



**UVic CES Instructor Report 201609 - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO SOCI:
CULTURE+SOCIALZTN - SOCI 100A - A01 (CRN 128919)**

UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2016

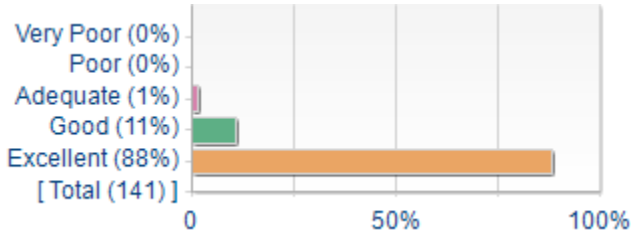
Project Audience 247
Responses Received 141
Response Ratio 57%

Creation Date Thu, Dec 22, 2016



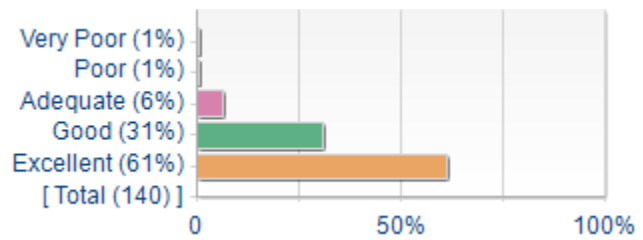
I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



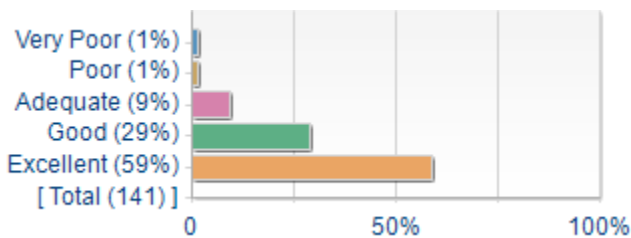
Statistics	Value
Response Count	141
Mean	4.87
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.38

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



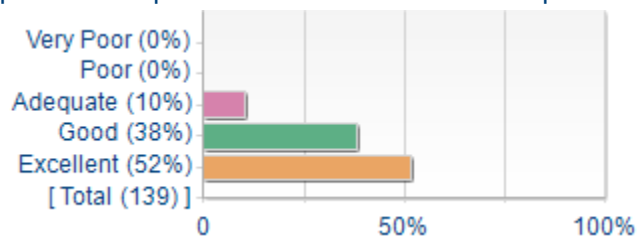
Statistics	Value
Response Count	140
Mean	4.51
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.71

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



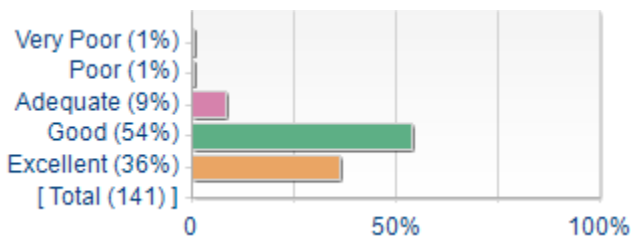
Statistics	Value
Response Count	141
Mean	4.43
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.83

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



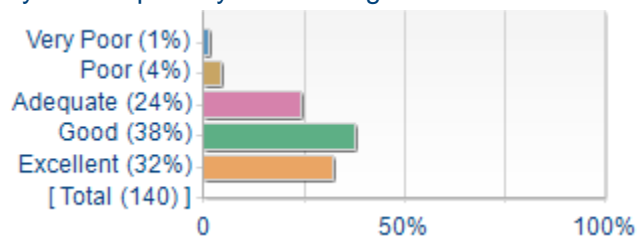
Statistics	Value
Response Count	139
Mean	4.42
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.67

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	141
Mean	4.24
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.70

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

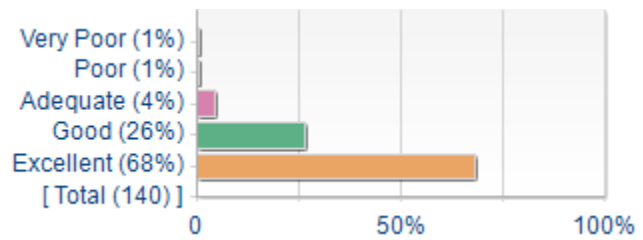
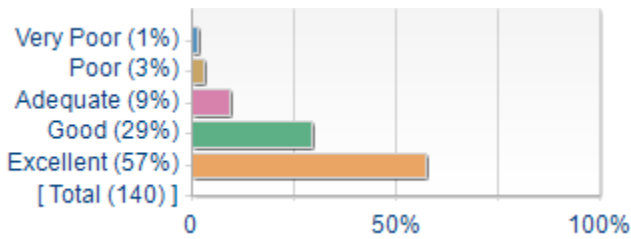


Statistics	Value
Response Count	140
Mean	3.95
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.93

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas

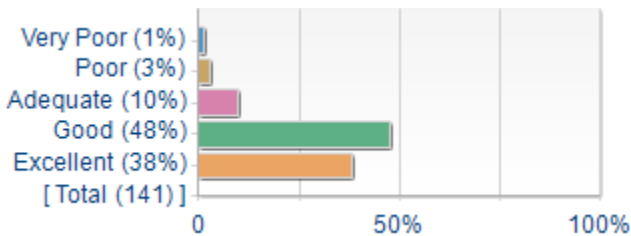


Statistics	Value
Response Count	140
Mean	4.38
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.88

Statistics	Value
Response Count	140
Mean	4.60
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.68

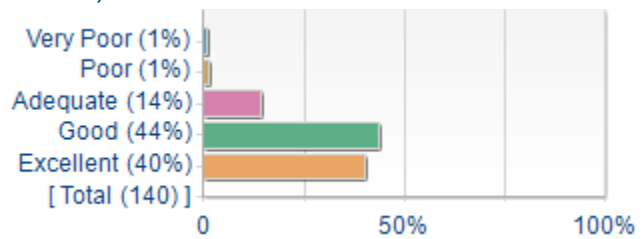
II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



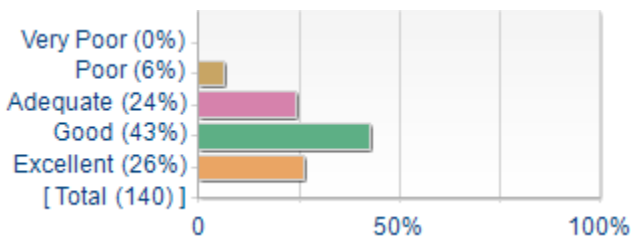
Statistics	Value
Response Count	141
Mean	4.18
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.83

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



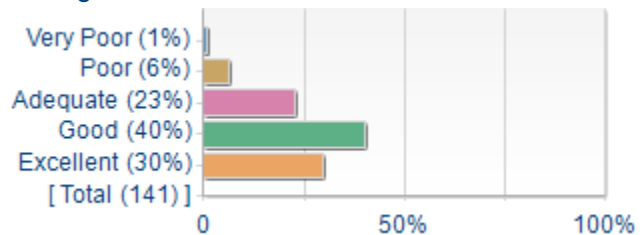
Statistics	Value
Response Count	140
Mean	4.21
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.79

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



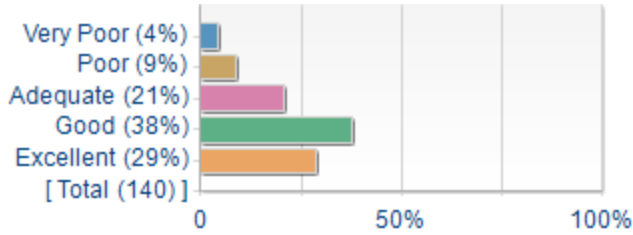
Statistics	Value
Response Count	140
Mean	3.89
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.87

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



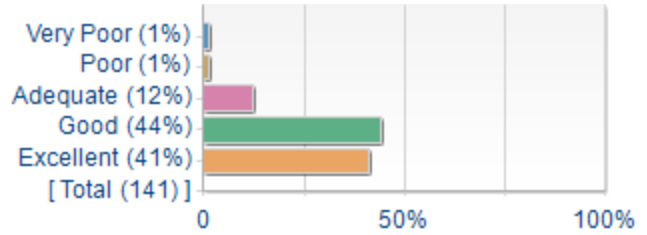
Statistics	Value
Response Count	141
Mean	3.92
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.92

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



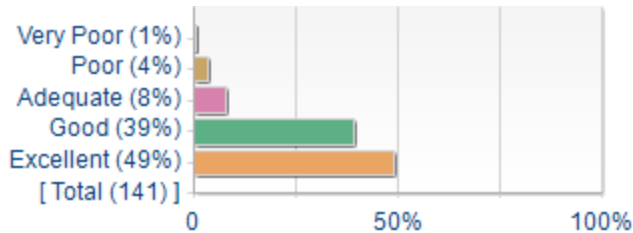
Statistics	Value
Response Count	140
Mean	3.78
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.09

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	141
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.82

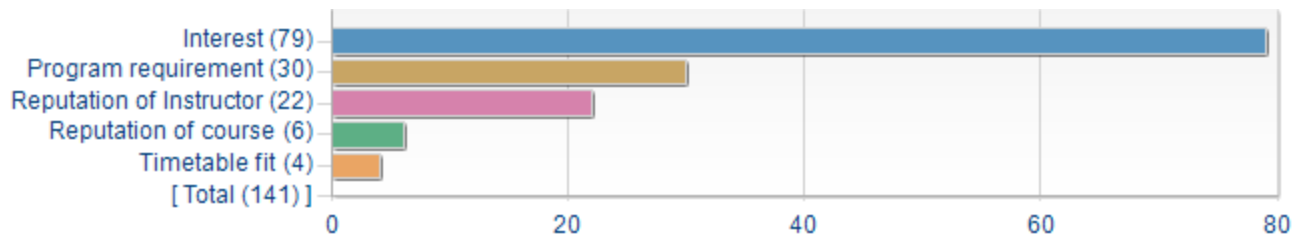
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



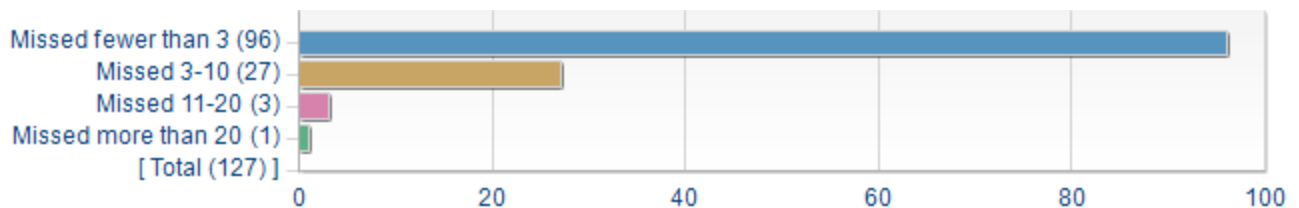
Statistics	Value
Response Count	141
Mean	4.32
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.82

III Statements About The Students:

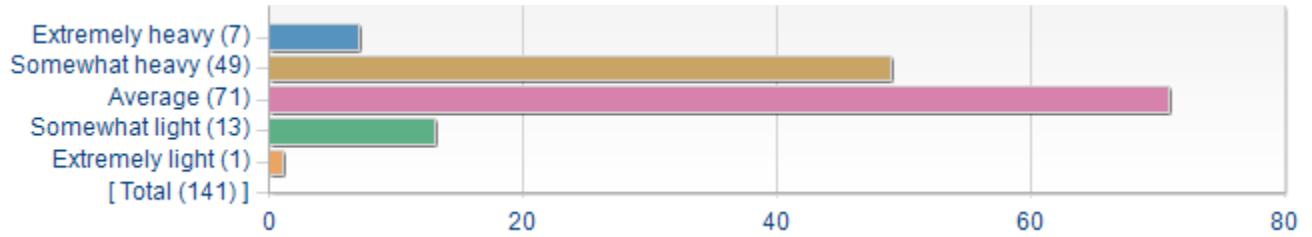
My primary reason for taking the course.



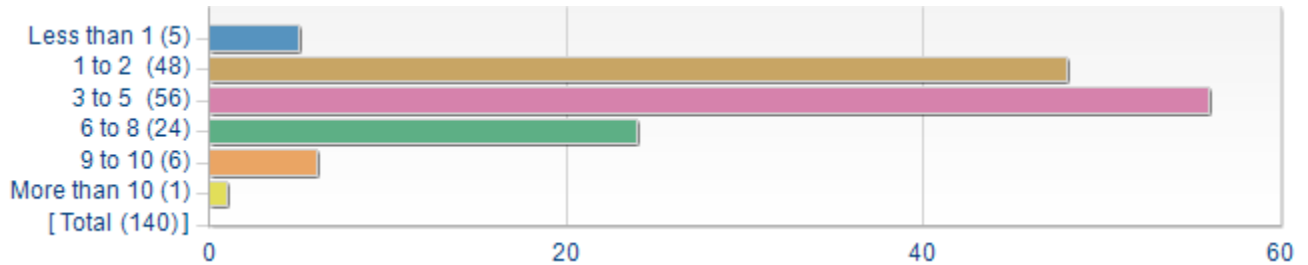
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



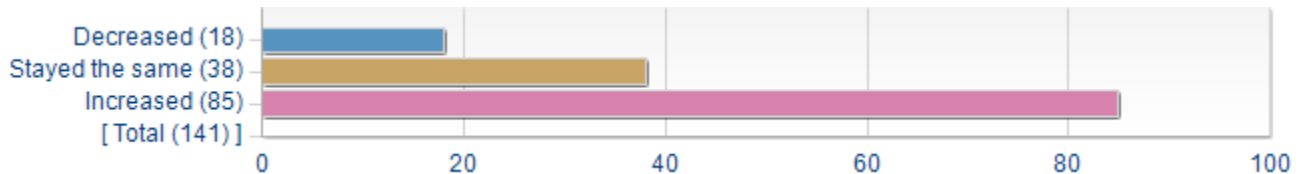
Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was



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
Very passionate and interesting lecturer, lots of great engaging stories.
Captivating lectures
He really engaged all his students with his knowledge of contemporary issues and he is very funny
I found that Bruce was very passionate about the material, which really added to the course. He also was very engaging with the class, and I truly enjoyed coming to his lectures every class. He made the material really come alive.
I think bruce did a really good job of making the class content interesting, gave engaging lectures, and made the expectations for the course very clear.
Bruce was always interesting to listen to and open to good class discussion. He makes himself available regularly for students to come and see and knows the course well enough that he can point you to specific places in lecture and text to find the information you need.
Bruce is amazing and such a great story teller. He is a great person and an intelligent instructor.
Ovroided I interesting lectures and kept me engaged. I always looked forward to his class, and appreciated his passion for sociology.
Bruce is an incredible lecturer, and was very well prepared for each class. His knowledge and passion for sociology makes you more engaged in the subject matter.
He is incredible at engaging you into new topics and inspiring you to make change. His class was like a TED talk, you just want to listen and to learn. The best thing was that the learning went beyond lectures, I'm leaving this class with motivation to learn more and more about the world and I'm now able to see so many things differently. I would recommend EVERYONE take this class. Posting the slides AND the recorded MP3s was also very helpful and was useful for studying.
His lectures were very engaging
He shows full understanding of the material, very passionate about the subjects and knows how to keep the students interested, paying attention and even entertained.
Very engaging during lectures and explained new topics in extreme detail with examples that were relevant to our age group. Very enjoyable course.
He was a really engaging lecturer, explaining vague concepts with concrete examples that assisted with mastery of the material. His assignments were well structured to engage with the subject matter.
Very engaging, respectful, not boring!!!
Very clear and engaging lectures
Super engaging, just had a huge course load so I couldn't attend all the classes.
Really knew what he was talking about. He was also very passionate.
Can preach a single vision of his ideological beliefs
- great speaker - passionate about his material
-Bruce's passion for sociology made the lectures extremely interesting. -His expectations were clear and the essay style exams made learning much more effective and gave me a deeper understanding of sociology.
Passionate about material
Bruce is very good at teaching the material in a way to keep the students (like myself) interested. He gives us examples and little stories to help us retain the material and relate it to our lives.
his interest in the subject was obvious, which made the course more interesting
He articulated his thoughts very thoroughly which made it easy to follow along. He also seems very passionate about

the course which also made it a lot more enjoyable for me as a student

Bruce was clear in his explanations of the content. He also made class entertaining which was enjoyable

Excellent engaging and interesting lectures.

Always available to help and to talk about your personal thought about the course.

Bruce clearly cares about his students and explain the material in a comprehensive way.

MP3 of the lectures are helpful as well as the slides that are posted on his website.

The website is easy to use and is very helpful.

Made the class interesting

good examples during lectures, clear explanation on course materials

His lectures were very engaging, and he lectured with an excellent balance of humour, seriousness, provided clear definitions of material and provided an enjoyable lecture experience.

very strong and clear with his words. Also provided a sense of humour to his lectures

-Very engaging lecturer

-Keeps students interested throughout lecture

-Though provoking ideas brought up

-Gave exam questions out in advance

Bruce is a fantastic lecturer. He gives very real understandable examples which makes understanding the concepts easy. He is always willing to explain concepts and it never feels like he is reiterating what is on his slides.

His examples and time spent discussing the topics were helpful.

Bruce really knows how to spark interest in class! His lectures are NEVER boring, probably because of a) the enthusiasm with which he teaches and b) his ability to generate class discussion and get students involved rather than passively taking notes.

He was very engaging and made coming to class exciting. His examples made the content easier to understand both in the lectures and in his textbook.

he gave good detailed examples of the concepts

He's very real. He will not lie to you to make you feel better which is good. He's also very good at articulating what he wants and he is good at explaining things.

Engaging lecturer, made material relevant to everyday life

Bruce is very engaging, I love how he includes students in discussion and provides personalized relevant examples in order to help us learn the concepts.

Very engaging lectures, made the course material more interesting.

Using lots of examples to demonstrate each concept.

His passion for sociology shone and touched many. Having an instructor with so much passion created a learning environment which was fun and captivating. When Bruce told stories to explain a concept that was a teaching method I haven't seen anywhere else and I think it's brilliant.

Very clear in his instructions and his passion for sociology made the course interesting and engaging

Extreme interest in the content and wanted to teach to the best of his abilities.

-Exceptionally engaging speaker, made lectures and concepts very interesting/relevant !!

-Midterm/exam format of giving several questions and answering only some of them is a really good way to learn material

-having templates of assignments up online was really helpful for figuring out what is expected

-This was by far my favourite class! Looked forward to lectures, and have registered for next term's sociology class.

He was extremely passionate and engaging through all his lectures, and used interesting examples and stories to demonstrate his point.

In lectures, he used many relatable examples and story-telling to make the concepts more clear.

passionate about subject, dedicated to students and their learning/understanding/success/interest in sociology, clear explanations, inspiring lectures

Great storytelling abilities, engaging, a lot of student interaction is included in the lectures. Very well prepared and knowledgeable.

Good lecturer, kept class engaged and wanted to hear peoples ideas.

Engaging and very interesting to learn from, really enjoyed his class and I am looking forward to 100B next semester
He was always organized and prepared for lecture which made them run smoothly. He always made sure to explain concepts thoroughly and made sure to answer any questions students had. I think he is an excellent professor.

He is extremely engaging, his stories and examples and thought provoking and clear. Recordings are helpful.

Super engaging, loved the anecdotes

He was very passionate about what he was teaching.

Very engaging. Made material interesting and sometimes fun. I also liked when he told stories.

He was very interested and enthusiastic in all of his lectures and made it very fun to learn.. he gave lots of examples which helped me understand the course material a lot better

- great examples
- increased office hours during exams
- clear and concise presentations

The class is interesting, but office hour is not so much and flexible.

Engaging in lectures, kept my attention in class with good videos, etc.

He was very helpful and interactive in courses

Actively engaged with the students. Futhuremore, he correlated topics with real life examples that created a deeper leaves of learning and understanding for students.

Enthusiasm and stories that further explained the concepts and contextualized them

He is very passionate about what he teaches and is an expert in his craft.

He was an excellent speaker and created a very engaging lecture.

He is a very good speaker and shared interesting and relevant information about the topics we were discussing.

He explains things very clearly.

VERY exciting lectures, always held my focus.

Bruce Ravelli was amazing, he was very prepared for the class and his slides and examples were very helpful.

Cares about thhe topic and his students

Really engaging

Very good lectures and use of class.

teaching a concept through a video or through a story

He came prepared for class, provided real life examples which were very helpful and while doing so turned off the slides in the background so we could focus on what he was saying. Bruce is clearly, as he states, very passionate about his work and engages the class and keeps listener interested. He provides many other links that are relevant on his website and goes above and beyond to teach people about sociology and give them a different perspective. Thoroughly enjoyed every lecture.

- Made lectures interesting and entertaining
- Was always prepared
- Well organized
- Clear explanations

He was very clear in his lectures and made them interesting and engaging

Strong lecturer and very clear with concepts

Very prepared and engaging speaker. Was very good at using narratives to make a point.

Bruce kept all of his examples simply and clear, I found that very helpful.

Made the material accessible to everyone in the class.

Very engaging, and a deep understanding of the material :)

He made the classes incredibly engaging and is largely the reason I found the course so enjoyable. I really found myself exposed to a new way of thinking thanks to his instruction. Going to him during office hours has always been invaluable, and I would recommend others take sociology just to have him as an instructor.

Engaging and interesting lectures as well as clear explanations of course material

He was passionate and a good story teller

a passionate, intelligent, and experienced professor, greatly increased my knowledge and interest in the topic, found the lessons to be both interesting and inspirational

Enthusiasm from the students and their experience in the real world.

Extremely engaging in lectures, makes you want to attend his lectures- funny, good examples, connects with students
Posts MP3s & notes online

He presented the material in a very engaging, interesting way. He used definitions and thorough explanations and backed them up with relatable examples and entertaining stories. This made the lectures both highly entertaining and educational

Clarity, good examples, engaging

Excellent public speaking.

Extremely good lecturer, very articulate when explaining concepts, very good at coming up with pointed examples that relate to our lives. Content of this course was delivered very well, this was easily my favorite class as far as enjoyment and critical thinking.

Bruce is an excellent speaker and was able to give examples that were easy to understand.

Organized and Engaging lectures with stories that truly captivated my attention.

Many analogies to explain class content. Great respect for all students

He provided great examples when explaining certain concepts

Strong speech, engaging lectures

Bruce is a good instructor in the sense that he makes us really learn the material. He was also good at keeping people engaged in the course material.

Clear

He is very passionate about this subject and because of this, it helps make the understanding a lot clearer and a lot more engaged.

Strong understanding of the material

How to write an academic paper

Engaging teaching tactics, good examples, demonstrated excitement in content

Very well prepared for every lecture and showed passion for what he was teaching

Very engaged, obviously had personal passion for the material.

Amazing prof, really made the material very interesting, relatable and understandable. It was always enjoyable to go to class and I feel that I learned a lot from him.

Good lecturer and public speaker, kept the class interested, knowledgeable about course content.

- really encourage you to think about the larger picture --> has made me view the world differently

Extremely engaging in lectures, makes you think more critically about concepts

Very interesting and engaging instructor, really made me think about the concepts in application to my own life in a way that often doesn't happen.

Engaging, involved students in examples, gave enough time to take notes

Great prof and story teller

Good speaker, practiced lecture

Dr. Ravelli is quite possibly the most dynamic and effective lecturer in the whole University.

Bruce is a great guy, and a great presenter! It's very enlightening and entertaining to see him, for example, present in full a theoretical argument, and then at the end of that forty-minute spiel, turn to us and go "but that's all wrong, isn't it?" and then systematically tear the argument down. It's a good model for us as students, especially since that format hews so closely to our exams. Bruce is very engaging, and makes the content appealing and directly applicable to our lives, which is appreciated.

Great lectures. Very interesting to listen to.

very charismatic

Very good stories and examples that are relevant to students. Good at helping us really understand the material.

Bruce is the best professor ever, he always knows what to say to students, has great sense of humour and makes

students to be looking forward to the next class.

Engaged all the students really well, using stories to both entertain and get his point across

great lecturer, good at applying concepts to examples.

Bruce is clearly very passionate about sociology! He is a great storyteller and lecturer as well. In massive university classes, it is sometimes hard to feel "connected" and "engaged," but Bruce did a great job of making it a fun class! I like that we are provided with the exam questions before the exams. I also liked that Bruce recorded his lectures - a very good idea.

Very clear descriptions of concepts.

Pace of lectures was good, I could follow along reasonably well.

Humour made lectures fun to go to.

Enthusiasm regarding course material. Strong use of analogy and example to explain concepts.

The class is very lively because of his sense of humour.

He inspires me to see the world in a different perspective.

He replies his students' email quickly.

He does not emphasise he has a higher status than his students, this can be seen as he asks his students to call him Bruce.

He reflects on his performance every semester.

very engaging lectures, demonstrated passion and expertise in the field

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

Comment

Sometimes his own personal views skew the material too much and his presentation of material such as classical theory could sometimes devolve into him just presenting a very biased point of view even if he hadn't yet explained the concept... didn't always allow students to form their own opinions about the material.

I don't think essay stay midterms are the most effective way to test all of the material we've learned.

I currently can't think of any further suggestions, as I thought Bruce was a great professor.

Definitely hire better TAs. My TA is more than horrible, and I have no clue how she was hired in the first place. She never helped with anything and never wanted to help. She says that she knows nothing about the material and she does not prepare for class. It couldn't get worse. Bruce, please, do a better job hiring TAs. A lot of students are complaining about how bad their TAs are.

More flexible office hours? They were during my weekly lab so I was never able to go!

Possible go slower through theories that he expects us to know really well for exams

Not many more suggestions I have. The course was very good in terms of effectiveness in lectures.

Nothing. He's amazing

Didn't bother going to my tutorials because I didn't learn anything from them and the TA didn't seem to care (Rachelle). We'd literally just sit there for an hour in silence while she read us articles she found interesting.

Not tell his students their wrong in class discussions, dislike them for being men, and to use coursespaces. I disliked been forced into using Ravelli.ca. The university put so much time and money into setting up coursespaces, he shouldn't disregard it unless he doesn't post anything on it. Also being more clear on how the format the midterms, the first one nearly my whole tutorial group failed because we were unprepared, and not that we didn't know anything.

Mr. Ravelli always talks about how certain people think they're better or worse than someone else but yet he seems to be very cocky and I found that his opinions on certain things (such as religion), he possessed a biased opinion and expressed a mostly negative opinion on religion but yet talked about how everyone should be more accepting. All in all, very good speaker that made me feel not accepted and uncomfortable but not because we were dealing with uncomfortable material but because of my beliefs.

Honestly, nothing Bruce is a great professor!

more videos that help explain things by means of having a story or good example to relate to terms and concepts

N/a

He probably could have been more clear on the tutorial assignments. His explanations of what they should be were

sometimes confusing and unclear.

The TAs should be chosen with more caution.

Maybe more office hours

provide more office hours

n/a

-Focus on ideas you are going to test more. Provide more examples. Although yours are good, I think more would also be helpful

Spent more time on the larger concepts and explaining them.

I can't come up with anything.

I think it would've helped if he went over the assignments more deeply and went over mistakes the class made in the assignments for the next one, for example citing mistakes.

provided more information about tutorial assignments

I had no idea what a content analysis was when I did it. Even his explanation on content analysis was lacking.

Everything he taught was already interesting and presented in an engaging way

I love ravelli.ca, I think it would be cool to do some real life learning such as through bruce taking us to do a little bit of field work or recommending places that we can go in the greater victoria area to learn more information.

Better descriptions of the tutorial assignments.

Went over concepts slower and with more explanation ensuring the understanding of students.

The only feedback I have is for Bruce to keep doing what he's doing because he's doing it right!

More time spent on formatting of the tutorial assignments

More video examples and stories (he does a lot, but I find these are the best real-world ways of teaching the class some aspects of the material).

-given more in class guidance/instruction for tutorial assignments

Sometimes when you would ask him a question, he answered a different question and was not very clear about the answer you were looking for.

I did not enjoy the structure of the tutorials, I do not think that they benefitted me very much, TA's were not as available as I would have liked to answer questions.

Bruce has very strong opinions on all matters, however controversial, and some of what he said seemed ridiculous to me or even offensive. As a business student, I walked into the class on the first day only to hear him tell me the world is so messed up because capitalism made it that way.

More information on tutorial assignments and how to cite properly

He believes that you can't teach someone how to get an A, that it is something that is learned on your own. I wish he had guided us a little more in how to excel and get that A.

The videos we watched in class help further understand concepts we were learning, I would've liked to see more videos because i found them very interesting.

Explained in more detail how to get a higher grade.

Just for assignments he could have explained them a little better

Answer the question directly from email.

Some explanations for assignments were confusing and missed, I think it had to do with how big the lectures were.

There is nothing more that Bruce could have done to have helped me learn more effectively.

I would have appreciated more instruction on our assignment. I found the assignments for a first year course should have been taught more affectively considering it was new for many students.

Maybe if we had a speaker come in it would have been good to drive home some concepts or expand our discussion.

I did not expect this course needed lots of time to prepare, so maybe you can mention that on the first day of the class.

Having less opinionated lectures

I wish Mr Ravelli maybe went more into depth on some of the things he covered in class. For our test questions it seemed for a few of them that he didn't give us many notes on it.

Very well done and presented material.
N/A
slower slide changes?
Uses course spaces instead of the website.
Better preparing us for midterms. For example not teaching the concepts around the last question the day before the midterm.
I thought his examples were great and helped me learn effectively.
Keep up great stuff!
On a personal level, I find it difficult to think of ways Bruce could improve on an actual instruction level... my only complaint would be the amount of work required for the course.
To be more on the same page with TAs with midterm and assignment expectations and outlines
no suggestions
Bring in guest speakers.
Needed to emphasize how to do well on the midterms & tutorial assignments. Lots of preparation is required to get a good grade, which a lot of people didn't know before writing the first midterm
Nothing! It felt like the class was the best it could be
Less anecdotes while teaching. Be more direct on content. Tends to stray from material in order to tell an engaging story, which is great, but not lucrative to staying focused on topic.
Marking structure is horrible. I got back the first two midterms from my TA, 1 question from each exam, 2 of the 4, had absolutely no writing on it, and I was given 13/20 and 14/20 respectively. I know this isn't Bruce's fault, it's a huge class, and he doesn't get to handpick the TA's and make sure they're all good, but I feel like I know a lot more about the content of this course than my grade represents. By far the worst overall grade I've received in my academic career; this is supposed to be an introductory course where we have fun interrogating new ideas together, not a course where I write exactly what I know about a subject and get a terrible grade with no rationale.
More instruction on the tutorial assignments would be helpful.
N/A
More depth on exam questions and what exactly you are looking for
N/a
Out of my five instructors Bruce was my fourth favorite. If I was to grade him I would give him 72%. This is because he could be sort of rude towards the students if he didn't like their ideas. Also I noticed that if you get on his good side then he is your best friend but if you get on his bad side you are his worst enemy. Also very unclear when he is explaining what he is looking for on tests.
TA 's did not follow his instructions did not help me no matter how many times I went to their office hours and a lot of people had trouble with the TAs
He demands a lot for an A student which I have no problem with. Although it's his marking technique and scheme, I have no issues with him.
More exam prep
More time spent on what information needs to be on midterms
Nothing.
Nothing I can think of
- clearer expectations of what each grade actually looks like on the midterm - don't understand how a student can check off all the boxes on the rubric and be at a C+ to B- range.... a rubric (a vey basic one was given) should represent how a student can achieve the best grade possible - additionally how can an A not be taught?? I understand an A+ student going above and beyond but even an A- should be achievable form attending all lectures and tutorials
More clearly labelling the videos on Ravelli.ca would be helpful for when you miss a lecture and want to see the videos afterwards. Sometimes finding the right video was a challenge
Please trigger warnings.
nothing

Disrespectful to students, rude

Despite being an excellent lecturer, the way that he structured his midterms was completely unfair and quite frankly ridiculous. I am a fourth year Anthropology student with what I think is a solid understanding of Marx, Durkheim, Ethnocentrism, and most things covered throughout this course. However, I scored below a C on both of my midterms. I spent more time studying for these midterms than my 300 level anthropology midterm and I got an A on the anthropology midterm and a C- on the sociology 100 one. That does not seem right. I get it, you want your students to improve with each midterm, but when I am spending hours on end studying for a 100 level course and not getting any positive results, it is disheartening and quite honestly unfair. I was originally enrolled at this University as a Political Science major, but after taking Anth 100 I was inspired and excited about what I learned, and I studied hard and did well in the class. I don't think that saying that an A is nearly impossible to achieve is encouraging anyone to continue on in the discipline of Sociology. If I had taken this class in my first year, I would have failed.

It would have been appreciated if Bruce spent more time going over the expectations of the assignments and of academic writing in general, since so many of the SOCI 100A students are such greenhorns when it comes to academic writing. I understand that really it shouldn't have to be Bruce's responsibility, but these assignments can be a big step up for people, especially if this is their first university course. I absolutely agree with Bruce that having these assignments is a great learning experience for us, and something that really sets the course apart from other intro sociology courses, but when you're standing on the cutting edge it is very easy to slip and injure yourself. For the sake of the student's grades and the TA's eyes, students need to be crystal clear about what these assignments ask of them.

not much

He is a very great professor, I can't ask for anything more than for him to keep up the good work

While this was one of the more difficult classes I have taken at university, I still enjoyed it quite thoroughly. I am a person who would way rather write a multiple choice test, so too bad for me that all exam questions were essay-style! While I know that I am a good writer and can retain and present information well, I was never happy with my exam results. In my case, this was mainly due to time constraints. It is quite a bit to write in such a short time. I know that Bruce wants to "push us" to do our best, but I still found the marking standards to be too high. I would expect these standards in a third or fourth year course, not a first year course.

More detailed feedback on exams.

I would like him to use all 50 mins class time.

Ravelli needs to realize that a lot of his students have full course loads and are not able to dedicate ALL their time to Sociology 100. His marking of exams was way too hard, his expectations are ridiculously high for a 100 level course. If he is trying to attract majors he is doing exactly the opposite. Saying to the class "C's get degrees" at the beginning and telling everyone they will most likely do average in his course because it is so tough is highly inappropriate. Bruce needs to be taken down a notch and realize that the world doesn't revolve around him and his Sociology class. Expecting students to go beyond the text and lecture to get an A is not OK for 100 level. Master degree, yes. MAYBE 300 or 400 level, but not 100 level. That's just ridiculous.

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

Comment

Tutorial assignments due in class, rather than in tutorial to ensure fairness between students depending on tutorial day.

Spread out the tutorial assignment due dates and midterm dates more.

I really enjoyed this course, but sometimes found the material to be a bit heavy and challenging for a first year course. I don't know if I would necessarily change that though, as it's good to be challenged, but it was just something I noticed in my experience.

Perhaps the idea of "sociology this week" from tutorials could be put into the course for credit. I think that this would allow more students to become properly engaged.

Do a better job at hiring TAs. This could improve the course.

Either more tutorials, or smaller classes. Sociology is such an interesting subject, and because of the wide range of material covered in this course, it would have been nice to be able to discuss more with smaller groups.

More in-depth discussion of the requirements of the assignments.

They could be more clear of what they expect in assignment and exams and grading could be less harsh

Possible more discussions in class (but there were already a good amount of discussions)

The midterms are very hard to get good marks on. I studied for hours and still only received a 75.

Either get a different prof who can actually be impartial and not show his biases, or tell Ravelli

All tutorial assignments due on the same day. I did not think it was fair that the Friday tutorials had an extra four days to work on their assignments than the Monday tutorials.

N/A

overall, i liked it and dont think that there's anything more bruce can do. he already uploads his slides and lectures mp3s, and teaches well

N/a

The textbook price should go down - too expensive.

Make the slides available all the time

The tutorial aspect of this course needs some serious improvement. I found that my TA was ineffectual, awkward, unclear, unprepared for the tutorial, and did not provide the amount of help or direction I would expect in a tutorial. Due to this, I purposefully did not attend tutorials unless an assignment needed to be handed in, because the tutorial was a waste of my time, and I used that time in a much more valuable way studying for other classes than attending a pointless 50 min tutorial in which nothing was accomplished. This is something that should really be improved for future students.

Spending more lecture time discussing expectations for how to complete the tutorial assignments would have been beneficial

The lectures are great but the assignments and exams are unfairly graded. Partial marks should be allowed because there is a 20% difference between a 3/5 and a 4/5. It seems as though if you don't get absolutely above and beyond you get 3/5. If your work is around a 73% you will be bumped down to a 3/5 instead of 4/5 because you didn't reach the 'A' level. There needs to be more room for flexibility. It's unfair to students.

More help with the tutorial assignments

Change nothing

Just go over the how to do the assignments more.

its great

It's good. The only thing that annoyed me was having my assignments due earlier just because my tutorial was on Monday

Lighter requirements for some of the longer research papers would be appreciated

I think the course is awesome, the only thing I would suggest is making sure the TA's are prepared and really care more about students success and are more engaging.

More tutorials focused on the actual tutorial assignments and how they are graded.

Spacing out the assignments and midterms more, with more explanation to the tutorial assignments especially when taking 100A and 100B at the same time.

I think everything in this course is excellent and it needs no improvements.

Perhaps online forums or discussions among classmates incorporated

Slightly more time for the midterms, more time for free topics and discussion in tutorials.

-Clearer instruction for tutorial assignments

-More communication between TA and prof about expectations

Possibly a guest speaker?

The midterm grading was very tough, and it was hard to understand exactly where you went wrong even after talking to my TA. The TA just said he had to give a certain mark because of the way the rubric was set up but I still did not understand where I went wrong.

Restructure tutorials. The free topics were interesting, but they did not further my knowledge of sociology. Not enough time to explore exam questions in Monday tutorials. I did not like how those with tutorials early in the week had to do tutorial assignments much earlier than their peers, unfair amount of time to ask for help if needed.

Grading system is ridiculous. If you aren't particularly interested in the course you probably won't do well. I could know everything Bruce has taught me and I will only get 80% on tests. The "above and beyond" for the extra 20% doesn't seem entirely fair for an intro class.

Make the TA's go over the assignments with us in tutorial as well as in lecture.

Make what is required and expected for the assignments more clear and give more feedback on what can be improved on

Tutorials could be made more effective by having all questions taught to us for the mid term before going to the mid term prep tutorial classes

More specific feedback on work like exams and papers.

give more examples of how A example paper look like.

Slides could be posted more frequently to website, so you don't have to wait until the end of a section to caught up on notes online.

Bruce could talk and simplify his instructions a bit more.

I have no suggestions

Further explains tutorial assignments and leaving time between when the assignments were due, and when the midterm prep was. I didn't have time to review questions before the tutorial because I was so busy with te assignments.

More group discussions and varied work rather than the same exam three times and the same tutorial assignment twice (just on different topics)

For "double dippers" the assignments should be formatted better as it is extremely difficult to write double length as opposed to two separate topic assignments.

Less assignments might be very helpful for students especially first-year students who do not experience a lot.

Having less opinionated lectures

I think that Mr Ravelli could have gone into more depth of how he would like the assignments done. I felt like he was saying one thing then the TA I had was telling us to do something totally different.

More detailed overview of midterm prep

Use of multiple choice tests or quizzes to be used as evaluations throughout course.

discussing more topics through a story like situation

I did not like how everything I completed in this class (two papers, two midterms and one final) was marked by a TA and not my professor. Multiple TA's were marking students work and therefore the marking was inconsistent because different people have different expectations. I felt like the marking was harsh and there was not enough feedback given in order to improve.

More clear and informative tutorials as I left tutorial most weeks very confused

The midterms and exams are very effecient in making me an expert on specific subjects. However, I feel as though I have only learned 8 things. I think an actual test would be more beneficial to my learning.

This course could be improved by better explaining what exactly they are looking for with the written assignments.

I've got no suggestions, it was great.

There is quite a high expectation for the amount of work expected to do well in the course. I find myself spending double the time working on this course than the work in my own major...

Clearer expectations to what the TA wants from midterms and assignments

no suggestions

Less homework.

Needed to be more clear about the tutorial assignments, what was expected/grading as they are fairly long assignments that are worth quite a bit.

Tie the lectures and text together. Let us know where they fit together. Also, the "A" doesn't live in my ability to extrapolate personal experience. The "A" lives in competency of material and ability to explain it.

As far as the lecture portion that doesn't include tutorial assignments or midterms, this course is ideal. Extremely interesting, well-delivered, and organic for learning. I realise there has to be some sort of assessment of our learning, but it doesn't have to be so unintelligible and impossible to get feedback, only to be given a bad mark. Lightening up on the grading would see many more people want to come back for the second part of this course, Sociology 100B; I've unfortunately unenrolled because I can't take the uninspired hit to my GPA.

More instruction on tutorial assignments.

Smaller lecture size allows for more open discussion.

More things to do within tutorials or explanations of assignments or more time working on midterm or final exam

questions

Make more time to explain the assignments

Unfair for people with tutorials earlier in week to have to hand in assignments up to 4 days earlier than others.

Get rid of the tutorials. They are extremely redundant and the tutorial leaders pick favorites. Also get rid of the assignments they are extremely dumb. Forum posts would be a lot better. Also restructure or completely rethink the exams. I can not stand how the exams are structured. Perhaps, you could do short answer questions or true and false. Or even better keep the same structure of the exams, with four questions for the midterms and six for the final, and make them take home exams. Because we are not getting credit for the question you do not ask so we are doing a lot of extra unnecessary work for absolutely nothing and that is not only a waste of time it is also incredibly dumb

Better TAs

Could maybe include a small to do assignment each week to maybe help in studying for the exam.

More feedback to help students improve

N/A

Better rubric for exam questions

Lower the expectations for the assignments and midterms. It was a bit overwhelming for an intro course

More instruction on what the methods for the assignments are so that everyone really feels confident

Perhaps take home midterms, since we're spitting up mediocre answers to questions we've fully answered at home.

- the marking of midterms and assignments is super unclear. There was a case where I got a low grade and there was not one comment on what could be improved or why I got the grade
- TAs were very unhelpful overall I felt the tutorials were a waste of time and from students who previously took the course didn't feel that way. I would suggest reverting back to the old way of doing things to create a stronger connection between getting students to talk about sociology.
- seems as though the marking is very dependent on your TA rather than a consistent standard

Took way too long to get tests and papers back (2-3 weeks usually) and wrote an exam having zero idea of how I had done on a paper I previously handed in. Would have liked to know my marks on things within 1-2 weeks.

I found that the expectations on the assignments were unclear and very high for a first year course- but I am aware that certain changes have already been thought about for the future

found that myself and many others didn't really understand the assignments much and could have used more direction

The one thing I heard echoed more than any other sentiment over the course of this class, uttered by TA's and students alike, was "Man, you guys don't really know how to write a content analysis, do you?" And that sentiment isn't wrong. The overwhelming majority of us coming into this class have no idea what most of academic writing is like. As such, I feel like more time could have been spent on the expectations and parameters of academic writing in general and our assignments in particular before we write them, especially by the TA's who will be the ones actually sitting down to mark the assignments.

I understand that, to a large degree, our hands are tied here. More time with TAs presumably means more costs with the TAs, and in a class as popular and large as SOCI 100A, those costs can and will pile up even due to minor shifts. But I personally feel that rejiggering the TAs time to focus more on really nailing into the students heads what is expected of their writing will see students being far more comfortable with their assignments (as well as future academic writing), which should lead to higher achievement and higher confidence.

The assignments suck. They were not interesting nor inspiring.

maybe tutorials more related to lecture material

The testing was fair to the most part, other than the fact that it seems like some TA's grade harder than others and that upset many students.

It is an excellent course, this should be maintained

The assignments and midterms felt really close together

What is looked for on midterms is EXTREMELY unclear until personally talking to a TA, which sets students up for failure. This course tries too hard to not seem like an introductory level course.

On exams, it would be great if there was an entirely separate piece of paper that could be physically detached from the exam for our exam question planning. The planning page provided was not sufficient and I found it frustrating to flip back and forth between my exam question and planning page.

As a Christian, I was often taken aback by the amount of direct and implied critique of religion, and Christianity in particular. I am very interested in learning what other people believe, and am not saying that there is no room for criticism of many aspects of Christianity as we have known it in the past, and know it today. But I do not think it was fairly represented. I agree that the Purity Balls video is really weird and disconcerting, but it is NOT reflective of the majority of Christians, and certainly not of what I believe. I understand that I am attending a very liberal university, and that the majority of my class agreed with Bruce's opinions. I considered giving my thoughts in class on numerous occasions, but it had already been made clear that my views were considered wrong and I did not want to make myself vulnerable in front of 200 plus students. I would just ask that even if the professor doesn't agree with Christianity or religion in general (not sure if this is true or just what I perceived), that he would be respectful towards everyone, as he himself asks us to do towards other marginalized members of society. That being said, I am so glad I took this class, because it forced me to seriously consider my opinion on issues I hadn't given much thought to before, and which I will continue to think about and hopefully be able to explain to anyone who ever asks what I as a Christian believe about many of the big issues talked about in class.

Overall very good

See above.

My Instructor gave time in class to complete this survey.

Options	Count	Percentage
Yes	120	86%
No	19	14%
Does not apply (online course, field course, etc.)	1	1%