



SOSC 16200 9 - Global Society II - Instructor(s): Stephen Buono

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 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, 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
Various popular demographic theories and ways to measure demographic changes such as life tables, lexis diagrams, and other data-driven methods.
Combining demographic analysis with excel spreadsheet
Drawing concepts of past theories regarding population growth. Heavily referenced Thomas Malthus's 1803 text (very important it's this edition!)
Utilizing excel and extracting demographical data from public databases to create Lexis diagrams, population pyramids, standardization, life tables, and age-specific/survivorship line graphs → understanding the significance of these and how curate general analysis from this → very important for the PSET!
Demographic analysis
This quarter of Global Society introduces a couple of very interesting texts including sections from Thomas Malthus' "An Essay on the Principles of Population" and McNeills "Plagues and People" which were great introductions to population theory and disease/migration effects on population. A majority of the course, however, is not text heavy but rather is meant to establish a foundation for analyzing changing structures of human populations through population pyramids, life tables, and calculating crude death rates.
We learned about Malthus's theory of population, critiques of that theory, migration patterns, and fertility trends. We also learned how to write rhetorical precis, create population pyramids, and compute life tables.
Learned about demography and population
I think learning about demography and having it connect to things I was learning in other classes was really interesting, and provided a greater context that felt nicely relevant.

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

Comments
Discussions were incredibly fun to participate in and I learned not only about various different perspectives on how demographic theories hold historically and in the modern age, but also about how people see it in their personal lives. Assignments were helpful, too, and got me to actually apply what we were learning.
Lecture taught me how to apply my excel skills to better understand demographic trends
the discussions in class greatly contributed to my understanding of the text, specifically the regurgitation of specific concepts like the Malthusian theory regarding migration.
We would have "lab days" which was one of the two classes of the week being dedicated to understanding the excel work. It was really helpful as Prof. Buono would go step by step and be more than happy to help.
The three main assignments were spaced out well and stimulating
In class exercises helped with navigating excel in my own research. We walked through examples with Dr.Buono on creating population pyramids, crude-death rates, extracting data from online sources, and lexis diagrams. Building in time at the end of lab lecture days for questions and assistance with our pset was a helpful aspect of this course.
Lectures were the most helpful in understanding the course content, as we talked about the readings with each other and the professor. The major assignments were good as applications of the concepts covered in lecture or the readings.
Class periods were informative, assignments were managable.
I think our discussions were very useful for understanding different aspects of the texts and articles, especially since some of our readings were quite important and thematically dense.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Highly recommend to anyone interested in the topic.
Loved Professor Buono! very understanding person and fair grader. Was willing to go in-depth in a topic during discussions. also very welcoming.
Professor is amazing
Professor Buono is a very amicable and approachable teacher, great choice for SOSC in my opinion!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
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
His facilitation of discussions really made me want to participate. Additional, Professor Buono always came up with fun activities to think about demographic theories differently and want to talk about them with my peers.
Well prepared and informed in lecture
the clearly stated rubric and expectations for the submitted work. Although the rubric for assignment #1 was a bit vague (because it was Prof's first time teaching it) Prof eagerly and gracefully accepted feedback and made sure to implement a stronger rubric for the next assignments
His ability to facilitate discussion
Dr.Buono facilitated very engaging group discussions on the texts we read for the week by making comparisons to contemporary governmental practices and human population structures. For example, we debated on the idea of whether or not Thanos from the Avengers was a Malthusian or not which I think was the most UChicago classroom conversation Ive ever had in a classroom! Dr.Buono was also very considerate with granting extensions for some of the writing assignments incorporated in the syllabus and always receptive/open to feedback on improving the assignments for students next year.
The instructor would pose questions for the class based on the readings, and the ensuing discussions were helpful in digesting the course content,
Professor Buono spent time explaining each of the demographic graphs we learned about. Otherwise, we discussed the readings. Class time was helpful.
Professor Buono's ability to synthesize the texts and our ramblings into one coherent discussion was really what brought the class together and made our discussions useful.

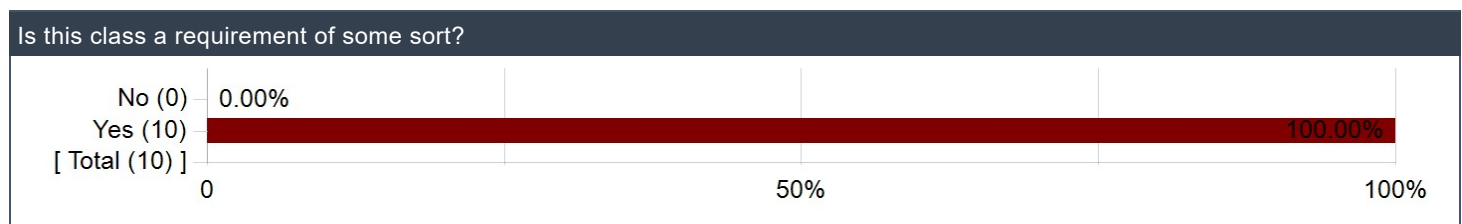
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Assignment #2 could be structured differently, but we already gave you feedback in that in class. I'd also love to have less reading!
give more clear directions regarding the 3 main assignments
more check-ins for the assignments as they were overall dense (assignment #1 was fairly vague and had to go through the authors of all the readings from previous quarter, assignment #2 had a lot of components so perhaps a check in after the lexis diagrams part and the populations pyramids etc. respectively).
Prof is great though.
Nothing
More explicit expectations/grading in rubrics

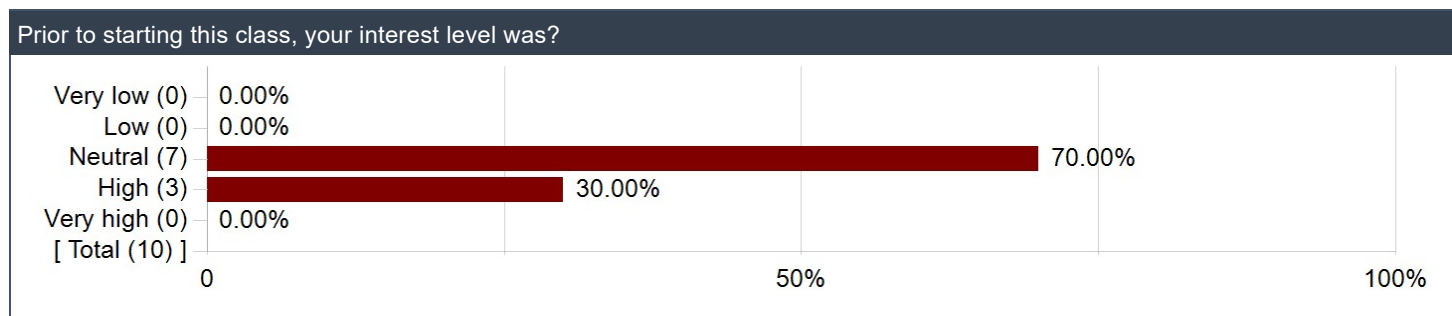
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%

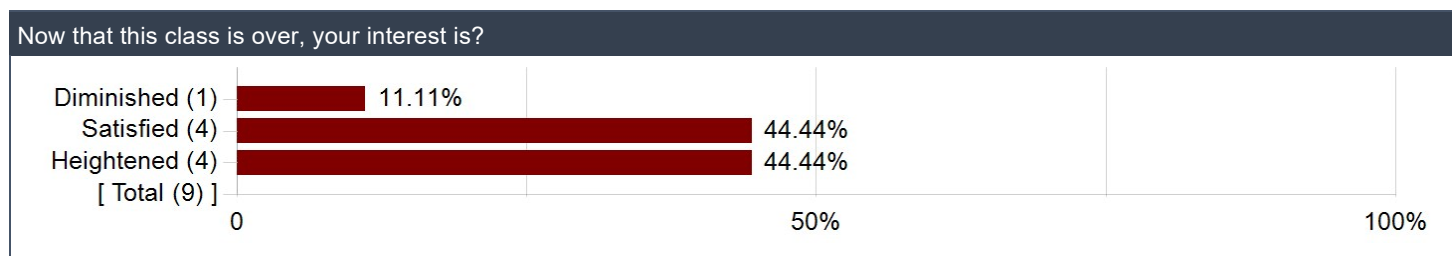
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



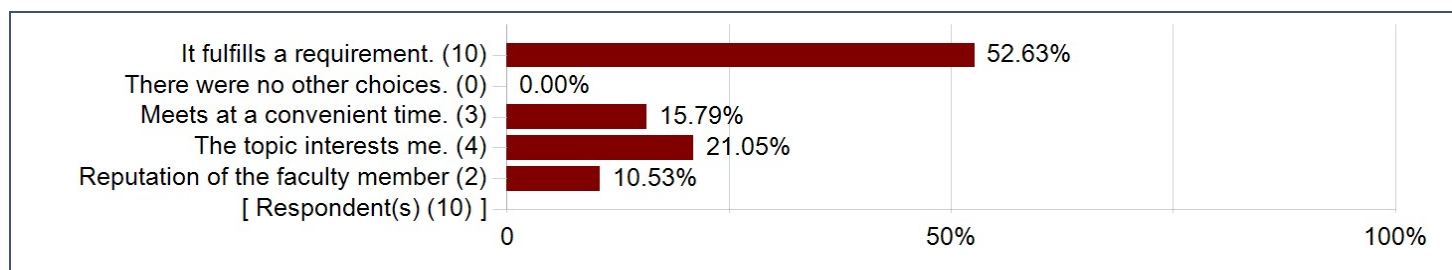
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



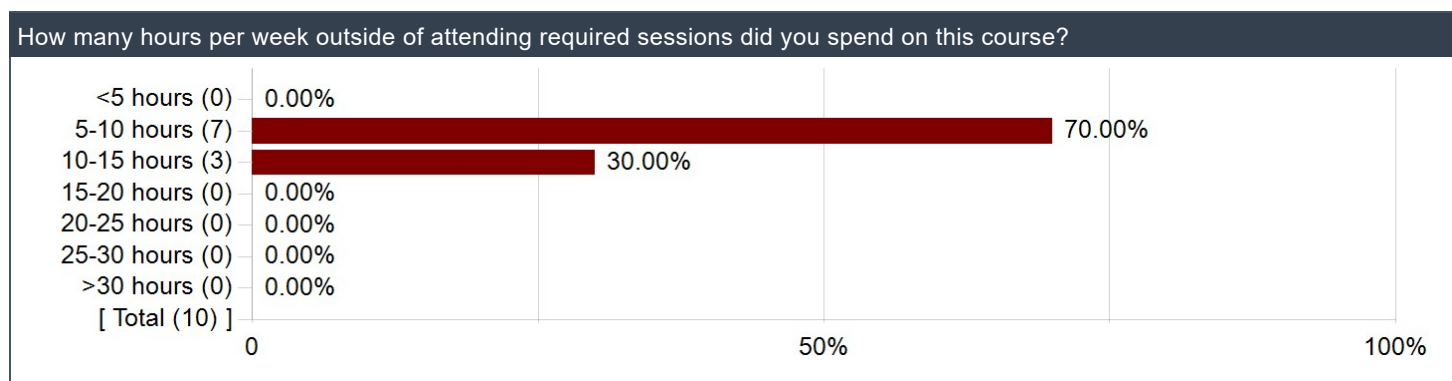
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



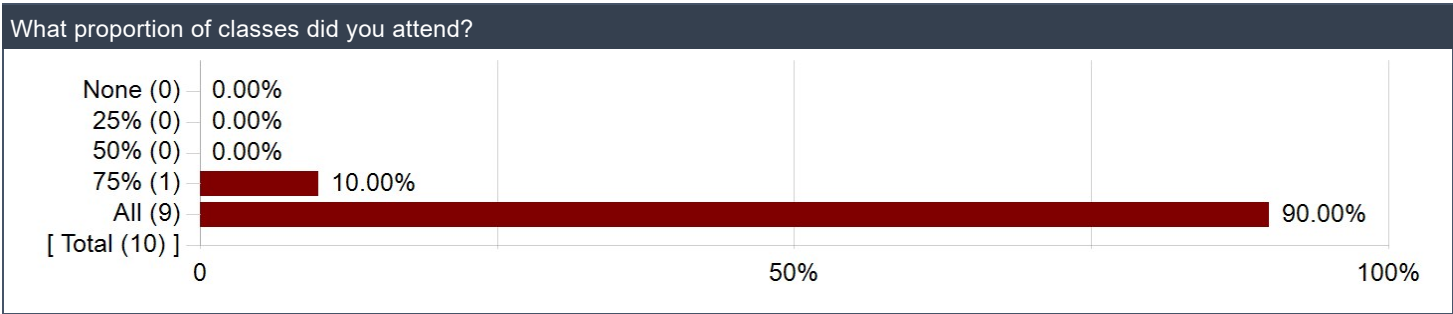
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Not very difficult, but somewhat time consuming.
Difficult fpr someone with no excel experience
Not bad at all
I do not have any experience with navigating platforms like UN Lifetables, Yearbooks, or Population diagrams but I was able to complete all assignments for the course and learn how to use Excel for this type of analysis in lecture from the professor. There is no need to consult outside resources, like youtube, or get help outside of class as long as you attend lecture when the material is presented!
A little bit more technical than the HUMA classes, but honestly the same writing skills apply – it's just a different kind of information.
Managable