SOSC 17100 2 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community I - Instructor(s): Alexandra Matthews

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

Number Enrolled: **18**
Number of Responses: **9**

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
The most important things I learned in this course were the correct approach to analyzing religion and the universal, underlying constancy of some form of beliefs in societies. Rather than detailing a certain religion's principles and rituals exempt of any societal context, this course delves into how the religion was meant to impact the society and disrupt the status quo. As a result of addressing different religions by looking at the societies behind them, there were parallels discovered that spoke to common denominators in beliefs that gain general traction.
I learned about how society and religion impact each other and how to understand the social structures that the faiths came from. Mirror reading was a new skill to me and the idea of understanding society based on the values a text promotes is a fantastic skill when analyzing texts.
The different definitions of what makes a religion, how they come to be, their play in society's dealings
I learned a lot about religious and sociological theory which was highly helpful for the rest of the class and also for classes I will take in the future.
The most important things I learned in this course was definitely how to read long texts and make a proper argument in a paper. Another really important aspect I learned in this course was how to properly present my ideas since a lot of the concepts in this course were abstract.
I learned to apply a sociological lens to religion and study religion in an academic context.
I learned about the role of civil religion and how religious texts reflect the cultures they emerge from.

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

Comments
Class discussions are conducted in a way that is able to engage every student in the room allowing for specific and open–ended conversations surrounding a given text. There is room given for thought extension and genuine discourse among everyone. The text is referred to often with outside thoughts being brought in to support, refute, or extend a concept in the text.
Assigned discussion posts on alternating weeks made my papers both easier to write and more thought provoking, as the discussions forced us to brainstorm and create a draft before writing. Assignments (papers) were informed by discussion and I felt like I got better with each paper.
The lectures were engaging and allowed me to get a better understanding of the text and new perspectives
The class discussions were very helpful for further understanding and contextualizing the homework readings. The discussion posts were also very helpful because they gave me space to brainstorm for my essay without stress because the class discussions would build off of the discussion posts and let me revise my ideas.
discussions were usually fun to be apart of. I thought the dynamic between the canvas post–to–essay pipeline for assignments were also really helpful since in a way it forced you to start thinking early about what to write about and functioned as a draft for your essay.
Lectures were very abstract and general–question based, while assignments were good applications of the reading and discussions from class.
The professor's lectures, which were rarely given, contributed the most.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	22.22%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.67	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	66.67%	11.11%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	33.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.22	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
As the course went on in the quarter, I found myself moving from apprehension to interest in the week's readings.
The setup of the course overall was fantastic. Group a/b organization made it a less tedious class, the class notes and text summarizer gave references to aid knowledge before, during, and after class.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	11.11%	88.89%
Anyone interested in the topic	11.11%	88.89%

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

Comments
The teacher thinking beside student thought rather than above and superior to student thought definitely makes the class more engaging. This allowed everyone involved not to simply repeat what someone else says for sake of participation credit but building off of each other in a profound way that made way for deeper thought.
The instructor's genuine passion for the texts was greatly motivating. I like how she allowed the occasional tangent during class discussion.
The interactive activities, being able to discuss with classmates
Professor Matthews is really good at leading class discussions and prompting students to look in directions that we might not have though about on our own.
Professor Matthews always gave useful background for readings and facilitated great discussion
The instructor was very open to comments about religion that did not conform to the reading (but was able to comfortably reign in discussion when it veered into the bizarre).
Her lectures.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
To help me learn more the instructor could inform me on what I could do better on any assignments in a clear way that makes me identify what I can improve on and communicate my ideas better.
add the guidelines for essays under modules or assignments and not only buried within the syllabus.
nothing
We could have had a less digital class and more conversation focused–class, but otherwise it was quite good.
Provide lectures, correct students, guide discussions.
More background information on the text, and perhaps some variety in discussions

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.11	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.11	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	55.56%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	33.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	77.78%	22.22%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.11	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%	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
TA Mara Caden does a great job of explaining how to properly convey ideas in a given paper that gives as much context to the reader that the writer has in their mind. There's nothing specific that needs to be modified.
Writing Advisor– Mara Caden Mara was super helpful and accommodating around my hellish schedule. She made the writing workshops valuable and made sure we understood the value of the activities we workshopped. Sosc writing is different in many ways, and Mara understood how SOSC writing differs from other types of essays so we knew where to focus our attention based on prior knowledge.
Mara Caden. she was there for like 2 classes

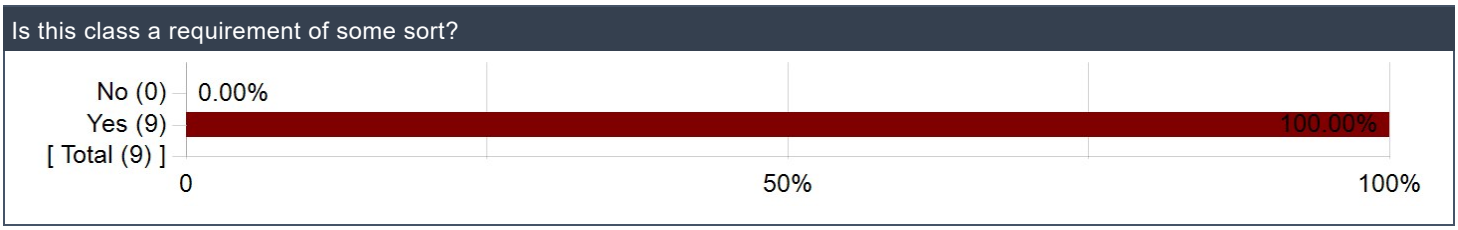
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	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.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%

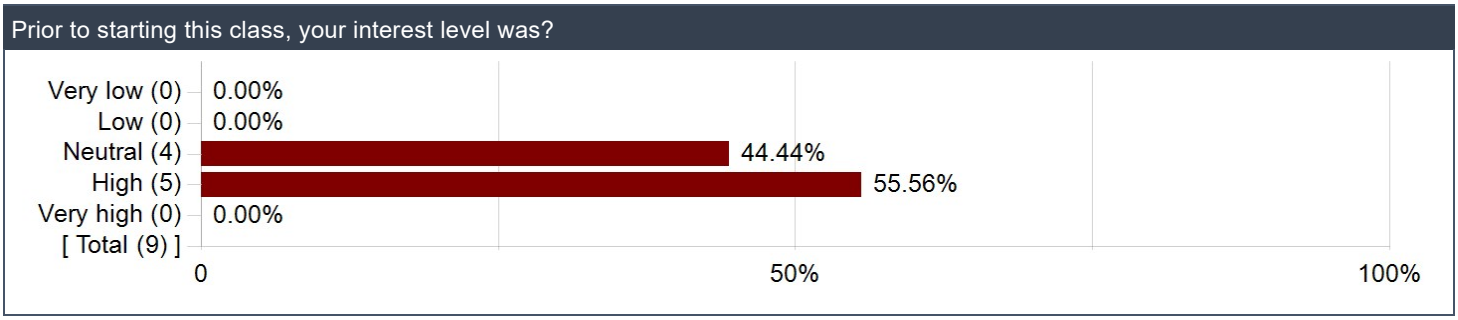
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	2.67	2.00	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%

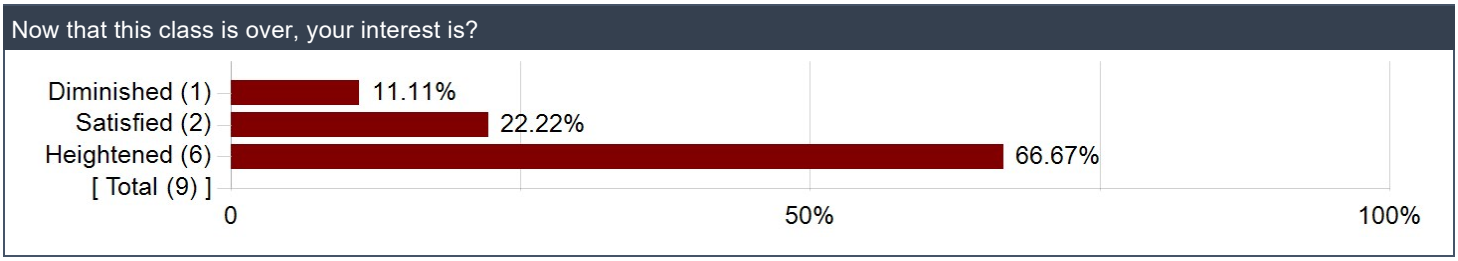
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



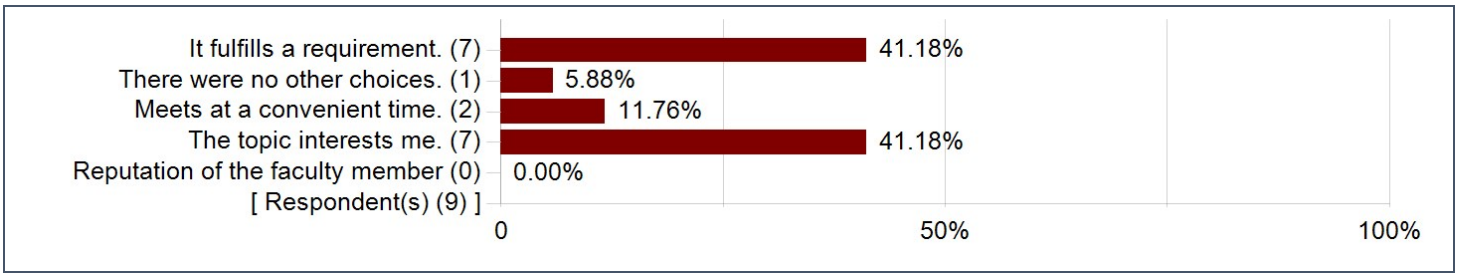
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



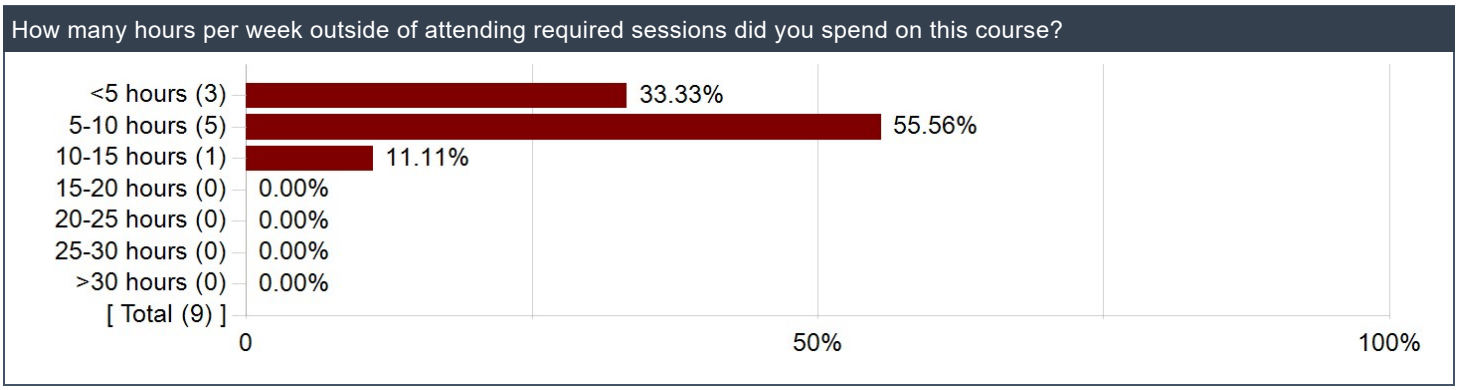
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



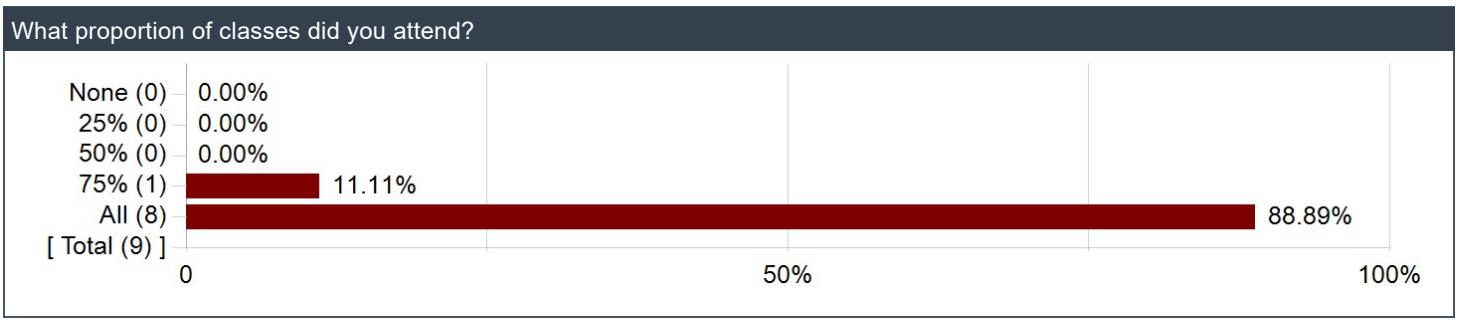
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
The level of difficulty might be higher given that I'm a first year for me but overall I think that it was good for any background and experience.
The course was moderately difficult in terms of content because there's a LOT of historical context surrounding all the texts.
Difficulty in regard to the way it makes you think, but very engaging for anyone who is willing to expand their perspectives
This course wasn't too difficult. If you have ever taken a reading heavy discussion class, this class is not too challenging in both the amount of content and the depth we discussed.
very managable if you put in effort