



**UVic CES Instructor Report 201609 - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO SOCI:  
CULTURE+SOCIALZTN - SOCI 100A - A02 (CRN 128929)**

**UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2016**

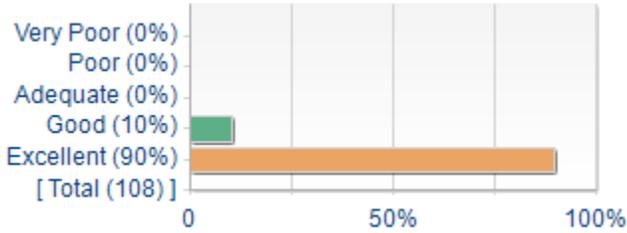
Project Audience 198  
Responses Received 108  
Response Ratio 55%

**Creation Date** Thu, Dec 22, 2016



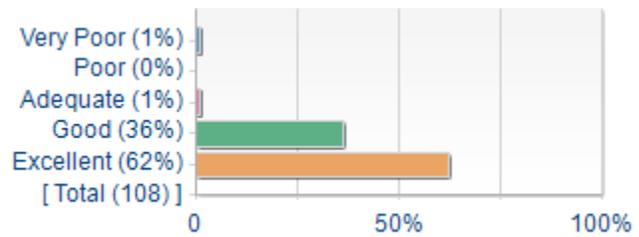
## I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



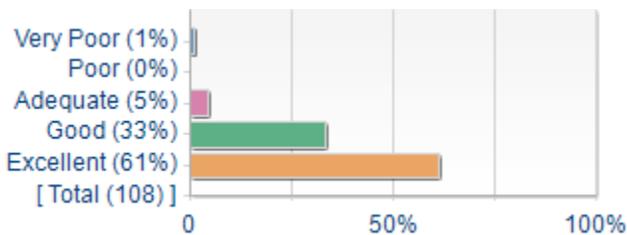
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.90
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.30

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



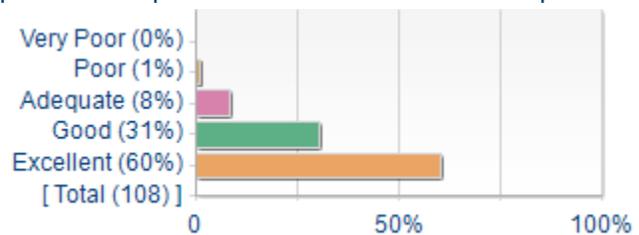
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.58
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.61

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



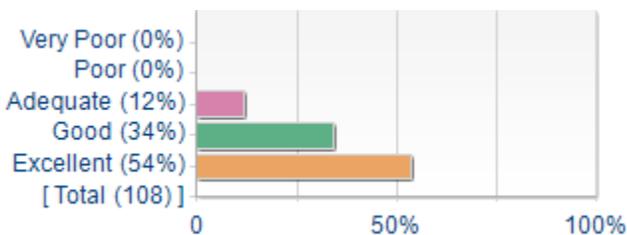
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.54
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.68

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



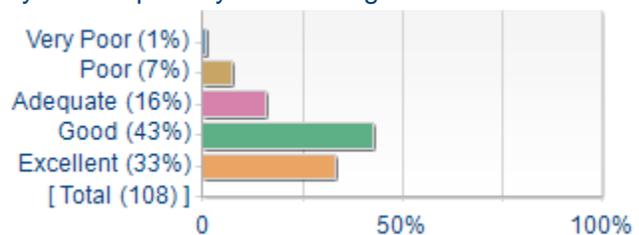
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.69

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.42
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.70

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

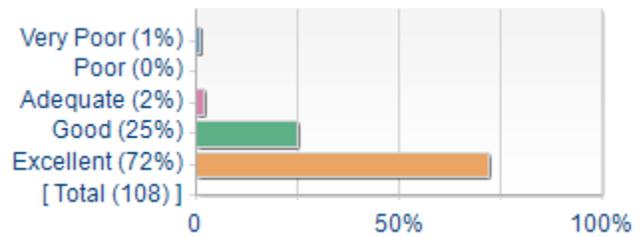
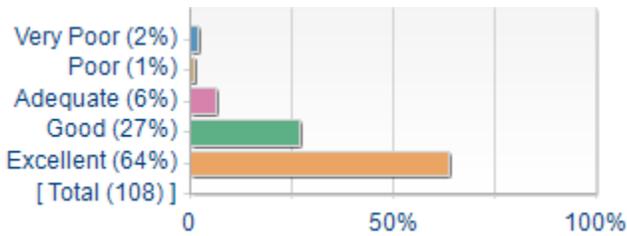


Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.94

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas

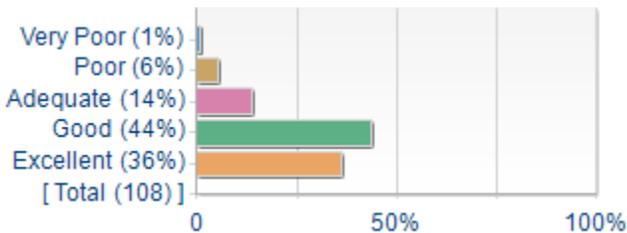


Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.68
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.61

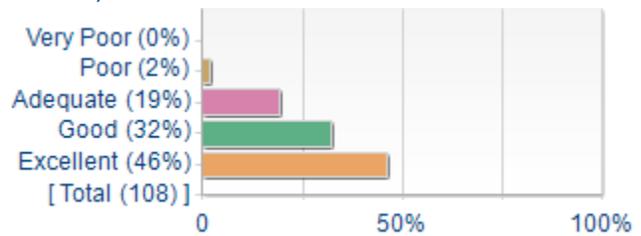
## II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



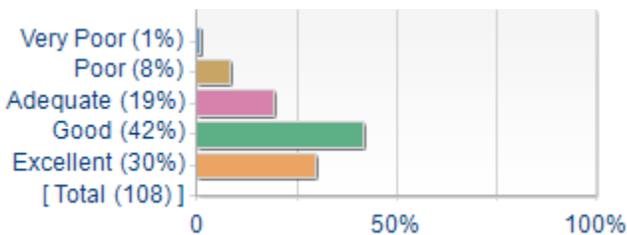
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.08
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.90

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



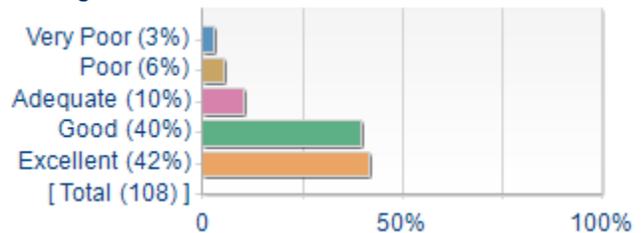
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.23
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.83

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



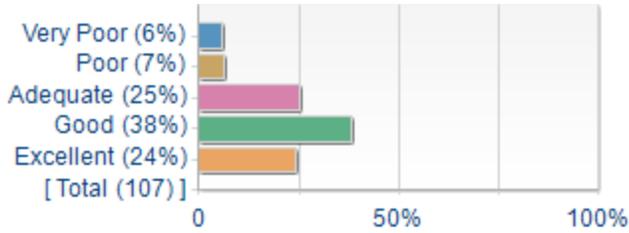
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	3.91
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.95

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



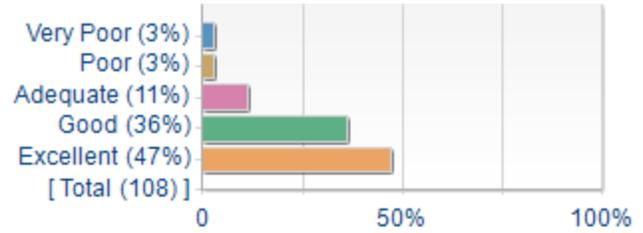
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.12
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.99

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



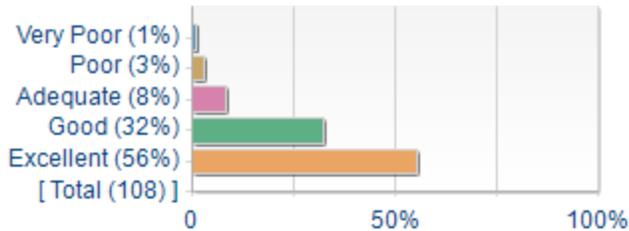
Statistics	Value
Response Count	107
Mean	3.69
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.09

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.95

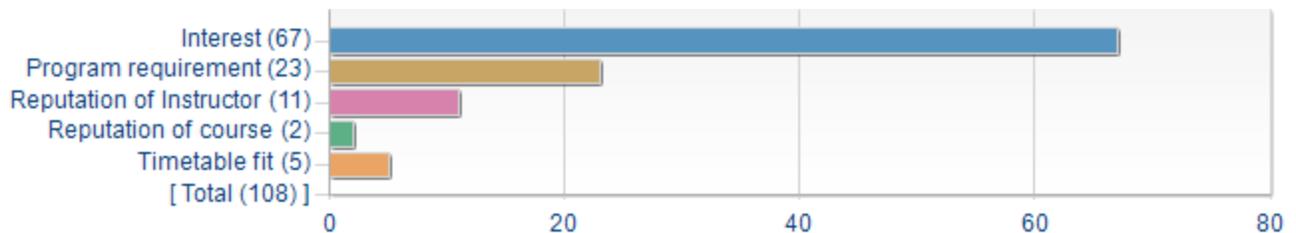
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



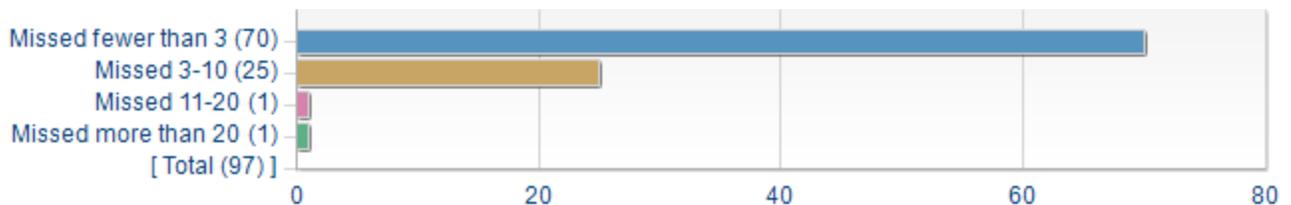
Statistics	Value
Response Count	108
Mean	4.39
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.83

### III Statements About The Students:

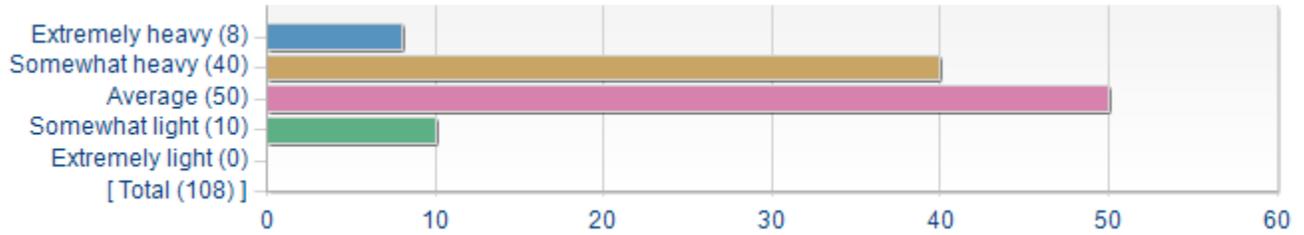
My primary reason for taking the course.



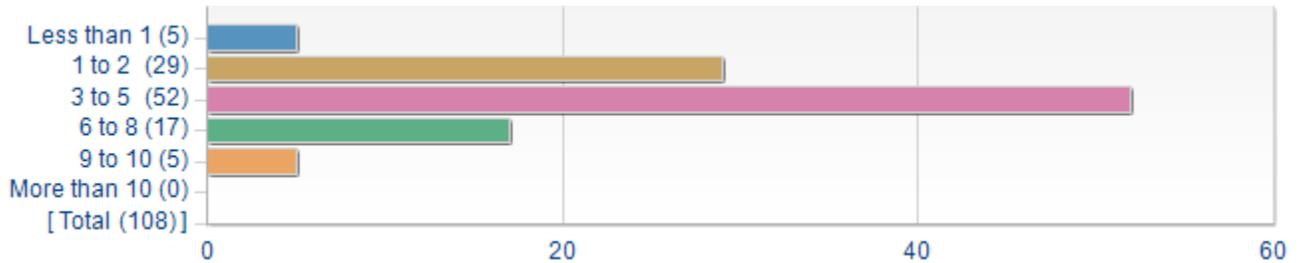
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



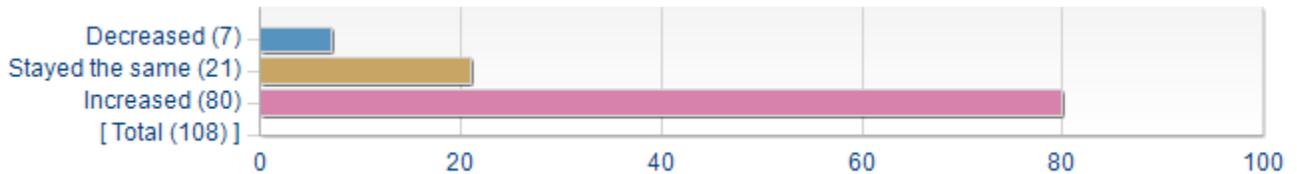
**Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was**



**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
Good lecturer
-Very passionate>> believes in his work -Made difficult concepts understandable / gave good examples/ explanations -student engagement -approachable -organized lectures -clear assignments outline and expectations
Ravelli is a very engaging speaker and the lectures were very interesting
Bruce is a fantastic Prof. I came to class really excited because of how great his lectures were.
he was a very engaging professor that kept me focused on the class content and lectures
Very good public speaker
Was concerned about student and their grades, and made sure that content was revised and explained clearly.
Extremely engaging and passionate lecturer. Listens to all students but does not always agree. 2nd time in one of his lectures and i love attending them. I always respect what bruce has to say and the way he views the world. Verg much has inspired me.
The storytelling was brilliant and using funny situations to make us remember the sociological theories. There was always enough on the powerpoint, and going back when people had missed stuff was very considerate.
He always attended class with enthusiasm and interest in the students and the material he was teaching.
Very enthusiastic. Interesting lectures. Great examples and relevant stories.
Inspiring Wayne of teaching, he is passionate about hi subject but leaves room in his lectures for great discussions and listens to everyone's ideas! Great teacher!
The lectures enhanced my knowledge of sociology immensely. They were enjoyable as well.
He prepared very well written slides that were presented during each class
Passionate
He was very passionate in lectures
BEUCE IS A GOD.
Very knowledgeable about the course matter. Brought real world examples into concepts and theories.
He was concise. He answered questions and simplified definitions. He was always interested and engaged in what he was teaching. He understood how students worked, and recorded his lectures to help those that missed class which was awesome. He was always available to answer questions and really took the time to make sure you understand the material.
Knowledge of topic and clear lectures
Doctor Ravelli give interesting examples to explain concepts and well-prepared for the lecture.
He used personal examples and fun stories to make concepts more interesting and more applicable to real life situations.
The depth to concepts. Makes it relatable and engaging and interesting
Very engaging and told really good stories to relate it to the course material. Honestly I have only been at UVic or any university for one semester now but I can't see a prof being much better than Bruce; he is so cool and one of the most engaging and interesting teachers I have ever had. I am super grateful I have him next semester as well for 100B but I wish he taught higher level courses as well!!! He even made the theory portion so interesting and all my other classes the theory unit made me want to cry of boredom. You rock Bruce don't ever change!
Passionate and knowledgable on the subjects

His class is humorous and entertaining. The topics are interesting to listen and learn.

Story telling and passion

Always had examples of terms, concepts, and topics which was helpful. Also, it was helpful to see samples of tutorial assignments to get a idea how to do my own.

Lectures were very interesting and made me not want to miss one

good oratory, strong command of concepts.

Bruce really knew what he was talking about and seeing as I did not even really know what Sociology was exactly this was a great introduction to the field. Every class was interesting, funny, and knowledgable and my favourite course this term. I always felt that class was a safe space and that I could speak my opinions.

Excellent at communicating ideas, making dull ideas interesting, engaging the class, respecting opinions, and hosting large amounts of office hours

Bruce is very passionate about his work. It makes me want to learn. He really knows his stuff.

very effective speaker and story teller that explained all of the concept in an interesting way.

He was so funny and engaging really making a connection with his students and the content was purely enjoyable.

Very engaging, captured my interest, it is my favourite course

Bruce was very good at being clear about the points he was trying to make. He also did a good job of making connections from the concepts he was teaching to sommon examples that the students could relate to.

engaging

He's very engaging and helps students understand the information through, humour and real life examples.

He is a very good speaker and makes people engage with sociology. He really increased my interest in sociological topics. I liked how he always directly addressed us through little stories. In general, he was really "connected" to his students and tried to explain things to us at a more funny, personal level.

Genuine interest and passion for the course material.

displayed passion for the content which made the lectures more engaging.  
seemed to genuinely care about the success of students.

Engaging, didn't just drone over slide all lecture. Allowed for student participation.

Good examples and explanation

His enthusiasm was awesome

He was very passionate about the material he was teaching, which made leaning the material a better experience.

Bruce created a fun learning environment. He taught us some of the main concepts through humorous stories, which helped keep students engaged during class. I also felt as if Bruce was always fully prepared for each lecture and didn't waste anytime. Overall, Bruce is a great teacher who is extremely passionate about sociology and really cares about the wellbeing of his students.

excellent speaker who provided extremely interesting and interactive lectures

He is very passionate about this topic which therefor made me become more interested

Great lectures that were efficient and also fun!

He's the best. Most engaging prof, students are interested and truly want to listen when he lectures.

Bruce is by far the best public speaker I have ever had. I tell my friends that "it's almost like he knows what he is going to say five sentences down the road". His eager attitude made every class very enjoyable and it was my pleasure to have Bruce as my teacher.

very good at explaining, giving examples and telling stories

Bruce possesses a charasmatic and friendly personality that allows for students to find him relatable and easily approachable.

He demonstrated a passion for sociology which made the material more appealing.

The lectures were interesting and made me want to come to class. Discussion was also heated and fascinating. Bruce is a fantastic lecturer.

His passion for the topics and course in general. He challenged us to get engaged with the learning material and apply it to our lives. He let us share our opinions and challenge the material. His interest in sociology made me more interested in sociology.

Created a great environment

He gave very good and helpful comments that helped me in my exams.

Enthusiasm and a lot of knowledge about what he was teaching.

Very enthusiastic about what he teaches

Bruce demonstrates passion when he lectures his students. The amount of interest and time he puts into his work allows me to become very engaged, eager to learn, and excited to learn.

Outgoing and personable. Made it easier to pay attention.

He was very engaging in lecture, and in face to face help.

Very enthusiastic

was always happy to repeat information about a concept in a different way if i didn't understand something the first time

He was engaging and very prepared. He showed an interest for feedback after each of the tests and assignments where handed back.

his ability of giving examples to make sure we had a clear understanding of the concepts

Bruce is very clear when explaining different concepts we need to know. He makes the material interesting and allows the students to contribute their thoughts and ideas in class. I found his instruction method very useful, as I always understood the tasks and assignments.

Bruce was a very good talker, he really grabbed your attention and kept everyone focused. Even when students disagreed or argued he held his composure and could rebound to shut them up, nicely tho

Very interesting and entertaining way of communicating ideas effectively

Bruce is excellent! He is an extremely passionate and engaged professor who clearly cares about the material he is teaching

He was consistently friendly and helpful

He has lots of knowledge on the context being taught. Could answer any question that was given.

The instructor knew a lot about the information that he was teaching and he could relate key concepts to personal examples so that really helped me to remember and learn the concepts within the course.

He is amazingly organized and clear with what he wanted. He gave very specific criteria for all assignments to show what he was looking for.

Explained concepts very clearly. Willing to listen to students.

Clarity, good answers for in class questions, knowledge base on all social issues

He is very interested in the material which I think helped with my interest as well.

Understanding of concepts that I was ignorant previous to this course

enthusiastic

Good at explaining concepts. Excellent storyteller

He's a very engaging lecturer. It's almost as though he performs, and so you really stay focused and have to pay attention.

I appreciated the resources he provided through his website.

Made the class interesting, not a single boring lecture.

Bruce is an amazing instructor. I took this course without having much interest in the subject, and Bruce makes it very interesting to learn.

Always prepared for lectures and had relevant examples to explain sociological theories. This made it easy for students to understand the more complex, difficult theories. The videos showed in class only helped to accentuate his points.

Bruce is hilarious, and he respects us and provides a safe and comfortable learning environment that made absorption of materials so much easier.

Bruce knows exactly what he's talking about, and his lectures were inspiring. Sociology interests me greatly and Bruce enhanced this interest. I am looking forward to taking 100B next semester.

His passion for soci was amazing and his lectures are super engaging.

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

Comment
When explaining projects, be clear on how they will be marked
N/A
I have no suggestions. Bruce was amazing.
i wish he could have given more of an example of how to get an A in his exam essays. i wasn't interested in knowing exactly what i could throw out of my pen that would get me an A, just some criticism on what i could do better to get that A
concepts for the midterms and exams could have been better explained
Giving a written example for how you would like us to answer the first midterm questions would've been nice
Look past personal bias and listen to other peoples opinions and ideas. I understand an instructor must be clear with beliefs but i think could be more open to other ideas.
Rely less on the TA's. He frequently dismisses questions regarding assignment and course material and passes it onto his TA's. The TA's have limited time to answer questions and so does the instructor.
more relevant assignments. more room for having your own ideas.
explained assignments and expectations better and sooner
NA
N/A
Less Tutorial assignment
Less discussions that drew away from the main points
There is nothing to change
No.
I thought how he teaches now is perfectly fine
Maybe one more sample midterm 1 on the ravelli.ca
None
How to get the A on the tests. I just did not understand how to go above and beyond when I felt that i was doing so. It made it seem impossible
I don't know.
Nothing. Bruce your class was amazing.
Honestly nothing I can think of
Some in class examples were difficult to grasp/too long
I cant think of anything at the moment, seems like an experienced Professor who knows his stuff.
I feel having more office hours would be nice as there is so many students all trying to reach you quickly.
none.
Bruce could be more clear about what an A is. I found it difficult to do my assignments well when there was nothing to compare it to. How am I supposed to do A work when nobody really knows what that is?
make assignments due at same time
Allow the TA's to do more of the assignment explanations in order to have less confusion.
perhaps ensuring more consistency between TAs
Did great
He did great.
Overall, Bruce did a great job teaching the lecture portion of this class and I feel that he should continue teaching the course exactly the same way in future semesters.
i don't think there's anything else he could have done better

Nothing, keep up the great attitude and smile

some concepts were hard to grasp. Perhaps coming up with more "dumbed-down" ways of explaining the complicated ones would have helped.

I found that Bruce sometimes shut down people's ideas rather quickly and seemed like when he was in "lecture mode" that he would use people to make a point.

Some of the lessons and concepts seemed to trigger his bias, making it hard to disagree with what he was presenting to us. Could have been a little more open to acknowledging opposing opinions. Overall was willing to listen and discuss.

Be more clear about how/when you can ask for help with assignments and exams

Assigned readings, this will ensure understanding of material when being taught in class.

Bruce could have been clearer with what an A assignment looked like.

More explanation on how to do both tutorial assignments

I think that Bruce already does an efficient job at helping us learn, he always makes the class fun and uses good examples when teaching us concepts. The fact that he engages us in real life scenarios makes it easier to understand the content that he is teaching.

Possibly more instruction on how to write a content analysis.

He's good enough

i'd say everything was well done

Perhaps talked more about the assignments in the classes leading up. However, I thought the course timetable was fair.

n/a

The only I had a thought time with was that for assignments and tutorials i was unsure what was asked because TA and Bruce had different ideas

Possibly given graded assignments outside of essays

I had no issues with Bruce

Explain what you really want on the assignments or tests. One thing I wrote on my second midterm I only knew to write because a friend had seen Bruce in person. Without her I would have gotten a lower mark

I think overall, I enjoyed his method of teaching and do not have an suggestions on how he can change his methods of teaching.

Given us more time on the exams (or asked only one essay question instead of two). It is hard to do your best work when all you can think about it how fast you are writing.

Because he provides all the questions for tests in advance, and all the answers are in the textbook, there's no reason to go to class. I stopped attending altogether after the first few weeks.

He explains extremely simple concepts in bizarre, roundabout ways. Of the classes I attended, he could have easily explained the core concepts in 10 minutes instead of 50.

;)

I think the tutorials should be more connected to what we have learned rather than new concepts.

Nil

I think he did a terrific job, nothing else I could suggest

n/a

I noticed that part ways through the course, Bruce became frustrated with the lack of engagement in class discussion by students. I don't think he realized the reason for it being how intensely he shut down a lot of students right at the beginning. Sometimes he would shrug off our answers simply with "wrong" or make it seem as though we were stupid by kind of disregarding the answers or just treat our answers as irrelevant or unimportant. I am not very comfortable answering in class because I know that he'll shut me down, and a lot of students have expressed the same worries.

The instructor could've used a different exam method. I felt the exam was based predominately on your ability to memorize and how well the T.A's like your exam. Some people had the advantage of memorizing previous students exams, instead of actually learning the material. The exam was very subjective, I would've liked to see an exam that allows you to demonstrate your understanding of the material.

Bruce is a great instructor but perhaps putting more emphasis on the fact that TA's do the marking - NOT BRUCE. The constant questions from students in class took away from lecture material and time.

There was one midterm question that wasn't covered in class and as I could not afford a textbook I was pretty lost. So I think covering all exam questions in class would be an improvement.

n/a

Sometimes it is unclear if the material being taught is still valid today. Durkheim's theories for example.

The tutorial assignments. I'm sure I would have a different experience if they weren't two of the first papers I was writing, but as they were I was completely lost on how to even write a paper. I followed the criteria and example he posted and put A LOT of time and energy into it and my TA did not reward me for my efforts. That is fair but the example he posted was not consistent with the way papers were graded by TAs.

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

### Comment

There are discrepancies in how various TA's mark.

No suggestions! My favourite class

the grading rubric for the assignments and tests were very hard. i thought that for a first year course an A was too hard to achieve

all tutorial assignments should be due on the same day, or monday tutorials should be given more time

Spend less time actually discussion and go over the overall concepts before opening up for comments and questions. Most of the discussions in class stray further and further from the learning material, and time is frequently wasted.

Marking was unfair and expectations were too high. The amount of work put into assignments did not match the grade. Almost impossible to do well on the exams no matter how much effort you put in. This was really frustrating and decreased my enjoyment of this course.

The marking on the midterms was too intense for a first-year course. Instead of holding midterms in class time, I believe it would be more appropriate for a room to be booked outside of class time so the students can receive the full 50 minutes.

more handouts to see if we understand the information we are being taught

NA

More time for assignments spread out fairly - sorry but it feels unfair as someone who had tutorial on Monday

I feel that the TA grading was unfair

Tutorial preparations were not even and led to some students feeling like they were disadvantaged

It seems impossible to get an A. I did okay on the first midterm, went to the TA, got help, understood exactly what I needed to do, worked my ass off, and still remained in the low B section. It just seems like a lot of people are working really hard and its almost impossible that we just have all this sociological insight to bring to the Midterms, when really this material is very new to many students.

Have a better TA

No.

In other courses I've taken that have a tutorial or TA's marking the assignments, they rotate each time so that if a student has a significantly more difficult market than other students they have a chance to get different feedback from other TA's.

Nothing that I can think of; overall I really loved this course and it made me choose sociology as my major!

I was unhappy with the "insignificant" grade differences between TAs. Especially after reviewing some of my friends' midterms which were at the same level, and I think that this course should find a way to neutralize this discrepancy.

Material on indigenous people

Tutorial assignments too close together. Maybe one in September instead. The second one felt rushed and really soon after the second midterm.

more guest speakers

Nothing, this class was amazing.

I think that the grading scheme is too hard. I am an A student and I've found that I have had to work much harder to get

my A in this class relative to others (even another sociology class I took). His motto is that he cannot teach a student how to get an A, and that you must go beyond course material to achieve one. This is frustrating, as described by the Uvic faculty of sociology, an A is considered mastery of course concepts and knowledge.

What TAs look for when making exams or how to get a 16 or higher on one of the exam questions

I like the way the course is right now.

As well the time that the questions are posted it would be nice if they were posted a tad earlier just so I could study more efficiently with spaced practice instead of massed learning.

Ta assignments on same day :) more in depth tutorials

I found that often when a student brought up an idea counter to one of Bruce's, it was shot down immediately. As sociologists, we are supposed to keep an open mind and discuss all options. It would be nice to see this done more in class.

Tutorial assignments are hard and seems like TAs dont do a well job of marking.... The peice of paper where everything is outlined means nothing apparently

It would have been nice to see a female speaker come and discuss some topics through a feminist perspective.

I think that the tutorials should spend more time on increasing practical skills for writing the assignments, doing sociological research in general etc.

More of a clear purpose and direction for tutorials.

In the midterms have 1 question mandatory then for the second question give 2 options

Tutorial time (at least for my tutorial) wasn't used how I wanted it to be when reviewing for exams. My TA seemed almost like she didn't know how to help us.

The portion of the course that I personally feel should be improved are the tutorials.

First, there should be a tutorial every week, to provide students with a better opportunity to get to know their TA's (who mark all of their work!!!).

Second, I feel that the outline for both tutorial assignments is vague and difficult to follow. Another suggestion I have for the tutorial assignments is to possibly supply a list of topics for students to choose from (i personally found it difficult to choose a topic because there was WAY too many to choose from).

Lastly, I feel that it is unfair (although I recognize that the tutorial assignments are issued on the first day of classes) that some students have to hand their tutorial assignments in on a tuesday, whereas other students get to hand theirs in on a friday. Bruce mentioned that the reason for this is so TA's don't get assignments "piled" on them all in one day.

However, taking into consideration that they have about 2 weeks to mark them, I don't see how it would be an inconvenience to the TA's as it would be no different than marking the midterms.

On the other hand, there were also some things I liked about the tutorials.

For example, I thought it was awesome going to chat with my TA in office hours about my ideas/grades. Also, I enjoyed some of the discussions we had in tutorials (which is why I wish we could have one every week!)

more discussions and tutorial time

If TAs could be more specific on exactly what they expect from the assignments things may have been a little smoother.

Consistency from different TA's marking

I would have appreciated more tutorial sections, I felt that every time I attended one it was much easier to fully understand the material.

More small assignments to really grasp concepts or understand what they are looking for in the course.

With tutorial assignments it is kind of a shit show; there needs to be earlier preparation, especially for the first one, it seemed like we barely discussed what was expected of us and what the structure of the assignment was. This is a huge issue in a first-year class where the vast majority of the students have never even written a university-level paper before.

I felt it was unclear how to improve my grade on the midterms/final. I felt that I followed the grading Rubric and what my TA wanted on the tests but my grades did not reflect it. I felt I followed the example midterms posted similarly in structure, however there was a huge discrepancy from the example and the grade I received.

Keep it up

There should be at least one midterm that has multiple choice. This will enable students that have poor writing skills boost their grades if they are better at recognition to answer a question.

The guidelines on how to achieve a higher grade could be improved. I felt like the marking was very subjective and what the TA wanted was not what Bruce wanted.

N/a
n/a
Another way to prove that i have learned the material. If i dont write well on the fly i am a bad student that isnt getting it?
No problems here
Less intense assignments
more discussion and/or group work would be beneficial
More tutorial time.
Easier marking
n/a
Less emphasis on writing
The example assignments posted to the website were inadequate in that they were given as examples of exemplary work, while in actuality they were not a good representation of the level of writing required to receive an A. The example essays and assignments should represent the standards expected of us.
Content is good
I think it would be helpful for students to have more tutorials, or at least longer ones.
NA
Stop using the class as a soapbox to harangue impressionable youth with your left-wing political views. It's completely inappropriate.
Citation advice it's pretty good already
Nothing, it is a great course
Good Class
nothing I can think of..
less assignments/ midterms. For a first year course, it was a LOT of work
The marking scheme of the midterms is very structured. By making the sections out of 5, that means that a 3/5 is only 60% and 4/5 is 80%. 4/5 may seem really good, but if you get 4/5 on all the parts, that gives you a maximum of 80%, and if you get lower in one section, that drops you under 80%. This makes succeeding in this class very difficult. A tiny change makes a huge difference, and the marking is quite harsh. Generally 3/5 is a good result, but that's only 60%. I was really excited to learn sociology, and I love the course content, however, the marking is just so difficult that it's a huge deterrent for me to take Soci 100b. It's really sad that there are no other options and that I would absolutely have to take 100b to continue in sociology. I have to keep my grades up for my scholarship and it's insanely stressful and frustrating to put tons of effort into a course and not see that reflected in one's grades.
Change the exam.
n/a
I don't think it could! Bruce is an amazing professor and I'm looking forward to taking more of his classes in the future.
Perhaps a greater focus on one assignment, so that it can be focused on in depth, rather than having students scramble to complete two sub par assignments??
Can Bruce and the TAs PLEASE be on the same page. Not only do they want different things on the assignments, neither of them want a standard format like ASA which is frustrating because you have nowhere to look. While some things were ASA others were not. Obviously, I am still resentful of the miscommunication that cost me my grade. I loved Bruce and my TA there was just NO communication.

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

Options	Count	Percentage
Yes	95	90%
No	10	9%
Does not apply (online course, field course, etc.)	1	1%