



**University
of Victoria**

Learning &
Teaching Centre

UVic CES Instructor Report - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO SOCI: CULTURE+SOCIALZTN (CRN 12876)

UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2014/Spring 2015

Project Audience 147

Responses Received 79

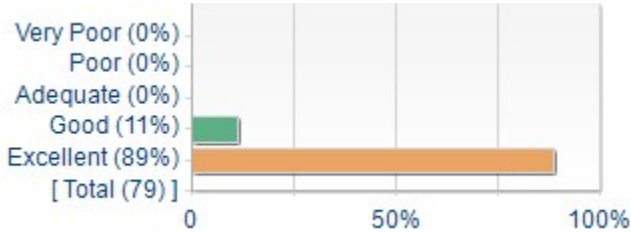
Response Ratio 54%

Creation Date Tue, Dec 23, 2014

Powered by: **BLUE** 

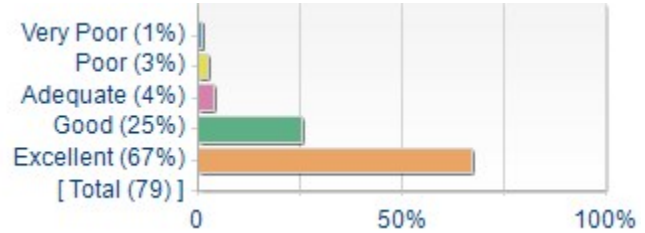
I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



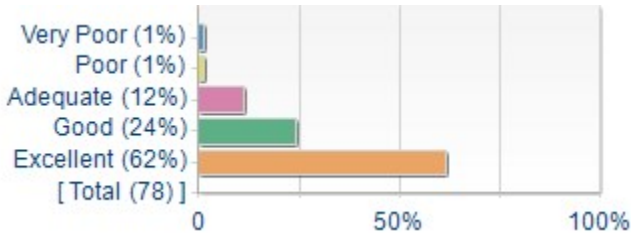
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.89
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.32

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



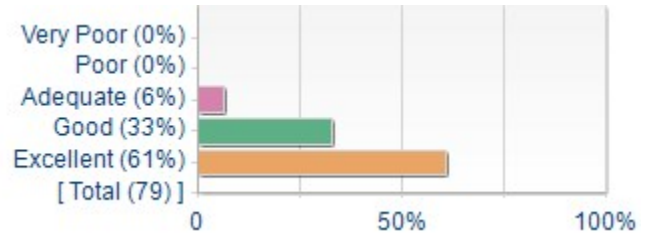
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.80

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



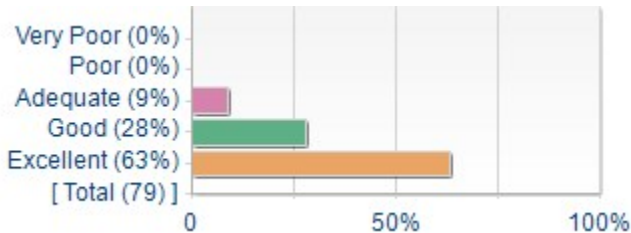
Statistics	Value
Response Count	78
Mean	4.44
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.85

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



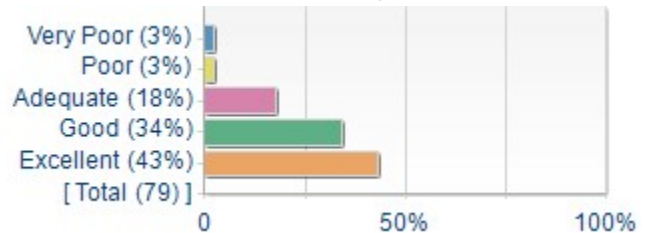
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.62

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.66

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

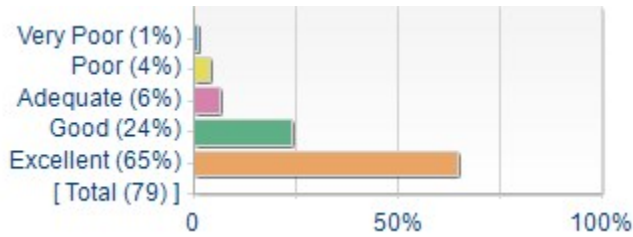


Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.13
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.97

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for

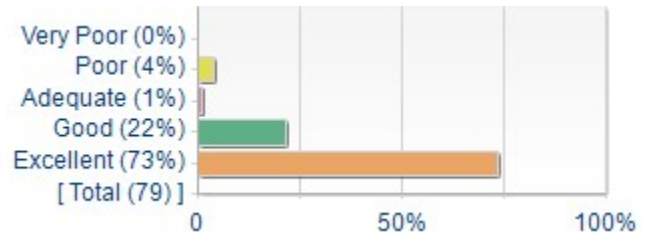
8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this

students and their ideas



Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.47
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.87

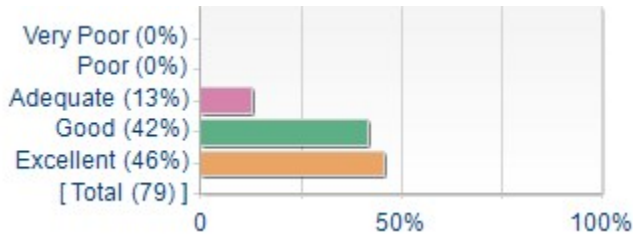
course



Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.65
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.70

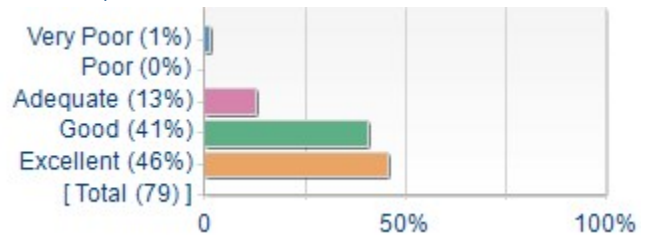
II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



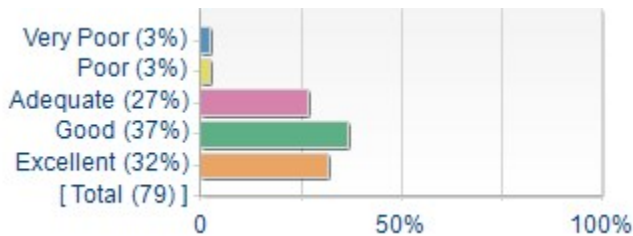
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.33
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.69

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



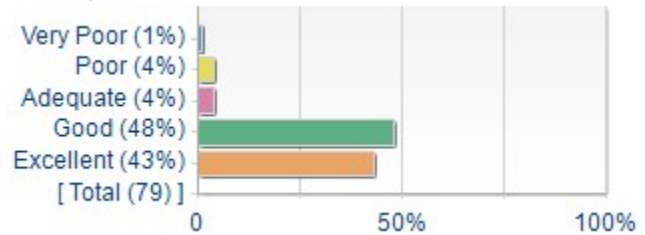
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.29
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.79

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



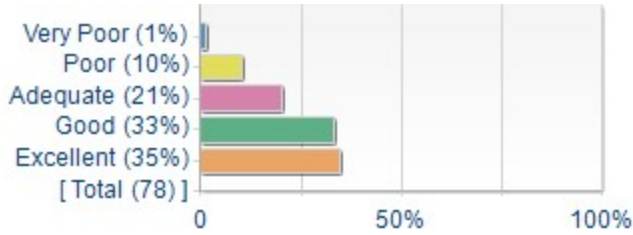
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	3.92
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.96

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



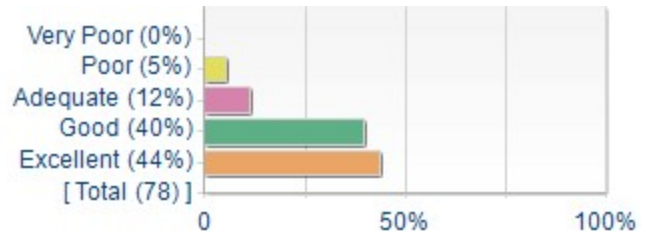
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.28
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.82

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



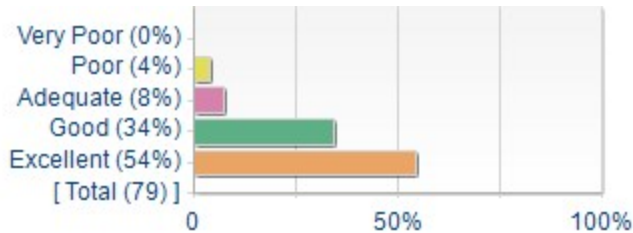
Statistics	Value
Response Count	78
Mean	3.90
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.04

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	78
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.85

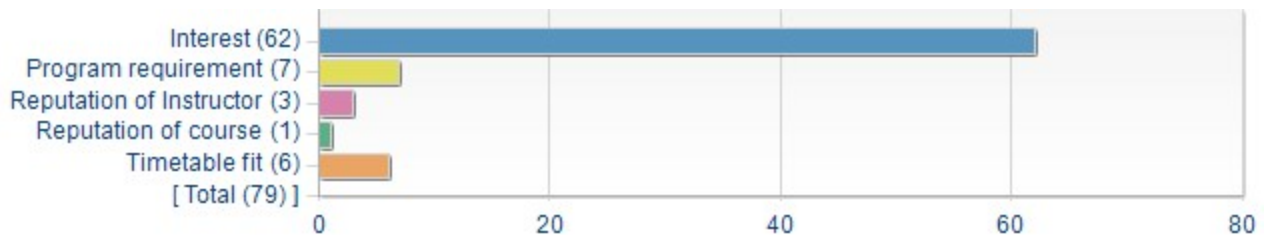
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



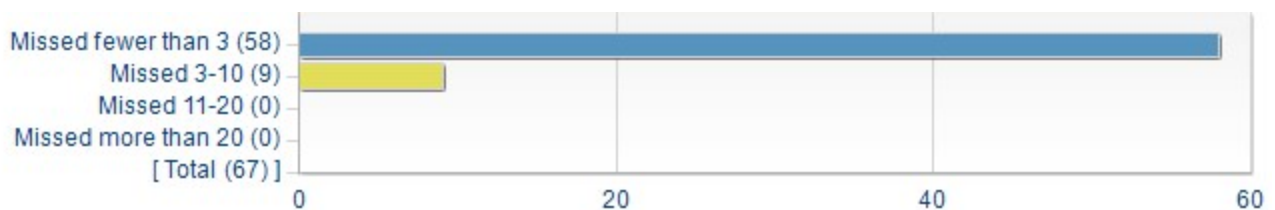
Statistics	Value
Response Count	79
Mean	4.39
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.79

III Statements About The Students:

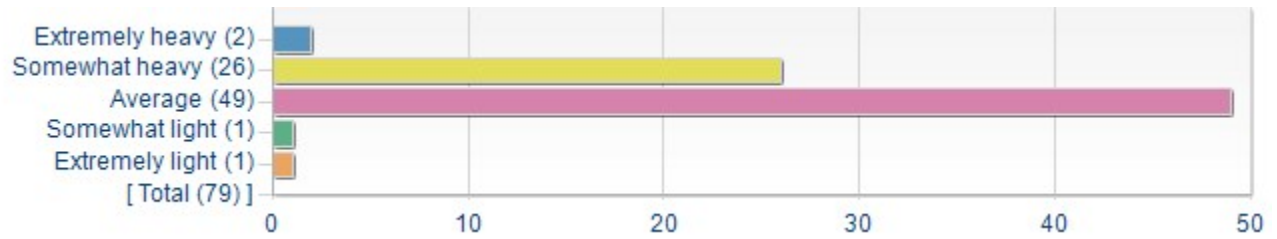
My primary reason for taking the course.



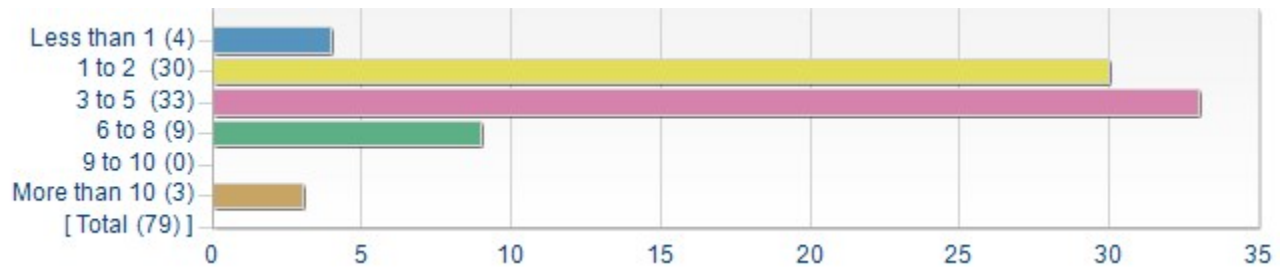
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



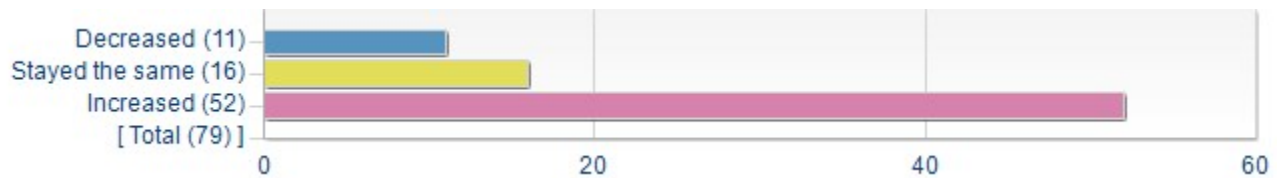
Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was



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:

Which aspects of **Bruce Ravelli** teaching have you found to be the most useful to you so far this term? Please give examples.

Comment
His speaking ability
Dr. Ravelli was very passionate about what he teaches which translated over to the course material and made the classes interesting and engaging. The class discussions on topics were a great way of hearing what my peers had to say and of explaining the concepts in a different light.
I would definitely say his ability to engage a class and to draw strong (not to mention funny) connections between the theories/concepts and life.
The lectures were very interesting, especially the inclass videos.
Encouraged class discussion
Bruce Ravelli is an excellent professor and all-around good guy. I love going to his class. The course material is very relevant to real life and his methods of teaching are very effective. Being in a 3 hour class can be tiring and many can become distracting, but Ravelli makes it engaging and interesting for the entire time. His powerpoints and mixture of lecture with videos and discussions works very well.
great lectures, very engaging, animated, interesting. great discussions in the lecture
His ability to engage the students and diverse teaching material
He tells great stories an explains the concepts well. The course is very fair, with the my soclab that can bump up our mark, and the exams questions that are given in advance and reviewed in tutorials.
The actual aspects of the lectures that are the most helpful is the combination of his power point slides and his verbal explanation of the content. Also helpful is that he posts both mp3's and lecture notes, which allow studying to be more efficient.
Fun, interesting and interactive lecture.
Where to begin... I found his enthusiasm to be a very effective teaching tool. You can tell he loves teaching this class. LOVED his way of explaining the concepts with stories, analogies, etc. I found that by posting the notes and lectures on his website I was more engaged in class and learned more this way. I wasn't so stressed about taking notes. He pushes people's comfort limits (which is awesome!). His class was a great environment to learn in.
He gives examples of course material that students can relate to their own lives to be able to understand the course material better.
I found the grading rubric for tutorial assignments and midterms/exam to be the most helpful component of the course. His lectures are amazeballs, he gives a f**k, and that's super rad. Without a doubt the most interesting/best course I have ever taken. I took SOCI100B a few years ago, and decided I hated Sociology. With Bruce, how could a person not love it?
No
He is very passionate on the subject, thus making the lectures more engaging to the students. He also give out examples to each concepts, making it easy to understand the course content.
Very knowledgeable, very open minded towards the opinions of others, facilitated class discussion very well.
Prof. Ravelli teaches every lecture like a performance which, in particular during a 3 hour night lecture, keeps students interested and engaged. He chose controversial but effective examples to discuss in class. I thoroughly enjoyed the lecture component of this course.
Very engaging, and lively lectures. Hard to make 6:30 to 9:30pm class interested and awake but he does a good job.
His ability to define and review the concepts that he teaches in the class. He is open to discussions and is open to other peoples opinion. I like that his website is an easy design to follow. His course materials on the website assists his teachings.
How engaging and intresting and passionate he is about his lectures - keep it interesting and me from falling asleep in the 3 hr night class

U R BOMB, HELLA POWERPOINT, HELLA LECTURES, U R A STAR.

the way he lectured was enticing and kept me interested even through a 3 hr lecture

Great lessons! Very personable. Excellent stories

Very engaging, respectful and gave fair opportunity for getting good grades.

Every class he engaged us and really get us to converse. His classes are so interesting

He is very thorough in lectures and provides a clear understanding of the material.

His midterm and exam review and his personal stories that relate to the current subjects

the online MP3, it helped us went over all the lecture notes.

Excellent at raising interest and getting the concepts across to students

Very prepared- always has good powerpoints with the right notes

His lectures.

He is incredibly knowledgeable and engaging

His vast depth of knowledge in the course material, and his friendly and likable personality.

Engaging Prof, good pace in lecture, great story teller. Really good environment for class discussions, and very fair and clear expectations and assessments. I enjoyed coming to class!

He was extremely engaging and really funny! I attended his lectures because I genuinely wanted to listen to him talk.

Bruce makes you think. He doesn't spoon-feed the answers to us, and so when we leave each lecture we get more out of the material. I feel like I've learned more about the world around me than I first anticipated.

Bruce Ravelli was my favorite professor that I have had during my experience at Uvic. Every class, despite being a three hour night class, i was motivated to go to and played attention during the whole lecture. Bruce is enthusiastic, encouraging, and explains topics very well.

First and Foremost, the lectures were very humorous and the way Bruce explains concepts through real life examples is very accessible. Secondly his passion for the subject was present in every single lecture; he just never grew tired of talking about sociology in explicit detail and wow his students.

- good storyteller, compelling (even during 3 hour lectures)

- willing to allow class discussion (even with a lecture hall filled with 300 people)

The lectures were interesting in his teaching methods of using scenarios or stories which helped my understanding of the content.

energy of lecture and interesting examples like the trenches of war

I think that Bruce Ravelli is a great professor and his passion for what he is teaching is greatly noticed and radiates off to his students.

He keeps you interested through out the lecture, he is an awesome professor.

He is an engaging lecturer and manages to have good discussions despite the class being so large.

Dr. Ravelli is wonderful about connecting concepts in lectures to students' lives. He was very approachable and respectful of students' opinions and questions.

He is very passionate about his subject, and prompts everyone to think critically. He is supportive and open, yet pushes people to question themselves and the world around him. The way he presents material is very exciting, and the mp3 notes and power point slides on his website are very helpful learning resources. The MySocLab quizzes were very helpful in maintaining pace alongside the lecture work, and for working on/revising current material outside of class. Overall, this class and Bruce's teaching far surpassed my expectations; the course was excellent.

I disagreed with the way Bruce handled the class. When people asked questions or had comments regarding their own beliefs or views, he immediately shot them down and said they were wrong. There was no room for any opinions unless it coincided with Bruce's. However, Bruce does do a good job at making his powerpoint slides, and mp3's of the classes available.

Ravelli is a great professor, easily my best this term. The guy loves sociology, is extremely knowledgeable about the material and is very insightful into issues. Nothing bad to say about Ravelli.

Enthusiastic about the material, thought-provoking discussions in class, informative slides with key points that made it easy to follow, a variety of material including the textbook, other readings, and videos.

Dr. Ravelli is an outstanding lecturer. He keeps all the students active and involved, and keeps the conversation

between students open. He speaks in a manor which the students can relate to, and learn from. Dr. Ravelli is absolutely amazing at lecturing. He never ceases to have interesting stories or comments on the course material, and makes the course material interesting and relevant to the individual and the class as a whole. I was impressed with his ability to be casual in his speaking and lecturing manner and still maintain respect and authority within the class. I felt like Dr. Ravelli cares about his students and about his class, and was very impressed by how he made us all feel included and listened to, constantly asking us for answers and class discussions. I very much appreciated Dr. Ravelli's class discussions.

He uses visual which is great for learning! Videos for examples.

Uses videos to break up the class. Excellent storyteller. Passionate teacher.

Great speaker. Keeps class involved and interested throughout lectures

Interesting video and conversations in class.

The stories he tells are really interesting and the way he lectures keeps me intrigued even for almost three hours at a time

Loved this class. You're teaching made it much more interesting to learn, and has made me want to major in Sociology. I find it very useful how you give multiple examples and use a fair amount of both notes and videos in this class. The way the exams are structured (in essay format) was very fair and made it much more interesting to study. I was more excited to write your exams rather than nervous.

He was extremely prepared and passionate about the course which is inspiring. He handles discussion with students very well, even when dealing with difficult, sensitive or controversial content.

Dr. Ravelli is a fabulous lecturer! He makes attending a three hour night class something I look forward to. He is very good at relating course concepts to real world examples, and providing interesting explanations for even the most obscure concepts. I appreciated that course notes and lecture recordings were put online as they were excellent study material.

Bruce was really good at engaging the students in the lecture topics and making the topics more illustrated and interesting

The lectures were always interesting and easy to follow, which when combined with the discussions during the lectures proved to be a very positive and enlightening learning experience.

His obvious personal interest is shown throughout class and i think that helps people stay conected and not drift off. considering the size of the class, he keeps the majority of people involved at all times and i appreciate that.

I found that Bruce during lectures were the most useful because he really catches all the students attention. Especially since I'm in the night time 3 hours class it is hard to stay focused, but Bruce keeps me intrigued.

His notes were very clear and he gives very good examples and explanations, helping you to fully understand the material. I also found that when he would give us the possible exam questions ahead of time to be very useful, I was able to prepare for the exams with no questions of what to expect.

Has anything hindered your learning in this course? If yes, please explain and suggest what might be done differently.

Comment

The assignments were not always clear, and the tutorials were not very helpful. I believe we should have learned more about the 3 tutorial assignments instead of just being given a paper and told to do it. Also I think you should go into more detail about the midterms and how to do well on them; for instance what define teach and review means.

The testing format was godawful. Rather than making good well rounded tests that testing overall understanding of the material, the tests required very in depth knowledge Of very limited concepts and required a ridiculous amount of studying. The papers were graded disproportionately to the tests with a paper with hardly any effort put into them receiving grades of 80% and tests that required 10+ hours of studying receiving 60%.

The tutorials for this class are often not very beneficial, but the actual lectures are always excellent and educational.

My TA's lack of teaching ability and lack of enthusiasm. I think there should be more structured tutorial activities/discussions that each TA should have to conduct.

For the first exam it was hard to know how to prepare or what was expected, and it was a bit overwhelming. However, this decreased a lot for the second exam as I developed my study methods.

No

The amount of expectation for the quality of student answers was very high. It's only a first year level course.

I feel like there is a disconnect between lecture and tutorial in this class because TAs are given a fair amount of license to conduct the tutorial as they wish on topics etc. which increases the potential gap in quality of experience that students experience depending on the outcome of the TA lottery

No

I took the night class, and by the end of the lectures I felt I couldn't concentrate anymore.

TA KIND OF SUCKED, BUT WHATEVER.

Ravelli's lack of explaining concepts. Ravelli will often introduce the topic allow an excessive amount of class discussion then move on from the topic without really getting to the bottom of its meaning? Ravellis style of teaching proves to be very difficult to draw the main idea's of many concepts introduced in the class.

no

The communication between the tas could be better

Not at all

Time. Some of the assignments required quite a bit of time, and I was unable to give them my full attention because of my commitment to other courses.

It was very difficult to do well on the exams, which was discouraging. I will be dropping sociology 100B next semester because I can't afford to have sociology bring my GPA down any further.

Not really; Bruce is very clear in his teaching.

No

- MySocLab felt like a money grab more than anything; I didn't feel that it contributed to the course
- Bruce's discussion of some sociological issues concerning race, gender, sexuality (touchy topics) were a little uncomfortable
- sometimes felt like he was trying to broadcast that he had the "ultimate truth"

No

Almost no feedback on my assignments, I found this extremely frustrating and stunted my academic growth. Vague outlines for assignments as well, saying "Maximum 5 pages" and getting docked marks for having less than 5.

My TA (Lei Chai) was not very helpful with preparing for midterms or the tutorial assignments. He could barely speak english and was hard to communicate with.

i found my personal TA didnt help prepare me enough for the tests and didnt explain the assignment clearly.

Grading is quite heavy. It is not very motivating when the class average in a social sciences exam is 58%. While the professor and TAs are great about helping students and offer resources to prepare for exams, the standards still seem a bit too high.

The other students in this class can be very disruptive. Nothing Bruce can do about this.

Dr. Ravelli does not know the topics of gender and sexuality he taught in the course. He repeatedly taught incorrect terms, definitions and examples in the gender and sexuality portion of the course, and was not only uneducated and misinformed on this section, but also discriminatory towards various genders and sexualities. I was thoroughly upset and hurt by this section of the course, and horrified that such bias, and such lack of knowledge was being taught to a class of well over 100 students. To help this situation, i would suggest to simply get a Gender Studies professor to teach this section of the course, or have Dr. Ravelli educate himself, or speak to one of the Gender Studies professors to inform himself of his own his and lack of knowledge, and educate him. When multiple students attempt to correct Dr. Ravelli, his often-used excuse for such bias and incorrect teaching was that "It is an introductory course, and we have to be broad." I think it would do Dr. Ravelli good to learn that "broad" does not mean discriminatory and incorrect. In the gender and sexuality portion of this class, students were taught wrong and biased information on marginalized identities, personally causing pain and discrimination to multiple students in the class itself.

The discussion during the chapter on sexualities. The feedback from two girls in the course was disruptive and frustrating.

Nothing

Sometimes i get tired because its such a late class but otherwise no

The tutorial leader could have been better. I felt their marking was a bit unfair and needed more explanation on assignments and exams.

The format of the course grading gives a lot of room for "going above and beyond", which is understandable as a component and is good to have to a certain degree, however in this course it felt like it was a little much. It felt like a considerable amount of our grade was based on us presenting something spectacular or impressive, which is extremely difficult within the time confines of the exam which already allows no room for error.

My tutorial was not very beneficial to my learning....very little was explained and discussed, and exam prep was lacking. While a great challenge and marked fairly, I feel exam was more focused on memorization than a demonstration of what one has actually learned.

No

Nothing that was directly related to this course.

Ive noticed if he doesnt want to answer a question he will apply a situation where he knows her correct. Your not my mother bruce i cant exactly stand up and say "hey thats irrelevant to my point, mr professor sir" because you supposedly have all the knowledge and im well ware of discourse now and i know you have the control...i just feel like i asked a lot of questions this year that were answered in quite the condescending manner and it leaves a bad taste in my mouth tbh

No

Do you have any other specific suggestions to help future students in this course?

Comment

Overall I did enjoy the course and loved the in class lectures but I think the course could have been organized better

See if you can take it with another professor.

Textbook and mysoclab access is too expensive and its written by the professor himself. Recommend to change textbook. This is controversial.

My one (specific) suggestion is for Bruce to just... you know, get a few more degrees, and teach courses in many other areas of academia.

No

Cater expectations to fit with a first year student's capabilities.

No

Nope.

IDK.

Use the internet and textbook, lectures give bare minimum if any information.

Just attend lecture and tutorial as much as possible

Try hard. You'll get a good grade almost for sure.

His expectations were very clear, attending class is mandatory for understanding the material, you must also study. Listen carefully to what's required for a good grade and you will get one!

STUDY. The material is interesting, but the work load is higher than normal if you fall behind. Midterms are tough but very fair, so study 4 hours longer than you plan to. The course is awesome. I'd do it again.

No

- pay attention during lectures!!
- participate as much as possible in tutorials and mention any issues to tutorial leader at the BEGINNING to avoid any problems with tutorials later on
- the textbook doesn't feel necessary, except for MySocLab

No

Make sure you choose a good TA.

Do your MySocLab quizzes! They are important to help students revise for the class and stay on top of the current/new material, and are an easy way to demonstrate participation in the class. Failure to complete them results in a failure to complete the course, so... Do them all!!

Don't waste your time on the mysoc lab questions. Speed through them. They are a waste of time and do not help you at all in the course.

Definitely read the textbook ahead of time. Also make an effort to start studying questions for the mid-term and final

exam as soon as they're released so that you can understand and memorize the contents to the best of your ability.

That he is not so rude to students and maybe he could try and be politically correct when using terms that might be offenses. I understand that this is a sociology course and nothing is off limits and that is what I like about sociology but he sometimes uses words that may not be correct and that is fine, he needs to inform the students that he is only using to explain and that it is not a term we should be using. He is a prof who has 600 students whom he influences might leave that class and use such words thinking it's okay.

Longer tutorials.

The tutorial assignments were not as clear as they could have been.

The TAs would often contradict things Bruce said

study hard and get extra help before exams

none

No

Future students should know that this course, though being an intro course requires diligent studying and hard work. As Bruce will explain multiple times throughout the course, he can only teach you a B, the A is up to you. Do your best and study hard, but don't forget to come to class with an open mind and the ability to discuss multiple opinions even if they are contrary to your own.

Future students need to take more time out of their day to prepare for the exams.