



# SOSC 12400 23 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - Rafadi Hakim

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **12**

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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
class consciousness
Exploring economic differences, difficulties, and more. Covered Smith, Marx and Weber in detail. Learned how to read deeper into surface economic issues to see what their deeper effects are and discover the roots of the economic issues.
Khaldun's cycle of empires, Smith's division of labor, Marx's alienated labor and proletariat revolution, and Weber's ascetic rationalization of life.
Ideas regarding the political economy, capital, value, labor, etc. and how they apply to our modern world.
discussion skills and analysis of complex readings
Khaldun, Smith, Marx, Weber. Reading and analyzing dense texts. Applying and understanding theories wrt to the real world.
Learning the ideas of famous historic thinkers such as Khaldun, Adam Smith, Marx, and Weber, and contextualizing them.
We learned about Ibn Khaldun's asabiyya (group feeling), Smith and Marx's use and exchange value, capitalism as a system as a whole, historical materialism, the dialectic, alienation, and Max Weber's protestant ethic, rationalization processes, and the iron cage.
I learned how to decipher many complex texts and learn about civilizations in the past.
n/a

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

Comments
discussions
The lectures/classes were very helpful in discussing the material
I sometimes felt that the lectures were not socratic enough and the slides were not especially helpful because we went through them too quickly to write stuff down. I wish the course had less lecture and more discussion
He prepares lecture slides (which I heard that not all professors do), which explain the historical context of the readings. They were quite helpful, albeit sometimes confusing. The discussions normally didn't help much, because it's like a blind leading a blind. A fair number of people don't do the readings, and when they congregate, not much spark from it.
Reading introduced us to concepts, which we discussed further during lectures.
discussions and professor teachings illuminated the readings
Discussion posts, in-class dicussions, and essays.
Discussions were helpful as we could hear the ideas of our peers, lectures were structured very well and gave a clearer understanding of what we read
The lectures were very helpful in understanding the readings better and forming more cohesive ideas about the topics and authors' arguments. I liked the group discussions because they facilitated people speaking more. The discussion posts were also great because they forced us to think about the reading material academically before class, making us more prepared.
n/a

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	91.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.25	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	16.67%	58.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	0.00%	33.33%	58.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Great professor! Shows interesting videos and applies ideas to the real world. Focused on helping students understand the content and emphasizes the nature of the learning and writing process.
Discussions are often unfruitful. Instructor should focus more on the lecturing part and give more concrete social and historical background. From the discussions it is obvious that students cannot understand Marx or Weber, except on a very naive or superficial level. The instructor needs to explain a lot of stuff.
Very reading heavy (30–50 pages for each class + weekly discussion post) and the readings can be pretty dense/boring. The concepts are pretty interesting though
n/a

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	8.33%	91.67%
Anyone interested in the topic	8.33%	91.67%

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

Comments
contextualized evaluation of reading
He talked a lot in class and had us do great group discussions. I think this model worked super well in 1) reaffirming different viewpoints on the same material and 2) cementing the concepts in our minds so that we were able to recall and apply for the essays.
The slides on the historical background.
Through in-class videos, discussions, and paper assignments, Professor Hakim worked very hard to only increase our understanding of complicated concepts but also gave us the opportunity to apply these ideas to topics that we are passionate about.
slides
Group discussions.
The lectures were very helpful for filling in the gaps when the readings got confusing. He also provided contemporary examples of the concepts we were reading to better connect the ideas to something we understand
Lectures and slides were very helpful.
The instructor always came prepared and taught very efficiently. Students were engaged with every topic that they taught.

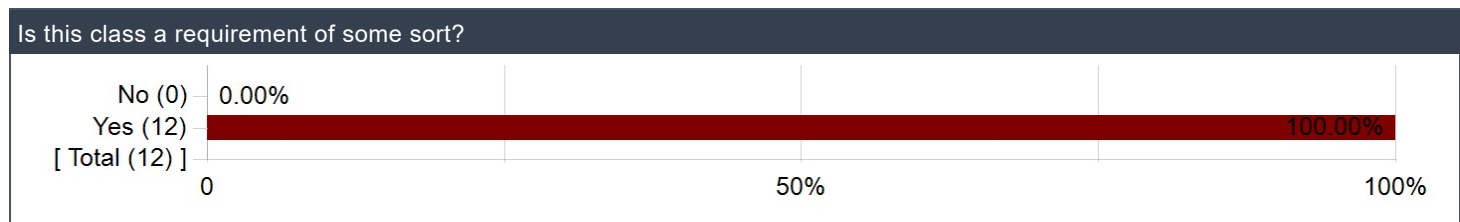
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing – did a great job
I wish it wasn't as much lecture and I did not like the group pair offs for the entire class, felt like a whole class discussion would have been more beneficial.
I think a summary on the key ideas of each author would be helpful. Even though I did all the reading, there were so many concepts (many of them don't connect) that I lose track at the end. In addition, I found Marx's text to be very confusing, especially the language. It would've been nice if he parsed through some important sections with us, instead of throwing us quotes scattered in the book. Or perhaps, providing other scholars' commentaries on Marx. I don't think I understood Marx by the end of this course, honestly.
nothing
Maybe more mixed up groups for the discussions
I thought the instruction was really great. No comments.
n/a

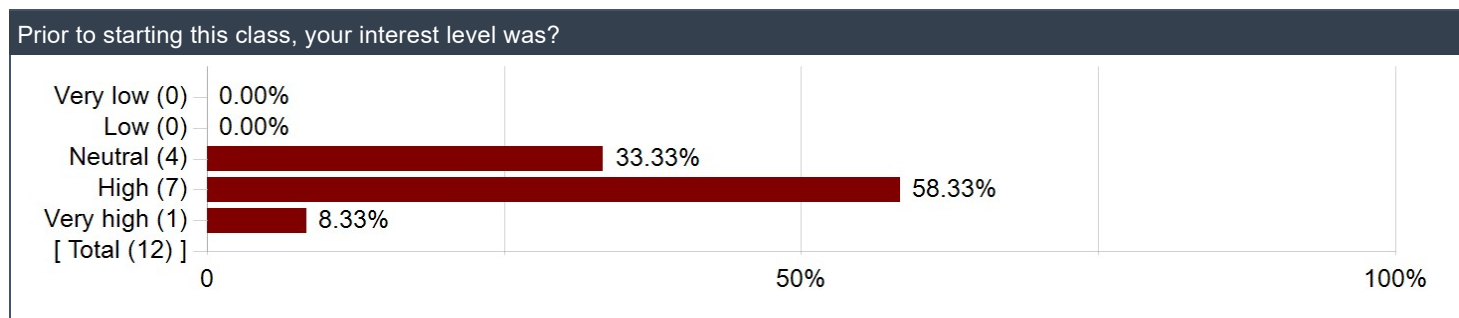
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	0.00%	81.82%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	0.00%	81.82%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%

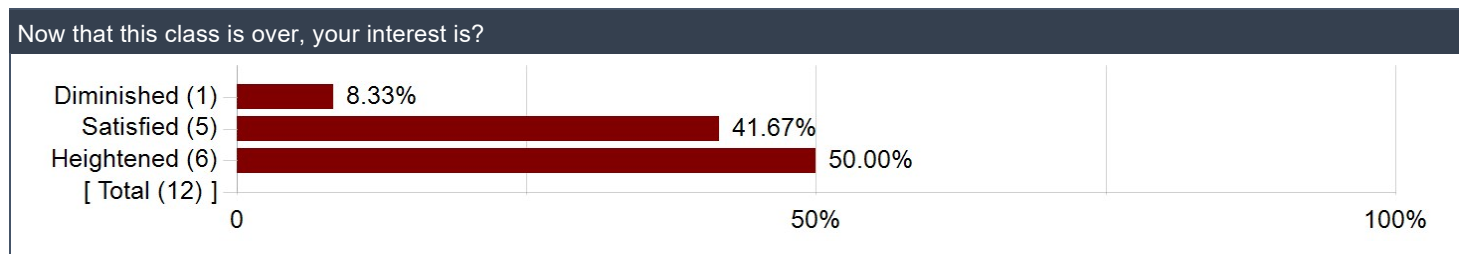
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



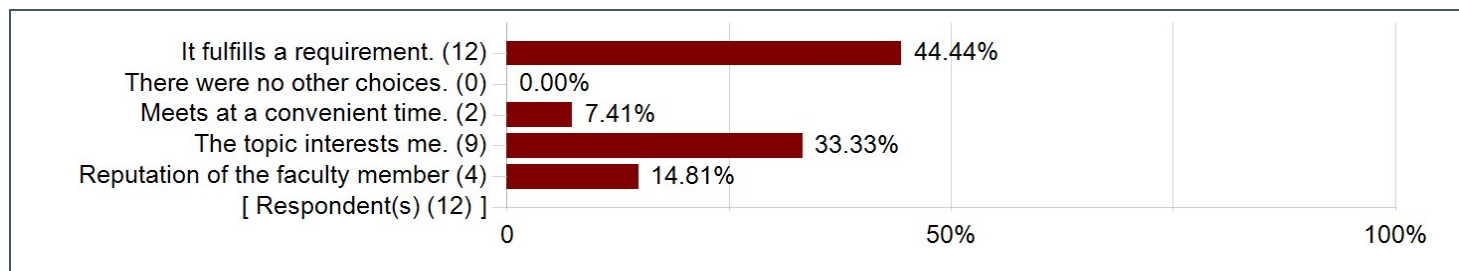
### Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



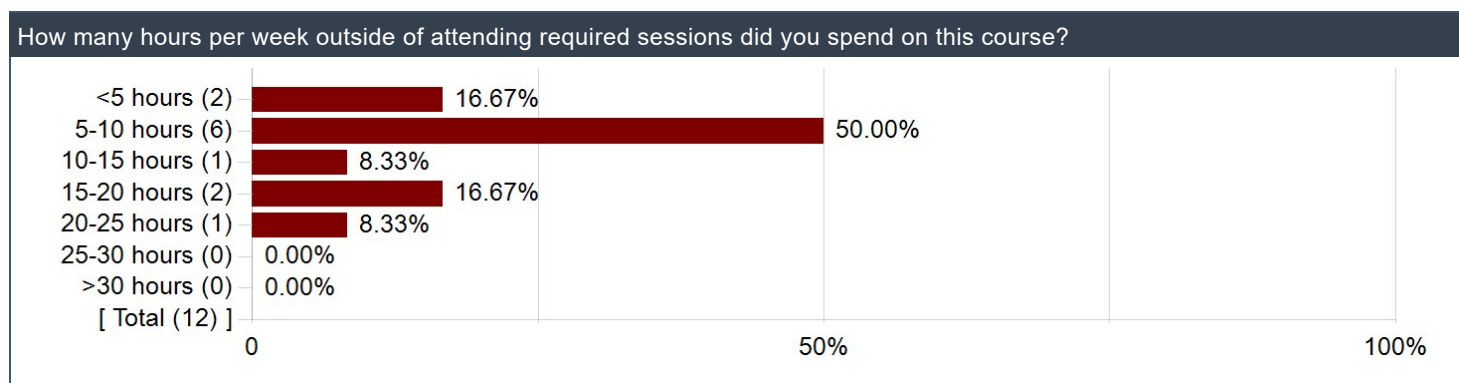
### Now that this class is over, your interest is?



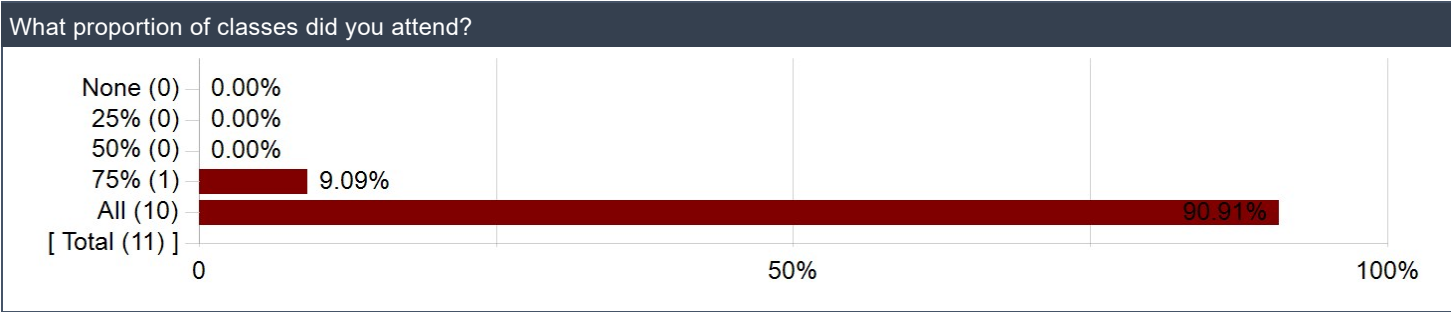
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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 had some economic background and had practice with philosophical texts, but I think this class is easy to understand (particularly because the professor is great)
A lot of the readings overlapped with my interests as well as other coursework I had so I was not super perplexed by the readings.
The instructor is really understanding and considerate, which makes the course not too difficult. However, there is so much reading. It is challenging for someone who's never handled that much reading, especially text on economic theory (which I found dry).
Sometimes difficult to understand the concepts but very manageable.
easy
This class felt like a natural progression to the difficulty/rigor of HUM.
I was familiar with some of the authors in this course. The ideas in this course are challenging but very manageable if you engage with the material.
n/a