



**University
of Victoria**

Learning &
Teaching Centre

UVic CES Instructor Report - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO SOCI:INSTUTNS+SCL CHNG (CRN 12901)

UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2014/Spring 2015

Project Audience 102

Responses Received 58

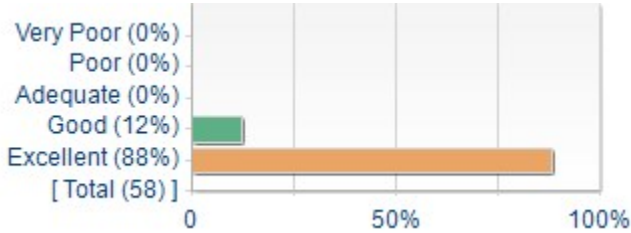
Response Ratio 57%

Creation Date Tue, Dec 23, 2014

Powered by: **BLUE** 

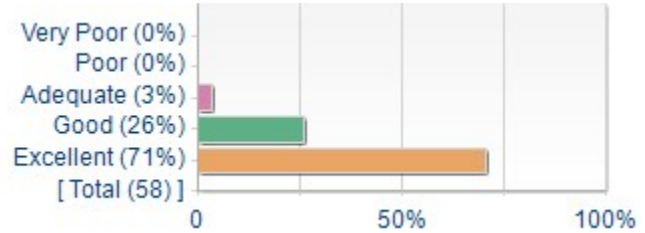
I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



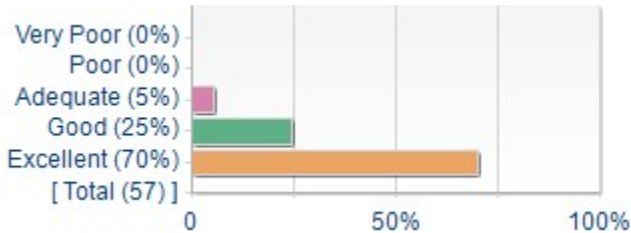
Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.88
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.33

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



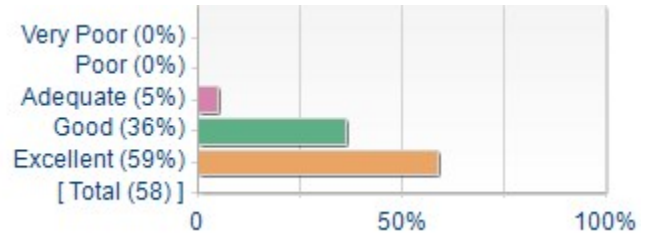
Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.54

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



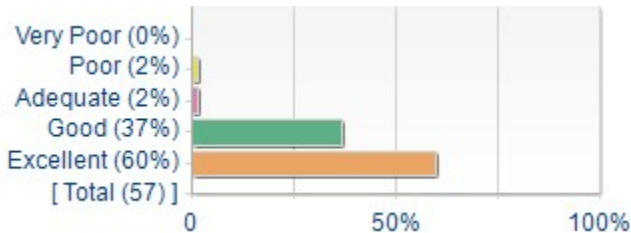
Statistics	Value
Response Count	57
Mean	4.65
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.58

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



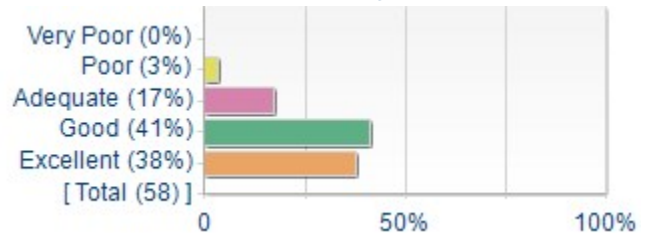
Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.53
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.60

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	57
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.63

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

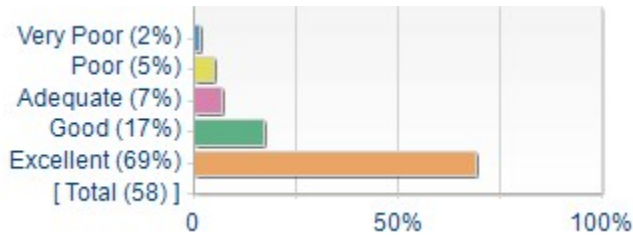


Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.14
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.83

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for

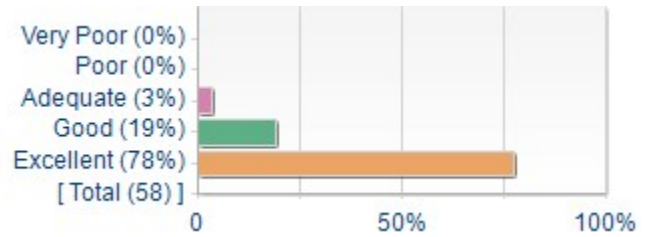
8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this

students and their ideas



Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.47
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.96

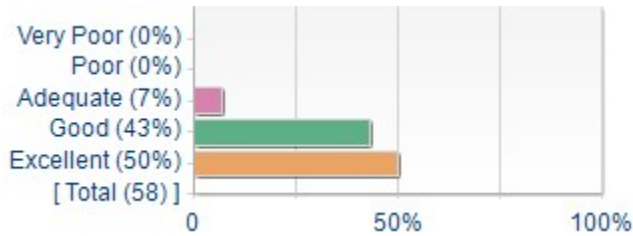
course



Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.74
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.52

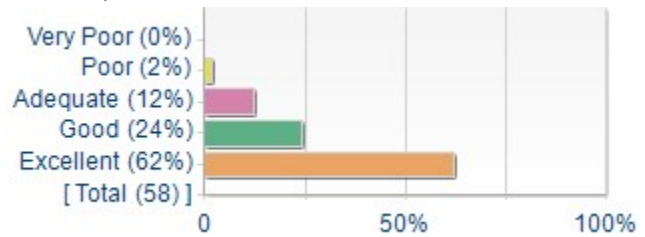
II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



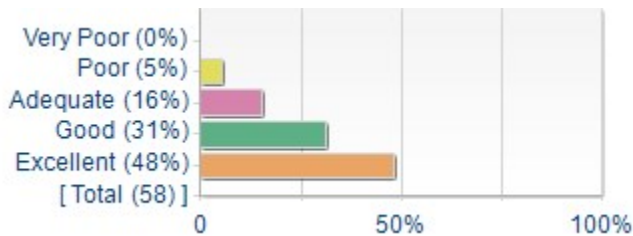
Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.43
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-0.62

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



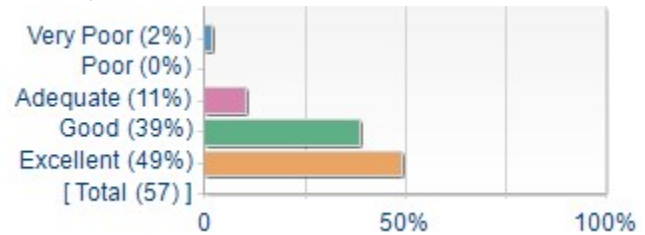
Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.47
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.78

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



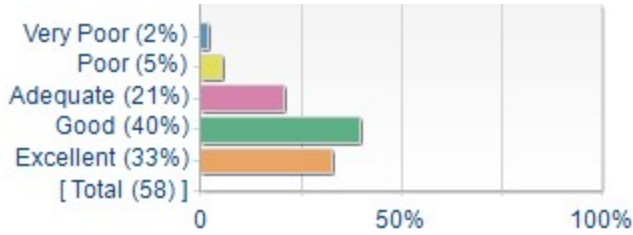
Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.90

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



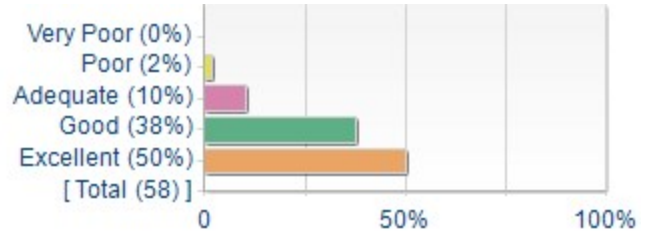
Statistics	Value
Response Count	57
Mean	4.33
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

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



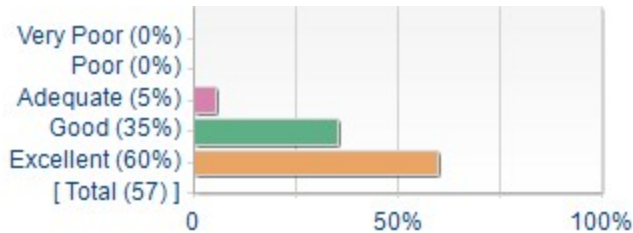
Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	3.97
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.95

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	58
Mean	4.36
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-0.74

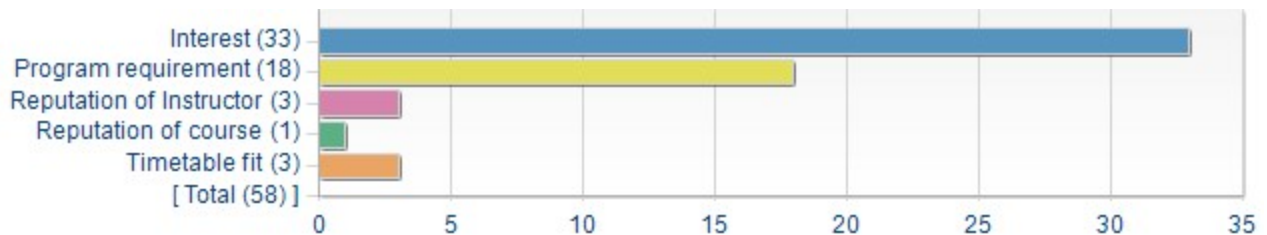
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



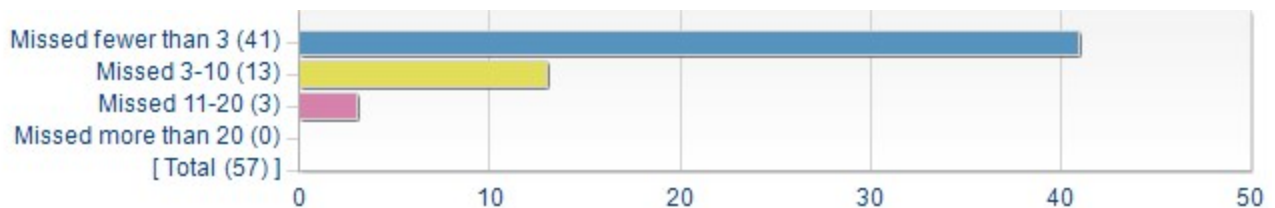
Statistics	Value
Response Count	57
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.60

III Statements About The Students:

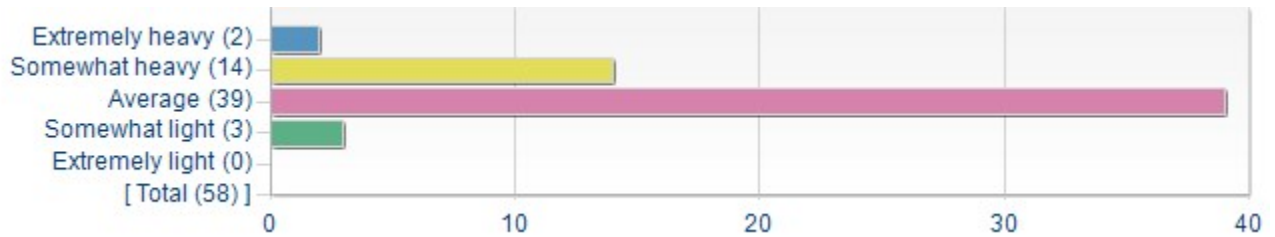
My primary reason for taking the course.



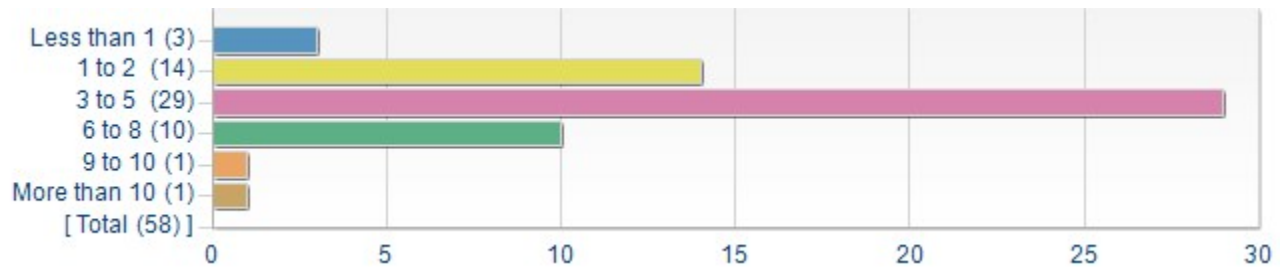
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



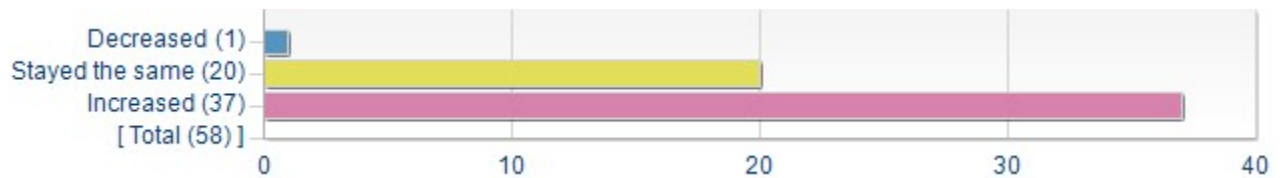
Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was



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
Bruce's enthusiasm for teaching and investment in his students is amazing. It is evident that every assignment's purpose is to improve students' research skills.
Extremely personable, engaged, very clear way of communicating. Bruce is the classic example of a professor who is obviously passionate about his subject and is actively committed to sharing this with his students. His use of personal stories, humor, and engaging students in conversation helped to cement sociology as a very real, very valuable scientific endeavor.
POWERPOINT SLIDES MP3 CLEAR EXPLANATIONS AND EXAMPLES
-inspiring - motivating -passionate -outgoing - has a way of telling a story and relating it all back to sociological concepts
Bruce is an amazing lecturer. He is extremely knowledgeable and is able to teach us concepts, theory, etc. with passion. He has made me significantly more interested in pursuing sociology.
He is very enthusiastic, which makes the class more interesting. I liked how he incorporated examples from his own experiences, as well as the use of videos were very useful.
my life has been changed
He was very meticulously prepared for class with power points. He gave students enough time to fill out the power points and discuss the topics presented in class. He was able to engage in a class discussion which is not often the case in large lecture classes.
Bruce has been extremely engaging and makes class fun to go to through his preparedness and genuine interest and knowledge in the issues of sociology.
Provocative lectures on interesting topics were presented in an engaging manner. Lectures encouraged students to challenge socially-constructed notions of gender, ethnicity, family and wealth; while group discussions had students defend their points of view.
He is the best at explaining anything and everything, I never left a class not knowing what he was talking about
mp3's of his lectures online were very helpful and helped a lot when it came to studying for midterms. His lectures were also extremely clear and concise.
Bruce is clearly a talented public speaker. He has a natural rapport with most of the class, and has a natural voice and rhythm that lend themselves to lecturing.
Mp3s; lecture notes online; outlines...
His passion for the content.
His lectures are very engaging. Every class felt important and he did a very good job of explaining complex concepts.
He tells great stories that help us understand the material we are learning. He is very wise and wants us all to succeed. Best professor so far!
Extremely Knowledgeable. Took time to explain EVERYTHING in lectures, to anyone who had questions. Didn't rush through lectures, took time to tell relevant stories. Made lectures interesting by relating course material to the real world and real experiences.
Bruce really makes us students think of how what we learn in the classroom is relevant to our everyday lives. He is super passionate about teaching intro sociology and that really shows in class. Also, how he organizes, i.e. mp3s, slides, exams, is really effective and helpful
His passionate approach, class engagement, stories, and videos all made the class amazing. This class really

resonates with me, and even long after class is dismissed, I would find myself pondering things discussed in class. Also, Edwards lecture was phenomenal.

-Use of real life stories to explain concepts

Using a storyline to teach a concept/making the concept relatable to oneself.

I found his passion for Sociology to be contagious, and his teaching skills to be second to none in my 5 years at UVIC. I had little interest in Sociology when I joined the course, and just needed a social science course for my degree. I expected to come to class and use class time to work on my most pressing assignments, but I could never do so because his lectures are so good that I could hardly even look at my phone.

He is a very strong speaker and definitely knows what he is teaching. You can tell he has such a big interest in this course and that he values his time in this class.

The fact that he comes to class each day and just has a passion to teach this first year course makes me interested in staying in this course. I'm in my third year and I'm deciding to take a minor in sociology because of Bruce. I also enjoy that he records his lectures and puts them up right after class and puts the slides up too so if we are Sick or miss a class, it'll still be there for us. And the fact that he does record lectures and put slides up but the class is still full of students really shows how interesting he is as a prof and as a person. He is respected by a lot of people and I've only heard good things about him. Keep it up!

His slides

His lectures were incredibly interesting. Interesting course material is always going to be more enjoyable to learn. His online slides and MP3s were incredibly useful. I still went to class because he was such a great lecturer, but if I had to miss one to finish a paper or study for another course, I could easily catch up. I feel like he actually cared about our learning, by doing this. He trusts us to come to class even if the MP3s and slides are posted.

Bruce is a phenomenal instructor. He really makes you use your brain in class and is always challenging our ideas. Probably the best prof I have ever had.

He started up great course discussions and kept the class engaged and excited about the course material.

He was very passionate and knowledgeable about the course and the material he was talking about. He gave very good insight and I really enjoyed his use of videos to appeal to us in different ways.

I love how he relates the topics to personal stories and examples. The way he teaches is amazing, he makes it very easy to grasp concepts. Over all an amazing prof! I only took this course because he was the teacher!

He is very clear in what he expects of his students. His lectures are engaging and his power points are helpful.

That his lectures MP3 is available online and he seems to really care about what he's teaching

Bruce's passion for sociology is infectious. That combined with his knowledge and experience in the field of Intro Sociology makes the course incredibly interesting and fun to attend. He encourages thought provoking questions and doesn't shy away from a lot of "taboo" subjects. Overall, this course has played a substantial role in changing the way I see the world for the better.

Love the stories he tells in class - really helps you grasp the concepts when the lectures are entertaining.

Bruce is super engaging in class and makes students genuinely interested in the material. It has been a pleasure to be one of his students.

You can tell that he loves what he does. He is the best prof I've ever had at Uvic.

Discussions in the class

His lecture and in class material to help with concepts. The fact that so much course material was available online.

I like how delightfully depressing he makes the course. The stark way he explains things has honestly made me view the world very differently, and I really appreciate that.

Very engaging speaker, personal anecdotes are helpful for comprehending the material

Being able to recognize other factors that influence a person's decisions in life. Looking at situations with a different lens(conflict vs. functionalism)

His stories are excellent. They are always relevant to the material and help out learning, but at the same time keep us engaged with fantastic humour....

Bruce is awesome

His engaging examples

He's just so down-to-earth and approachable. Best intro professor I've had so far, hands down.

I could increase sociological imagination which is a most important skill (I think) to study sociology as my major. It is

really hard to acquire this skill, but tutorial or course material really helped me to get it.

I really liked that he put everything in powerpoint and on his website with extra material.

use mp3 files

Very relatable and challenges students ideas and deals with ignorant comments in a very proactive way. Awesome instructor for a first year sociology course.

The lecture MP3 and lecture notes are very useful.

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

Comment

The mp3s of the lectures being available online have made me not attend class. I attend every tutorial, hand in every assignment, and do well on all of the exams, but it is not necessary to attend class for me because the mp3s are available online.

Workload with other classes really limited my time available to delve deeper into the subject matter. This is not a function of SOCI, obviously, but just be aware that I would have loved to engage more in office hours and pursued a more developed knowledge of the material, if the time had been available to me.

One aspect of modern education that is slightly conflicted in my mind is the use of video and documentaries both in class time and tutorial time. I understand that videos are a great way to convey ideas and aid learning but being there is a slippery slope that exists where I would be happy to watch short doco's at home that night and utilize class time for obtaining as much knowledge from the instructor as possible- however, this obviously only applies in classes where I feel the professor has a wealth of good ideas that I wish to be shared. It's just a strange feeling to pay tuition for material that's free on Youtube, and a problem worth being aware of.

not at all

I felt that Bruce Ravelli came off as rude in several instances. At the beginning of the year, he said his teaching style was meant to anger us in order to help us see the world differently. However I found that instead of making students learn a different way of viewing the world, from a sociological perspective, he just came off as sexist and racist. This is troubling because he is speaking to a large group of impressionable teenagers, likely right out of high school, talking about a patriarchal society as if it were a fact of life, like men were meant to dominate women. In an early October lecture (like Oct 6th?), while challenging stereotypes around Indigenous people, he asked the whole class "who would change places with a First Nations person?" and no one raised their hand. I found that to be an unnecessary question and it was quite mortifying for myself as a First Nations student to feel singled out in a class of predominantly white students. His lectures are recorded on his website for 100B, www.ravelli.ca.

No

The marking system for both tutorial assignments and exams were given in the form of rubrics. These rubrics, however, were vague in terms of their exact system. This resulted in receiving marks on exams and assignments that were marked by TAs that were not explained even when put under question. This lack of transparency in marking was frustrating and considerably hindered my learning.

nope

Unfortunately, I didn't always feel like Bruce was ready to discuss views other than his own. It wasn't that he was particularly disrespectful (though he was occasionally less than thoughtful with his wording. E.g. "It's not impossible to be open minded and compassionate if you're religious, but it's unlikely," which may be defensible if said in a larger context, but it wasn't said in a larger context), but mostly that, if presented with a view he agreed with, he would expand on it and invite further discussion, while views other than his own (or the ones he wanted to discuss) were met with an "OK, moving on."

Also, Bruce occasionally felt guru-ish, and not necessarily in a good way. Saying things like "I can't teach you an A. An A lives in your mind and cannot be taught." There is a grain of truth in this, obviously, but treating a good mark in a course as some sort of mystical thing that can't be defined is incredibly dispiriting. There is absolutely no practical guidance given as to how to get a good mark. This could be a defensible position, except that I'm paying for Bruce to teach me. Of course I can inflame my own mind and imagination completely independent of Bruce, but I'm paying to go to university specifically so that I can have this inflammation certified by a socially recognized institution.

Also, David Huxtable, my tutorial leader, often seemed relatively disrespectful of students. I often felt as if his laughter

in class was directed at me or fellow students. He was explicitly disdainful of the whole procedure. And at one point, when we were supposed to be studying for a test, he laughed and told us "you guys are so fucked," which I didn't find terribly helpful.

The tutorials were a waste of money. I wish I could have taken the course without having to take the tutorial.

Having multiple TAs grade tests differently makes it almost impossible to compare tests in order to learn how you could have improved.

Tests were a little difficult, but he prepared us well.

0.1 for late assignments is harsh.

-Because we were only tested on certain questions, I only studied the content that mattered to those questions. It may have been easier this way but I don't think I learned as much as I could have if the more material was required for tests.

No.

The course website Ravelli has is hard to navigate. It could be so much easier to find things but instead everything that isn't course content from lectures is jumbled together with no sense making to it.

I really didn't enjoy my tutorial session with David Huxtable. He came unprepared often and I felt like he was condescending. The material that he taught us in the tutorial wasn't very consistent. I would have preferred if TA's didn't choose a subject to teach in the tutorial, but rather were assigned something to teach.

Absolutely nothing. He is so clear.

No, nothing has hindered my learning in this course. This course is definitely a favourite of students.

I found participating in lectures to be a bit intimidating.

The TA's grading of the exams is subjective.

Personally, the only weakness in the course is MySocLab. Because you get unlimited attempts, and after the first attempt you get all the answers, it really takes away from the learning experience. In my opinion, keeping the answers a secret until after the deadline would at least require students to poke their nose around the textbook a little to find the answer.

There is a sense of existential doubt that comes over you when you study super hard for a test and receive a C. Motivation on assignments and midterms sort of dissipate with the almost inevitability of a bad mark.

The exams are very strictly marked and are very selective in the information they require students to learn, so overall you memorize certain concepts very well and are never tested on others.

No

I found that my tutorial is not much helpful

I think it's a little unclear about how we go about studying. Honestly, I don't really like the exam format. The content is really interesting, but for people who aren't good at explaining or teaching, it's a really difficult exam.

It would be good if the tutorial assignments helped further explore course content instead of whatever students feel like choosing

Not really

No

No

no

No

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

Comment

Small tutorial sections are ideal, I would have enjoyed more conversation and group discussion aside from the obligatory icebreakers. As for the debate over marking rubric, I think that the format is as well suited as could be hoped for at this point. In order to address any discrepancies with any one way of marking, adding varied projects of round out the evaluation could be useful; ie. multiple choice quizzes, exams, tutorial projects as well as discussion participation, and the project Bruce mentioned of evaluating a personal story that the student followed throughout the year.

Take Sociology 100 A/B it was a great courses, taught by a world class prof. I highly recommend, in fact you should definitely take this course. You will learn a lot, from this course and how it correlates to everyday life.

My TA David Huxtable is an extremely tough marker. His teaching method isn't straight forward, always criticizing the textbook. He even encouraged us to drop out of university on the tutorial before the exam day. He was supposed to go through what he was expecting us to write on the exam but instead of talking nonsense. Also, as a sociologist, he once said "I'm not a racist cuz I love chinese food." This is bullshit, this isn't the definition of racist! Not a good TA

For the midterms and exams, make sure to know the questions and answers extensively. Take the time to get 100% on all of the quizzes and go to tutorials, they are helpful.

I enjoy the subjects covered in this course, but I would not recommend taking classes with Bruce Ravelli.

No

Go to class instead of listening to the MP3, because it is way more engaging and helps you learn the concepts better

Listen to his lectures intently as a lot of good stuff that is useful to the midterms is said

Keep up the good teaching!

No.

Pay more attention to your TA than to Bruce. Bruce may stress certain parts of questions that your TA will only want you to briefly touch on and vice versa.

To be able to teach a questions you really have to understand the concept. Try to ask yourself questions about the question so that you can fully explain the idea.

No.

I did find that standard very high for a first year course, and was much more stressful than I had anticipated, and I would not recommend this course to someone in need of an A

go to class, he explains concepts so well!

Prepare well for midterms, Bruce has high expectations.

Get ready to actually get involved in class discussions, thankfully you'll have a great time doing it.

Keep it up :)

The best advice I can give to future students is to go to tutorials frequently and build a relationship with their leader. The tutorial instructor does all the marking and as a result usually will give you insight into how they want a particular exam question or assignment done. If you want a good grade I'd advise that you take their hints. While I'm sure Bruce and the TA's try to create little transparency in marking as possible, it is still inevitably going to happen and your tutorial leader is the one who holds that power.

Just embrace the bad mark you're going to get and enjoy the ride.

Prepare extensively for the exams.

Practice writing the exams before hand

Pay attention to everything you learn in class. When you go out into the wild, pay attention to the people, and try to apply things you learned. It will really help you understand the course.

Study your ass off.

Just make sure you always go. Bruce is the best prof I have ever had. He has made my uvic experience better just by taking his classes!

No

Student need to try really hard in order to catch up this course because this acutes is not only memorizing concepts, but requires a lot of critical thinking.

just keep up to date with notes and study more then 2 days before it. You will need it.

No