



**UVic CES Instructor Report 201509 - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO SOCI:
CULTURE+SOCIALZTN - SOCI 100A - A02 (CRN 12941)**

UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2015

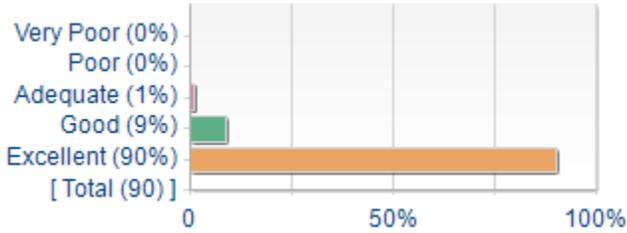
Project Audience 161
Responses Received 90
Response Ratio 56%

Creation Date Tue, Jan 05, 2016



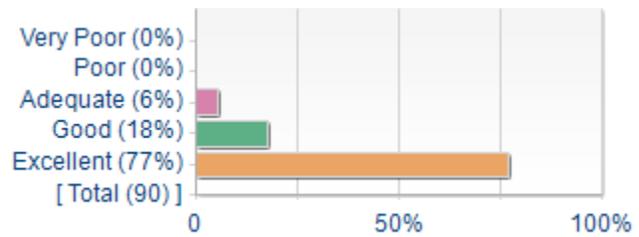
I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



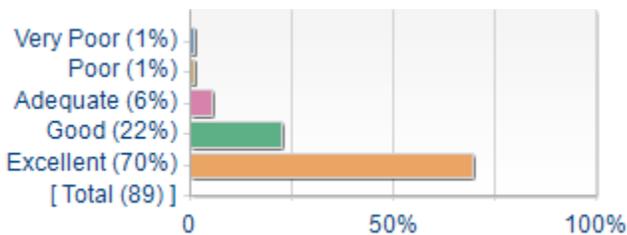
Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.89
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.35

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



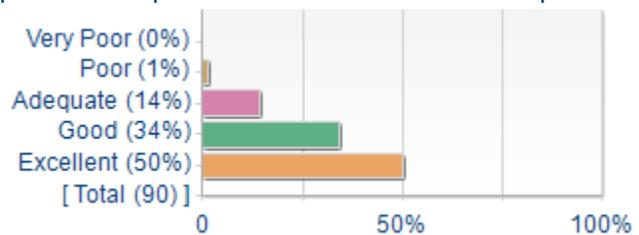
Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.71
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.57

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



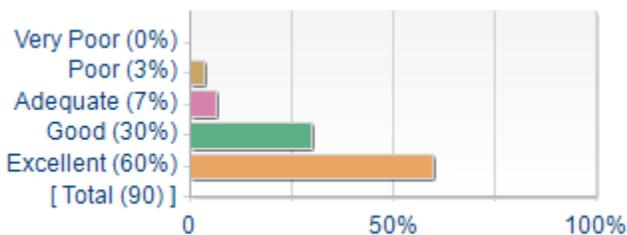
Statistics	Value
Response Count	89
Mean	4.58
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.75

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



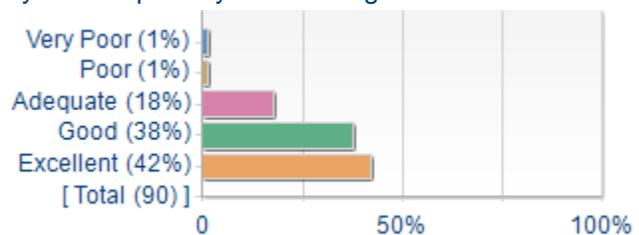
Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.33
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.47
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.77

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

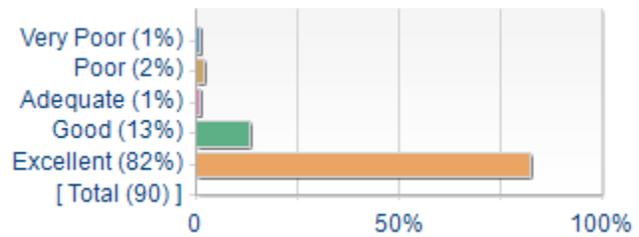
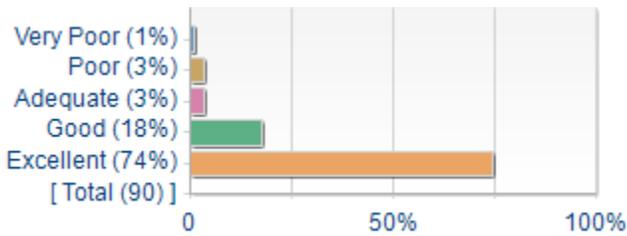


Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.19
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.85

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas

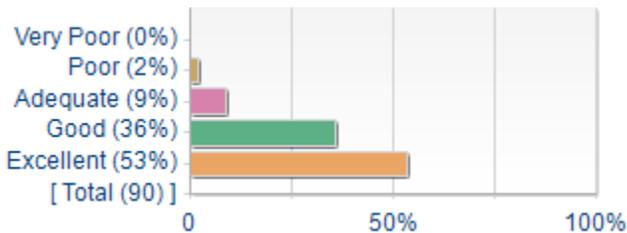


Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.61
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.80

Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.73
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.70

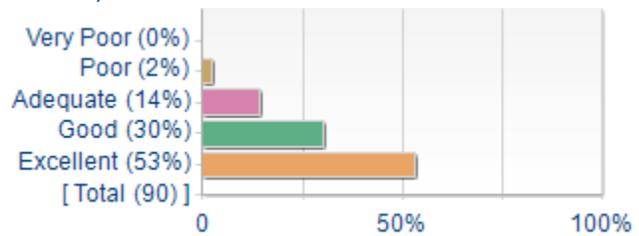
II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



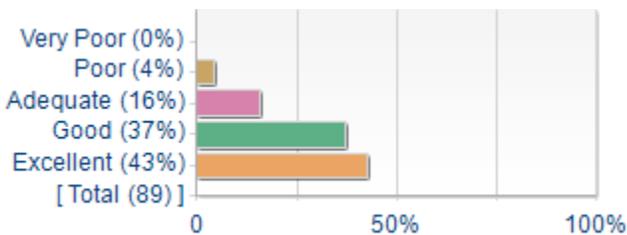
Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.40
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.75

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



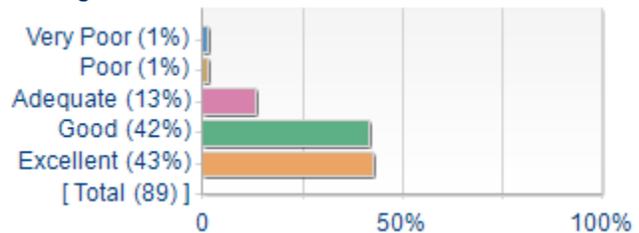
Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.34
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

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



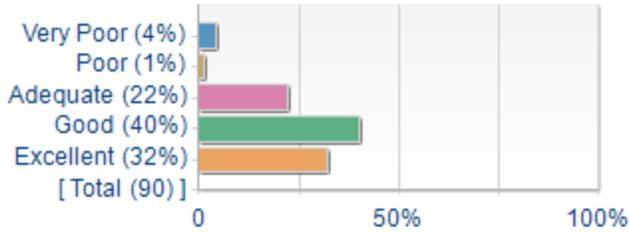
Statistics	Value
Response Count	89
Mean	4.18
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.86

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



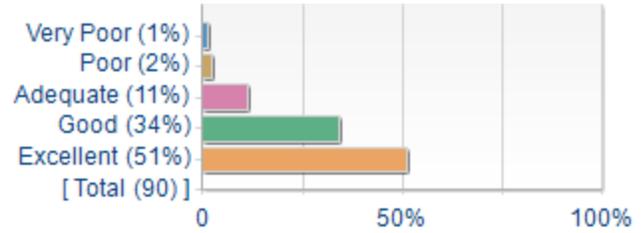
Statistics	Value
Response Count	89
Mean	4.24
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

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



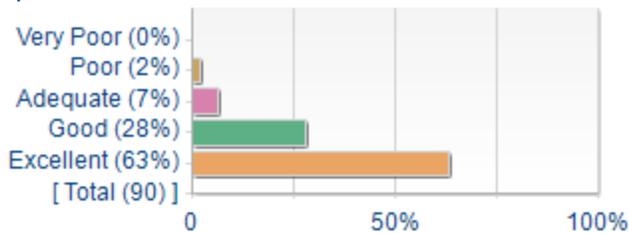
Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	3.94
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.00

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.32
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.85

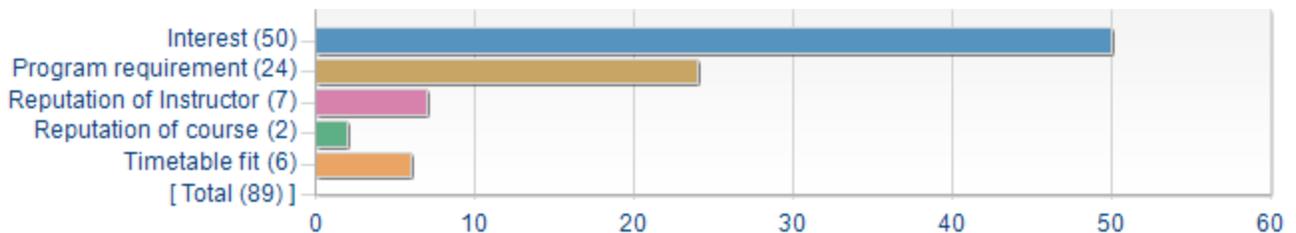
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



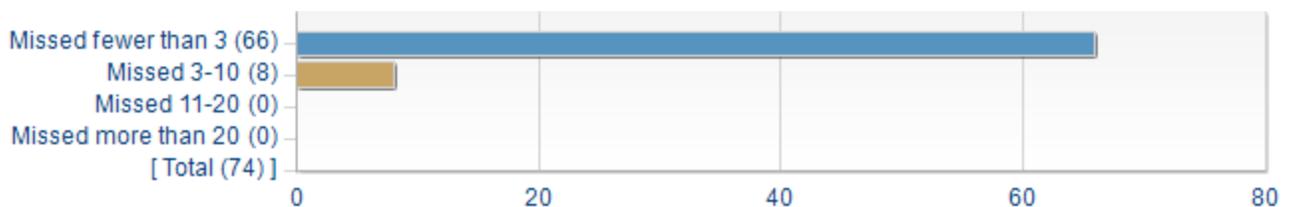
Statistics	Value
Response Count	90
Mean	4.52
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.72

III Statements About The Students:

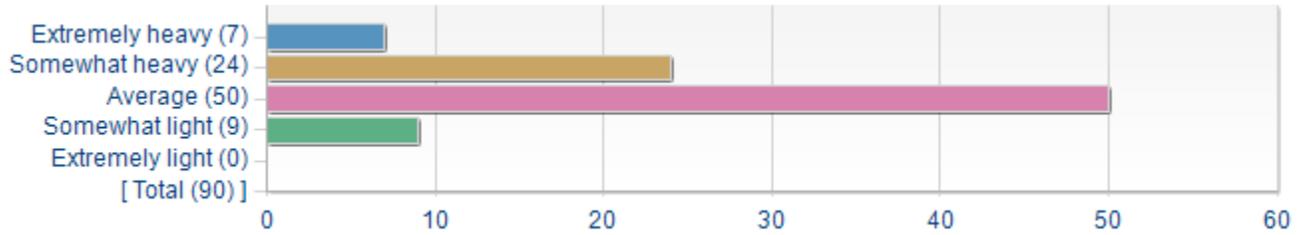
My primary reason for taking the course.



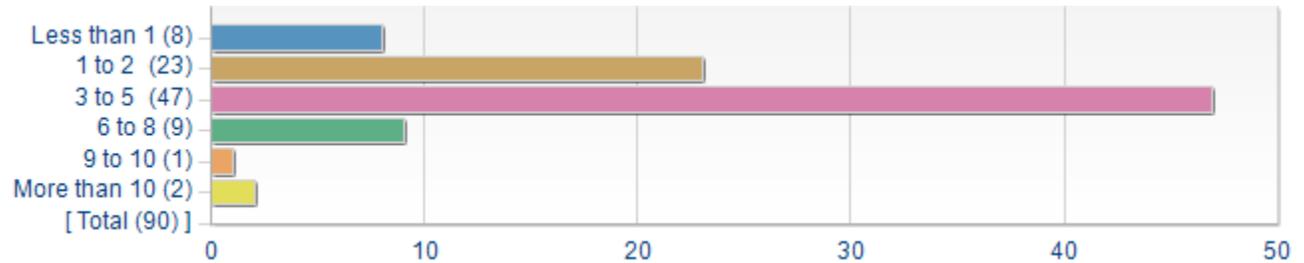
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



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 interesting lectures, I looked forward to the classes because the material and way it was presented was so interesting.
Clarity of concepts and willingness to assist students
Passionate about teaching
Very interested in subject and lectures are very clear. Gave room for lots of class discussion.
He gave great examples when defining concepts and made the course interesting by showing videos.
Very engaging and was very good explaining complex concepts
He provided real world examples and delivered them to his students with passion.
Passion about subject material.
Bruce did a great job of relating to the students! He was very friendly and made challenging concepts easy to understand!
Very easy to understand and respectful of students
Bruce is the best prof I had this semester. Such a nice way to be welcomed to Uvic. Engaging, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Truly terrific.
Clear and engaging.
Bruce's lectures are very interesting! The topics he covers in class are engaging and he always facilitates class discussions and tries to hear everyone out as best as he can. He is always respectful to students responses and questions. I like how realistic Bruce is, he is always upfront with everyone, and has no problem explaining anything further if there is confusion. I never personally went to Bruce's office hours but I felt as though he made it easy for students to come talk to him if he needs it. I also find his marking very fair.
he is very clear with everything he presents to us
Made class interesting
Very engaging with the class and respected students opinions
Good examples and personal stories related to course content.
Motivating, good examples. He provided a great open door policy for his office hours. He wanted to help out, if there were any challenges.
Wonderful prof. A three hour lecture is hard to sit through and Bruce makes it very easy.
Considering I took the 3 hour evening class, Bruce was able to keep me engaged and interested for the entire lecture. He provided multiple examples and stories that further explained concepts while also clearly defining these ideas. As well, I felt fully prepared for my exams because he gave us the questions in advance.
I found it extremely helpful when he gave us personal or impersonal stories as examples for ourselves concepts. Having that relatable/less formal explanation helps a lot with understanding the ideas.
Passion about the course, keeping the attention of a lecture hall extremely well, good explanations and stories to help the class understand the concepts
lets just say the guy knows what hes doing.
He is a very good story teller, it helps put the concepts into real world situations.
The best prof i had this semester. simply amazing
He's an incredibly knowledgeable and caring guy. You can tell that he really wants us to do well in this course. He clearly really enjoyed the class discussion, and considering the size of the class and the huge number of students who wanted to share their thoughts and opinions, I'm really glad that he was so willing. He used lots of examples, had clear notes, and wrote an incredible textbook.

Bruce Ravelli is one on the best teachers I have ever had. Dr. Ravelli has very interesting stories and a strong voice that grabs your attention and makes you pay attention to the notes.

perfect presentation skills

He is very good at keeping the attention of the class and doesn't put up with people talking over him or disrupting the class.

His noticeable passion for the course and course info made it easy and interesting to listen to. He is great at engaging the class and keeping the student's attention.

I loved Bruce's class. He made it extremely engaging and he was so friendly towards the students. He truly showed interest in the material he was teaching. He makes it easier to listen to long lectures.

He is an amazing lecturer and keeps his students engaged.

Amazing teacher overall, not only knew the material but truly understanding it

The way he taught each lecture was new, insightful, and entertaining. The use of stories and videos really helps me understand concepts.

So engaging, genuine, interested and interesting.

The instructor was very engaging, organized, and generous with his time. He genuinely care about his students.

Great knowledge and personality when teaching the course. Kept everyone engaged week after week during a 3hr lecture!

Most engaged prof ever. Watching him preach was a treat. Even though I might barely pass this class, I truly enjoyed this one the most because I could feel his love about what he did.

Amazing speaker and storyteller! Keeps the class engaged.

One of the most interesting and easy to follow teachers I've ever had, while still respecting the content and teaching in depth ideas.

Really entertaining lectures (especially his stories)

Incredible passion for the subject matter; lectures are interesting and relevant

He is the most engaging, intelligent, effective teacher I've ever had. Was very effective at making students think outside the box and have them become interested in the course material. Amazing man, amazing course.

He was good at engaging the students and making the course material interesting. He expects a lot, but is good at motivating students on how to succeed.

Despite the fact that the lectures were 3 hours each, Bruce Ravelli made them engaging and interesting. His strong lectures helped me learn and stay motivated in this course.

CW. Mills

HATED THE COURSE!!!!!!!!!!!!

He was so interested in the content of the course it made for a better learning experience and was an excellent public speaker

Captivating in his instruction, was able to engage class and effectively use this to provide examples and relevant context that will be remembered by his students

Bruce was a fabulous teacher. He is very intelligent and has an unusual talent for reading the mood of the class. He instantly knows if we have understood the concepts or not, understands if we are too tired to learn anymore, he is there to answer questions, and promotes discussions within the class, no matter how large, because our enthusiasm for the topic and flow of new of ideas is more important than him lecturing us on and on. All of these strengths made me extremely motivated to learn in class. Also, when I was sick and unable to attend class, he was extremely supportive and kind, more so than I would expect from the average professor.

Very engaging speaker whose ability to generate discussion in lecture made each session interesting and engaging.

Great use of examples and stories related to course content.

Giving students the ability to create alternate assessments/assignments for themselves was awesome.

Awareness of his own privilege made it easier to be in class.

Burce Ravaelli was so engaging as a professor. He made each lecture interesting and it made it so much easier to come to class. I loved this class.

Bruce has the ability to create very engaging lectures, capturing the attention of over a hundred students regularly on a late wednesday night is no mean feat.

His lectures were entertaining and informative. He knew his stuff.

He was really passionate about teach sociology, which made the it more enjoyable to learn about.

Excellent speaker.

He was interesting to listen to and passionate about sociology which made everyone else passionate about it.

really good examples

Very interesting. Makes lectures interesting. Even with the 3 hour night course my attention didn't waver.

- very organized lectures and notes
- great stories
- made the long lecture enjoyable
- engaging

Great lecturer, cared about material. Very passionate

The lectures were very interesting to listen to, they engaged everyone.

Extremely engaging and up to date with today's social issues

Passionate about what he taught, interesting to listen to.

Very passionate and good at explaining.

He understands the concepts so well that the way he teaches is super clear. And the examples he uses are actually relevant so students are able to understand even more. He's great! It's obvious that this is important to him...

Very interesting to listen to, probably the only prof I've had who I could listen to for 3 hours straight.

Bruce is one of my favourite professors this semester and I look forward to my 3 hour night lecture every week. His lectures are both engaging and fun. I remember the material because of the examples he uses in his lectures.

The lectures are very engaging and interesting.

He was just awesome

Passionate

Bruce Ravelli changed my life. He is the most engaging, charismatic, and genuine professor that I have had. His teaching paired with the nature of course provide students with an entirely new perspective and an open mind that is what j consider a crucial aspect of a university education.

He was enthusiastic about the material and made it interesting to learn.

He was very engaging and kept myself untreated throughout the entire three hours. Overall and very well spoken instructor.

Bruce was one of the best teachers I've had this year. He is very clear, his classes are interesting, and I always leave feeling like I've learned something. He has a genuine interest in the opinions and concerns of students and does his absolute best to answer any questions on may have. He has a very clear understanding of what he's teaching and he does a good job teaching that understanding to his students.

Very engaging and enthusiastic

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

Comment

My only problem was that I found my tutorial to be not very useful, as my TA didn't seem prepared to answer questions we had or guide discussions.

More feedback on assignments/clearer expectations for them

It is obvious that Bruce has been using the same examples for years.

Better explained tutorial assignments

Provide a preparatory group office hour for exams where students can join you to discuss the questions.

No suggestions

Really no suggestions.

Less peer scholar.

No suggestions

post the power point before class so that I can look through them during class. in my opinion, it does not make students pay attention less but helps in listening during lectures rather than copying the slides down (I can take notes on top of the ones that are provided)

Stop being bias and dont preach communism

I can't say Id say he was great in his teaching approaches

Scrapping the peer scholar requirment

I find the exams are difficult to do very well on even though we are given the answers. When there are different TA's working people are getting graded differently for the same course

I have nothing bad to say about his teaching!

On occasion it was clear that Bruce had a bias towards certain topics that he taught, which isn't a bad thing, but I wish that there was more talk of all outlooks.

Use a mic so people in the back can hear you better

i was in a 3 hour lecture at night, taking it was my fault because i had trouble being motivated enough to be there until after 9 om

I think that Ravelli actually helped me learn as effectively as he could. He's an incredible instructor with a great sense of humour, he did his job very well.

do not use Peerscholar

He is the best prof I had this term, there is nothing I could criticize about the way his conducts his class.

I really wish there was time in class to discuss concepts with other classmates and do group work. I find sociology really difficult because most of it is learning the material outside of class and through the textbook. I would have really appreciated some time to go over exams in class or with bruce one-on-one where he can show us how to improve.

He is hard to approach because sometimes he shoots down student's ideas... therefore I would not want to speak in class.

I believe the class is perfect just the way it is.

Honestly can't think of any...

The use of peerscholar was a cool idea, however it did not translate well.

Eliminating peer scholar

N/A

Telling the girls in the back to leave if they are there to chat.

N/a

As a mature student in this class some of the examples/connections used in class are not relevant. Given the general demographic of the class this probably can't be helped.

The only thing in this course I wasn't fond of was how harshly some assignments and tests are graded. I found that I could explain to anyone in the class what a concept he taught meant, but when it came down to writing the test, I couldn't make the information make sense in the limited amount I had. This could just be an individual problem, but I definitely found it challenging to meet the expectation. Also I found my tutorial leader didn't know the criteria for assignments and didn't seem to understand how he was supposed to do his job. Not sure if it was a lack of communication or not.

N/A

I do not have suggestions.

I was fine with his lectures.

Go back to square one. Course was ridiculously hard.

I honestly don't see how he could have done anything differently

regular checks on TAs to ensure even standards throughout tutorial sessions

The only problem I have is that I think Bruce needs to have a more open mind towards some things (!). He is 100%

supportive of anybody's gender or sexuality, and always willing and genuinely wanting to learn more ways people express themselves. However, he is quite unsupportive of people identifying with a religion. I am not necessarily religious, but I felt like I was learning through a lens completely cynical and slightly offensive towards anybody with a religious tendency, which I felt did not correspond to what he teaches of being open and accepting of everyone. Calling certain religions "mythologies" or showing outright disgust towards some doesn't further my learning into accepting everyone and the ways they choose to identify, whether you agree with it or not.

None.

Perhaps, having more tutorial time. I learned a lot from my tutorials and it was hard to learn lots when it was only once a week for an hour

He did a good job.

N/A

Everything was good

He did the best job possible

Discuss the tutorial assignment in class

- tutorials available were found to be extremely helpful

N/A

Discuss tutorial assignment in class, the TA's did not explain it very well

I think that the Peer Scholar is more of a headache than anything because of the time limits for each section. I also think that his slide can be a bit wordy at times.

I cannot think of anything.

I went to office hours and did not really benefit from the help that I received. I would suggest maybe trying to explain concepts if students have used all of their available resources and still do not understand a concept.

Cannot think of anything else

Can't think of anything

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

Comment
I didn't find the peer scholar assignments to be especially helpful
Having such a long class late at night is draining.
Do not use Peer Scholar again
Not having lectures after midterm.
The format of testing in this class does not work for me. I can not show my command of material to the degree of quality I would like within the time constraint. Having to write an essay very quickly does not reflect any real world scenario, I would recommend a reform of format or another option. Perhaps hand in all 4 essays done ahead of time as an option.
No suggestions
More application of concepts.
I found the tutorial assignments slightly confusing, and wasn't sure how they related to the course enough to be included.
changes to do with the tutorials, i did not find mine very useful
Overall course was decent
Make the tutorial assignments more clear.
Same as above
I have nothing bad to say about this course!
Not use peer scholar. It is a good idea in theory, but when we actually went to use it not only were there technical issues but also people who didn't care enough to put effort into it. Therefore, effecting some of the grade outcomes.
Short assignments instead of two very long ones
online quizzes as oppose to peer scholar

one word: Iclicker

No suggestions, I think the course is great. The tutorials were helpful and the instructors were very friendly and knowledgeable!

less paper work

I like peer scholar!

Tutorials could have been a bit more descriptive of coursework and assignments

Although I really enjoyed the class, the marking procedure and grading method I find is really unfair. Every assignment is marked based on different TAs, and although they all mark using the same criteria one might have a different opinion than another, making some students receive a bad grade for good work and other students receive a decent grade for bad work. I've had my essay read over more than 10 times with nothing but positive comments and received a fail. I asked my TA for clarification and the reasons given I didn't think were not justified enough for a failing grade. Being in first year going into office hours is intimidating and receiving many failing grades in a course you genuinely love and work hard in is very discouraging. I really wish there were other ways of being marked on your knowledge of the material as well instead of just in class essays. I enjoyed the peer scholar assignments and found them helpful. A little 5-10% multiple choice test to help us bring up our mark would be really beneficial.

Check in on the T.A.'s because my T.A. (James Watkins) was very ineffective (not due to lack of knowledge) but more because of social skills which made the class very uncomfortable and hard.

Peer Scholar access was a bit convoluted

It was all excellent!

Nothing.

To get a good grade in the class you need to use your resources. period.

I really liked peer scholar. I'm not happy that next term there will be less opportunities to show my work and be evaluated. I feel as though if you remove it something else should be added, possibly a quiz or two.

No peer scholar.

Felt like the marking was a little too harsh. Writing exactly what the instructions asked for only got an average mark and it was really discouraging

The tutorials could be improved by more effective facilitation of discussion. It feels like a lost opportunity.

I think the course did a good job of showing specifically what everyone has to do to be successful in the course.

My tutorial was not helpful. To improve the course perhaps a more detailed outline of tutorials could be followed.

It was great to listen to him.

pretty much think about the exact opposite of this course. Now were headed in the right direction!

N/a

I can't think of any other suggestions! Both intro to sociology A and B have been my favourite course experiences at UVic. I sincerely wish Bruce would teach more sociology classes- I would love to go further in sociology, but I am not sure if I would enjoy it being taught by another professor, as my experience in intro has been so positive.

Motivate students to discuss more in tutorials

N/A

Some videos in class were a bit poorly chosen, primarily some of the TED talks.

Nothing comes to mind.

N/A

Everything was good

20% of our grade being marked by peers is too high, especially since most students are learning sociology for the first time.

The night class (3 hours) was a little long but the course itself was great

More movies

- i found the peer scholar assignment were some times tedious to complete

If all the TA's marked the same it would seem more fair. It seems like the marking is very skewed and it depends on what TA you get to get your mark.

N/A

More constancy with TAs. Some marked very easy and others very hard. So you got different marks for saying the same thing which I didn't find very fair

I think that getting rid of peer scholar and reweighing the tutorial assignment would make everyones life easier. I believe that the 2nd part of the tutorial assignment should be worth more than the proposal because it is a lot of work for 10% and is considerably more work that the first assignment

While I enjoy the idea of discussions and tutorials for classes like that, I wish the discussion part was more related to what we learned in the lecture.

peer scholar assignments are due to close to the end of the semester

I do not have any.

I feel like having more class discussions with other students in class could help a lot of people with their understanding of what is being taught in class.

Can't think of anything