



SOSC 12400 24 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - Connor Strobel

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2024**

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **8**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Friday, January 31, 2025**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Khaldun's cycle theory of civilization (i.e. that civilizations go through stages before they collapse and a new society gets formed), a little bit of Smith through his "Wealth of Nations", Marx's theory of alienation, Weber and his religious metaphors which attempt to explain, through religious discourse, why certain groups of people are more economically prosperous than others, and a couple interesting academic papers in between on various topics (which I find brings the course together quite nicely!)
Close reading and textual analysis skills
how to better convey thoughts and reasoning in my writing
We learned about the theories of political economy and society from famous thinkers such as Ibn Khaldun, Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. We also learned how to read social scientific papers. Through this class, I also learned how to write about social science and social thought.
How Khaldun, Smith, Marx, and Weber viewed society.
First quarter focuses more on econ related topics, with readings around Marx, Adam Smith, Ibn Khaldun, etc.
There are many different ways to analyze the economic development of society

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Discussions/Lectures were extremely well run. Not to glaze, but, as a sophomore now, I think Professor Strobel is the best facilitator of discussion that I've had at this school. Even with, at times, dense, uninteresting topics, he would find a way to spin it such that students felt like they could contribute.
The classes were amazing and the way the professor discusses the readings with us really helped my understanding of the difficult texts we read in class
Lectures and discussions are really helpful
discussions kept me engaged
Discussions were always really interesting and Professor Strobel did a great job at making sure that the discussions stayed on topic and allowed for many interpretations of the texts.
Lectures were most helpful in solidifying my understanding of the texts, which were often dense or used language that was hard to parse through.
Class discussions were incredibly useful in consolidating the knowledge from the readings which can get confusing and convoluted. Discussions brought out the keypoints in the readings and made concepts much clearer.
Lectures were very useful

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.13	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Strobel is one of the best professors I have had at this university

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	12.50%	87.50%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
The discussions, and surprisingly office hours. Professor Strobel has this unique policy requiring students to go to office hours at least once each quarter to talk about quite literally anything. I normally don't go to OH in most classes I'm in, but this policy catalyzed persistent visits after the first one went so well. Professor Strobel walks a very fine line (that most professors cannot) between mutual respect and relatability that makes classes all the more vibrant and engaging; it really made SOSC fun and interesting in a way that I wasn't expecting.
The explanation of the theories and concepts
the way he facilitated discussions in class
Professor Strobel is incredibly knowledgeable about the texts we are reading and always provides really good motivating examples for the more abstract concepts.
Lectures. Professor Strobel was very good at connecting real world situations to the abstract theories that the authors in the texts we read discussed.
Professor Strobel is great at facilitating class discussions and often has funny remarks and comments that keep discussions entertaining yet still relevant to the content discussed.
Made content very easy to understand and engaged with us

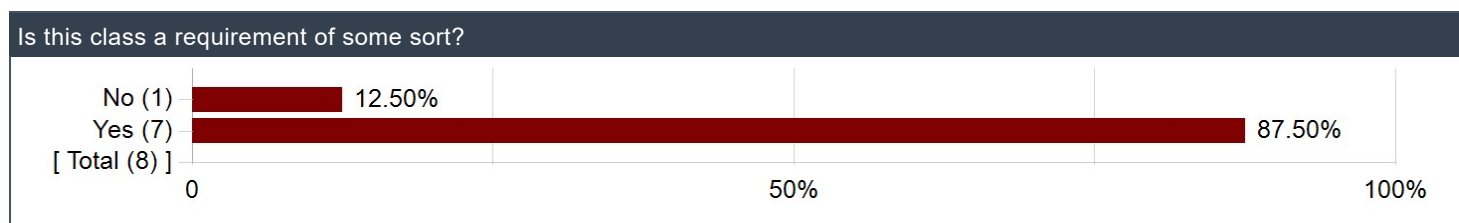
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think the only downside of Professor Strobel is that he does grade somewhat harshly. If I had any feedback to give, it would be to clarify the grading scheme he uses prior to each paper. It felt like I was shooting in the dark over the first two of three papers and I found that annoying considering how well I had done previously over the course of three quarters of Phil Per as a first year.
Give clear expectations for the essay
nothing
Having more clear instructions/expectations for papers.
n/a

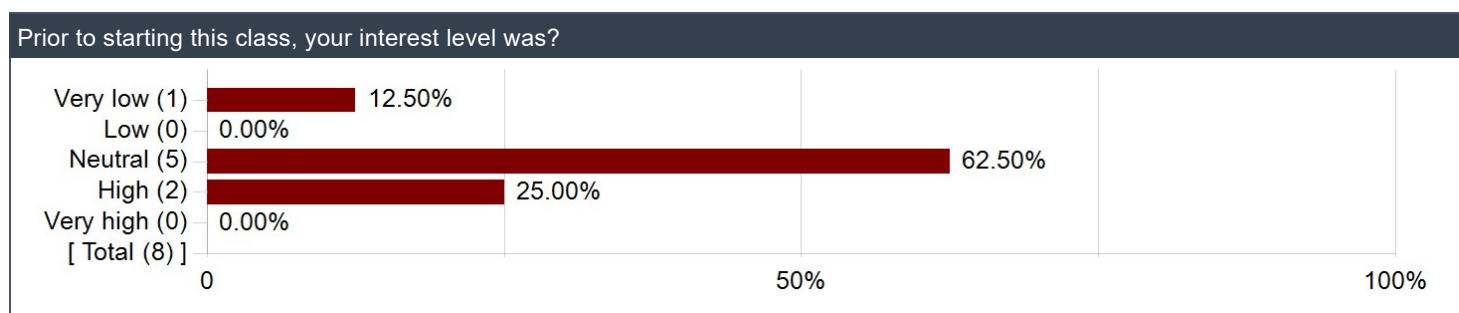
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	75.00%	12.50%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%

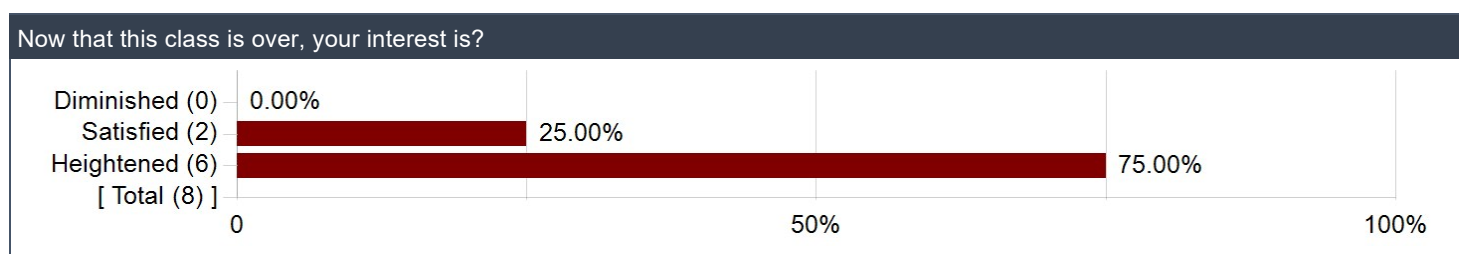
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



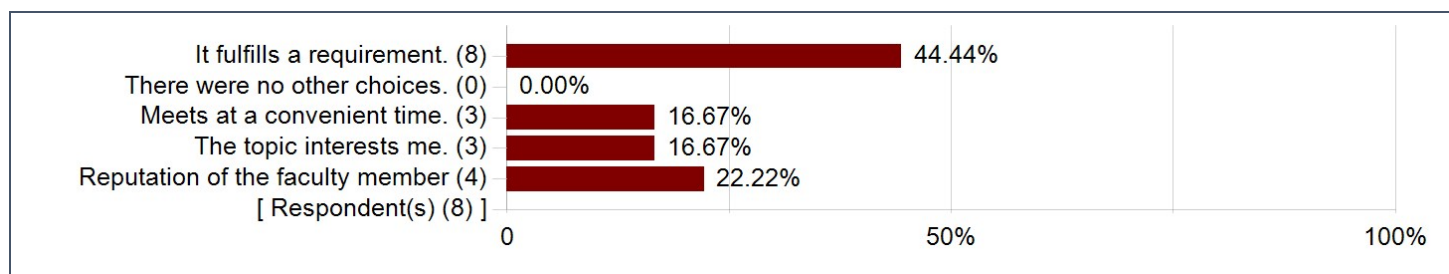
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



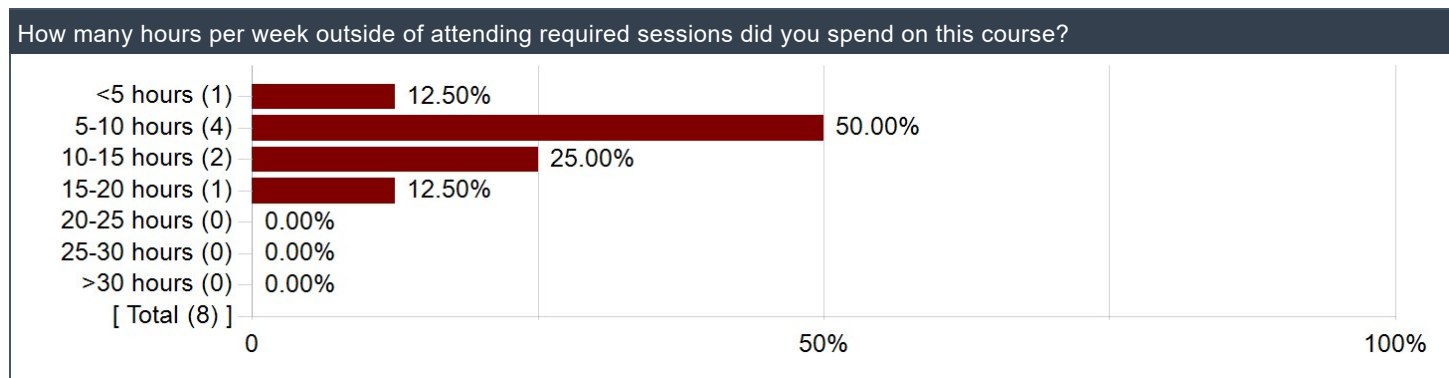
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



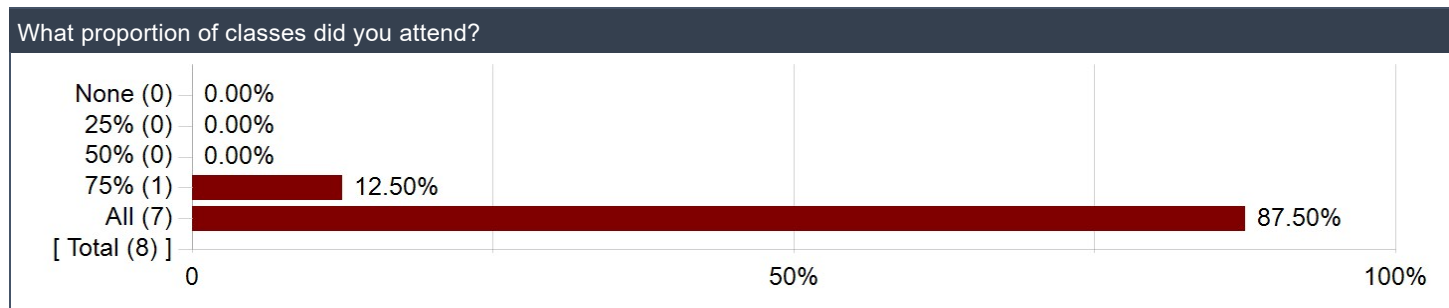
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
I found that the grading was somewhat harsh, but overall, I'd say it was a decently easy core class. For context my only endeavor into the humanities at this point is through three quarters of Phil Per
A little bit challenging for someone who don't have any background knowledge in sociology/social sciences.
I would say the course overall wasn't too difficult. However, the concepts in the texts are quite complicated and often require close reading to fully understand.
I didn't have much experience reading sociological theory but was able to learn and understand a lot from the class.
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