



SOSC 17100 5 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community I - Instructor(s): William Mazzarella

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **12**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
I learned quite a bit about oriental religions that I knew very little about previously.
I learned to view religion through lenses that I previously had not considered.
How to construct a rigorous mathematical proof
Different perspectives on the origins of religion; how to write a clear and concise paper.
How to think about religion as a subject of social science as opposed to theology.
The most important things that I learned in this course were how to analyze a religion anthropologically, the Durkheimian theory of religion, how secularism came to be, and how to write short essays.
Close reading and better reflections
Breaking down ideas and questions. Be more clear about the point.

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

Comments
Activities in class (such as political adviser simulations) were very fun and educational.
everything! the office hours, the journals (latexing), the class presentations were all so helpful
Discussions were very well managed, and the instructor often introduced new ways to run the class such as splitting us into small groups to do a project or inviting us to share an interesting passage from the reading.
The discussions on the readings were the most interesting.
The lectures generally gave good ideas to be used in assignments, and the readings were necessary to fully understand the lectures. The writing seminars were too infrequent to be significantly useful.
Two lectures per week– 1 hour and 20 minutes and 2 writing seminars
Discussion feedback is great because I can know others' as well as the professor's interpretations of your one specific question. This is quite different from raising a question in class because in class it's better to propose a truly important one. I find the discussion more inclusive. Wish to have a follow-up part of the discussion.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.30	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	20.00%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.50	3.50	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	10.00%	40.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.20	5.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%	60.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.10	5.00	0.00%	20.00%	10.00%	10.00%	60.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	80.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	10.00%	70.00%

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	30.00%	70.00%

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

Comments
When Professor Mazzarella was clear about interpretations of the reading and how he wanted to tackle assignments, I felt the material and assignment expectations were clearer.
Ziesler is the most helpful and kind teacher I have ever met. She's amazing at understanding what you are trying to do and guiding you from your perspective.
I really appreciated the different class styles. It made each class feel fresh and exciting, and allowed everyone to share and discuss. The instructor is also extremely available outside of class.
I liked how at the beginning of each class Prof would give context to the reading/author for that day. Also, often at the end of class he would give us questions to think about for the upcoming reading.
The instructor's comments during the class were what contributed most to my learning. It was also helpful that the instructor was willing to present counterarguments which made students question their own thinking. It was also good that the instructor had continuous short papers, which allowed learning to constantly be reinforced.
Lectures
lecturing time

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Make it very clear whether the short essays demand a personal interpretation of the reading (even if it may be wrong, given we're unfamiliar with much of the material) or a correct analysis of the reading, in which case the parameters for prompts should be more specific to avoid students falling in the former category.
nothing. everything was great.
When people disagree with either each other or the instructor, I would have liked to spend more time exploring the differences in opinion.
N/A
To help me learn more, the instructor could have provided examples of papers and more lectures about the material.
N/A
Be more clear with the grading

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	88.89%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	55.56%	22.22%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	11.11%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	11.11%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	77.78%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Sarah Jeffries: Seminars were useful, and Sarah was always a nice and welcoming resource to reach out to if we needed help with our writing.
Noah was really great. He hosted fun and informative office hours and problem sessions and was always there to help. Fast grader as well!
Sarah
My TA was Sarah Jeffries, and the aspect of her teaching that contributed most to my learning was the review of my essays and essay ideas, which gave me direct feedback on my work. To help me learn more, the TA could have held writing workshops more frequently, and had us write during the workshops with real-time feedback. This would be especially useful if the entire group wasn't working on one document, and the feedback could be individual.

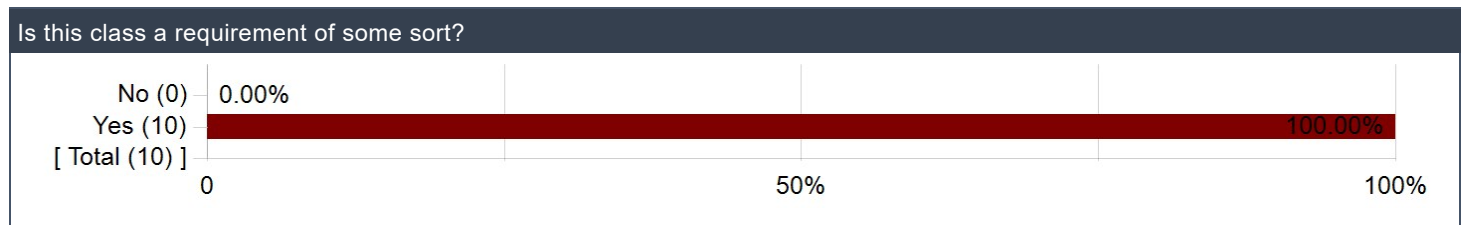
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	0.00%

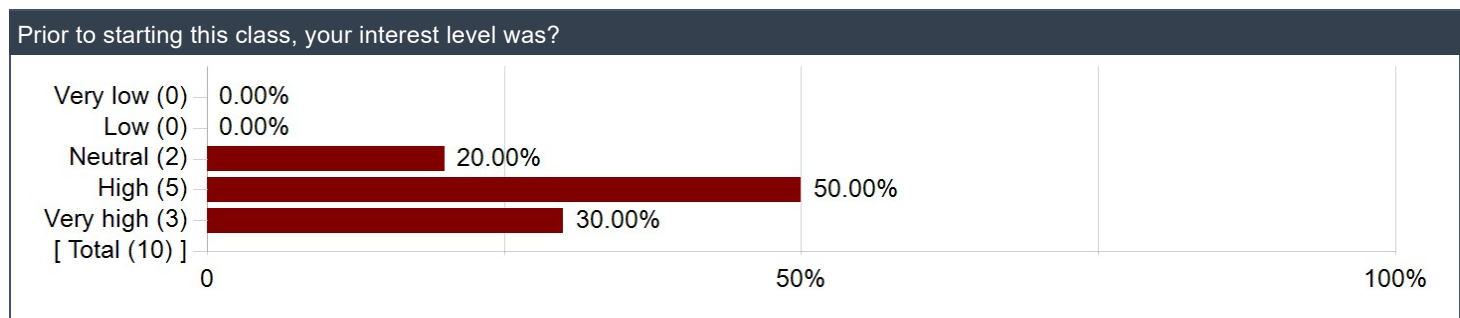
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%

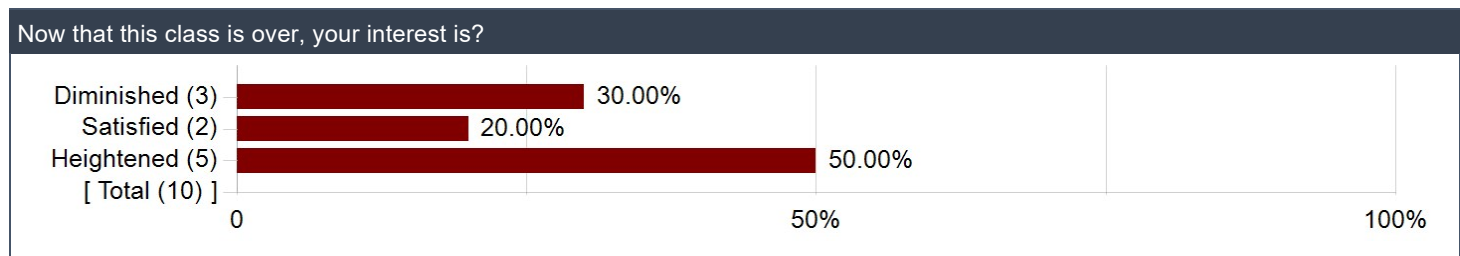
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



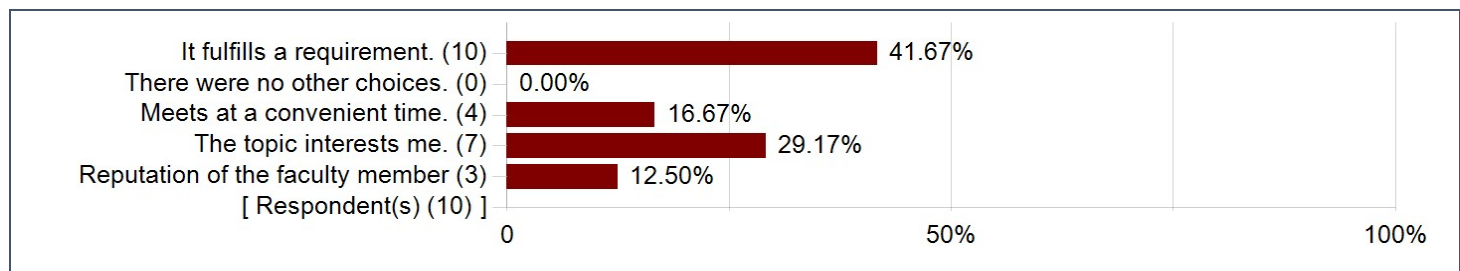
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



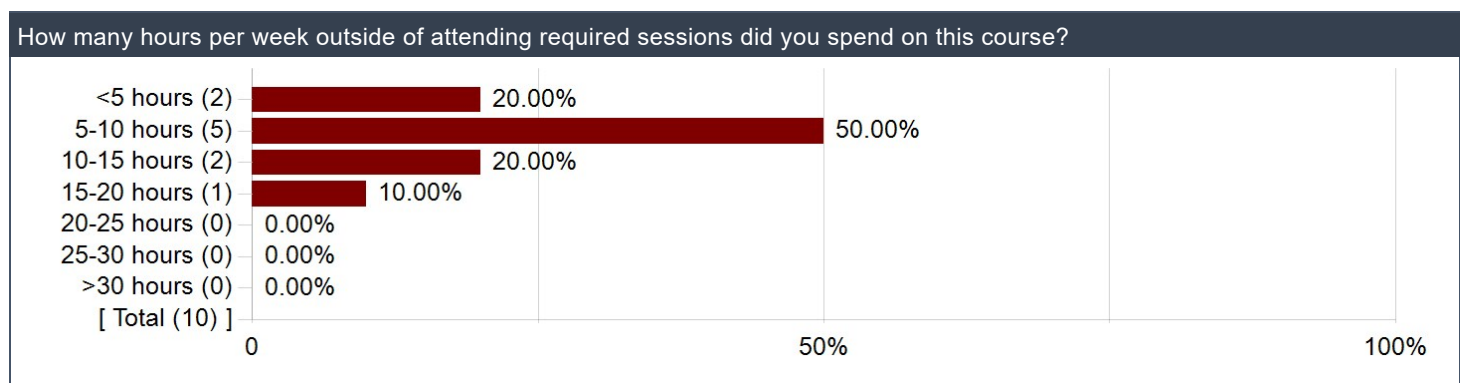
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



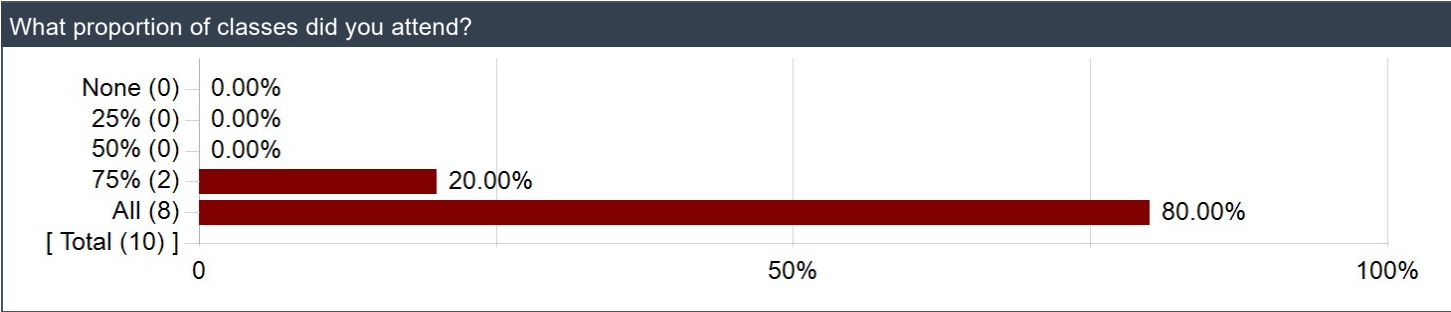
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
Course was more difficult than most of my high school classes.
Entered with no background in proofs and minimal background in calculus. Steep learning curve at the start (~2 weeks), but after the first journal it went pretty smoothly.
Not difficult.
The difficulty of this course was relatively well-suited to my background and experience. I had studied some religion in high school, but hadn't heard of some elements such as Durkheim. Still, I was able to understand the new elements without falling behind.
On a scale of 1–10? An 8