

YSS3231: Methods in the Social Sciences (GP02)

AY2021/22 Semester 2 | Stephen Louis Andre Monroe

Teaching Score Analysis

Response Rate

Raters	Students
Responded	9
Invited	9
Response Ratio	100%

Quantitative

Overall Mean Score

Competency	Faculty Score
Overall Mean	4.73

Breakdown Mean Score for each statement

	# Response	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable	Standard Deviation	Mean
The course was effectively organized.	9	0	0	0	3	6	0	0.50	4.67
The course clearly articulated objectives and expectations.	9	0	0	0	2	7	0	0.44	4.78
The course assignments helped me learn.	9	0	0	0	4	5	0	0.53	4.56
The instructor helped me understand course materials and concepts.	9	0	0	0	4	5	0	0.53	4.56
The instructor encouraged student participation and/or engagement.	9	0	0	0	2	7	0	0.44	4.78
The instructor provided constructive feedback on my work.	9	0	0	1	0	8	0	0.67	4.78
The instructor was helpful outside of class.	9	0	0	0	0	9	0	0.00	5.00

Faculty Mean Score Comparison

Question	Faculty Score (Stephen Louis- Andre Monroe)		Major Score (Social Sciences)		Division Score (Social Sciences)		College (Yale- NUS College)		Students	
	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean
The course was effectively organized.	15	4.53	15	4.53	661	4.63	2215	4.45	9	4.67
The course clearly articulated objectives and expectations.	15	4.60	15	4.60	661	4.61	2215	4.44	9	4.78
The course assignments helped me learn.	15	4.47	15	4.47	658	4.63	2213	4.46	9	4.56
The instructor helped me understand course materials and concepts.	15	4.53	15	4.53	661	4.75	2215	4.61	9	4.56
The instructor encouraged student participation and/or engagement.	15	4.80	15	4.80	661	4.68	2216	4.60	9	4.78
The instructor provided constructive feedback on my work.	15	4.53	15	4.53	659	4.58	2210	4.51	9	4.78
The instructor was helpful outside of class.	15	4.87	15	4.87	650	4.69	2169	4.61	9	5.00
Overall	-	4.62	-	4.62	-	4.65	-	4.53	-	4.73

Number of hours spent per week, outside the scheduled class meetings. [1]

Name	1hr	2hrs	3hrs	4hrs	5hrs	6hrs	7hrs	8hrs	9hrs	10hrs
YSS3231: Methods in the Social Sciences (GP02)	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	1	1	0

Number of hours spent per week, outside the scheduled class meetings. [2]

Name	11hrs	12hrs	13hrs	14hrs	15hrs	16hrs	17hrs	18hrs	19hrs	20hrs	N/A	Mean
YSS3231: Methods in the Social Sciences (GP02)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.44

Course Comments

What were the main concepts and skills you learned in this course?

Comments
How to use R to compute statistics for our group project. The use of many different methods of collecting data be it the multi method approach, surveys, interviews, political ethnography's etc.
Quantitative and qualitative methods, and how to go about them. Especially quantitative methods, I did not know how to look at them prior.
Qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, coding, ways to conduct practical research
I learned how the different methods of research and how to operationalise them
Methods of the social sciences. I learnt what the course intended me to learn. I learnt how to use these methods and critique them based on their credibility and accuracy. We also discussed ethics in social science research.
1) Main concepts – OLS regression analysis; types of research designs and methods; the predicted outcomes framework and grounded theory (compared and contrasted); sampling methods; writing a literature review; designing interviews and surveys; getting ethics approval.
2) Skills – how to read a quantitative paper; how to write in an engaging and concise way; locating research materials (for which Prof Monroe invited librarian Chris Tang to guest lecture—I really enjoyed this guest lecture from Saga's favourite librarian).
The different methods that social scientists use to conduct research such as quantitative methods, ethnography, surveys.
Quantitative and qualitative research methods for social sciences.
Understanding how to approach different research questions! It's important to recognise which method is most suitable for research. Also how to conduct these methods! Learning the process of research design and ensuring that all aspects are met.

What helped you learn? Please provide examples such as reading materials, activities, assignments, and the instructor's distinctive teaching methods.

Comments

Prof's lecture and seminar slides were extremely useful and very clear to follow. He would always upload them before class which I would see and help in understanding how the class is going to go. Having each individual present in class on a case study was very effective as well along with the group projects that Prof. Assigned.

Class discussions, and LAB exercises were extremely helpful.

The readings and case studies were quite useful in contextualising and providing examples of the different methods covered. Prof's lecture also helped with outlining the key points and takeaways for each method and helped to provide a foundation for Thursday seminars. LABs (both in lecture and seminar) were also quite enjoyable in general and helped to make the class more interactive. I thought the LAB on participant observation was quite useful and enriching. since it gave us first-hand experience of what conducting an ethnography would entail. Prof's focus on engaging the class was also great in making lessons more enjoyable and the class atmosphere more cordial. The assignments also provided good checkpoints for the various distinctive methods learnt in class and were a good chance for us to try using them in reality. I thought the course offered a good overview into the methods we could potentially explore in other higher-level modules or capstone.

I found the readings and lectures very useful

The professor put a lot of effort into helping students understand the course requirements and learning objectives during office hours.

Professor Monroe's syllabus was well-structured. In the syllabus, he clearly laid out deadlines, each assigned reading was purposefully included, and topics flowed well from week to week. The Professor also gave us constructive feedback on our assignments based on a meticulously detailed rubric which he circulated a few weeks prior to the actual deadline (with a sample assignment attached). Professor Monroe was also very organised and attuned to students' needs—he almost always gave us our assignments back when he said he would, he would post regular announcements on Canvas (I remember he was among the first of my Profs to upload his syllabus at the start of the semester), everything we needed we could find on e-Reserves or in the Canvas 'Files' tab. But what made the biggest impression on me was Professor Monroe's approach to office hours and how much he challenged us during the weeks on the ethnographic method (even if he told us his training was more empirical and quantitative)—detailed more below.

The labs and sample examples provided by prof helped me understand how to complete the assignments given.

Lectures, class discussions, case studies.

LABs in seminar were extremely beneficial. The assignments were also perfect in practicing different methods. I do believe the lecture and seminar split helped, with one being more about the lesson, and the other being about experimentation and discussion

Please elaborate on your previous responses or address other issues such as class dynamics or atmosphere.

Comments
Having surgery early in the semester on my ankle meant that I was forced to be on zoom as I could not walk. Prof Monroe accommodated for this and allowed me to be on zoom which did not in any way diminish my learning. I thoroughly enjoyed his class throughout the semester and respect him immensely.
I loved class. Thought I would dread it at first as it is a pre req module, but genuinely am more interested and am able to pay more attention to research methods now.
Class dynamics were very cordial and seminar was often quite interactive. Since the class was small and Prof helped with discussion groupings, this also gave us the chance to work with everyone in class, which I quite enjoyed.
Although my seminar class size was very small, we were all very participative and I learnt a lot from my peers
The class dynamics were conducive and the professor encouraged active participation in class discussions. The case studies helped us discuss deeper questions about research and it's applicability in various scenarios
Point (1) – I was really impressed by the amount of time and attention Professor Monroe gave students during office hours. Not only did he clarify any questions we might have (and I have gone to his OH in groups and in-person), but he also took time to go over the assignment with us (even the parts that we thought we knew), making sure that we left his office having learnt something new and excited about the particular assignment we're working on. Professor Monroe also gave additional/extended office hours and R (code) practice sessions when we needed it—I really respect his commitment to his students.
Point (2) – I really appreciate Professor Monroe's deep engagement with ethnographic methods. He did not resort to overused binaries between a superior 'real', positivist social sciences (where experimental methods are the gold standard) vs. inferior 'anything goes' ethnographic methods. Instead, he took the time to unpack the pros and cons of ethnographic methods on its own terms, in the process, touching upon enduring and complex questions in anthropology on representation, emic and etic perspectives, and more. This commitment to giving ethnography its fair shake was most apparent in the reading 'Among Wolves' by Pachirat.
Point (3) – As a caveat, this point may depend more on the composition of the class than the Professor's teaching style. However, sometimes I feel like class discussion lagged, especially when it was apparent students did not finish their readings. Maybe this could be avoided with larger class sizes (for this iteration, there were two sections, mine had around eight students). Or maybe we could discuss in smaller groups (for more than the usual 5–10 minutes) before 'presenting' our findings to the class?
Class dynamics is good because prof is very patient and my classmates are participative.
Professor was very helpful during office hours and provided a lot of constructive feedback for assignments.
Class dynamic was great! Prof urged all of us to speak!