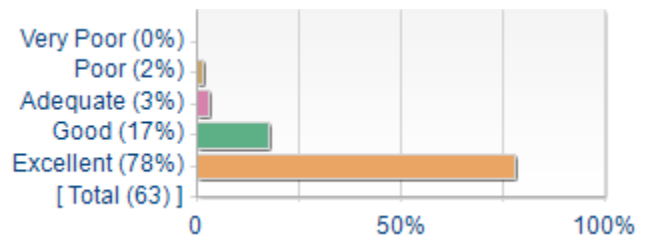
7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas



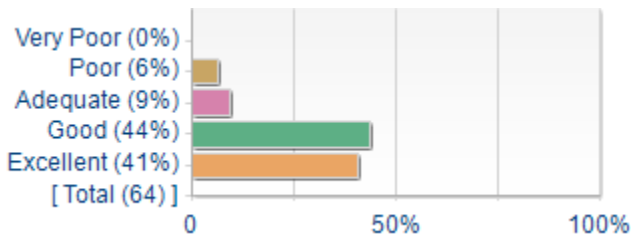
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.59
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.66



Statistics	Value
Response Count	63
Mean	4.71
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.61

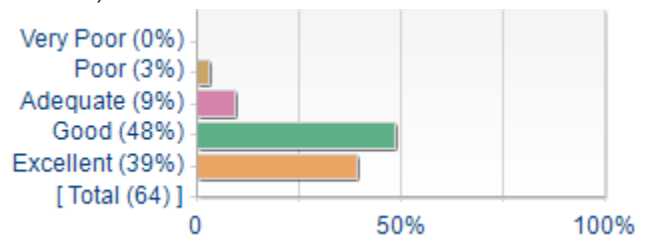
## II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



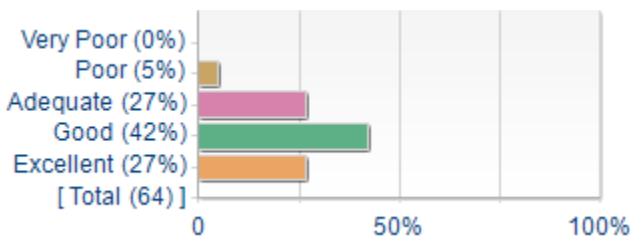
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.19
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.85

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



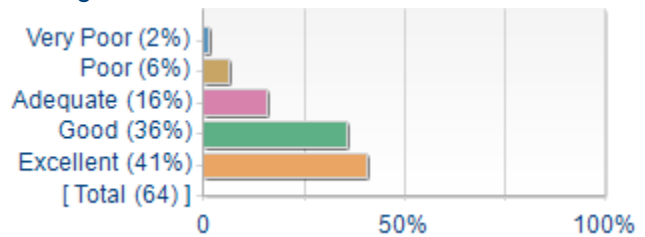
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.23
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.75

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



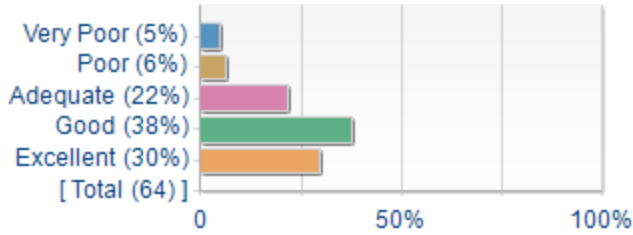
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	3.91
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.85

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



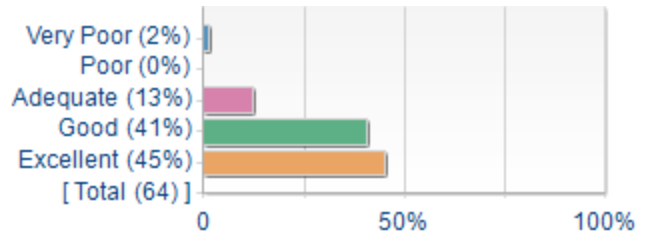
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.08
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.98

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



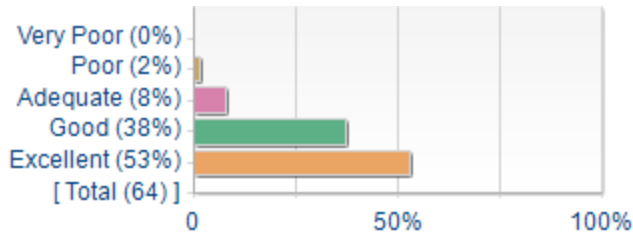
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	3.81
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.08

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.28
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

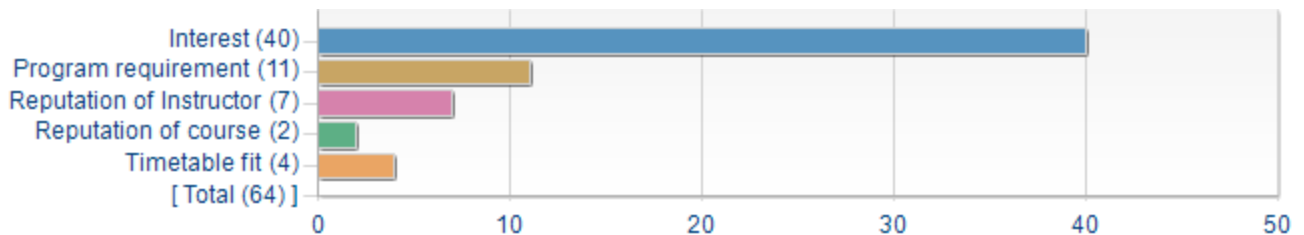
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



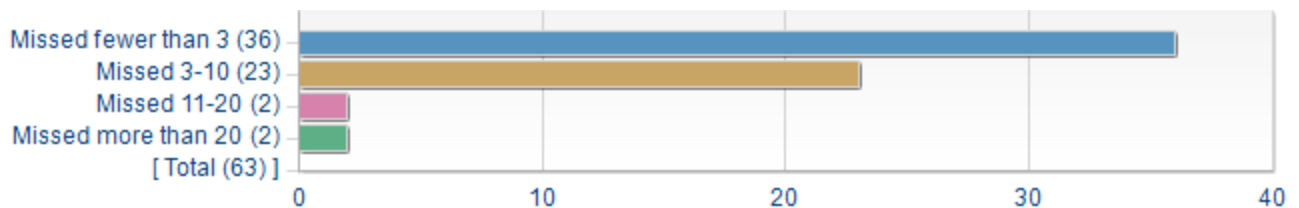
Statistics	Value
Response Count	64
Mean	4.42
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.71

### III Statements About The Students:

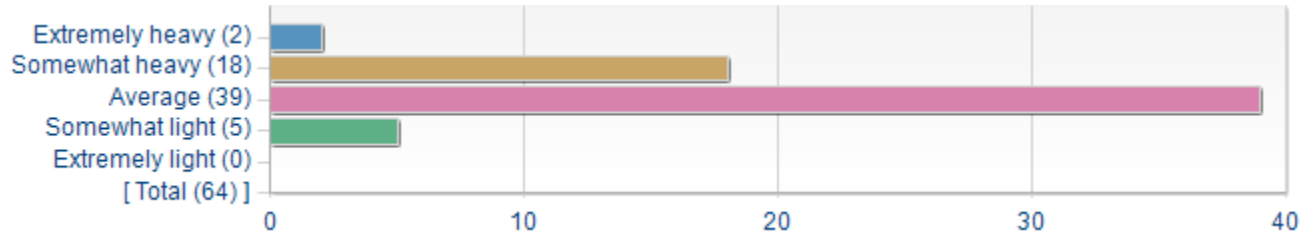
My primary reason for taking the course.



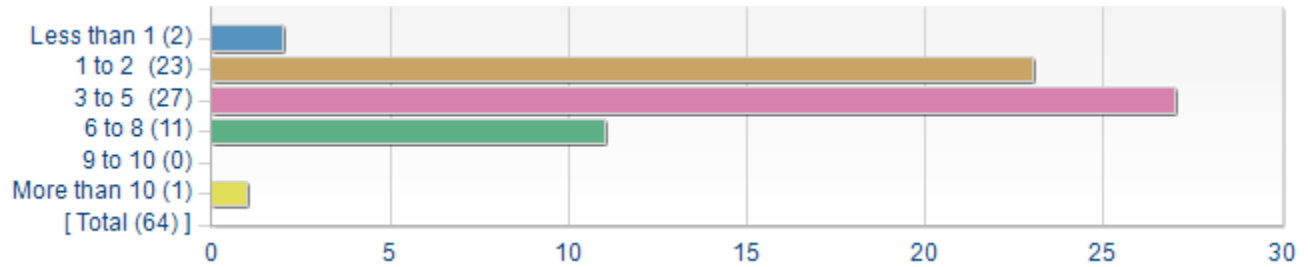
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



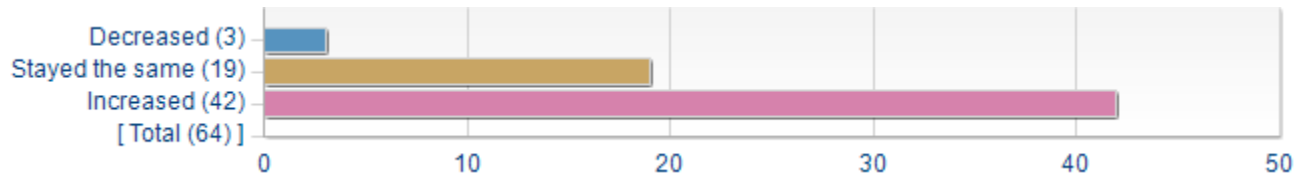
**Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was**



**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
Personable, charismatic, engaging. Obviously very invested.
Great lecturer, made me want to come to class
Bruce was very engaging and interesting to listen to
He was very engaging and kept the course interesting, great lecturer. Recording the lecture and putting the slides online was extremely helpful as well
Bruce has a great personality for a professor. He is funny and engaging and his passion about sociology puts him over the top. His personal stories are refreshing and intriguing and I always look forward to them. He is very caring and wants his students to do the best of their abilities and will assist them in anyway possible to do so.
enthusiastic
Awesome public speaker! Very knowledgable. I would take another one of Bruce's lectures just because they're very enjoyable and interesting.
Very passionate and well spoken instructor. Defiantly one of my best profs I've ever had.
Very clear explanations for concepts, ensured students understood material
Great job throughout the course, always looked forward to come to lecture. Cares about the students, lets them hear what they have to say. Keep it up!
Very personal and in touch with his audience. Had excellent examples of concepts.
AMAZING lectures, Bruce made me actually want to go to every lecture. never a dull moment!
Very engaging, interesting, and effective teaching style. I never wanted to miss a class because leactures are so enjoyable.
He was extremely passionate about the material and was well prepared for classes
He knew what he was doing, he made me want to learn more and come to class. He was very engaged in his teaching and knowledge. I was never bored, and him and my TA [NAME] were very good at helping us to know how to excel on exams
Knowledge , enthusiasm, charisma
Taught concepts beautifully Engaged the class Strict with students so they were engaged aswell Fair guy
Class engagement, presentation, and course content.
Bruce explained the course material clearly and in new and interesting ways that made me think about things in ways I never had before. I always looked forward to coming to his lectures, and this was my favourite course this semester.
Clear and precise. Interesting stories with high experience and knowledge. Funny/nice person.
Clear and engaging lectures.
Very engaging and describes concepts by applying them to everyday events. As well as making us relate these concepts to our experience (being a student etc.). Plus giving us a lot of notice about midterm and exam questions was very helpful
Extremely passionate about the subject and presents the material in a way that gets you thinking about the subject past just class content. Great course and instructor would recommend it for everyone to take.
Bruce is a great lecturer, he is really able to grab your attention and make you see things in ways you couldnt before. He is engaging and thought provoking. I dont think I would have enjoyed or been interested in this course as much if it werent for him.
He is an engaging teacher, and uses terms and examples that are easy to understand. His lectures are both

informative and entertaining, and he keeps good pace.

Kept the class interesting and engaging and made me want to come to lectures

Provided interesting stories and well explained examples to help us understand the concepts

He was very engaging which kept me interested in the material we were learning about in class.

Great personal and creative stories that demonstrated the material being discussed

Bruce was great at giving us all the material we needed for exams, making the experience fair and predictable

His charisma is contagious, and the passion he conveyed was great for remembering and absorbing the material

Great lecturer, good discussions in lectures

He is obviously well experienced in teaching this course, and it was very structured, making it a lot easier to keep up with the content.

Great speaker, which helps keeping me engaged and interested

Organized - assignments and exams handed back fairly quickly

He was engaging and kept the material interesting. He gave us time to take notes but also kept the class engaged by telling stories and interacting with the students.

Humor

Good details

Good understanding and able to explain his understanding

Great story telling that related to the material

Personal examples

Great atmosphere to learn in such a large class

Bruce helped me by saying exactly what we need to do in order to sustain an A.

Bruce was able to bring his own stories and experiences into the content which made it very engaging. He also went at a slow pace so it was very easy to keep up with him and remain interested in what he was talking about. He adds a lot of humour to the course as well and always explains everything to make sure we are doing well with the midterms and assignments.

Fantastic lectures, always engaged us in the classroom

He was the only interesting prof I've had all year.

Great speaker and brought relatable concepts into the course

Bruce is a fantastic professor. His passion for the material and personal stories relating to concepts were amazing.

He was very passionate about the subject and had very entertaining and useful lectures.

He is a very well rehearsed speaker, and keeps students engaged

Excellent and engaging speaker, love the stories and how he interacts with students and shows respect

Bruce Ravelli, was a good lecturer, he always was excited whenever he made presentations. His slideshows gave enough time for me to write things down.

Enthusiastic and engaging lecturer

really related to the kids, made sure they knew, understood, and could relate to the material

very approachable and makes lectures fun to go to and be in.

He was very passionate and made all the concepts as interesting as possible. You can really tell he loves what he does, which helps the students want to learn.

He was always prepared for any possible question. Bruce had personal stories that allowed me to connect to the material and made the class interesting. The exams encouraged personal thoughts and experiences as examples, which I think is a positive learning tool. Bruce and my TA [NAME] were also always available and willing to help me with questions.

Best instructor I've ever had at UVIC, I'm recommending him left and right to pretty much everyone I know. He is passionate, funny, and exhibits a great understanding of course material but more so of the social world. He understands his privilege and incorporates that into his lectures and I have such high respect for him! Wish I could take all of his classes.

Bruce is an extremely engaging professor. His way of telling stories and relating concepts to the outside world really helped me to understand the course material and remember it for the exams. Also, Bruce provided examples for us to see of well written exams and after we handed in our assignments, well written assignments. This allowed me to learn

from other students and clarified what was expected in the course.

He was always prepared for each class. He was passionate about the course material and made each class interesting by providing examples that allowed me to see an issue from a different perspective. This was my favourite class.

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

Comment
I really appreciated Bruce understanding his own places of privilege and limited personal experience to contribute to a holistic view of certain issues. Having religious spokespeople come in, viewing videos, having guest speakers was hugely impactful. More of this would be awesome. Also facilitating more student-student engagement would be valuable, but I realize this is tough.
None
Making sure that all the TAs were consistent with what they were looking for in assignments, I found that having different TAs changed my mark drastically even though I was doing the same work
Nothing -- Bruce is great!
n/a
There are no improvement I can recommend for lectures, I enjoy them greatly. Although, the TA's have VERY different options on what an A is. I find the different expectations of grades can be unfair to students.
Put less percentage weight for the tutorial assignment or make it easier guidelines. I worked really hard on it but got a bad mark
N/a
Standard ASA formatting posting on website.
No specific suggestions.
Maybe more detailed comments on the midterms and tutorial assignment by TAs /Bruce
The grading standards for this class are extremely high, too high for a first year course. Please consider lowering them.
Generalize less when giving examples to avoid prejudice
Can't think of anything!
Loved going to the classes, however; the expectations of assignments and exams do not match the grading. This is after all a first year course.
Provided better guidance on how to do tutorial assignments.
I dunno man, he did rly well...
no comments
Bruce did a great job!
No suggestions
Bruce refused to let me rewrite our first midtern, despite me having made travel plans which were made prior to receiving any course outlines for the class. He stated in an email to me that he normally doesn't offer rewrites for his midterms. I would not be bothered by this, as it was my decision to make the plans in the first place, however, he offered rewrites on the second midterm which I find to be very unfair, as I took a 10% hit to my grade as a result.
Nothing specific
He did a great job. Don't think anything needs to change
The primary reason I took this course was interest, and I just felt that in an attempt to make the course easier for all the students, Bruce simplified things too much. i didn't feel engaged and encouraged to explore things further, just helped along in regurgitating the requirements for the course
When contacting the prof through email I was often sent to the TAs instead, my TA was often not available on weekends...
When there are a lot of notes on the slides, make sure to give enough time for the students to finish so they can listen and not rush



I think that he did an outstanding job teaching the course, and that its up to the student to go out of his/her way to talk to Bruce so he can teach more effectively.

Bruce couldn't have done a better job

n/a

N/A

He often sounded like only his answer to the question was the correct answer, telling kids in the lecture that their answer was interesting but not quite what he was looking for. Even if the answer was almost exactly the same as his, only in different words

Not sure

The course was designed so that students learn only the specific material for the written tests. Overall, I felt like I learnt certain concepts but not all the concepts provided in the lectures. The class was also very informal. As well, I felt that the professor could have been more clear regarding what he expects on an exam. Going "above and beyond the lecture" was always unclear to me as that is a very biased opinion. Maybe, if he showed past tutorial assignments would I better understood what he wanted for those.

Methods for grading seemed inconsistent and at times unfair.

N/A

explained some topics more that were touched on in 100A. As a student that has not taken it, it got confusing sometimes when topics from an unrequired class were not talked about in the depth they needed to be.

I don't have any improvements, he clearly knows what he's doing and it works.

By encouraging class discussions a bit more.

I can't think of anything to add here. Bruce is an amazing professor, I wish he taught more classes!

Nothing.

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

#### Comment

Debatable whether the text was really necessary...

None

Maybe some smaller assignments that could help boost marks like quizzes/ worksheets to help with the heavily weighted assignments and tests

This course seems to be marked above a first year level. It seems like the TAs are VERY subjective when they mark and as a result I feel like some students are being marked unfairly.

The TA's should be in sync on what an A, B, C or fail looks like.

It was a great course bruce is an amazing prof

I think more structure for TA's would be beneficial for tutorial sessions, and scheduling assignment overview tutorial sessions further in advance to due dates (more than a weeks advance to get explanation on heavily weighted assignments)

No specific suggestions

The final exam should have the same format as the midterms (answer 2/4 questions not 3/6).

More TA paid time . Less intimidating to go see them with questions.

More time in tutorial

Not applicable

Don't give interaction for a specific grade and not match the grade.

no comments

I enjoyed the peer scholar's from last semester. I think there should be another small, similarly weighted assignment next semester where we can practice applying course concepts.

No suggestions

I did not like having a question on the midterm test that we were to read about in the text book and then learn about the

concept in class after the midterm.
Nothing specific
More group activities
The tutorial assignments could be brought out to be as more important than they actually are to engage students think and learn more about sociology.
I think it's great!!
Changing the assignment structure
This course can only be improved on the grading part. They explain the rubric but even if you do as they say you end up with a horrible mark. Everything is written and therefore there needs to be a variety.
N/A
N/A
No current suggestions come to mind
After taking both 100A and now 100B, I still feel that the grading methods in these courses are purposely difficult for a first year student to do well in. While I like the structure that the tests are based off of (i.e. seeing the questions beforehand and having time to prepare), the method of getting anything higher than a B is vague and unnerving. This is never about how well your question is but how unique and 'different' it is, as well as how well you can repeat what was said in lecture--which, granted, might be on purpose--but I never felt accomplished in either of these classes despite what my mark was. This grading system makes sense for a higher-year course but for a first year course, it doesn't leave much room for the individuality that Ravelli seem to praise in lecture. Also, the fact that your mark changed based on who your TA was is a little disappointing; some mark harder while others are very lax. I did like the fact that feedback on my assignments were from more than just my TA.
feedback from my TA on my midterms was very little, if I am not getting 100% on an exam, but theres no indication to how I can improve, then I will not improve
Professor Ravelli could have improved the course in a number of ways. The course material was graded by the TA's whom were very biased and difficult to work with. Last semester I had a TA who gave me the same mark for each assignment. This semester I feel like I have a TA who would not change my grade and I am too afraid to go up to the professor because I do not know how fairly he marks.
Exam and assignment structure
N/A
I found that between Ta's there was a fair bit of grade variation.
I think longer tutorials maybe, I feel like they were always rushed.
With a different tutorial assignment that didn't have such a broad topic spectrum. I struggled with picking my own topic, although I do think it is a very good thing that we have the option to do a different style tutorial project if we would so chose.
we had not covered religion in class but we got a question on it on midterm two. This was unfair and I believe we should cover exam topics in class before we get an exam on them.
The content analysis/literature review assignment, while very applicable and relevant to sociology, was surprising to me because of how much work was required for both assignments. This is a first year course, a prereq for many but also an elective for most (like myself), and I was honestly displeased because the length and expectations of the content analysis were much too high for a first year course. I have spoken to other people in the class who are also not in first year and we agreed that, because many of us have never done a literature review and content analysis before, the TA's expectations for how "perfect" the assignment should be were unreasonable and frankly frustrating. This is an introductory course and the level of work and depth the assignment required was the level of a second year course.
The only suggestion I can think of is that the assignment sheet given for the two assignments was slightly more detailed in what was required in each section of the report.
I can't think of anything.

### My Instructor gave time in class to complete this survey.

Options	Count	Percentage
Yes	60	95%

No	3	5%
Does not apply (online course, field course, etc.)	0	0%