



SOSC 12400 25 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - Haitong Xu

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **12**

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
Philosophies of famous scholars like Smith and Weber, how to write argumentative essays, organization of society, economic structures and systems
Readings on Ibn Khaldun, Adam Smith, Marx, and Weber. Goes into depth about society and how capitalism/economics shapes society. Also talk briefly about feminism with some related texts.
I learned about the growth of sociological methods across time, from Ibn Khaldun to Max Weber. In the case of the latter, his methodology of using certain significant texts to extrapolate broader cultural trends was very valuable. Furthermore, I learned about analyzing and critiquing power structures, from Marx especially.
We learned how to analyze the theoretical framework of different authors as to how they approached developing their understanding of society and human interactions.
How to analyze books written by sociologists and economists and the various analyses of society and its economic structures.
I learned about many famous sociologists as well as interesting economic theory
basic sociology theory
I learned a lot from famous philosophers like Marx, Weber, Smith, Engles, and more

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

Comments
Lectures and class discussion helped me further understand the texts, essays were an opportunity to dive into one or two in particular
The class was discussion-based, with a lot of comments from Haitong. He facilitated the discussions well and considered people's opinions. He also has specific views on the material, which is good because it sparks disagreements at times with people from the class, which makes it interesting. The reading reactions are pretty easy and allow you to interact with the text, which he grades. He also expects you to actively take notes during class on his and others' opinions while also contributing yourself.
The in-class discussions helped to reinforce understanding by drawing out student responses to make sure we had properly grasped the text in question (although only a few students, myself included, really participated at all in these discussions).
Readings and discussions both served to develop my understanding of different theoretical frameworks and how each author addressed the concerns/conditions of their time in a unique way.
The discussions were always helpful to understand the texts we read in class. The assignments, reading responses, were the initial test of understanding of texts before the discussions, and you could find questions to ask during the discussion.
The discussions were interesting and helped me to think about the text more deeply and also understand it better than I had when reading it for homework.
Discussions were the most important part of my learning as we went very in depth into some of these authors
lectures best
We had weekly discussion posts that made us dive deep into reading.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	70.00%	30.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	70.00%	30.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
good SOSC sequence
Class was fairly easy, with two essays and reading reactions every week being most of the grade. However, he is tough with grading at times, especially on the first essay where you are getting used to his writing style. However, this should balance out with the final essay, reading reactions and if you participate well. He also understands that we have other classes, so if you come in unprepared some of the classes he is okay with it.
Haitong is a very caring professor. Super super open and helpful.
This class had active discussion that was balanced between student contribution and Prof. Xu explaining the background context/what he thought was important from the reading. The class had a very comfortable atmosphere so it was not stressful at all to contribute during class. The workload was not too bad.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	10.00%	90.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	10.00%	90.00%

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

Comments
The instructor's explanations of trickier sections of the texts were most helpful since they helped complete my personal understandings
The class discussions were the most helpful, as he pieced together some analysis for each author and connected it with other authors we had read over the quarter, which forces you to connect the dots between all of the different authors we read.
His willingness to engage with students' opinions and claims on an equal footing definitely helped my understanding.
Professor Xu shares a lot during class which I find super helpful because he knows more about the material.
Going over the overarching points of an author's arguments best helped tied the readings together for me especially when these points were not as clear in the reading itself.
The professor was very good at facilitating discussions, engaging all members of the class, and answering any questions about the text.
He was very available and helpful outside of class, and open to hearing students' contributions to discussions. I appreciated the discussions overall and felt like I got a lot more out of the text after discussion.
He went very in depth into many of the topics and was always open to discussion.
lecture
In class discussions

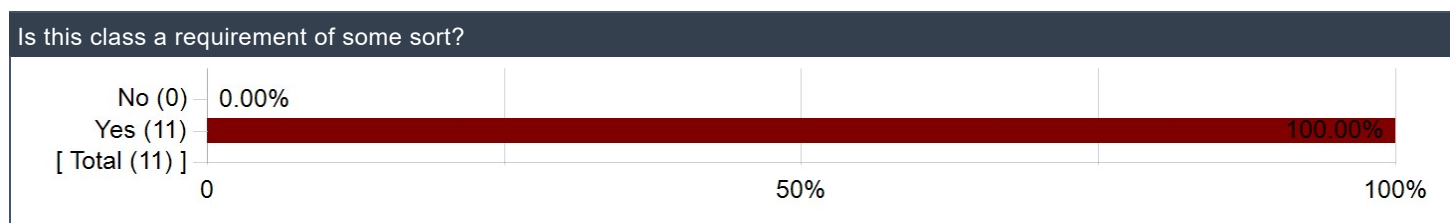
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
not much, very good teacher in my opinion
One thing that he could do to help us learn more is to be more direct with the questions that he asks during class, as sometimes he can go off on tangents and interrupt the flow of the discussion.
Perhaps giving more guidance to students on the Marx; while I felt I got it there were a few other students who didn't so I think some more background (e.g. a short article on Hegel) could help.
n/a
N/A It was taught well.
Sometimes he rambles and opportunities for discussion seem less, however, he is still very helpful in breaking down the reading when questions are asked.
nothing

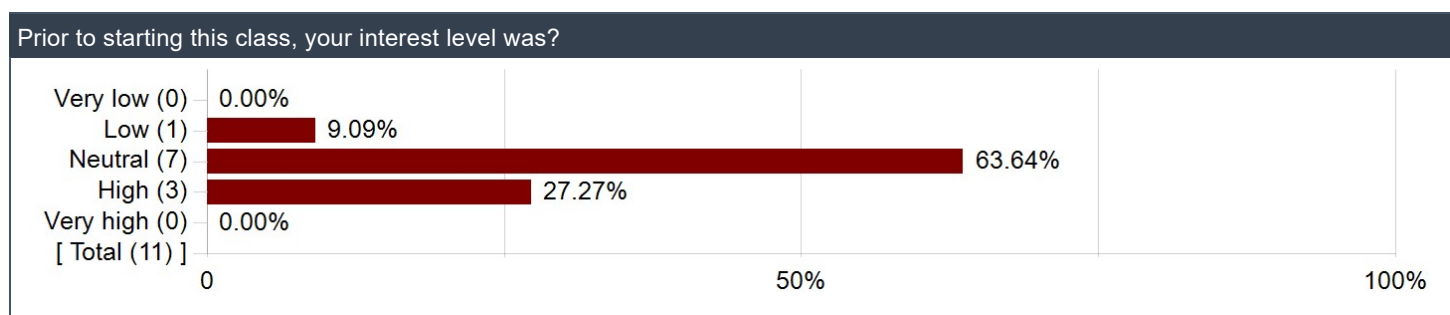
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	60.00%	30.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.10	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	50.00%	30.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.10	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	50.00%	30.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	60.00%	30.00%	0.00%

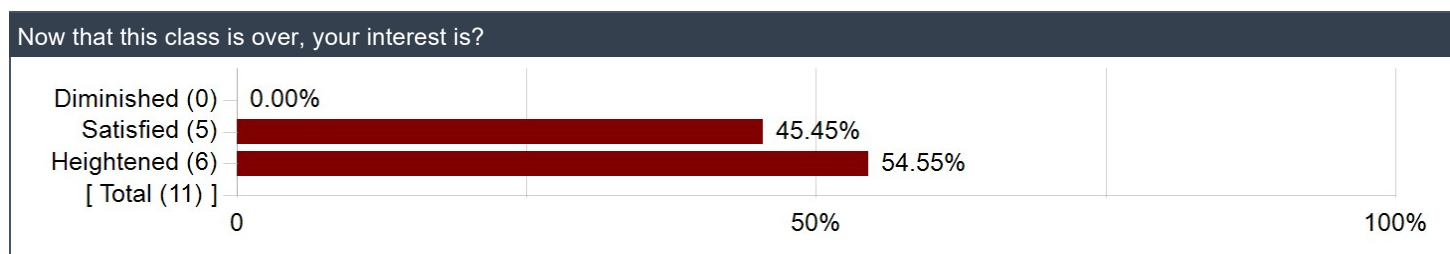
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



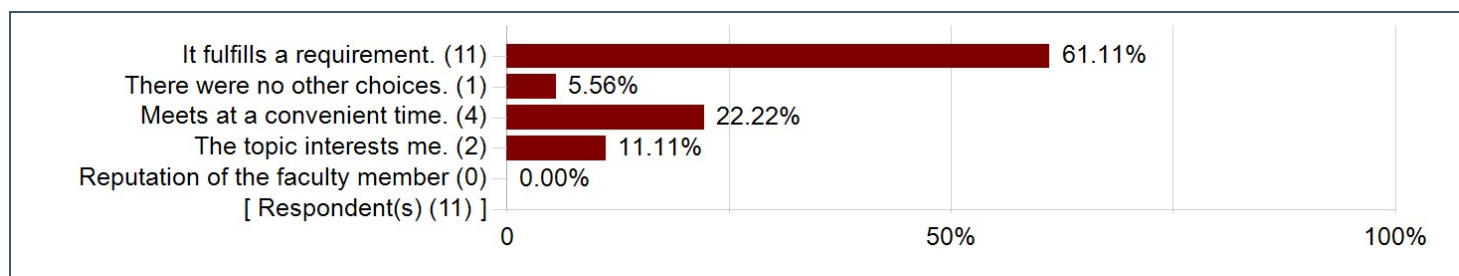
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



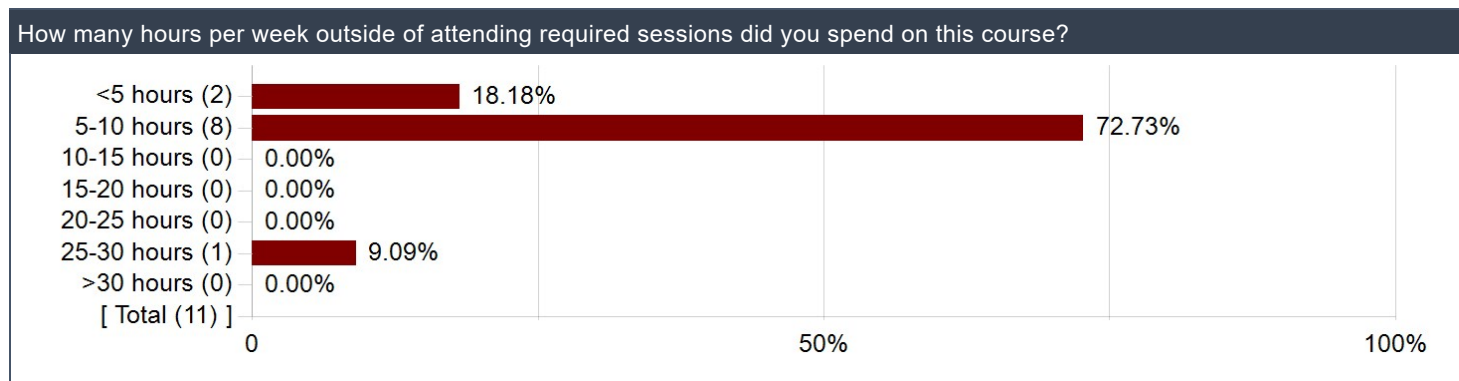
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



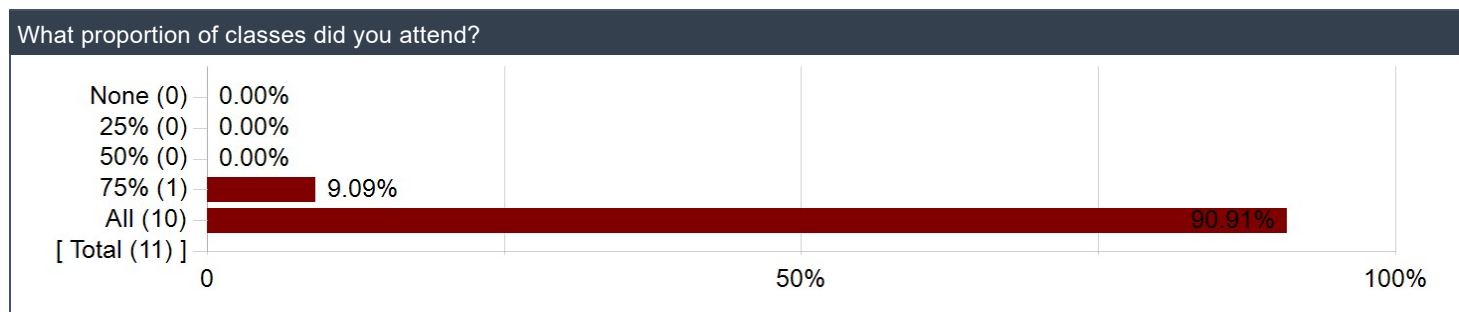
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
difficulty was appropriate for SOSC, writing assignments are tough though
The course is not challenging in terms of the level of difficulty, but the grading can be tough for the first couple of essays, especially since he likes a certain style of writing. In terms of the weekly schedule, besides some reading, there is not much that is required.
Great teacher and fair difficulty, would recommend
The content itself was a little challenging, while the workload was average.
The course was not very difficult, and we did not rush too quickly through any one text so I definitely felt like there was ample time to digest new concepts as we learned them.
This course was not super difficult but I still felt challenged by the texts and essay prompts
This course is definitely more challenging than my HUM course last year, but I find the material more interesting.
no background, it was fine

