



**UVic CES Instructor Report 201601 - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO  
SOCI:INSTUTNS+SCL CHNG - SOCI 100B - A01 (CRN 22841)**

**UVic Course Experience Survey - Spring 2016**

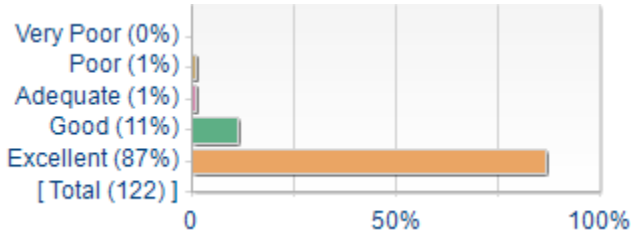
Project Audience 230  
Responses Received 122  
Response Ratio 53%

**Creation Date** Sat, Apr 30, 2016



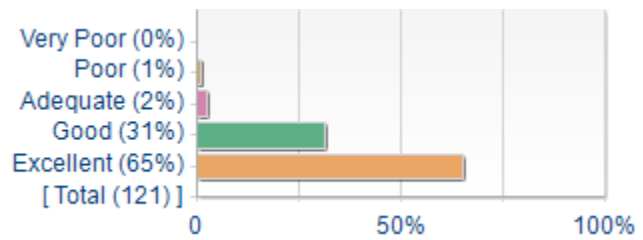
## I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



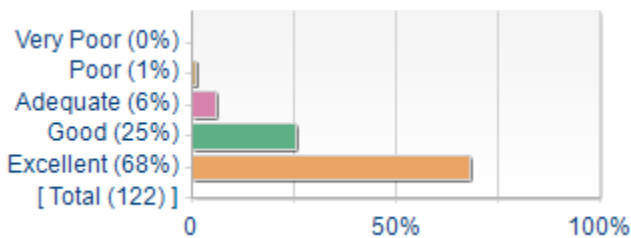
Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.84
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.45

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



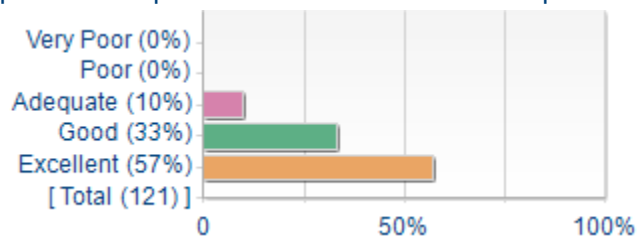
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.61
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.58

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



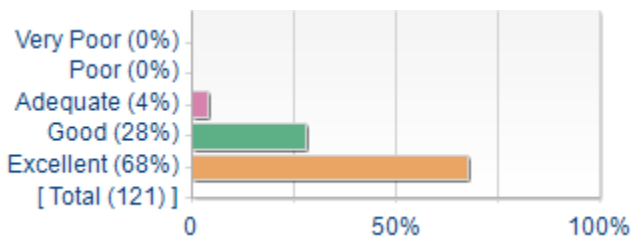
Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.61
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.64

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



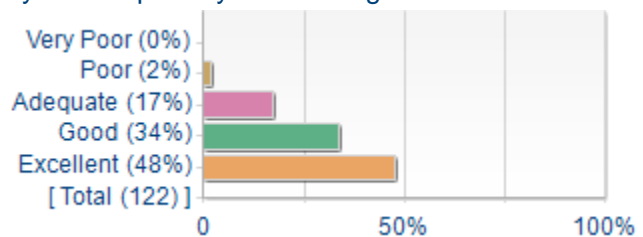
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.47
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.67

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.64
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.56

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

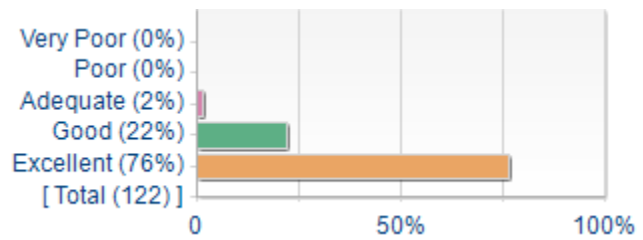
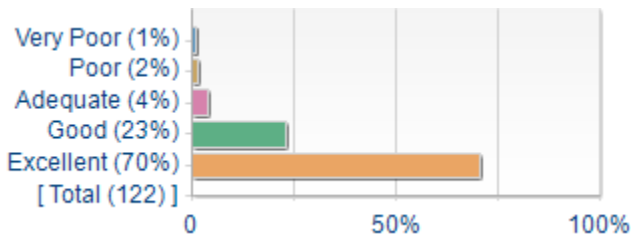


Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.27
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.80

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas

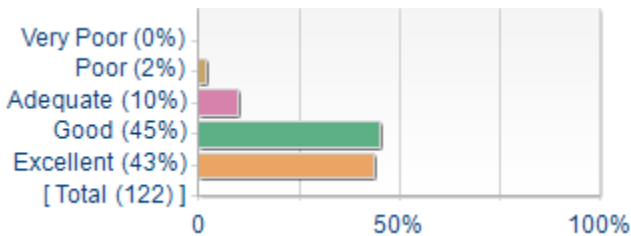


Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.61
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.72

Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.47

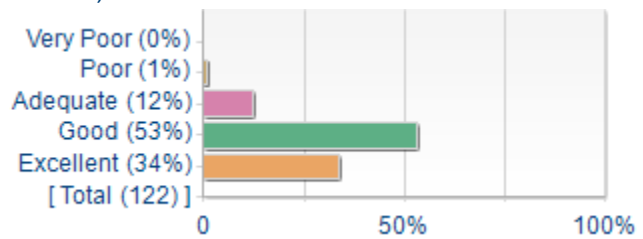
## II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



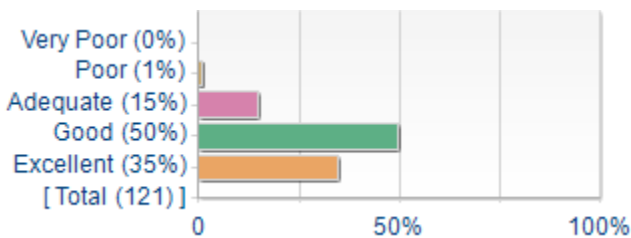
Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.30
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.71

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



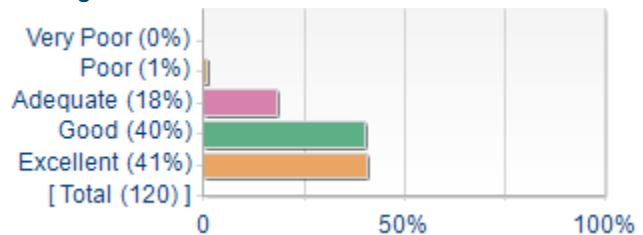
Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.20
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.68

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



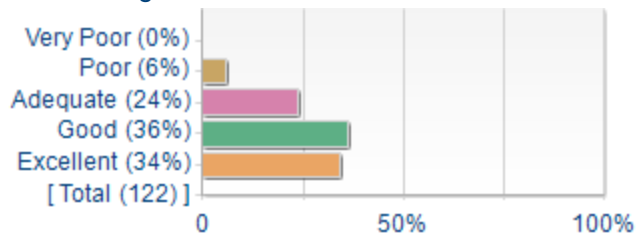
Statistics	Value
Response Count	121
Mean	4.18
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.71

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



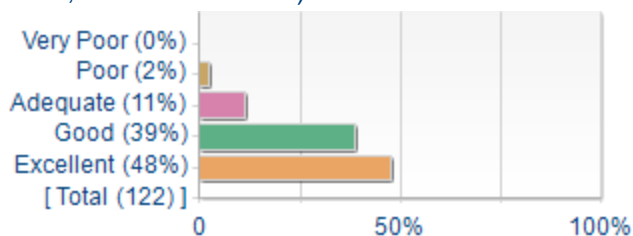
Statistics	Value
Response Count	120
Mean	4.21
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.77

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



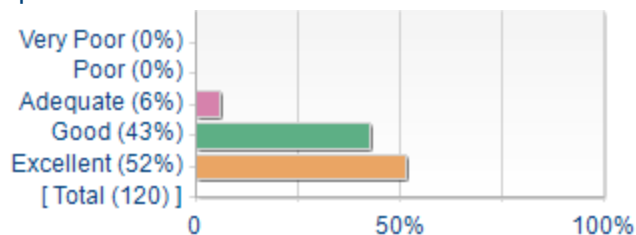
Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	3.99
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.90

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	122
Mean	4.31
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.77

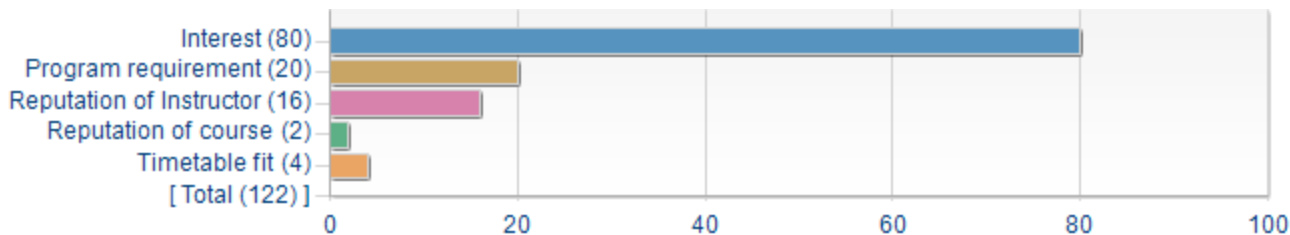
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



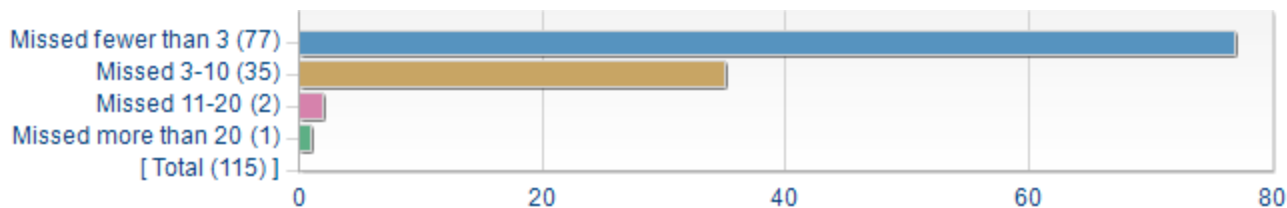
Statistics	Value
Response Count	120
Mean	4.46
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.61

### III Statements About The Students:

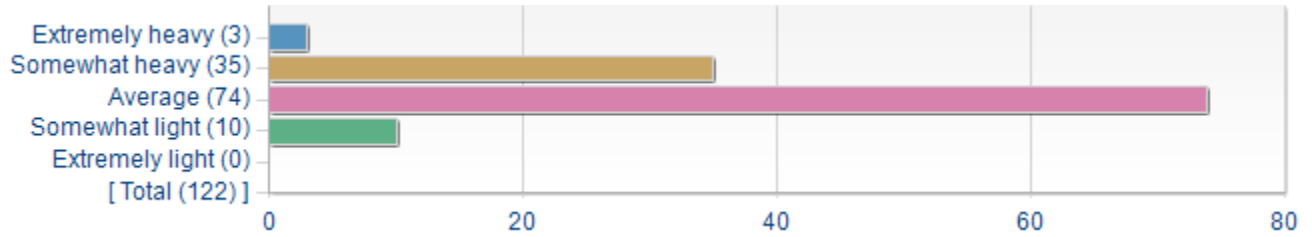
My primary reason for taking the course.



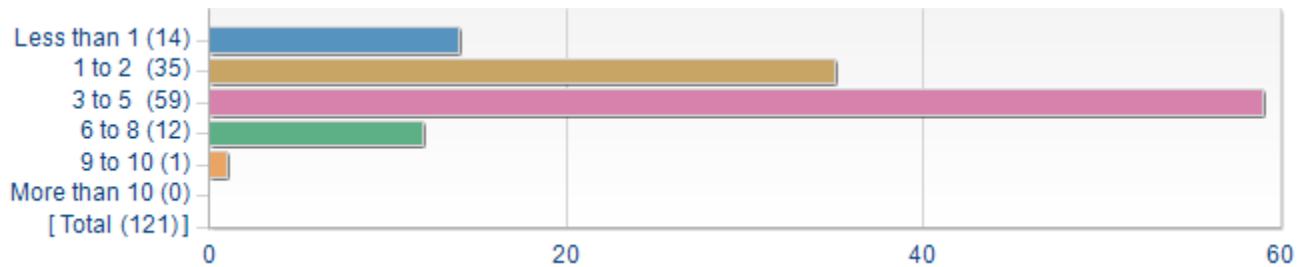
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



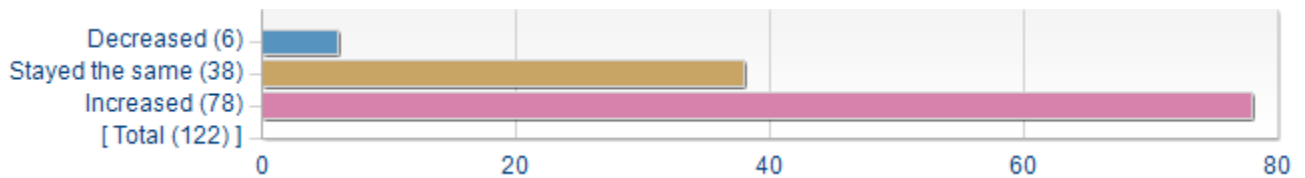
**Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was**



**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
Bruce was engaging and knew the material well which made it easy to follow along in class.
Bruce showed such passion for sociology that it motivated me to learn it as well. He also made himself very available for questions during office hours, and is overall a great prof. His lectures are always interesting and he finds humorous ways to explain what could otherwise be kind of boring ideas.
Was very interesting to listen to, explained concepts extremely well and made class very interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed every lecture and looked forward to class each day
Very engaging with the class
He is extremely charismatic and can keep the attention of the class very well
his lectures are incredible. Makes everything way easier and it is easy to stay engaged in the material
Engaging lecturers the mp3 being providing is very helpful.
Very clear and engaging lecturer, mp3s are helpful for referral when preparing for exams and in case a class was missed.
Bruce was always engaging and made learning the content very enjoyable. I always looked forward to attending Sociology.
I enjoyed the story telling
Really keeps your attention by giving relative examples and personal stories.
A great speaker. Made the class very interesting.
Bruce is a very engaging, supportive, respectful, and intelligent instructor.
Very good prof who is interesting and effective at explaining the concepts!
engaging lecture delivery
Bruce is a very nice person. The mp3's online were very helpful. Also, the stories that Bruce told were very helpful for understanding the course material.
Very enthusiastic professor, and he knew his material very well
knowledge on subject. great teacher, really engaged. loves the topic and makes his students love the topics.
He creates a very open learning environment and people feel comfortable asking questions and addressing him in lecture.
in order to do the essay exam i could really deep understanding of this course material.
Bruce was a great prof who simplified complex theories making them easy to understand.
Great Lectures
In depth personal examples to support lecture content and concepts
Interested lectures, assignments all had clear purpose and fair expectations.
Amazing lecturer, very articulate and inspiring. Always made a point of showing his passion behind certain concepts or theorists. Wonderful notes and made every effort to ensure student success. Very good at making first years engage with otherwise dry material, brings personal and in depth perspective.
He was incredibly knowledgable about the course content, and always showed great enthusiasm presenting it to the class. Professor Ravelli was personable, charismatic, and was very eager to listen to what his students had to say. He often stays behind after class to answer any questions, and makes himself very available to students during his office hours. Bruce encouraged discussions in the lecture room, even amongst the hundreds of students; this allowed everyone to be engaged in the material and topics.
Extremely knowledgeable and always open to answering questions, able to teach the course with an unbiased point of view while still teaching us the difference between what is morally right and morally wrong. Never a boring lecture, I look

forward every day to coming to class.

His lectures were interesting.

Very kind, knows what he's talking about and provides great real life examples to further help solidify classroom concepts

Bruce is hands down one of the best teachers I've ever had the pleasure of listening to!  
So engaging and smart and funny. Very clear about expectations.

Passion for the course, lots of knowledge and experience with content. Always made things interesting. I will never forget the cruise ship "getting ready" lecture. Bruce you're awesome

Really passionate about what he teaches, makes sure everyone is interested and understands. Excellent prof.

- Really engaging and well thought-out lectures
- Explained everything well and answered all questions

Very engaging lectures and very clear instructions for the assignment/exams.

I love him. So passionate about what he teaches about.

All of his personal stories really helped me connect to the material and want to come to class

Passion for the topics

i really enjoyed the lectures and the course

His enthusiasm for the subject and his clear instructions made the class interesting to learn and thoroughly enjoyable.

Personal examples and stories he used really helped

In depth understanding of concepts

He allowed all students to succeed in their own way if they did not feel that they could perform well in an exam setting; let them present their own assignment/grading scheme.

Good story teller

he's engaging, inspiring and conducts the lecture at a good, methodical pace

Knew the topics extremely well.

He is very enthusiastic every class which is intriguing to listen to.

He makes the topics interesting. The instructions for the tutorial assignments made way more sense this semester than last semester's.

Passion and efficient use of this.

Bruce is a charismatic prof who does a good job in providing an engaging lecture through teaching and story telling. Having the MP3's posted along with the notes is helpful.

- Has great knowledge about sociology and the social world.

- engaging
- prepared for class
- made lecture exciting and interesting to come to

Extremely prepared and talented lecturer

He told good personal stories that helped understand the material.

Bruce explained concepts with great depth and fitting personal examples.

Bruce's lectures are phenomenal and are very engaging. This helps students understand and appreciate the course material.

He was very passionate about what he taught, as well as being able to clearly explain the subject at hand

He put things into context in various ways in lecture

He is an excellent, engaging speaker

Most passionate teacher I've had so far, made my first year of sociology very interesting

Very engaged, open minded, passionate about the course.

too many prof's story, sometime, just make me hard to prepare the exam.

Very enthusiastic in lectures and made it easy to listen and stay focused

He was very enthusiastic in teaching the material

His passion for intro sociology made going to lectures much more interesting and engaging.

Passion and interest in the material. Good ways in lecture to get the students attention.

Bruce was a very good lecturer and kept the class engaged very well. He always answered everyone's questions to the best of his ability and was helpful. The fact that he posted all his lectures and slides online was very nice!

- clear speaker
- lectured on meaningful content
- engaging

Used different examples and stories to help explain concepts

Great speaker, always available for help, very personable/approachable. Best professor in my first year

Enthusiasm and knowledge of the material

Personal stories were helpful!

Bruce's passion for sociology comes out in every lecture, and it really helps me get motivated to engage in class and with the content.

Very knowledgeable and excitement brought to class

Story time with Bruce is a hoot! Love the class, love that all the students are engaged

Bruce is a very engaging teacher, he always seems passionate about the content he's teaching, he includes personal life stories and examples that keeps the class engaged and interested, he adds humor to the course to keep it interesting, he is always open to questions and facilitates discussions in class and is respectful of all students questions and answers

Bruce expresses his passion through his ability, not only teach but to also create sociological applications to our lives.

Very charismatic speaker--passionate about sociology. Easy to listen to.

Great lecturer and helpful in his office hours.

Good grasp of material  
Interesting life examples

Captivating  
Knowledgeable  
Entertaining  
Understanding

He's a wild lecturer, just gets the class on the edge of their seat. Sometimes I'd attend two lectures in one day just to soak in the info again without taking any notes. Engaging, experienced, and knowledgeable sociological dude.

In topics that he said he wasn't super familiar with, such as the terms used in gender, Bruce did a good job explaining them the best he could with his understanding. Stories told resonate with students and allow increased understanding.

He was very understanding and helpful with his responses to our questions. He always made sure to check in with us regarding all assignments.

Always prepared, very engaging classes and enthusiastic.

Funny guy

He made lectures interesting and engaging throughout the whole semester by making them less formal and a little more fun

speaks well to crowd...engaging

He is good at engaging students and making all of the material interesting. He always answered everyone's questions about the course.

Bruce showed an interest in this topic and helped me want to learn the topic of this course, also supplying recordings and lecture notes were helpful.

- extremely engaging and positive when teaching material to the students
- deeply invested in material being taught

Bruce was very positive and really engaged the class in the material.

Incredibly engaging and knowledgeable

He was really good at making us understand content!

Tutorial session is very helpful so I hope he will keep it to future session.



I took 100A & 100B, and I really like his classes. What he teach me change how I see the world.

He was very interesting and always came prepared and had good stories. You could go to class after 3 hours of sleep and still be interested and not get bored.

Very involved in his lectures

knew all the course material in detail

The instructor is very relatable and makes the material fun. He always found ways to keep me engaged in lecture.

Very passionate and intriguing professor.

Very clear on what he wants on assignments/exams - also is clear in lectures

Recording lectures, giving good useful examples relevant to our lives

Very clear instructions and obvious passion for sociology

Passion

Very passionate instructor. The lectures were interesting and humorous, and Bruce did a great job answering questions and including the class in discussion. Overall I loved this class.

Relating senerio towards the material that I could comprehend.

He's great at his job. He makes the content relatable to students' own lives. He knows the content really well and makes the class interesting.

Enthusiasm

extremely engaging and relates to students really well, passion for the subject and teaching is really clear and creates a really good learning environment even though its a huge lecture hall.

Bruce was always well-prepared for each class, and he was able to give informative and interesting lectures using his highly organized PowerPoint slides. He also invited some guests over for several lectures and I found their talks to be useful and interesting as well and helped me learn more about the class materials.

Amazing lecturer. Interesting topics.

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

Comment
N/A.
more time spent covering material before midterms, i was really stressed out before midterm two because of the religion section. Also more time spent covering concepts which are also in the textbook, i struggled to find some of the info on families.
Not applicable
Made the tutorial assignments more clear. I found the guidelines from the September-December 2015 semester a lot easier to understand.
none
n/a
I thought the questions weren't as relevant to what we were taught. A lot of time that was spent in class talking about material was interesting but then the exam questions seemed out of place.
more review classes, and not teach exam material last minute
Watch more videos on what we learn .
I think he is doing really well. I do not have any suggestions, really.
been more willing to offer suggestions/guidance in office hours
I do not believe that I have any. I thought he was fantastic.
Bruce sometimes, when he tells stories, doesn't speak loud enough. So for me, I would appreciate it if he could raise his voice for the people who sit near the middle and back.
i want him focus on more thing which related exam.

I honestly think Bruce did awesome 10/10 no joke.

I wish there was less pressure on the exams

Posting slides before lectures/before topics are complete in case students miss a class in the middle of a topic so they don't get lost

Keep doing what you're doing.

Unfortunately most of the class work is based on papers, which he has very little time to review and comment on. It is mostly the TA's who do all the marking, and it is difficult to gauge how to write to fulfill THEIR standards, when all we've learned in class is what Bruce is looking for. Certain TA's mark more harshly than others, and it is hard to improve on work when there are so few comments on the assignments/essays. The midterm exams also feel quite rushed (students are required to write two essay questions in under 50 minutes).

Teach the material before the midterm prep during the tutorials.

I found of the lecture notes irrelevant but wasn't a big problem, just chose not to write everything down

Less reliance on having 100A knowledge

Some of the assignment material was hard to follow and unclear. The exams were also challenging to know what you were looking for.

None!

More exam question examples of what he wants to see with answers

I think at times a microphone would have been helpful. It was sometimes hard to hear him over the chattering of the class.

He needs to be more open to change

I have no criticism .

Simplify exam questions.

I do not know.

By tutoring me 1 on 1, the guy is gold.

Needs to re structure his course content in order to cover relevant material BEFORE the tutorial preparation sessions. This feedback has been given to Bruce and he offered no solution, but refused to change anything.

-Give a better outline of how to get an A on the mid-terms and final exams

Been more prepared and engaged on indigenous content.

Perhaps even more real life examples and less slides, more in-class discussions as everyone seems to be engaged.

I would prefer having participation assignments that guide understanding rather than having the bulk of my marks from exams and long essay assignments. I think the exams are weighted pretty heavily and the assignments are quite long for a 100 level course.

N/a

I was very happy with the course.

N?A

give us more definition

Nothing

More office hours, as in on a different days. Was okay though because you could meet with other TAs and they were useful for answering questions.

Be a bit more specific about what is expected on the midterms.

I felt as though lots of time was spent on some content where other content was covered in one lecture, even though there was questions for both on the exam.

He seems a little stuck in his routine sometimes

Giving more information about how to go over and beyond the text for getting an a in the course

A lecture devoted to the assignments would have been helpful earlier on in the term

N/a

For the people who do worst than average or are new to the class in exams I think there should be offered one specific

tutorial or even half of good study techniques for the exams

Possibly going over the tutorial assignments a little more in class, I attended the class where he did go over it but even after completing the assignment in 100A I was still slightly confused through the entire thing

I understand this is a big class but we need more individualized learning in the course to challenge the sociological imagination.

Very clear and consistent learning tools. MP3s online help so much with exam prep.

Could have spent more time outlining tutorial assignment in class. Go over what content analysis is and expectations.

I feel like he know's what he's doing.

There were some instances where Bruce used language that countered some of the other things he discussed. For example, we discussed gender as performative and a spectrum and challenged gender roles, although in the section on religion, he explained the clothing that women, men, and children wore to church as very gendered (dresses and heels vs. suits and collars). Some things like this that should be recognized as counteracting what he taught. Generally thorough in demonstrating and living out the themes, however.

Tutorial assignments suck. #bringbackpeerschollar

content analysis description before its due

Sometimes I was unclear on what I did wrong or how to improve for next time.

-more time for exams

Bruce could have given more clear examples about the tutorial assignment.

No complaints

His class was too quickly so I could not take note. Also, I think the note which he post is sometimes different from what he post in the class because I think he remove notes which are not important. Therefore, if he could post note before the each class could be helpful for future students.

Also, 2nd exam, we need to prepare question which he haven't or hadn't cover in the class. I think he should not have done it because I think a lot of students include me were so stressful about it. Thus, he shouldn't do for future classes.

Also, I took 100A last session, I had exam on Friday so I had two weeks to prepare the exams. However, for this session, I had exams on Wednesday. I hope he could have them on Friday, that's going to be good.

I don't like the video which leads to gender and sexuality because it was so painful to see the video especially I am female. Also, the video was related to one exam question so we need to watch it.

Maybe better instructions on the tutorial assignments?

more review classes

No suggestions for the instructor.

Take comments more productively, versus replying judgementally to comments Bruce disagrees with.

I'm sure you've heard this before, but it would have been nice to have all the content covered when you hand out exam questions. This was only relevant for midterm 2, where, if I recall correctly, we covered some of the material the same week as the exam.

I don't have any.

N/a

it is an intro course but I feel some topics could be looked at more in-depth

I think one way he could have helped me learn more effectively was to let us have more group discussions in class

More stories!

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

### Comment

N/A.

I would've loved more TA times, just because I found them really helpful.

Not applicable

have Bruce and TA's be more equal and similar with marking of exams and what to expect.

The exam questions, when compared to last semester, were a lot worse. They were often worded in way that made it very difficult to understand what was being asked. Some one of them were also very hard to even think of a whole page of stuff to write about.

An excellent course.

I was in 100A and my only suggestion was to improve tutorial discussions and assignment clarity and there was a huge improvement in 100B so i think the class is awesome as is!

n/a

overall the course is very good with giving instructions but more in class guidance would be helpful.

More class discussions and stories.

Soci 100a is not a requirement for this course, however Bruce makes reference to material in that course pretty often. Please seriously consider making soci 100a a requirement to 100b.

Please change the structure of the tests. Also, tutorials were pointless, and change the tutorial assignments. With that being said I have found a passion for sociology and this is now my major.

Very hard marking and the TA's did not have enough office hours near finals time.  
No comments on the midterms or assignments which made it hard to improve

They could bring back peer scholar because it was a great tool for extra marks and reviewing other peers' work.

this course is great

in no way could this course be better

Could be a bit clearer on exactly what is wanted on the exams and assignments

Make tutorials a bit longer

There could be other ways to generate marks, such as surveys or quizzes, instead of only relying on writing. There could also be short answer questions on the midterm exams, instead of two long questions that are worth much more in grades.

I absolutely detest the exams. Though I did very well in the tutorial assignments, I did very poorly on the exams and thought them to be too demanding.

Tutorial assignments are too much for first year and exams are marked VERY hard. I feel like my work is often marked with a bias if I don't have the same point of view as my ta/instructor.

I think using course spaces would be more effective and easier to navigate than the ravelli.ca site

Make sure students learn course material before exam prep  
(there were two or three classes between the exam prep in my tutorial and the exam itself, which I found to be a disadvantage as other sections on different days had come into their prep having learned more course material.)

The exams in this course require an extreme amount of preparation that is a lot for a first year course. These exams, I feel, are then marked quite harshly even though they are so difficult

improve the instructions for assignments and exams. Maybe including a more accurate grading rubric would help?

None!

:)

Different midterm style

I couldn't have been happier with the course.

By not being sociology.

I understand why the students cannot send emails to their TAs right before the midterms, but maybe moving the cut off to the Saturday or Sunday before may be better.

More interactive tutorials, it is true I did not attend many but those I did I found I was spoken at rather than spoken with, this is not the TAs fault it has to do with the format taken.

More interactive homework would be nice, interesting assignments that make us go out and think about the world as opposed to hiding us behind our desks.

The content needs to be rearranged or tutorials should be extended. It's unfair to expect students to "figure out" how to get an A or go above and beyond - doing what is asked of you simply gets a B range grade...??? Tutorial assignments should be due on the same day, the fact that it's inconvenient for Bruce is not a legitimate reason to have them due over

a 5 day period. It's an unfair advantage, plain and simple. TA's do not speak highly of this professor which concerns me as they need to work together in order to give marks to students.

Midterm expectations were often specific or very certain types of answers were expected and this wasn't always clarified which made it hard to do well even if you were thoroughly prepared

Not much it was as good as I could imagine it being.

More time for midterms, less room for fluctuation in TA marking from tutorial to tutorial.

What I stated above.

N/a

N/A

Have the tutorial assignments on the same day

The rubric for assignments I found somewhat confusing. Maybe that was just me though.

Relevant material be covered before going over in tutorials.

I found that the instructions for my tutorial paper from Bruce did not always match my instructions from my TA

TA/professor communication

The assessment is strange in that it's a lot of work a couple of times and nothing the rest of the time

More feedback

I don't think the tutorial assignment should be worth as much as they are. In 100A when the course included peer scholar assignments I thought there was a better distribution of work to be graded on, although peer scholar didn't go over that well within the class I think there should be some other small assignment or assignments that could take some weight off of the tutorial assignments so that we have more content to be graded off of.

I wish the speakers' presentation was posted online :(

Different methods of assessment.

The only negative comment I have is regarding the TAs. I'm taking 100A and 100B simultaneously, and have noticed that the TAs really make all the difference. I know Bruce said to find one that suited your learning style at the beginning of the semester, but the difference I've had between my two TAs is huge. One is enthusiastic, engaging, and most importantly, clear in his expectations. The other is so disengaged, rude, and vague about what he's expecting for the exams. There was a significant difference in my grades for each course because of this even though I was studying the exact same way and putting in the same effort for both course. If I had just had the one poor TA, I don't think I would have taken another sociology course. It was really discouraging - especially for a first year course.

More smaller assignments (PeerScholar?)

It'd be cool for the tutorials to be more "free topic" exploration than just lecture review.

made me major in sociology :)

Maybe even more specific outlines on how to improve work in the course.

The assignments, both 1 and 2 I didn't find helpful or productive in relation to the course. Would have liked to have peer scholar back as it was a good tool to improve knowledge of concepts from lectures.

Try to give everyone the same amount of time to do the tutorial assignments.

Exam format maybe

N/a

Tutorial session is very helpful.

I think Bruce is really great instructor.

Not much

More instruction and examples of the tutorial assignments

Although I understand the difficulties in doing this, the variation in grading between TA's is extremely unfair. Also getting stuck with a Monday tutorial gives a disadvantage as handing in a paper on Monday versus Friday makes a huge difference.

The marking in this course is very unclear when it comes to an A grade. Requirements are clear but the only suggestions for an A are going "above and beyond" which is completely subjective to the TA and different peoples writing styles. In all my other classes there is a clear way to get an A, but this one. My TA agreed that they do not like grading the "above and beyond" category and told me they were not clear on it either.

Have TA's mark the same way. Took Sociology 100A last semester and worked the same amount and received a completely different mark than this semester with a different TA.

Better explanation of the tutorial assignments.

The structure of the church and "threshold" seemed kind of dumb. I don't mean to diminish your research but I think that this part of the course was pointless. At the very least I don't think it warranted 3 full lectures. Your story was entertaining, but we talked about it in my tutorial section and the majority of us (including the TA) thought that this concept was bad. We also felt the exam question regarding the threshold is silly. I don't feel that being graded on my ability to analyze the exam gymnasium or my ability to draw a 2 dimensional church is very representative of any sort of knowledge. Overall I think that threshold constitutes a much more psychological phenomenon, not sociological. I also believe that the design of one church cannot be representative of all of them (although I'm sure they're pretty similar).

This was the only part of the course I didn't like.

I don't have any. It was much better this semester without PeerScholar.

Less focus on personal religious experience

I think overall this course was very interesting and I really enjoyed taking it. One thing I would improve about this course is to let students have more in-class discussions. Interactive learning is a good idea and can often let students learn more effectively.

I think since the removal of the online component of this course, there is too much pressure for the tutorial assignments, because they are the only thing we are graded on. I personally think we should bring back peer scholar, or a similar method of getting more grades.

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

Options	Count	Percentage
Yes	106	90%
No	8	7%
Does not apply (online course, field course, etc.)	4	3%