

# Summer 2016 Comment Report

HELANA DARWIN-ZIMMER

## Course Sections

**A** SOC 105 (01-END): INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

## What is your reason for taking this course? - Other (please specify)

- A**
- (Other (please specify)): Recommended elective for major
  - (Other (please specify)): Retaking for graduate school
  - (Other (please specify)): Recommended
  - (Other (please specify)): In order to take upper-division course.
  - (Other (please specify)): class prerequisite for sociology class MCAT

**What, if anything, did you find most valuable about this course? -****A**

- Learning sociology in general Having a relaxed teacher who is willing to help students and is not harsh Teacher care about convenience of student small class interactive classes
- I found that Professor Darwin was very knowledgeable and made this course very interesting.
- She was able to relate this class to our daily lives. She used references that were modern and tried her best to make the class interactive and lively.
- She was very enthusiastic and try to keep the class not boring, and to improve learning experience by showing videos and group activities. She is confident in her teachings and know her stuffs.
- A broadening of my sociological senses.
- Helana offered a very warm learning environment that made me feel comfortable in what I usually consider an uncomfortable environment! She is very well versed in her field and gets a clear message across in her lectures. She is so easy to talk to and approach and is always going out of her way it seems to further her students. Helana also is one of the only professors I've had that cares about the student on an individual level and doesn't treat you like just another chair in the classroom.
- I was very pleased to be able to expand my understanding of gender, sexuality, and race issues, all of which I have been previously invested in without knowing much of the technical terminology for some aspects.
- I find Helana's personal love for the subject very appealing. She deeply cared about the subject and so she wanted to impart that on her students. That was inspiring.
- Learning about sociology from new perspectives.
- I really though Helena was the most valuable part of this course. She was an effective professor, who presented the material thoughtfully, did not put down anyone for presenting opposing views and encouraged debate and conversation. She made the topics very interesting, even though classes were long for the summer. One of the best lecturers I have ever had and I would love to take more classes with her.
- The viewpoint of the professor helped expose prominent social issues that otherwise don't get a lot of attention. (mainly sexism, race issues are covered in the news more so). She is very supportive of learning and is a very good speaker. I didn't find myself getting bored while she taught.
- Interactive class discussions brought up a lot of viewpoints that I wasn't aware of. Extremely eye opening and effective in applying what we just learned to the real world.
- It kept me up to date with current events.
- The course does a very good job at being just an 'intro' course. We went over the very basics of Sociology at a lax level. At times the course felt rushed because of the limited time period of the summer session, but we did for the most part get through to what the prof wanted us to get through.
- I really enjoyed how Professor Darwin would make connections between sociology and what is happening in our lives. Her "test free" approach was also nice because it gave us a chance to learn more about the topics we were interested in for the exam projects.
- Rather than just spitting information at us, the professor taught us things that are applicable to our daily lives. She was knowledgeable in what she was teaching and it changed my perspective on how I view society.
- I love how the professor always tied sociological concepts to current events. It really shows you how important it is to apply what you're learning to the outside world - solidifying my understanding of the topics. Also, I liked the addition of videos throughout the lecture.
- I found relating the subject matter to current events most valuable.

**In what ways, if any, could the course be improved? -****A**

- Perhaps a bit of a smaller class size so the students could know each other a little better, given the sharing nature of the class.
- I think it is great the way it is.
- The lectures can feel a bit long and overwhelming with text on the power points. Maybe add more visuals and student activities to break up the time.
- If there were anyway to add more time to the session for this class, it would be useful. Because of the limited time, the students find themselves rapidly learning concepts without being properly tested. The course is OK the way it is; we learn a lot of the basic, which are easy concepts to understand, but we could use more time.
- None
- Less repetition of what was mentioned in the textbook and more application of the theories to actual situations.
- More group discussion. I think social issues are taught best with a lot of dialogue along with lecture.
- None, it was great.
- I didn't understand why no A's are given only A- and A+.
- I think her passion sometimes got in the way of her teaching. I think she out a little too much of her own opinion in the course and could have attempted to teach it more impartially.
- As a summer course, I would have loved to delve deeper into the subject than six weeks would allow. However, the professor was incredibly effective at keeping our attention, engaging with the class, and mitigating all of our necessary studies as carefully as possible in order to get the most out of these few weeks.
- Be a bit more clear in how things are going to be graded.
- If she was not very biased, that would be great. She sorta have a way to make you just accept her point of view without too much information. But overall, she is a great professor.
- Presenting in large groups can be fearful at times, and some students are very shy when it comes to answering a question and even privately speaking to the professor about something they didn't understand. I was most afraid about presenting my midterms, but I know that my presentation hopefully will not effect the quality of the work I put in.
- Professor bias needs to be non-existent in a sociology class