



# SOSC 17200 3 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community II - Instructor(s): Stephan Licha

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **14**

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## Report Comments

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

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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
Religious texts about suffering
Different frameworks with which to approach religious texts
How different religions consider and interact with human suffering
How different philosophers and religious traditions view suffering, body vs. soul, death
mostly about the psychology of Freud and applying it to different religious texts
A lot of Buddhist texts, Jewish and biblical texts, Christian, etc. A lot of interesting findings
Different views held throughout history on human suffering and how it can be reconciled either through religion or other methods. Read foundational texts for Hinduism, Taoism, Judaism, etc. as well as several more "modern" reflections on what it means to suffer as a human and what our ultimate purposes are.
I learned a lot about suffering and the relationship it has to religion. We learned about the nature of God, his contributions towards suffering, and how people cope with that suffering. We also read Nietzsche and Freud which were nice philosophical and psycho-analytical backdrops to view religion.

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

Comments
Discussions were helpful
Readings of course the most important, but class discussions excellently facilitated and very much add to your learning
The main part of the course is in-class discussions
The class sessions were helpful in understanding and diving deep into the text, and hearing other students' presentations on specific texts gave a lot of useful contextual information.
lectures were interesting sometimes but discussion was boring because none of my classmates had any real opinions
The texts weren't too long overall, and pretty interesting. We had 3 written assignments and a presentation. I thought that the presentations were a nice opportunity to get to know one text more, very low stress, and a nice change of pace. I really liked the way the essays kind of built on each other: the first was a close reading assignment, the second a creative assignment, and the third more of an academic paper (5–7 pages), with an argument, etc.
Discussions in the beginning of the quarter were pretty stimulating and interesting but eventually dropped off near the end of the quarter; I'm not sure why, it was just harder to engage with the text and with others in the class about the texts, and discussions suffered as a result. Essays were useful in allowing us to complexly develop our own perceptions of the text, but the second essay prompt (to recount the suffering of Job in the form of a Socratic dialogue led by religious/philosophical figures) was, in my opinion, too avant-garde and even a bit restrictive in that all it really instructed us to do was reconstruct existing arguments.
The discussions were very helpful. Licha does a good job of lecturing for a few minutes to share his knowledge, and then opens up the conversation to everyone. Every class you are bound to learn something.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	30.77%	61.54%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	61.54%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	15.38%	61.54%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%
I felt respected in this class.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	7.69%	76.92%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	0.00%	76.92%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
N/A
Religion SOSC is a great one, the discussions are always interesting and it's nice to not have to read dense theory every class
Professor Licha is an incredible teacher and I also just thought the content of the readings this quarter was more outside the box and creative.
Licha is amazing. He is a very reasonable grader and helps to push you towards improvement!

## 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
His guided discussions were very helpful
So much knowledge added through his guiding of discussions. Made the class more interesting.
The class discussions were led very well, with the right balance of the professor providing enough context/ideas for us to discuss without being overbearing.
Professor Licha's experience and knowledge of religion was very useful in providing context for the more complex texts
his background in buddhism and his enthusiasm for religion
Professor Licha was great at leading discussions!
Professor Licha was really great at leading discussion, attentive to comments anyone made and great at picking up on the points students were trying to articulate. Very encouraging of class participation, made sure everyone had time to think and speak. He also has a really warm and enthusiastic presence which makes class enjoyable and fun. I also liked that he gave a brief intro to the texts we were assigned to read for the upcoming class so we had some context.
He was very dynamic and understood the texts well. Sometimes it was just nice to hear how him lecture on the texts and not have to engage in discussion.
His mini lectures at the start of each class are very helpful in terms of orienting the discussion. He also does a good job of connecting each class together so the entire quarter is a continuous discussion. The presentations were also fun. It helps make the conversations more student-run, which helps you interact with your classmates better.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
Creating a more welcoming learning environment for everyone, it sometimes felt like he just wanted to lecture us and I'm also pretty sure that he did not know my name for much of the quarter.
make the content more exciting
Honestly, not much.
Give more in-depth feedback on essays. Provide more of an outline of how each text relates to each other and what that means for the overall theme of the course. The readings were all certainly related, but covering a shared theme is not the same as interacting with each other to say something overarching or concrete about the view of suffering through a human lens.
Nothing! I thought he was great!

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	78.57%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	64.29%	7.14%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	7.14%	78.57%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	21.43%	64.29%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	0.00%	78.57%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	21.43%	64.29%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	69.23%	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
Josh. Josh was personable, available, and gave good feedback/advice during one-on-one sessions, even if the writing workshop he ran was not particularly illuminating. He could maybe focus on talking a little more clearly because he speaks very fast and it is easy to lose track of his ideas.
Josh Wagner was very helpful. He was always available and encouraged you to come to office hours. I can say that my essays significantly improved after consulting with him.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	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.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%

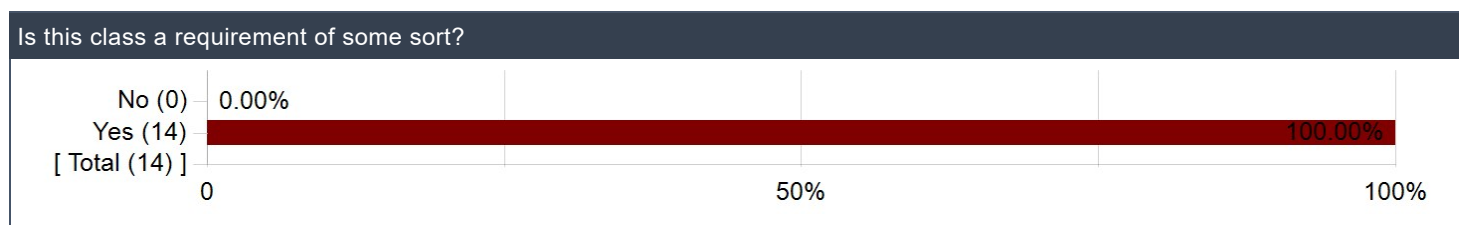
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	2.40	2.00	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%

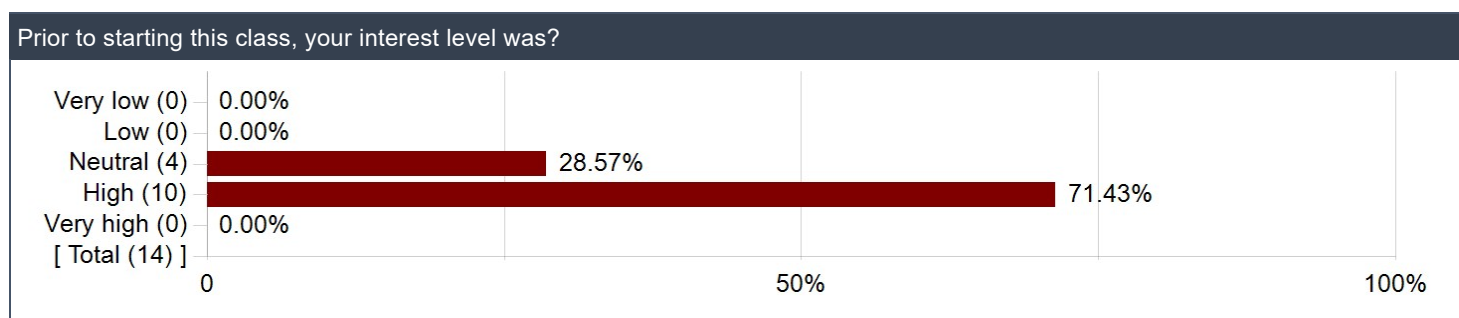
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A

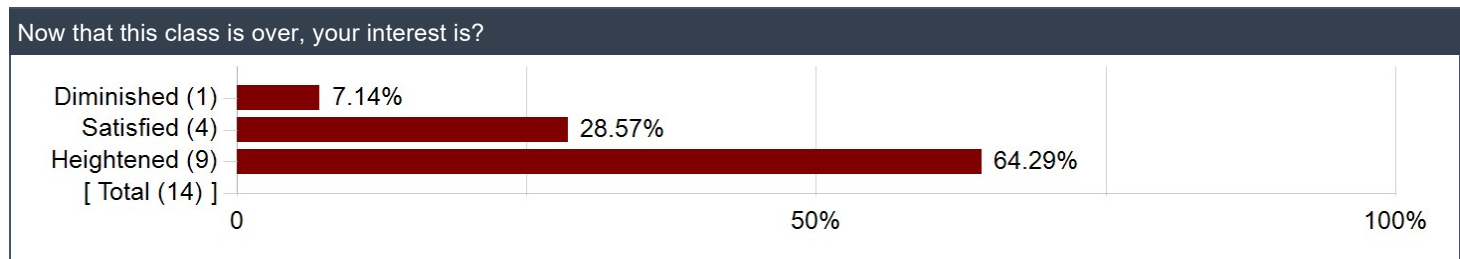
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



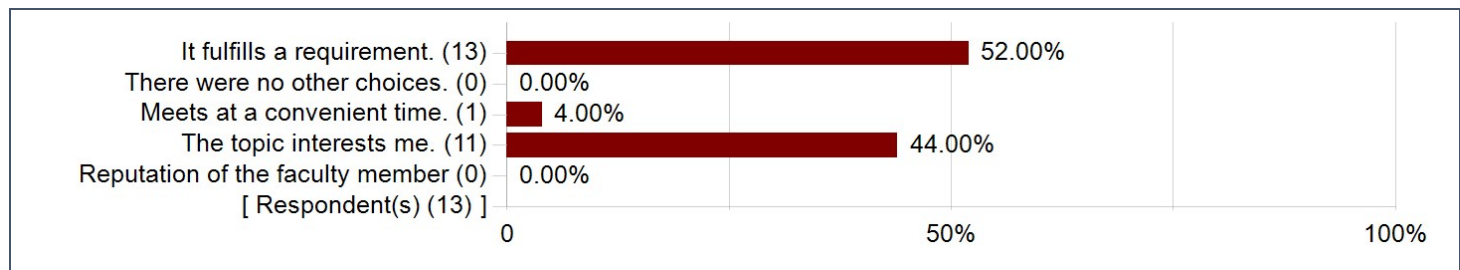
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



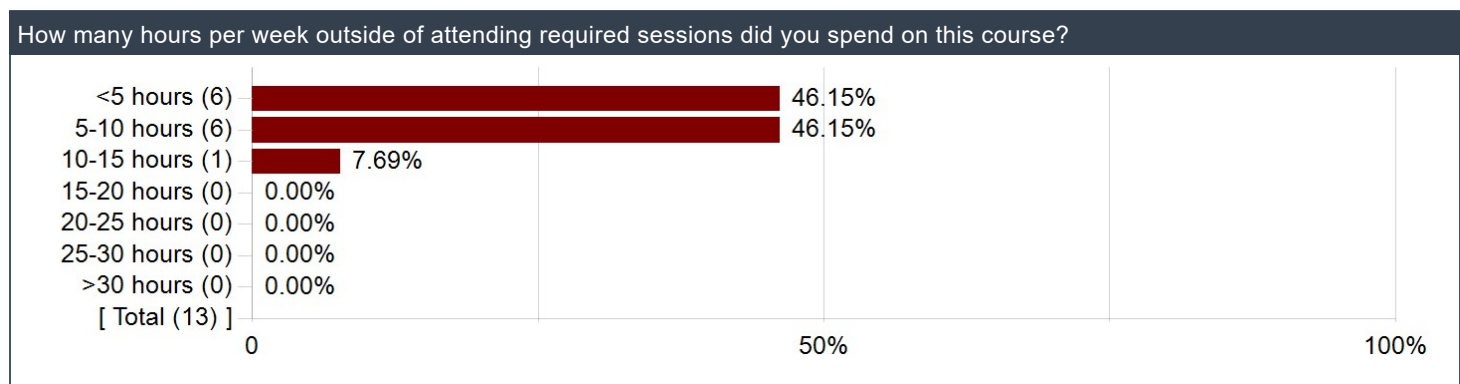
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



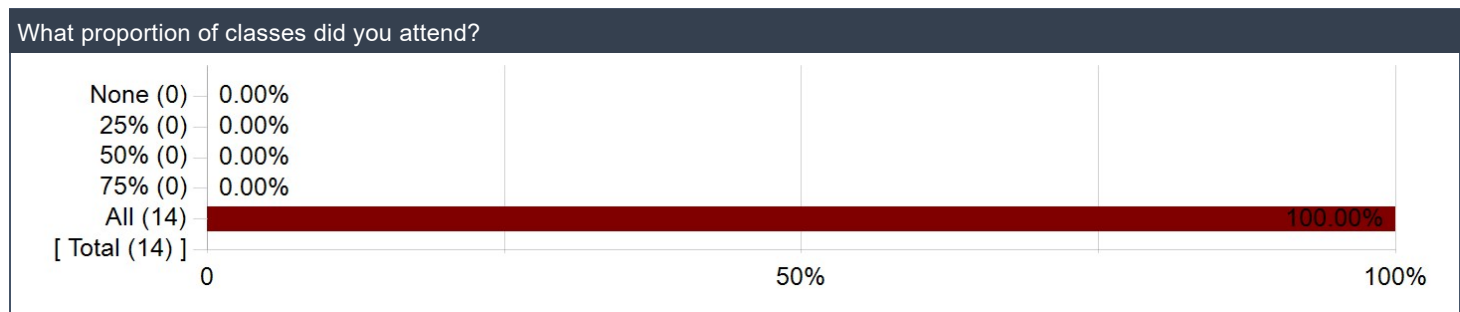
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Not very difficult. Some of the readings could be hard to understand but the essay prompts were very clear and fun to write about
Not too difficult, grading fairly nice
The writing is somewhat difficult, and the texts can be tricky if you don't have experience with the given religion, but it's manageable
not hard it just drags on
Not difficult. Requires some writing but there is a lot of support and Professor Licha is always available to meet.
Maybe it was just the difficulty of the winter, but I feel like the readings were longer and more difficult to get through than last quarter, and many (in my opinion) were just generally uninteresting. With that being said, having come in with only a quarter of SOSC behind me, it was very possible to get the basic gist of each text and contribute to class discussions. The essays were more involved than last quarter (where we only had 3 page papers) but this wasn't ultimately a problem because I found 2/3 of the prompts interactive and interesting.
It is not too hard. I would say Religion is a pretty accessible SOSC.