SOSC 12400 20 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - Christopher Bloechl

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

Number Enrolled: **16**
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.

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

Comments
Most important thing I learned was a more accurate understanding of Marx and Smith's understandings of the systems they created. You can come into the class with a very distorted perception of both and get a lot more clarity of what they were proposing with Communism and Capitalism. Also a very good introductory course to reading theory, as it felt not too dense to not understand but still challening to read. Had to learn better annotation skills to parse through it at times.
improved my ability to give my thoughts in class
marx v weber
Different economic theorizations and perspectives
Origins of capitalism, communism, and theories used to categorize these.
Marx criticisms, Human nature ideas, How to look at other perspectives
Structures of societies and economics, economic theory
I gained an understanding of Marx, Smith, Weber, and other authors that informed conversations about the texts and about current events.
Capitalism, Adam Smith, Marx, Weber
How to read and engage with texts written by Khaldun, Marx, and Weber.
different social and economic systems that have shaped our world, being able to reflect critically on something that we have taken for granted, engaging in discussions

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

Comments
Classes are essentially always seminars, very little to no lecturing. Assignments were weekly reading responses and then two papers (as well as a attendance and participation grade). The readings vary in length, but the professor does a good job at sectioning it out so it doesn't get too overwhelming (for the most part). The texts are also very dense at times, which makes them harder to read. Generally think the class is structed well in terms of letting people explore the texts and talk out their ideas, but doesn't really help give a lot of input/help on your assignments. Discussions were great but sometimes felt not the most on topic/related to the text. Seemed like we could get lost very easily. Weekly reading responses are fairly easy to do, but do require a good reading of the text. Do not love the essay assignments, as they feel just tacked on
Thought provoking discussions, solid readings
good key terms
Written responses and class discussion helped clarify the ideas in our readings, and then we were challenged to write essays on them
Discussions were amazing. Prof. Bloechl is very nice, engaging, and supportive, and even when discussions started to go off track, he could reign them in in a way that was still enriching to our learning.
Weekly paragraphs, incredible teacher
Discussions were excellent and free–flowing.
Mostly discussion, professor gave verbal lectures and explanations
In–class discussions always fostered an environment of diverse perspectives and insights.
discussions and readings were intellectually stimulating

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	9.09%	63.64%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	20.00%	70.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	80.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This professor added additional texts not required by the course for some of the readings, which I loved. They were all super relevant but added context to certain things so we could have broader discussions.
Brilliant section to take. Wonderful professor. Hit the nail on the head with regards to balancing class discussion and also manageable assignments (also very kind/top gent).
N/A
Best teacher I've ever had. Hands down
Professor Bloechl is an excellent teacher!

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?

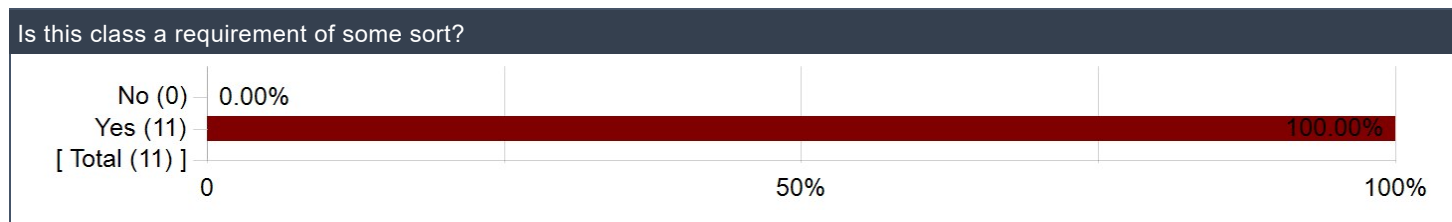| Comments |
|---|
| I think he really did a good job at making sure we had time and space to talk about stuff, and would answer questions when people had them. |
| His lectures (he should speak more)!! despite that not being the point of discussion. |
| office hours |
| Prof Bloechl was really good at facilitating class discussion and was unafraid to lecture when the class needed it. He made himself available for help during essays and kept a positive, encouraging attitude throughout. |
| Office hours, in–class discussions, and really interesting readings! |
| His explanations and freindliness |
| Well versed in discussions, guided discussions effectively |
| Professor Bloechl is excellent! He clearly knows his stuff! |
| Inviting all of us to contribute to in–class discussion and clarifying any confusing topics at hand. |
| Discussions, making a comfortable environment for everyone to speak and suggesting different viewpoints |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

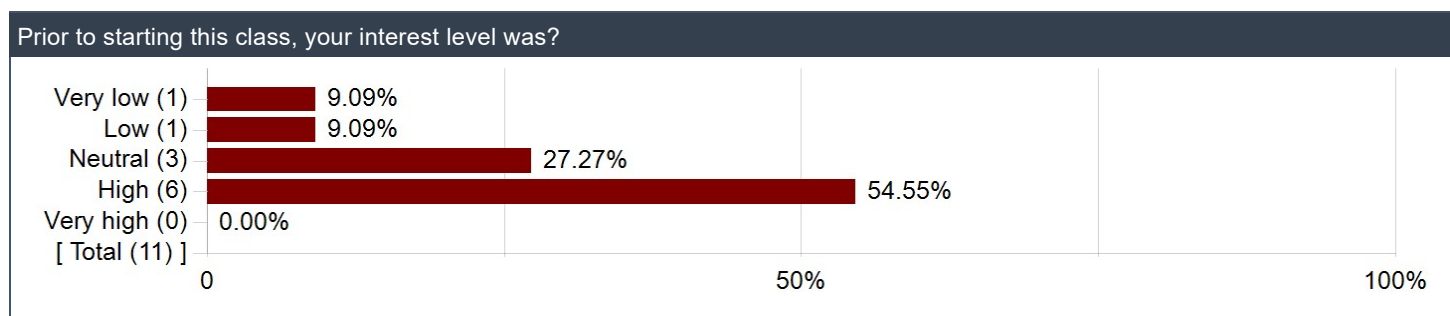| Comments |
| --- |
| Maybe just a couple more lectures to give a more structured framework for approaching/understanding the texts. Felt a bit random at times when we got information that was helpful to understanding. I also think sometimes we would get lost in the weeds where he would introduce an idea that wasn't super grounded in the text and then struggle for why we were talking about it, so maybe just a bit more structure in the discussions would work out. |
| N/A |
| Our class could get somewhat heated, so it would have been nice to see Prof Bloechl moderate a bit more and keep us on task. Receiving more in–depth response on reading responses throughout quarter would have helped in midterm/finals essay writing |
| N/A he is amazing. |
| Nothing |
| Nothing, Professor Bloechl is wonderful! |
| nothing |

The Instructor . . .

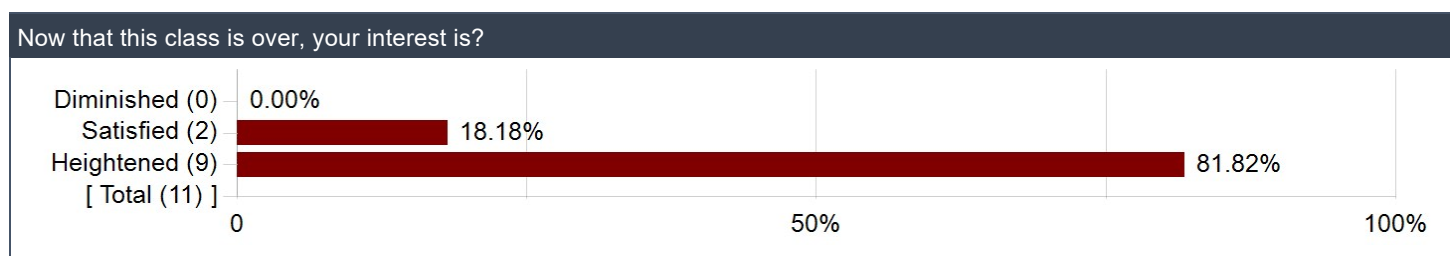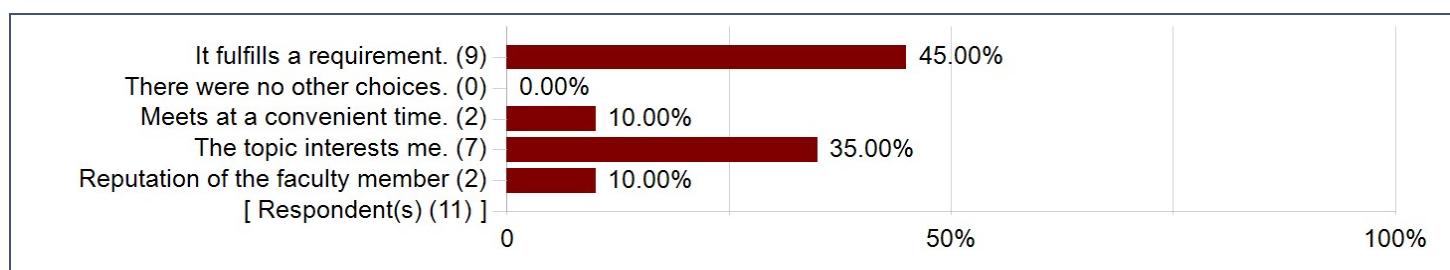|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	10.00%	70.00%	10.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	70.00%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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No (0) — 0.00%
Yes (11) — 100.00%
[Total (11)]

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (1)	9.09%
Low (1)	9.09%
Neutral (3)	27.27%
High (6)	54.55%
Very high (0)	0.00%
[Total (11)]	

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (0)	0.00%
Satisfied (2)	18.18%
Heightened (9)	81.82%
[Total (11)]	

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

It fulfills a requirement. (9)	45.00%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (2)	10.00%
The topic interests me. (7)	35.00%
Reputation of the faculty member (2)	10.00%
[Respondent(s) (11)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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<5 hours (4)	40.00%
5-10 hours (4)	40.00%
10-15 hours (1)	10.00%
15-20 hours (1)	10.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (10)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?		
None (0)	0.00%	
25% (0)	0.00%	
50% (0)	0.00%	
75% (0)	0.00%	
All (11)		100.00%
[Total (11)]		
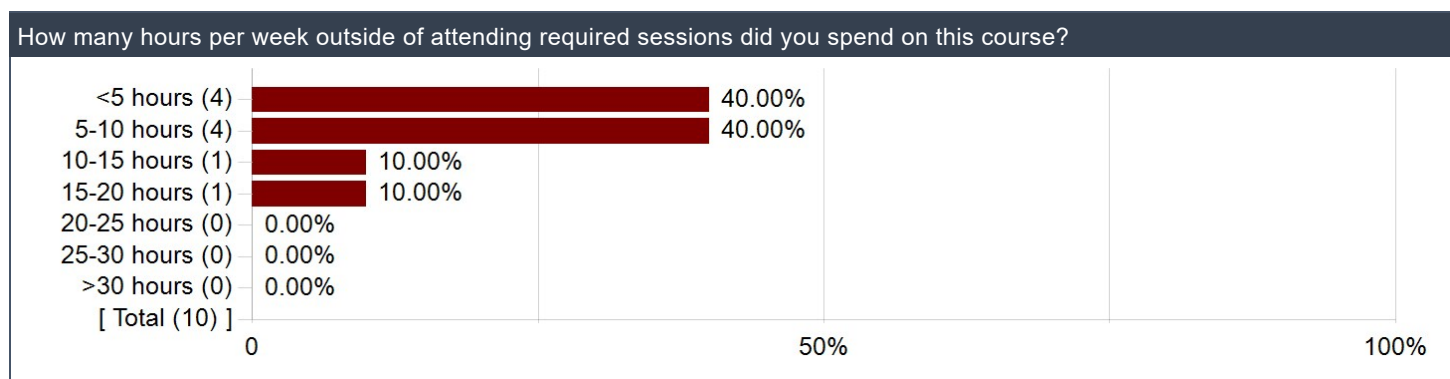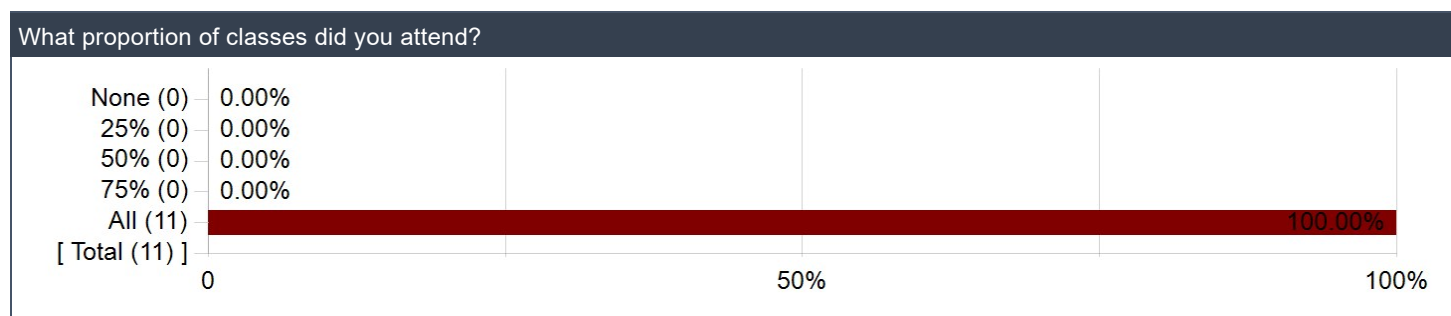
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Fairly easy to keep up with and understand, not the easiest to get a very high grade in, but overall not bad. I am a first year taking it alongside HUM and it has been mostly manageable for me. Certain things like essay writing and formatting are expected and that has been a bit of an issue just getting used to expectations, but still super manageable.
fine
The readings would take a very long time and were quite difficult to understand. Class discussion was relatively low–stakes, and you didn't really need to understand everything to chime in. Reading responses were simple but essays were graded quite critically.
You have to work on essays hard but teacher makes it very understandable
No experience, medium difficulty. Takes a lot of work – not all difficult though
As long as you do the readings, the level of difficulty is completely manageable
moderate without any background knowledge