

# Prof. Dr. Thomas Gschwend

Crafting Social Science Research ()

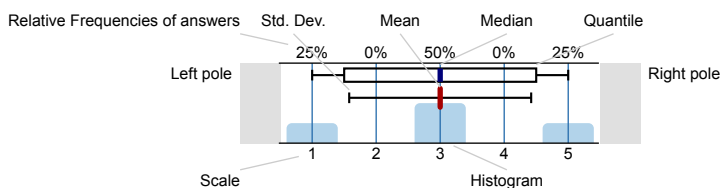
No. of responses = 13



## Survey Results

### Legend

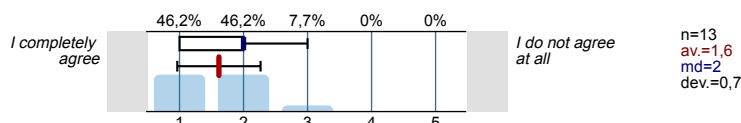
Question text



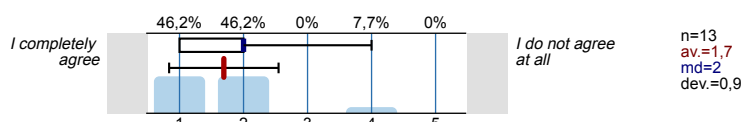
n=No. of responses  
 av.=Mean  
 md=Median  
 dev.=Std. Dev.  
 ab.=Abstention

### Coursework and learning process

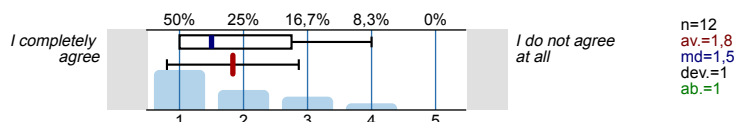
The course contents were illustrated very well by using appropriate examples.



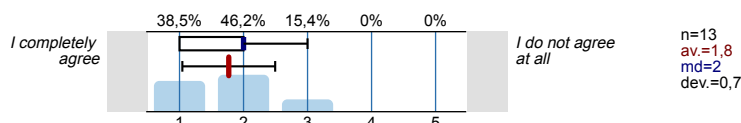
Recommended reading materials were useful in facilitating understanding of course content.



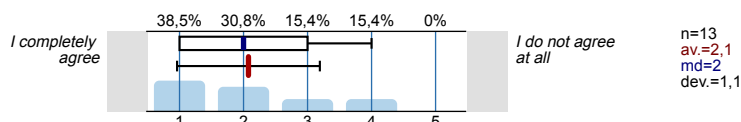
The exercise sessions were very useful (if applicable).



The course contents were very well structured.

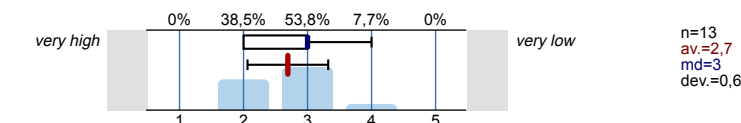


The course has helped me expand my knowledge of the topic/field.



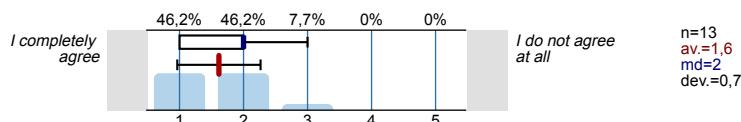
In relation to the number of ECTS credits I receive, the average workload for this course is ...

(One ECTS credit corresponds to an average workload of approximately 30 hours)

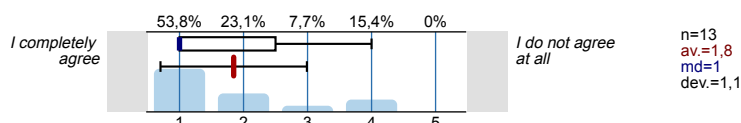


### Instructor

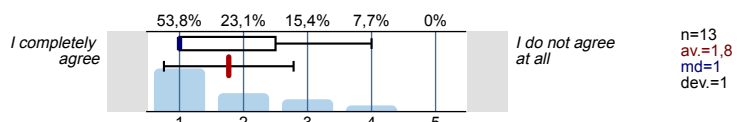
The instructor demonstrated a high level of commitment in this course.



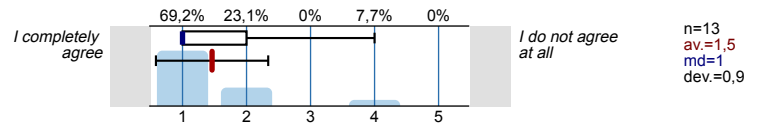
Answers given by the instructor were helpful in clarifying uncertainties.



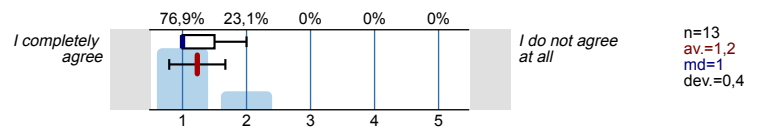
The instructor motivated me.



The instructor encouraged the open and creative participation of students (if applicable).

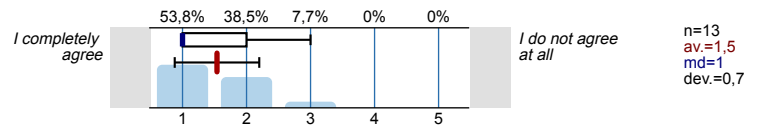


Instructor's manner of speaking was clear and audible.

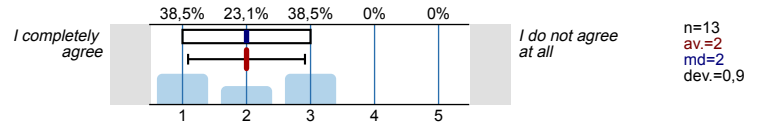


Overall satisfaction

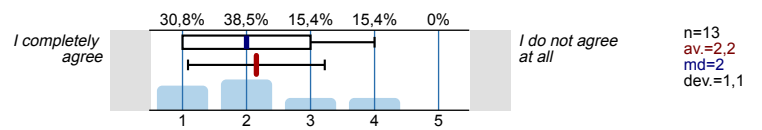
Overall, I am very satisfied with the instructor.



Overall, I am very satisfied with the course.



I learned a lot in this course.

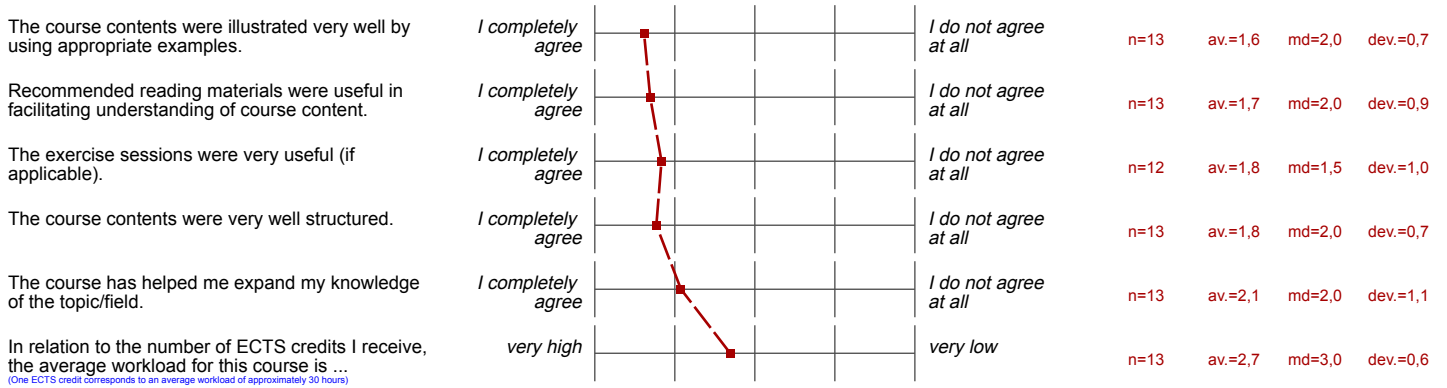


# Profile

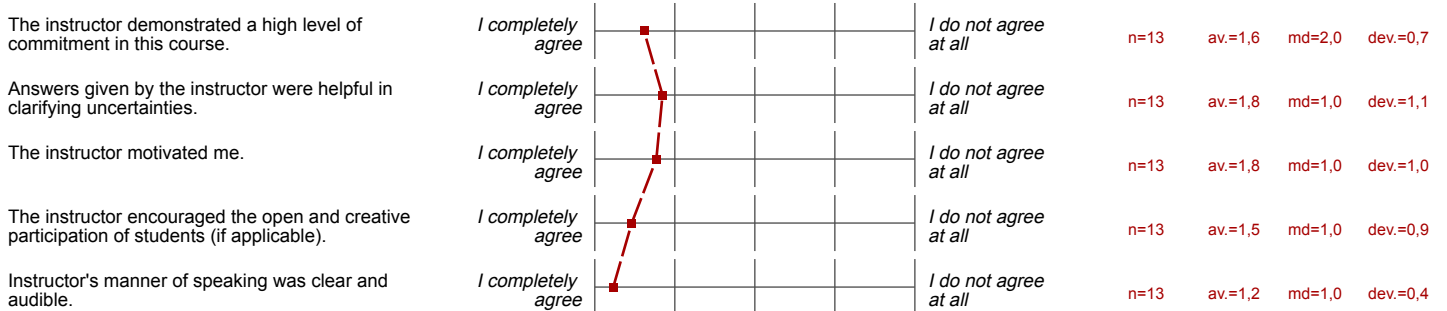
Subunit: GESS  
 Name of the instructor: Prof. Dr. Thomas Gschwend  
 Name of the course: Crafting Social Science Research  
 (Name of the survey)

Values used in the profile line: Mean

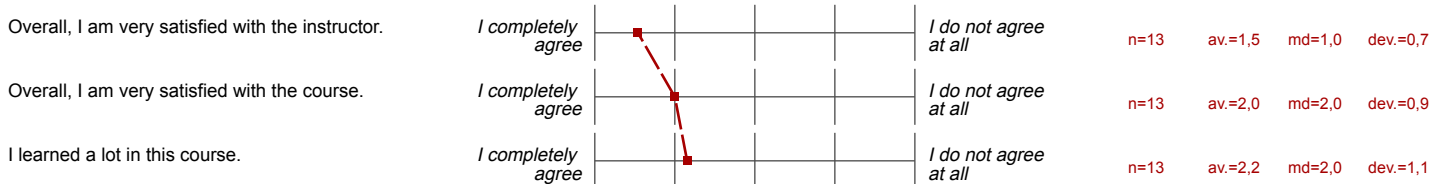
## Coursework and learning process



## Instructor



## Overall satisfaction



# Comments Report

## Overall satisfaction

What did you especially like about the course?

- + Professor was incredibly motivated and motivating
  - + very friendly and constructive
  - + amazing first insights into publication processes and SO helpful that he shared some REAL reviews
- I liked the environment in this course. It was very comfortable, warm, and opened the opportunity for people to share experiences and opinions. I also liked the experiences shared by Professor Gschwend. They were very helpful and gave great insights.
- It encouraged students to work on their dissertation which is very useful for first-year students. It also added to my knowledge about research design and the publication reviewing process.

Prof Gschwend was also highly motivated and encouraged students to work on their dissertation, while not judging how advanced or in most cases not so advanced the dissertation proposals were.

One of the few courses that are very useful for pushing students to focus on their dissertation next to the general course work and their job.

- It was really helpful to have to think about the dissertation proposal already by now as well as to present them to our peers and receive feedback. The feedback was really helpful, especially as we had one reviewer from the same & one from another field. All recommendations for writing papers, submitting etc. were also super helpful. Overall, this was by far the most useful course for me in the first semester.
- Many uncertainties I had about publication processes etc. were cleared up. Also very good that the course forces you not to postpone thinking about a dissertation topic
- The opportunity to explore one's own dissertation topic. Constantly engaging with it helped to prioritise the task of coming up with a dissertation topic.
- helps to get started with your dissertation project and to be aware of relevant scientific aspects such as good writing, ...

Do you have any recommendations how to improve the course? If so, which ones?

- - none
- A grade on the final term paper seems a bit unnecessary, since it is supposed to only be a draft.
- I sometimes felt like the emotional burden that coming up with a PhD topic and doing a PhD in general were not dealt with enough. There is a technical side of coming up with research ideas but the pressure that comes with it is something that PhD students need to work through, too. More support on how to deal with that would have been nice.
- I think the Workshops would be somewhat more useful if done in January or February, because our schedule is so full during lecture time that making meaningful progress on the dissertation is hard. Instead most people I talked to want to use the lecture-free time between semesters to conceptualize their ideas more clearly. Thus, a workshop then might be more fruitful.

Other than that, I think a single session on how to deal with failure, impostor syndrome or mental stress in general would be good incl. information about places one can get help etc. I felt the short discussion we had turned a bit into us saying that we are stressed and you saying that it's not so bad - and I think talking about this more generally with clear recommendations and advice regarding the support system would be better

- I would really recommend switching the deadline of the proposal to a later stage, such as by the end of the second semester. This enables us to work on our final proposal which is actually related to our PhD topic. As of now, I and several other students are about to submit a proposal which is not related to our PhD topic at all-- and I think this is very sad and clearly a waste of time and energy.
- Perfect as it is. :D
- While I liked that the course addressed many aspects important to creating social science research, I would have preferred more in-depth exploration of specific topics such as giving reviews or writing introductions, rather than the more superficial insights we were given. The instructor also sometimes veered off the topic in the lectures so we didn't even get to discuss the readings. It would have also made sense to talk a bit more in-depth on creating a research design for a doctoral thesis. I also didn't find the final assignment very helpful. Few of the people I talked to were able to explore a topic they might like to actually do for their thesis and rather went with something that they had thought of before. There was simply very little time to properly think of a research topic this semester which is why I am not surprised by the lecturer's statement that people change their topics in January again. I also have to remark that some of the instructor's comments regarding mental health and the feelings of being overworked by students were quite problematic. Putting off students' concerns as a result of "bad self-organization" is just not fair and does not create a good atmosphere.