SOSC 12600 25 - Self, Culture, and Society III - Instructor(s) - Eleonore Rimbault

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

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **9**

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
Gained an understanding of how society shapes categories of thought
Paradigms, how we interpret, perceive the world around us based on paradigms, the environments we have grown up in and been conditioned to; power structures
How power is intertwined with societal structures who we typically don't associate with institutions of power like hard science, sexuality, etc.
This course gave me lots of tools for interpreting the broader workings of the world – systems of power and knowledge. It taught me to think critically about certain societal trends that I take for granted, and was generally a broad introduction to lots of influential academic texts.
I learned about the history of societies and how they are affected by theoretical concepts.
I learned to reconsider the way we look at institutions and constructs in our world.

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

Comments
Discussions were very deep and furthers understanding of the readings
Readings were kind of long, but for the most part, very interesting. Eléonore did an awesome job facilitating discussion and making sure everyone got involved. Essays were a good way to wrap up material
Class discussions were helpful to understand but also to start thinking about how to apply many of the concepts we were discussing.
Class discussions were very interesting and helpful
Readings were assigned every class to be the content we would talk about. Once a week discussion posts helped get some preliminary thoughts structured before lecture, in order to reflect on the texts on my own before hearing everyone else's opinion. Lectures themselves were discussion based, and the professor guided us towards relevant themes and sections of the text. Finally, essays were a chance to synthesize everything down to the major themes of the course – I thought they were really interesting to write since I could draw on the through–lines that interested me and I would often find major takeaways over the course of my writing.
The lectures and discussions were the most helpful aspects of this course.
Discussion based class, I liked the way this course was run.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
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.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Some of the essay questions can be quite complex and have multiple questions rolled into one, but there is generally at least one straightforward question to choose

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?

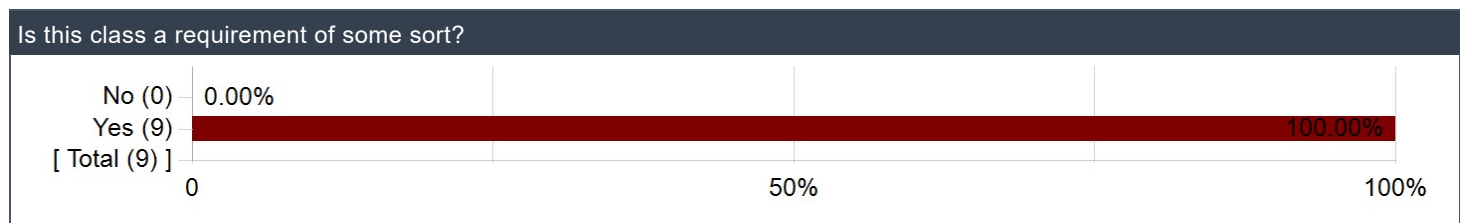| Comments |
|---|
| Mini lectures and comparison charts |
| Eléonore was extremely welcoming in class discussion and very accommodating when I needed an extension on a paper or something of that sort. She did a very good job of helping us learn while not spoon–feeding us answers/interpretations of what we were reading. Also, everything we did in class was well planned out and deliberate–Eléonore had a clear vision of what the class was and how it was supposed to introduce us to the social sciences, and she facilitated that learning every day in class discussion. She was also very open to feedback about her own teaching style and feedback about the sequence more generally. She had a great handle on the history of the SOSC sequence at UChicago and used that knowledge to make informed decisions about how to present different texts and authors to us/contextualize them in the broader history of social sciences |
| Eleonore has a great balance of providing context for different authors/the circumstances in which they're writing and asking questions that prompt us to think critically about what an author is really attempting to express. |
| It was clear from the start that her priorities were that we each get out of the course something individually useful to us. She didn't have a set interpretation that she pushed, and she was good at building on our thoughts about the texts – the in class discussions she moderated felt very cohesive. The workload was also very reasonable – I had enough time to actually think about what I was reading or writing rather than just racing to get everything done. |
| The discussions. |
| I really appreciated the time in office hours. |

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

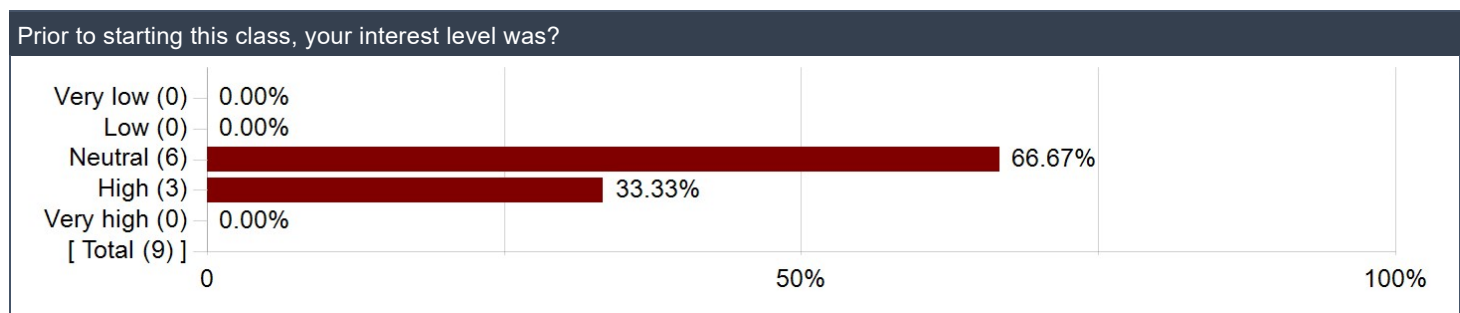| Comments |
|---|
| N/A, Prof. Rimbault is very good |
| I thought small–group exercises really helped facilitate my learning. My only suggestion would be to do more of those |
| I wouldn't say anything could be modified. I really enjoyed being in this section for Self with Eleonore. |
| The instructor could minimize the reading and dive deeper into certain topics. |
| Overall, I really liked how this class was run. Perhaps we could start class off with more of an overview from you, and then go into discussion — but either way, I liked Professor Rimbault's teaching style. |

The Instructor . . .

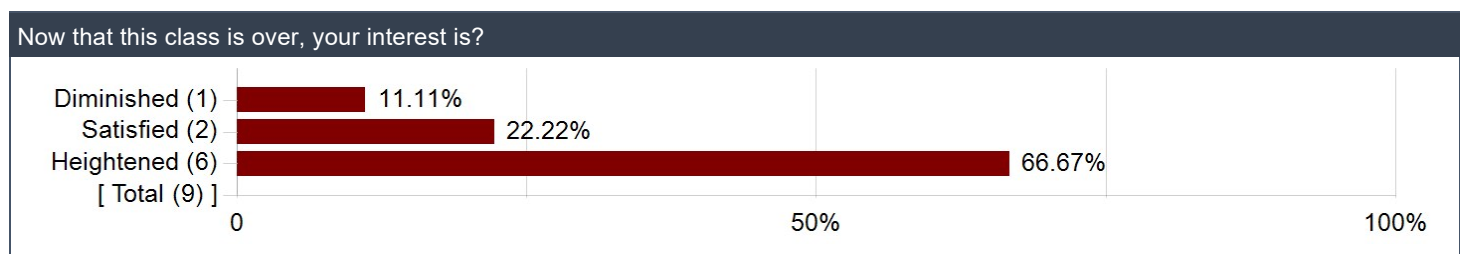|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	11.11%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
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.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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No (0)      0.00%
Yes (9)                                                        100.00%
[ Total (9) ]
            0                      50%                      100%
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Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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Very low (0)    0.00%
Low (0)         0.00%
Neutral (6)                                    66.67%
High (3)                      33.33%
Very high (0)   0.00%
[ Total (9) ]
                0                 50%                    100%
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Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

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Diminished (1)            11.11%
Satisfied (2)                    22.22%
Heightened (6)                             66.67%
[ Total (9) ]
               0                 50%                    100%
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Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
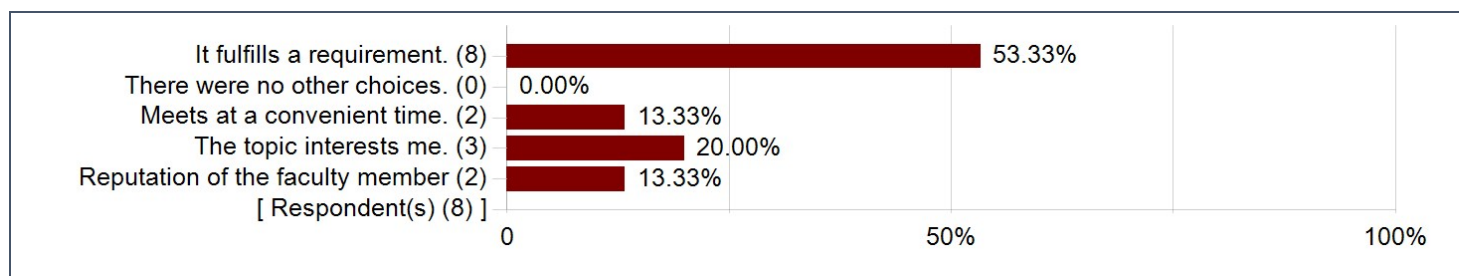
It fulfills a requirement. (8)	53.33%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (2)	13.33%
The topic interests me. (3)	20.00%
Reputation of the faculty member (2)	13.33%
[Respondent(s) (8)]	

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

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

<5 hours (1)	11.11%
5-10 hours (7)	77.78%
10-15 hours (1)	11.11%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (9)]	

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 (9)	100.00%
[Total (9)]	
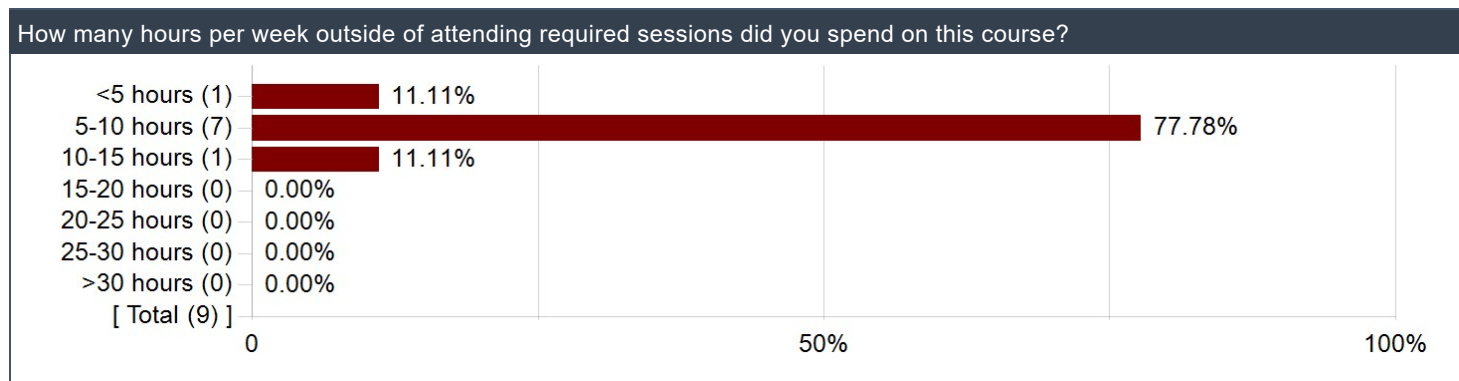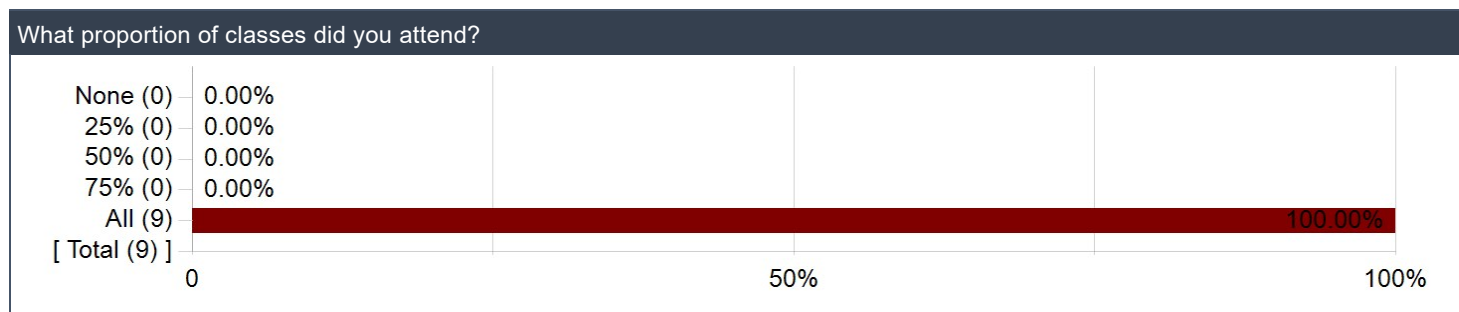
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Neutral difficulty
I didn't think it was overly difficult at all, considering it was the last class in the Self sequence and I had already gained a good base knowledge of how to thrive in the class
Lots of reading every week, sometimes involving complex and confusing language used to describe very abstract ideas. Weekly writing assignment was short and easier to complete. No prior knowledge of the readings or concepts they are about is needed
Very reasonable if you're used to a UChicago course–load, but definitely more fun if you're genuinely interested.
It was a fair level of difficulty.