



SOSC 17200 4 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community II - Instructor(s): Alireza Doostdar

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **8**

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
close reading of religious texts through different lenses
Practically, we learned how to read complicated (re: dense) religious and philosophical texts! Conceptually, we grappled with notions of suffering and religion; ie. how does / doesn't religion provide means to deal with suffering?
How different religious ideals deal with the problem of suffering, and philosophic reflections on human reason, Supreme Being, knowledge, religion, etc.

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

Comments
I feel like I needed more background on some of the texts to really contribute, especially the Hindu and Buddhist ones
discussion / class time contributed the most
The discussions — which made up the majority of the course — contributed the most to my learning. Professor Doostdar was great at balancing lecturing and open-ended discussion, so I always felt like the conversations we had in class were eye-opening / enlightening in some way. They were particularly helpful for essays, since they cleared up tensions / questions in the texts, for the most part, which, in turn, helped with the writing process.
Discussions are really interesting and inspiring
The lectures were very insightful, and I think he is an amazing professor!
The lectures were really great. Professor Doostdar is a really great lecturer and is similarly great at facilitating discussion. Going to class was consistently helpful in better understanding confusing texts.
Lectures were great. Alireza was super fun and engaging. We also had a handful of group/partner discussions which kept class interesting.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I loved this class. Professor Doostdar is a great lecturer and I loved hearing him talk about the texts. The texts were all pretty interesting and similar/different enough to be connected but not repetitive.

I would recommend this course to:

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

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

Comments
I loved some of the discussions we had where we really dumbed down the text and fit it into our everyday lives
Definitely AD's openness to discussion! He was pretty responsive through email and outside of class, so I always felt supported going into the essays and discussion posts. I think he understood that the readings were difficult to get through, at times, so he was really adamant about trying to provide clarity and guidance.
his short lectures and engagement in discussions
The lectures Professor Doostdar gave were excellent at both augmenting my understanding and prompting further exploration of the texts we read – he was a really fantastic professor and significantly increased my interest in the course.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Prof Doostdar was really good at explaining texts when he did that, I wanted a little more of that
Perhaps be more attentive to the discussion posts? The idea of them was to get feedback on our question / problem before our essay was due, but as the course went on, he stopped responding to them. Again, he was responsive through email, so this wasn't a huge issue, but it definitely could've helped to get direct feedback on those posts, too!
nothing

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	75.00%	12.50%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	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
Hawkins Lewis. They were really supportive throughout the quarter, always offering office hours, which was really nice. The writing workshops were also good, but they felt a little long? Many of the exercises, I think, could've been done individually, in less time.
Hawkins Lewis

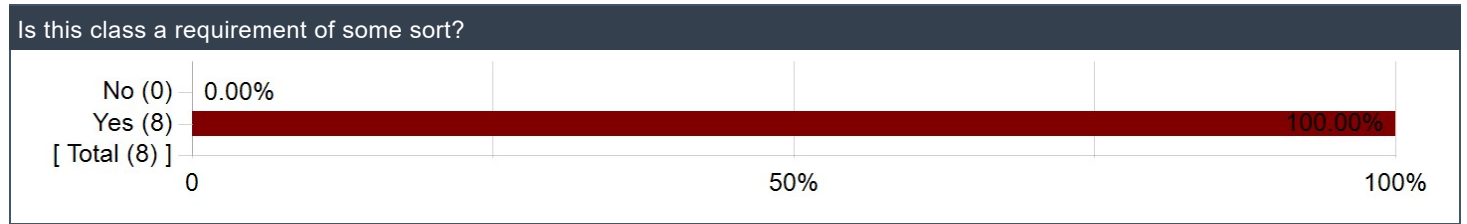
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%

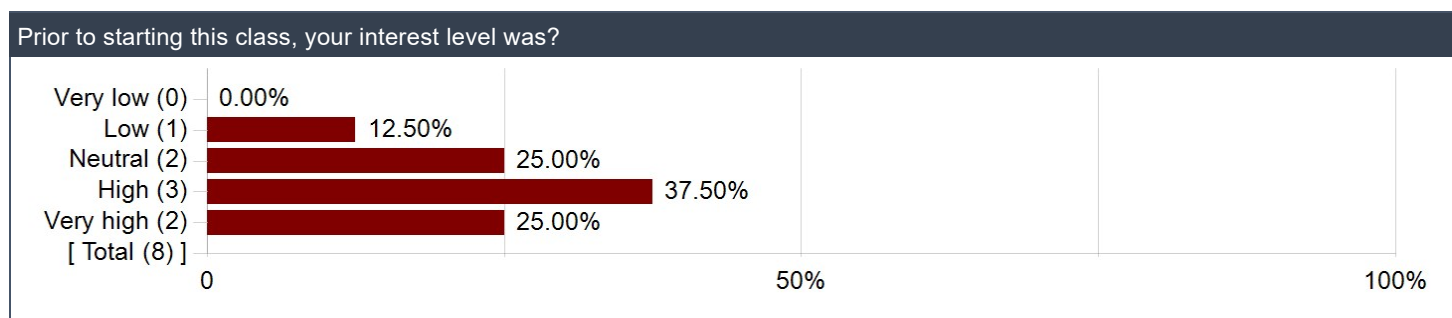
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.80	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%	0.00%

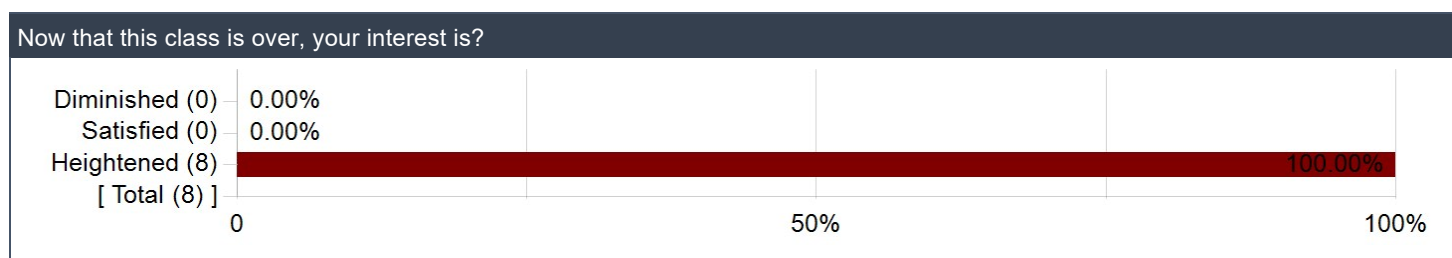
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



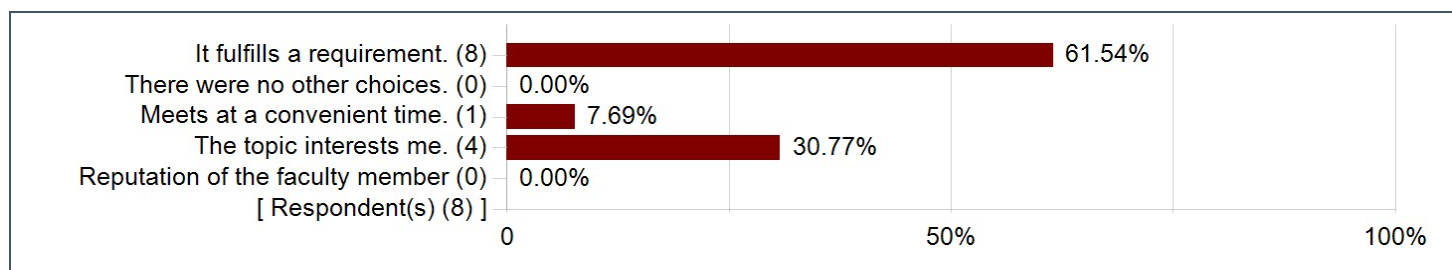
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



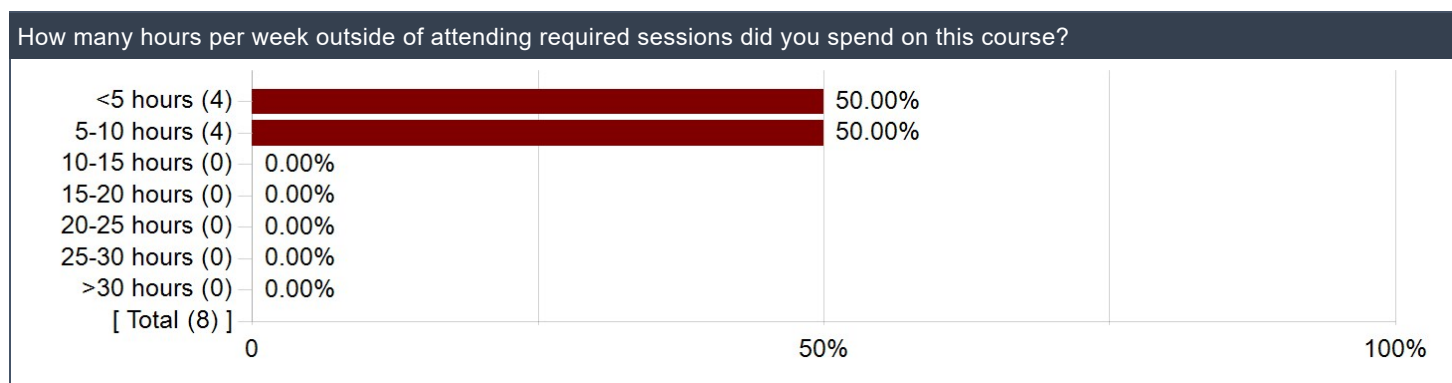
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



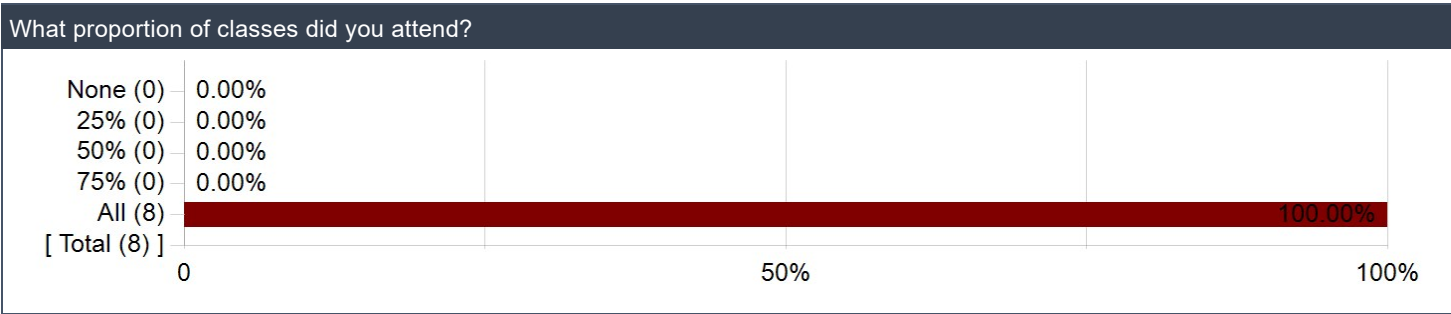
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



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

Comments
reasonable
The transition from 171 felt really natural! If you did well in the autumn course, you're definitely fine for the winter one!