



SOSC 12500 6 - Self, Culture, and Society II - Instructor(s): Kamala Russell

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

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: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

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

Comments
How to manage long readings and focusing on reading for discussion points specifically. Also how not to get lost while someone is giving a long oral presentation while still taking notes and retaining everything
what durkheim, freud, beauvoir, and fanon thought... kind of.
Self
Unsure. Improved writing skills?
Psychoanalysis and its modern applications, lots of Freud, how to condense essays and focus the scope of them
I learned about Durkheim, Freud, Beauvoir, and Fanon. The topics we focused on throughout the course were religion, sociology, psychoanalysis, systemic alienation, and inequality. I learned most about the connection between the individual and his group, and how preconceived notions and social facts come about and become ingrained in us and those around us.

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

Comments
in class discussions with other students were helpful
class was structured around a discussion leader who would talk about the readings for that day and then we would supposedly move into discussion... although it was mostly just her talking
Lectures were alright
Discussions and readings were fun
The essays helped contribute to my learning, although the prompts were fairly confusing. Office hours were very helpful! I did not find the class discussions helpful though, they tended to be stilted and unequal in terms of who talks when.
The discussion seminars were the only component of this course. I am not an advocate for this form of learning, especially when the seminars lean on students to speak. Quite frankly, most students have neither the preparation nor the authority to give a coherent review of the hard materials that we read. This is why there were often silent moments in this class.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.38	3.50	12.50%	0.00%	37.50%	37.50%	12.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.38	3.00	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%	12.50%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	37.50%	37.50%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.63	3.50	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Lots of reading over short period of time. Don;t get behind
it wasn't great. partially because i didn't love the readings. but it could have been made more interesting by a more engaging professor
Don't take my responses here too seriously. I just don't think I'm the sort of person who likes SOSC

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	25.00%	75.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	37.50%	62.50%

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

Comments
When she would quickly pipe in to our conversations to guide discussion topics in the best direction.
explanation of key philosophical concepts as background, e.g. phenomenology was quite useful
Lectures
Discussions
Professor Russell was very passionate about the topics we learned. in class, so she was quite knowledgeable and willing to talk outside of class.
The instructor always made an introduction to the topic of the day by giving us some background about the reading and the author. I think that this was very useful because it allowed me to learn more about the topic. It can be improved though. The instructor should slow down to make sure students better understand this part of the class. I think she should even make it longer since I personally thought that this was one of the most interesting parts of the seminars. I think the professor is an expert at what she does, and I would not have minded hearing more from her!
Professor Russell is very good in fostering a good discussion that gets everyone involved. The class itself was very interesting, and the discussions were engaging

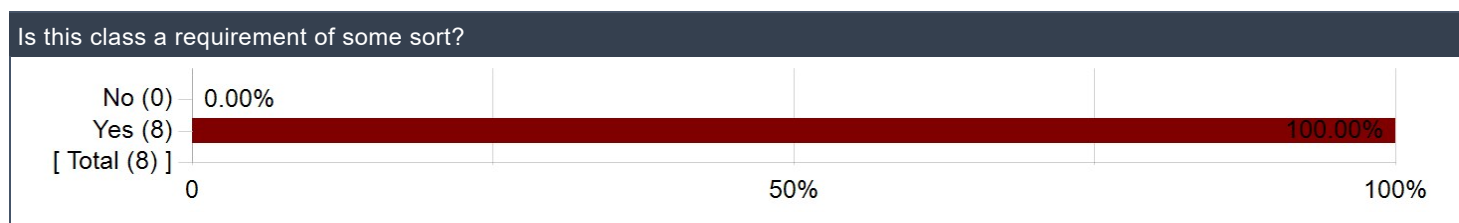
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
In the beginning of discussions and class she gives a big speech about the reading usually 5–10 minutes and I don't think it's necessary. Every day the reading is assigned to one student who gives an oral presentation on it, don't steal their thunder and let them do the presentation and add on to whatever you think they missed at the end. Also it starts the class off too slowly if teacher is talking for 10 minutes and then student does their presentation for about 10 minutes and then we finally get to discussion.
she could talk less
N/A
More discussions, less lectures?
Professor Russell could work on leading class discussions more smoothly. At times it felt like only she was talking or that only a few students dominated the discussion. She would also read from a script at the beginning of class, which made it harder to connect with the class material. Students would have class presentations about the readings, but it was difficult to get much out of them because the professor would present the same information before.
I liked some of our conversations, but I wish she'd let the discussion leader facilitate when it was their turn. Sometimes it felt like she didn't really let them get a word in.
She should rely less on the students leading the discussion, and instead style the class to make it more like a lecture. She should not get rid of the discussion though. She needs to keep it open so students can chime in whenever they think they have something interesting to add. I thought that choosing a student to give a 10 minute presentation in each class was great! When I gave my presentation, I had to carefully understand the reading and I learned a lot by doing that. She definitely needs to keep this part of the class the same for the future.

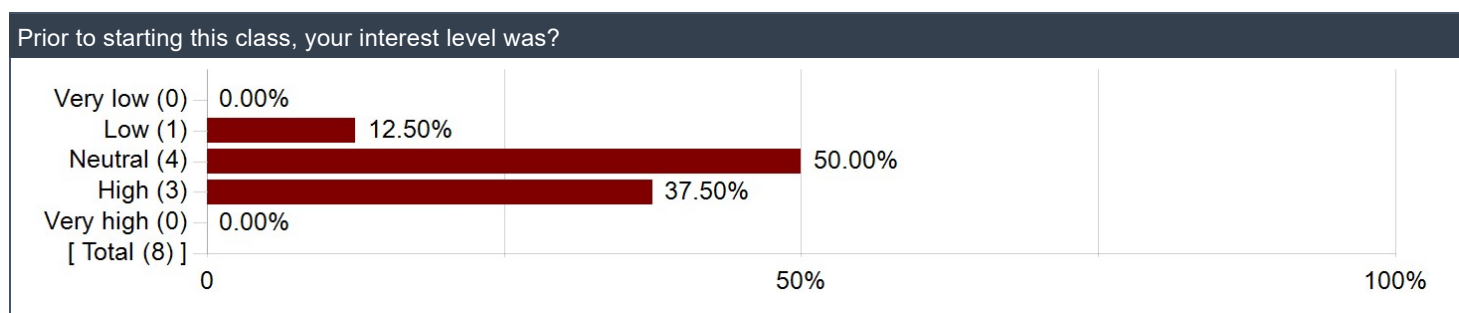
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.63	3.50	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.75	3.50	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	12.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	37.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	37.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	0.00%

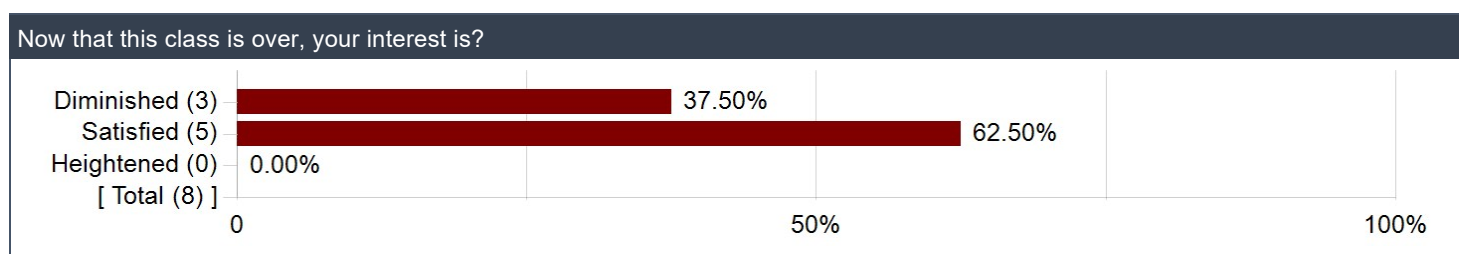
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



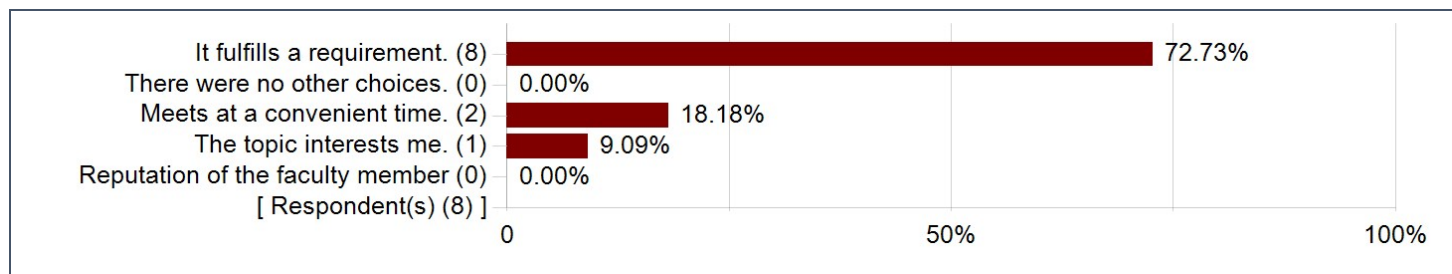
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



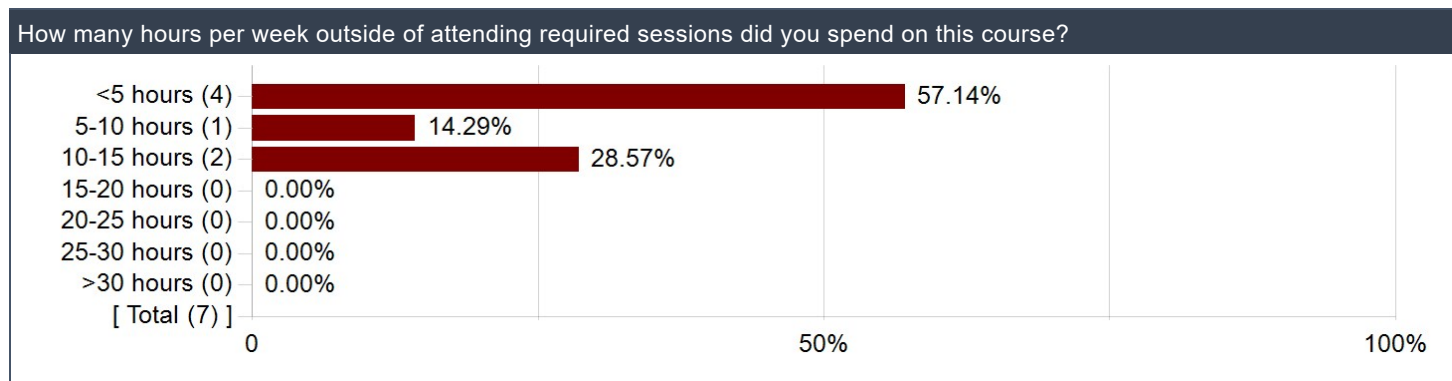
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



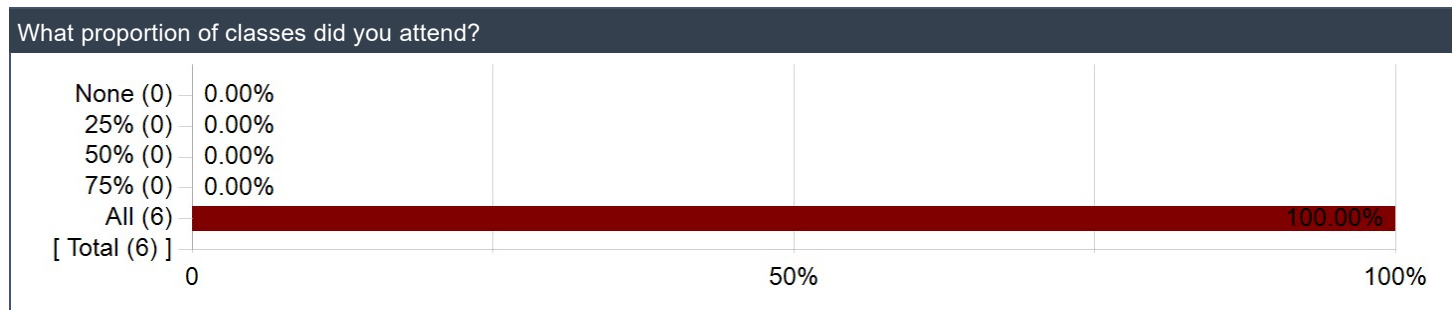
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Its hard, but you go to uchicago
easy
The class was not difficult. The readings were interesting and the instructor was very open to discussion and highly intelligent. I had no background to the topics we read and I learned a lot. Thanks Professor Russell!