



SOSC 12600 4 - Self, Culture, and Society III - Instructor(s) - Adam Almqvist

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **10**

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
I learned how to read texts from Thomas Kuhn, Michel Foucault, and saw applications of them across various case studies.
– sexuality, race, foucault, kuhn, latour, and how they all were connected. how they compared and contrasted.
This course covered ideas like the philosophy of science and thinkers like foucault and beauvoir.
Sosc
I really honed my skills as an analytical writer and learned how to read and synthesize difficult texts.
I learned how to think critically about how knowledge is constructed and discourse is created, what societal biases play into our dialogues regarding economy, politics, governance, and democracy. I learned to think critically about how scientific research operates not externally to society, but is interacting and being shaped by society forces too.
Different social theories to understand the world

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

Comments
The classes were a fun mix of discussion, smaller discussion groups and presentations that bounced a lot of interesting ideas around that were very helpful in gaining a better understanding.
I liked the discussions we had in class really dug into the reading that was required for class.
The class met and discussed the reading while also incorporating brief presentations that connected concepts to events in real life.
Sosc
The readings were the most important assignments in this course, as those are the whole basis of the discussions in class. I thought the addition of reading reflection discussion posts was very helpful in making sure I was actually doing the reading. Keeping up every assignment in every class can be challenging and it can be easy to fall behind on readings—discussion posts helped keep me accountable.
the readings were very interesting and unlike what I had been exposed to before. The different weeks focused on different themes that we repeatedly returned to in discussions to relate various thinkers to one another, which I found very helpful. Our professor reiterated themes that our first authors, Thomas Kuhn and Michel Foucault emphasized, larger works which we read the majority of. Dr. Almqvist's lectures stimulated discussions, as well as his trial run of a new method of presentations involving two students every week presenting a case study of a real world example that they found related to the texts. This was really interesting for me as I learned how my peers interacted with the course material in their own ways and I learned from preparing my own presentation. I also appreciated the relevant present day articles that our professor brought to class for us to discuss and debate.
The class discussions were very helpful in clarifying any confusing ideas from the text

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
– this was a MWF class, 50 minutes, and sometimes the readings went a little OD especially for classes on Wednesday and Friday since he would sometimes give us like 80 pages of hardcore reading that we had 48 hrs to read. potentially reduce readings for the time that we have.
Sosc
Our professor was very knowledgeable and eager to stimulate not only discussion but debate around course topics. He had a clear interest in developing our critical thinking, as well as nurturing our own curiosity. I loved our case study presentations, as I learned so much from my peers and their points of view as well as from our professor's guided comments during our discussions every class. Additionally, he was very available and supportive during office hours to suggest new ways of thinking about the text and work with the ideas that we brought to construct more coherent arguments.
Prof. Almqvist was great at leading discussions and coming up with activities for us to apply the concepts we were learning about in the readings.

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
His expertise in Foucault in particular was very helpful in guiding me through the sometimes hard to understand parts of Foucault's winding arguments.
group pairings to discuss a certain aspect of the reading
Engaging discussion questions during class, references to students discussion posts, and student-led conversations.
He did a good job mediating discussion while helping introduce key concepts
Lecture
I really liked the questions Prof. Almqvist asked us during class discussions—often they were challenging, but they led to the most interesting and intellectual conversations I've had all year in this class.
I think I learned the most from our professor's inclusion of present day material as it helped me think about how the ideas of these texts relate to and exist within the society I currently live in, something I wasn't able to do as much in the first two quarters of the sequence. I also think that the questions he posed were really thoughtful in urging us not simply to reiterate the ideas in the texts but to think about whether we agreed with them, disagreed with them, or how other authors that we had dealt with in that quarter or in the earlier quarters would develop arguments on the same issues.
The discussions were meaningful and the readings weren't endless
Aside from class discussion, the class activities that required us to apply the social theory concepts we've been learning about to a contemporary issue. It helped me concretely understand theories that would otherwise seem pretty abstract and disconnected from today.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
His breakout groups are really great and enjoyed them. When we reconvened, sometimes, we ran out of time and it did not spread the wealth as much.
reduce readings
I found the course to be great overall
None
I wish we had some kind of summary of the reading at the beginning of each class. Sometimes the readings were quite difficult and I wish we had been able to first discuss what the author was saying before we jumped into analyzing the readings.
N/A – the course was organized well, the readings were divided thematically, and I appreciated leaving Fridays for presentations and class discussion
I feel like sometimes he couldn't actually interpret the text or didn't know how to articulate it and so I was very lost at times because the way we spoke about the text was very vague

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	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 course.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	11.11%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%

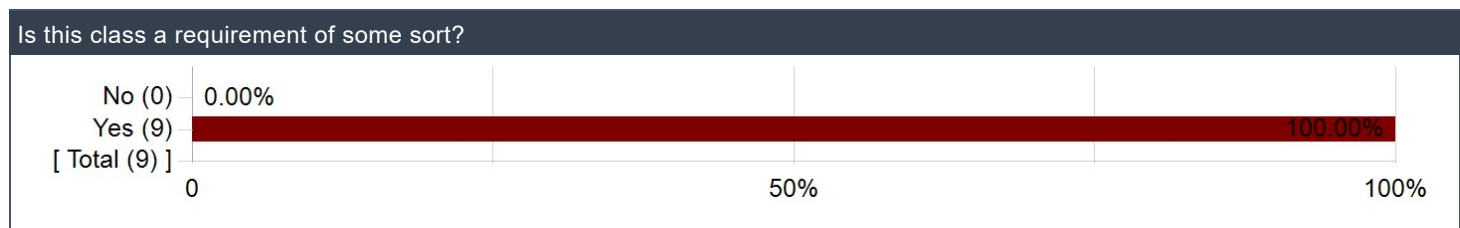
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

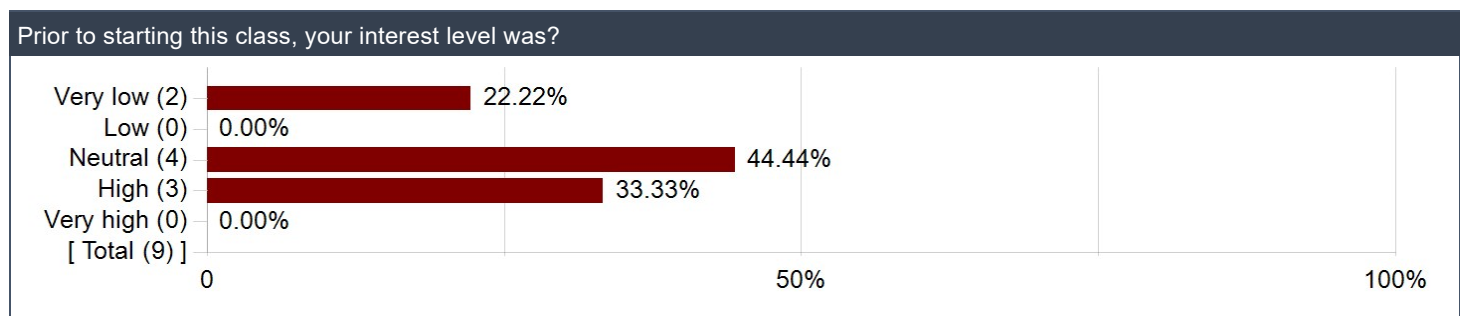
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Guest Lectures

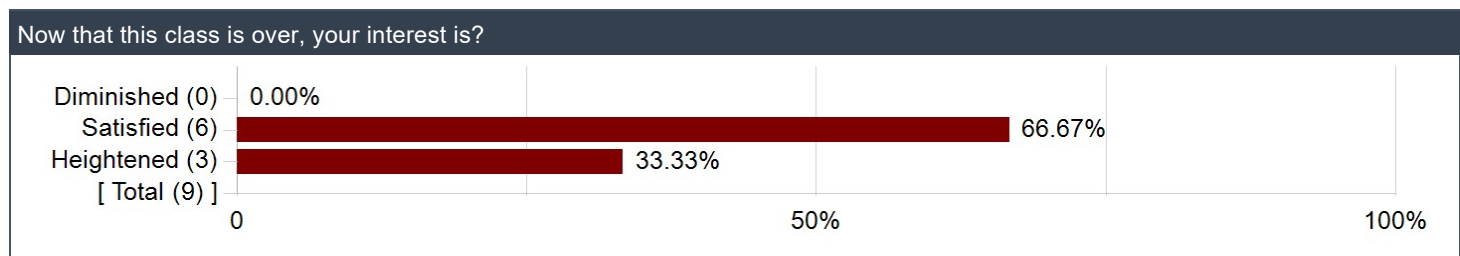
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



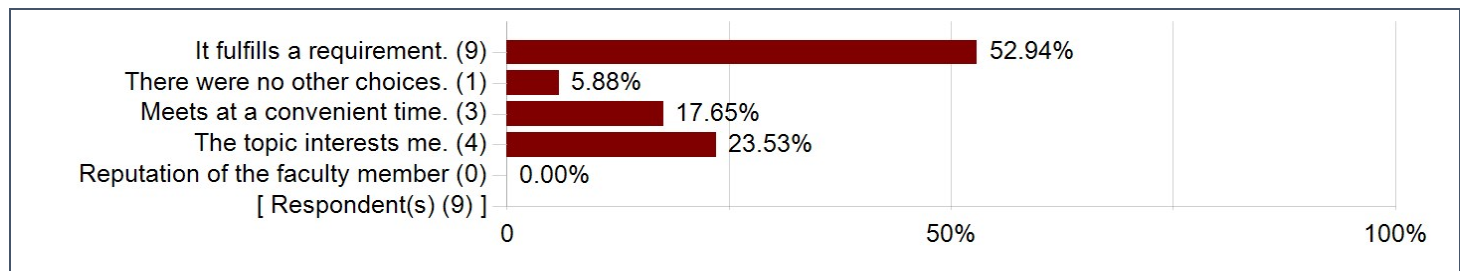
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



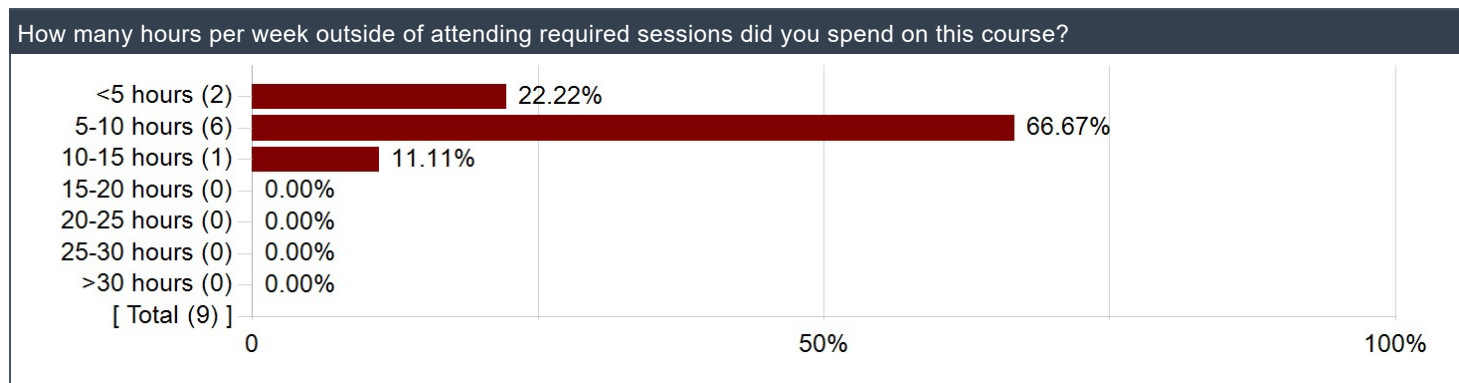
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



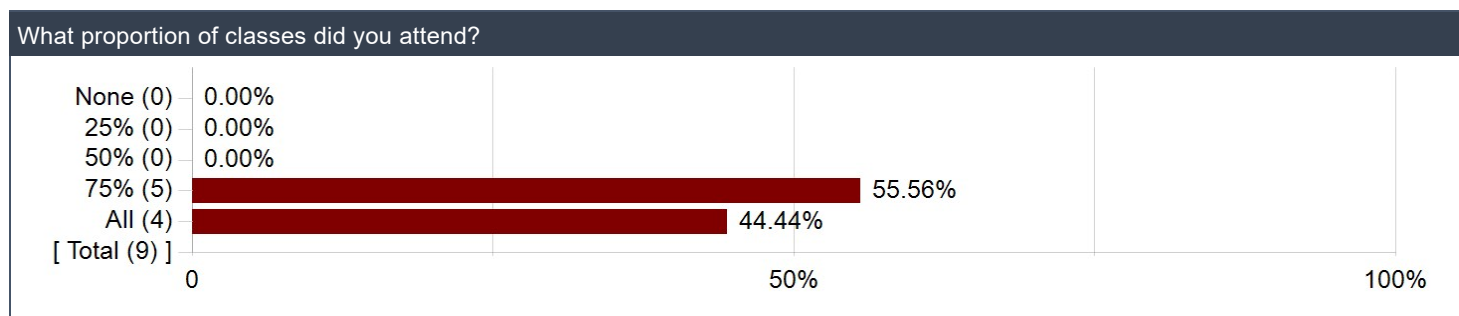
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Was manageable given the prep we had from previous quarters.
Not too bad, it's SOSC
Yes
The class was challenging but felt like a good continuation of the first two quarters. In all, this sequence did require a good amount of work and intellectual analysis, but I felt prepared for it as a first year simultaneously taking HUM and based off the classes I took in high school.
This course requires you to be prepared for class and to do the readings and to think a bit more about the readings before coming to class, but it's very doable if you put in the time and effort and you seek help with a professor when any ideas are too complicated, you will succeed.
Class was not difficult, especially coming out of the 1st and 2nd part of the sequence, I knew what to expect for success generally