



**University
of Victoria**

**UVic CES Instructor Report 202001 - Bruce Ravelli - ISSUES
CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY - SOCI 438 - A02 (CRN 22807)**

UVic Course Experience Survey - Spring 2020

Project Audience 19

Responses Received 5

Response Ratio 26%

Subject Details

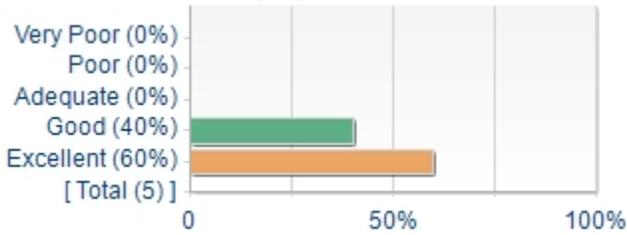
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| CRN | 22807 |
| VNUMBER | V00107670 |

Creation Date Sat, May 02, 2020



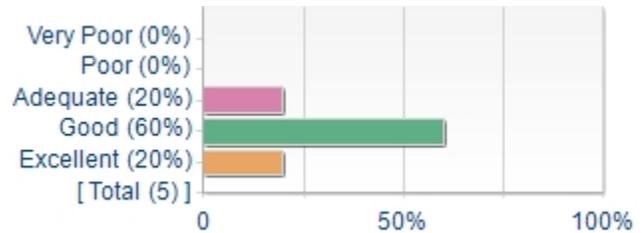
I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



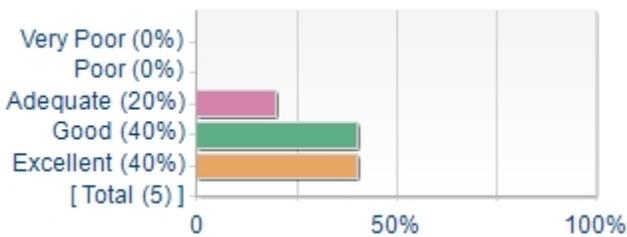
| Statistics | | Value |
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| Response Count | | 5 |

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



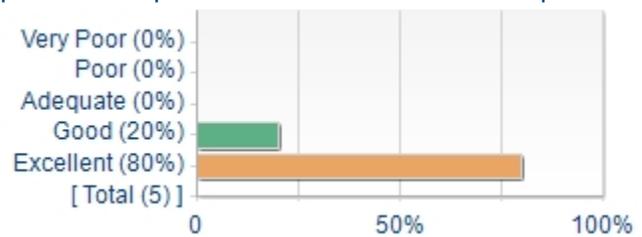
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3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



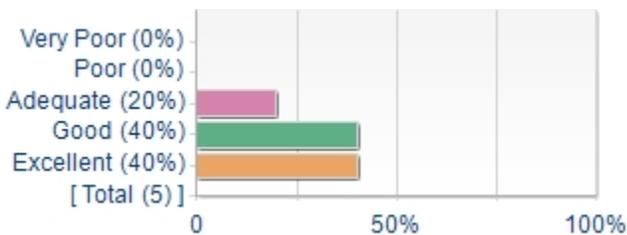
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4. The instructor was available to answer your questions or provide extra assistance as required



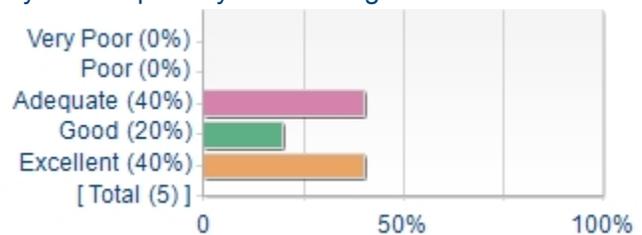
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5. The instructor ensured that your assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time



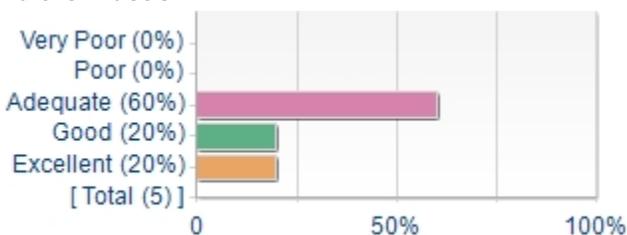
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6. The instructor was helpful in providing feedback to you to improve your learning in this course



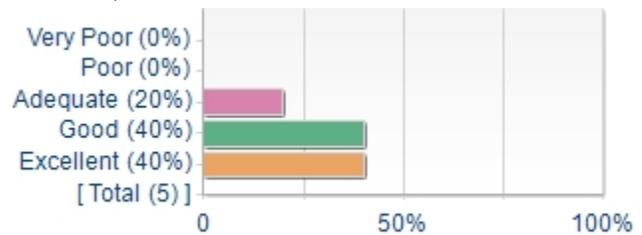
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| Response Count | | 5 |

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students and their ideas



| Statistics | | Value |
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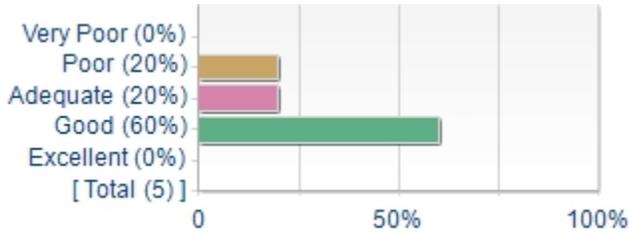
8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course



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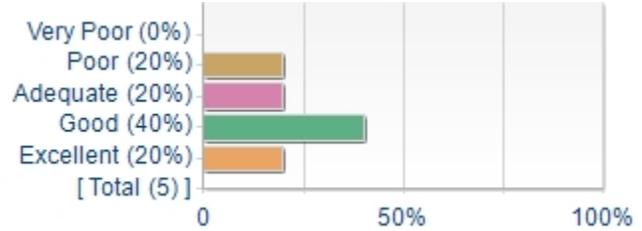
II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



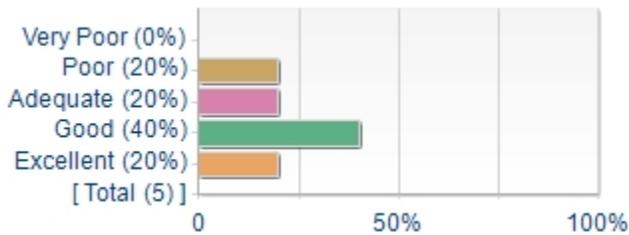
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2. The materials provided for learning the course content (e.g. handouts, posted material, lab manuals) were clear



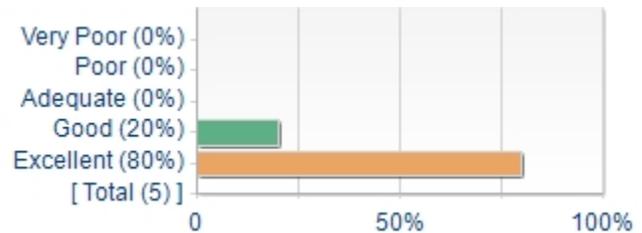
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3. The assigned work helped your understanding of the course content



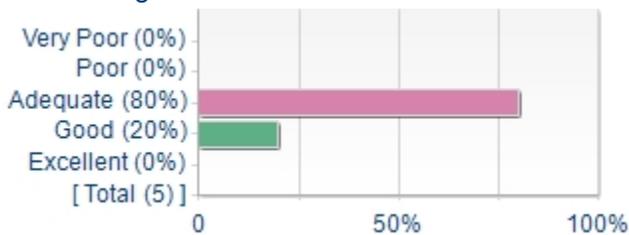
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4. The course provided opportunities for you to become engaged with the course material, for example through class discussions, group work, student presentations, on-line chat, or experiential learning



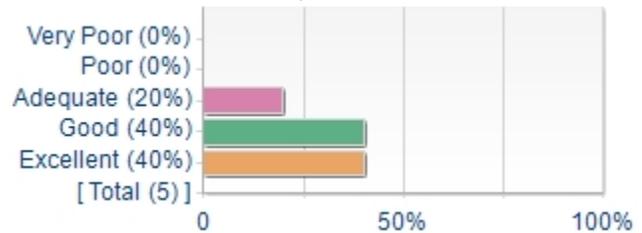
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5. The methods of assessment used to evaluate your learning in the course were fair



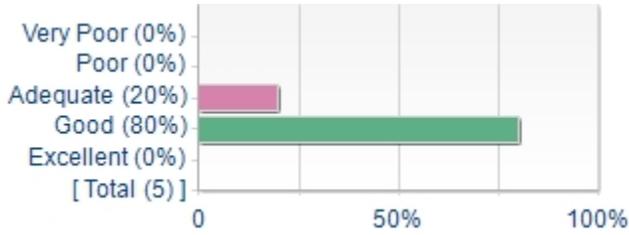
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6. The course provided relevant skills and information (e.g. to other courses, your future career, or other contexts)



| Statistics | |
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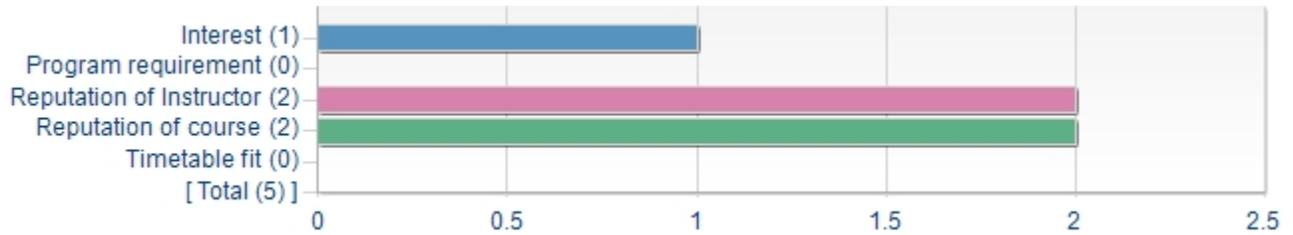
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



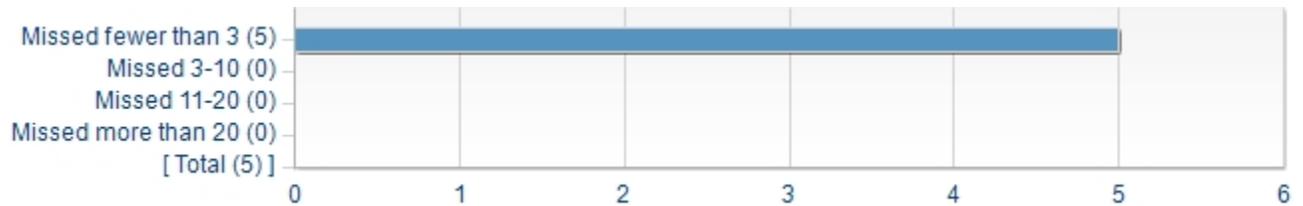
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III Statements About The Students:

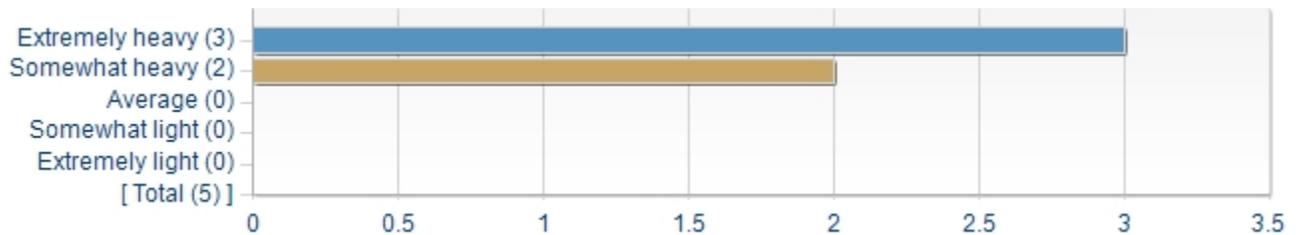
My primary reason for taking the course.



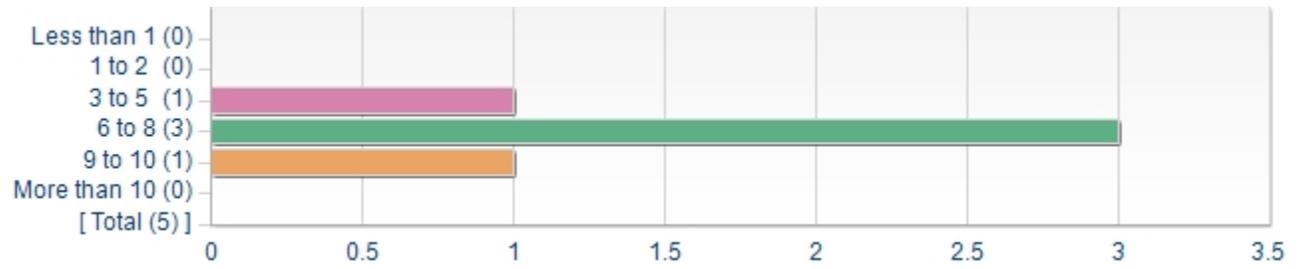
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



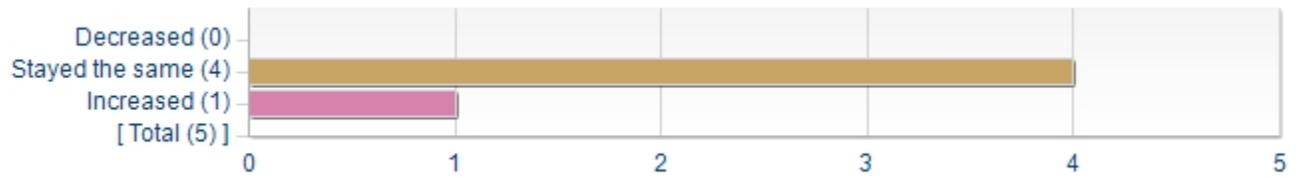
Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was



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?

Comments

Bruce is a very caring professor, he provides lots of support for students both in and out of class time. He was always available to help if we needed it. Bruce is extremely passionate about community-engaged learning and pedagogy in general.

Bruce is truly a one of a kind professor. His enthusiasm for his courses and learning/teaching in general is infectious. He shows SO much respect for his students, their ideas, and their concerns. Running this course cannot possibly be an easy feat but Bruce answers all emails faster than any other prof at UVic, treats every student question or comment seriously, and provides as much support as he can. Listening to him talk about the course or the readings is genuinely so enjoyable – he has a way of speaking that is so engaging. This course overall was a bit of a struggle for a lot of us I think, but Bruce always took time to reassure everyone and try and get us on track. I would take truly any course he was teaching.

Very available to students, passionate about material.

- passionate about the course, which always increases the engagement of the class
- took advice of students – as this is a relatively new course; showed interest in the process of this CEL course and ways to improve it
- was always available if needed – office hours, email, etc.

I thought Bruce was very personable and flexible throughout this course which was so needed with the CEL aspect that included a community partner.

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

Comments

I think there was a tendency in this course to have very circular discussions. We stuck to the same topics a lot and I wish we could have explored some strategies that would help practically when we were engaged in field work with our community partners.

Honestly, my only complaints about this course were related to the marking, and that's not really something Bruce has to improve on or change because he just has a different marking style than a lot of soci profs. He is super thorough in his grading and will catch literally every single mistake, so it feels like it is harsh but he is really just trying to help us improve at the end of the day. It wouldn't be far for me to complain just because I didn't get the marks I wanted on some of the assignments.

See next section

- doing great!

I think the overall course load was a lot (LIKE A LOT) and it inhibited active learning of everything going on; the best thing to cut in my opinion would be the number of readings. While helpful they were very very repetitive and this got to be quite annoying and I found myself not doing the readings at all because I didn't have to. I did the first couple and was still able to participate.

Also, instead of having everyone come in to talk to us, maybe we could have attended a career fair or meet a coach for interviews. As someone who has parents in the Govt. the guests didn't teach me anything I didn't know.

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

Comments

I think the list of community partners needs refreshing – some seem a bit indifferent to our goals of creating an original and effective project for the community. I think there should be a primer for students on how to interact with community partners. Additionally, regarding course evaluation methods, I think there should be some more flexible criteria considered for reflection–type assignments. The students have come to a consensus that personal reflections, composed of very personal information, should not be so harshly judged or quantified. Overall though, this was an enjoyable experience.

I didn't love the weekly readings with the article leads/discussants because it sometimes felt like a make–work activity to fill lecture time. That being said, I don't know what else we would've done in the lectures. Perhaps if they could be shorter than 3 hours/week to account for the fact that most of this course is outside the classroom/a community engaged project.

I think that the paper should've been due a little later in the semester or just had the weight of it reduced because it was super stressful having to throw a big paper together at the beginning of the semester. The peer reviewing was fun but I think just having everything pushed back a week would've been more ideal.

A lot of people seemed to struggle with their community partners/were not getting the results they were hoping for which I think is to be expected, but it was kind of frustrating. Allowing us to choose our own marks mitigated this a lot, but I don't know what to suggest beyond just pointing out that communications with community partners seemed to be a point of tension/stress for some people.

I would just like to say that I feel a lot of students may complain about the reflection papers, but I did not have a problem with them and actually quite enjoyed writing them. It felt like the people complaining only complained after the fact when they didn't like their mark, to be honest. I think reflections are a great idea for sociology and I liked how open–ended they were. So, I think the reflections should continue to be a part of the course, but maybe warn students that they really do need to be sociological in their writing and not just provide an account of their life.

Overall, the course was not entirely what I was expecting, but Bruce makes any course 100x better than it actually is.

grading scheme was horrible. there were multiple assignments that counted for 0 marks – this has to be fixed for future students. guidelines and expectations for reflective writing were extremely vague. overall marking was too tough considering the amount of work students were doing. students projects, as well as involvement of community partners varied so drastically that I feel like everyone got a completely different course. more continuity for overall class should be examined. some peoples community partners did not seem engaged at all and perhaps should be vetted a little more carefully.

– I liked that we got to read articles related to this field and CEL type of learning, however, only having articles to go through for a couple of the classes (which were 3 hours), was a bit dry. I liked that we had speakers come in often, I think this ties in to the practicality piece of this course; however, some of the presenters I think could have been told ahead of time some things to talk about, as some came in not knowing really what to say. However, I did find most speakers very useful.

Make it a year–long course.