



SOSC 14100 1 - Mind I - Instructor(s): Kerry Le Doux

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **11**

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, February 2, 2024**

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

Comments
I gained proficiency in understanding how to read/understand empirical and research papers, and how to make connections across different realms/topics of the mind.
The many influences that go into how the mind constructs reality.
One of the most important things (skill-wise) I've learned is writing succinctly. Every Mind professor runs their section differently, but Professor Ledoux had weekly response papers (400 words each). This forced me to be concise and clear with my writing. Content-wise, everything is important and fascinating. Understanding that reality is not objective, that we construct many things from sight (no one has veridical 3D sight) to memory, has helped me change my own thought processes. For example, it is important whenever you make a judgment about another individual's personality or character traits based on their behavior that you also consider any situational factors that may have caused them to behave the way they did. Suffice it to say, the mind is incredible, and it was even more incredible to learn how we perform seemingly easy functions (like categorization) and still have so much more to learn.
How to think about fluid and dynamic cognitive processes. How to better understand ourselves
How the mind works to truly structure reality (ITS SO COOL)
Learned about different mental processes such as statistical learning, the activation-monitoring model, self-fulfilling prophecies, perceptual illusions, categorization, etc.
Fun application of science thinking to humanities
how the mind constructs reality
Participating in class discussions and thinking more in depth about the material.
I learned about how the mind constructs reality through examples of phenomena that occur on a regular basis.
Principles that govern how the mind processes information, changed how I view human beings and how their interactions in general.

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

Comments
The weekly readings and response papers challenged me to think more critically and greatly contributed to my learning.
The lectures were very informative and the discussions were a great way to solidify the learning I did independently through the weekly readings.
Lectures were incredibly insightful; each week, a different professor from the psychology department gave a presentation on a topic (perception, working memory, categorization, statistical learning, long-term memory, preferences, expectations, time-scales, and intentions). Each professor had their own "style," and featured numerous pieces of evidence and some live demonstrations. The readings for each week were directly related to the lectures and helped provide a lot of additional information. The discussions (once per week) helped me see the perspective of my classmates. I think everything helped contribute to my learning.
Discussions were always stimulating and well led. They helped unravel the lecture material
Lectures were both helpful and engaging, especially the in class experiments used to demonstrate things. Discussions were also helpful, but were not helpful to assignments as they were held after deadlines, mostly helpful to understanding
Lectures were especially helpful and very entertaining, they described interesting experiments and applications of the week's topic, often including the students in experimental in-class activities
professor Ledoux does a great job of facilitating discussions on the readings
Discussions really helped better my understanding of the lectures.
The lectures were engaging and provided a good amount of information. The discussions were also great in sharing ideas. The readings and papers helped me go further in the material and reflect on what I learned.
lectures presented interesting topics and readings provided points to be discussed/debated in seminars.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	36.36%	54.55%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
I felt respected in this class.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Ledoux is terrific at teaching and very welcoming of everyone in the class.
Everyone will tell you this is the "easiest" of the social science core courses at UChicago. I have no idea if this is true. You will get out of it what you put in though, and if you want to just watch the lecture recordings or half-bake your essays, that's fine. But I think you'll miss the true beauty of the course: learning how the mind works in conjunction with a Hum class that tries to understand what makes us "human (e.g., Human Being and Citizen) will provide fascinating perspectives that you can use to analyze your own life, your morals, and basically your whole world view.
The paper prompts for weekly responses can be challenging at times, but revisions are allowed! The course is very much rooting for your success.
Professor LeDoux was excellent, led great discussions and created a great learning environment.
Professor Ledoux was very understanding and a great discussion leader.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	9.09%	90.91%
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 Le Doux is incredible!! She leads very insightful discussion that enables me and my peers to share our respective insights.
Using Perusall and having class discussions after everyone has done the readings made them very fruitful.
My professor gave really excellent feedback on weekly response papers. Even when I received a "perfect," she always had additional advice or insights that I incorporated into my notes or future writings (like the final paper). I think some have said that Professor Ledoux was a somewhat difficult grader (it was hard to score 5/5, and I easily put in 5–6 hours on just writing the 400 words; this doesn't include reading, lecture, or discussion time). However, she was more than fair (and I would say she was actually generous), and you will learn from her feedback.
Kerry is so sweet, she is truly rooting for you and your success. She is amazing at facilitating discussions and honors participation in all its forms, she is also incredibly understanding and helpful if you reach out. SHE'S AMAZING
Prof. Ledoux's way of speaking is great—eloquent, yet digestible and easy to understand. She is great at stimulating discussion among students and explaining the concepts
Great discussions
The professor led discussions benefited the material.
Professor Ledoux understood that people learn and share ideas in different ways. She always provided different types of participation opportunities, like Perusall annotations and sharing in a group. As someone with pretty severe social anxiety, I appreciated her understanding and style of teaching.
Discussion questions and how she guides the flow of the conversations.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing!
Nothing; I think the course was laid out very well.
This was beyond her control, but I wish there was more than two days to write the response papers. Due to the nature of the Mind class for this quarter (All sections attend lecture on Tuesday; individual section discussions Thursday), there was limited time to actually write. Professor Ledoux created the paper prompts based on what she heard in lecture, so she could not have released them sooner than Tuesday, but this is the one thing that I wish was different.
Nothing she could do, I had slight problems with course organization is all.
this is a comment on all mind sections, but I really wish the lectures were on the last class period of the week instead of the first. There just wasn't enough time to think about the response paper/readings when assignments for other classes built up in the middle of the week
She was great, perhaps giving more time to complete the weekly assignments.
Nothing really; everything seemed pretty fair. The only thing is having only about two days to work on the weekly paper, but I understood her reasoning.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	54.55%	9.09%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Annemarie Catania (Writing Adviser)

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

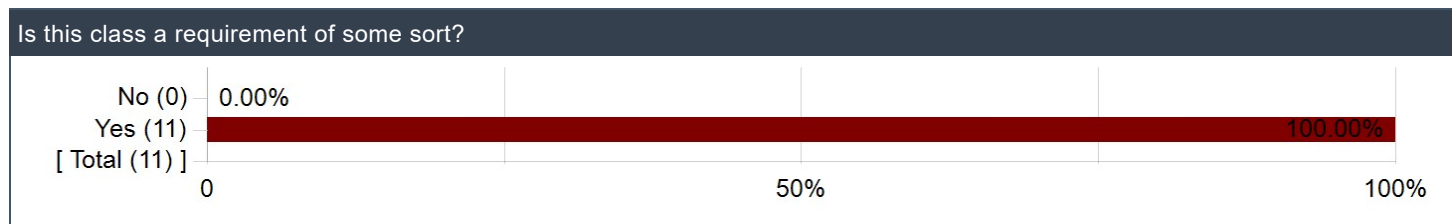
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%	20.00%	0.00%

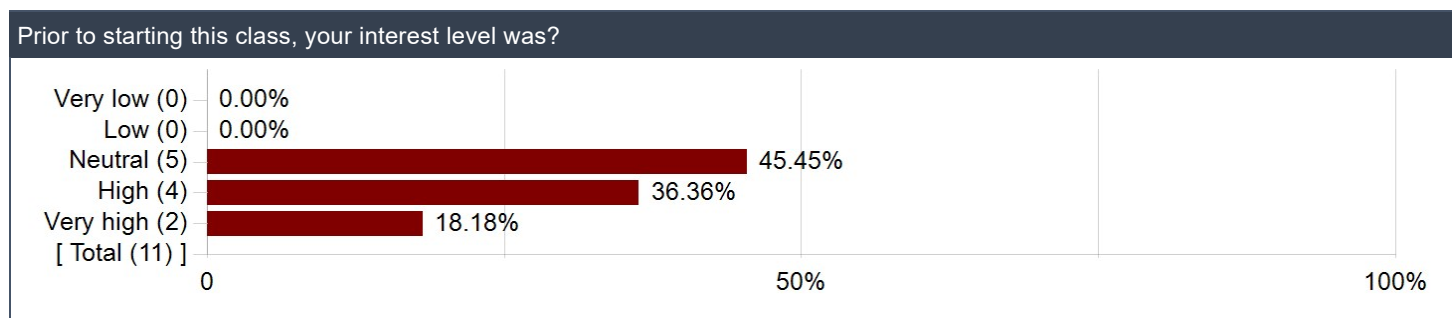
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments	
This is in conjunction with Writing Seminars: Every Mind section had an assigned SOSC writing advisor. I found mine to be extremely helpful, and she held additional office hours every week; I found these to be more helpful than the writing seminars.	

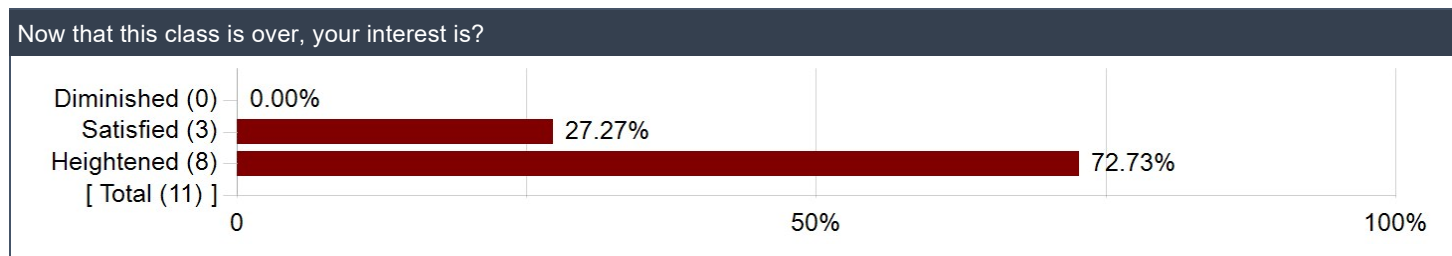
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



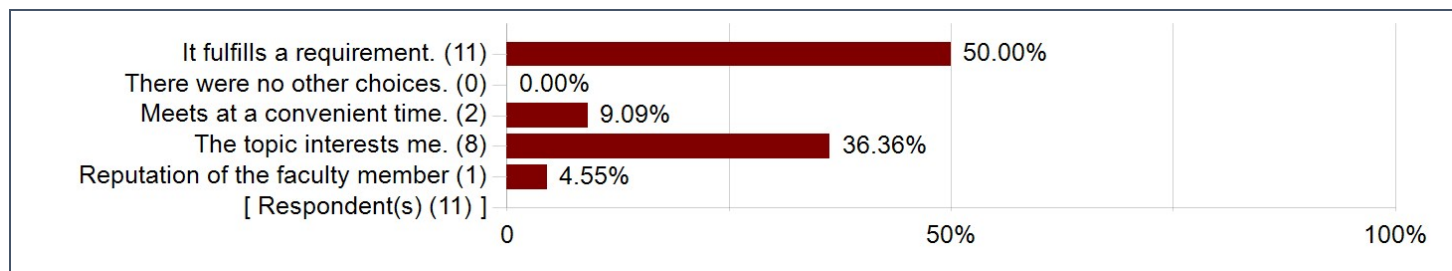
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



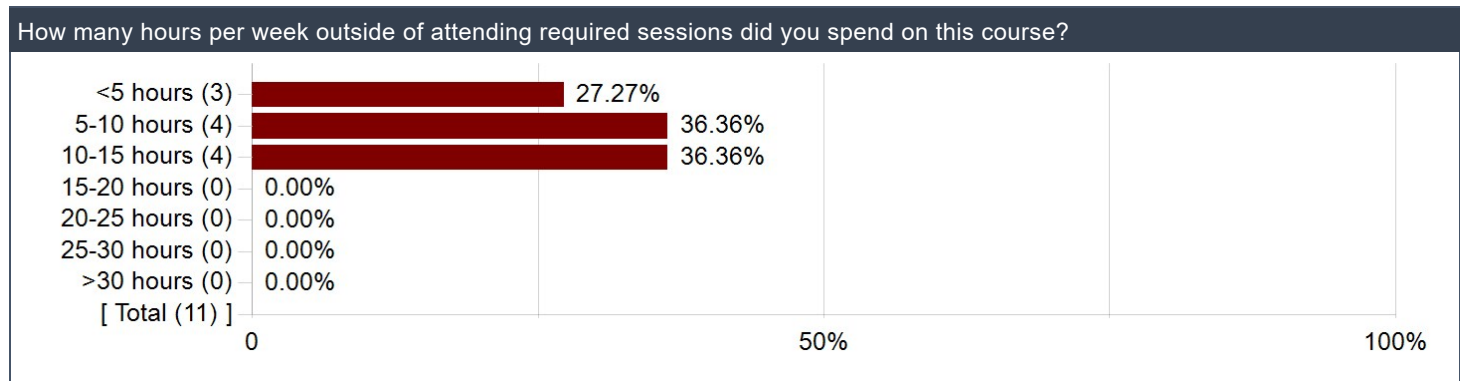
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



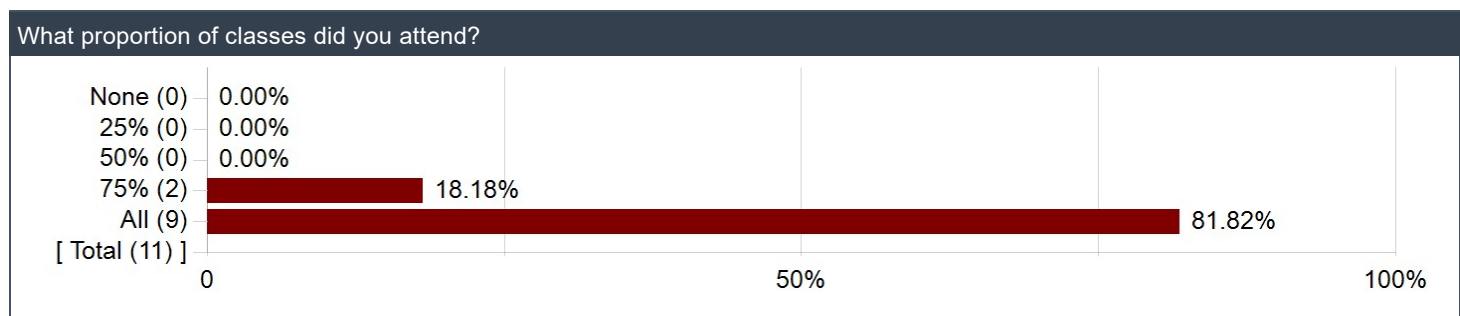
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
At first I found the class extremely challenging (because I had never had a class of this sort); however, as the course progressed, it became much more manageable.
No experience; very manageable.
My background in psychology prior to this was AP Psychology (taken 2 years ago) and reading in behavioral science (Nudge by Thaler and works by Tversky and Kahneman are particularly pertinent to the week on expectations). I don't think this background helped me very much though because I knew next to nothing going into every topic except for expectations. The real difficulty came from writing clearly in 400 words, making every word count to answer several questions embedded in each week's prompt.
A truly lovely class experience, though if you are bad at reading research papers keep in mind the reading material is strictly papers, also there are mandatory annotations graded by online AI, so they take some time. In order to succeed you have to put work in, this class is not so easily flown by if you don't already have experience with the material
The readings are a bit difficult to digest if you don't have experience with experimental studies and/or various psychological processes
This was moderately difficult for me because I had no prior experience to this type of class and material.
It was a moderate amount of work, but pretty manageable. You don't really need experience in the subject to do good work. I had some experience from high school, but it wasn't really necessary; it was only slightly helpful in being able to connect to things outside of the class when writing annotations for readings.