

**Course Evaluations
Shamus Khan**

This is a representation of Shamus Khan's course evaluations while teaching at Columbia University. First, a summary table outlines courses taught and overall evaluations. Second, for each course all the comments on the instructor's effectiveness are provided (the good and the bad).

Course Name/Semester	Size (response Rate)	Overall Effectiveness*
The Social World, Spring 2011	165 (92%)	4.69/5
Elites in Democratic America, Spring 2011	77 (63%)	4.56/5
Cultural Sociology (Grad), Spring 2010	17 (89%)	4.85/5
Contemporary Civilization, Spring 2010	19 (90%)	4.58/5
French Social Theory (Grad), Fall 2009	9 (100%)	5/5
Contemporary Civilization, Fall 2009	22 (100%)	4.51/5
Sociological Imagination, Spring 2009	67 (85%)	4.88/5
Contemporary Civilization, Spring 2009	22 (81%)	4.81/5
Contemporary Civilization, Fall 2008	22 (95%)	4.91/5
Contemporary Civilization, Spring 2008	22 (95%)	4.47/5
Statistics/Methods, Spring 2008	20 (73%)	4.13/5
Contemporary Civilization, Fall 2007	22 (86%)	4.24/5
Sociological Imagination, Fall 2007	85 (81%)	3.86/5
Average**		4.58/5

* The Overall Effectiveness is the weighted Median statistic provided in Courseworks
Scale: 1: Poor; 2: Fair; 3: Good; 4: Very Good; 5: Excellent

** This is the average over all courses, not weighted by number of students

Elites in Democratic America (3000-level undergraduate), Spring 2011

Overall Effectiveness: 4.56/5

Class Size: 77

Response Rate: 63%

The professor is an academic dynamo. He knows his material extremely well and is a very talented lecturer. He also managed to make a large class setting seem a lot smaller and more personal.

Professor Khan made his subject enthralling.

Really good lecture, really bright, tackled tough topics and was able to clarify complicated ideas really well in lecture.

Shamus is incredibly intelligent and engaging. He consistently made me think of things I never would have considered before. I will miss having his class because it is one of those courses where I feel like I really take away something from the readings and lectures.

Professor Khan was an amazing instructor. He clearly has a firm grasp on the subject matter and all his lectures were fascinating. I usually don't like to take notes on my computer, but after a few classes I began doing so just because I wanted to make sure I was able to record all of his points, as each part of the lecture critical. I have learned so much from him this semester, and I highly recommend this course or any other of Professor Khan's courses to ANYONE.

Sometimes spent too much time on tangents or discussing unrelated thinkers or works.

Professor Khan is an extremely effective professor. I have had classes with him before and his methods of teaching are superb. I took a core class with him before, and he was just as exciting and thought provoking in this class.

Good

Professor Khan offered stimulating lectures and was obviously invested in his students' success. The format of the class (lecture-sized and yet sometimes conducted as a seminar), however, left something to be desired. It is difficult to encourage meaningful student participation (rather than simply answers to straightforward questions) from a group of that size. My only other complaint in regards to Professor Khan's actual teaching was that he did not seem particularly available outside of the classroom.

Professor Khan really wanted to engage the class in discussion, but he clearly conceived the class as a seminar, so he struggled to involve class as much as he wanted. He reads and thinks differently than I do, so I didn't always understand what he was trying to convey. Professor Khan integrated all these outside theorists into his arguments in class, which was really interesting, but he'd spend half of the class somewhat describing these things we hadn't read and not fully connecting them to what we actually had read.

He is a great lecturer!

Prof. Khan is great! The only thing I'd say about his lectures is that sometimes the theoretical abstraction he uses to back up sociological explanations can be dry and off point. Getting away from the texts and talking about old french thinkers can detract from the student's focus on what he/she read.

Shamus Khan, I'm sure that you want to know about your teaching style and effectiveness, but I have one thing to say about your class: you are funny as hell. I may not have come to every class (it was 9 am in the morning and I'm a lazy senior), but your perspective on serious social issues was always delivered with a side of humor and that's what got me out of bed on those cold winter mornings. Keep up the great work. And to be serious for a moment, you are a great professor, not just entertaining.

I took Khan for Sociological Imagination my sophomore year and I thought he was a great instructor. Something fell flat in this class. While he is great at teaching sociology, he isn't so good at teaching novels. I felt like the lectures on novels were just summaries of what happened in the book. The questions he asked about novels were also very unstimulating. "What does Gatsby do next?" "What's Daisy like?" "What happens in this scene?" These are the kinds of questions we discussed in high school. No one wanted to answer because they weren't stimulating questions. Khan got frustrated when no one answered and assumed we hadn't done the reading. Khan's most interesting lectures were the ones where he tied the reading into larger sociological concepts. He taught it well and it was interesting. He almost never tied the novels into larger concepts and instead just gave summaries or character sketches. In a class on elites, I was shocked that we spent one lecture discussing both Distinction and The State Nobility. This is so important to the subject! We also barely discussed Veblen. Khan wrote him off as a sleaze who hit on his co-workers wives. I would have loved to discuss his ideas. It felt like he tried to dumb it down for undergrads by throwing in the novels. In brief, I would cut out the novels and just focus on sociology next time. The novels really added nothing. I would also cut down class size. People don't like to participate in such a large class, and it would have been great to actually discuss the material. At the very least add discussion sections. Also, if you're concerned that students aren't doing the reading you should ask them to tie the readings from each section together in their papers. The way it was set up, we only had to do one reading in every section. It was a great idea for a class, it just didn't work!

Although he clearly stated it on the first day of class, this was the first time Professor Khan taught this particular course and it became apparent as the semester progressed. The material and concepts we covered were insightful and I have a lot of respect for the professor's efforts (I almost want to use the courage) to study this particular group.

Going to class did not help me understand the readings any better...it honestly just confused me when I was writing the papers

Class was good and material very interesting, but should be structured differently next time to ensure attendance, participation and completion of readings

I think Professor Khan is a really dynamic lecturer with a good sense of humor and he made the topics really interesting and engaging

Prof. Khan's material is interesting, and the class really made me think differently about inequality, to the point where I think it will impact how I focus my own work on the subject in the future. He has great energy, especially for a 9:10am class, and I appreciated the jokes and encouragement - it really made going to class worth getting up early (yes, I realize how ridiculous it sounds to hear an 8am wake-up call being referred to as 'early'). It might be me, though, but I had a bit of a hard time mustering up the courage to go to office hours; despite how fun the class is, he's a bit intimidating. I had a lot of questions that I probably could have come to him about, but I just didn't have the sense that he wanted us to utilize office hours. Could just be me, though

Shamus Khan's lectures were very clear and concise. He presented new and very interesting material and was able to explain and simplify the larger questions the books/reading material presented.

If class attendance had been a formal requirement and attendance was taken the class would have been better. Also Prof. Kahn comes across as extremely arrogant- it doesn't make him seem

particularly approachable of accessible. For someone who's scholarship focusses on elitism he talks an awful lot about his achievements.

Shamus Khan's vivaciousness that early in the morning definitely encouraged me to attend class consistently. I'd like to highlight that many lectures that could have been very dry and boring were made interesting and relevant to our various generations due to his youth, vivaciousness, and superior oratorical skills. I would highly recommend anyone even remotely interested in the subject matter to take the class, and I would even consider taking the class again to hear how he supports his arguments on texts with which he disagrees. I was surprised to not have a breakdown of the weight that each paper submitted would count towards our final grade, which I believe that this not only demotivated me, but possibly other students as well. Further, since there was not breakdown of how much participation would count towards our grade, there wasn't enough salience to either participate, or in some cases, even attend class other than for the week that Khan would cover the theme/subject on which they'd write their next paper.

The Social World (Intro), Spring 2011

Overall Effectiveness: 4.69/5

Class Size: 165

Response Rate: 92%

The man can lecture. What else is there to say?

This was the first sociology class that I've taken, and, thanks to Shamus, it definitely won't be the last. His lectures were fascinating, well presented, and relatable. His course syllabus was tough, but reasonable. He really made me think.

Professor Khan is honestly one of the best professors I've ever had. Though I've always been interested in sociology, I'd never taken a course before and I'm so glad I took this class with Professor Khan. He's obviously brilliant, but he's also super approachable and surprisingly hilarious. The thing I love about him most is that he takes these really abstract readings and turns them into real life situations that are so much easier to understand and more relevant to our lives as students. I get concepts that I didn't get from the readings because of how he explains them in class. He's completely unbelievable.

Shamus is the man!

Professor Khan is the best professor I've had at Columbia.

Professor Khan made this course extremely enjoyable. He assigned a wide variety of fascinating readings and discussed their content through insightful lectures that gave us a greater understanding of sociology's scope and complexity. Prof. Khan managed to be funny and earn our respect at the same time, diving into each unit with enthusiasm, good humor, and candor while remaining serious about the topics at hand. I think most of us emerged from this course feeling a great deal of affection for him and his lectures, which were sometimes disorganized but always compelling. I wouldn't be surprised to find Prof. Khan had created a number of aspiring sociologists simply by engaging us in the discipline. In fact, he may have made one of me.

Dr. Khan was such an amazing professor. I came to his class everyday from the most boring class in the world that put me to sleep every time. When I got to prof. Khan's class, I was on the edge of my seat. The only thing I would change is if Prof. Khan would repeat the important definitions more slowly and more often. Sometime hearing it twice isn't enough to catch it all while I'm feverishly taking notes.

I LOVED THIS CLASS. It is BY FAR my favorite course I have taken at Columbia so far. Shamus is HILARIOUS and I have never felt so engaged by readings in any course. I think his grading technique is fantastic. The steady pace of the work every week with no surprises or exams made me keep up with the readings and significantly reduced my stress level. There was still a large amount of work to be done and was by no means easy but it was psychologically better than having to deal with midterms and finals. I definitely learned more this way than in other classes structured differently.

Could have spoken a bit slower, it poses much difficulty for note-taking when he speaks real fast and doesn't use slides or any outlines

It's such a big class size that often people were too shy to answer his questions. He always encouraged participation, but it was always the same people answering questions.

Professor Khan was extremely enthusiastic about this class. He was extremely knowledgeable about his course material and used every opportunity to pass on his knowledge to his students. He really liked teaching and it showed.

Khan is a FANTASTIC professor- I see why this class is so popular- it is ALL HIM. Presents very challenging material in a fun, engaging way.

Professor Khan was an awesome lecturer this semester, the only thing that I would say he should work on is speaking louder so everyone can hear him. When he is interactive with the class I find that it is not only an enjoyable class but the material is received better through his examples.

Very enjoyable lectures, especially towards the end of the semester when he wrote the lecture outline on the board. Sometimes difficult to get down all the notes.

Prof. Khan is the best professor I have had at Columbia University, his presentation of material is expert and makes every class a highlight in my day.

Absolutely fantastic lecturer. But, at the end of the day, I'm not really sure what I've learned. Other people in the class that I've talked to have all said the same thing. Khan is a great lecturer, in that he is very engaging and brings in a variety of interesting stories and ideas to the class. But as a teacher, a little confusing. Even at the midsemester, when he started writing the main themes on the board, it didn't help much. The ideas still came off kind of disjointed. I learned a lot of little things, but I'm not sure I have a good picture of what sociology as a discipline looks like or how these things connect to one another. I think Khan needs to connect the dots a little more for the class, even if it seems obvious to him. Just something to help it click for every student.

Professor Khan, your classes were very enjoyable, mostly because of your outgoing, friendly personality and good energy. I sometimes found it hard to follow your lectures, and often got lost in your rambling explanations of the matter on hand to the point of not knowing who or what was being discussed, or why, and how it related to the readings or vice-versa. I also looked forward to

having Karen Barkey visit our class, as you had announced, but she never materialized. And was this the first time you taught this class? I found it slightly disorganized as far as returning quizzes and papers was concerned. Back to the positives: Even though you claimed we were not really learning much, but becoming more at ease at Columbia, I came away from your class feeling more enlightened than before. Thank you for pushing me to think, thank you for making me write weekly responses (I really liked that! It MADE me do the work), and thank you for the many smiles you brought to my face.

Sometimes goes over challenging topics too quickly

I was only vaguely interested in Sociology when I took this course but Professor Khan definitely peaked my interest in the subject. He is a highly entertaining instructor who is passionate about his subject and has a great teaching style. He is very knowledgeable and encourages students to think independently and challenge his ideas. I will definitely be taking more sociology classes in the future thanks to this instructor!

Professor Khan is inspiring. You can see his passion for the subject translate into his lectures, especially the lectures on inequality. It made the lectures interesting; I wasn't worried about spacing out and missing information.

Present points more clearly. Although after mid-semester evaluations you started to write the lesson plan on the board, the organization in your speech was not as clear. It was difficult to separate points and oftentimes the transition from one part of the lecture to the next was ambiguous.

Shamus Khan is not only an entertaining professor, but a thought provoking one as well. He is clearly so knowledgeable about a range of disciplines within sociology--race, elitism, stratification, you name it! He has a way of engaging with his students that is truly a gift.

I loved Khan's class-- it provided useful tools to apply in analyzing the world through a sociological lens. He was always eager to share his knowledge and encouraged others to be as excited as he.

mad good

Prof. Khan is very energetic and makes the topics interesting and contemporary so people can have a better grasp of the subject

Excellent introductory class The format of the assignments/quizzes really demanded that I do the readings and keep up in lecture, generally a very effective technique I enjoyed reading sociological studies at the beginning and I wish there were more of them Economists and Societies and Barkey's book were both too dense for an Intro class, leading to a superficial, cursory kind of study of them that wasn't ultimately helpful to students who are just being introduced to sociology

The professor generally was good at presenting the relevant material, but he tended to get off topic sometimes.

Great lecturer, could relate course ideas more.

While he seems friendly and very enthused about his field, I felt a bit as though he did not want to be approached outside of class; as such I did not take advantage of his office hours. Perhaps that's more on me than him.

Very stimulating, dynamic and effective. My only request is that he would be more clear about illuminating the main points of the lectures. In cases where he begins with the statement, "here are the three main points of [an author]'s argument," he often explicitly says the first or the first few and then the rest are lost in more complicated explanations.

Shamus Khan is such a great instructor! He is very poised and asks really thought-provoking questions in class. In fact, I have chosen to study Sociology after taking this class. It has definitely taught me how to think differently.

Shamus did a great job. Although, I would have liked him to cut down on the amount that he asked the class questions. Facilitating a discussion among 200 people is not feasible and I would have preferred to hear Shamus's lecture than take part in a class discussion.

Good, clear speaker. offered helpful, concrete examples for abstract concepts

He was always able to help me understand the material, but sometimes it got a bit unclear as he was explaining.

Great. I love the lectures.

Great class. Made me want to explore particular areas of sociology more in depth-inequality in particular.

speaks a little fast and swallows words; as a result when he stops to backtrack on a point that he didnt feel was made clear nothing is actually cleared up.

Really great professor

Really enjoyed his teaching style. He was very engaging, funny and I actually remember important concepts for each of the different topics. Thanks for a great class and will definitely recommend it.

One of the best professors I have had

Extreme proficiency for giving lectures and fostering interest for subject matter among students. Definitely one of the clearest and most interesting lecturing professors.

Great lecturer.

Professor Khan is truly an amazing professor. He is able to engage us in such a way that the time flies by and we are never bored - not an easy feat to accomplish! His enthusiasm and sense of humor are really appreciated. He is incredibly approachable and helpful during office hours.

I have never enjoyed a class or a professor more. I have never praised a professor so highly to my friends and family. I would not change a thing about his teaching style (or his enthusiasm).

i really enjoyed this class. i thought that shamus was very knowledgeable and interesting. the course was definitely one of my favorites!

Great engaging lecturer.

I think Professor Khan was excellent. His lectures were fascinating and I actually used a lot of what he taught us in some of my other classes. I like how Professor Khan asked us to write all of our concerns down during class and he implemented many of the suggestions. He was conscious of the information that we would pick up easily and that which he needed to further explain.

Professor Khan was very effective in presenting us with a wide range of topics while still maintaining a clear plan for the semester.

By the end of the semester some topics were explained in a fuzzy manner, but you were always aware when this happened and went back to re-explain (generally helped).

Professor Kahn often explains an idea multiple times and gives several examples to make sure that the entire class understands the material.

I really enjoyed Professor Khan's structure. With the weekly quizzes and papers, he really kept us on top of the class. He was incredibly approachable both in and outside of class, and in a class of 200 students, this is quite impressive.

Shamus is a great lecturer, and introduced many interesting studies to the class. He challenged my ability to interpret scholarly papers and books, and the weekly assignments developed my writing skills. I experienced dissatisfaction with the inconsistent grading of weekly papers, but that was due to the large class size and multiple T.A.'s. Also the quiz questions were many times vague, but required specific answers: not the best method to gage competence of subject material. Nonetheless, I would take another class with Shamus if I were a Sociology major. Overall, an enjoyable semester.

I thoroughly enjoy this class, Shamus makes a conscious effort to ask if we understand and produce ways of improving the class.

Loved this class. Khan's book was the best of all the readings.

Loved this class!

Khan is amazing.

Professor Khan is an exciting lecturer so he makes you want to come to class and listen to him. His only problem is that he has so much material to cover and knows so much about the different topics that sometimes he can be very hard to follow because he throws so much at us.

While Shamus was extremely hard-core at times, I think the class helped me settle into an important pattern of doing work consistently. I also was eventually habituated to it and became much less stressed as the year went on. I really like the fact there is no final, that ended up being a great aspect of the course, despite the large amount of work. He was also consistently funny, engaging, and sarcastic. It was a good series of lectures!

I absolutely loved this class. Shamus made every lecture extremely interesting, and the class made me more certain that I wanted to major or at least minor in sociology. It provided a great overview of the social sciences in general, which made it appealing to a wide range of students.

Lectures were solid. Knows his stuff.

As a biology major, I was initially uninterested in this course. However, after reading *Killing the Black Body*, I was influenced to write an essay on the reproductive rights of African American women and my writing professor is looking to publish it. I'm not changing my major by any means, but Prof. Khan influenced me and my view in the social world. I have recommended this class to other students.

Prof. Khan is hands-down the best teacher I have had at Columbia. Charismatic, engaging, intellectually stimulating, funny, fair.

Excellent lecturer

It was helpful when the points were presented on the board in the beginning of class

He made the class fun and wasn't rigid about the material he would be presenting. He would shift from one example to the other if he thought that the students weren't responsive, to better clarify the material.

Has a rather rambling style of lecturing that takes on many tangents that are interesting but not really relevant to the given outline. Readings can sometimes vary on difficulty. I found that the last book was very difficult and it would have helped for him to give a lecture on the book before we were to embark on it.

i really enjoyed taking this class. i might even be a sociology major because of this class and this professor.

Cultural Sociology (Graduate Level), Spring 2010

Overall Effectiveness: 4.85/5

Class Size: 19

Response Rate: 89%

Shamus is one of the smartest people in the Department, if not all of Columbia. He is always well prepared, and is extremely effective at presenting the material. He often apologizes for talking too much in class, and I think we all snicker to ourselves (because we LIKE it when he talks, because he's damn smart and a pleasure to listen to). Excellent job all around. I wish that there were more professors as well versed, interesting, and as clear and Shamus is.

I appreciated his introduction to each reading to best situate what we were reading in the body of sociological literature.

Shamus is a great professor

Shamus is a very gifted instructor when it comes to ease of language and clarification of the very dense reading and complicated theoretical content involved in this class. As an advanced doctoral student, I can say that most theory classes I've taken have not given me the type of clarity and understanding I've desperately needed for choosing a theoretical framework for my dissertation. I would recommend this class to anyone who takes theory seriously and needs a good grounding in the canon of sociological thought involving culture!

Shamus is the best! Lively and he knows the course and materials so well it felt more like we were discussing subjects rather than being lectured to.

Shamus is clearly brilliant, and this reflects in his teaching style and communication with the class.

On the whole SK was an excellent instructor. A greater proportion of the time could have been devoted to lecture, as the class discussion was often not as fruitful as his own instruction. I am also not convinced that having seminar participants summarize the readings was the best use of class time. More effort could have been made -- by both students and SK -- to move this practice from lengthy summary toward the identification of a few key questions or criticisms, over the course of the semester.

Contemporary Civilization, Spring 2010

Overall Effectiveness: 4.58/5

Class Size: 22

Response Rate: 90%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

Shamus is an awesome teacher. Clearly explains the arguments of each author and offers stimulating questions for the consequences.

Teacher was great, best I've had in a while. Really clarified much of the course content and made it relevant to society today.

Shamus was great but our section wasn't always the most responsive/updated. Some days reading clearly hadn't been done and this in turn resulted in pretty much zero participation/discussion. I love the seminar structure of the class but a degree of participation/attendance points could maybe avert long awkward bouts of silence. Maybe.

i thought professor Khan was a great professor, He was extremely delightful everyday in class. I feel that I am truly lucky that I got him as a professor.

Excellent presentation and knowledge of material. The only limitation on what I learned from the class was the amount of time I had to prepare myself for class.

Shamus is a very good professor who definitely clarified the challenging concepts in CC. However, I would have liked the class to be a lot more discussion-based (which was partly the fault of the class, not just the professor) because there were times when it was just a lecture on the readings and no debate/discussion.

Great teacher! One of the best "core" teachers I've had!

Clear lectures, very helpful in office hours. Overall, a great experience in learning material that is otherwise dense and difficult to understand.

French Social Theory, Fall 2009

Overall Effectiveness: 5/5

Class Size: 9

Response Rate: 100%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

Prof. Khan guides the discussion to key issues of complex texts. Very effective.

Dr. Khan did an excellent job of presenting the course material and allowing the students to lead classroom discussion. Because he is such an open and supportive presence in the class, students quickly became very comfortable exploring new ideas.

Shamus Khan is really great. He did a great job of facilitating conversation in our seminar, ensuring smooth transitions between speakers, giving everyone a chance to speak but then also bringing the class back to focus on elements brought up from others. But I would have liked him to play a stronger role in the discussions, certainly not in the sense of providing a lecture but, at an increased participating rate closer at least to the rate of participation of the average student in the class.

Contemporary Civilization, Fall 2009

Overall Effectiveness: 4.51/5

Class Size: 22

Response Rate: 100%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

I think Prof. Khan had some really deep, profound insights about many of the texts, especially Hobbes, Machiavelli, and Descartes. That in itself was enough to make class enjoyable, and many of his points raised some pretty deep questions for me personally. He also did a great job of tracing the lines of thought and connecting the texts sequentially to form a narrative of Western thought, which is probably the central point of the class.

Best core teacher I've had so far.

Prof. Khan is really great and interesting guy. He has a very transparent, straight-up, no-BS style which is refreshing. He puts a very heavy personal (and sociological) spin on the material, though, which is at times frustrating. He's usually very well-prepared, but doesn't seem particularly passionate about the subject. In particular, he glosses over readings he doesn't really enjoy or understand, which is frustrating. Overall, though, he has taught me how to think like a sociologist, which is not necessarily what I wanted out of the class, but nevertheless useful and interesting!

Khan was effective because of he clearly presented of the main ideas of the texts while allowing for further student analysis by posing engaging and complex questions.

Professor Khan is awesome and lively and stimulates discussion best he can during class. However I'm saddened that the number of in-class activities drastically dropped to more standard discussion after the first month or so of class. They were the livelier moments.

Really enjoy class, better experience than lit-hum. Provides thoughtful insight into the text which helps clarify all of the material.

Great Teacher, with maybe not the best in-depth knowledge of the books, but great general knowledge to always spark discussions and create interest

There were a few times when class was cancelled and I felt that the material to be covered during those classes was only briefly touched on during the following section. I wasn't sure I understood those texts fully because we hardly talked about them. There should have been an extra class or a substitute professor to cover that material.

Teacher led good discussions. Perhaps fault is lack of inclusion of all students.

Knows the works, presents them in easily understood way.

good: used drawings and models to help clarify themes in reading

I thought he was a great professor, and the fact that he shared a common interest with me in sociology made me like his class even more. Professor Khan is the best professor that I have had thus far at Columbia. He is a knack for making you want to actually read the material in class. He was very understanding to serious family problems that I encountered earlier in the semester.

Very engaging and inquisitive Makes it a class discussion rather than a lecturing of facts

the teacher was awesome

The presentation of the material was done very well. Class was rarely boring and thought provoking prompts were often discussed. Khan pushed students to read deeply into the texts to better understand arguments regarding human nature and organization.

I enjoyed attending this class a lot more than lit-hum.

Professor was student friendly, presents the material in an interesting manner as well as stimulating class curiosity and analyzation. Look forward to taking the class next semester. Wouldn't change anything.

Sociological Imagination, Spring 2009

Overall effectiveness of instructor: 4.88/5

Class Size: 67

Response Rate: 85%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

One of the best lecturers/classes I have taken

Great teacher...I was an English major at the beginning of the semester and am now a Sociology major. There's a reason for this.

Professor Khan is a great lecturer. This class was one of my favorites of the semester and this was because Professor Khan made even difficult and sometimes potentially boring material very interesting. He made jokes in class and was very personable with students. He is a brilliant and fantastic teacher.

Professor Khan is the best professor I have had yet; his class is everything I hoped a college class would be and more. His coursework was at times challenging but doable and always engaging. Lectures never had a dull moment. He gave me a basic understanding of topics in sociology in the first few weeks, and in the remainder of the semester I used this knowledge to approach different sociological books. Excellent professor, I wish he was teaching undergrads next semester.

He is amazing!!!!!! This is hands down the most interesting class I've taken at Columbia so far.

Great teacher and content...awesome class

I LOVED the teaching style, I was never bored, I was always excited to come to class (and it was my earliest morning class), I would 100% recommend you as a teacher to anyone, I almost switched into your CC section last semester, but it wasn't the ideal time, therefore I didn't push for it, but I really regret not fighting to switch into it.

Professor Khan was extremely engaging. He always seemed to know what he was talking about and always had interesting points to make. I loved attending his lectures.

Professor Khan is wonderful. He enlivens all lectures with humor and stimulation of intellectual curiosity. It is hard to sit through one of his lectures and not enjoy it.

The structure of the reading for the semester worked well. With the broad intro to the different sociological disciplines, followed by case studies, it was clearer to see the implications of the sociological ideology and its transformation via some vehicular agent (class, race, culture, etc) Also, in my case, I usually received emails within hours of sending them to him, which is more than I'm able to say about any other professor (minus orgo lol).

One of the best courses I've taken at Columbia {A151} having quizzes and memos every week really forces students to learn the material and discuss it in class. I would have liked to learn more about Professor Khan's own work on elite schools towards the end of the semester.

Best teacher I've had in CC yet. Stimulated curiosity and clarified ideas well. Picked important points of the books to explain.

So, I just filled this out more in-depthly but it took too long so I had been signed out or something, so these answers will be shorter than I want them to be. In any case,..... Prof Khan really made this experience for me. I thought he was really generally knowledgeable, but also could admit when he

had reached sort of the edges of his expertise. He was wry and funny sometimes, but not in an obnoxious way. That being said, he let the tas rule a bit too much, and the grading system didn't really make sense to me.

I think he will improve with time/experience. He is pretty good now, but he often seemed more preoccupied with his research than with teaching. I think this may be the case with many professors (being preoccupied with research, not seeming so), but the exceptional ones get better at feigning interest in their classroom work.

There were times when the material was a bit dense and hard to understand however, Professor Khan was very effective with making things clear by repeating certain points and giving applicable examples.

Khan was great! i loved his class. i admit it was a bit challenging but i enjoyed it overall. Overall, I thought prof. Khan was a great professor. He was very knowledgeable and passionate about the subject matter. I really enjoyed his class. Wonderful job!
very knowledgeable and a very charismatic speaker

This was the best class I've taken at Columbia. Dr. Khan was very creative and always clear in his lectures.

My best Columbia professor thus far!

At times, I was really unsure of what Professor Khan wanted out of our papers.

I thought that he was a great instructor.

Khan's style is extremely enlightening and effective. He approaches his material from multiple angles and offers the perspective one might have from different areas of sociology. His lectures were always enjoyable and clear.

Shamus is excellent, he's engaging and funny! Although the class is mostly lecture he tries to make sure students are understanding the material. Sometimes he doesn't make sense, but students usually stop him and he will clarify. Very responsive to students needs.

A great lecturer, covers a lot, receptive to other opinions

He was absolutely brilliant and fantastic professor. I heard he is not gonna teach undergraduates for several years but I hope I will take another course with him

Soci 1202 was a challenging, but Prof. Khan made the material VERY clear, and easier to digest than some of the material presented in slower-paced courses I've taken.
great syllabus, incredibly effective method of teaching without powerpoint

he was one of the best instructors that I have had thus far at Columbia. He shows that he has an enthusiasm for the topics and he presents them in an engaging and entertaining, honest way. He made me want to go to class because I knew that he would have such interesting things to share with us.

Really enjoyed the lectures. They were well structured and well delivered.

Great, smart professor

Probably the best class I've taken at Columbia!!!

one of the best courses i've taken, and i'm a senior

Good class. If I had taken it earlier in my college career I might have majored in sociology.

I loved the class and the professor

Overall, I loved the class and would recommend it to anyone trying to get a sense of sociology.

Contemporary Civilization, Spring 2009, Shamus Khan

Overall Effectiveness of Instructor: 4.81/5

Response rate: 81%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

Shamus always made class relaxed and as enjoyable as a CC class could be. He presented the information clearly and in ways that were engaging and interesting. I think Shamus is an extremely intelligent and insightful professor.

Interesting, Engaging, and Enjoyable. I looked forward to do the readings and coming to class.

Professor Khan makes himself really accessible outside of class. He's one of the most friendly and approachable professors that I have ever had. He's also very intelligent, however his presentation of the subject matter was somewhat inconsistent. Toward the beginning of the semester, he spoke a lot about general themes of the texts. Then, after the mid-term, he tended to focus on specific passages. I wish that there had been more of a balance. I also wish that he had allowed students to guide the discussion just a bit more. Granted, this class was not a particularly vocal one, however I would have liked at least the opportunity to find out which points my classmates found most interesting. It would have been great to have at least one real debate! I've heard of CC classes in which people get so fired up that they stand up on tables or leap over desks. Again, I think this is largely dependent upon the students themselves, but a structure which allowed for greater contribution may have facilitated debate to a degree. That said, Shamus did a very good job highlighting the historical context and a few main points of each text. He attempted to make the material relevant to the modern world, and students' lives, often by posing hypothetical situations based upon the texts and asking: would you want to live in this society? He was clear and down-to-earth in his teaching style, but didn't oversimplify. Overall, I'm glad to have taken CC with him!

Very good teacher, extremely intelligent.

I would have liked for there to be more discussion between students about controversial topics that arise from the readings. Students didn't really have the opportunity to voice their opinions or

disagree with each other, just because that wasn't really encouraged by the questions. Or it may have just been the group. I liked that the discussion was very focused on figuring out what the texts were saying, but it may have been too focused on the teacher's point of view.

Shamus is an amazing professor! He impressed us every class with his incredible intelligence and sheer breadth of knowledge. He is able to clarify challenging material and communicate it effectively. I would love to take another class with him.

Effective communicator. Clear and concise comments

This semester I felt that you were much more organized than the last in presenting and clarifying class material. You took our comments into account and changed your method of teaching to accommodate us. It was really helpful, for example, how often you delved into the text to illuminate key quotes - it gave us something concrete to grapple with. However, I felt that you often already had a specific interpretation of the text - class participation became a matter of guessing at what you were thinking. You did respond to student questions and opinions, but often it was in defense of your particular reading of the text. It shut down rather than opened up discussion. I wish that you could've been more flexible with class participation - for example, the first 70 minutes reading quotes, a 5 minute break, then 45 minutes genuine class discussion.

Contemporary Civilization, Fall 2008, Shamus Khan

Overall Effectiveness of Instructor: 4.91/5

Response Rate: 95%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

Shamus while he says he lectures us actually engages the class quite well. He has a few things working against him ie. that time in the afternoon is often hard to teach because the students are usually fatigued. Shamus humbles himself and his teaching and makes it seem sometimes that we don't like the class but we all love it. A lot of us are just tired at that point in the day.

Way of teaching is conducive to encouraging students to do work without the stress.

His enthusiasm for the class was contagious

Shamus is a wonderful Professor. I've learned so much in this semester and it's great that he brings outside viewpoints to our readings.

Classes were most effective when the professor dove into the actual text and highlighted key passages. This concretely drove home his lecture points. Doing close readings together with the class helped.

Did everything quite well. Every point that we raised was challenged which made us rethink almost everything we said. This led to a fuller understanding of the material.

I think we flew by the material quickly that we didn't really get to have discussions.

Towards the end the class was lecture heavy. But in general Shamus you did a great job in summarizing the overall themes and clarifying the texts.

Contemporary Civilization, Spring 2008, Shamus Khan

Overall Effectiveness: 4.47/5

Response Rate: 95%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

Best CC Professor ever. He made lectures very interesting and I genuinely enjoyed this class. As a sociology professor he presents a very interesting view on some of the books which I found refreshing.

Wonderful. Approachable unimimidating lively. Provides excellent presenatations of material and brings in effective outside information corollaries.

gave clarity to otherwise difficult topics of discussion.

One of the best instructors I have ever had. He knows so much and I like the sociology perspective he brings into the readings and he is always quite funny which makes a 2 hour class a lot more bearable. He is always willing to help make the class more interesting and very open to class suggestions which was great. When we felt overwhelmed with work he listened to us and he always was willing to go outside

Professor Khan was a very interesting teacher with lots of interesting information on the subject matter. While his class was very engaging at times class discussion was limited by the fact the the professor seemed to want the discussion to go in a certain direction.

The instructor was very knowledgeable and presented the information in a very interesting way. However there was rarely class participation and discussion. I felt that the class could have been more stimulated to participate.

Extremely helpful and knowledgeable of the subject

Statistics/Methods, Spring 2008, Shamus Khan

Overall Effectiveness: 4.13/5

Response Rate: 73%

Comments on Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

Shamus was great his energy and presentation of the materials made it easier to get through the course.

Loved Shamus. He s a great guy who is extremely intelligent. I m so glad he wasn t one of those professors who throws it in your face that he s a million times smarter than you ll ever hope to be. It

was very refreshing to have a professor whose wealth of knowledge far exceeds his ego--that s not too common at CU. Overall definitely an Excellent rating. I enjoyed him thoroughly.

Great class very effective instructor. It was clear that Professor Khan knew the material very well and was excited about the subject matter he was teaching. He used a variety of examples to explain the concepts and challenged the class through hands on projects. While there was a lot of work none of it was busy work. All of the assignments helped my understanding of the material. The questions reading and projects he posed were also very interesting and challenging I really learned a lot in the class. Best class I ve taken at Columbia so far.

While I felt that Shamus was a very intelligent and interesting instructor it was a bit offensive that he didn t seem to realize that more than half of his students were older than he and were not traditional college students who lived in a dorm. He would often make statement like- I m older so get paid more than you yes No actually. Additionally he often came across as egotistical. That being said he is very intelligent and I found his lectures to be overall very educational.

Very effective on eliciting student interaction which is not always easy with some of the material we focused on. THE projects were especially helpful since it allowed the class to pursue topics of interest to them

Prof. Khan came up with unconventional examples of the concepts we covered making the material less difficult to grasp than that of a high-powered strictly quantitative statistics course.

Some material was still challenging even with professor s clarification. sometimes too fast and unable to absorb all the information being talked about.

Great Fast pace of the class kept me engaged and alert during the entire lecture. Prof Khan s own interpretations and ideas were insightful. His seemed enthusiastic about the materials covered. He also gets direct to the point - it forces people like me with ADD to pay attention and engaged.

His lectures were engaging although fast-paced. He kept me interested and entertained while I learned.

Contemporary Civilization, Fall 2007, Shamus Khan

Overall Effectiveness: 4.24/5

Response Rate: 86%

Comments for Instructor Effectiveness -(complete)

Prof. Khan was AMAZING. I never thought I would be this interested in sociology and if I were not already majoring in Chemistry with way too many courses to take I would seriously consider minoring in Sociology. He gave us an excellent sampling of the different regions in the social sciences and the readings chosen were all interesting. He gave humorous lectures that were delivered with gusto preventing my falling asleep in a 9am class.

You are awesome. I can t wait to take another class with you. Your energy and love for sociology is contagious.

Very engaging bright nice...seems to be very invested in this class which in turn makes the students more invested in the class.

While I was at first sceptical of CC Professor Khan managed to make this class very interesting. He is particularly good at relaying some of the very fine points in the texts in addition to being effective in general.

Professor Khan runs a very interesting class. It seems that class only gets tedious when students haven't done the reading which is not something that he can really account for in his preparation.

The classes definitely helped me understand the texts. But it was Shamus understanding an understanding that he tried to pull out of us. He knows the material so I suppose these were the proper understandings.

Engaging knowledgeable on a variety of subjects. One of the best parts is willingness to work with our schedules needs and suggestions.

Prof. Khan is very clear with his lectures and has a very clear idea of what he wants to teach us from each text. His exams are effective in testing knowledge of students as opposed to luck or performance at the test site.

the instructor had a good knowledge of the material but did not always stimulate discussion so well.

P. Khan did not force participation i am shy and rarely spoke but stimulated and invited it with interesting points and questions.

I think I'd prefer a bit more lecturing on your part actually. When the class is totally discussion based it tends to be digressive.

I think Professor Kahn is brilliant. Not only does he stimulate discussion but he brings in interesting and unique perspectives which is so important and very difficult when discussing books this old and established.

Engaging teacher. His enthusiasm for the readings helped me keep focused in class.

Sociological Imagination, Fall 2007, Shamus Khan

Overall Effectiveness: 3.86/5

Response Rate: 81%

Comments for Instructor Effectiveness (complete)

Great engaging lecturer

Professor Khan is a great professor and knows what he is talking about.

he stimulated many an intellectual conversation

The professor was characteristically brief on his lectures due to the large amount of material he had to cover so sometimes I did not completely understand what he was teaching and trying to get across to the class.

For more difficult areas - Katz and Mamdani in particular - have lectures precede the reading assignment. Giving these readings more than one sentence foundations and showing how they fit in to the course will make them more accessible. Also this will not subtract from paper writing since it will be evident which papers merely restate the lectures and which work from a thorough reading of the text by their use of specific details. Reading through highly theoretical and academic jargon can be unnecessarily arduous when its significance to the course is unclear. Rectifying this will enhance an already satisfying class.

I found the class very enjoyable and it was a stimulating and effective introduction to sociology. The articles that we read at the beginning of class really helped me to understand the material from a theoretical as well as practical perspective.

Excellent lecturer. Made a 9am engaging and enjoyable. While some people didn't like snarky asides I found them to be both funny and engaging. Everyday examples and humor made some of the more esoteric jargon both accessible and relevant. I appreciated the cynical - or at least critical - view that was sometimes taken towards sociology such as in the structure-agency debate.

Course difficulty and time commitment doesn't match the level of the class. Material is very advanced and expectations too high.

There were a LOT of problems with this course and I know people brought them up with Prof. Khan. The only change I saw however was a couple of quizzes or papers dropped.

Stimulating lectures and engaging readings.

Talk a little slower

Too many lectures were sprawling. It seemed as if he didn't know what he was saying. I'm not a big fan of the man.

Great Professor Made material interesting.

Prof. Khan was extremely entertaining. I enjoyed lectures very much.

Some very good lectures but many lectures too dense and unrelated to the materials assigned. Too much negative criticism of the author's and works being studied.

Engaging lectures great pace for the course. Thought-provoking presentation of readings.

Though Khan is very energetic and enthusiastic his lectures are rarely concrete enough for me to know which points are the most important for me to take note of. He has a lot to say but it's hard to guess what he will test us on. Some material is repeated while some things are never touched upon.

The lectures were too fast and had too much material. It thus made it very difficult to keep up and to grasp the information.

Amazing lecturer. Very funny and clear.. did a good job of presenting classical theorists but also inserted your own ideas which were welcome and insightful.

Some of the final lectures were disorganized and seemed not to have a clear point or purpose. Otherwise he was engaging and made Sociology seem like a rich exciting field.

the instructor was not available enough to students who were having difficulties with the course.

While Professor Khan makes an effort to be personable he often comes off as rude and short. After an initial evaluation where he said that he would try to get his main point of the lecture it was still difficult to follow his lectures and decipher what the main idea was. He tends to be very verbose and I had trouble understanding what some of the more difficult concepts were.

In general Khan was good at presenting the material to the students however at moments I did feel a bit lost and felt that really important concepts could be further clarified.

The instructor began the class as a jerk then slowly changed. He asked for constructive criticism after it was all too evident that the class did not enjoy his teaching. I felt that his lectures were too scattered and the readings were distracting. It was a poor introductory course it was more like 50 bits of advanced courses.

In terms of the material covered Professor Khan was very effective. However I think he needs to be more clear about the structure of the class. On the first day of class he gave us the guidelines of how the course was going to run and then he kept changing these guidelines without really informing the students. For example he told us that if we miss lecture but have a doctor's note we would be excused. However when I had a doctor's note I was told to take the quiz anyway and just drop it. If I had known I would have to take the quiz I would have made more of an effort to find the notes from a classmate instead I was under the impression that I would be excused. I think it would be more effective if he kept the class updated on what we can't do.

I really respected the way Professor Khan asked for class questions concerns halfway through the semester and actually applied the students suggestions. The lecture breakdown at the beginning of class was especially helpful.

I understand the course is survey and is trying to give students a taste of all kinds of sociology in the hopes to hook them somehow. However I would have wished for clearer notes more class participation and discussion and a more cumulative examination of materials learned rather than just weekly quizzes. The TA's in addition were useless. I don't know their names and they provided nothing to classroom learning or writing aid.

This class was awesome. I really think that I learned a lot about sociology and it made me interested in learning more. I thoroughly enjoyed his teaching style and outlay of the class.

I have an impression that the learning process is more effective if the course is designed in the way this course was designed - regular assignments and no mid-term and final. However sometimes there was too much work in this class.

Prof. Khan was very energetic and enthusiastic which means a lot for a 9-10 am class.

After reviewing our first set of comments and critiques Khan began to organize his presentation of subject matter much better and I think writing on the board and repeating important concepts helped. He was also very funny and entertaining..made the class enjoyable and fun to go to.

The class was first-rate and Prof. Khan successfully wove many complex themes and theories together through an excellent selection of readings and lectures. I loved this class. One area of improvement might be to ensure more consistent grading from the TA s.

Khan s level of enthusiasm for the subje t material is effective in creating interest on the students behalf but he does not do a good with helping understand the material.

The lectures were often confusing and didn t really get to any central points of the reading. The coresponding quizzes therefore were difficult to prepare for.

Very engaging particularly important for a 9 10 class