



SOSC 12600 1 - Self, Culture, and Society III - Instructor(s) - Uday Arun Jain

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **15**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

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

Comments
discussion and history of each text
So much about how to approach social science questions.
I learned about important authors' perspectives on a lot of different social issues.
I learned how to reflect on the knowledge that I am being taught as well as how to have my own opinions on society. Additionally, I gained some skills in writing these ideas down.
Orientalism, world conflicts such as the Israel–Palestine conflict, prison movements
The most important things we learned was to question authors and bring to light places where they lacked.
Learned a lot of social science theory that applies to issues going on today.
The way that knowledge production is a deeply political thing and takes shape in so many different ways throughout history. The role of power acting on bodies and identity formation.
A lot of concepts were learned, so I cannot narrow it down.
I learned how to tie social science into modern social and political issues, and how to bring together modern and historical texts with very different writing styles. I also learned how to conduct a social science interview, and really enjoyed writing on this as my final project! I never expected to get this opportunity as a STEM major.
Different forms of knowledge, how we create and interact with them
This course helped me develop my writing and ability to close read. I also learned about the distribution of power in society and how this affects different societal institutions.

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

Comments
Professor's introductory lectures were always super helpful in understanding the landscape in which a work was created!
Professor Jain conducted discussion with great experience, when students needed help he provided intriguing prompts to guide our learning
Professor Jain struck an amazing balance between lecturing us to give us necessary context for our discussions and giving us the space to talk and come to our own conclusions about the texts.
The assignments were very helpful for me because it allowed me to stay up to date on the readings. I had to write a 2–page paper every 2–weeks and that allowed me time to let the readings sink in and then show my understanding.
Discussions were really helpful in putting the readings into context with our everyday lives by hearing the thoughts of my peers as well as the professor.
Lecture/class helped a lot as the instructor was very informative and thorough in teaching
The professor did a very good job at providing necessary background information before starting new material.
Lectures were great in helping me understand the content and readings. They were very helpful!
Lectures and smaller discussion groups, especially when we were asked to think about modern applications/examples.
discussions were useful when we had them
Both lecture and discussion were really great! I enjoyed and learned from classmates' presentations, and although class started off a bit quiet since we were an 8:30 a.m. section, we had some very interesting discussions. I ended up coming away from the class with a deeper appreciation for social science and a better understanding of how it helps us work towards the society we want to create.
lectures were very inspiring and I really liked the ethnographic interview assignment. I thought it was a great way of putting together what we learned about the topics, along with the "meta knowledge" that we had picked up through critiquing people's writing.
The ability to select what type of assignment you would complete each quarter made ensured you were able to engage with the material of this course in a way that would be most meaningful to you. Some of these options include conducting ethnographic interviews, short paper assignments, midterms, or a presentation. Additionally, the professor made a huge difference in the course, his passion really helped the class be much more exciting/engaging.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	20.00%	73.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
I felt respected in this class.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Jain is an amazing teacher, he really respects students and their needs. I would love to take another course with him.
I really appreciated how Professor Jain gave multiple different options for the structure of assignments and the final. This allowed people to choose the medium that would allow them to learn the best and get the most out of the assignments and the class.
The professor was very nice and facilitated discussions well. Although he let his own biases be conveyed, he was respectful of everyone's opinoins and allowed people time to discuss and present their own feeling and arugments.
very interesting course
Professor Jain is amazing and led the class very well! I very much so enjoyed this class and everything about it.
Professor Jain is AMAZING!!! He is super passionate about what he teaches and he is very intentional in his selection of each reading. As a result, I am walking away from this class with an increased excitement about social science and many new works that I am excited to continue reading as I go into the summer!!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	6.67%	93.33%

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

Comments
Even as a younger instructor, Professor Arun Jain was really good at making the texts relevant to contemporary society. He was also accommodating and understanding of external circumstances that could make learning more difficult. He deserves a lot of praise for how the syllabus was constructed and for ensuring that all voices in class are heard (without cold calling). The way his class runs is a great model for how the social sciences should operate!
Willingness to actively include all students, taking into factor each individual's way of learning
Everything! He approached our classes with thought and care, especially when discussing potentially difficult topics, and he really encouraged this same level of careful approach of the texts/material. He gave us the space to voice our own thoughts and opinions, while also giving us information to help guide us.
The lectures and the discussions were very helpful in understanding the material.
I enjoyed the way that Professor Jain presented information and led our discussion in class. Whenever he or someone would make a point, he would write in on the board and create a diagram for all our ideas. It allowed for easy note-taking to use as a future reference for essays.
Very informative, kind and respectful, and a fun person to talk to. Grades very fairly
Lectures before discussion were extremely helpful.
Professor Jain would explain the reading and concepts before we discussed them, which helped me understand our more dense readings. I also really enjoyed the environment Professor Jain created, where it felt like friends discussing concepts and ideas with fellow peers.
The professor's lectures really helped create connections between all the different authors and readings over the last three quarters. The multiple assignment structures were also really helpful and allowed us to be more intentional with our work. Overall, i dont think ive ever had a professor care so deeply about their students learning as prof jain does. Not only does he take the time to really make things clear and understandable, he also takes the time to make clear why these ideas are relevant to us and why we should care. And this wasn't even necessarily always through modern examples and trying to see why the ideas were relevant to us, but also through us just becoming more thoughtful and compassionate people that really understand how different ideas and forces affect different people.
Passion, Uday went extra miles to explain topics or to connect to something that we knew.
Professor Jain struck a really great balance of lecture to discussion! He encouraged us to share our unique viewpoints and thoughts in the classroom, and did a great job cultivating a space where we could discuss difficult topics, even current political topics that related to our readings. I really appreciated how he made dense texts/academic writing and ideas seem more relatable, and his whiteboard diagrams helped me keep track of discussions and make better sense of the authors' arguments. I ended up coming away from the class with a deeper appreciation for social science and a better understanding of how it helps us work towards the society we want to create.
lectures explaining philosophical components of the reading and tying them to broad topics in everyday life.
The Professor Jain often spent 15 minuted in each class explaining the more challenging concepts from the reading. Additionally his passion for each of the topics in this course made all of his discussions presentations very engaging.
Professor Jain, in addition to being an engaging teachers, really cares about his students. Since my section was at 8:30am he implemented a short stretch break in the middle to give us a break and to ensure we stayed engaged throughout the second half of the class.
Even though it was a struggle to wake up at 8:30am I would take this course again because of Professor Jain.

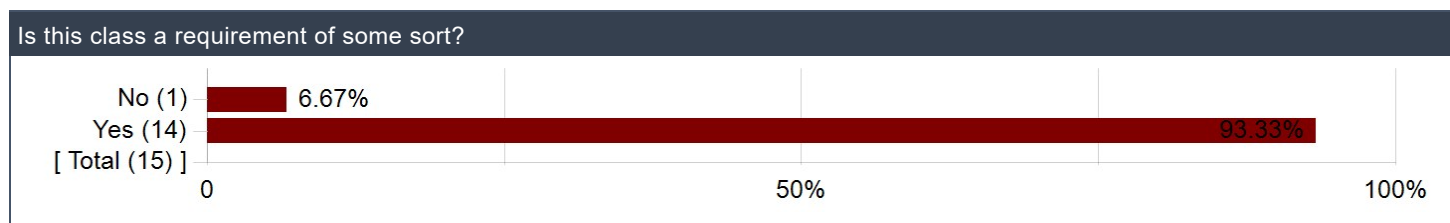
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
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Sometimes the feedback on the essays was a little shorter than I would have liked, however, we had the opportunity to go to office hours to discuss our writing more in-depth.
Let students talk a little more
Guiding more class discussions could help grapple with more complex readings.
N/A. Loved everything!
have more discussion or set up the environment so that there is more student interaction
I really appreciated that Professor Jain made it feel like a safe environment to share our diverse viewpoints, but it felt a little difficult to ask questions about the topics that intersected with modern politics because some of the more vocal students very strongly expressed their viewpoint at the start of those discussions. In the future, I think it might be helpful to starting by looking at these issues through the lens of historical events before bringing in modern issues, even though I felt the discussion of modern issues was very important and relevant as well, and I am glad we discussed them. It can be hard for some to find their footing/voice in these types of discussions if you do not regularly discuss politics. I am glad for this experience though!
n/a
Honestly I cannot think of anything.

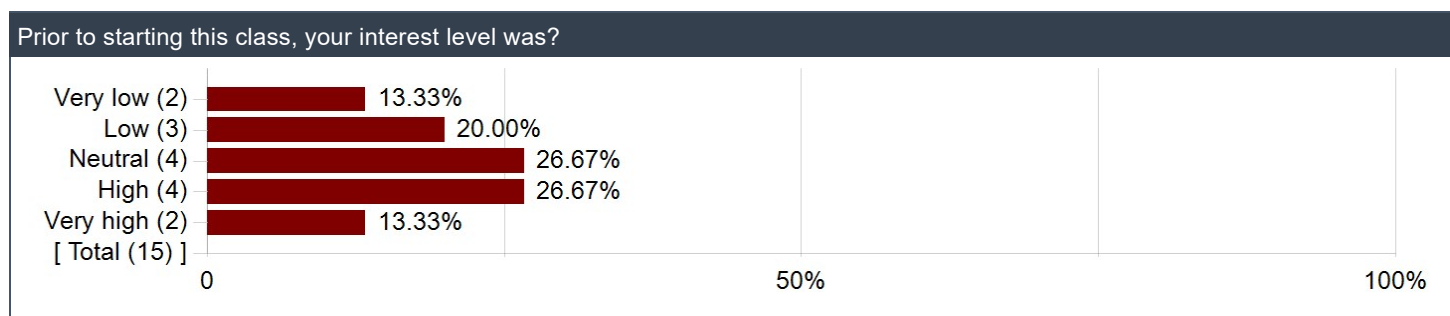
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	86.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	13.33%	80.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	93.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%

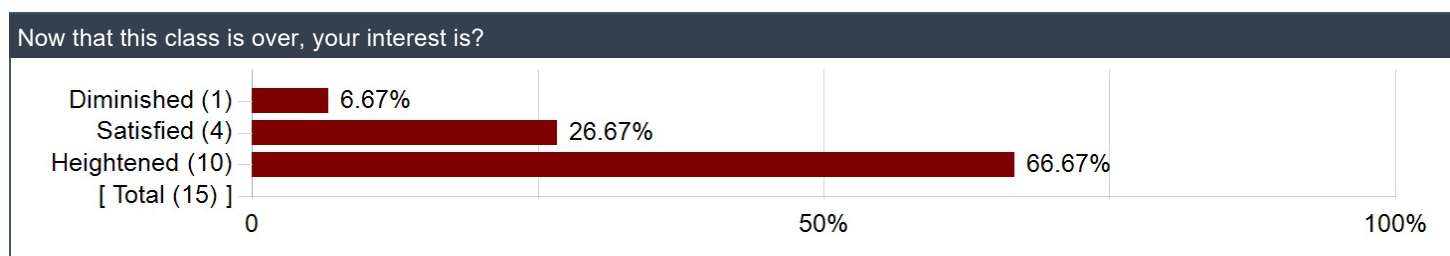
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



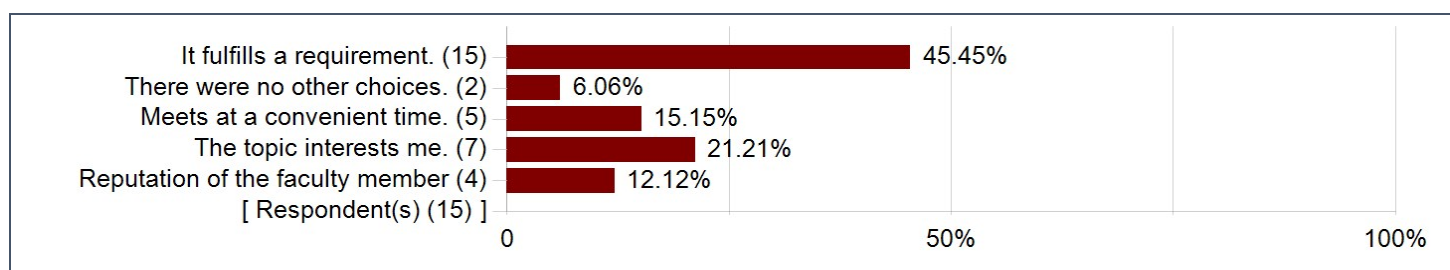
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



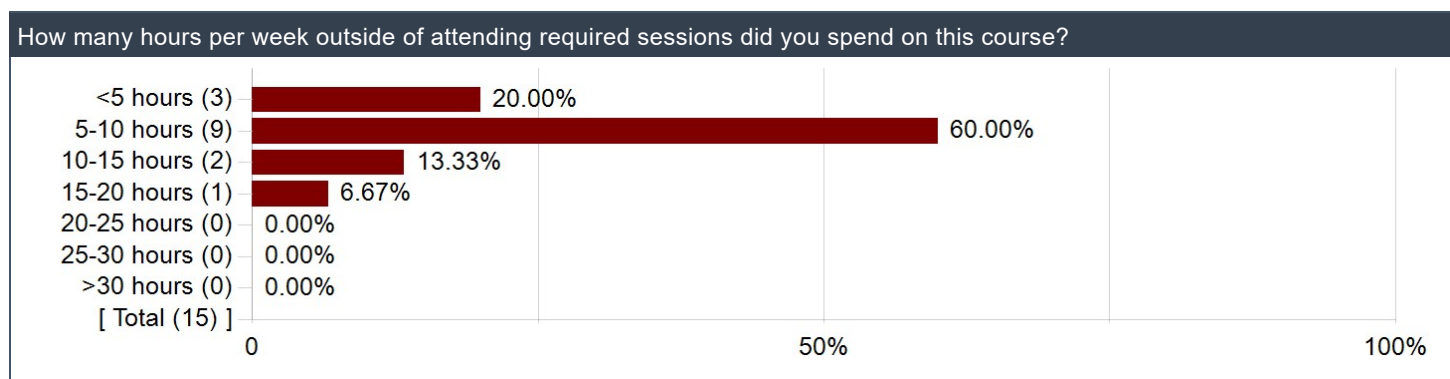
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



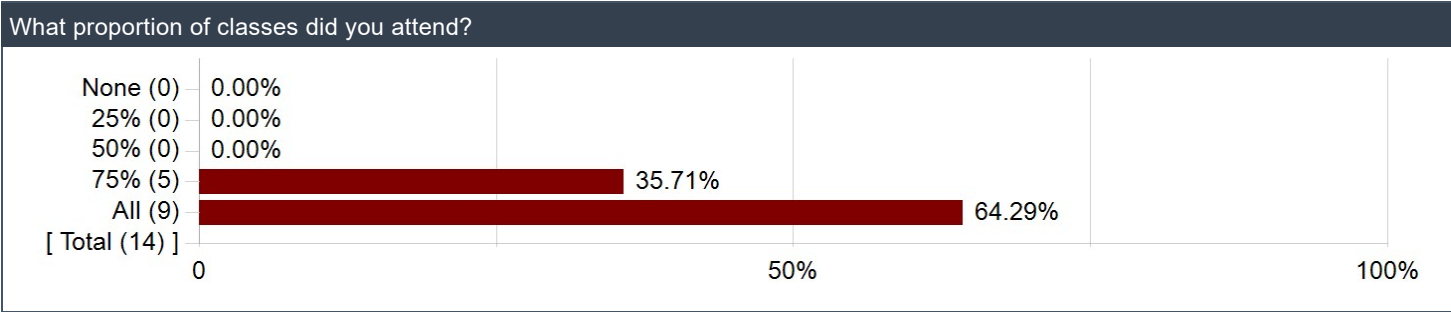
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 do not have a background in social sciences in any way, and this course was very manageable
This is just like HUM.
I had a different instructor for one quarter of this sequence and this class was much easier to follow along with.
Fairly easy class, highly recommend
The course was not difficult; no prior experience in social sciences required
Not too difficult.
Prof Jain makes this class incredibly engaging for people of all backgrounds, and takes the time to make concepts clear and understandable.
Highly encourage taking this course! The texts can get dense at times, but the Self sequence does a great job of making them accessible to people of all majors/backgrounds. The topics were really cool, and I loved the larger optional lectures for all students in the sequence.
My major does not require a lot of analytical writing, but despite this Professor Jain made it this extremely approachable. I often struggle with writing, but throughout this course there was a great deal of support that made it more the possible to succeed and thrive in this course.