



# SOSC 16100 3 - Global Society I - Instructor(s): Andrew Abbott

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **11**

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## Report Comments

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

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Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

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

Comments
Basic concepts of world social thought and social theory from different areas/time periods of the world
i learned how to read for themes and write papers quickly and compare texts for themes
How to write about texts from all over the world and different time periods.
I learned how to navigate through multiple texts and connect them.
How to write effectively
Reading different authors from different cultural backgrounds in their own terms and perspectives.
How different authors from different cultures view aspects of society
I learned a lot in this class; not only about socs topics but how to read a text with historical context and another perspective. This course was outlined with 3 different themes (Dynamic, Normative, and Ontological) that evaluated different perspectives of a specific society and how to really understand what a book was saying (with the author, location, time period, etc. all being considered). We wrote an essay every week on a different book. This was difficult to complete, but looking back now, I believe I gained a much more comprehensive education compared to other classes I heard from other students/friends. I learned how to completely evaluate and understand a book by seeing it from multiple perspectives that I was not familiar with before. It was tough, but I learned so much from Professor Abbott.
How to write like a College Student.
How to write a socs paper
I learned how to write papers with far better English, and in a very specific writing style that does not involve quotations and other elements I was used to writing with before. I also learned how to read in a way that removes present-day biases from my thought process. This essentially completely revamped the way I approach historical texts.

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

Comments
The bulk of the course content is in the readings, which are sometimes dense and confusing. Having to write a paper on every single reading did somewhat help with my understanding of them, but there were often times where I found it difficult to write a substantive paper due to my lack of understanding of the reading. Lectures were interesting but mostly just provided historical context for the pieces we had already read, so the information provided during lecture was generally too little too late in terms of enhancing my ability to succeed on written assignments.
lectures were helpful to learn how to write
Discussions were not discussions in this class, but rather lectures from Dr. Abbott, which made it a little hard to think about the works independently. The aspect of this course that contributed most to my learning was when we talked about our essays in small groups every Tuesday.
The lectures and discussions for this class didn't contribute to my learning.
assignment feedback contributed the most
Class is dedicated to discussion and QnA on the text of the week and Prof giving background information
Lectures were entirely unhelpful as they were focused on each author's history, which I feel wasn't necessary for most readings. Discussions with classmates were good since I got to hear different interpretations of the authors.
The lectures were great, and we could discuss our perspectives on the previously due essay freely with our classmates. They were very stimulating and enabled more learning on my end. In addition, the professor engaged us by giving more background on each author, which I enjoyed because it gave more context and "stories" on why, how, and when the book was written. The assignments were composed of a rotation of a 500-word, 1,000-word, and 1,500-word essay every week (for the three themes throughout the quarter), which were difficult to write at the beginning of the quarter because no one understood how to properly write an argumentative essay. However, they become easier later in the quarter because he provides (harsh) but constructive criticism that ultimately builds you up as a writer. We didn't have any extra meeting times, but the lecture/class time allotted was sufficient for my learning.
His feedback shapes your writing and helps you improve enormously.
Lectures / small group discussion were very helpful in learning material
The lectures themselves are super interesting, it usually is Professor Abbott delving into some super niche aspect of the culture we learn about, which is pretty cool to hear. Other classes involve Professor Abbott helping us rewrite our essays or summarizing the major themes from the works, which is also very helpful. On the weekly essays we have to write, Professor Abbott gives incredibly detailed feedback that helps very much for the future.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.09	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	18.18%	45.45%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.09	3.00	9.09%	18.18%	45.45%	9.09%	18.18%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.36	3.00	9.09%	9.09%	45.45%	9.09%	27.27%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	36.36%	45.45%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.45	4.00	9.09%	18.18%	18.18%	27.27%	27.27%
I felt respected in this class.	3.18	3.00	9.09%	36.36%	9.09%	18.18%	27.27%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.64	4.00	9.09%	9.09%	27.27%	18.18%	36.36%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This class caused me more stress than all three of my other classes combined
there are weekly essays that are evaluated harshly
We were asked to write an essay every single week ranging from 500 to 1500 words. These essays were graded without clear guidelines and there was little transparency about where you were falling amongst other students. Overall, we wrote 12 essays over a 10 week quarter.
I love professor abbott. he is tough but this is the first writing class in my life that actually taught me how to write. I could not recommend this instructor more. However, if you know writing is not your thing and have no interest in learning to write well, don't take this because the workload is a lot.
May look like a lot of work, but Prof Abbott really aims to help improve our writing!
The course itself is fine. It entirely depends on your professor though

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	27.27%	72.73%
Anyone interested in the topic	36.36%	63.64%

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

Comments
Professor Abbott's lectures during class time were genuinely quite interesting. I felt that they were more focused on history rather than social thought specifically, which sometimes made them feel tangential to what Professor Abbott actually wanted us to learn during the course, but they were still engaging to listen to. Professor Abbott is clearly a very knowledgeable person and an interesting lecturer to listen to, especially when the content of the lectures wasn't something I needed to be memorizing for an exam
honestly office hours were most helpful, but lectures were also helpful because every week we get to talk to our group and discuss that weeks's text. Also Abbott discusses the texts well in class
Dr. Abbott would often give us clear instructions on how to read each book — this was super helpful for difficult texts!
The discussions of historical context contributed to my learning since I would try to understand more how it fit into the text.
feedback on papers, especially the general comments he sends out
Comments and insight on weekly papers
Almost none at all. His feedback on essays was sometimes helpful, but other times it was entirely nit picky or overly focused on grammar as opposed to content.
The fact that he was very knowledgeable and basically an expert in the texts contributed most to my learning.
His feedback on writing assignments is very insightful and helps you transform your writing.
The instructor providing his point of view on the various works would be really interesting, and as I said before, sometimes that would delve into extremely niche topics of interest.

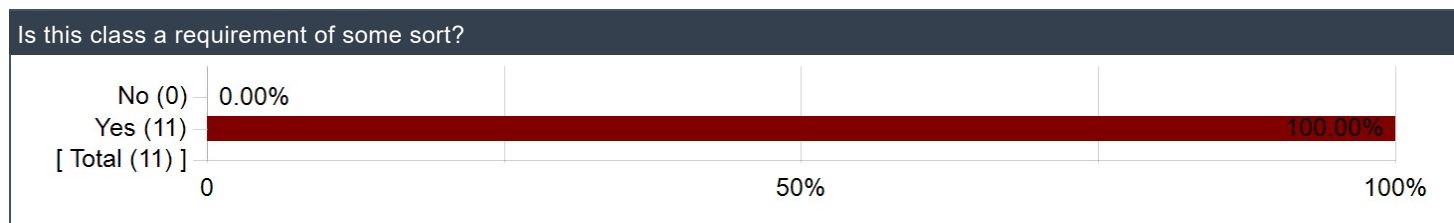
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
<p>Professor Abbott is the type of professor who has an extremely specific way he likes everything to be done, and the way to succeed in his class is figuring out what he does and doesn't like and playing to that in your writing. He gives almost exclusively negative feedback (I think there was ONE singular time during the entire course that he told me something in my writing was good, despite many of my papers having relatively high scores) and is often inconsistent in what he expects to see in students' papers. He repeatedly told me in several papers that I should not be using words to describe the authors' ideas that they would not use themselves, and then the very next week, criticized the fact that I hadn't corrected an author's use of "agriculturists" when they apparently were actually describing "pastoralists." Professor Abbott also kept arbitrarily deciding throughout the quarter that he didn't like particular words we used in our papers, and told us we could not use these words, but provided no explanation as to why (some of the words included "nuance" and "highlight"). The structure of the course was that we would be assigned a particular theme and have to write about this theme in a book we read; the next week, we would read another book and double the length of our previous paper by now covering this theme in two books, and then we would do the same for a third book, and then switch themes. The papers were always due on Tuesday mornings, and Professor Abbott would frequently return his comments on our previous papers on Sunday nights, giving us just over 24 hours to take the new paper that we had presumably already written and restructure it based on his slew of criticisms. If you, like me, had 11 hours of classes and labs on Mondays, then it was virtually impossible to make the changes he requested in time for the next paper to be turned in. This was just one example of how Professor Abbott failed to respect his students' time and effort. While he specifically mandated that we send him our papers in a format that would allow him to track our changes to the document, he sometimes commented that our papers were just "recorded conversations," despite fully having the ability to see that we had put 10 or 15 hours into it over the course of several days. In general, while Professor Abbott was a very interesting lecturer to listen to in class, I do not feel that his teaching model accomplished its goal of making me a better writer—rather, it simply made me feel like I had no idea how to write in the way that he wanted, and it made me dread getting feedback on my writing. Based on conversations with peers, I suspect that I was scoring higher than most other students in the class, yet Professor Abbott still made me feel like I was doing terribly.</p>
<p>Dr. Abbott only lectured. I think in humanities classes, much is gained from having group discussions about the texts and being able to learn from your peers. This was not the case, as Dr. Abbott would speak uninterrupted for the entire class period, which often made students (or at least me personally) lose interest. I think allowing us to have more of a chance to speak – without immediately telling us how incorrect we were — would be beneficial to this class.</p> <p>Additionally, Dr. Abbott made several comments to students with non-english last names that he suspected English was not their first language due to the content of their essays and “their last name.” this was incredibly discouraging for students who struggled with writing, as they were essentially dismissed for their heritage</p>
<p>The instructor could, for one, be kinder to the students. I felt heavily disrespected throughout the class.</p>
<p>none, keep being honest. also, maybe as a result of being of a different generation, he can be a bit micro aggressive (for instance, asked me whether english was my first language when I came to him for essay efficiency advice—— I am a person of color but am american born and raised)</p>
<p>Provide flexibility in choosing themes for writing weekly papers</p>
<p>Make lectures about the readings, don't just do an 80 minute monologue about history.</p>
<p>I understand that he wants us to learn efficiently and that sometimes harsh criticism is needed, but sometimes I felt that because I was scared or worried about what he would say. I would kill myself to write something without really knowing what I wanted to say because I felt pressured to perform perfectly on the next essay. I learned over time to not do that, but it was a very stressful class (especially being STEM), and I believe that the delivery of criticism is something that might need to be changed a bit.</p>

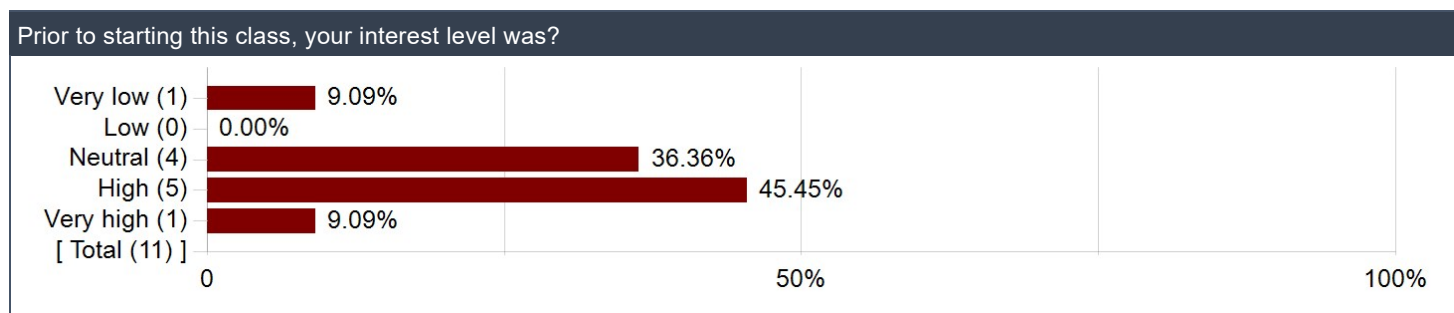
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.09	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	36.36%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.82	5.00	18.18%	9.09%	0.00%	18.18%	54.55%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.64	4.00	18.18%	0.00%	18.18%	27.27%	36.36%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	5.00	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	18.18%	54.55%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.82	5.00	18.18%	9.09%	9.09%	0.00%	63.64%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.91	4.00	9.09%	9.09%	9.09%	27.27%	45.45%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.91	5.00	9.09%	18.18%	9.09%	0.00%	63.64%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.18	4.00	27.27%	18.18%	0.00%	18.18%	36.36%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.73	5.00	18.18%	18.18%	0.00%	0.00%	63.64%	0.00%

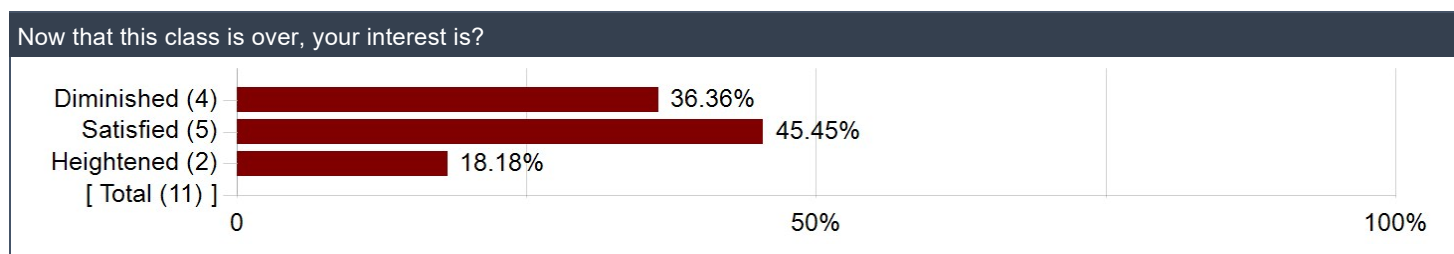
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



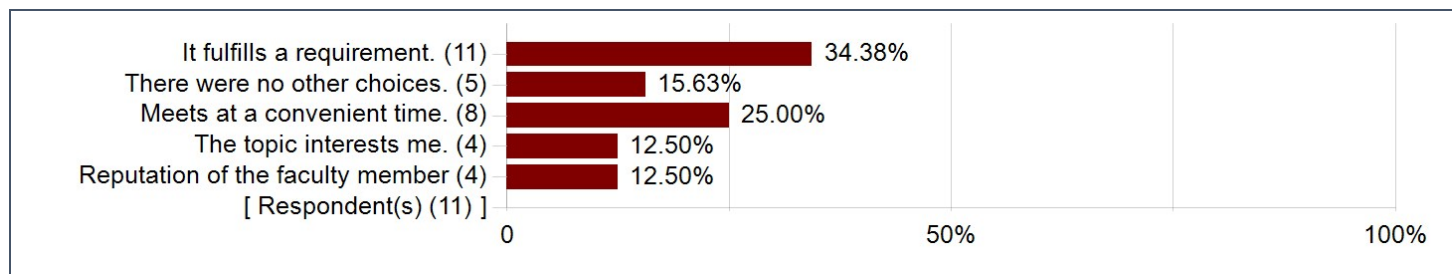
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



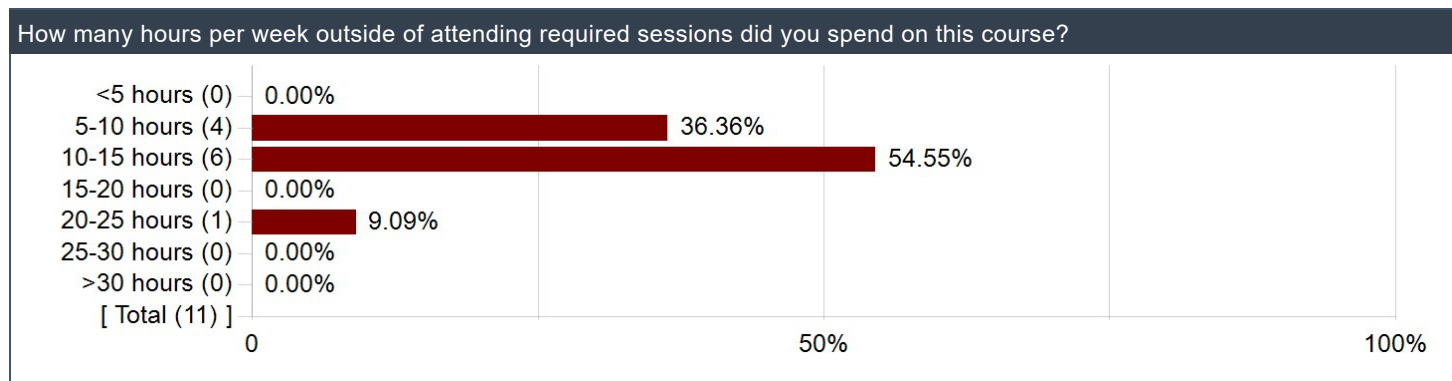
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



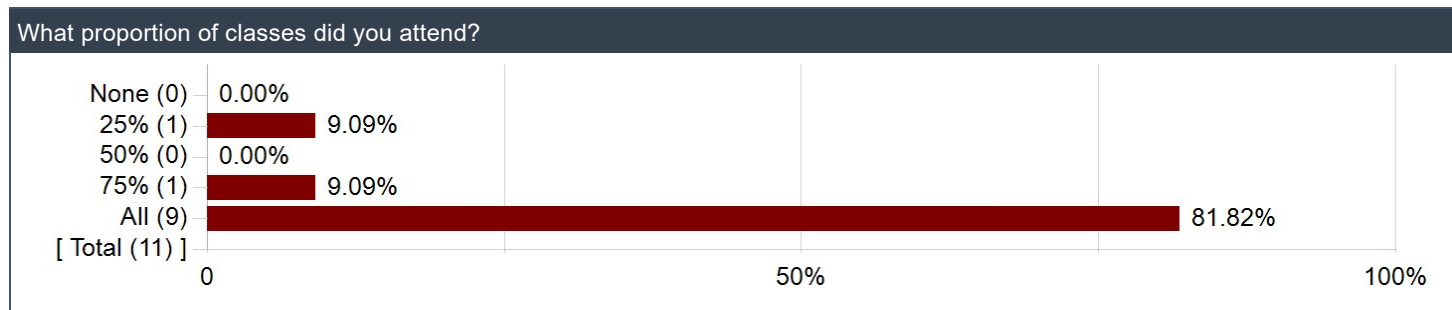
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Regardless of your background, it's pretty much impossible to feel accomplished in this class when the only feedback the professor ever gives is downright demeaning
decently high
much harder, but very valuable
The course itself is not difficult, DEPENDING on your prof. The professor that I had required SIGNIFICANTLY more writing than any of the other professors (like 3x as much). The readings and writings are not necessarily difficult, but the constant barrage of papers was annoying.
I'm not great at writing, so this class was very difficult in learning how to properly write an argumentative/established essay. However, hard work and revision will help over time and it gets easier as you go.
He looks more for improvement than for overall writing quality when it comes to grades so all you need to know how to do is read.
This course is difficult. I had to pay attention to your writing and reading skills in a way no other humanities teacher has challenged me thus far. If you are willing to put in that time and take his feedback seriously, you will definitely improve.

