

**UVic CES Instructor Report - Bruce Ravelli - INTRO SOCI:
CULTURE+SOCIALZTN - SOCI 100A - A01 (CRN 22727)**

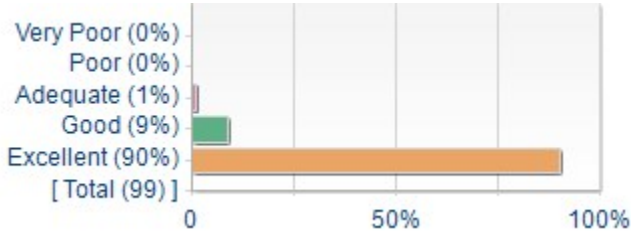
UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2014/Spring 2015

Project Audience 200
Responses Received 99
Response Ratio 50%

Creation Date Thu, Apr 23, 2015

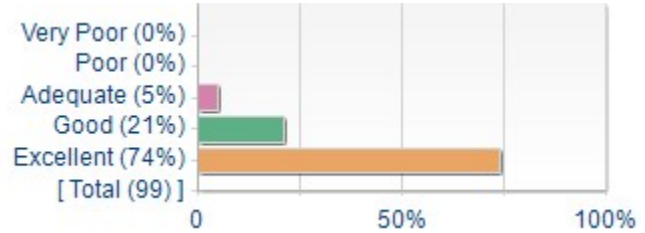
I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions



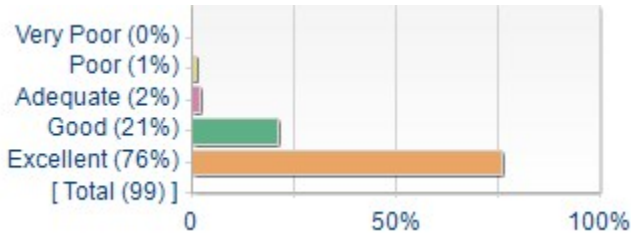
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.89
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.35

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear



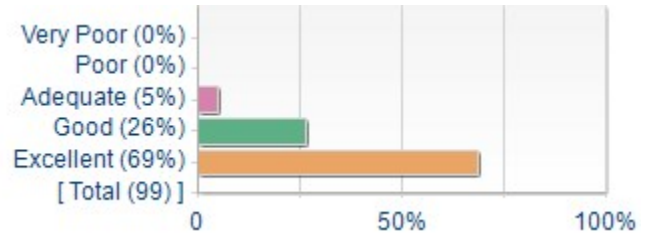
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.69
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.57

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course



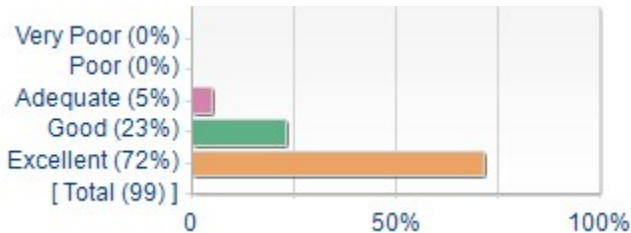
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.72
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.55

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



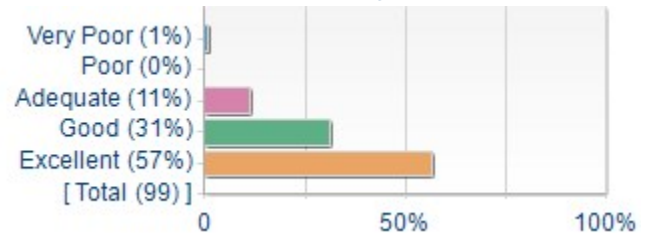
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.64
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.58

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.57

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

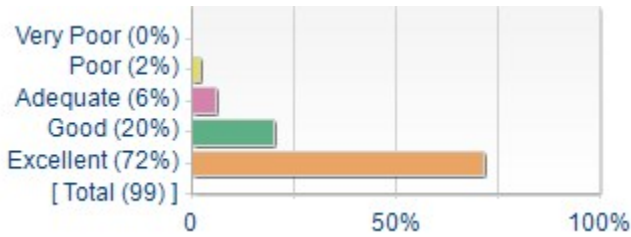


Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.42
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.77

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for

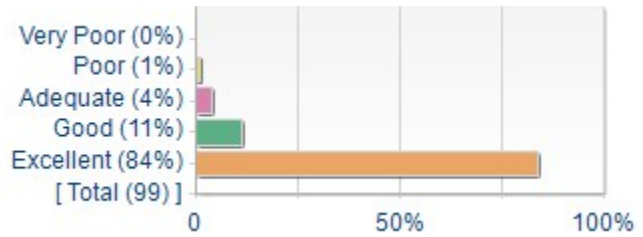
8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this

students and their ideas



Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.62
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.70

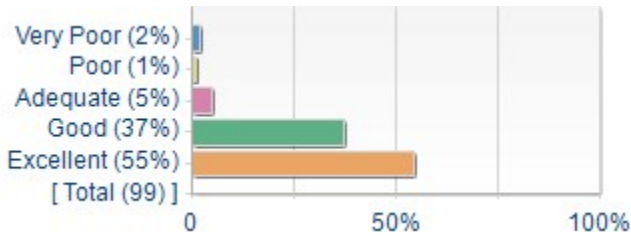
course



Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.78
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.56

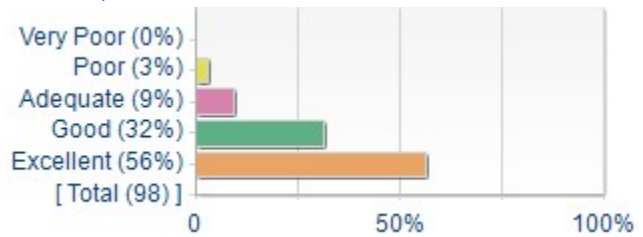
II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear



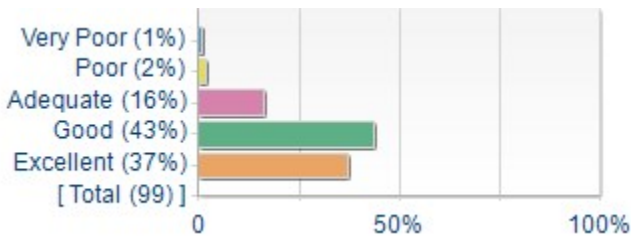
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.41
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

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



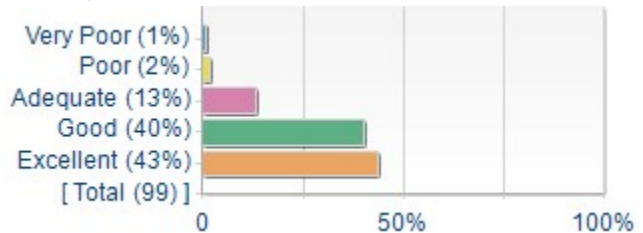
Statistics	Value
Response Count	98
Mean	4.41
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.78

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



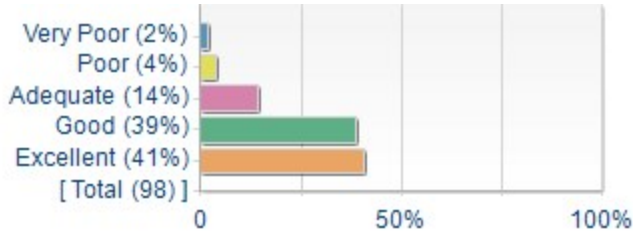
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.14
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.83

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



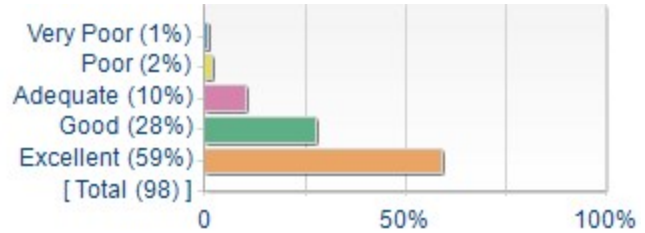
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.23
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.83

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



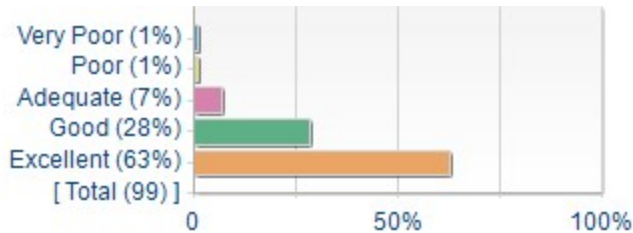
Statistics	Value
Response Count	98
Mean	4.12
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.94

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



Statistics	Value
Response Count	98
Mean	4.42
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.84

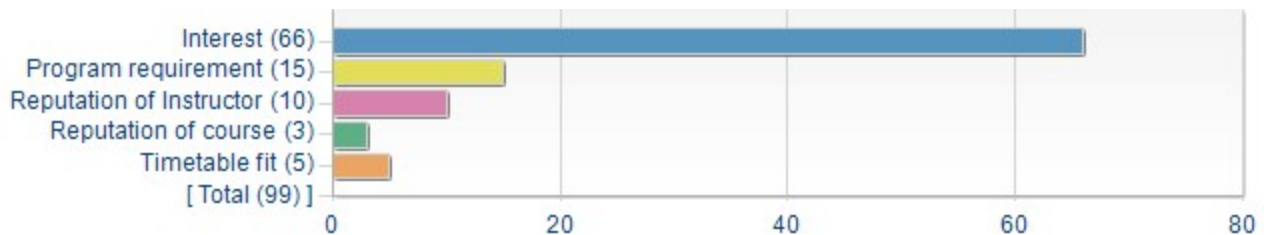
7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience



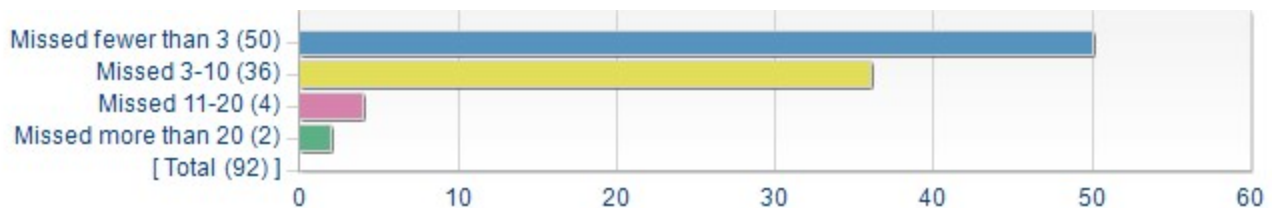
Statistics	Value
Response Count	99
Mean	4.51
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

III Statements About The Students:

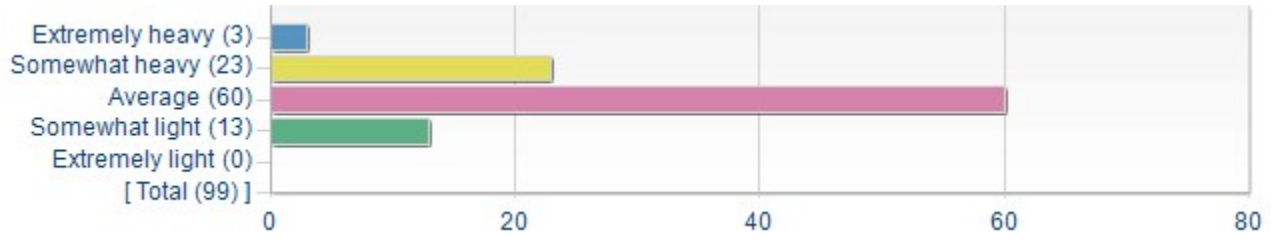
My primary reason for taking the course.



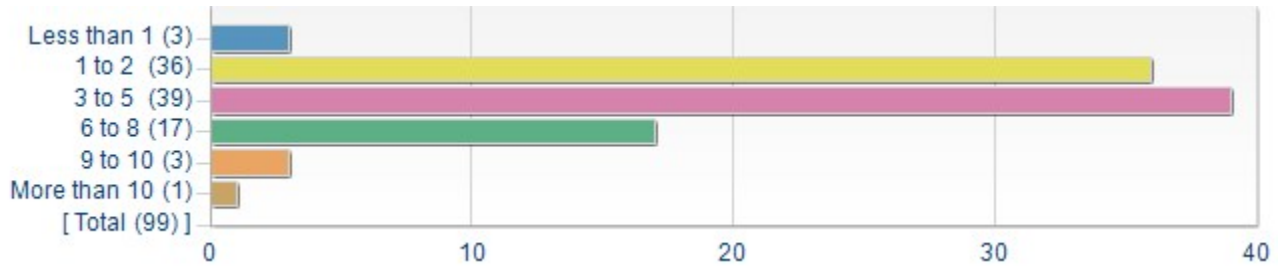
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



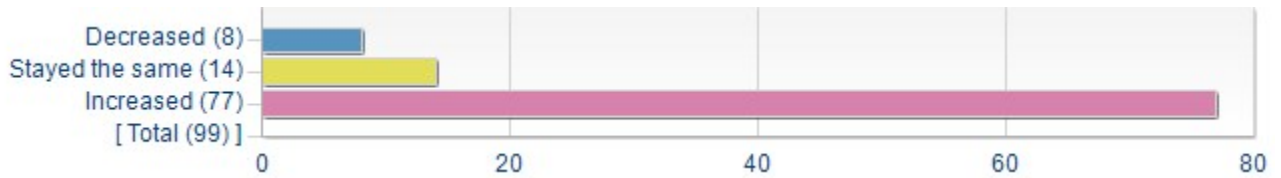
Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was



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
Engaging, passionate, well-informed, and honest
Very good at creating examples to explain sometimes abstract concepts
I think Bruce Ravelli was a helpful teacher and was very enthusiastic regarding the subject which brought interest upon the class.
Bruce Ravelli created an extremely engaging and intriguing lecture environment. I was never bored during his lectures. A majority of the material reviewed in lecture was extremely interesting, and time always seemed to move quickly during lecture.
An interest in more than just what he was teaching but also what we wanted to learn
Extremely passionate of the field. Very well organized. Very open to ideas and interpretations. Bruce made the course extremely interesting and the material easy to grasp. Most positive experience I have had with any instructor. Bruce is the King.
Bruce allows in class discussions and stories to make concepts concrete which is really helpful and keeps you engaged
He is very friendly and has a great sense of humour. It made going to the lectures very enjoyable as well as informational.
I can honestly say that Bruce Ravelli is the best instructor I've ever had. He is very dedicated, motivating and helpful. His way of teaching is spectacular and I would recommend everyone to take this course. I actually thought this course would be the one I would like the least, but ended up being the one I enjoyed the most and learned the most from.
HES AMAZING so far my favourite prof, really passionate and really wants to teach. I learned so much
Bruce is awesome. He is very engaging and exciting and funny.
Bruce nails intro Soc.
When I actually did go to the lectures, Bruce turned out to be a fantastic, engaging professor. Very good at his job, and also was very helpful in office hours before midterms. Don't change a thing Bruce.
He was extremely thorough in all of his explanations of the content and also very passionate about each subject he taught which makes the content much more enjoyable to learn.
Excellent presenter. Made class very interesting and enjoyable.
Pretty cool guy, respectful of other people's opinions most of the time Engaging and funny, easy to listen to Website is extremely useful if we miss a class/need to re-listen to a lecture/need to check marks
Bruce is an awesome instructor! Very funny and engaging and passionate
Ravelli is clearly passionate about what he teaches. He always came prepared and his explanations of concepts were very clear, easy to understand, and interesting. The stories he tells that relate to the topics are always relevant and interesting, as well as help the student to understand the concept in a "real world" way. Ravelli is by far my favourite professor I have come across so far at Uvic.
Bruce really made this course what it is. It was super interesting and the only class I was genuinely excited to attend this term. His teaching methods were super engaging and his course work was fair. Unlike some comments he had last term, I thought having our TA's talk about what they were interested in was super awesome, it allowed me to connect with the material and engage in a discussion that someone could not do in a large class. I would like to say I think that you should keep the multiple choice questions because I have forums in psychology and they are absolutely awful and everyone talks about how they do not like them in my class. Just my opinion. I also really appreciated how the lectures were posted online. For those few classes I did miss, it was a world of help to be able

to listen to them on my own.

Bruce is always very engaging in his lectures which helped me stay focused and interested in the material. He kept us entertained with his way of speaking and his stories that would pop up in lectures always making me want to never miss a lecture.

Dr. Ravelli is a phenomenal professor. He teaches the material in a way that is engaging and inspiring. I appreciate how he gives vivid examples for concepts and asks the class for questions/opinions frequently. Dr. Ravelli is one of the best professors I have had at UVIC by far.

Unreal lecturer! The guy kept me engaged like no other prof! I am notorious for falling asleep in classes and this one I did not fall asleep in a single class and it was a 9:30 class! Bruce makes you think about the material and even though it's not required you are guaranteed to be talking about the lecture with classmates as soon as you're out the door.

Bruce is extremely passionate about what he does, and that shows in class. This passion helps students find the material easier to learn through interesting questions, video clips, and debates. This has been my most enjoyable class here at UVic, Thank you Bruce!

Very engaging lecturer and very prepared for the course. Impressed with how seriously Dr. Ravelli took his 100 level class. Nice to see out of a professor teaching lower level classes.

-Engaging

-Helpful towards a students success

Very engaging lecturer with clear presentation. Lassion for topic rubs off on students.

Bruce is such a great speaker!! I would recommend listening to his lectures even if you aren't in the course! His ability to make boring subjects interesting is a gift! Bruce records his lectures, creates powerpoints and provides midterm/final exam information and posts it all on his own website. This is so helpful because if I missed a lecture or did not understand something or missed what he said I can re-listen to the lecture later. Also, Bruce is very approachable during his office hours. He also has his own "suggestion box" on his website where you can offer suggestions for him to work on (which he does) throughout the course.

Very well in lecture. Brought in stories or personal experiences to make the material much more interesting.

Bruce Ravelli is everything a student can ask for in the first year introductory course in their first year of university. Bruce's lectures were interesting and not very notes heavy leaving the class open for discussion and questions. He is very good at keeping the students engaged and giving person experiences that help relate to the material

Bruce was the best professor I've ever had in my 4 years of university. He is an amazing teacher and I enjoyed every lecture.

He is a brilliant speaker, he can be slightly degrading of others ideas though.

Bruce was awesome! He took a subject that I had never learned before and made it extremely interesting. His explanations were easy to follow and clear, he was funny and easy to listen to making it an easy class to get through at 9am.

Bruce is amazing at providing opportunities for students to do well. He provides the questions he is going to ask weeks in advanced and has plenty of office hours available to us.

Bruce is the best prof in the entire university! His passion for sociology makes me enjoy his class and want to pursue a degree in this field. He is a charismatic prof who explains things in various ways that we can understand.

Bruce's passion for the subject helped me open my eyes and see things in the shades of grey. I really enjoyed the lectures and his uses of his examples and it made me want to go to class. Thank you for the amazing semester!

He was interactive, engaging, and demonstrated clear understanding of subject matter.

Excellent speaker. Kept class engaged throughout lectures

Bruce is a very effective speaker and his lectures were thoroughly interesting to listen to. I am a third year student that has been studying sciences and so this lecture was very refreshing to come to. I enjoyed all of Bruce's stories and how he pushed us to think critically about every situation.

He is so invested in his lectures that I cannot help but listen attentively to everything he says. The lectures are phenomenal.

He was extremely enthusiastic, knowledgeable and funny

Love for the course

He is amazing at giving lectures.

Ravelli's whole charisma and passion for Sociology really inspired me to learn the course! I have recommended this course to a lot of my friends! Ravelli for prime minister!

Bruce is a great instructor, who knows the material inside and out. His examples of Brad were always good for a laugh

Energetic, passionate, strong lecturer

Great story telling, probably best teacher Ive had. I kind of wanted to go into office hours just to see his insight on stuff. Very interesting teacher and I like going to classes

He is a great speaker, he can keep everyone interested on the material, despite the material not being that interesting. He can make people go "wow" after a lecture.

Interesting presentation of course material

Engaging, great speaker, interesting, good notes. best prof so far.

Engaging and persuasive speaker

Presents critical thinking skills

Passionate about course content

Encouraging of class involvement

Amazing teacher! So inspriting, really gets you interested in the course!

Good speaker.

Bruce is a great Prof, he is well organized and is passionate about what he is teaching. He had lots of examples and stories to help students learn, and he was very clear with assignment criteria and exam expectations.

He is very engaging and always made me excited for class!!

He was very passionate. Made the lectures extremely interesting and went over concepts very well.

The stories you told and the way you managed to relate all material to us students was really helpful.

He is so passionate about the subject that I also gained a love for the subject

Enthusiastic

Very organized. Keeps students engaged in course material with videos and stories. These components make the lectures quite enjoyable.

Very engaging. Motivated me to learn in the course

His enthusiasm in lectures

Amazing lecturer

Passionate about what he preaches

Able to make you think and reflect upon society and your own life

Made class incredibly interesting, interactive and relevant

Midterm dido not suitable for international students.

He demonstrated a great understanding of the course material, and was very knowledgeable on the subject. He always asked if anybody had any questions, and so forth.

He was very motivated to teach which made learning fun and enjoyable.

Bruce's enthusiasm was excellent and he was always receptive to listening to student's comments. I never felt uncomfortable to ask a question or make a statement which is very refreshing in a class of over 100 students.

Very good lectures, extremely engaging with the students

Effective lecturing and examples

He used stories as examples for concepts which made it easier to remember them.

Amazing lecturer. Multiple use of different learning tools for students to succeed very helpful and relatable.

He explained things very well and showed video clips that were interesting. His stories were also very easy to listen to.

Kept class engaged and presented himself as very approachable

So engaging and insightful. Really makes you think hard about sociology. Provides every aspect of assistance you could ever need.

Bruce was a killer story teller, very engaging, lecture were honestly a highlight of my week.

His examples

Humour, useful "real-world" examples from his life, and passion about his field.

He is perfect in every way

He was animated and engaging in his lectures. He put on a show and made the material relevant each lecture and this really helped students to be excited about the material and motivated to learn. He was also very approachable and kind. There was also a good pace to the lectures. Bruce rocked.

Bruce made lectures as engaging as they could be. The anecdotes he used to supplement the course material were engaging and hilarious. Also, he did a great job at encouraging students to participate in discussions and never made anyone feel inadequate. This course was by far my most engaging and fun class of the semester.

Hilarious guy. Great stories. Fantastic lectures. Very interesting, and well done for heavy and controversial the subject matter is. Bruce Ravelli is the best professor at Uvic!

Bruce is very engaging in the way that he lays out the course material. He draws upon humorous and interesting scenarios and examples to assist his explanations. These examples help for the course material to resonate more with me. Bruce always has us on the edge of our seats with his tone of voice and the way he questions various societal norms that, beforehand, the majority of individual's wouldn't have taken a second glance at.

He is a fantastic professor; extremely engaging, intelligent, and interesting. He made me consider switching my Major into Sociology. He makes you look at society in a completely different way.

Please provide specific instructions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.

Comment

More organized course site (rather than just long lists of links)

none

Sometimes I felt as though we could have had the topics explained to us better if there was not as much discussion time. Although I do believe that discussion time is important I think that during many classes student discussion went on for too long and that took away from other students receiving knowledge regarding the subjects.

I do not have any particular suggestions for Bruce, he was very effective in this course. However, I sometimes was offended when either Bruce or the TA's would make off-putting comments about Psychology.

No improvements needed

No suggestions.

Nothing

It would have been a more effective learning experience for me if the instructor had managed to stay away from using sweeping generalizations and hypotheticals during his lectures and had instead engaged in more concrete, real-life examples pulled from current events in order to illustrate his points. I personally found that it would also have been helpful if he could have refrained from making incensing statements purely for the sake of eliciting reaction, as the nature of the class limited debate and discussion and the constraint on time often resulted in students' comments being hurried or cut short.

the course is fine the way it is

This was probably my favorite class this semester and I'm definitely going to take the second half of the course next year

Less time for students to show how knowledgeable they are if it is about pointing out the obvious. It is unfair to other students to have an individual take up precious course time to try and impress the lecturer. The environment in soc lectures is one of political correctness and does not reflect the diversity of opinions held. In my opinion, debates should be encouraged and people should be encouraged to come out with their views even if they go against what is deemed appropriate. For example, many people have slight racist tendencies and it does not help to tackle that issue by telling everyone what is wrong and right but those who have those tendencies should somehow be able to express their views and challenge the idea that this is wrong. In the end I believe they will find it easier to see what is wrong with being racist.

n/a

Can't think of anything, I really learned a lot in this class

Bruce provided all the materials to do well in the course

This class is organized very well.

I honestly believe this was an amazingly well organized, well instructed course and that it does not need improvement.. Unless you change the multiple choice. Then I think you should change it back.

I believe that Bruce is at the top of his game and i have no suggestions as to how he could have helped me learn more effectively

Maybe a warning before graphic content in class.

n/a

Bruce's teaching style is perfect. No suggestions.

Soclab kinda pointless.

I would have preferred a different testing method, but it turned out alright.

More communication is needed between the instructor and the TA's.

The online component on the class i found was not helpful to what we were learning. I felt it was just a requirement that i just had to get through to maintain a good mark.

Do not do the essay thing instead of the quizzes next year, students will not be happy.

N/A this class is great

By posting the full slides online for our reference while studying.

He could have been clearer in how to achieve high marks - what they are looking for in midterms - and he could have emphasized the importance of the tutorial assignments.

Specific examples

Better assignments, no labs.

N/a

I did not like mysoclab that much

describe more the tiny but important details of theories or ideas.

Provide an example of an A paper.

DOn't have any

Incorporate more relative material in the tutorials.

I struggled to stay engaged in my tutorial, which could have been a really effective place for me to cement my knowledge and learning

Could have provided more detailed instructions for midterm questions (a more detailed outline of what is required)

Nothing!

More use of the textbook

Keep doing what you're doing

There is none.

More review sessions before the midterm.

Maybe have better tutorial assignments

He couldnt have really.

Nothing

No possible suggestions, 10/10 instructor.

I don't know

He was great.

I think that providing a few examples of what an 'A' exam answer looks like would be helpful. Or even examples of an A, B, C paper so that students can more clearly understand what is expected of them.

Nope. Website helps a lot, tutorials are great. *****[TA] was fantastic. Lectures are well structured and interesting.

Everything was very good

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

Comment
Switch from MySocLab, options for either a cumulative project or a series of separate ones
none
I think there needs to be so much work done regarding the tutorials. I found them to be a waste of my time and every time I went to my tutorial i was disappointed by the experience. The tutorial teacher was not very helpful and rarely prepared. This really effected the way in which i viewed the class, the assignments and such. The class alone was helpful to some degree but the tutorials were very disappointing I feel like if more work went into preparing tutorial subjects and making sure the tutorial leaders are doing their job correctly and stimulating the students this would have been a much more enjoyable class.
I particularly enjoyed the tutorial assignments in this course. However, I found the midterms to be quite difficult. Although I'm a straight A student, I struggled to maintain a B average on the midterms. The midterms were all written responses. In order to achieve an A, students would have to identify, define, and describe concepts and then take the concepts a step further by applying personal examples. Although I felt that I had met all of these criteria, I still did not do well on the tests. I felt that in order to truly achieve an A, I would have to be able to read the TA's mind. To summarize, I felt that the marking in the course was purely subjective, and not objective. I feel that many students would have done much better on exams in this course if a multiple-choice or fill-in the blank section was used as opposed to an exhaustive written response that was subject to the restricted opinions of the marker. After getting my marks back from the midterm, I felt completely stupid. It did not help when Bruce commented to the class that many students had achieved A's.
No improvements are needed
No suggestions
Nothing
The scheduling for assignment/exam deadlines could be improved slightly - an extra week between the second midterm and the final assignment deadline would have been appreciated.
i don't think 3 tutorial assignments are all that necessary. could possibly cut it down to 2 or 1
I think Bruce's power point slides could be more detailed. They are pretty basic.
The section on the natural environment should be longer and earlier on in the course. The section on families and marriage were somewhat mundane.nd
Tutorials have terrible, irrelevant assignments.
I think that as a entry level class to sociology the form of testing in this class is quite difficult and not all types of students are able to succeed with this form of testing which is a downfall of the course as it sets up some to fail despite the content being very interesting. I personally enjoyed this class and these concepts very much but found the tests quite challenging and turned the class from a very interesting one into one that I did not like very much because of this.
doesn't need to be improved. this course is flawless
Examples of the tutorial assignments would be awesome so we know what is expected.
MY SOC LAB was garbage.
Maybe assignment 3 could have been explained a little more (as to what was expected of us).
Get rid of MySocLab. Although Dr. Ravelli said this is already happening next year
Don't make students buy an expensive textbook just to use it once, and even when it was used once I didn't gain any knowledge.
Soc lab was good but kinda pointless. Didn't learn much from it.
The testing method could be augmented, but I understand why the tests are the way they are. Overall an incredibly enjoyable and interesting course. this was one of my favorite courses of all time. The sociological imagination that I have developed through taking this course is the main skill I will take away from my university experience. I think that taking Bruce's sociology course should be a requirement for all students.
The course is graded extremely hard for an entry level course.
Make the online and in class assignments more applicable to class material

I cannot think of anything.

N/A this class is fantastic and everyone should take it.

I am worried that if the form posts become a part of the course students won't have enough time to get everything done. I was so busy this semester with the work load from this course and although the forums would be an amazing addition to the course it may be very hard to get everything done on time.

I think it is overall good as it is.

If more extra readings/articles were provided I feel as though we would be able to learn the content better.

More in class student presentations!

The marking for this course is absolutely outrageous, I felt as if the course material wanted dumbed down versions of papers instead of actual intelligent language.

N/a

A better description for tutorial assignment 2.

On the second midterm I thought I was going to do better on the 100B exam than the 100A exam, based on my understanding of the questions asked. I ended up doing better on the 100A exam. This demonstrates in inconsistency of grading papers with numerous people. Maybe it is a better idea to have each paper marked twice, by two different TAs.

Did not like the marking at all, found it very unfair that the bar was raised each time. Perhaps you could "raise the bar" regarding the given examples. But there is no logical way to "raise the bar" when testing students if they understand the material by "repeating it back to you".

Don't have any

I felt as though some TAs seemed to be easier markers than others. In other words, there's a strong possibility for inconsistent/ unfair marking amongst different TAs.

More informative marking of midterms with more feedback.

More clear on what is wanted on assignments. I found the assignment outlines to be a bit vague, not very much detail on what is expected.

More of a variation in regards to the test study time

Nothing

The course marking scheme could be different, much of the marks are dependent on the midterms and exams. I think more of the marks could be used on other things, like papers, and in class discussion with your TAs.

More examples or structure to the assignments.

Have a better system for textbook questions and tutorial assignments

better description of tutorial requirements
more opportunities for engagement and evaluation

Its already a really good course

tutorials could more accurately relate to lecture

The my soc lab questions are a joke, most people just guess, take pictures of the answers and do them again. I went through and read the chapter to actually learn the material, this should be required to do good on the soc lab questions which are worth 15%. Otherwise, just get rid of them.

I don't know.

With their current outline, it is as effective as I can think of,

If a student is taking 100A & B at the same time, then the TAs should meet together when marking their assignments so that there isn't a difference of 5-15% (of assignment grade) in the marking. I personally would rather have had the mean grade for both tutorial sections than each separate grade.

Although it was nice that the online textbook quizzes were essentially free marks, I did not really find them effective. Another way to evaluate students understanding of the material in the textbook might be more effective.

I also had a hard time grasping some of the concepts in the theory portion of this course. Going to the textbook helped some of the time to clarify my confusion but most of the time, since Bruce wrote the textbook, if I did not understand the concept in class the textbook did not help me. Maybe offering supplementary readings to clarify those big concepts might be beneficial to future students.

Test are tough, but Bruce does provide adequate information.

