Social Science Division Student Survey
June 2020

Based on a survey distributed to Social Science Students by the Social Science Division Task Force

Chaired by Leonardo Arriola (larriola@berkeley.edu)
Compiled by Martha Olney (olney@berkeley.edu)
Questions to Olney, Arriola, or Alan Karras (karras@berkeley.edu)

This document summarizes some of the findings from the survey with feedback from undergraduate students:

Flexibility
- Being sympathetic, understanding and flexible.
- Just increased flexibility. During this time, students have a tendency to become overly stressed and worry about the grade rather than the learning. I would just suggest doing whatever you can to help counteract this and remind students to focus on the learning.
- Recording the zoom classes has been great for me. I have a young child at home and can be easily distracted, so being able to go back later and re-watch has been super helpful.

Access
- Providing free PDF access to the reader, when I had previously been using the library copy at Cal, was an enormous help.
- When professors answer questions that were asked through a chat it is not visible if you watch the recorded lecture, it would be nice if they could read the question or find a way to show it so that it is visible to those that can't watch the lecture live.
- Lectures with subtitles would be nice. Sometimes the audio cuts out or it's hard to hear what was said

Engagement
- Socialize on Zoom before class starts or after it ends
- Have GSIs answer questions in chat during lectures
● Finding a way to incorporate more interaction between students and professor, use of polls etc to check up on understanding.
● Maybe for professors to gauge how students are understanding the material, they could use the zoom reaction functions more (yes/no, go faster/slower)
● Use other forms of non-Zoom engagement (e.g., shared Google docs)
● For classes that are meant to be interactive, I wish instructors would use break-out rooms or mini group assignments during class to facilitate that.

Course Organization

● Clear communication with students about changes to the syllabus
● Clear communication about expectations/due dates for course
● Organization place where students can access readings and recorded lectures even the zoom link to join the lecture as well
● Socialize on Zoom before class starts or after it ends

Building Community

● Students were split on whether or not to turn on camera- ○ People turn their cameras off and are not engaging with the material. professors need to incentivize students to turn screens on.
○ Although I understand that professors want to see students faces, I don't like the pressure to turn your camera on. Personally this creates a great deal of anxiety for me.
● Interaction between instructors and students is always great! Even online. Interactive lectures, virtual office hours are great.
○ More interaction. I feel really isolated.
● More quizzes, less homework. Maybe change the final and midterms to weekly quizzes. This will motivate students.