SOSC 12600 10 - Self, Culture, and Society III - Instructor(s) - Rafadi Hakim

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

Number Enrolled: **18**
Number of Responses: **15**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
I learned how to relate the texts we read (Kuhn, Foucault, Said, Butler, etc) to social/historical/political phenomena outside of the readings! I also learned a lot about a variety of different topics with concrete modern implications, like Orientalism.
We learned a lot about how power dynamics affect social expectations, discourses, and actions, and how we can apply our understandings of these influences to interpret different media produced in those contexts.
I learned about how to analyze several sources about one topic.
I think this was an enlightening class on colonization and how the effects of it are still very alive today. I think that it brought to my attention many perspectives that I did not know existed and for that I am appreciative of this course.
I learned about colonialism in a wide variety of contexts through readings and discussions.
Personally, I found this class to be incredibly mind–opening. The class focuses on the specificities of colonization, racial identity, and gender identity.
The ability to read/skim a large amount of text and to apply the same critical lens to new social issues were probably the most important things that I learned in this course.
Interpreting a variety of texts and applying them to modern sociological issues.
In this course, we discuss how the self and society interact, with each informing the other. This quarter specifically, we read texts from Kuhn, Foucault, Said, Trouillot among others discussing how the way we discuss history and how we understand our current society has as great if not a greater influence than the actual events that occurred and the actual social institutions and norms that exist. In terms of skills, we have learned how to use our
We read over 3 major texts: Foucault, Michel. 1990 [1978]. History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction, Kuhn, Thomas S. 2012 [1962]. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (50th Anniversary Edition), Trouillot, Michel–Rolph. 2015 [1995]. Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History (20th Anniversary Edition). In addition, we read some articles related to the course. I learned how to collaborate with others and condense our thoughts to create new ideas about the readings. A big thing was linking the reading to contemporary and historical phenomenons, which we did a lot of, and it helped my understanding.

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

Comments
Lectures helped me focus in on the important aspects of the readings (and not get lost in the details) and group discussions helped me understand some of the more nuanced ideas that the readings constructed.
The readings contained most of the ideas/theory of the course and lecture usually started with some discussion/overview of the reading and then the professor would bring in real world examples to discuss involving the topics.
The discussions allowed me to hear thoughts and opinions from my classmates which strengthened my understanding.
The lecture style for this course was very interesting. He has us break off into groups to answer questions every class, and we move around the room dot do so.
I liked that during lecture, Fadi would show us current examples of what we were discussing in our texts, such as videos and news footage. I feel that this greatly grounded a potentially very abstract course in reality, something I feel has been missing in most of my HUM and SOSC sequences.
Small–group discussions (in groups of 3–5 people) were very helpful. I liked it much better than doing a class–wide discussion because I felt less scared to speak in class
Fadi facilitates class discussions very well and will also periodically lecture in the class– a great mix of both
Discussions of the texts especially when broken into smaller groups were very helpful for understanding them.
The readings were honestly a bit long and most of the time impossible to complete if you have other time–consuming classes (however they were interesting). Professor Hakim did a good job giving context to the reading, but it was sometimes difficult to pay attention. There was also group disucssion which was helpful, but because the readings were so long many people didn't end up reading the whole thing which made small group discussions difficult. There were also weekly discussion posts that were fine, but I feel like didn't help at all.
In class lecture and discussion is where most of my learning occurred. It was there where I could test my understandings of the texts I had read prior to the class and gain a more complete understanding through discussion with my classmates and through lecture from the professor. However, reading the texts beforehand also played an important role in shaping my understanding.
Lectures were the only aspect of the course. Lectures definitely contributed to my learning a lot, especially because Professor Fadi had slides prepared to present to us giving us key concepts, a breakdown, major quotes, and the historical context of our reading. Also, we had small group discussions to talk about the readings, and this made it easier to talk about the readings rather than one whole group.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	57.14%	35.71%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.21	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	50.00%	35.71%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.07	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	64.29%	21.43%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	57.14%	35.71%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.43	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	42.86%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	50.00%	42.86%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Since this class has a participation grade, I found it a little hard to get my thoughts in when there are guiding questions that might not relate to how I interpreted the text as a whole, and when there are people in my group that speak over me (for the break out groups).
The essay prompts are open–ended (i.e. we had to analyze any social or historical phenomenon through the lens of one or two theorists), but it was interesting to have so much freedom with our papers.
Professor Fadi has a really great class structure.

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?

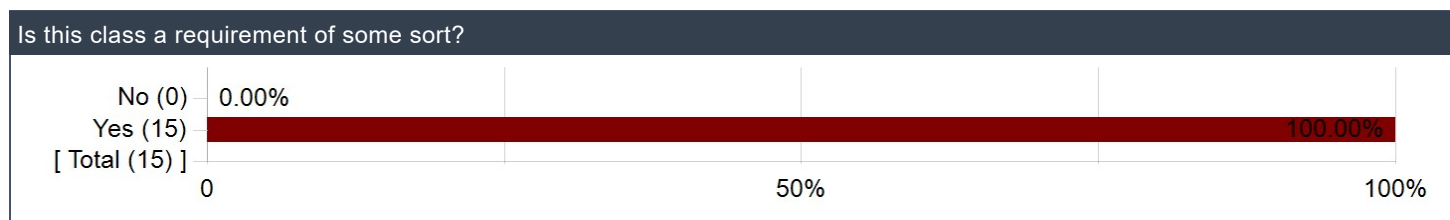| Comments |
| --- |
| The professor's lectures at the beginning and throughout the class was really helpful in guiding my learning of the topics and situating them in historical and political context. He was also great at creating discussion questions that narrowed in on the essential ideas of the readings. |
| I really appreciated how Professor Hakim included additional sources and case studies to ground the ideas from the readings to contemporary events |
| Lecture presentations were great to keep track of important quotes and ideas. When I was writing my essays, it was helpful to look back on to revamp my memory and develop my ideas. The slides took everything we were planning to discuss in class and compiled it in an organized manner. |
| The teacher used a variety of sources including modern articles and videos that helped me understand a new perspective compared to just using the readings. |
| Fadi was very knowledgeable in the historical context of what we were reading and I appreciated his responses to questions and discussions. He was also encouraging of people's perspectives which I appreciated. I also really like his videos and the way that class time incorporated a lot of group discussion because I felt like I got to talk more/understand more from others about the readings than in other classes. |
| Fadi gave lots of contemporary examples, which was my favorite part of the course |
| Fadi is very knowledgeable in the subjects that we come across in class |
| The instructor's discussion questions were always very helpful in orienting myself when trying to understand the texts. |
| The lectures and slides he prepared were very helpful in deepening the understanding of the text. The questions he posed were also very helpful especially when trying to figure out what to write papers on. |
| In class group discussions were the most helpful as I was able to actively engage with the topic we were discussing with my peers and I was able to test my understanding of our readings and what we were discussing in class. |
| His slides and comments in class contributed a lot. He would create a slideshow for every class that would prompt small group discussions, go over key concepts, major quotes, historical context, and how the reading is related to historical and contemporary phenomenon. It helped me digest the reading. Also, he would comment very often in our discussion, and would help break down how it relates to readings and key concepts. |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

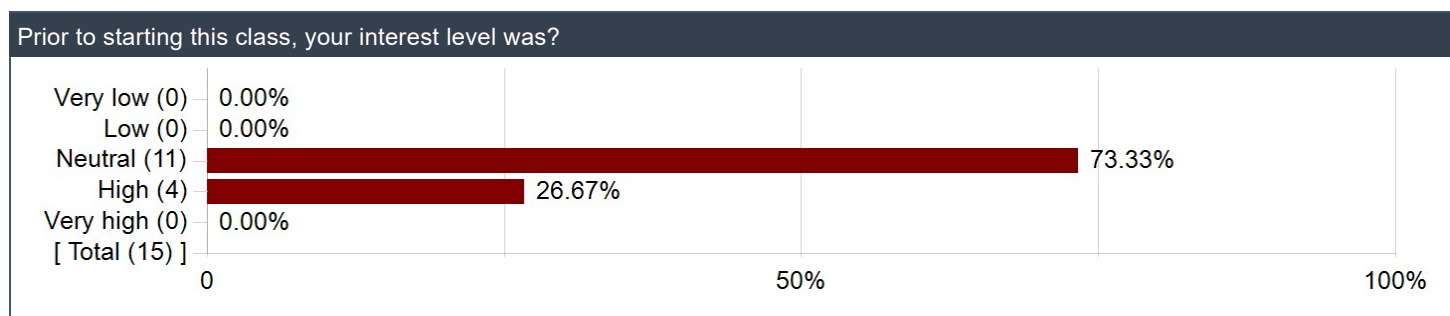| Comments |
| --- |
| A bit more time spent on discussions of the readings themselves would be great (we spent a lot of time on other outside sources like videos in class, which was awesome but having a slightly better understanding of the readings before that would be really helpful) |
| Because the lectures moved on from the reading relatively quickly, sometimes I left class still feeling as if I did not fully understand what the readings illustrated, so perhaps a little more time spent on explanation could be helpful. |
| I think sometimes the homework readings were too long which caused me to retain less of the important information. |
| Maybe allow the class to talk about what interested them about the text, not just using his own guiding questions. |
| I felt that there was slightly too much reading and too varied reading. I feel that diving into one text, like Kuhn at the beginning of the quarter, was more helpful for my deep analysis and learning; although I appreciated the incorporation of many perspectives, I felt that at times it felt like they were trying to cram in too much and there was an barrier to deeper learning because of this. |
| Perhaps assign less reading. Often times, I never had time to do the ~100 page readings |
| n/a |
| Less small group discussion and instead a larger group discussion. |
| More open discussion time in the class I think might help, although I do think the lecture portion was still helpful. |
| N/A |

The Instructor . . .

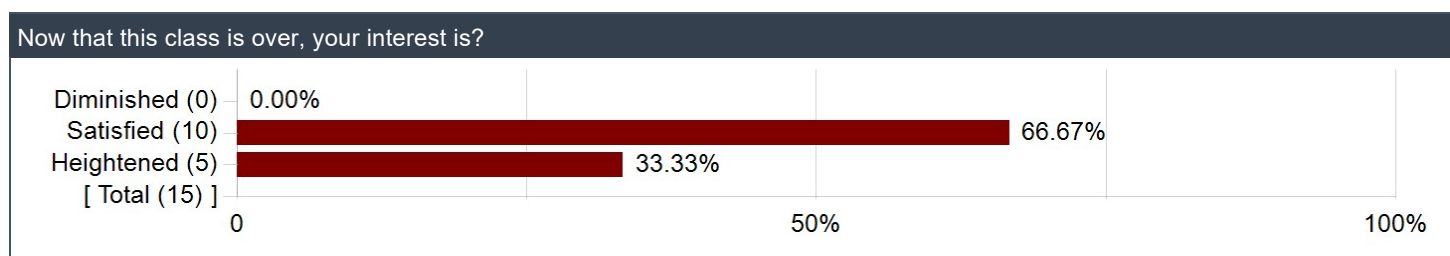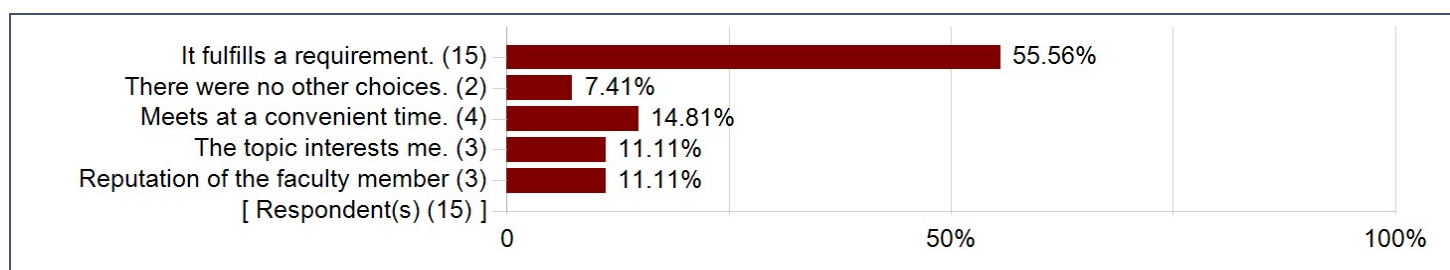|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	46.67%	46.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	53.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.47	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.33%	46.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	60.00%	13.33%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (0)	0.00%	
Yes (15)		100.00%
[Total (15)]		

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (0)	0.00%
Low (0)	0.00%
Neutral (11)	73.33%
High (4)	26.67%
Very high (0)	0.00%
[Total (15)]	

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (0)	0.00%
Satisfied (10)	66.67%
Heightened (5)	33.33%
[Total (15)]	

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

It fulfills a requirement. (15)	55.56%
There were no other choices. (2)	7.41%
Meets at a convenient time. (4)	14.81%
The topic interests me. (3)	11.11%
Reputation of the faculty member (3)	11.11%
[Respondent(s) (15)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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<5 hours (7)	46.67%
5-10 hours (8)	53.33%
10-15 hours (0)	0.00%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (15)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (0)	0.00%
25% (0)	0.00%
50% (0)	0.00%
75% (1)	6.67%
All (14)	93.33%
[Total (15)]	
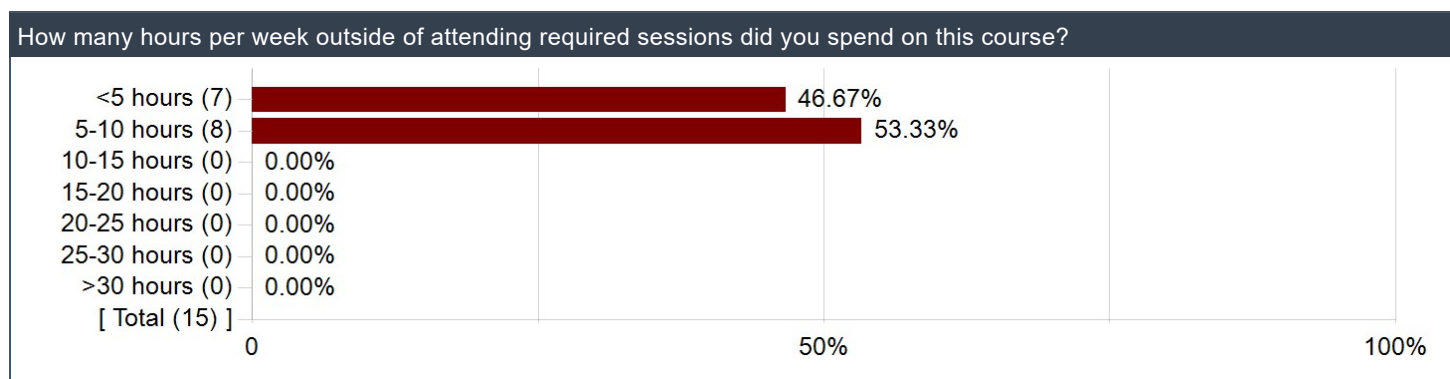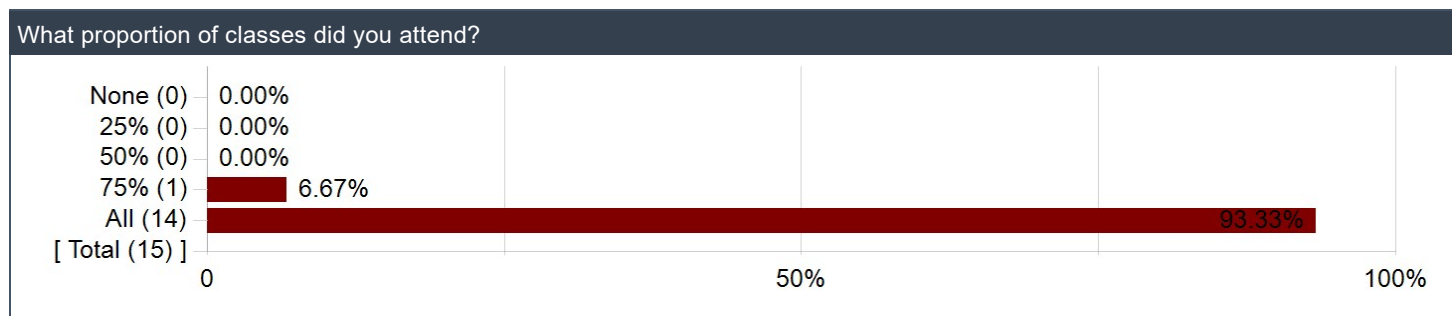
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
After the last two quarters of sosc, this class felt on par with what had been required in the past. I think it was just the right amount of reading and writing, and was a great way to end the year.
This class was not very difficult yet I felt like I learned a lot. Fadi made each class very engaging and conducive to learning.
This course was more difficult than the past two sections of SOSC, partially because I think the professor expected a pretty high level of reading comprehension of difficult and dense texts so I struggled a little to keep up. That said, I'm a STEM major and so I didn't spend excess time rereading the assigned work or annotating heavily, so definitely putting more time in would result in better comprehension.
The readings are long, but interesting and easy to participate in discussion about. I found myself being able to come up with a strong thesis and my thought process easily when writing my essays because of class discussions and the lecture slides.
The work took a lot of time but the grading was lenient.
I think doing more dense readings in PhilPer and in previous quarters of SOSC helped prepare me for this class, but I do not think it was at a level that required pre–requisites.
It was a similar level of difficulty to my previous sosc classes
It was a relatively easy course, but if you don't have a lot of time to dedicate to reading I wouldn't recommend it.
Very manageable for anyone who has had previous college experience with core writing classes.
As a STEM major in Math and CS, I found this course slightly challenging, but rewarding. Reading and analyzing the content was the hardest part, but I felt like I could understand it through class, and discussion.