



SOSC 17200 7 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community II - Instructor(s): Sarah Hammerschlag

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

Number Enrolled: **20**

Number of Responses: **10**

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
The most important thing I learned was the relationship between religion and suffering. The way different religions cope with the uncertainty of life.
How societies conceptualize the nature of suffering and evil and how groups and individual practices address these concerns. Also learn how to identify tensions, contradictions, and questions raised by a particular texts and how to analyze whether a text sufficiently resolves such.
I learned about religion
I learned how to connect texts and better from arguments for small papers
I learned how other religious traditions and cultures have dealt with the issue of suffering. In particular, this course has shown me how there are many diverse ways to respond to this issue as well as many common responses.
How to analyze philosophical texts and relate to the origins of world religions, the perspective of world religions on suffering and its meanings
How to write a good essay.

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

Comments
Aspects of the course that contributed to my learning were the mini lecture before the discussion to explain the concepts and how she encouraged us to lead the discussion.
Discussions were super helpful in terms of digesting and contextualizing the texts we read as well as having informative, thought-provoking discussions. Essay structure is incredibly unique and cool in terms of really diving deep into particular texts and authors.
discussions
She gave incredibly insightful lectures at the beginning of class that really helped to set up the material, and asked thought-provoking questions in order to direct discussion.
discussions were very fun and I always left having learned something new
The discussions were the most helpful in understanding the material because I was able to hear how others interpreted the text. The mini lectures that the teacher provided were also helpful in providing some context to the texts that we were reading.
Discussion sections were extremely helpful, Professor Hammerschlag is amazing
Constantly trying out new course structures: instructor leading the discussion and asking questions; allowing the students to have a conversation amongst themselves; slightly mediating the conversation. Really enjoyed that we talked about our discussion posts. Made me feel like I had a stake in what we'd learn and made me more interested in the topic. When this interest applies to all students, the conversations are more engaging and fun.
Lectures and discussions were fun and helpful

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	10.00%	0.00%	10.00%	80.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.70	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I personally found this class more interesting than SOSC 17100
Professor Hammerschlag has been my favorite professor I have had thus far. She is personable and very engaging. The style of the course was ideal for me with 4 shorter papers throughout the quarter as well.
One of the best instructors I've had at UChicago

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
My instructor was very nice and accommodating. She wants to make sure you learn and enjoy the topic. She is passionate and a great teacher.
Professor Hammerschlag is great at facilitating discussions as well as introducing real world examples to illustrate theoretical arguments brought up in certain texts.
Her enthusiasm
Literally everything about her. Sarah Hammerschlag is probably one of the best professors I have ever had at this university. She challenged me intellectually and was always accommodating when deadlines were difficult for me. She is so well-spoken and intelligent, and you can see how passionate she is about the subject and about fostering an environment that allows for thought-provoking discussion.
Prof. Hammerschlag knew how to teach while also express her own opinions, and you could tell she knew what she was talking about
I found the teacher's short lectures at the beginning to be helpful because she was able to provide more information about the texts and their authors such that I was able to understand these texts better. In addition, they also provided a nice introduction to the discussions we had.
Her insight and questions were so helpful to guide our discussion without controlling the entirety of it, she used the discussion canvas posts to formulate the discussion direction, which kept us engaged and put focus on the topics we found to be most interesting
Cannot speak highly enough about the professor. Always came to class smiling, always gave personal examples which contributed to her humility and relatability, always asking students what they were interested in talking about. It's hard to put into words the energy that she gives her students.
The class discussions were all super engaging and she did a great job of facilitating discussions. The readings were also not too unnecessarily long and felt like focused excerpts. I also enjoyed the format of the essays a lot.
Professor Hammerschlag 's style of facilitating discussions, which were student-driven but well-informed by her knowledgeable takes on the text, was incredibly helpful for understanding the texts we read.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
Essay deadlines at 5 pm was not ideal, but it did help me to get my work done.
N/A
Nothing, I loved this course
nothing!

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	80.00%	10.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	70.00%	10.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	80.00%	10.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.90	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	90.00%	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
Avi Waldman

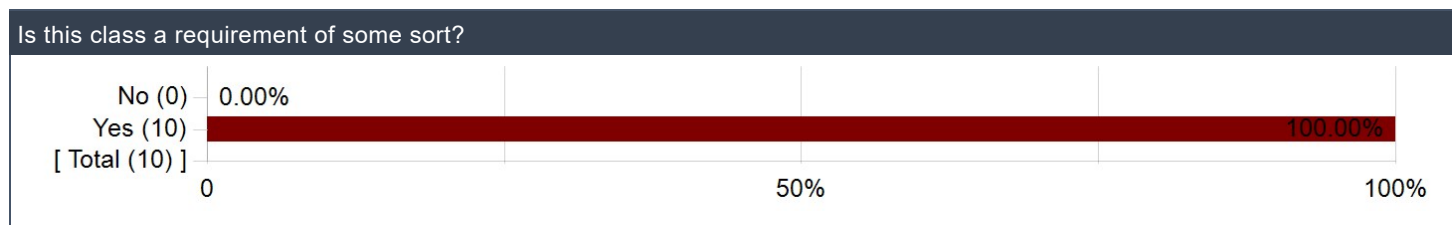
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	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%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

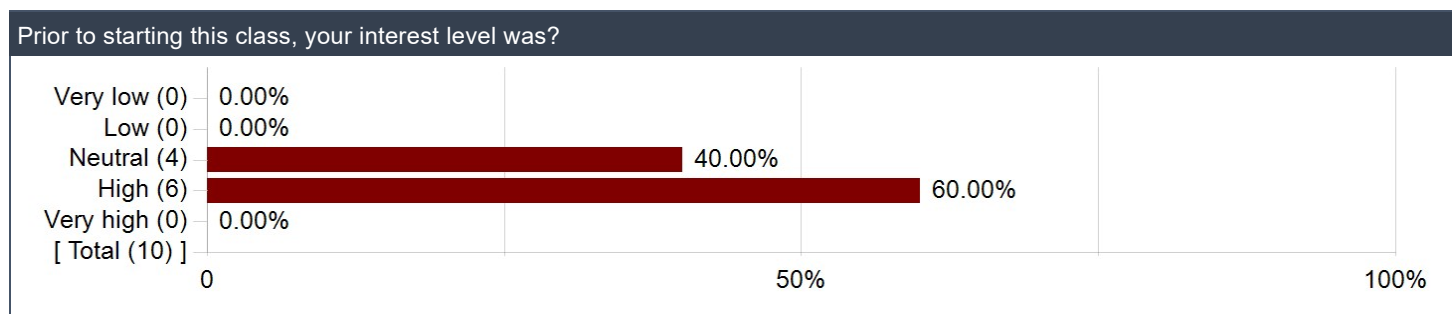
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.00	3.00	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%

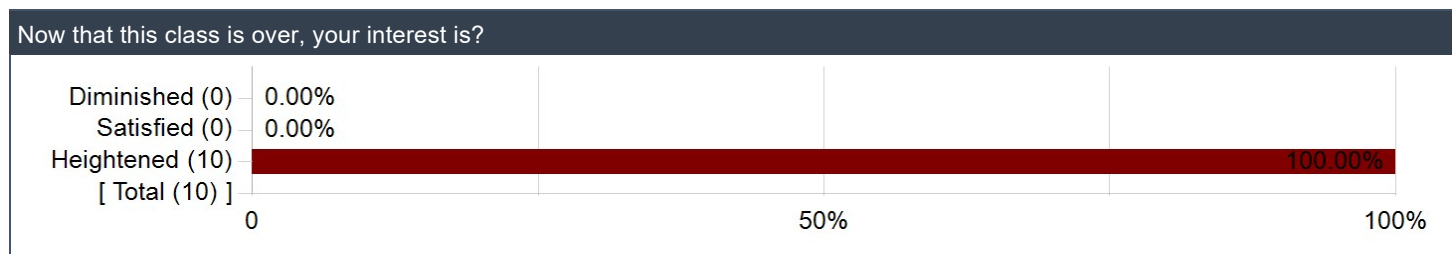
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



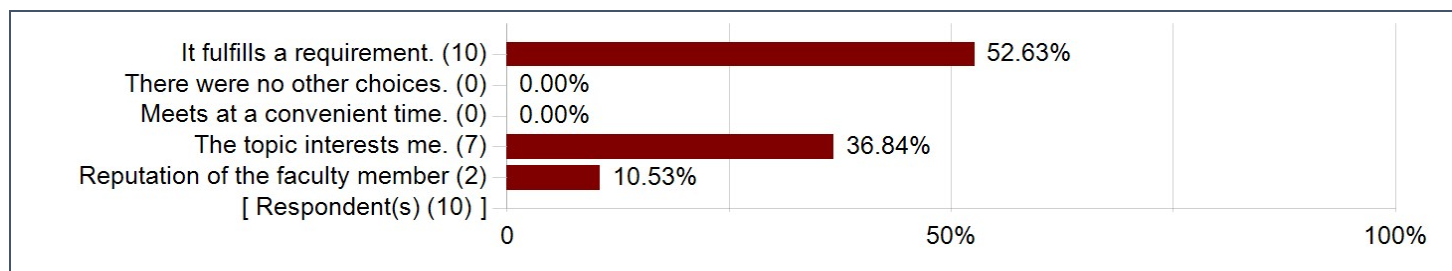
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



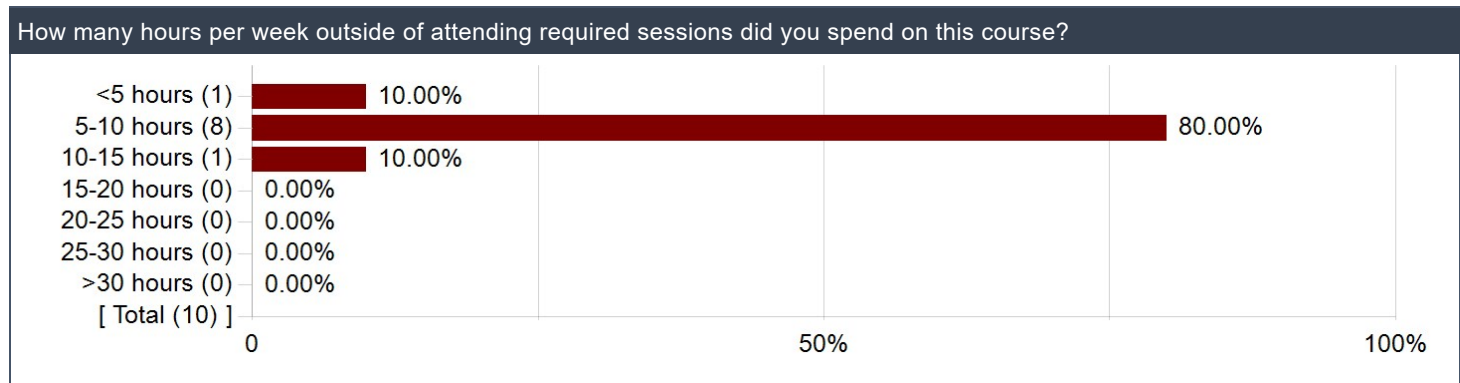
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



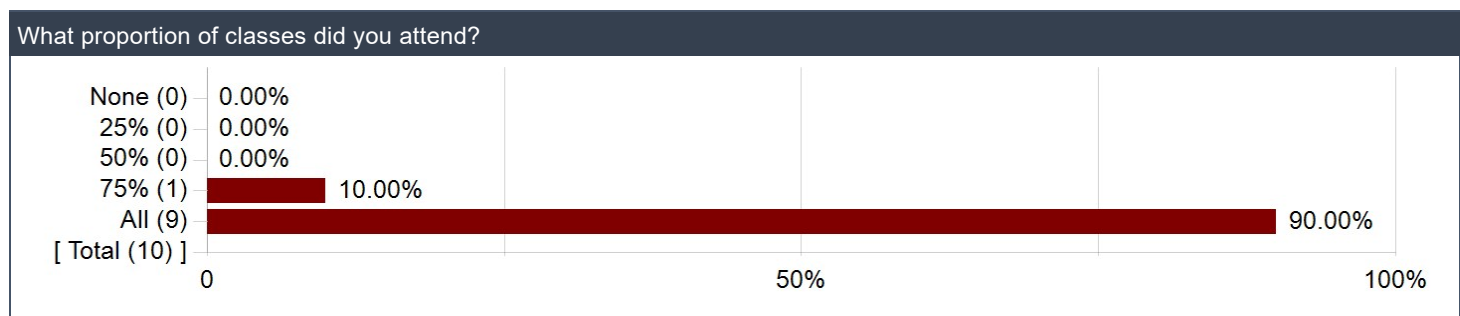
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
I think this course is a good level of difficulty for a SOSC class. She really wants you to not only get a good grade but learn which I found very refreshing at UChicago.
Some of the readings are pretty dense but essays were not that bad to write and discussions weren't too difficult to follow and engage in either
I think the expectations for this class were incredibly fair. Some of the readings may have been difficult, but these were often supplemented with extra video lectures.
obviously needs the fall quarter class, but very complimentary to the course overall
Most of the readings are short and interesting such that I was able to enjoy reading the texts for this class.
Limited experience with religion topics, very beginner friendly
Not very hard at all. The format of the essays really helped in mitigating the difficulty. Professor Hammerschlag is an excellent professor and super understanding, highly recommend it!