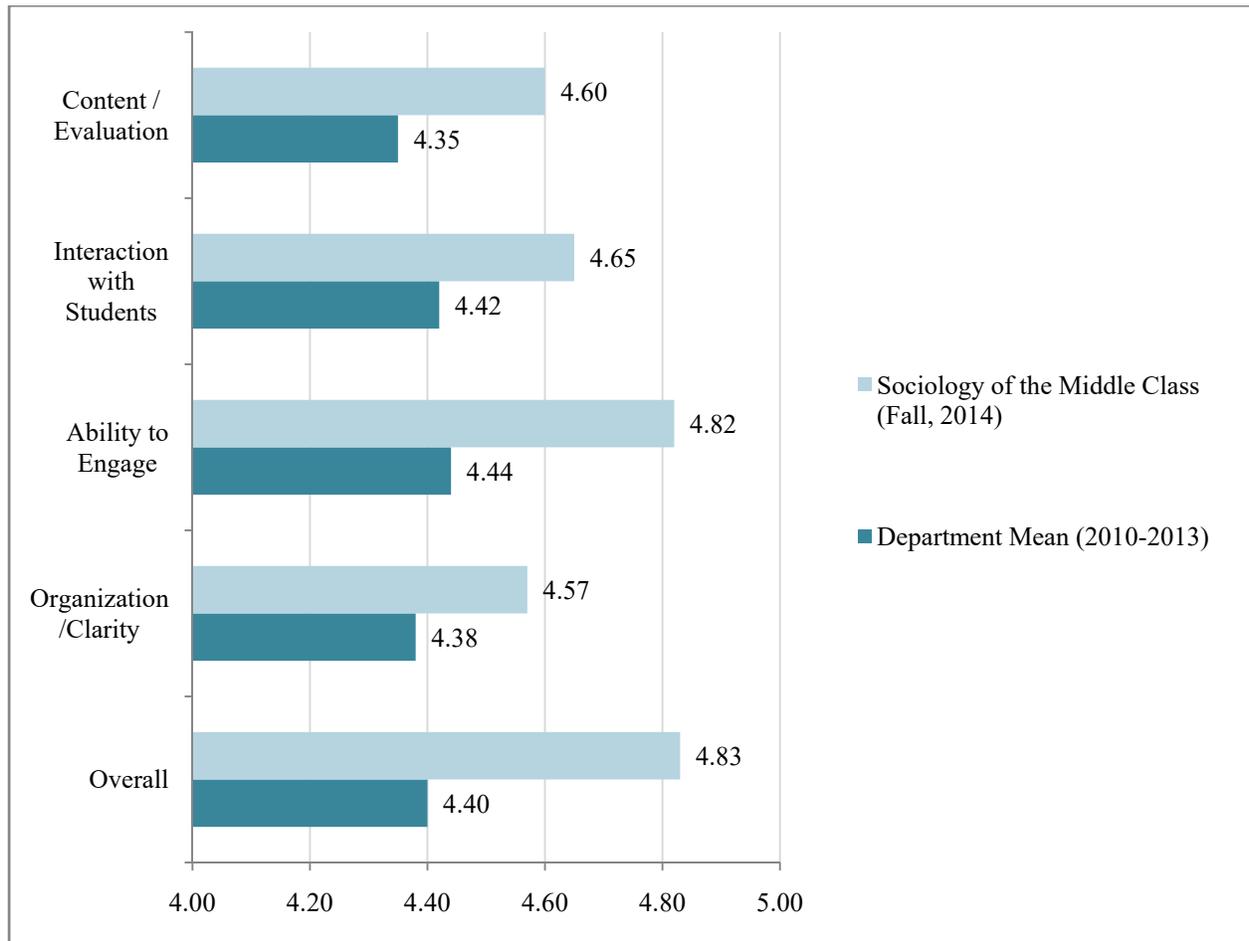


# Sociology of the Middle Class

## COURSE EVALUATIONS: FALL 2014



## STUDENT COMMENTS

Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

- Great sense of humor, very good at explaining complicated economics concepts
- Beth was very personable and interesting. She lectured when appropriate but also engaged students in active discussions and conversations.
- Beth does a fantastic job of relating to students. Her easy demeanor and candor fostered a comfortable classroom environment in which students were comfortable contributing to

discussion. There was never a sense of pretension or the feeling that because Beth was the instructor her ideas, opinions, etc were superior to ours. I also really appreciated the extent to which Beth encouraged discussion. The course dealt with topics relevant to all students, so hearing from our peers and applying the lessons to our own observations was informative, enlightening, and incredibly useful.

- Amazing teacher, amazing class. This was the first time I was able to have discussions in class that I cared about and the teacher did a great job of facilitating them. I hope to have her again!

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses, if any, of the textbook(s) and reading(s):

- The readings were current and interesting and pertained to everyday life, they were very valuable.

Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

- We wrote two op-ed pieces in the class. For each op-ed piece we wrote a total of three drafts. I really liked the op-ed pieces because they allowed me the opportunity to write more creatively and for a different audience.
- In terms of usefulness, the assignments helped me develop writing skills that are conducive for the professional world. For example, not everyone in the U.S. population understands social issues through sociological terms or analysis. Therefore, being able to communicate sociological analysis on social issues in everyday language is critical, which I learned to do through these op-ed pieces.
- I really liked the way the assignments were formatted and scheduled. We wrote and improved on the op-eds and it was a new form of writing for me that I really appreciated getting the chance to learn and perfect.
- I really enjoyed the flexibility of the assignments. It was nice that students were able to write about topics which were of interest to them. This was nice not only because it made completing the assignments enjoyable, but also because it allowed me to make connections between this course and others I am taking or have taken in the past.
- We got great feedback on all of our assignments and I greatly improved my writing because of it.

Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all?

- I really enjoyed the course because it allowed me to better analyze and understand social class on a micro, meso, and macro level. Beth is an excellent teacher and she conveys information in a very understandable and eloquent fashion. Additionally, I really appreciated her efforts in bringing in guest speakers for the class. She invited people from different class backgrounds to speak to us about their experiences with social mobility, which was very informative and enriching.
- I would recommend this class to anyone of any major!