



SOSC 12400 13 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - John Jacobsen

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **8**

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
I learned about varying perspectives on political economy and read key works from the literary canon.
Varying sociological dialects and patterns in history, society, economics, politics, etc.

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

Comments
For an allegedly discussion-based class, there was quite a bit of lecturing. The lectures were sometimes helpful in elucidating the professor's interpretations of the works we read, but I don't think anyone would describe them as hugely beneficial. There was a lack of discussion facilitation, and this led to the same two or three people talking. We also had student-led presentations, but the professor was hesitant to actually let us lead them and constantly interrupted them.
Prof Jacobsen is an eloquent and knowledgeable professor. Discussions, for me, provided great discourse and deeper understanding of the text. The essays were also manageable, with interesting prompts and feasible time frames. The supplementary material we read and watched was also great. The presentation requirement definitely intensified my knowledge of the specific reading I was assigned to present.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.00	3.00	12.50%	37.50%	0.00%	37.50%	12.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.38	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	62.50%	37.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.63	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%	25.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.38	3.50	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.13	3.00	12.50%	25.00%	25.00%	12.50%	25.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	37.50%	37.50%
I felt respected in this class.	4.00	4.50	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.38	4.00	25.00%	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	37.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The readings themselves were interesting, but I don't think the class itself really accomplished anything. I also want to note that this particular section of Self does *so* much more reading than other sections, and we never had time to discuss the amount of reading we were doing, so it often felt pointless. I'd also say that I was probably one of if not the only student actually doing the reading toward the end of the quarter; many didn't even touch the books, but because the class was so boring and lecture-based, it didn't particularly matter for them.
I wouldn't recommend anyone to take this professor's section if you are looking forward to have a meaningful discussion in class.
Overall, great section to end up for in a SOSC requirement.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	42.86%	57.14%
Anyone interested in the topic	28.57%	71.43%

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

Comments
The lectures occasionally gave way to interesting insight about the texts we were reading.
He was really easy to reach outside the class which was probably the only helpful thing about his teaching.
I think the discussions and one-on-one meetings with Prof were the most helpful for me. Prof consistently asked insightful questions that got basically everyone contributing. I felt comfortable sharing my own perspective at all times. He was also super open to meeting whenever.

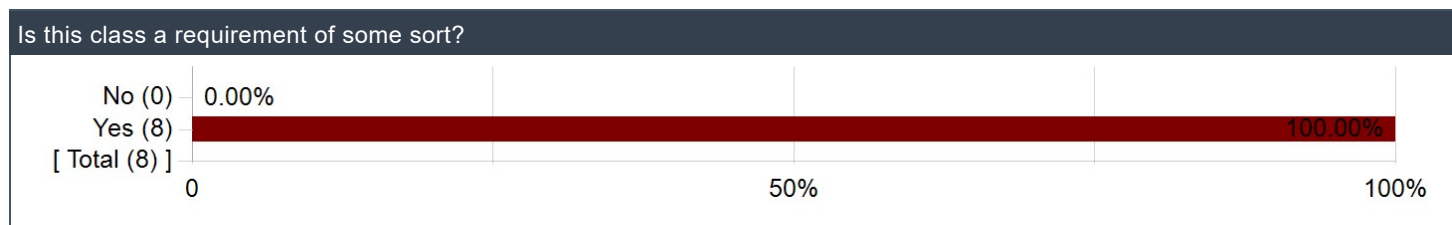
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The amount of reading we did in comparison to other Self sections was frankly unnecessary considering we never had time to discuss it in depth. There was also an acute lack of meaningful discussion moderation, which contributed to the same two or three people answering every question. Also, please stop interrupting us during our presentations! If you're asking us to lead them, let us lead them; it's very frustrating to constantly be spoken over.
he often mumbles when he goes off in a tangent so lectures are little hard to follow at times
Please let us speak. It feels like he can't stand listening to other people and he never appreciates any comment made in class. I was probably one of the people who spoke the most in class and I barely got to speak once a week, because he speaks the whole time. This is supposed to be a discussion based class where people talk.
I didn't love how in a discussion-based course, there was little to no discussion facilitated because the professor lectured for a large majority of the classes. Often, there were classes entirely taken up entirely by the professor talking, with no students speaking at all.
Prof has a student presentation requirement worth 15% of our grade, which basically entails pairs of students presenting that day's reading to the class and leading the discussion instead of Prof himself. I find the presentations relatively useless but I do understand the merit in having students lead a lecture. They just vary in intensity depending on the reading so the whole process feels a little unfair. Also, our midterm was a short paper that covered 3 entire books that was due in a week, and the prompts were really complex, which was a nightmare. The final was much more feasible.

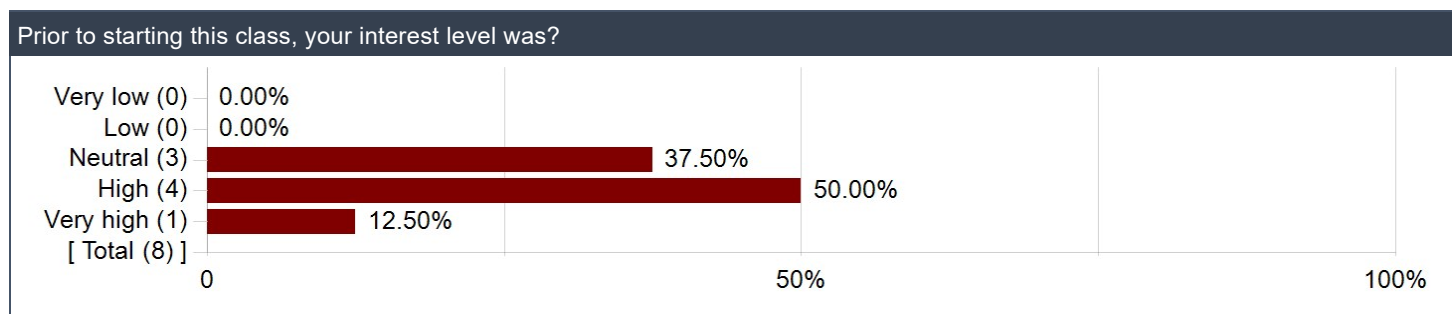
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%	28.57%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.14	4.00	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.14	4.00	42.86%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.43	5.00	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.57	5.00	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.83	5.00	16.67%	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%	14.29%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.00	5.00	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.71	4.00	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	42.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.43	4.00	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%

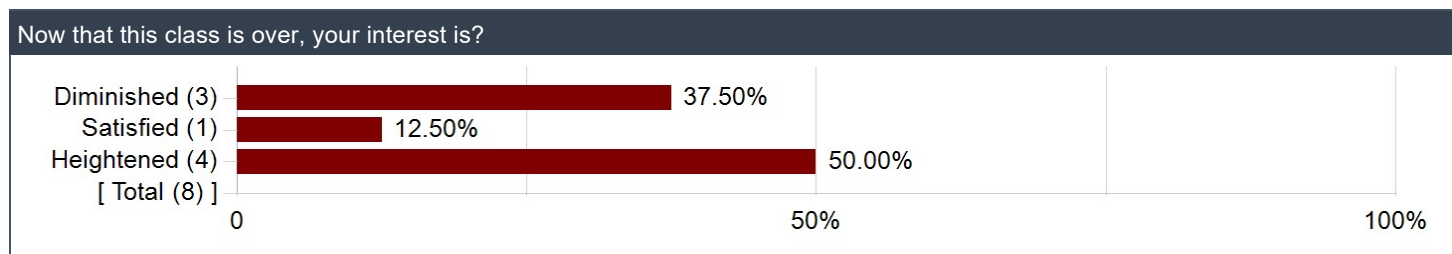
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



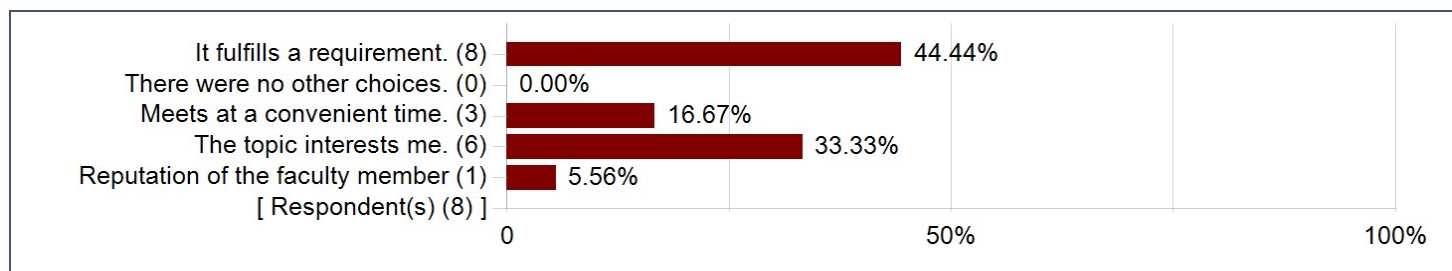
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



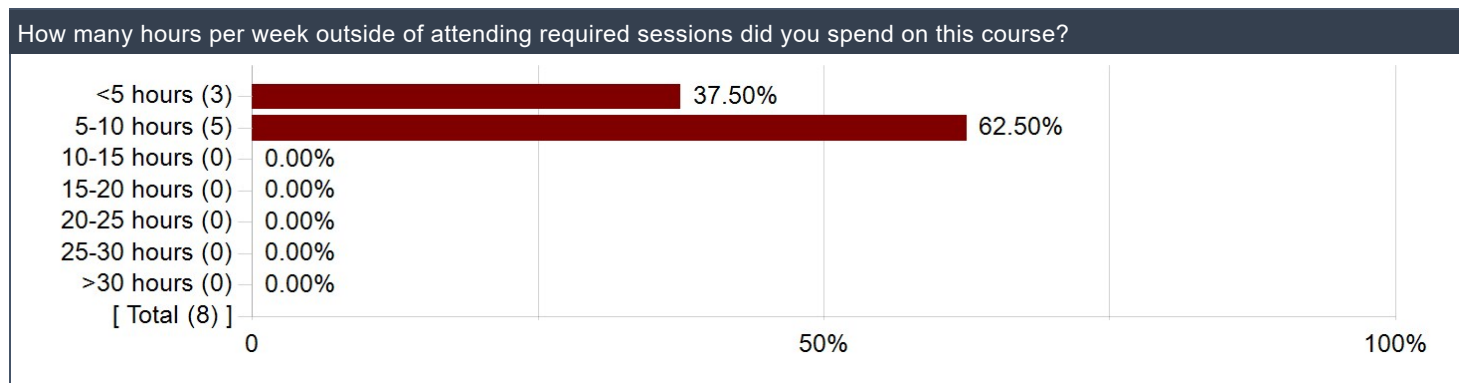
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



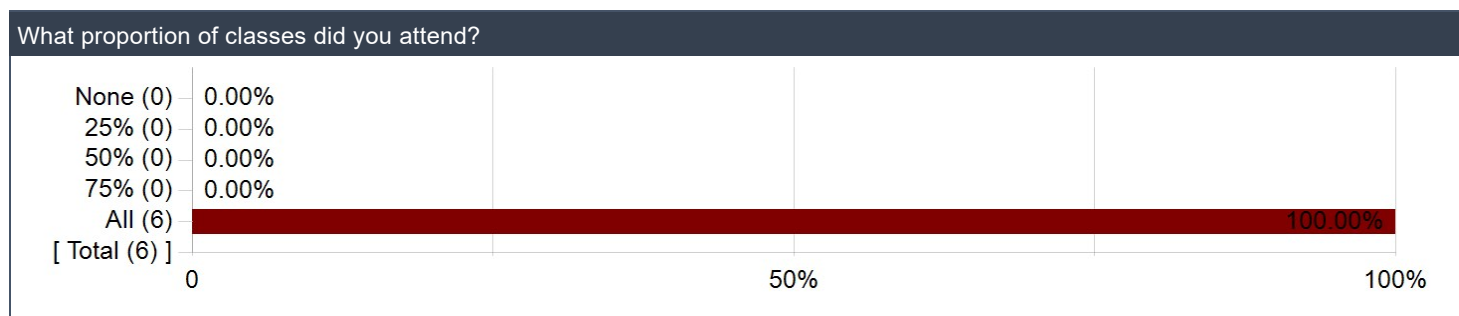
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
It wasn't a particularly difficult course aside from the sheer volume of reading.
Not difficult, although probably difficult to get an A in.
You'll do fine if you do the readings. You'll be great if you actually like sociology and have a good grasp of essay writing. But seriously, do the readings.