



**UVic CES Instructor Report 201509 - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO  
SOCI:INSTUTNS+SCL CHNG - SOCI 100B - A01 (CRN 12966)**

**UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2015**

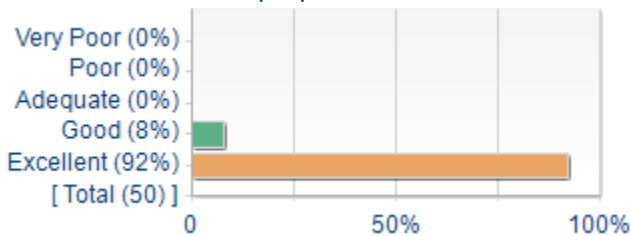
Project Audience 112  
Responses Received 50  
Response Ratio 45%

**Creation Date** Tue, Jan 05, 2016



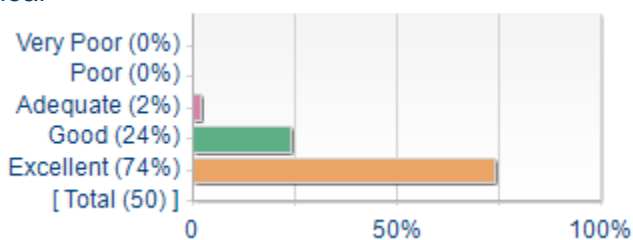
## I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



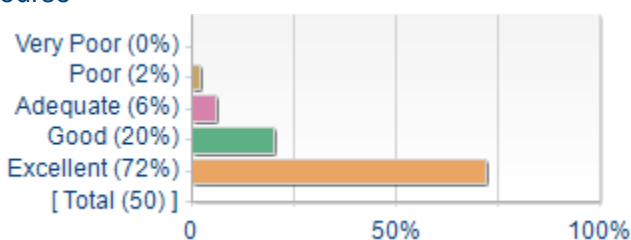
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.92
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.27

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



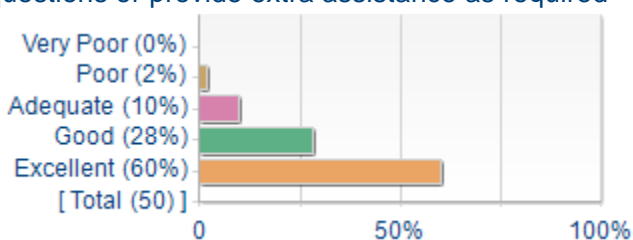
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.72
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.50

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



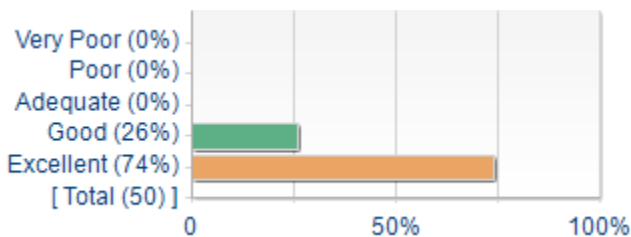
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.62
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.70

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



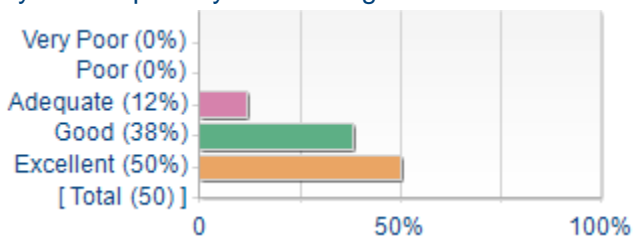
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.46
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.74
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.44

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

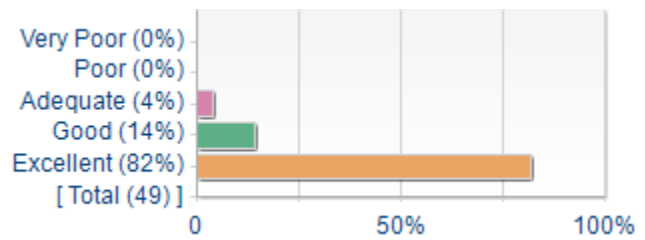
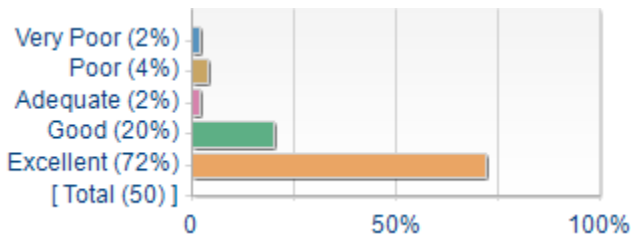


Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.38
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-0.70

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas

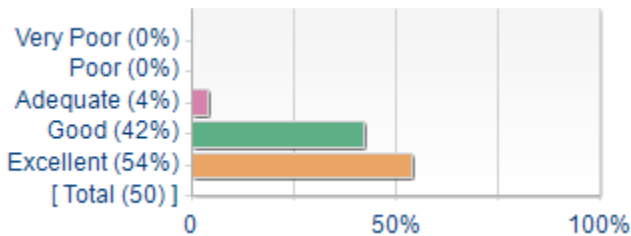


Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.88

Statistics	Value
Response Count	49
Mean	4.78
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.51

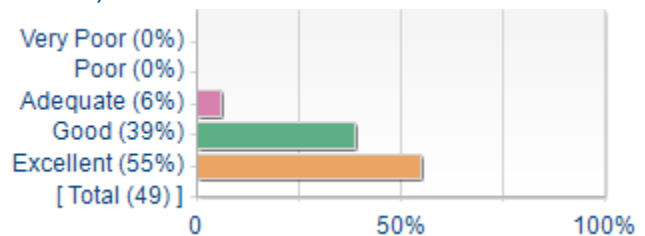
## II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



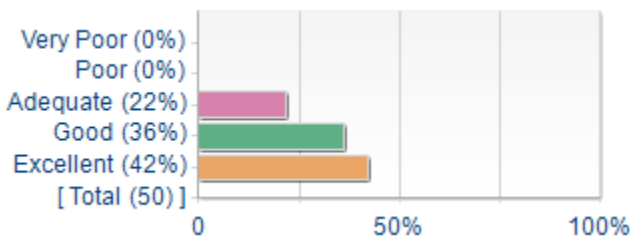
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.58

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



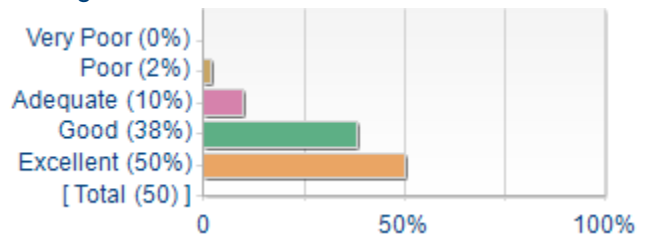
Statistics	Value
Response Count	49
Mean	4.49
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.62

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



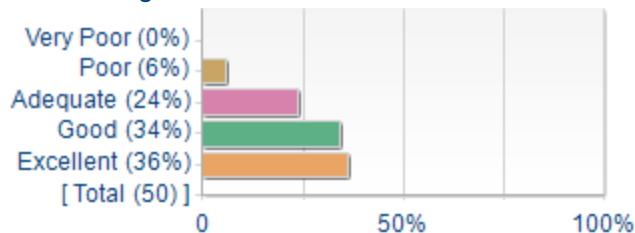
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.20
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.78

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



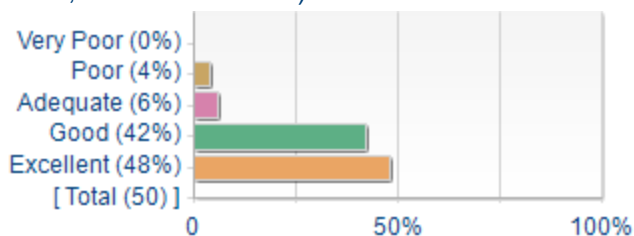
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.36
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-0.75

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



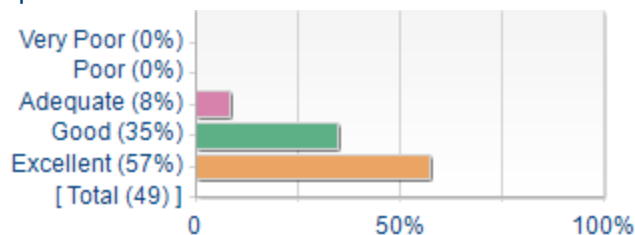
Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.93

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	50
Mean	4.34
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.77

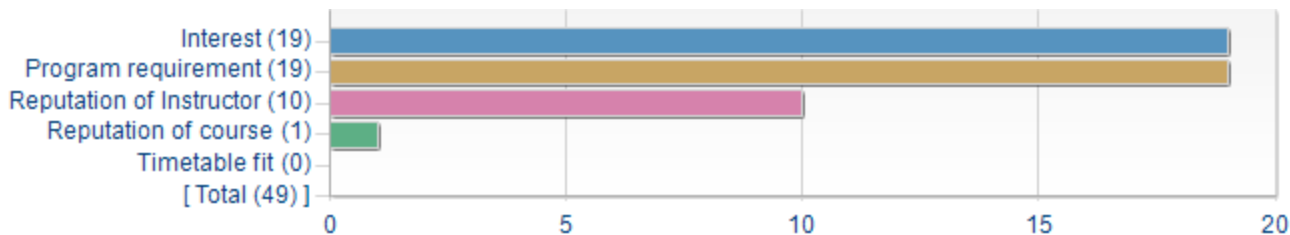
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



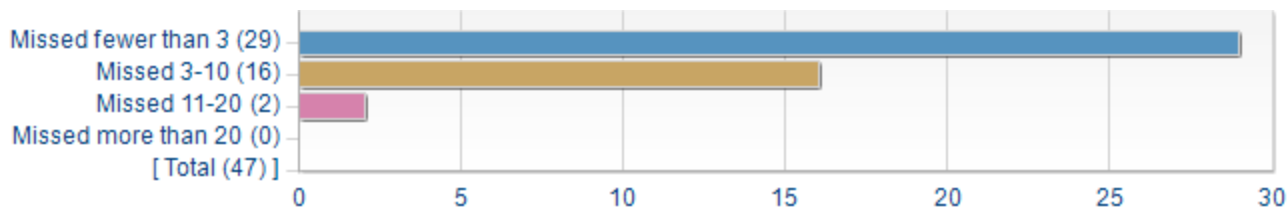
Statistics	Value
Response Count	49
Mean	4.49
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.65

### III Statements About The Students:

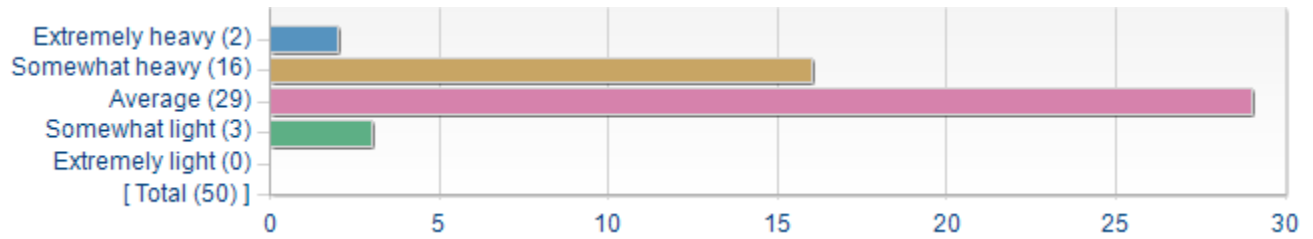
My primary reason for taking the course.



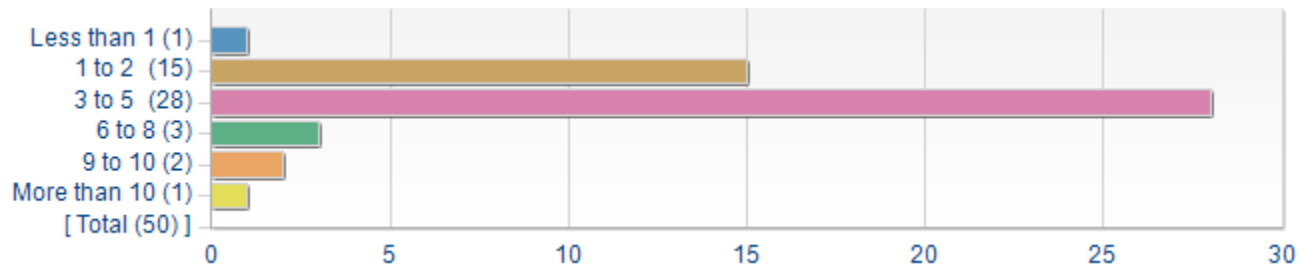
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



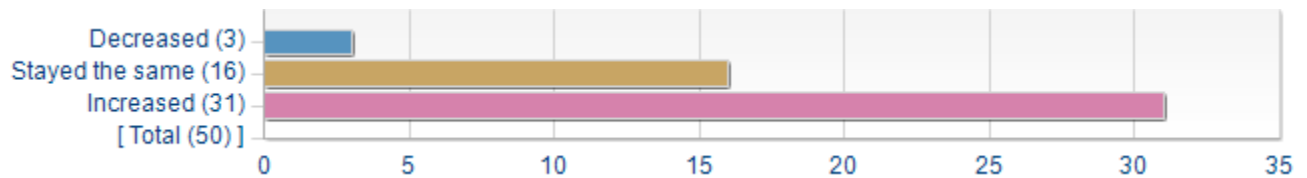
**Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was**



**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
I really appreciate how Bruce took the time to explain in details what the concepts define, what he's looking for in an exam, and interesting video clips that are relevant to the concepts. I also really appreciate how the recordings are available via his website.
His sense of humour, to relate to the young crowd. He is knowledgeable, personable, has the skill to invoke anger, thought, action. I like the MP3 player, and the power point notes. For me, having a hearing impairment, I would like to have the power point before class, and then I can use them, and add to them, without having to listen all the time to write notes, I can listen to hear and partake in the conversation.
Bruce is a great instructor! His passion for the material was really motivating as a student. I appreciated that he was attempting to go beyond "every student as a number" and showed that if you cared about how you were doing in the course, then he cared too.
Very knowledgeable on subject and showed passion for it. Offered new ways to think about things - very engaging. keeps everyone engaged!!
Ravelli made significant effort to make concepts interesting and relatable.
Bruce is a really terrific teacher. He is always prepared, brings humour to his lectures, and makes sure we are well prepared for any assignments or upcoming midterms. I would highly recommend his 100b and 100a courses to any student.
Super cool guy. Very friendly and you can tell he loves his job by the way he cokes prepared and excited for the class
Incredibly useful that he records all of his classes. Always open to helping students outside of class and will answer any questions inside of class. Takes students opinions into consideration. Very good at teaching each component of the course with a passion.
Bruce creates a very engaging learning experience where it is easy to get excited about what you a learning. His personal stories and vivid examples made understanding the material even easier.
You can tell Bruce is very interested in not only the course material, but teaching. Bruce is super engaged in his students and takes interest in trying to get to know us even though he has large classes. Bruce was always very easy to listen to, always respectful, and wanted to know the opinions of his class. I loved this class and I really wish he taught high level courses.
Effective lectures
Bruce is amazing at using his own personal experiences and things that students can relate to in order to better our understanding of the concepts in the course.
He was very enthusiastic about the subject. He made the class enjoyable and worth coming. He provided every possible resource to help us achieve excellence.
I like his stories :)
Very good at explaining concepts and being an engaging lecturer.
He comes to every class prepared with great stories and examples that help the students to grasp the concepts being taught.
He's an amazing prof, helped me to really grasp the course material
He was really interested in the material and did a great job of explaining the concepts in ways people Could understand.
Provided us with mp3 of the lecture and posted the notes to course spaces.
Engaging, obviously interested in the subject.
Very engaging, good stories to tell.
Bruce is a kind hearted man with very intriguing lectures. I enjoyed going to class and I always liked to hear his discussions.

he's really interested and a good proff
He was always prepared for his lectures
Bruce made the content of the course easily understood for first year students, and did a good job of teaching the course overall.
Very knowledgeable on the course subject matter and was a good speaker. Very clear and goes at a good pace.
Dr. Ravelli is an incredible teacher. I would often leave his class feeling completely mind blown; he has a very enticing style of teaching, which sparks passion for sociology in people who wouldn't have thought twice about certain things happening in our society. He comes prepared and motivated to every lecture, while always involving other students' opinions and never leaving them out.
-he was very knowledgeable on the topics that he had researched
He is a dynamic speaker who holds an audience well. He has great choice in TA's and did a good job setting up their role in the class. I wish that these Course Experience Surveys could have a segment to rate Tutorial Leaders as well.
He had really good lectures and was always prepared.
Great story-teller. Commands attention in a good way. He owns the room and is an excellent describer of concepts.
The use of real life example and humour.
His passion for the subject
We was very engaging and instigated conversation within the class, encouraging the students to really think about the topics as we went.
Good teaching and testing style
extremely charismatic and interesting material
Always a great prof, clearly loves his job and is good at it which makes lectures easy to attend. The BEST at replying to emails!
respect to students
I love how Bruce tells stories and encourages class discussions
His enthusiasm for the topics, and his ability to incorporate his own life experiences into the course material really made a difference.
Probably the best prof I have ever had. Goes above and beyond to help students understand the material. Describes everything in detail, uses real life scenarios and spends time on each topic. Used videos, stories, etc that were very useful.
Bruce is an educated, unbiased, amazing lecturer. He was always available to ask questions or talk to and I felt like he has a great way of teaching this material beyond just a classroom influence.
He had excellent examples that made the concepts easy to understand and relate to real life situation.

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

Comment
Do not have any.
I think that the midterms could have been a mixed style of questioning knowledge. I think that when I have to convince the TA, Edward that what I wrote for an answer is most definitely whatever the term was I was discussing, gave me insight that with both Bruce and Edward, the answers were slightly biased in their favour, or how they though it should be answered, yet it is opinionated. (I hope this is clear. )
I think there were some instances in which Bruce could have done a better job at distancing his own opinion from situations. Sociology IS an inherently fairly subjective field of study, but it's important to view concepts and ideas that may not necessarily apply to one's own methodology.
Additionally, there was a video during the semester (Defending Our Lives) that should have had a trigger warning ahead of time for victims of abuse. I acknowledge that Bruce does not want students to excuse themselves from this material just because it is "uncomfortable" for them to watch, but for people who have already lived through abusive relationships, they KNOW the discomfort and should not be forced to REVIEW something that they understand better than many others.

I honestly believe this is an awesome course, no needed additions.

N/A

There's nothing much to say, keep up the good work!

I believe the learning opportunities are adequate and simply coming to class makes it very easy to succeed

You do you, don't let the class tell u how to teach as you are so good at it

The only thing I feel could help is better preparation for the exams and to know exactly what they are looking for in terms of grading.

N/A

If he posted the slides before class so we can focus on writing down what he says rather than what the slide show says.

Telling personal stories and having open discussions during class about the topic we are learning about.

n/a

Maybe he could've been more approachable. Quite intimidating

Providing examples of the tutorial assignments would've really helped

Teach from more than one area (perhaps more than just Marxist).

N/A

explanation of mid terms questions in class could help

Method of instruction not very academic; I don't appreciate having to explain concepts to "an 8 year old"

RESPECT TRIGGER WARNINGS.

Give more exact examples of what we would need to know for exam regurgitation.

It would have been helpful if Dr. Ravelli would mark at least one assignment in the course, especially because the grading style is very tough. That being said, I understand Bruce has huge class sizes, making it quite hard to do so.

- when asking for student opinions, don't respond with a negative comment
- do not just teach the things he researched, there are also other aspects about sociology
- when talking about religion, do not discriminate against people in that certain religion he is teaching (there were many false statements that I personally felt discriminated against from)
- be more open to new ideas

I disliked the way the education and religion units were handled. I felt as if they were very biased and narrow-minded. I understand that Bruce's way of teaching is by teaching HIS sociology; however, I feel that it would be more effective to not do exactly what the education system has always done (according to Bruce's education unit) and let us think for ourselves instead of being forced to memorize and regurgitate Bruce's ideas.

It might be helpful if we went over the topics more than once in class before the midterms, just instead of only reviewing the material in tutorial.

Less Peer-Scholar.

He presented his concepts very effectively, but also with a notable bias, especially in the religion portion. I was aware of my friend's frustration with the way in which her beliefs were being portrayed.

no suggestions

Definitely choose better TA's or evaluate them better before choosing. Make them attend classes as mine (Dustin) hadn't have even watched one of the videos that we were suppose to discuss for our midterm. It's really disappointing to go from having an a+ TA like Edwin to someone who doesn't even know the course who has to mark my assignments and midterms.

Peerscholar is not useful.

N/A

As Bruce knows, the PeerScholar portion of the course was less than ideal.

He could have taken my concerns about the course lacking Indigenous materials in a better way. He did not want to take any initiative on the matter, which was very surprising to me seeing as it is he who is the professor. Instead, he asked me, the student to provide him with source materials for the class to use. This situation is honestly very backwards, it should be the other way around, where the professor seizes on the students concerns and take the liberty to implement more time onto this subject. If Bruce Ravelli would have done something like this, then I would have



learned much more effectively and positively.

I think he is great and is doing everything to the best of his ability.

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

Comment
<p>This course has a very heavy workload; has a heavier workload than third year courses.                      The expectations and the gradings are clear but is very overwhelming to overcome for a first year course.                      I believe it might be more helpful if the exams had a different format such as, 2 short answers and an essay question.</p>
<p>I believe that there has to be structure to the courses, but I also believe that such a topic like sociology should have room for discussion/debate. Especially for a first year sociology class, there should be room to hear the students speculations, beliefs, ideas of what sociology is, and again throughout the class semester. Personal experiences, and life is what sociology is. All in all, I think that Bruce inspires thought, and some really interesting facts, and power point presentations. I think that it is good to pick controversial videos for sociological topics.</p>
<p>Didn't really enjoy the peer scholar experience. I think having peers heading work, although great in theory, became rather problematic.</p>
<p>Peer Scholar review - I do not like the idea that most of students are likely first year students, and are marking work which has the consequence of affecting your grade. Comments of some peers indicated the lack of a sophisticated understanding of material (reflected in critique comments). It is frustrating to see some peers putting little work into assignment and feedback when others (through their comments and feedback narratives) have demonstrated more effort. This tool has the potential to be great value, although I feel it should be reserved for students with senior course or graduate level understanding of the material.</p> <p>Tutorials: I would prefer if material discussed mirrored the course closer, I found the topics selected by TA were very self-serving and centred around the TA himself and his personal condition, rather than diverse and serving growth. I found it extremely disrespectful to have to be subjected to swearing at every tutorial from the TA - including words like F**k. This was culturally insensitive as well, especially with large amount of international students. It was not academic - it was spectacle and an abuse of power. Is there not a code of conduct that employees are expected to adhere to? Is there not a standards committee that spot checks TA tutorials to ensure quality control? I had no course of action(asking to be moved to a different tutorial would self identify me and that is not something I should have to deal with) but to endure his rhetoric and the abuse of position for the sake of my grade. I have tried to state this in a respectful manner, as is asked for in this survey feedback, even though I was not dealt with in a respectful manner by UVIC (by extension) through having to endure this TA.</p>
<p>Again, no feedback. Really great.</p>
<p>Tutorials more effective. Mine was kind of a waste of time besides the exam review sessions</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>Regulating the grading of the Peer Scholar, and possibly making it more of a discussion</p>
<p>10/10 instructor</p>
<p>Practice questions In order to prepare for the exams.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>Love it</p>
<p>Not as many assignments and PeerScholar.</p>
<p>If there is a suggestion, i cant think of it</p>
<p>No PeerScholar</p>
<p>Just examples of assignments. Overall the course is really good</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>Love this course</p>
<p>Although there is an outline of the tutorial assignment, I was still left confused as how to write one. Went to get help but didn't get the help I was looking for. However, I highly enjoyed peer scholar.</p>
<p>peer scholar seems iffy still</p>
<p>Change the format of midterms, It's hard to write two well structured essays in 50 minutes.</p>
<p>This course is overall good.</p>

Nah, it's good.

Only suggestion listed above.

-make the content more recent (instead of teaching about his research from 20 years ago, there are relevant topics that are happening this year)

It can only be improved through a change in Bruce's structure of the course. Three separate classes did not need to be filled with a story of his thesis paper on churches and his ideas from it in order to teach us some abstract and roundabout way of understanding structure in buildings.

Course is excellent, work is reasonable. Loved this course and 100A was great too!

The religion portion was hardly comprehensive. I find the concept of religion really interesting to study, but the focus remained solely on one specific kind of one religion (christianity) for the entirety of the unit and was very critical and less so analytical.

Just improving the instructions for peer scholar

no suggestions

Obviously peer scholar is new so that can always be improved. I recommend weighing out the students grade with either one of your own or a TA's because a lot of students, I found, would mark my assignment completely different than the rest of the marks which ultimately brought my overall score down. Many students cant think like a teacher when it comes to grading something and instead they just give either bias marks or interpret what an 8 means compared to a 5.

less homework

Lower the grading expectations a little

i did not like peer scholar because having my grade being in the hands of others who are not experts in the field I believe is unfair

I think that there was some discrepancy between TAs, which was quite disappointing.

Didn't enjoy tutorial assignments.

My TA was very unclear for the first half of the terms and he demonstrated inconsistency in his expectations. He also was very ill prepared for our tutorials (once a week) and we did not have a tutorial explaining the first assignment, worth 10%, at all. He was able to answer my questions over email or in his office hours but I felt I really had to ask a lot of questions to grasp what he wanted. He stated that only 3 people got above 80% in either or his two tutorials while Bruce stated in the lecture that 5-6 people got 100% in the class.... this leads me to believe that those individuals are likely not from either of his tutorials. I feel this is an example of the inconsistency across marking, there shouldnt be 5-6 100% in one tutorial (most likely) while another's class average was in the low 60s. This doesn't make sense and I felt like my mark could have been higher with a different tutorial leader who could have explained his expectations more clearly.

This course was a disappointment. I came to UVic because I thought there would be more content within this department of sociology, that would incorporate Indigenous perspectives and examine the many effects that colonization has had upon Canada. These concepts amount to some of the most relevant and systemic sociological issues embedded within this country, so I really do not understand why it is not more talked about or integrated throughout the course. It is not accurate or moral for UVic to tout itself a progressive on Indigenous rights and education if there is still silence about these matters in the classrooms. Especially in a class on sociology. It needs to be an ongoing conversation that is led by the instructor. There was very little talk on these subjects, if at all. The only real times it was talked about was when I brought it up. It is not right for the student to have the onus of responsibility to bring about these concepts in a class such as this. That job is for the professor, and right now that job is failing. I respect Bruce Ravelli as a scholar, however this is an area where he strongly needs to put more attention and talk about with his students.

As an indigenous student I found this to be totally unacceptable.

It's good the way it is