

Course: Anthropological Theory/History of Sociological Thought (combined course)

Instructor: Dan Ryan *

12 - What has the instructor done especially well in the teaching of the course?

Return Rate	19/34 (55.88%)
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- I really appreciated Professor Ryan's unique approach to the class. Unlike any of my other classes, we participated in oral exams instead of written ones, which was both difficult and very useful. I also appreciated how in class we broke down some of the readings so that they made sense to everyone because majority of the content contained a lot of jargon and at times was very difficult to decipher. Dan's explanations were very helpful.
- Providing opportunities for elevating discourse. People will complain about the oral final but it is necessary.
- Introduced innovative ways for students to dissect the material and introduced a non-traditional form of testing.
- He does a good job of making it understandable. A lot of energy required for an early morning course, but in class explanations are very good.
- I actually like doing oral exams over written exams. I felt like I understood the concepts better when I would talk about it with the instructor and it even gave me more confidence in the class because he encouraged us to explain difficult topics on our own and would always compliment us for our answers. It was more one on one rather than sit in a room answer "a" "b" or "c" and have no real connection to the teacher or the class.
- Dr. Dan Ryan is an excellent and engaging lecturer whose interest in the subject matter is palpable. He is a magician with translating often obtuse and dated theory into highly relevant analysis of modern day social behavior and organization.
- He doesn't talk down to the students. He treats us like equals and that is lovely.
- By offering oral exams, he allowed a new outlet of learning that is not usually found at most schools. I found oral exams to be helpful in gaining confidence in my learning and confidence in aspects such as job interviews, and communicating with other teachers.
- awesome lectures! the textbook is also really great!
- Dan is very enthusiastic about the subject. He also took an experimental approach to this course, which worked out well sometimes. I think that the next time this class is taught it will probably be a lot better because as a student I felt a bit like a guinea pig this semester.
- Professor Ryan has been very innovative and has constantly shifted and updated his teaching process over the course of this semester. I have loved his hands-on examples and discussions during class and have felt that his supplemental information to the text has broken down and explained the theories we are learning in an accessible and exciting way.
- Using examples in class was really helpful to understand the material. My favorite activity was when we restructured the Emperor's article. The Pitch and Catch exercise was also extremely helpful.
- I really like your examples, they are really graphic so people are able to understand them.
- Definitely lectures are engaging and interesting- visuals are enough and not overwhelming/distracting from content.
- The hands on activities and specific examples that he provided in class really expanded my understanding of the subject matter. Not only was this class engaging and worthwhile, but it made me want to major in Sociology because of the real world impact of social science that we would discuss after many of our lessons.
- Innovative use of technology within education
- Professor Ryan is excellent at conveying his own enthusiasm for the subject to his students, it is this passion that makes the material engaging (both during lecture and at office hours). I liked his unconventional approach to teaching the course, and think that it was a good move that made the material easier to access (we are learning about old 'dusty' philosophers and theorists in the larger portion of the course). I thought the examples provided in class were extremely helpful in giving us real life perspectives on how to apply social theory. It is clear that he cares about his students academic (EX: Encouraged us to use online resources and work together) and personal success (EX: he encourages more shy folks to participate, not in an annoying way) expects them to perform at a certain standard.
- The engaging activities to help us understand concepts.
- Incorporating technology into the course.

7 - Suggestions for improving the course?

Return Rate	13/34 (38.24%)
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- I would have appreciated supplemental work alongside the readings that we read to compliment some of the things that we were reading.
- drop 3 readings and spend a little more time on 3 of the others
- I know there aren't many anthropology students, but I still think it would be good to break it up, or at least dedicate some time to anthropological theory. Social theory can be valuable, but I want some anth theory too. Also, the sticky notes exercise is not helpful for sociological theory, at least not for me. I don't really think like that.
- I recommend reducing the class size if possible, or offering another class section for it, as it is slightly too large for substantive discussion to occur during class most days. I do think, however, that despite my initial skepticism, combining sociological and anthropological theories and students in one course works quite well.
- This class was a combination of a anthropology course and a sociology course, I would have preferred the two to be split.
- This is a requirement for Anthropology and Sociology majors. However, the course focuses only on material pertaining to Sociology majors. I think it needs to be reevaluated on if it should be a requirement for Anthropology majors.
- -More variation in terms of how students are graded. Essays and other assignments. This would allow students to succeed in many ways as oral exams only test one way of thinking. -The use of the wiki seemed forced and unnecessary. Instructions relating to this wiki were unclear. - Use more anthropological examples for the anthropology students in the class.
- Spreading the readings out a bit more would be easier, or designating the ones that are the most important of the whole selection. I appreciated having a few weeks to have the readings done but it was hard to know which ones to do first in terms of when we would have class discussions.
- Four exams would have been better than two. I don't like the oral exam, they made me really nervous.
- There is a lot of content to be covered, which is understandable. maybe more in-class games etc. that can help apply content discussed. the textbook is so interesting, but very heavy. don't know if a different textbook would help?
- More online interaction and use of Professor Ryan's website. It was a really innovative idea that didn't seem to quite pan out how he had originally hoped. Commenting on specific articles, the creation of illustrations or other depictions that summarized main ideas in the readings, etc.
- N/A
- - Besides oral exams, I suggest having a few written assignments to ensure knowledge/material is being absorbed (maybe require some type of weekly journal? Ensure accountability for readings) - Better organization of assignments (for people who like to know how our grades are formed) - More instruction on Story boarding element -In class simulations were not always a good use of time

Mills College
Fall 2015

Course: Anthropological Theory,
Instructor: Dan Ryan *

1 - Please rate the following aspects of this course:										
The value of the course to me was...										
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means		
Poor	(1)	0	0%					4.21	4.05	
Fair	(2)	2	7.14%							
Good	(3)	4	14.29%							
Very Good	(4)	8	28.57%							
Excellent	(5)	14	50%							
N/A	(0)	0	0%							
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median			
28/34 (82.35%)	4.21	0.96	4.50	4,224	4.05	1.10	4.00			

1 - Please rate the following aspects of this course:										
The amount I learned in this course was...										
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means		
Poor	(1)	0	0%					4.04	4.03	
Fair	(2)	3	10.71%							
Good	(3)	4	14.29%							
Very Good	(4)	10	35.71%							
Excellent	(5)	11	39.29%							
N/A	(0)	0	0%							
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median			
28/34 (82.35%)	4.04	1.00	4.00	4,136	4.03	1.10	4.00			

1 - Please rate the following aspects of this course:										
The overall quality of this course was...										
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means		
Poor	(1)	0	0%					4.14	4.02	
Fair	(2)	0	0%							
Good	(3)	6	21.43%							
Very Good	(4)	12	42.86%							
Excellent	(5)	10	35.71%							
N/A	(0)	0	0%							
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median			
28/34 (82.35%)	4.14	0.76	4.00	4,102	4.02	1.11	4.00			

2 - I am taking this course...										
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means		
To satisfy a major requirement	(1)	24	85.71%							
To satisfy a minor requirement	(2)	4	14.29%							
To satisfy a general education requirement	(3)	0	0%							
To satisfy the writing requirement	(4)	0	0%							
As an elective	(5)	1	3.57%							
For a reason not listed above	(6)	2	7.14%							
				0	25	50	75	100		
Return Rate	28/34 (82.35%)									

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3 - Compared to other courses I am taking at Mills, the amount of work for this course is...													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means						
Very light	(1)	0	0%										
Somewhat light	(2)	5	17.86%										
About average	(3)	16	57.14%										
Somewhat heavy	(4)	5	17.86%										
Very heavy	(5)	2	7.14%										
N/A	(0)	0	0%										
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median						
28/34 (82.35%)	3.14	0.80	3.00	4.216	3.21	0.93	3.00						

4 - Compared to other courses I am taking at Mills, the difficulty of the material in this course is...													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means						
Much less	(1)	0	0%										
Somewhat less	(2)	2	7.14%										
About average	(3)	7	25%										
Somewhat greater	(4)	15	53.57%										
Much greater	(5)	4	14.29%										
N/A	(0)	0	0%										
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median						
28/34 (82.35%)	3.75	0.80	4.00	4.220	3.23	0.91	3.00						

5 - Compared to other courses I am taking at Mills, the pace of this course is...													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means						
Much slower	(1)	0	0%										
Somewhat slower	(2)	0	0%										
About average	(3)	19	67.86%										
Somewhat faster	(4)	8	28.57%										
Much faster	(5)	1	3.57%										
N/A	(0)	0	0%										
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median						
28/34 (82.35%)	3.36	0.56	3.00	4.224	3.20	0.79	3.00						

6 - Is the size of this class satisfactory?											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Yes, the class size is satisfactory or irrelevant	(1)	17	60.71%								
No, a smaller class would be preferable	(2)	11	39.29%								
No, a larger class would be preferable	(3)	0	0%								
N/A	(0)	0	0%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median				
28/34 (82.35%)											

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10 - My current G.P.A. is...											
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Below 1.0	(1)	0	0%								
1.0-1.5	(2)	0	0%								
1.5-2.0	(3)	0	0%								
2.0-2.5	(4)	0	0%								
2.5-3.0	(5)	3	11.11%								
3.0-3.5	(6)	12	44.44%								
3.5-4.0	(7)	9	33.33%								
Does not apply	(0)	3	11.11%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
Return Rate											
27/34 (79.41%)											

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.													
The overall quality of instruction was...													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means						
Poor	(1)	0	0%				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Instructor</td> <td>4.43</td> <td>College Mean</td> <td>4.13</td> </tr> </table>			Instructor	4.43	College Mean	4.13
Instructor	4.43	College Mean	4.13										
Fair	(2)	0	0%										
Good	(3)	3	10.71%										
Very good	(4)	10	35.71%										
Excellent	(5)	15	53.57%										
N/A	(0)	0	0%										
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median						
28/34 (82.35%)	4.43	0.69	5.00	4.415	4.13	1.07	5.00						

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.													
The quality of lectures or classroom presentation was...													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means						
Poor	(1)	0	0%				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Instructor</td> <td>4.50</td> <td>College Mean</td> <td>4.04</td> </tr> </table>			Instructor	4.50	College Mean	4.04
Instructor	4.50	College Mean	4.04										
Fair	(2)	0	0%										
Good	(3)	2	7.14%										
Very good	(4)	10	35.71%										
Excellent	(5)	16	57.14%										
N/A	(0)	0	0%										
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean			
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median						
28/34 (82.35%)	4.50	0.64	5.00	4.409	4.04	1.12	4.00						

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11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.

The quality of class discussions was...

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%									
Fair	(2)	4	14.29%									
Good	(3)	7	25%									
Very good	(4)	11	39.29%									
Excellent	(5)	6	21.43%									
N/A	(0)	0	0%									
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean		
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median					
28/34 (82.35%)	3.68	0.98	4.00	4.405	3.86	1.18	4.00					

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.

Course organization was...

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%									
Fair	(2)	6	21.43%									
Good	(3)	10	35.71%									
Very good	(4)	7	25%									
Excellent	(5)	5	17.86%									
N/A	(0)	0	0%									
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean		
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median					
28/34 (82.35%)	3.39	1.03	3.00	4.409	3.96	1.17	4.00					

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.

Explanations by instructor were...

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%									
Fair	(2)	2	7.14%									
Good	(3)	5	17.86%									
Very good	(4)	9	32.14%									
Excellent	(5)	12	42.86%									
N/A	(0)	0	0%									
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean		
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median					
28/34 (82.35%)	4.11	0.96	4.00	4.408	4.07	1.12	4.00					

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.

Use of examples and illustrations was...

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means					
Poor	(1)	0	0%									
Fair	(2)	1	3.57%									
Good	(3)	2	7.14%									
Very good	(4)	6	21.43%									
Excellent	(5)	19	67.86%									
N/A	(0)	0	0%									
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College Mean		
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median					
28/34 (82.35%)	4.54	0.79	5.00	4.394	4.15	1.07	5.00					

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11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.									
Instructor's enhancement of student interest in subject matter was...									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means	
Poor	(1)	0	0%					4.11	4.11
Fair	(2)	2	7.14%						
Good	(3)	6	21.43%						
Very good	(4)	7	25%						
Excellent	(5)	13	46.43%						
N/A	(0)	0	0%						
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median	Instructor	College Mean
28/34 (82.35%)	4.11	0.99	4.00	4,395	4.11	1.14	5.00		

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.									
Instructor's interest in the subject matter of the course was...									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means	
Poor	(1)	0	0%					4.82	4.52
Fair	(2)	0	0%						
Good	(3)	0	0%						
Very good	(4)	5	17.86%						
Excellent	(5)	23	82.14%						
N/A	(0)	0	0%						
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median	Instructor	College Mean
28/34 (82.35%)	4.82	0.39	5.00	4,391	4.52	0.84	5.00		

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.									
Instructor's availability for additional help was (Answer only if you've sought help during instructor's office hrs.)...									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means	
Poor	(1)	0	0%					4.55	4.35
Fair	(2)	0	0%						
Good	(3)	3	11.11%						
Very good	(4)	3	11.11%						
Excellent	(5)	14	51.85%						
N/A	(0)	7	25.93%						
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median	Instructor	College Mean
27/34 (79.41%)	4.55	0.76	5.00	4,274	4.35	1.01	5.00		

11 - Please rate your instructor on the following aspects.									
The fairness of the grading practices in this course was...									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means	
Poor	(1)	0	0%					4.56	4.23
Fair	(2)	0	0%						
Good	(3)	2	7.41%						
Very good	(4)	8	29.63%						
Excellent	(5)	17	62.96%						
N/A	(0)	0	0%						
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College Mean	Mean	STD	Median	Instructor	College Mean
27/34 (79.41%)	4.56	0.64	5.00	4,372	4.23	1.02	5.00		