



SOSC 17200 2 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community II - Instructor(s): Ryan Coyne

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

Number Enrolled: **20**

Number of Responses: **13**

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
How different religions approach the question of mortality. Read more texts from specific religions rather than theoretical texts so I thought everything was more interesting.
How different texts approach topics like suffering, death, just etc.; improved on organizing thoughts and making connections b/w texts
How to understand texts and analyze them.
The broad interpretations on death and suffering and how to compare such disparate interpretations
Continuation from last quarter on religious texts, but this time with a focus on death, suffering, the self and the affirmation of life (as opposed to last quarter which focused on how collectives view/use religion).
The most important things I learned in this course is developing my writing and considering the role of suffering in a religious sense and how it is utilized.
I learned how to fully engage with difficult texts that I would not have paid attention to or thought I would have enjoyed otherwise. It truly taught me to put aside my preconceived notions of certain writers (Freud, Nietzsche) and to actually delve into the texts, as I quite actually enjoyed what I found and the experience of finding it.
I learnt a lot about the ways in which human civilization approaches suffering and evil.
I learned most generally how further to discuss religion in a social science context and to examine human patterns of religion-making and understanding evil and mortality.
I learned how to improve my writing. I learned how philosophers think about religion.
I learned about suffering and how it plays into religious and sociological beliefs.

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

Comments
We only read, discuss, and write essays. Which is my least favorite combo so I'm not sure how much of anything I actually retained personally.
The discussions are inspiring but sometimes a bit all over the place; the lecture proportion is very small and completely oral, mainly offers background for the readings & authors; three essays in total for one quarter
Reading, discussion, and essays are all very helpful.
discussions helped me develop my ideas. The professor was very prompt with grading and feedback; I was able to apply feedback from mistakes to make each essay better
Discussions helped understand readings! Also professor Coyne let us take class notes and share with everyone so we all had access to good resources.
The seminar style of the course invited open dialogue and for original thoughts that stemmed from the texts to emerge.
Class discussions were incredible. Professor Coyne gave every time right amount of background information and prompts to promote truly engaging, interesting discussions that really helped me engage with the ideas of suffering, death and evil in the context of religion.
All of the readings and essays contributed greatly to my learning! Every reading was chosen exceptionally well.
Discussions enabled ideas to be understood through conversation and lectures enhanced an understanding of the texts as religious and historical works.
The class discussions were helpful to understanding the texts we read for homework because they could be rather dense and hard to understand.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	8.33%	33.33%	41.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	41.67%	41.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	50.00%	41.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Sometimes readings are a bit hefty. Recommend starting them at least 2 days in advance. Unfortunately, this was rarely ever possible for me but I think it would help tremendously.
N/A
I was definitely able to take away as much from Religion as my peers in self or power gained. It's a more curated curriculum with higher value for each reading
Loved this course. I'm only upset that I won't be able to take more courses with Professor Coyne in the future.
I cannot recommend Professor Coyne enough! Absolutely incredible experience in this class

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
Not much because I just don't learn well from solely discussion, especially without visuals or any interactive aspect.
The professor makes connections b/w everyone's insights and provides affirmative comments
Discussion and his comments on my essays.
His enthusiasm and sense of humor made discussions fun to listen to
Discussions
The instructor allowed for all to participate in the dialogue while providing profound insight into the texts and occasionally adding part of his expertise that gave context to our direction of thought.
The professor's willingness to engage with students during discussions by treating them with a level of unassuming respect, that allowed us to feel as if we were truly engaging with these ideas on an intellectual level where all of our thoughts and views were just as valuable as any of his.
Our professor's familiarity with the material and genuine passion for the subject were hugely impactful
The professor's expertise in European theology helped strengthen that unit of the course, as well as an openness to fostering discussion.
Discussions
Professor Coyne would sometimes give little lectures about the background of the texts we had just read for class. These were helpful for my own understanding of the perspective the texts were coming from.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Incorporate small group discussion time prior to whole group discussion. Utilize visuals. Encourage students to talk more.
I hope the discussion section is more guided and if the whiteboard is used, it'll be better
N/A. Professor Coyne is perfect.
If the class is not starting off a conversation as quickly as usual, some prompts to spark dialogue would be interesting for beginning stances to be made.
Nothing at all. A+, truly.
Honestly, nothing. Maybe learning how to use canvas though
The professor could have controlled the conversation further along the lines of the text and prevented digressions, but digressions were good conversation.
I think it would have been better if we could have continued with our class summaries of the text. Also perhaps a mini introduction to the author and the text before each class would be useful.
Maybe let us have some small group discussions as a part of class instead of only having whole class discussions.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	50.00%	25.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	75.00%	8.33%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	83.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%	0.00%

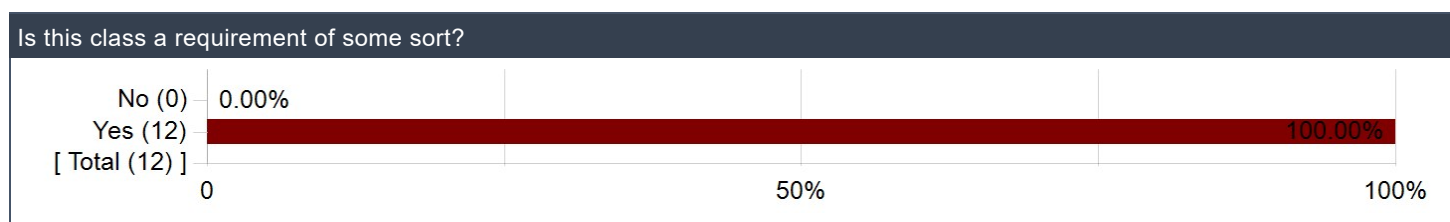
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Avi Waldman was an available resource for help.

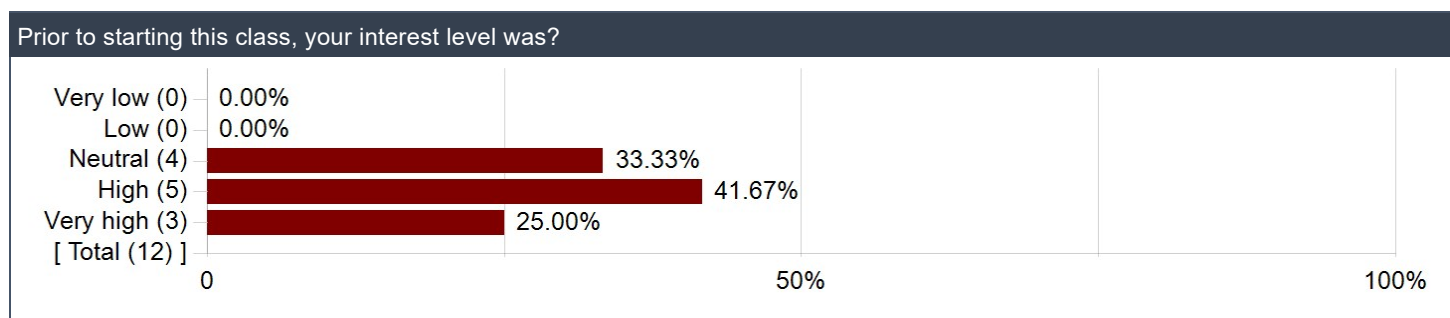
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Challenged you to learn.	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

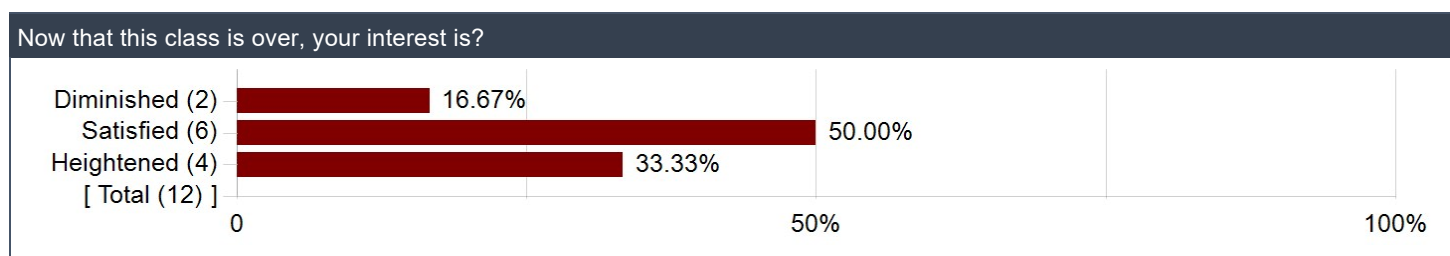
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



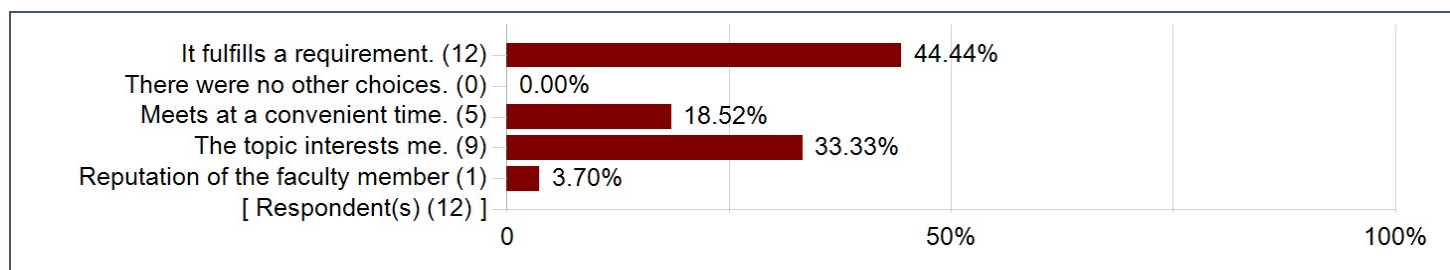
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



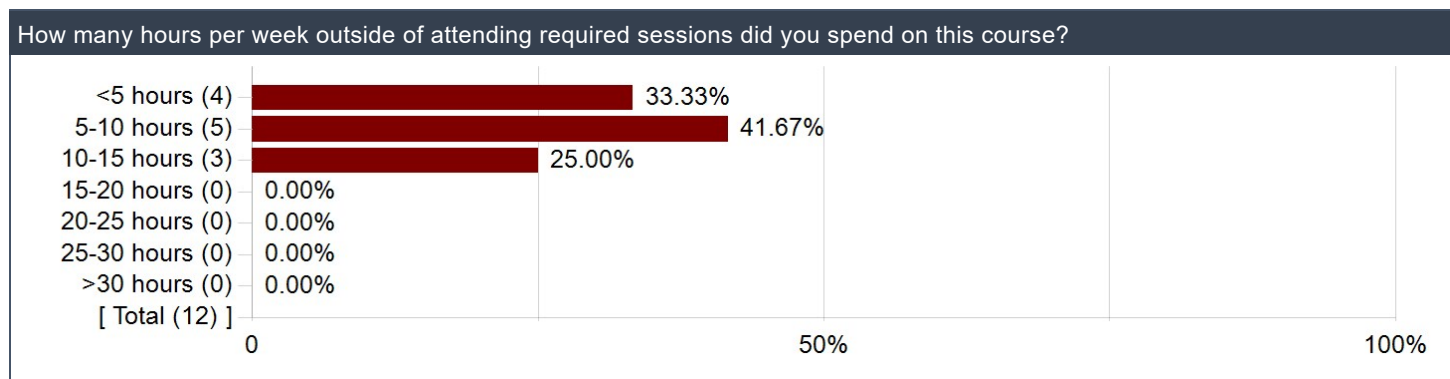
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



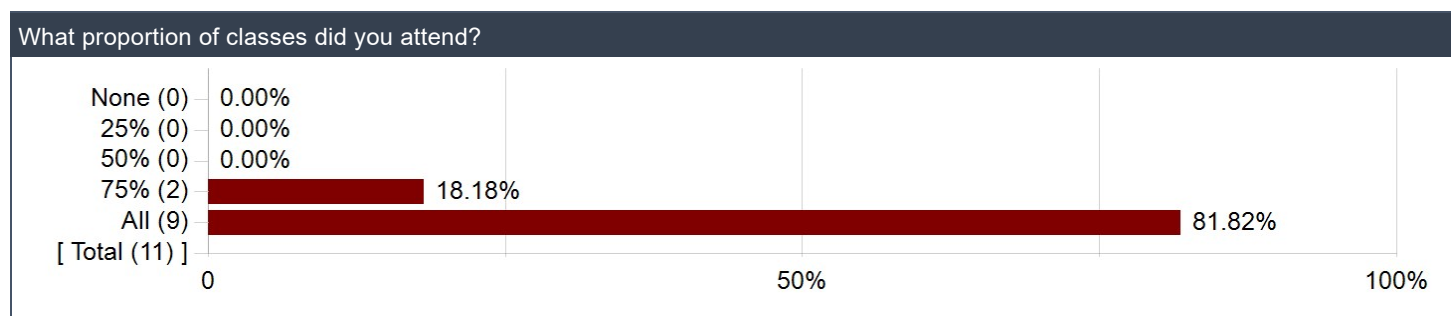
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Nothing too outrageously difficult as it's just reading and talking.
Just like another HUMA course to me as a first-year tbh, as long as you do your readings will be ok
Not very difficult.
It was about the same difficulty as the first quarter of the sequence, the professor was open to suggestions and feedback which made the course work with everyone's background and experience
Took first quarter— per usual, difficulty depends on your instructor. Professor Coyne can sometimes be a bit prickly on style of writing as well as how well-warranted ideas are (ie. if he doesn't understand it, there is no way he is crediting anything you say and sometimes he's on a different plane)— but his prickliness definitely pushes you to write better papers. He allows the first paper to not count for a grade and gives feedback that is extensively detailed (sometimes to the point of discouraging) but guides the way you write for the rest of the quarter. Professor Coyne doesn't care too much about grades and is on your side with them.
The level of difficulty of this course was a manageable level given my background and experience.
Truly an outstanding course. If you have a chance to take Religion SOSC with Ryan Coyne (the guy who wrote its curriculum), move your schedule around to do so. It's worth it.
This class was accessible, but did make me work hard
The readings are pretty dense. They vary in length but they usually took me a while to read through and understand. Otherwise no more challenging than the other SOSC and HUM classes I've taken.