



# SOSC 12400 28 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - Dylan Fagan

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

Number Enrolled: **15**

Number of Responses: **14**

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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, 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
I learned a ton! The ideas of the major theorists (Khalidun, Smith, Marx, Weber, and more). Honestly feel a lot more knowledgeable having taken it
Foundations of social organization, capitalism, group feeling, cyclical versus linear notions of time
Connecting Khalidun, Adam Smith, Marx, and Weber together
How to think critically and analyze Marx, Khalidun, Weber, and Smith. Specifically, understanding how to compare the authors and analyze how one might perceive or critique the other's ideas. Self, culture, and society were common themes we circled back to — as expected. Capitalism and each author's conceptualization of it was a recurring theme as well.
I learned how to closely read and analyze the major texts that we covered, and to put the ideas of the texts in conversation with each other.
I learned a lot about reading and participating in a small seminar style class. Conceptually, I learned about different methods of analysis of history, different authors' views on capitalism/the economy, and how religion influences the economy.
Influential ideas from political economy
theories of time, evolution of history, the basis of political economy, marxism
Marx, Adam Smith, Weber, Khalidun
great professor. really learned how to think and use modern capitalism books
I learned how to read analytically, about different theories capitalism and social development, how to write dialectically.
How to interpret the society's relation the transformation of the perception of value within cultural contexts.
How to articulate an idea in front of others

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

Comments
The class discussions were actually very helpful in guiding the entire class's understanding of the text
lectures by prof were fantastic. very knowledgeable and incredible professor
Professor Fagan is really nice, he's good at keeping the conversation going in class
Class discussions and office hours contributed to my learning the most. Professor Fagan does a great job of facilitating discussions and perfectly balances speaking with asking questions. Writing the reading responses and essays also helping enhance my understanding of the content.
The course mainly developed skills through in-class discussion, which provided the basis for developing our ideas in writing.
Class discussions definitely contributed the most to my learning because this class is entirely seminar-based.
The discussions were very beneficial to understanding the texts and drawing implications from them
in-class seminars were really helpful and presentations were really interesting to highlight students' perspectives of course material
loved lectures, great prof
The lecture were so helpful because he really let us guide our own thoughts and encourage backing up up with evidence from the text. he also encourages us to expand our thought by focusing on the minuet.
I really enjoyed the discussions. Professor Fagan was really supportive with the formation of a fruitful discussion environment. The reading responses helped me to grasp what the text was about with the guiding questions.
classes based on discussion/participation, 4 reading responses, 2 major papers

### Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	57.14%	35.71%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.07	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	35.71%	35.71%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	35.71%	57.14%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	50.00%	42.86%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%
I felt respected in this class.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Very doable if you put in the work or even just listen in class
Dr. Fagan is fantastic and passionate about what he teaches.
I thoroughly enjoyed the content of this course and the professor's teaching!
If you are really interested in the readings and like to be forced to understand and think deeply about texts definitely take this class with professor Fagan, it's an excellent class
Professor Fagan was fantastic. Highly recommend!

### I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.14%	92.86%

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

Comments
Dylan Fagan's guiding of the class discussions was very helpful in allowing me to understand the discussion. He is a nice guy who seems really passionate about the ideas we were talking about
His prompts for the essays are very clear on structure, so you know what he wants you to do
The aspect of the instructor's teaching that contributed most to my learning was his ability to facilitate engaging class discussions, provide insightful feedback on assignments, and hold meaningful discussions during office hours. His skill in posing thought-provoking questions during class sparked dynamic conversations and encouraged deeper engagement with the course material, often leading to fresh perspectives and a better understanding of the content.
I liked how Professor Fagan's time in class discussions seemed to be oriented towards getting us to explain the core ideas of each text, and he was able to synthesize our own commentary into a broader discussion.
Professor Fagan's lectures were really helpful because we talked about interesting concepts implied by the reading, not just simply summarizing the readings. This also helped me figure out what he thought was important because some of the readings are pretty dense.
Organizing and guiding discussions in ways that forced us to really comprehend the ideas step by step and to think about where they come from rather than just the main idea
Prof. Fagan was always willing to discuss course material outside of class, especially during office hours. He is also a very passionate lecturer and brings up a lot of interesting takes from other authors into the conversation.
Professor Fagan is an amazing professor – one of the best professors I have had here. I love that he respects his students and helps them develop their thoughts; this approach helped me be more active in class and express myself better
i enjoyed professor Fagan. his lecture style and engaging discussion
Office hours for me really helped me understand what was going on in class, and generally feeling more prepared. I felt less imposter syndrome by getting more personalized input on my thought process before presenting to a big group.
passion for the subject
Professor Fagan is incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic during class time.

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

Comments
I feel like he made it as easy as possible while still ensuring we understood the material, so not much.
nothing much
The reading responses were graded out of 5 and a 5 was essentially unattainable & it wasn't really clear what a 5 was other than the standard which could be used for future examples. Making this clearer could have been helpful in understanding the standards for success in the class.
The discussions and assignments seemed focused on identifying the themes and methods of analysis within each text, such that I felt that there was less of a guidance on how to develop our own interpretations of the implications of the text, especially since that was the expectation for the papers.
Sometimes it was hard for me to follow the train of the lecture when looking at the board because sometimes I think Professor Fagan writes specific words/phrases he thinks are relevant, but when I'm trying to take notes, it's hard for me to figure out what relates to what.
The last little bit after Thanksgiving felt a little rushed.
Nothing, everything works well
maybe more classes and teaching us next quarter too
I wish we had a little more time to complete the final essay (ie, I wish the prompt was released a little sooner).

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	71.43%	7.14%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	85.71%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	78.57%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%

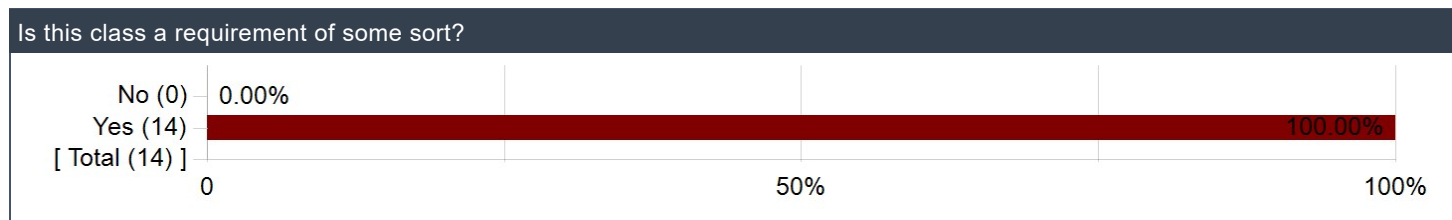
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

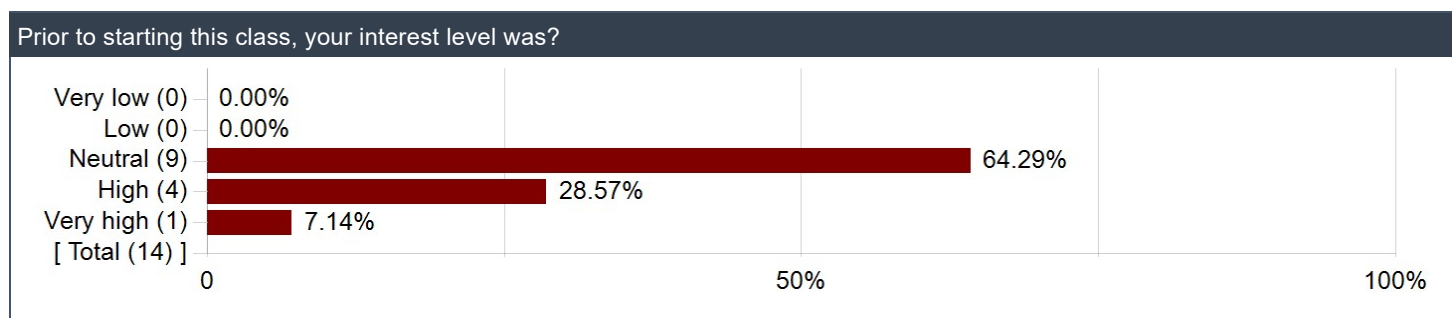
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Course-wide Lectures

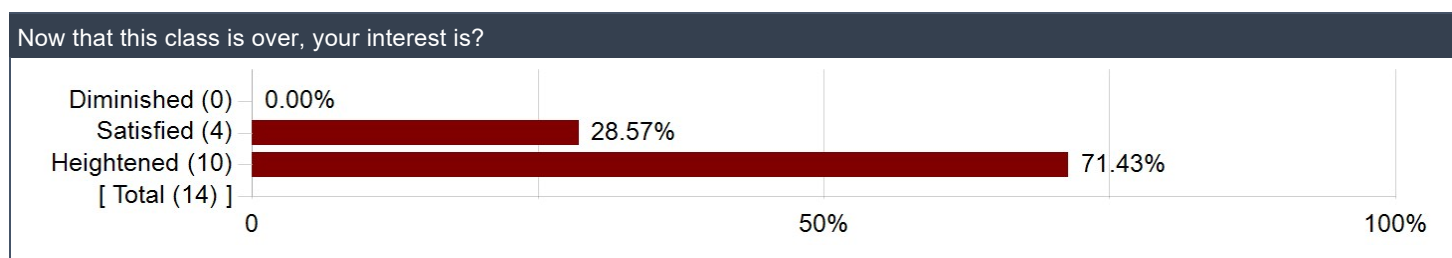
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



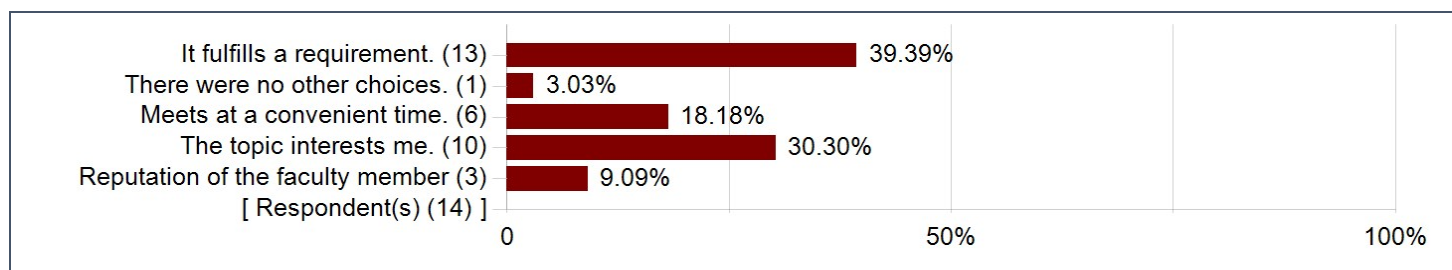
### Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



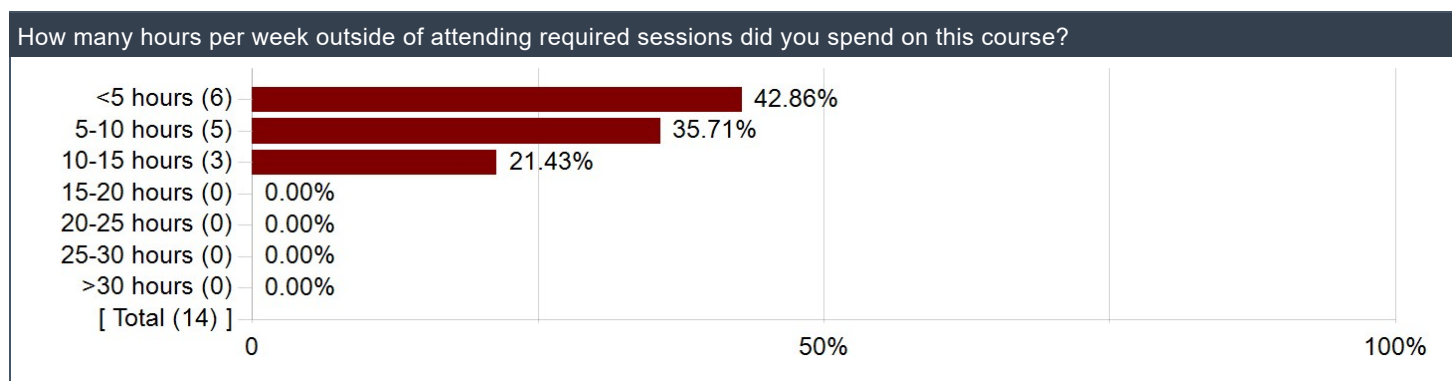
### Now that this class is over, your interest is?



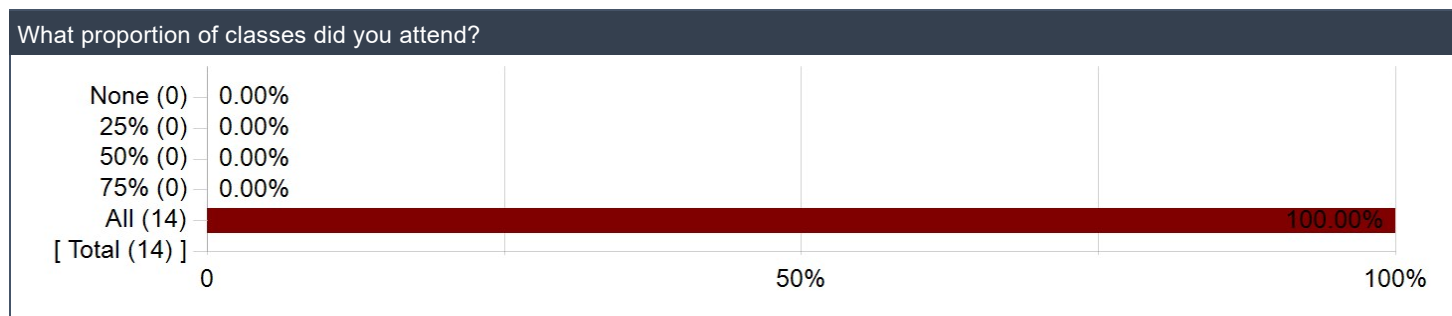
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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 a humanities major, this wasn't the hardest class. If you do the readings and listen during class, you should be fine
fair
Would definitely recommend – I had no prior experience with these authors and loved the course!
This course difficulty felt adequate as a writing/analysis focused course given that I had already taken Hum. I think there was less writing support which would have felt lacking if I was taking this without that prior background.
As someone with very little knowledge/experience in the social sciences, I found some of the readings a little hard to understand, but Professor Fagan really emphasized that it was completely ok not to have any prior experience and to try your best. Meeting with him for office hours before papers was especially helpful just to clarify that I understood the readings properly. Professor Fagan also would sometimes cut sections out of our readings so that we would only be reading "the most necessary" parts, but it was still sometimes long, difficult, technical chunks (especially Marx and Smith).
Readings can be long and dense, assignments are challenging but this makes it the most satisfying course I have taken here so far
It was difficult but heightened my ability to learn and expanded my curiosity.
If you are interested in understanding capitalism, history, Marxist theory you should definitely take this course. I did have a small background but without any experience you can definitely do it.
more difficult than people say
As a stem major not particularly interested in the social sciences, this was not a free course but it definitely doable. The readings took me a significant amount of time. Aside from the readings, occasional writing assignments, and the midterm + final, there was not much work.