SOSC 12500 19 - Self, Culture, and Society II - Instructor(s): Susan Gal

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

Number Enrolled: **15**
Number of Responses: **7**

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
Structure...?
The discussion of linguistics and its effect on society is incredibly informative and the insights into structuralism through that perspective are deeply enriching. However, as Prof. Gal will tell you in the first class, DO NOT TAKE THIS SECTION IF YOU DON'T WANT TO READ. She increases the comparative reading by ~30% as a conservative estimate.
Linguistic Anthropology. We read Durkehim, Basso, Hirschman, Fanon, deBeauvoir, Freud, Saussure, Whorf, and a bunch of other incredible readings. Gal really crafts an incredible syllabus with a very normal reading load (lighter than Self, I, for sure).
Lots of different views and need to understand how writers build off each other. Also how to find and solve problems.
I learned a lot about anthropology and linguistics.
This quarter really engaged in the "self" aspect of the course sequence. Professor Gal was incredibly engaged in our class's discussions and expertly explained the topics at hand. Professor G's unique expertise in linguistics and anthropology proved useful and enhanced my personal enjoyment of the class.
The development of sociology, the understanding of self, and historical contexts

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

Comments
This was a really unpleasant class. Homeworks were extremely long(60–100 pages from multiple different readings every class) and not particularly relevant. Usually they were readings about linguistics. In class discussions, Professor Gal usually rushed through the non–linguistics readings in order to get to the linguistics papers she assigned. I do not appreciate the fact a linguistics class was crammed on top of the actual class. At one point she assigned an entire book as reading for a single class (Portraits of 'the Whiteman'). Our midterm was two prompts, both of which had be answered with a four page essay. It was assigned on a Saturday morning and due Wednesday night. Overall, I don't think I learned very much in the class.
Discussions were great when not hijacked by the professor and the material certainly allows for deep discussion. The syllabus is well structured and the class forces you to stay engaged because the caliber of student is very high for the most part. Please read the additional comments.
She had short mini–lectures at the start of class that were very helpful, and the rest of class time was discussion that was super fun and insightful. We only had 2 essays (they were testing for understanding rather than asking for a creative take, which made them much easier to write), and then 4 disc posts and a small presentation at the end.
I learned about the authors and their thoughts
Attending class was very helpful and the discussion posts helped me better connect with the professor because she would personally reply to all posts.
Lectures, discussions, debates, presentations, and canvas posts all contributed to deep reading understanding

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.50	4.00	16.67%	16.67%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.17	3.00	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.83	4.50	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	3.17	3.50	33.33%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.17	3.00	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Do not take this course with Gal unless you are glutton for pain. She didn't allow students to use the bathroom her class, and I think generally interacted pretty poorly with the class.
It was particularly sad to see this professor talk about how racism is bad. We get to discuss a little, but the condescension with which she treats people is truly awful to watch. I've seen a kid in that class have to mentally prepare in the bathroom before walking in. That's because she banned people from going to the bathroom in the third class. If you can't laugh about her casual racism, sexism, and all round contempt for her students, this is not the class for you. I do not deny that she's probably a brilliant writer and researcher, but I wholeheartedly believe that this might be one of the worst teachers for Self.
Teacher seemed to not be good with students of other races and would say weird things or act weird. Also wouldn't let people use the bathroom or fill their water bottle.
I enjoyed this section of Self with professor Gal. She will critique your work but overall I feel like a better writer after this course as she has pointed out errors that haven't been pointed out before. I left the class feeling satisfied with my progression.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	50.00%	50.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	50.00%	50.00%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
I do not think I really learned very much
The extensive syllabus. Also she gave a brilliant in–person example of internalised superiority.
Mini–lectures and discussions were great.
explanation of historical concepts
I enjoyed the way that she would talk about different topics in a structured way but also spent most of class discussing with the students not at the students.
The summaries of the previous discussion was always clarifying and every time I appreciated the texts even more after our discussions.
Discussion sections contributed the most, other aspects also helpful

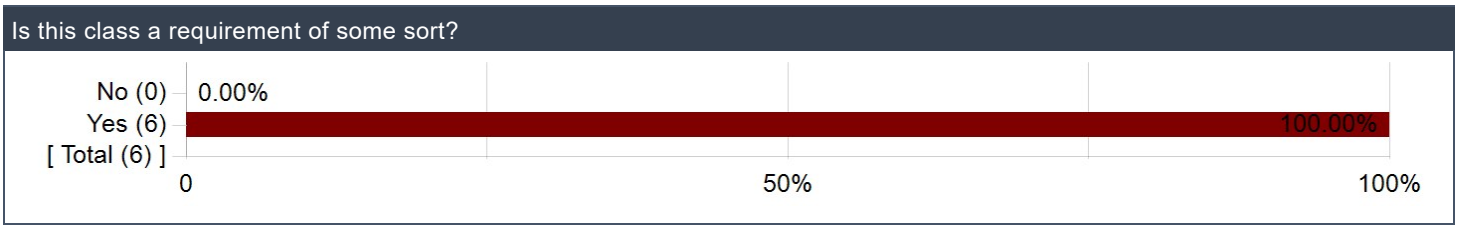
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Herself.
I don't know
N/A

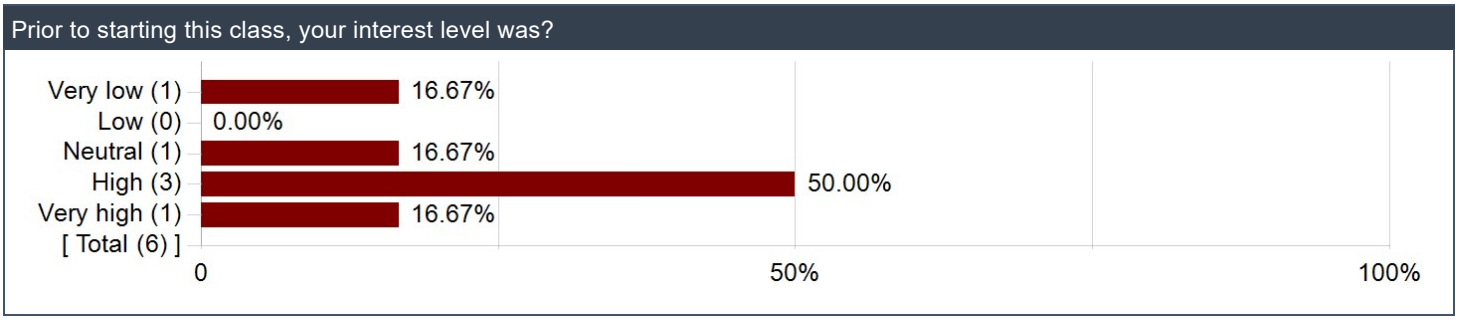
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.00	4.50	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.00	4.50	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.67	4.50	16.67%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.33	4.00	33.33%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.50	4.50	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.67	4.50	16.67%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.40	4.00	16.67%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	16.67%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.67	5.00	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.00	3.00	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.50	4.50	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%

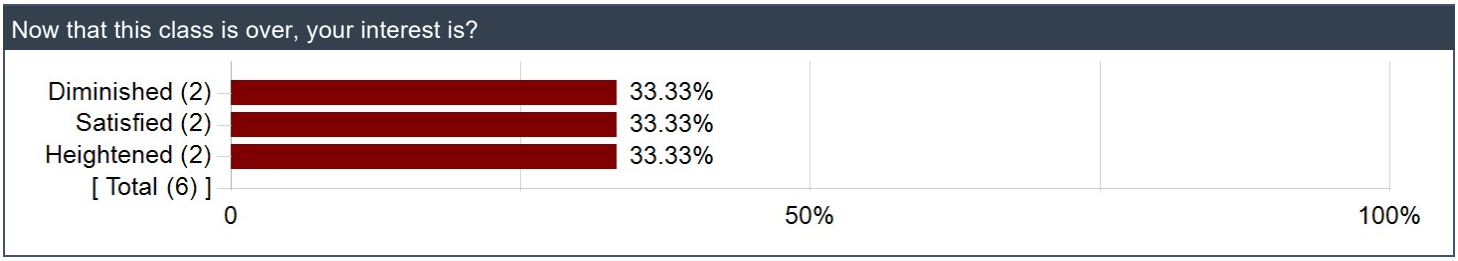
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



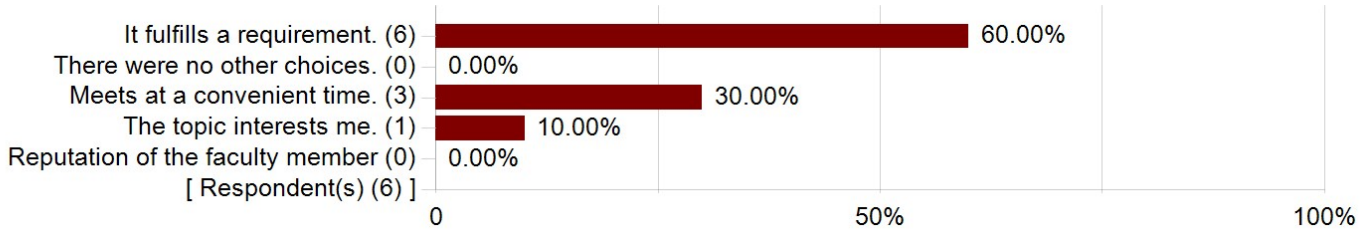
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



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?

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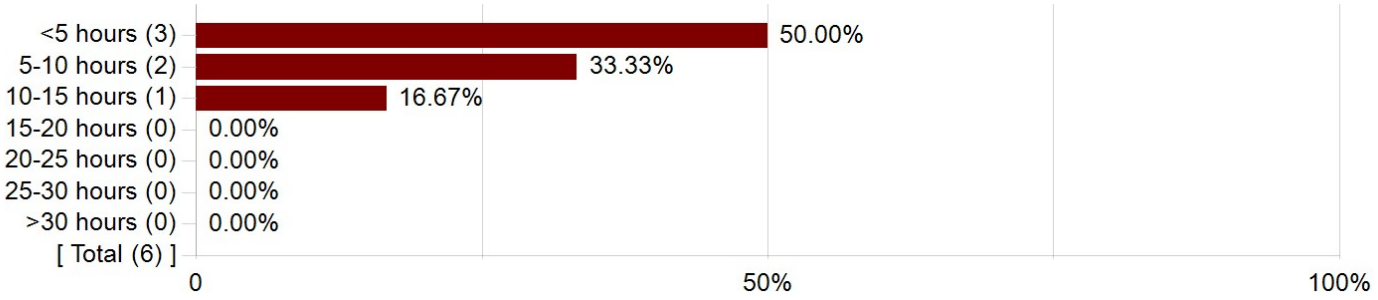

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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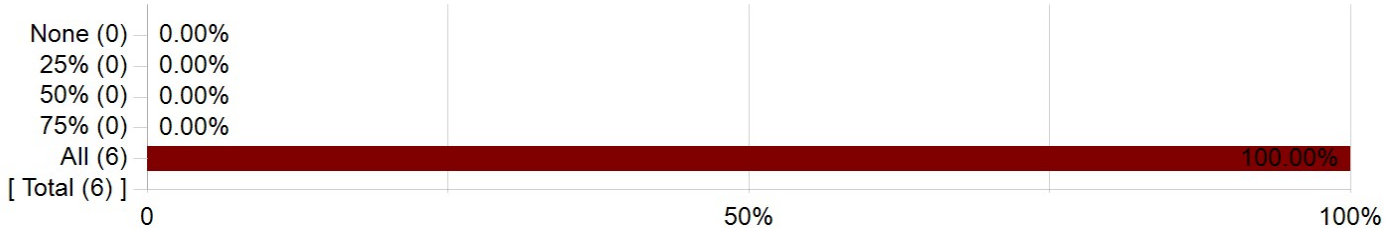

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Instructor added a completely unreasonable amount of readings. Readings from books listed in the syllabus represented only around half of assigned readings. Lots of random linguistics stuff. A huge amount of class time was also dedicated to linguistics, which was mostly unhelpful.
Medium
If you can write you're fine and if not just talk about what is said in class. Not super hard though just a decent amount of work
The switch from my fall self professor and winter self professor was significantly different, they were both great, there is definitely a lot of reading that is required for this class, it is not as bad as it seems and is helpful with participation in class, which is very important.