



SOSC 12600 27 - Self, Culture, and Society III - Instructor(s) - Abhishek Bhattacharyya

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.

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 analytical skills, became familiar with a broad range of social theories, and how to improve my argumentation.
Discussed Said, Foucault, Butler, Kuhn, discussed orientalism, gender and sexuality, sex and identity. Was very interesting and expanded my critical thinking
How hegemonic frameworks have led to things being the way they are and theories on what those things actually are/should be. We carefully examined knowledge and its implications in many different contexts that gave a very holistic view on it. We also looked at movies, videos, and poems outside of just reading which was a really nice experience to have. Key authors were Kuhn, Foucault, Butler, and Said. We also had readings from other authors that helped put the ideas of the main authors in perspective.
Societal workings, how to structure a paper and think critically about readings
self
The concept of discourse and how it creates ways we categorize the world around us Western imperialism Gender and sexuality as constructs
How to critically approach texts and engage in authors arguments.
This section of self is much more global compared to the previous ones. This section focuses on questioning paradigms we believe have internalized/believe are normal. This section talks about science (Kuhn), sexuality (Foucault), Western hegemony (Said), and feminism (Butler).
I learned so much about post-colonial theory and the relationship between power, knowledge, and pleasure. Learned about the complexities of identity, race, sexuality, gender, and intersectionality.
Argument construction

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

Comments
The lectures were really just discussions, which I liked. All different opinions had the opportunity to express themselves, and the professor was very open-minded. Presentations were also very helpful, along with the discussion posts encouraging us to actually read the texts and understand how we felt about them.
Presentations are very helpful
We had discussion posts, and presentations outside of a midterm and final and I think all of them are useful with helping understand the material. Class is also more discussion based with the prof just directing the conversation but Abhishek is very good at explaining the concepts and making sure there are no misunderstandings and confusions.
Class presentations for each reading help to give an understanding of each reading, you gain a very good understanding of whichever readings you present on, discussions are structured very well, Abhishek doesn't command the discussion too much, allows students to speak while still keeping the discussion productive
lectures and OH
Discussions were very helpful to understanding the course material
Excellent discussion. Loved professors attention to detail
Students sign up to give presentations on last night's readings and provide discussion questions for the class to engage with. From there, Abhishek continues to build off of the presentation with information he believes is pertinent to the text by asking students to delve into the text and provide answers. There is a written midterm and final. The midterm was handwritten during class with the prompts being given the day of, and the final is a regular final (with prompts being given two weeks ahead of time).
The seminars were very helpful and hearing students present about different texts enhanced my understanding.
Presentations very helpful

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	15.38%	76.92%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%
I felt respected in this class.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	84.62%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Loved this course and this professor.
Abhishek is a lovely instructure, very helpful and teaches and explains the readings very well. I really enjoyed his instruction
We have a general class consensus that we love Abhishek and he is the kindest soul on the planet. He is so smart and thinks so carefully about this course, he truly does care and puts an effort in that is very noticeable and also encourages us to reciprocate. The course is challenging, but he is also aware of that and makes himself available for additional support. The content itself is interesting and because Abhishek encourages us to have opinions, it makes us more invested in it as well which is really nice.
A lot of reading. Be prepared for that, and also for presentations.
Extremely understanding Professor; medium amount of work, but no as long is it is down outcome positive

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
Open discussions/clarifications about more complex topics.
The discussion questions Abhishek posed for discussion during lecture were excellent. Additionally, because he gives a quick summary of what we discussed and its implications for each question, it is very easy to follow along and participate. He also gives directing thoughts that really give you extremely good insight if you take note of them and spend time considering them.
Freindly, chill personality, very knowledgeable about readings and glad to share/let students build upon core ideas and concepts
lecture
Abhishek had a lot of thought and intent when organizing the class. The way he presented the major readings and smaller readings were clearly organized to help us understand specific ideas, and he made sure in class to bring these up. However, he did not restrict the discussion, and still allowed student to discuss what they wanted to in the text. While the structure of the class sometimes means doing a bit more work (discussion posts, presentations) they helped keep me engaged and helped increase my understanding of the curriculum.
He was just excellent. Considerate, detail oriented, kind, and very very smart. He had a way of challenging you to be better
Abhishek is immensely helpful! He is always willing to meet to discuss the texts, how you are feeling in the class, or provide feedback on your midterm. Additionally, for the final, he was willing to read over entire drafts and give advice so you could improve your work before you turn it in. He also always welcomes people to participate in class, never taking silence to mean people aren't engaged, but instead allowing time for people to collect their thoughts.
Abhishek was so understanding and really valued everyone's input in the class. He made sure that everyone was on the same page, and that we can all do well. He also has a lot of great insights.

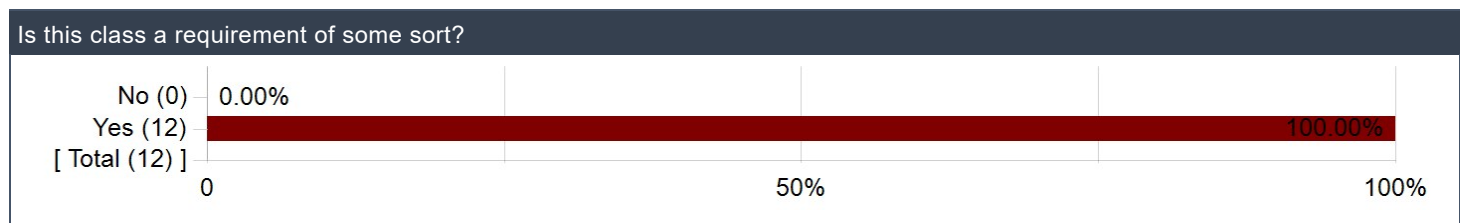
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Making sure the class does not go too fast.
N/A
N/A
more of his own thoughts
Enforcing the time limit on presentations. Other than that, Abhishek is definitely one of the best instructors I have had at this university
Nothing
I wish he had more office hours or even longer during the week because that made scheduling a time to meet with him kind of hard.

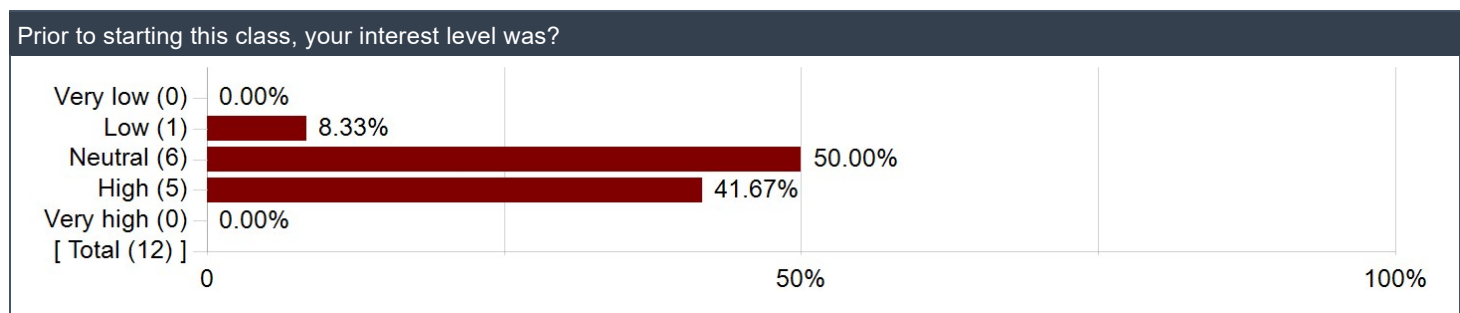
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	66.67%	8.33%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	91.67%	0.00%

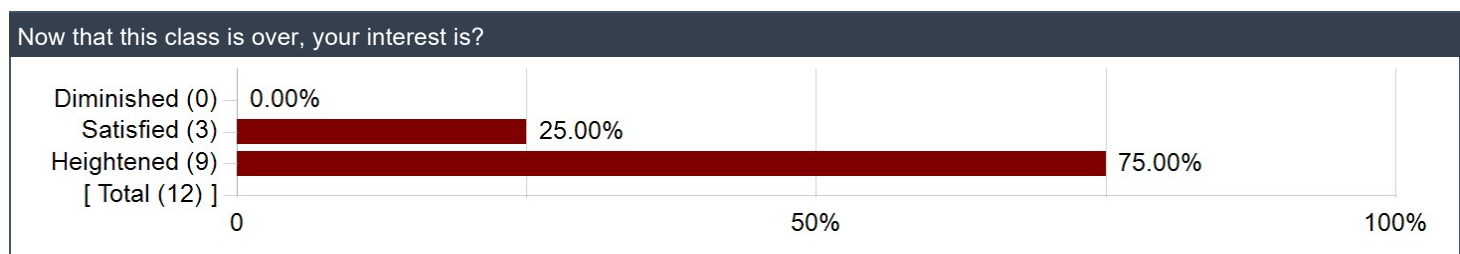
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



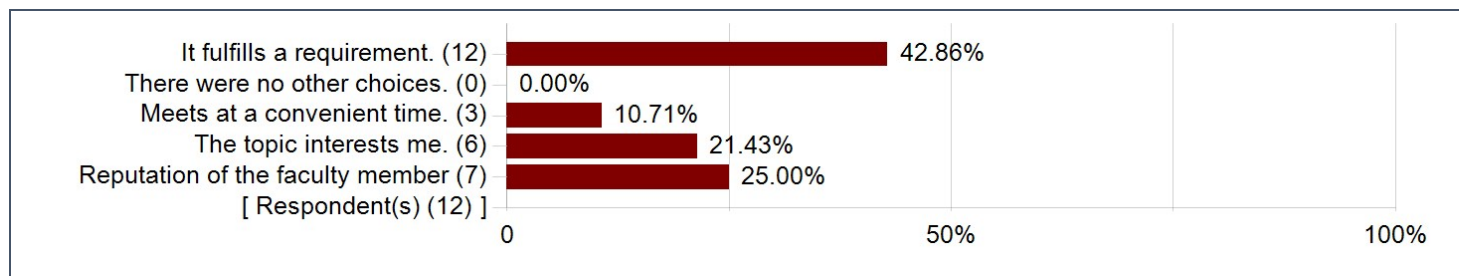
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



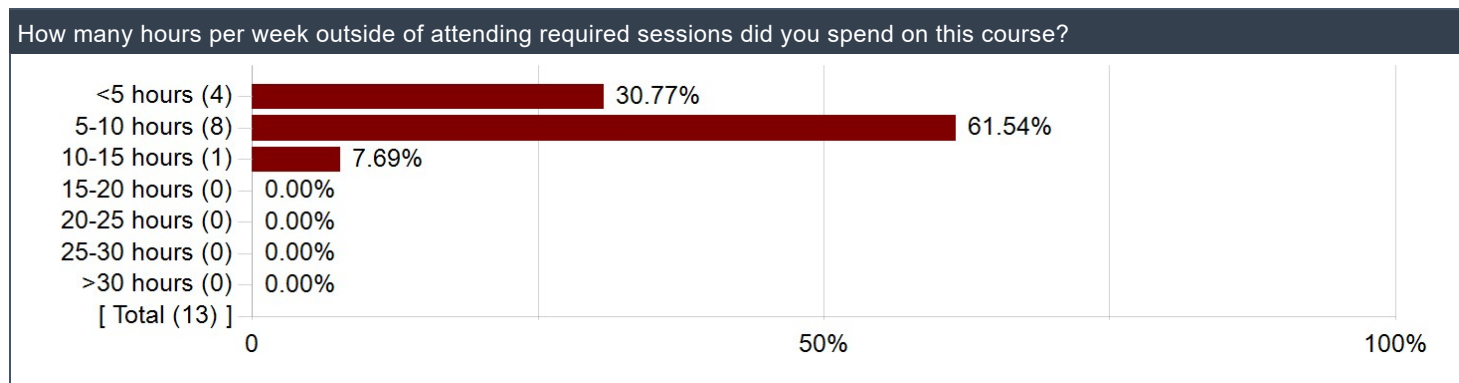
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



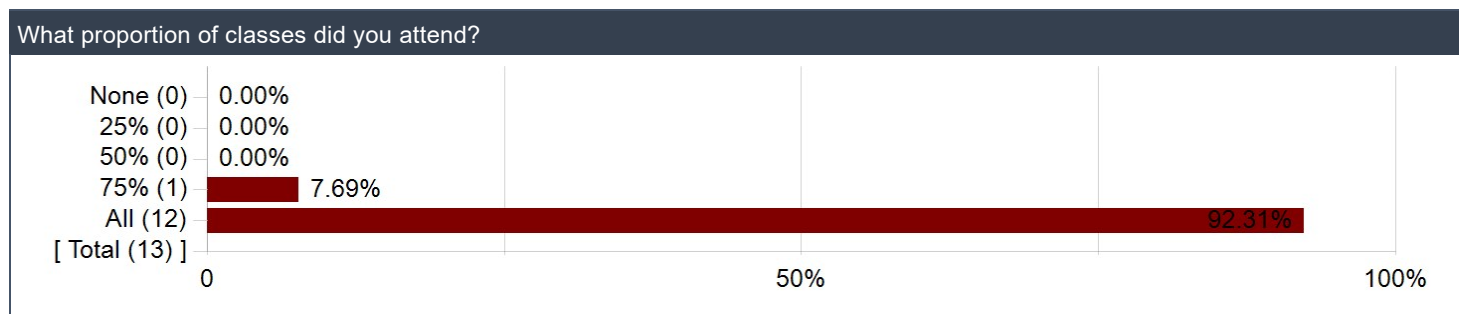
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
it was decently hard, but super interesting, and the professor is very supportive.
I have no prior experience besides the other two quarters. The readings were difficult and required a lot of time but it was overall accessible
I think it's definitely challenging, but challenging in a good way. The texts are complex and we move at a pretty fast pace but I think Abhishek does a pretty good job at making sure everyone is mostly up to speed with what's being discussed. He's also so nice and extremely available outside class so if you were struggling, it would be very easy to get his help and catch up. We cover a lot and it is required that you put effort in but I don't think it's extraordinarily time consuming or difficult. I also think it's worth the work to have Abhishek as your professor, he is truly one of the best professors I have had and he cares so much about his students as well as what he is teaching.
Pretty doable as a first year, just put effort into the papers
The difficulty of Self is very dependent on the professor, and Abhishek's class is definitely doable and enjoyable, as long as you are willing to engage with the texts and class discussion.
This class is not difficult at all. The texts can be hard to read on your own especially Butler and Foucault, but discussing it in class helps.