



SOSC 12400 26 - Self, Culture, and Society I - Instructor(s) - Anirban Karak

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

Number Enrolled: **15**

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: **Friday, January 31, 2025**

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

Comments
I learned mostly against my will a wide array of historical views philosophers have had on society and how we as a society now are currently screwed
How capitalist societies function and what it means to be a human in a capitalist society
How to dissect and reconstruct difficult arguments. We read Khaldun, Smith, Marx, Weber, and Simmel, broke down what they were saying, and tried to understand it.
Learned about foundational political economy theory, read Smith, Marx, Khaldun, Weber, and other authors. Learned about capitalism, modern economy, and how we got here.
How to effectively analyze a complex text and then present its contents in terms of either argument reconstruction or comparatively interpreting two authors.
We learned all about the benefits and drawbacks of capitalism.
We learned a lot from different author's of different time periods in history on how they viewed societies.
How to read a lot of material and produce an essay that would not ever completely satisfy the professor.

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

Comments
Very intense lecturing
Readings and discussions
Discussions were very useful. It was good to hear what others thought about the readings to broaden my perspective.
The lectures were very detailed and class time required a lot of active recall to the text, and made the reading and class more engaging.
The lectures helped me firstly understand the actual contents of the text, and the subsequent discussions allowed me to fully grasp its interpretations.
The lectures were not very helpful as Professor Anirban was unable to present the material in a clear way and did not ever interpret the text but merely summarized it and still found a way to make it confusing.
The class discussions are helpful for writing your essays and for the final exam.
Classroom discussions were very helpful.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.90	4.50	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	20.00%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.30	3.50	10.00%	10.00%	30.00%	40.00%	10.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.78	4.00	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.56	4.00	0.00%	33.33%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%
I felt respected in this class.	3.56	4.00	22.22%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.78	3.00	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	0.00%	44.44%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I often left this class feeling tired, depressed, and stressed out as a result of the intensity and content we were expected to know from the readings. Also a very pessimistic viewpoint on our current situation was made clear in a way that made me dreadful.
Really like the way the class is set up. He's really passionate and it makes learning the content more engaging. Readings were kind of long and the final I would have preferred having a paper instead
This class is really really interesting pls take it. Also take advantage of the writing tutors for both papers, will help you make sense of the expectations for writing.
Professor was nice but a harsh grader. Grading did not make sense most times and seemed unnecessarily cruel. Comments could include personal insults to writing that did not relate to the assignment.
You have to really dedicate lots of time to this class and my prof had no regards for the fact that you could potentially be taking other rigorous classes. This SOSC class is really for someone that is highly interested in the humanities rather than just taking it to fulfill a requirement.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	10.00%	90.00%
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
He certainly is passionate, for better or worse.
Lecture Slides, really helpful in organizing the class and making sure we hit key points of the text
The lectures are really helpful and necessary in digesting the readings, which can be dense. He is also really passionate while lecturing which makes things more fun
His lectures/slides on the authors' arguments.
His lecture slides were alright. I really did not like his style of teaching and felt like I was learning and retaining nothing
The discussion and slides.
In class discussion

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
He knows the answer to this question, and he makes it clear that he doesn't care.
I feel maybe there can be more time for interpretation and class discussion. Near the end of the quarter we definitely had more discussion time, which I enjoyed quite a bit. More of this throughout the quarter would be really fun.
Maybe finding different ways to explain concepts could be helpful.
Be more accommodating and create an atmosphere where it is okay to express the wrong answer.

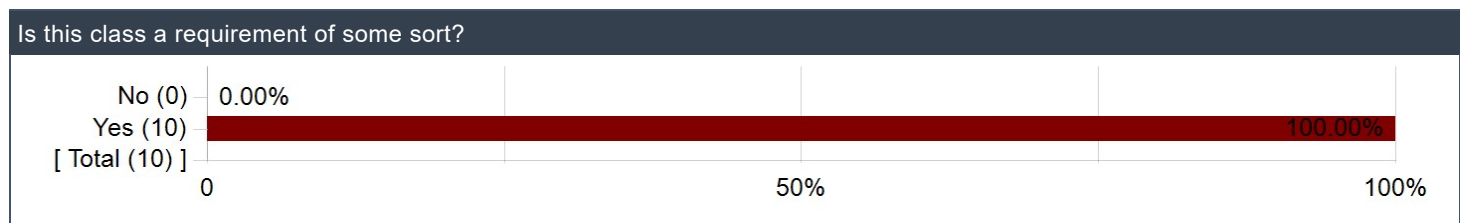
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	33.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.11	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.11	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.56	4.00	22.22%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	44.44%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.44	4.00	11.11%	22.22%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.78	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%

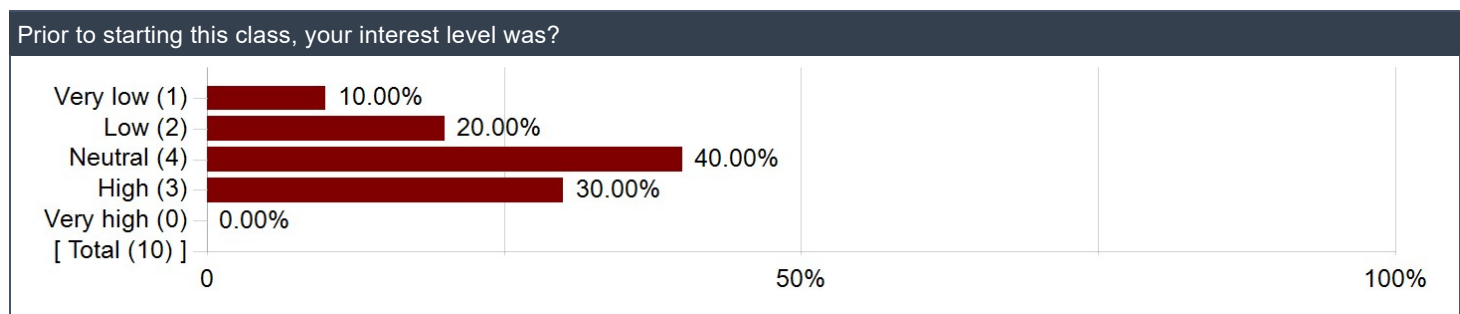
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

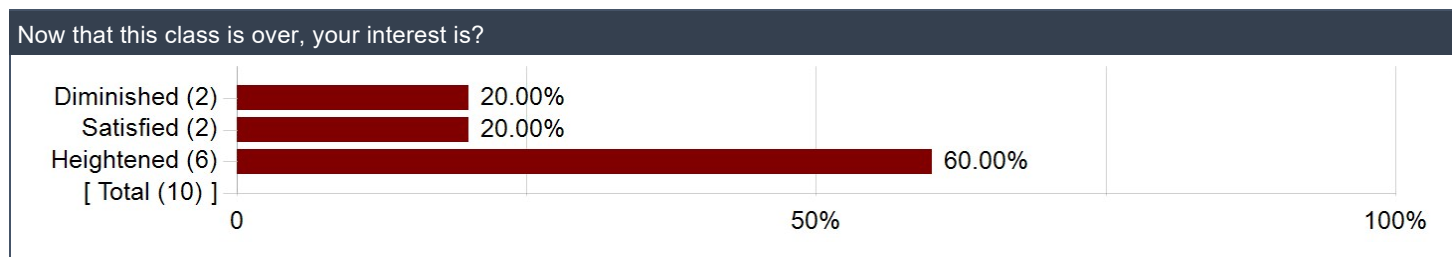
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



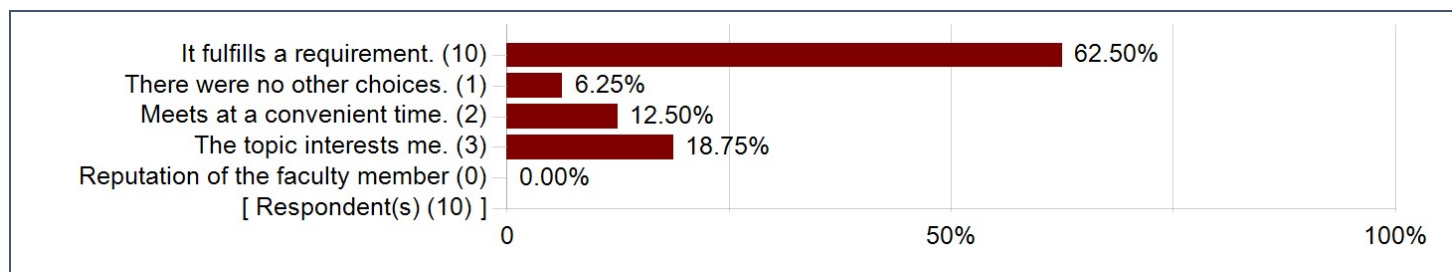
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



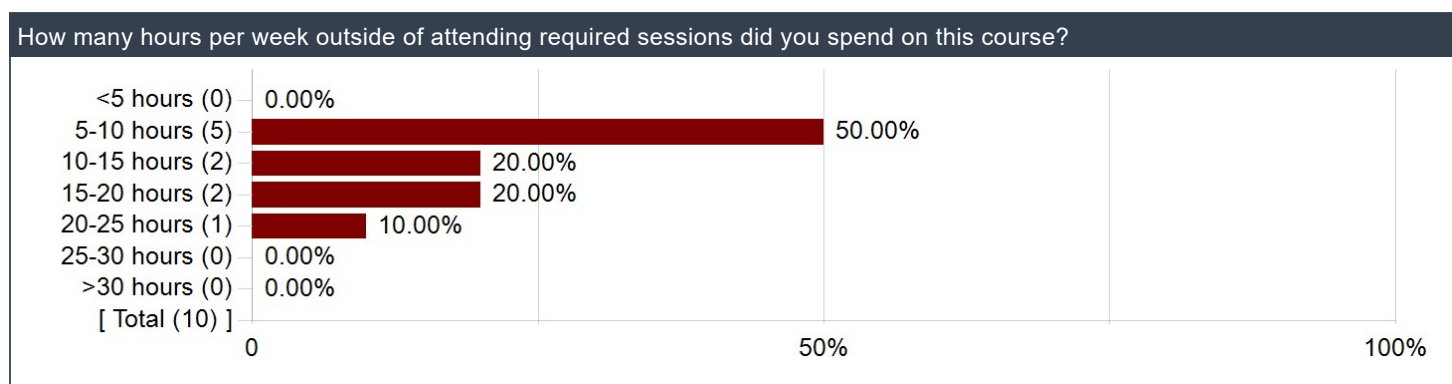
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



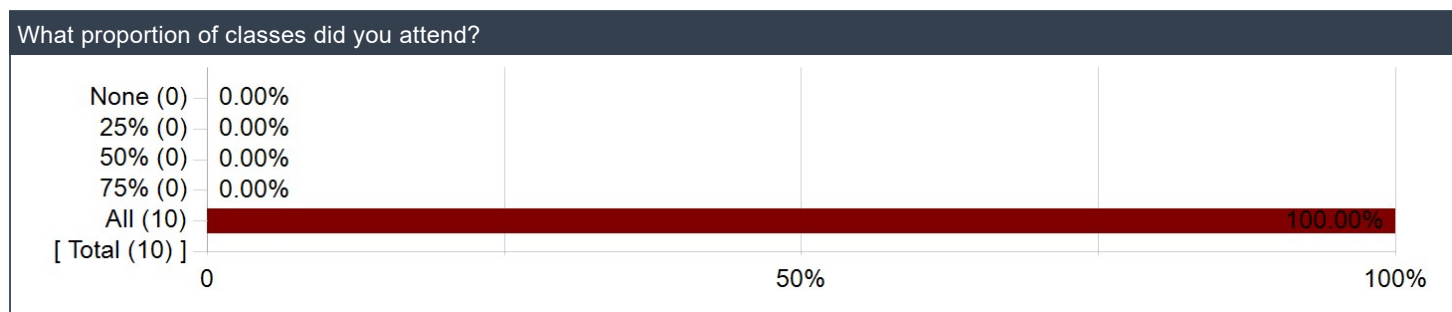
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
This course is extremely time-consuming and difficult, especially for people with no prior experience with the authors we read or for people with little interest in them. There is consistently 2–3 hours worth of reading to complete between each class, and essays took me ~25–30 hours to complete just to receive a B+. He makes it clear that this course is difficult and that "a B+ is a good grade" and that A's are near impossible to achieve. There is one extra credit assignment where you can earn between 1–4 extra points added to the final grade which helps a lot.
Kinda hard but im also bad at non stem classes
As someone interested in the topics I'd say the class is reasonably difficult; writing the papers and synthesizing the ideas of the texts was probably the hardest part. The concepts are rich and intellectually challenging, but I'd say that's the fun of it. Prof is also understanding and will work with you to help you understand things. Definitely doable with multiple classes.
Despite being a first year, I never once felt lost or confused; just intellectually challenged like everyone else.
BEWARE OF IN-CLASS CUMULATIVE FINAL. Way too demanding for a core class. You are much better off taking Self with a different professor who actually wants you to succeed instead of saying that a B–B+ means you're doing "great" in his books. Doing well should be reflected by an A, and any professor that isn't willing to give them out needs to reflect on himself and his own insecurities.
Sometimes it can be hard to manage readings with other class workload, but most soscs are the same. Most of the concepts in class are not too difficult to understand, but make sure you understand the arguments fully for essays.
Somewhat difficult. More difficult due to uncalled for harsh grading.
Don't really need a huge background experience but this is not the SOSC class if you are just looking for that SOSC requirement.