



SOSC 12400 9 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - Eleonore Rimbault

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **11**

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
The most memorable aspects for me were the "founding fathers" of economics. Adam Smith, Ibn Kaldun, etc. We went into depth on these readings that many people already have a base knowledge of so discussion flowed smoothly.
I learned a lot about philosophy and modern economic thinkers (ex. Smith, Marx, Weber, ...). We really delved into each text and looked at their key points.
How to analyze historical scholars interpretations of the world.
social science knowledge from readings of khaldun, smith, marx, weber, and others
Khaldun, Marx, Smith, Weber.
How the capitalism shape the world (discussed in class)
We read books from Marx, Smith, and Weber, and a few articles that had themes about labor, value, and market. I learned a lot about the different types of labor alienation, how group feeling influences a lot of things, how religion came about and how it influences society,
The different, intricate perspectives of prominent social thinkers
I learned how to read and analyze very difficult texts.

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

Comments
We had a mix of lectures and discussions. The discussion are more entertaining but the lectures are needed for a clear understanding of the readings.
Discussions weren't very helpful, the readings were the key part of this class.
Our teacher was good at clearing up misconceptions and answering questions during discussions
pretty typical socs course with readings for homework and in class discussions
Class sessions and discussions were really helpful. Professor rimbault also provides pointed feedback on assignments.
I think the office hour is really helpful.
1. Lectures: Really helpful, I recommend attending every single one so you do not miss out on important ideas about the book. Helped me understand the books a lot
2. Class discussions: Prof. Eleonore asked really good questions during class, pushing us to think hard about the topics. The questions also led to answers that helped me while writing my midterm and final papers.
Discussions facilitated my understanding of the reading
Discussion really helped me understand the hard readings more. Further, talking to my peers showed me different interpretations of the text.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Rimbault is great.
Fantastic SOSC professor and very fair at grading, just put in the work and you'll do well.
This course is overall really great. However, I think the professor could give us a sample paper for SOSC, so we are more easily to understand what a successful paper should look like.
Self is know to be one of the more "difficult" SOSC class, but I do not think that at all. All SOSC classes are about the same amount of difficulty, but at least Self is interesting if you're into econ or like reading.
Great course, but pretty reading heavy and not easy to get an A. She doesn't give numerical grades, meaning you might need to get like 3 As out of the 4 components of class (final, midterm, report, participation) to secure an A.
This course is my favorite course I've taken at UChicago so far. It is true what they say about Self changing your perspective/way of thinking about life. I truly feel like what you gain from this course is so valuable, and I would recommend it to anyone.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
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
Professor Rimbault is very knowedgable and instructable. She is constantly adding in points and topics during our discussions that we may have missed or analyzed differently, leading to more advanced class discussions and overall knoweldge about our readings.
Her facilitation of discussion and ability to adapt to our class.
I liked when she gave historical context for our readings and what their relationship to one-another was. I also liked how she would highlight potential misconceptions we might make in in our essays.
ability to stimulate good discussions. also just overall reasonableness.
Office hours. Discussion.
The professor would like to talk based on the discussion. This makes students more devoted.
1. Receptiveness: Prof. Eleonore asks really good questions in class and tries to word it as easily as possible. However, what I really appreciate is that she is open to all answers even though it does not directly answer the question she asks. I have NEVER heard her say an answer was wrong, she would just phrase it in a way where it might not be what the reader was thinking.. Also even if our answers don't directly answer her question, she words it in a way where it makes sense as an answer to the question even though it may be a little off.
2. Understanding: I like how she understands that students come to the class with different levels of reading and writing. I really appreciate how encouraging she is and has just one goal in mind which is to help students push themselves and learn the importance of the books we read
Discussions and brief lecture before discussion
Eleonore did an amazing job at having a good balance between facilitating class discussions and lecturing. I felt like class time was always used productively and for the purpose of growing my understanding of the subjects. She made me feel respected both in and out of classroom discussion (like office hours), and I don't think I would've enjoyed the course half as much if I didn't take it with her.

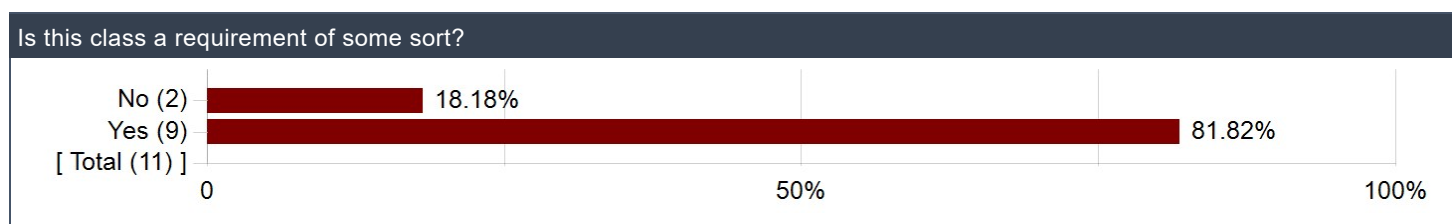
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
She could let us know which readings are most important / what we'll spend time discussing so we know what we should emphasize learning in the days before class.
More lecturing (with slides preferably) would have been helpful rather than just listening to the class's discussion each session. The professor rarely lectured.
I think sometimes she could better facilitate discussions. There are a lot of long pauses.
maybe figure out how to stimulate better discussions? this is also 90% not her fault bc our class is just generally quiet
Nothing.
Maybe recommending videos that relate to the book to watch so it is easier to understand the book itself or have some sort of knowledge before going into reading the books.
Nothing
Nothing. Eleonore was perfect.

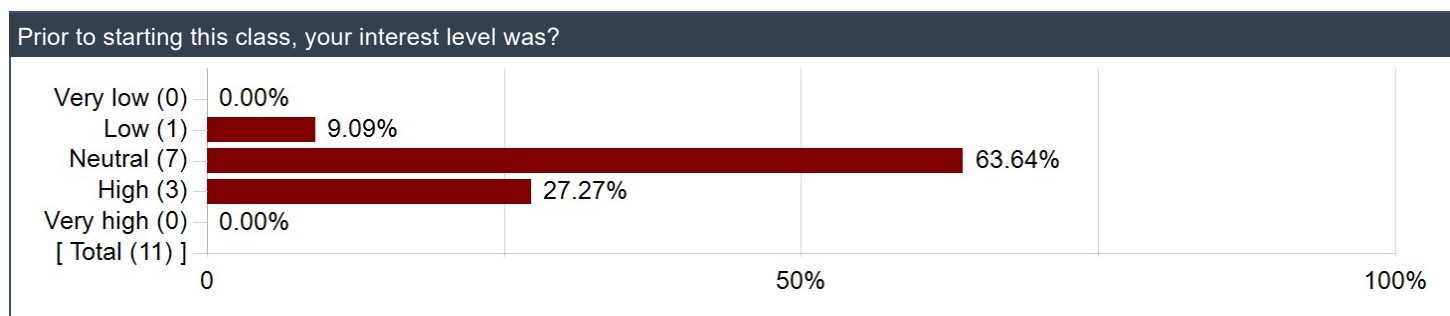
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	9.09%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%

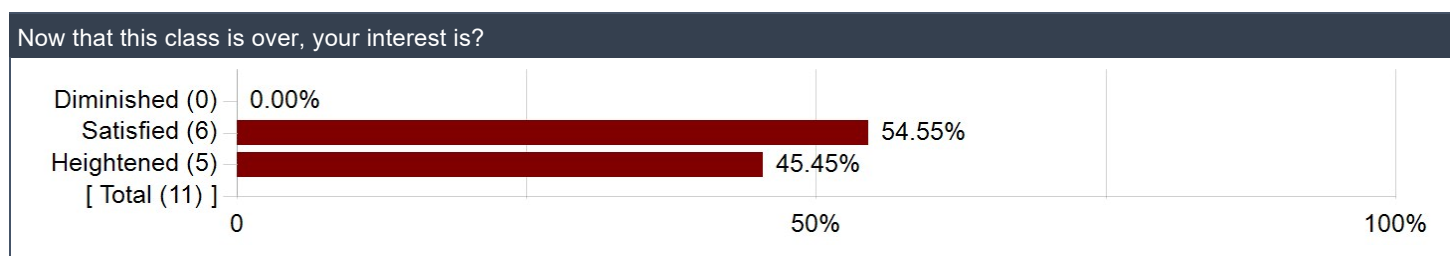
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



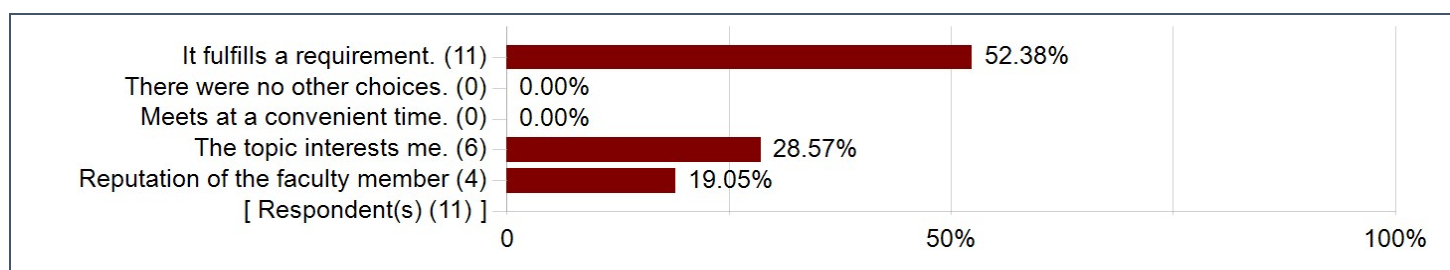
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



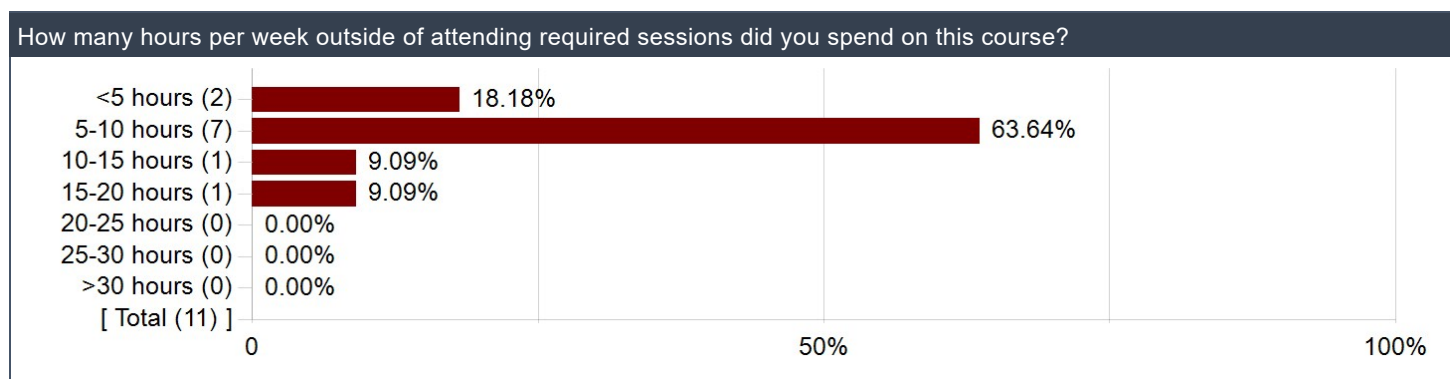
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



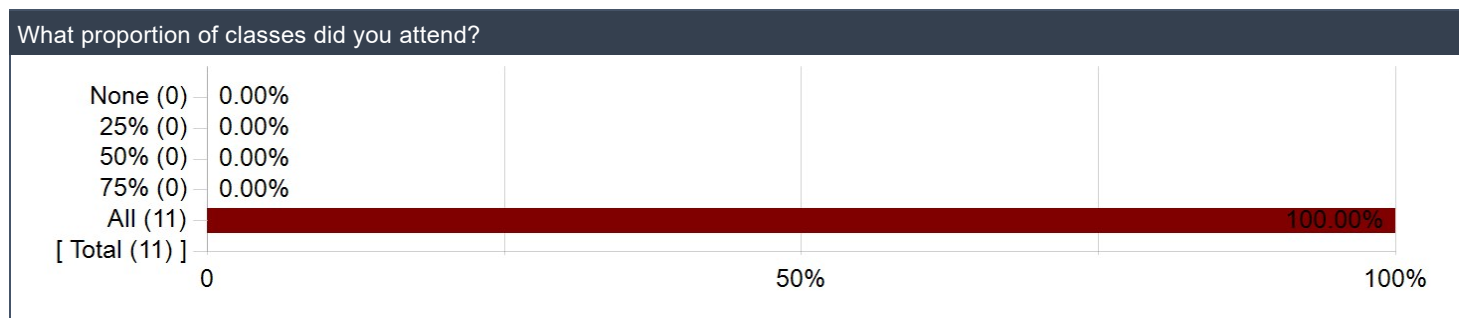
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
As far as Self goes, this was less time-consuming and more interesting than what I have heard about other sections. This is due to Professor Rimbault, I highly recommend taking Self with her.
Just do all the readings, participate occasionally, and you'll do well.
It was difficult to do readings that at once felt similar to English readings, but where there was one correct interpretation of the text.
its a soc class so you don't really need any prior knowledge.
The course is the right level of challenging. Readings take about ~5 hours a week and the discussion posts are short and quick. Essays were never unnecessarily long or demanding.
I think it's challenging. I have learnt academic writing before, while this course asks more accurate judgement of readings and use of quote. Besides, I think the reading is relatively hard to understand.
From 1–10, I rate this a good 8 (mainly because of the books, not the class itself). I have no experience in philosophical, non-fictional, or economic books, so comprehending the readings was difficult. However, with more practice, I found it a little easier to understand. However, I wouldn't be as motivated to learn and actually understand the readings if it wasn't for the professor. She is really encouraging so she makes me want to actually try and learn the topics and give input in class.
If you're not used to reading difficult texts like Marx and Smith, the course is definitely going to be challenging. However, this was me, and I believe with a lot of hard work you can still achieve great results.