



# SOSC 12600 24 - Self, Culture, and Society III - Instructor(s) - Anirban Karak

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

Number Enrolled: **11**

Number of Responses: **7**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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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
Learned how to think critically about the society that we live in and what, if anything, can be done to change it for the better.
I learned about how many cultural trends operate under modern and postmodern ideals and schemes. I was also able to apply postmodernism to a variety of modern day facets such as media, art, and economics.
We read various thinkers to learn about modernism and postmodernism.
The overall ways of thinking about the world. This was the class where I felt like I learned the most important things. We learned about different ways to think about power, knowledge, and history.

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

Comments
Lectures were incredibly helpful in regard to solidifying the information that we learned through the course of the readings. Anirban was an incredibly helpful and skilled instructor and made sure that everybody understood the materials.
Discussions formed the majority of our meetings and were helpful in streamlining and highlighting key points within the readings we were assigned. Also peer discussions helped us to understand the topics at hand from in a more relatable sense, and also formed a sense of community within the classroom. Lastly, assignments such as class presentations and labs were vital in helping us further understand the content at hand and apply it to current philosophies and operations.
Lectures and discussions were very helpful
Lectures were very well organized and useful and helped condense the long readings.
We did readings for homework, one Canvas post a week, student presentations, lectures, and class discussions. The readings and lectures were where a majority of my learning happened. He explained the readings extremely well in class. Discussions branched out more from the topic and applied the concepts to our real lives so they were interesting but not as much learning-oriented. More focused on doing broad thinking and applying concepts. Canvas posts and student presentations did not contribute greatly to learning.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The professor did an amazing job in making the challenging concepts easy to understand and made sure to draw parallels to our current world, which made all the coursework feel relevant and worthwhile. I was never bored at any point throughout the year. There is no better class to take within the SOSC sequence in my opinion.
Very interesting and has applied to all areas of my life
I think the David Harvey reading should be our first reading on postmodernism because it helped me actually understand what postmodernism was the most and I think it would've been useful to have that background knowledge before doing our other readings on postmodernism.

### 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
The lectures and subsequent class discussions were amazing to think about the ideas covered in class and to apply them tangibly to our own lives.
The openness of class discussions helped me to express my thoughts about the course content, and allowed me to listen to multiple perspectives on the topics we discussed. This helped to broaden my thinking on subject matter which became helpful especially in essay-based assignments.
The way he approached discussions was helpful
Well organized and detailed lectures, clear instructions for assignments.
His class presentations that he lectured off of were extremely good at covering the main points of the reading in a clear and comprehensive way. He also led many conversations about how this related to our lives and tried to get us to think about the broader concepts.
Powerpoints with the main ideas from the texts that we read.

### What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
n/a
I think that they could help by giving a bit more guidance when it comes to presentation based assignments, like a more detailed rubric. Otherwise, their teaching skills this quarter in terms of organization, and lecturing were phenomenal.
Perhaps giving more guidance in the class. before about what to focus on for the readings for the next class so we make sure to focus on the right things
I think he could make it a little easier to answer questions during lecture. He's usually looking for something very specific so if you don't give that he'll just say no haha. I bet more people would contribute if the questions were a little more open to interpretation. Although we do get that time in our class discussions after lectures.

## 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.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	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.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%

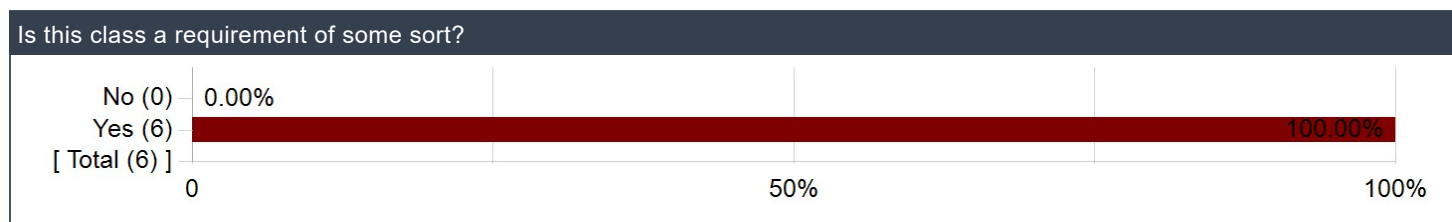
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

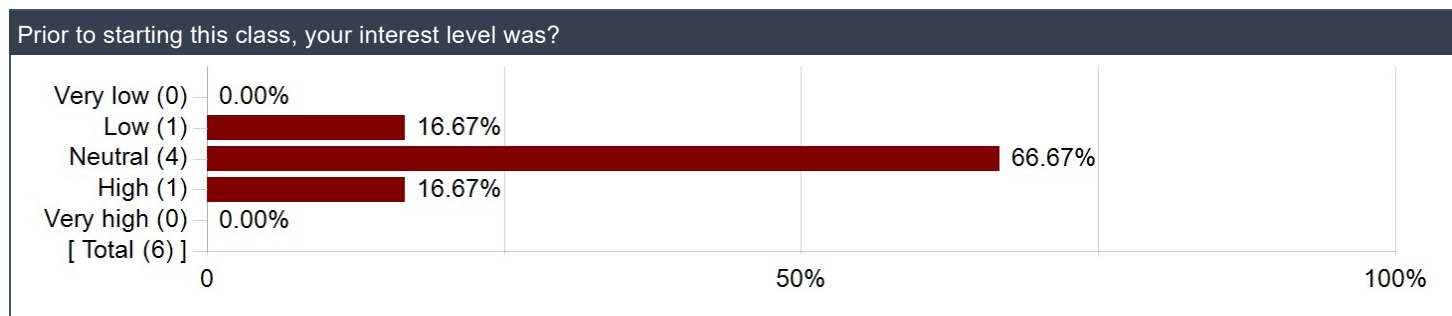
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
They would periodically hosts talks about the authors with other professors and authors in the SOSC core

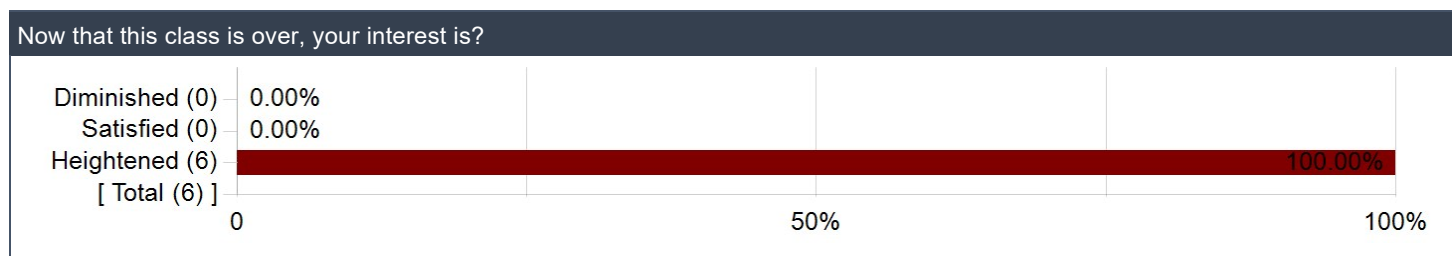
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



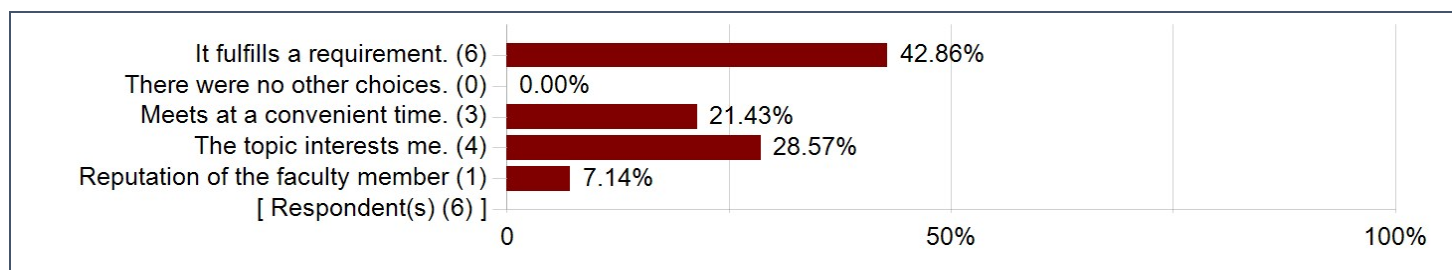
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



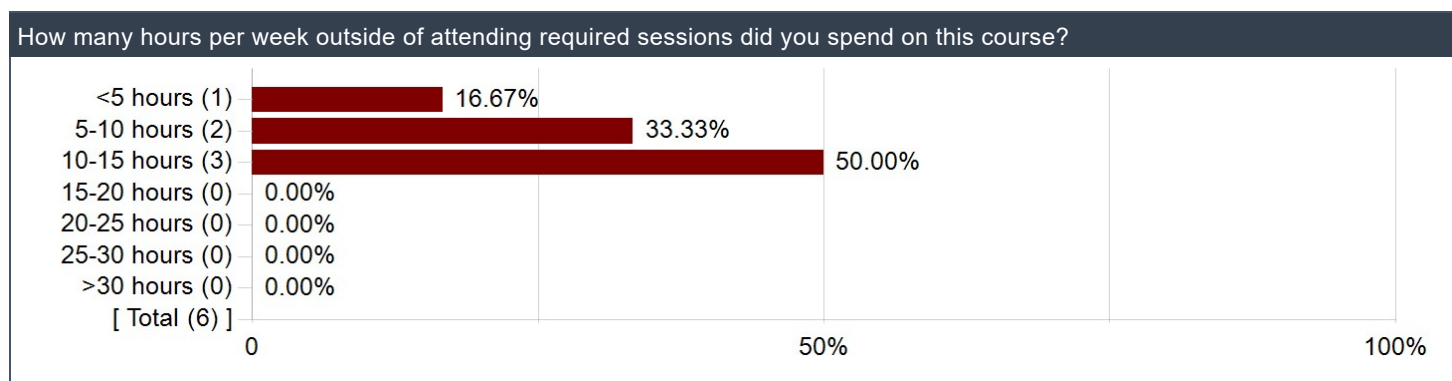
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



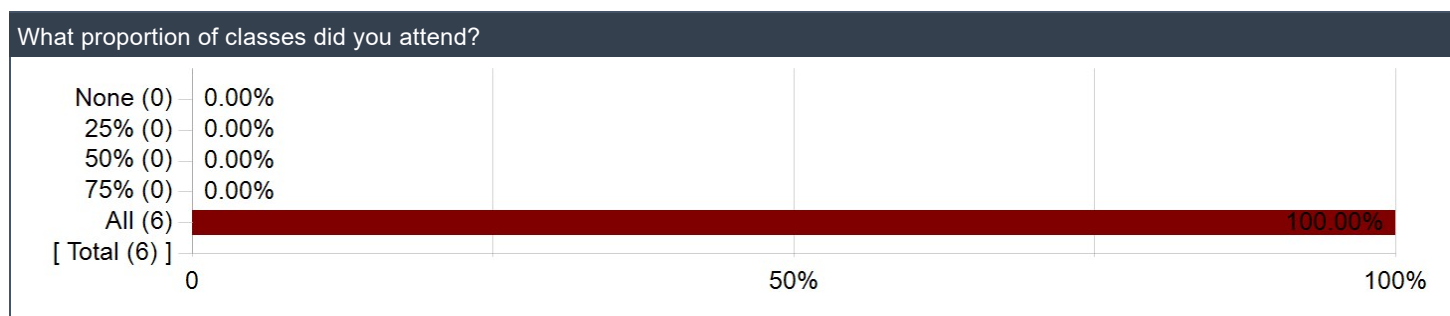
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
While the material itself is difficult the professor makes it easy to understand and I would recommend this to anyone with a desire to get something out of the SOSC sequence even though it is simply a required class for most.
I did not have much experience with these topics discussed, but since I have been meeting with this i structure since the fall quarter, I have adapted to their teaching style and found the difficulty of the class to be bearable. Though some of the topics were difficult to understand conceptually first hand, the course helped with bridging this difficulty curve through its many facets.
The readings are often difficult but rewarding and he helps me understand what I missed.
Some concepts could be a little difficult to grasp but Professor Karak did a really good job of ensuring that we understood the main ideas.

## Did you think that the second half of the spring quarter (Week 6 onwards) added to your overall understanding of 'culture,' especially contemporary culture, and its relationship to 'self' and 'society'?

Comments
I believe that it did; it felt like a unification of all the topics that we have learned from since the fall quarter. By applying modernism and postmodernism to such a wide range of topics, it emphasized the interrelated nature of culture with the self and society spheres, making the entire experience holistic in its approach.
Yes the individual readings were helpful but it was difficult to see the bigger picture until the end with the Harvey reading
Yes, I felt that the spring quarter really tied together those three elements and focused a lot on art.
Yes although I always felt like the concept of culture was very broad and not as easy to explain as the other things we've learned about. But I understood how we tried to relate it to self and society. Just very amorphous and hard to pin down, much like postmodernism.
Yes; seeing how modern forms of art and media affect self and society made it a lot easier to grasp.

## Did you think that all 3 quarters of this course cohered well into a 'sequence' that helped you see the interconnections between different authors and their overall contribution to social science?

Comments
I believe that it did. Topics and theories from the autumn and winter constantly unfolded in the spring and were kept relevant throughout the sequence. It helped with my conceptual understanding and in creating a smooth transition from one quarter to the next.
Yes.
Yes, I could see the big ideas that ran through the course and thought they connected well.
Yes