



SOSC 14300 1 - Mind III - Instructor(s) - Kerry Le Doux

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

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **7**

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
We learned about environmental neuroscience, self-concept, authenticity both in regards to the self and in close relationships, early development of language in infants across cultures, math anxiety in parents and consequently their children, implicit biases (especially regarding race and gender) being solidified very early in child development, statistical basis of social/implicit bias in textual artifacts, and children's sense of fairness and their aversion to inequity
Mind III was about the Mind in Context, which built on Mind I (How the Mind Creates Reality) and Mind II (Mechanisms of Mind). My most important takeaways were that the Mind can literally be influenced by anything, from the weather to the frequency of words we see in our language, and that sometimes, these influences can stick around and subconsciously (or consciously) influence people. Everything (mathematics, language, love, the self-concept, empathy, etc.) is context-influenced. In addition to the environmental input, the way the Mind processes things matters too; on a general level, this means that people who have the exact same experiences can still turn out differently depending on how the brain looks at things. Skill wise, I learned how to succinctly summarize empirical research papers, find new ones to support research ideas, and generally write more clearly.
How the mind works in comparison to other biological ideas.
I learned about the impact that social context has on various aspects of the mind, which was interesting.

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

Comments
The readings were great at introducing the topics each week and providing evidence, while the lectures were good expansion and discussion; discussions themselves were interesting to see everyone else's point of view and opinions on the week's topic
This course consisted of a discussion section and lecture + weekly response papers, annotations on papers, and office hour opportunities. I think everything really helped my learning. Lectures were always fascinating because they often involved audience-targeted questions from the professors, fun videos, and new research (sometimes conducted by the lecturers themselves). The discussion sections helped me gain a better understanding of the material and also synthesize new questions and get answers to existing ones; I really liked to hear the personal connections my peers made to the content because they hailed from diverse backgrounds, so every story was different. I think that for my grade, office hours were probably the most impactful in terms of my change over time. My section's writing advisor (Annemarie Catania) basically met with me every Wednesday, and that progress really reflected from my incoherent reasoning and claim statements at the beginning of the year to organized thoughts by the last paper. While Professor Ledoux did not read essays (or listen to us ready essays), I really liked the 10 minutes blocks because they forced me to come with questions prepared and to think about the material deeply; I think this greatly improved the effectiveness of the office hours.
The lectures weren't very helpful, but the readings and discussions were more helpful.
The lectures were engaging and the discussions helped solidify the content for the week.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.50	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.17	5.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	0.00%	66.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Le Doux is awesome!
Mind III was a very fitting conclusion to Mind I and Mind II; I think it tied together material from its predecessors (notably concepts + categories and various biological/psychological/social mechanisms) while taking a more-application oriented side to things: what sorts of questions can we actually investigate with our understanding of Mind? Overall, the entire SOSC sequence was excellent, and I would recommend it to students who want to learn more about their humanity.
Professor Ledoux was engaging, kind, and great at leading discussions!

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 Ledoux was great at facilitating discussion and made everyone feel respected and welcome at discussion, which is much appreciated! It never felt intimidating, which made it easier to participate in these discussions than in discussions for other classes. The lectures themselves were interesting because each new professor spoke of distinct topics with similar degrees of clarity, making the content itself engaging and interesting.
Professor Ledoux's office hours and feedback helped me the most. While I think every aspect of the course was great, my specific questions were answered during our 1-on-1 meetings or emails. Her willingness to engage with us definitely helped me synthesize the ideas from the lecture, 2 weekly empirical papers, and outside empirical paper, and she sometimes gave me questions to pursue that I had not considered previously for my papers.
The discussions held in class were very relevant and helpful.
Her ability to lead discussion contributed the most to my learning.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I thought everything was pretty great, I can't think of any modifications
Nothing
The only change I would make is a structure-wide thing for Mind: have lecture on Thursday and discussion on Tuesday instead of the other way around, or have one lecture on Monday and two discussion sections on Wednesday and Friday. In short, the only thing I think Professor Ledoux could have done to help me learn more was expand the time we had to discuss the content.
A bit easier grading. It seems unfair that our section is graded much more harshly and we put it more work. A curve to make things more equal would be nice.
N/A

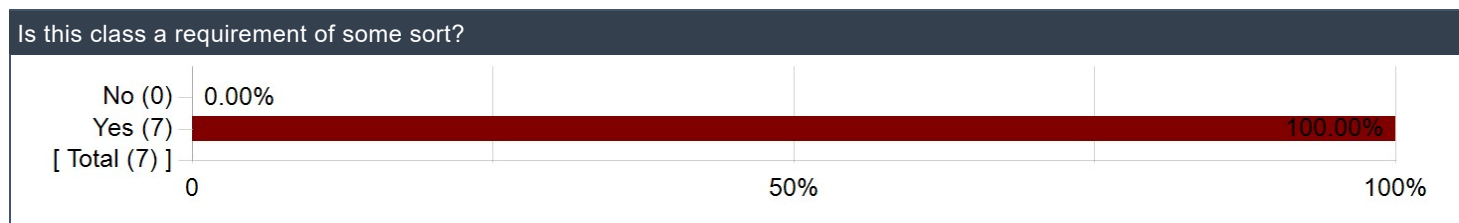
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%

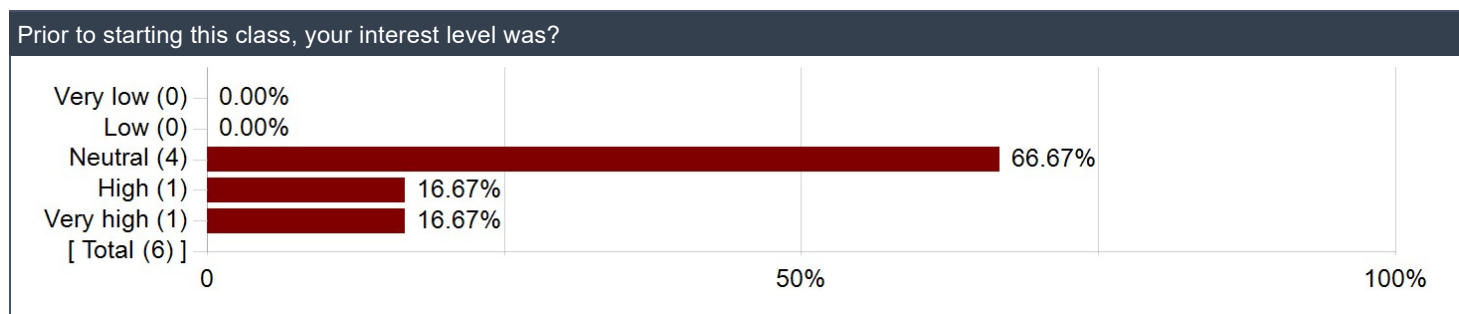
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.60	4.00	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%

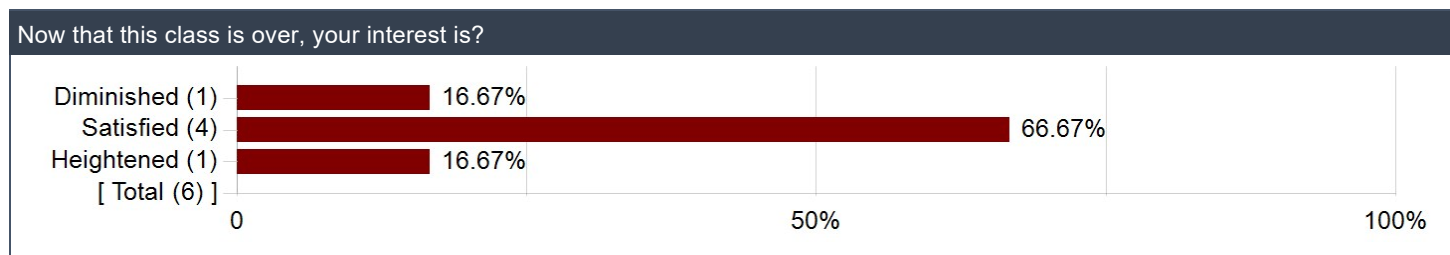
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



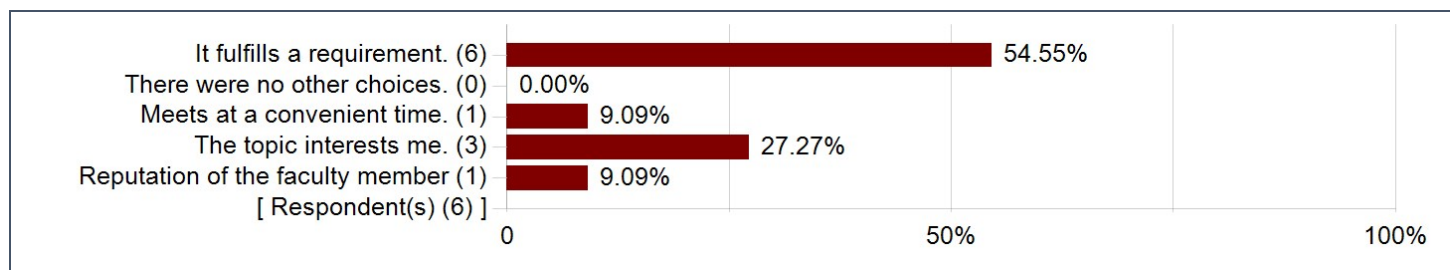
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



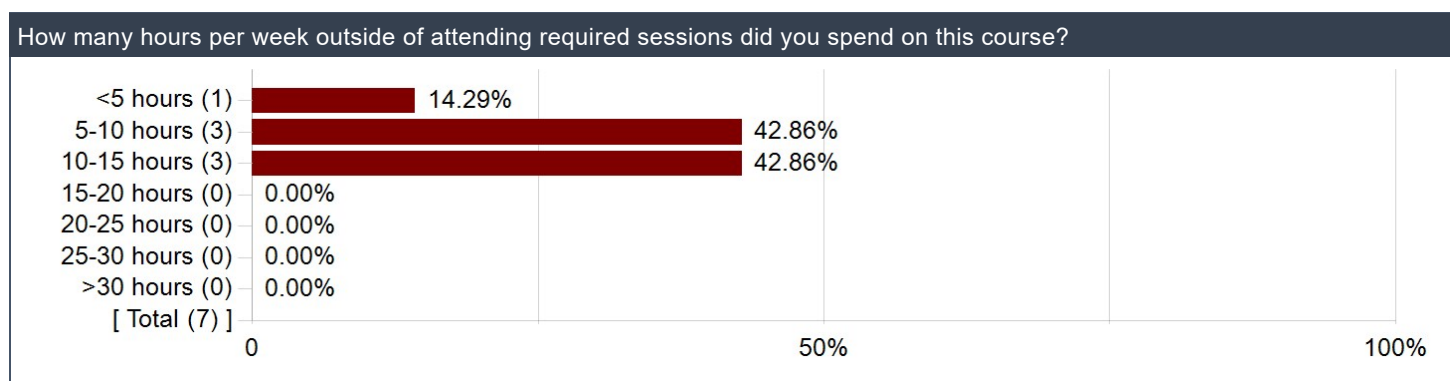
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



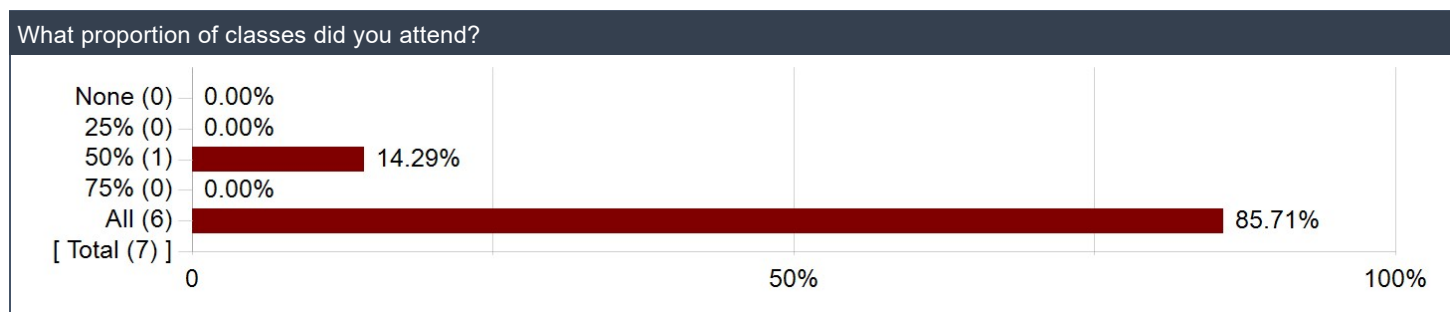
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
You definitely do not need any sort of experience or knowledge regarding neuroscience, psychology, or any other extensive social area. The materials are comprehensive and seem to be chosen specifically with students with little prior knowledge in mind.
I think that Mind I and Mind II offered sufficient preparation for the course. The most difficulty I had came in the beginning of the quarter: choosing outside research papers, summarizing them succinctly, and then connecting them back to the week's material. While my tendency to write too much steadily declined with training from Mind I and Mind II, this idea of finding and incorporating a novel empirical paper was an entirely different challenge; it required me to be much more conscious of the questions I had from the week's readings and lecture so that I could look for specific papers vs. something very general.
I had no experience and it was moderately difficult.
It was pretty manageable, even with limited knowledge on the subjects.