

Evaluation Statistics

Course-Id: 435
 Course-Name: Crafting Social Science Research
 Course-Field: /cdss
 Term: HWS 2011
 Lecturer(s): Gschwend
 Number of participants: 22
 complete/not complete: 20/2

The course was well structured

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	8	9	2	1	0	0
relativ:	40 %	45 %	10 %	5 %	0 %	0 %

The choice of topics was well explained by the instructor

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	6	12	2	0	0	0
relativ:	30 %	60 %	10 %	0 %	0 %	0 %

Recommended reading materials were useful in facilitating understanding of course content

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	5	9	3	2	0	1
relativ:	25 %	45 %	15 %	10 %	0 %	5 %

Instructor was well prepared

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	11	9	0	0	0	0
relativ:	55 %	45 %	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %

Instructor provided the opportunity for discussions and questions

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	13	5	2	0	0	0
relativ:	65 %	25 %	10 %	0 %	0 %	0 %

Answers given by the instructor were helpful in clarifying uncertainties

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	6	9	4	0	1	0
relativ:	30 %	45 %	20 %	0 %	5 %	0 %

Instructor's manner of speaking was clear and audible

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	12	7	1	0	0	0
relativ:	60 %	35 %	5 %	0 %	0 %	0 %

Course details were announced in time

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	8	7	2	2	1	0
relativ:	40 %	35 %	10 %	10 %	5 %	0 %

The exercise sessions were very useful (if applicable)

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	2	7	2	2	1	6
relativ:	10 %	35 %	10 %	10 %	5 %	30 %

How much have you learned in this course compared to the other courses in this semester (on average)?

	much more	more	same	less	much less	no opinion
absolut:	1	6	6	6	1	0
relativ:	5 %	30 %	30 %	30 %	5 %	0 %

How much effort did you put into the preparation and wrap-up of the weekly course sessions?

	no effort	up to 1 hour	more than 1 to 2 hours	more than 2 to 4 hours	more than 4 hours	no opinion
absolut:	0	4	6	8	1	1
relativ:	0 %	20 %	30 %	40 %	5 %	5 %

The course content was difficult

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	0	1	12	7	0	0
relativ:	0 %	5 %	60 %	35 %	0 %	0 %

The teaching was good

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	6	10	2	2	0	0
relativ:	30 %	50 %	10 %	10 %	0 %	0 %

Overall, I am satisfied with the course

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	no opinion
absolut:	2	10	4	3	1	0
relativ:	10 %	50 %	20 %	15 %	5 %	0 %

What grade do you expect in this course?

	1	2	3	4	5	no opinion
absolut:	6	4	1	0	0	9
relativ:	30 %	20 %	5 %	0 %	0 %	45 %

What did you especially like about the course?

topics

- I liked the draft proposal workshop a lot - the reviews with/from different people - the opportunity to see everyone from our cohort weekly

Prof. Gschwend was well prepared and stimulated debates among students. The best part of the course was the section in which we talked about publishing, dealing with journals and writing reviews.

The workshop session where we all presented our progress regarding the final work was really

helpful. The overall mood in the classroom was relaxed and open for discussion.

Information on how to come to research questions and on how to write and publish articles; talk on stress management

The one-day workshop on our draft proposals.

Room for the exchange about and elaboration of own topic Also: Lecture on Review Process was very interesting

that we had to write a draft dissertation proposal

The instructor was really friendly, well prepared, and above all enthusiastic about the contents!

- Choice of topics - Room for questions - Weekly readings

I liked that the course forced us to make a project proposal, which we otherwise would've put off until the second semester. I also liked that the course tried to be as interdisciplinary as possible. I found the readings quite helpful.

What could/should be improved?

This course could benefit heavily from cooperation with TBCI and Writing courses The Stress Management session was in principal a good idea, but I think the better "experts" would be students from older cohorts. But getting us to exchange thoughts with everyone was good about that session

At least one session on qualitative methods should be added (process tracing).

I found some of the topics to be irrelevant, specially the first sessions. All the deadlines regarding course work should be clarified from the first day.

Much repetition of material (slides & readings) for those who did the Research Design course

I think that if the course were more specific, I could have profited more. Some topics were not that relevant for psychologists or did not fully apply because there are field specific guidelines or "traditions". The problem lies in the mixed group (different fields) and I think this is not the only course where this was problematic, either.

- the first deadline for the draft proposal was too soon. finding a good topic needs some more time and is more important to me

Some parts were already widely known (i.e. Conceptualization and Measurement, Case Selection) and might need less time to be covered

Much of the course content was well known to psychologists and was therefore a waste of time. The readings were not helpfull.

In my opinion, it would help a lot to get used to the style of classes at the GESS if the number of papers to read for each week would start with one and then increase slowly and not vice versa!

I profited most from comments on my writings and my presentation. I think it would be a nice idea to increase the part of "accompanied writing". Because that would also mean more work for participants (writing comments + working on the comments received) the meetings with the whole group could be less regularly. In my opinion, the course instructor would also not need to prepare a presentation for each meeting. Overall: More emphasis on the preparation of the own draft proposal/paper

Sometimes I felt discouraged to read the weekly papers because their sheer amount made the impressions that the selection is somewhat arbitrary. It is just an impression but if a professor selects one or two really important and matching papers I feel like it is really worthwhile to read them. This sounds more dramatic than it is though :)

I felt like too often Thomas tried to come up with examples from each discipline in the room in order to appeal to the interdisciplinary audience, but this frequently took too long. The course was also way too short to adequately cover the material, let alone relate the material to each discipline present in the room (e.g. sociology, psych, polsci). I would also really enjoy more discussion between grad students in the room. This would force us to read the material more carefully so that we actually had something to say during class. As it were, the course felt more like a lecture for which the readings were optional since interaction was pretty minimal. Perhaps if we could extend the course to a 2-hour seminar, similar to theory building and causal inference, this would facilitate more discussion and better participation.
