

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 23
Fall 2023	AFAM 186 01/LAST 214 01/PLSC 378 01/SOCY 170 01 - Contesting Injustice	PLSC	Social Sciences	Responded: 14
Instructors				
Wood, Elisabeth (P)				

The leadership of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering & Applied Science request that readers of student course evaluations from Fall 2023 keep in mind that the mechanism that prevents students from viewing grades prior to submitting a course evaluation was out of operation for several weeks. If students visited Yale Hub during the affected timeframe, they could have viewed their Fall 2023 course grade before submitting an evaluation.

#1 What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 5

Respondent	Answer
1696090	I learned about protest politics and international movements on a large scale
1699462	The course provided great insight into the framework behind social mobilization and organization to protest against injustices; Professor Wood employed interesting historical and relatively modern day case studies throughout the course that resonated with the students taking the course. I have come to learn and observe the tactics that social movements utilize and why in particular nonviolent movements are successful.
1700576	This is definitely an interesting class when it comes to learning tactics for social movements. I learned some useful information when it comes to mobilizing people, which feels particularly important now with the Palestinian genocide happening.
1702639	I learned a lot from this class. It taught me how to write persuasive yet concise papers. Additionally, I learned how social movements emerge, sustain themselves, and the legacies they leave behind. Understanding this process has provided me with a deeper insight into the complexities of societal change and historical impact, broadening my perspective of the world around me.
1703204	You will learn more about the theoretical structures of social movements rather than the ethnographic people-centered aspect of a social movement. There are a lot of readings.
1703936	I learned about the theory behind social movements, as well as examples of social movements across the world. I took this class for writing, and doing our papers helped me to become a more thoughtful writer and deepen my analysis skills.
1703948	This course deepened my understanding of collective action problems and the ways in which people can use various tools in order to achieve their goals. My essay writing and argumentative skills were developed.
1703970	I learned basic political science concepts as well as about social movements. I gained lots of new information and knowledge.
1704192	This course helped me improve my skills when reading academic texts and journals. Additionally, I'm walking away with a good amount of the course material that will stick with me not just in the context of learning it because I am a student, but knowing it as a citizen and activist.

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#2 Your level of engagement with the course was:

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 0

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
3.9 ±1.0	3.5 ±1.0	3.5 ±1.0	3.6 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
very low	0
low	1
medium	5
high	3
very high	5

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#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 3

Respondent	Answer
1695182	The workload was difficult to manage. The class time did not make use of efficient time.
1696090	For WR students, the workload was a lot, and it made the class very stressful. The lectures were also high content and went by very quickly.
1696337	This course could be improved through fewer, more intentional assignments. Having two readings responses, two exams, and two significant papers was a lot to manage on top of 100-300 pages of reading a week. I think the reading responses were great, as they made me engage with the texts more thorough and learn to critique the existing literature, and I believe the papers to be the most foundational component of the class, but I feel that the exams were more memorization-based. I did not take anything of great utility away from the exams, and I feel the course would benefit if one or both of them were removed.
1699462	The strengths of the course is the engaging course material that fosters intellectually enriching discussions both in lecture and discussion sections. The weakness would be the use of both a final exam and a final project.
1700576	Strengths: the lectures and slides were very structured, making it easier to study for exams. Prof Wood is great and truly exceptional in her field. Weakness: Perhaps a bit high on workload, but I did mention this to prof Wood and I believe the workload might change for next year. Regardless of the workload, a very interesting and useful class that I would recommend!
1702639	I think this course is well-designed and the TFs are great. However, I wish lectures were more engaging. It was easy to lose focus, especially since the class was on the later side (between 4:30 and 5:20 p.m.). I also wish the location of the class was closer to campus. Lastly, I think the workload was heavy. I think a sit-down final in addition to a final project worth 30% of the grade is overkill.
1703204	Strengths: The guest/TF lectures are a change in pace, the group activities (making a mural) Weaknesses: A lot of readings assigned, the timing of the class being late, having a final project/essay/2 major essays and two in-class exams feels like overwhelming, the readings are not well incorporated in lecture (making them more so busy work).
1703936	One strength of this course is that the first half is more traditional (where we learn about theories, etc.) and the second half features mostly guest speakers who themselves are usually involved in social movements. My section for this class was also very small, and I enjoyed the opportunities to build connections with my peers and TA while having engaging discussions. One weakness of this course is that there may be lots of reading assigned for a certain week. I also didn't like how drafts of my papers / final papers were due days before or after exams for this class. This was stressful as I had to split my time between studying and writing my papers.
1703948	The course is very engaging and interesting. The professor and TF were also very enthusiastic which helped.
1704192	One strength of this course was its relevancy. Much of what we learned was very timely, or could be applied to current events. An aspect of the course that I struggled with was that our lectures didn't overlap much with our readings, which made it harder to learn course concepts.
1704515	Strengths: Many of the assignments, such as the reading responses and the non-WR final project, allowed students to engage on a much deeper level with course concepts. The lectures were very interactive, and there were plenty of opportunities for student participation. Weaknesses: The workload was rather high, especially towards the end of the semester. I also felt that the readings were a bit dry and difficult to keep up with.

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#4 What is your overall assessment of this course?

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 0

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
3.7 ±1.1	3.4 ±1.1	3.6 ±1.0	3.9 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	3
good	2
very good	5
excellent	4

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Instructors
Wood, Elisabeth (P)

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#5 The course was well organized to facilitate student learning.

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 0

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.1 ±0.9	3.6 ±1.0	3.8 ±1.0	3.9 ±0.9

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	0
disagree	1
neutral	1
agree	7
strongly agree	5

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#6 I received clear feedback that improved my learning.

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 0

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.1 ±1.1	3.9 ±1.1	4.0 ±1.1	4.0 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	0
disagree	2
neutral	1
agree	4
strongly agree	7

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Instructors				
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#7 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the level of intellectual challenge of this course was:

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
3.5 ±0.8	3.4 ±0.7	3.2 ±0.8	3.2 ±0.8

Choice Label	Counts
much less	0
less	1
same	6
greater	5
much greater	1

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Instructors				
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#8 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the workload of this course was:

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.2 ±0.7	3.4 ±0.7	3.1 ±0.8	3.0 ±0.9

Choice Label	Counts
much less	0
less	0
same	2
greater	7
much greater	4

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Instructors
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#9 Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor(s): Wood, Elisabeth (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Respondent	Answer
1696337	I would highly recommend this course to another student in the PLSC department. It is honestly the most foundational and influential course I have taken at Yale thus far.
1699462	I would definitely recommend this course to students interested in taking a social science course in general or a political science course.
1700576	Absolutely! If you are interested in social movements and contesting injustice, this class is worth taking! You'll learn a lot, but be prepared to put in the work to learn as much as possible and to do well in the class.
1702639	I would recommend this course to another student. I think it's important to learn about current events around the world and why they happen. However, I would say make sure you have time for the workload as there's a significant amount of readings and assignments.
1703204	Only if it's a pre-requisite.
1703936	I would recommend this course only if the theoretical frameworks surrounding social movements is something that interests you, as this is a big component of the course. This course does have a high workload, thus, I took it to fulfill a writing requirement and a major requirement. If you are not doing this class for a writing/major credit and you are just taking it for fun, there may be other classes with a lower-workload. But, if you choose to take this class, you do learn alot.
1703948	Yes! It is so interesting and by far one of my favorite classes at Yale.
1703970	Yes, I would recommend this course to any students interested in social justice and/or political science.
1704192	I would recommend this course to another student on the basis of its content, as I think a lot of students would find it interesting.
1704515	I would recommend this course if someone were interested in political science or the particular subject of collective action. If a non-political science student were considering this course to fulfill distributional requirements, there are probably better ways to do so.

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#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Pavlik, Melissa

Responses for Instructor: 2
Declined to Answer Question: 1

Respondent	Answer
1703948	In my three years at Yale, Mel has truly been my favorite TF. She is so motivating and really wants to see each of her students succeed. She has helped me grow and her feedback has been truly valuable.
1721572	In my personal experience, Melissa Pavlik is hands down the best TF I have had the pleasure of having during my time at Yale. She is always well informed on the topics of discussion and takes personal time to investigate areas of interest brought up by students. She demonstrated a very genuine connection to the discussions had in lecture and in section, which made it a class I looked forward to contributing to. Beyond her stellar work managing the course, she is also one of the kindest and most understanding people I have ever met. Any time I met with her personally to discuss things I was struggling with, I would leave the meeting feeling much better about the work ahead. She worked well in conjunction with Professor Wood to assist me when I was struggling with some mental health issues. She encouraged me to catch up on work in a way that made me feel like it was possible to come back and be the best student I could be. When supporting me, she took into account the other aspects of my life as a student, and understood that this course was not the only thing I had going on in my life. Still, she did not simply give me an easy pass because of my struggles. Instead, she worked alongside Professor Wood to make me truly want to improve in the class, and in the end I was able to turn in work that I was proud of, and I finished the course in a way I could be satisfied with. I cannot express how much I appreciate Melissa's support, encouragement, and understanding. I have no doubt that she is a primary reason I was able to get through a very difficult semester with regards to personal issues.

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#11 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

Instructor(s): Pavlik, Melissa

Responses for Instructor: 3
Declined to Answer Question: 0

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
5.0 ±0.0	4.5 ±0.9	4.6 ±0.8	4.5 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	0
very good	0
excellent	3

