

What were you hoping to get out of this discussion section? Did it meet your expectations? Why or why not?

- Learn more in depth about the topics covered in lecture.
- I was hoping to get a "classroom" setting where I could actually discuss the ideas brought up in class, as lecture was relatively short and [the] Professor did not have much time to go into detail. Discussion was great because it helped to introduce new topics from readings as well as explain the concepts brought up in lecture.
- The typical, just discussion about what we discussed in class and a more in depth understanding as well as viewing other's ideas. It did meet my expectations, everyone felt comfortably talking about their own ideas and responding after listening to other people.
- I took this class as an elective in a subject that I never planned on exploring further. I was hoping to get an interesting class from which I could learn some real life skills, and maybe something interesting about social networks or interactions. I expected discussion to just synthesize the main class and clear up readings, but I feel that it went above and beyond. Some weeks, I found myself learning more in discussion than in the real class, and this was in large part thanks to the good TA.
- I was hoping to solidify my sociological understanding and it has surpassed my expectations. I learned much more during her sections than the actual lectures.

How will you use what you learned from this discussion section in the future?

- I will use the analytical skills I developed.
- I will use the topics in either future classes or just examining daily life.
- Well I definitely think this discussion made me realize that I really want to do sociology which is why I chose to major in it:) I think I'll use the methods used to start up a discussion in the future with other people.
- Discussion gave me an ability to apply the learnings from lecture in a group setting, and I can see this being useful wherever I go. An understanding of social structure/networks is always important.
- Since I did most of my learning during discussion, this question is basically asking how would I use my sociological skills in the future. I want to be a doctor and now I am more aware of social factors at play so I feel like this would make me a better doctor.

What parts of section did you find most helpful? Why? Least helpful? Why?

- I found the in class discussions most helpful. They exposed me to many view points.
- I found it very helpful that we were able to discuss and to ask questions compared to lecture, so I could grasp concepts more easily. This helped

Open-ended feedback from Introductory Sociology discussion sections

me to understand most topics of the course. I also liked how we had graduate students as TAs instead of undergraduates, whom some other classes have, as grad students are more passionate about the subject and more educated.

- The assignments most definitely. They allowed me to apply my own ideas to every idea we learned in class so it was pretty cool to do that. I don't think I can choose something that was least helpful because everything helped.
- The most helpful parts of section were the discussions on the readings. They cleared up confusing topics well. I wouldn't say any of it was particularly unhelpful. Discussion was good overall.
- Least helpful were the readings and the time (too early). Most helpful was the in class discussion because being engaged is when I learn the best.

How did this section compare to other discussion sections you've taken at Duke or elsewhere?

- This was my only discussion section
- This in depth discussion section was essentially a third lecture where we learned new topics compared to other discussion sections which are optional and/or very secondary to the lectures.
- I haven't taken another humanities discussion so I don't know how to compare. The discussions I have taken are like computer science and chemistry. Chemistry was okay but they kind of pushed us into groups. CS discussion is awkward because we are each at our own desk and the TAs weren't good at making us comfortable talking with each other and answering questions. I thought that wasn't a problem in this one.
- It was more engaging and organized.
- N/A

If you had a friend taking this course, would you recommend they choose Lauren's section? Why or why not?

- Yes she's amazing.
- I would recommend they choose her section, as she created an environment where everyone felt comfortable speaking, and one that had a good balance of explanation of complicated topics and discussion between students.
- Definitely, I like how she lets the students guide the discussion and only steps in whenever it gets awkward and quiet to stimulate the conversation or switch gears.
- Absolutely. Lauren was a great TA.

Other comments:

- One of the better sections I've been in at Duke.
- Great course!

Open-ended feedback from Introductory Sociology discussion sections

- I thoroughly enjoyed this discussion section and believe I learned a lot from Lauren's teaching. It definitely helped me organize my thoughts on the subject with its more personal setting.
- Great! I really liked all of it
- I rarely write reviews, but I felt a need to comment on Lauren's good teaching. I felt like I was able to say what I thought without being judged while still learning in a setting that felt academic. A+ TA
- Best teaching ever.
- I like that the conversations we have are easy-going, they are not awkward with each other and you.
- How open it is. I feel like I can say what I really think without consequences.
- I feel like it going really well. The discussion is much more helpful in terms of learning than the lecture.
- it is pretty good. do not have any complaints at this time
- The way the material is presented on the white board in section really helps me tie together and fully visualize all of the concepts that we have been discussing that week with [the] Professor. I like how we start simply with terms from the week's readings or that week's lectures and really get down deep into the meaning behind those terms and concepts, but then how they all connect to one another.