



SOSC 16100 9 - Global Society I - Instructor(s): Stephen Buono

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **9**

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, 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
Analyzing a text not necessarily for argumentative purposes, but to understand how its ideas parallel society both at the time of publication and today.
Learned about multiple writers from different backgrounds and how their ideals shared similarities and differences across centuries
Definitely how to write stronger essays, as well as different angles to consider the development of society with. Close reading of texts and comparison to synthesize new ideas is also a valuable thing we developed.
Writing and discussion skills. Honestly, in terms of skills, it was more based on polishing rather than learning
Critical writing skills including close analysis of paragraph crafting. How to apply analysis of older texts to contemporary events in politics and media there was also a great emphasis on connections between historical progression and the biographies of authors we have read in the course. We also learned about social structures including the crafting and effectiveness of social contracts throughout history ranging from Bedouin civilization to the 20th century social changes. There was a great distribution of texts covered from different cultures and time periods from professor Buono.
I gained an immense amount of writing skills through our final paper. It was an iterative process before we got to the final product which was very helpful.

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

Comments
Discussions were useful because they contributed to my grade, but also because I was able to understand applications of the authors' ideas that I hadn't thought of before. The way the professor had us build our final paper was somewhat useful as well because I was forced to start working on the basis for it at the beginning of the course, but I didn't like having to choose my books at the beginning since we hadn't read even half of them.
Discussions were engaging and interactive, helping me compare my findings with those of my classmates and subsequently gain a deeper understanding of the pieces of literature being analysed
The discussions always gave me more insight into the text, so even if I didn't understand when I read it, I could gain more knowledge simply by discussing and asking questions with my peers. The assignments also kept us on track by making sure we made steady progress on things instead of waiting until the last moment to do them.
Discussions were pretty standard for a core class, and they were enjoyable and facilitated well by our professor.
Breaking up into groups to craft different parts of a hypothetical essay prompt strengthened my writing skills like in no other class at the university of chicago. Professor Buono's input on our interpretation of different societal structures and great philosophers like Hanfei and JeanJacques Rousseau helped peak my interest in this field and the upcoming reading scheduled for the course.
The readings in this course were great, but I felt that I didn't really learn much (or at all) from coming to class. Firstly, we barely sat down and discussed the texts, and when we did, the discussion seemed a bit surface level and focused on directly responding/trying to please the professor. Half of class time was spent doing activities other than discussion, which I didn't feel like contributed to my learning very much. These activities were things like drawing a map on the board (for the entire 1hr20min class period) and filling in different venn diagrams in groups. To be honest, I didn't like these activities because I found them repetitive. It felt like we discussed a bit for one class period, then during the activity simply rehashed (in a more simplistic manner) what we had already discussed the previous class period. It felt a bit like middle/high school.
Loved Wednesdays when we'd do activities about the text.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	55.56%	33.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	33.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.11	5.00	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
n/a
I found the assignment load to be unmanagable. Lots of short assignments each week. While professor Buono was very understanding about late work, I take a long time to write and found it exceedingly difficult to keep up with the assignments.
If you would like to refine your writing skills and restructure the way you format essay/arguments this is the best socs class you should be taking. The reading schedule for this course is pleasantly reasonable and allows us to dive deep into each text to develop a critical analysis in class without being a burden on other coursework.
One thing I'm rather disappointed by is this course's treatment of race. From the reading list, I think Global Society has potential to be a great course to deepen one's understanding of race, especially the latter half of the reading, and this was sort of what I had hoped to get out of the course. However, the instructor did not seem to want to talk about race at all, unless race was explicitly and obviously mentioned in the reading. For example, in Sarmiento, we barely touched on colonialism and nobody really mentioned race at all, even though these two themes are underpinning the text in a very significant way. For this text in particular, it seemed like the instructor took Sarmiento's racist arguments about the idea of a "civilized" people at face value and did not really examine it critically, which I found very frustrating. As somebody who really wanted to learn more about race, I felt disappointed by this course, especially since the reason I chose Global Society was to escape the "Western canon" that pervades so many of the other SOSC sequences. If you want to take Global Society for similar reasons, I would advise choosing a different professor.
N/A

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	22.22%	77.78%
Anyone interested in the topic	22.22%	77.78%

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

Comments
The way the professor structured discussions and assignments helped me the most. Discussions/context leaders were a good idea and the assignments made me write more which helped me learn what he expected of us for the final paper even before a rubric existed.
Prof. Buono was great in keeping the class engaged and was very knowledgeable about the topics being discussed
Most definitely the discussions, and also the feedback we got on our writing.
He is very good at facilitating discussions, which I felt enhanced my understanding of texts in the class.
Quizzes at the beginning of each class helped me recollect my thoughts on the reading done several days prior to the class preparing me for an engaging discussion. Keeping prompts for weekly discussion papers open ended allowed for assignments to be more of a development of an interesting article piece rather than submitting to a prompt you may not be as inspired by.
Not much.
Wednesday's activities.

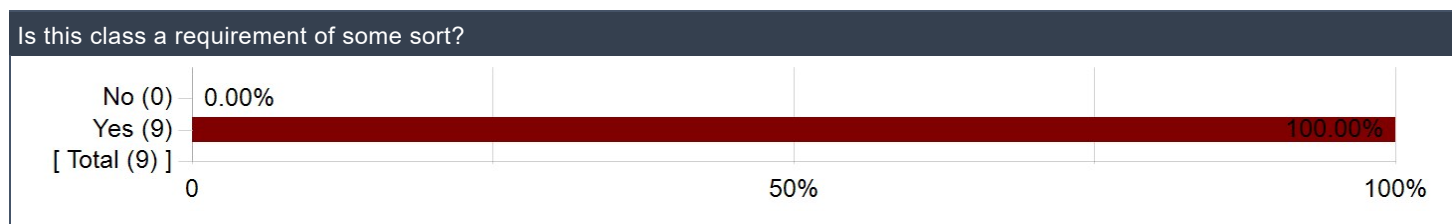
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Maybe take somewhat more of a backseat in discussions. He always had great insights to offer, but it felt sometimes like he talked more than the students. Maybe instead he could use his position as leader of the class to try to get people who aren't talking as much more involved so that their discussion grades don't suffer. It also felt like discussion leaders weren't really leaders. They were more just talking—point providers. Lastly, I understand the purpose behind having us brainstorm for our final essay at the start of the quarter, but since I barely knew the books I was going to write about, I found myself in a bit of a predicament by the end of the quarter when I had to write my first draft at the same time I was even reading one of the books I was writing about.
Give more guidelines on the expectations for the writing part of the course earlier on in the quarter
Not quite sure.
Nothing all aspects of this course were tailored for student success!
I wish we had spent more time discussing the texts and delving deeper into them, beyond just the surface level argument. I also wish we had worked to understand the texts in conjunction with each other more, and in connection to the larger themes of the class. It often felt like the instructor took each of the texts at face value without considering them more critically or in a broader context.
N/A, the class was amazing.

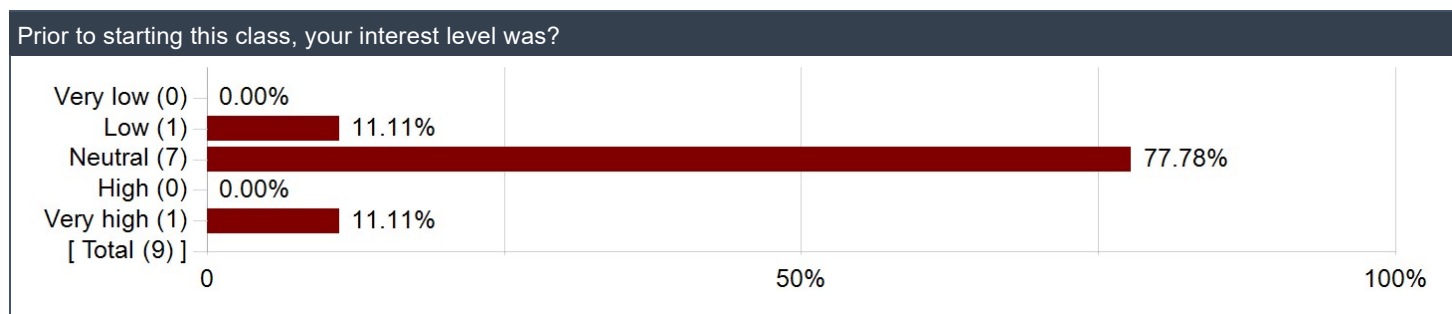
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%	11.11%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.22	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.11	5.00	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.11	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.11	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%

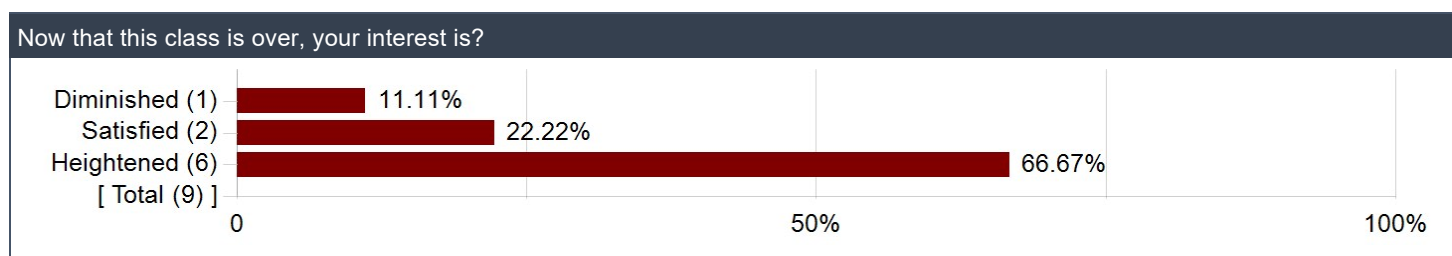
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



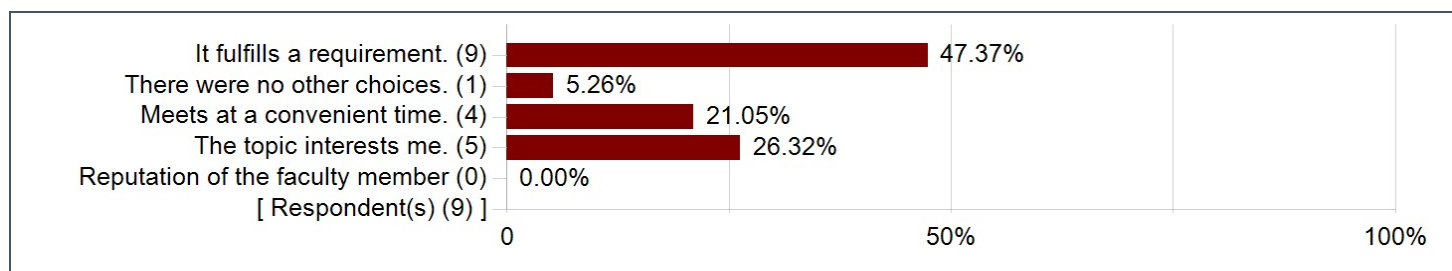
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



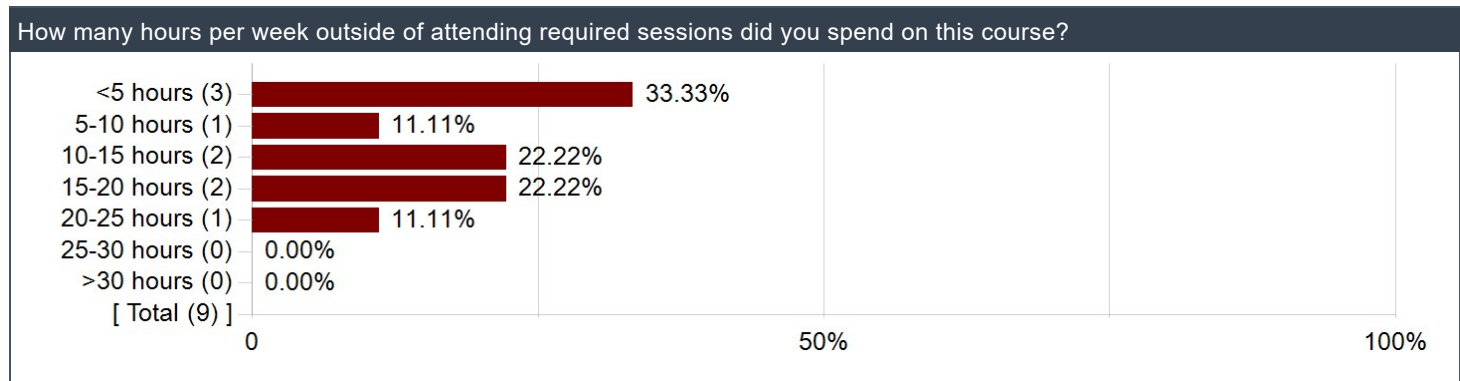
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



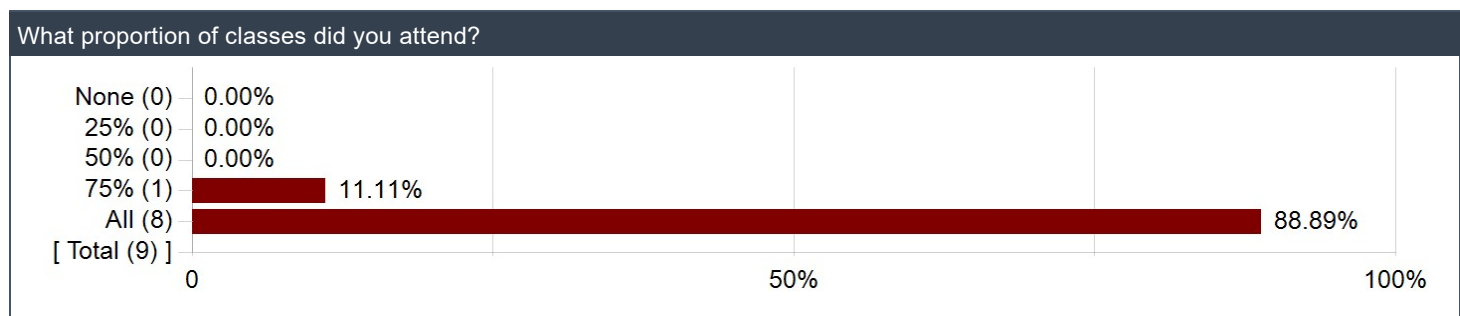
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Somewhat difficult
The course, although challenging, is accessible to a student with no previous knowledge of the topics being discussed
With the experience gained from humanities writing seminars, sosc 16100 is a great class for any second years fulfilling the core requirement who is interested in learning about governments and their stabilization/destabilization throughout history.
Very easy to not do the readings, phone it in on writing assignments, and get a decent grade, since the instructor seems to accept (in my view) subpar work. I am not a fan of this because I would like to be challenged.
Very difficult because I'm a math major