



SOSC 17200 5 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community II - Instructor(s): Alexandra Matthews

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

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
We cover a breadth of material in this class that means you have to tie them together based on themes. We discussed much about the afterlife, the nature of the human soul, and how to achieve purity. Through this, we discovered how to draw commonalities between vastly different cultures based on their teachings.
The way that different forms of religious thought and discussions about religious thought shape the way we view and interact with society.
Bafflement is central in religious text.
Standard Sosc
Close reading skills, give peer review on essays, find ambiguities in text
Most of this course revolved around how to examine suffering, as well as how to respond to it, from a religious perspective. This began with Freud's "Civilization and its Discontents", which stated that our civilization, in its repression of natural desires, is the primary cause of suffering. Most of the later texts were examined as a response to that, either agreeing with, disagreeing with, or modifying Freud's claims. Analytical writing skills were also gained, of course, through the short papers that students needed to write.

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

Comments
Classes generally were made up of class-wide discussions or smaller group discussions. Essays were based on shorter reading-based discussions. Both helped tie the content of the course to the reading.
Discussions were helpful and engaging.
Class discussions were great. It was very helpful.
lectures twice a week, two seminars for the quarter, discussion posts every other week, two short essays, two peer review assignments
Most of the learning took place during the discussions, which was where the ideas of the texts, as well as their applications, were most deeply explored. The assignments, which included readings and papers, were also good, as the texts allowed for the understanding of primary sources, and the papers allowed students to collect their thoughts and make their own opinions on the texts. The writing workshops, however, were not extremely helpful, as they tended to cover content that students had already heard many times.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	55.56%	22.22%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	44.44%
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.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Honestly don't love the content of this class (I liked maybe two of the readings) but prof was really great. Made it enjoyable.
I would like more extensive feedback on essays.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
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 instructor's flexibility in general made the class easier and more stress-relieving.
Professor Matthews organized class discussion on a whiteboard by taking notes on what we were saying. This helped us refer back to previous points and topics.
Prof. did a really good job at moving discussions along. She knows how to prompt discussion and switch gears when conversation gets dry.
Our class lectures and discussions
The instructor's facilitation of discussions contributed the most to my learning, as all ideas and interpretations of the texts were allowed. The instructor also gave context to many of the texts, which made them easier to understand. The peer reviews of the papers also contributed significantly to learning, as they allowed papers to be re-examined under new eyes before they were submitted, allowing for edits that the author would not have known were necessary on their own.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I think the assignment asking to "identify a tension in the text" is a bad one. It would have been much better, in my opinion, to ask us to formulate a question related to religion broadly and then answer it based on a reading.
I would have liked slightly more feedback on my papers. Since we are expected to grade ourselves in this class, I would have liked more information on what I did well and what I should work to improve in my academic writing.
You don't get grades and you do self evaluations instead. I think this is a cool grading system but it would be helpful to have a little bit clearer standards so you can know what grade to give yourself.
N/A
To help me learn more, the instructor could have offered grades on the papers, as while feedback was given, it was difficult to tell whether a paper was well-written. It would have also been better if we were not expected to grade ourselves, which caused unnecessary stress.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.13	4.50	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	22.22%	44.44%	11.11%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	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.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%	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
Sarah Jeffries was my TA, and she's very helpful in discussing ways to write essays. She also has good energy, which is good for a TA
Sarah was helpful.
The TA for this course was Sarah Jeffries. The feedback that the TA gave on the papers was useful. To help us learn more, the TA could have devoted writing workshop time to examining papers that students had already written so they could learn from their personal strengths and weaknesses.

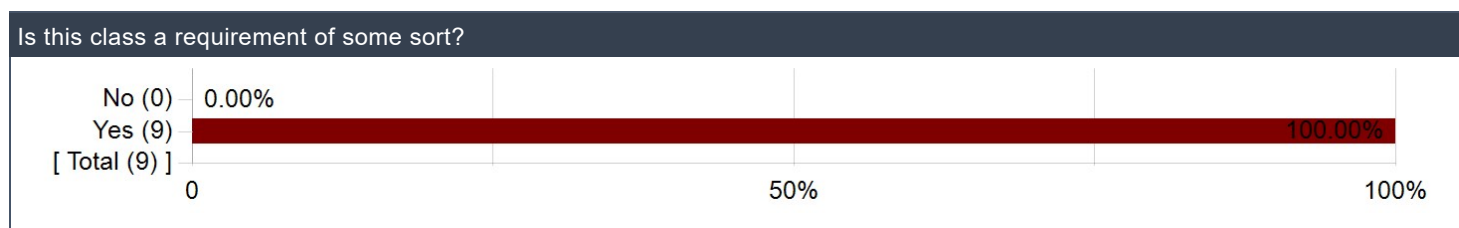
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	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.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	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.	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%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

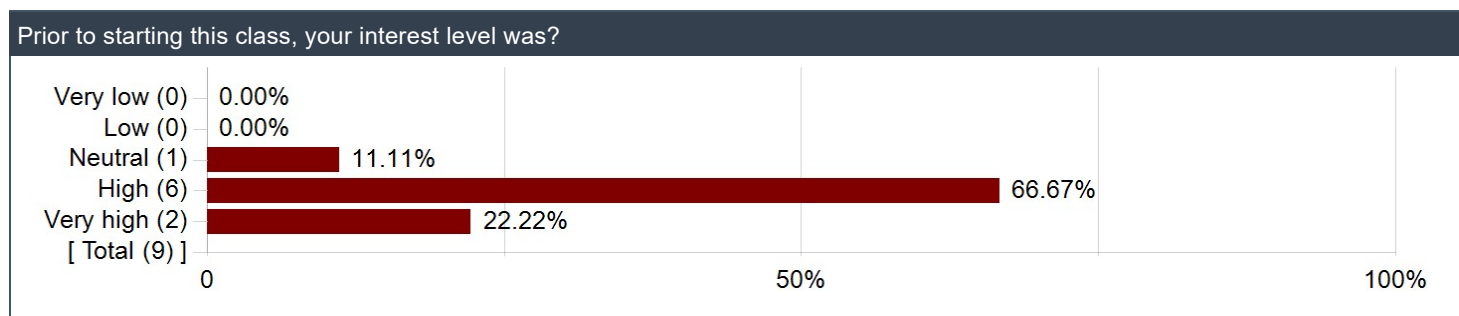
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.00	4.50	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%

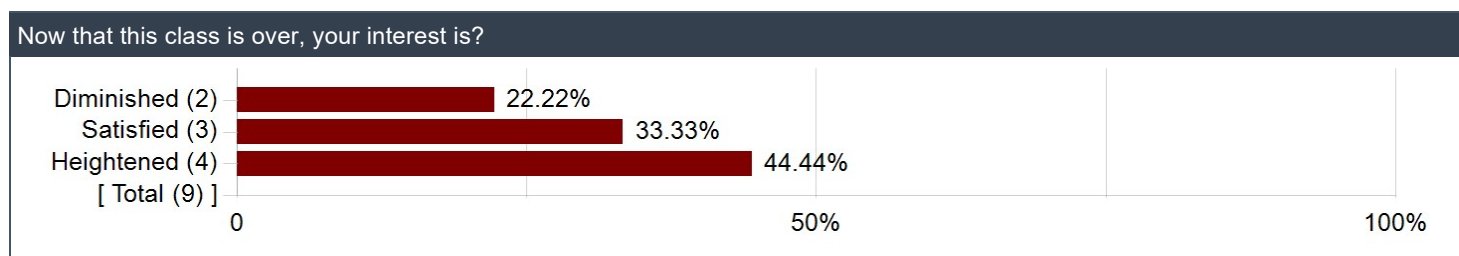
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



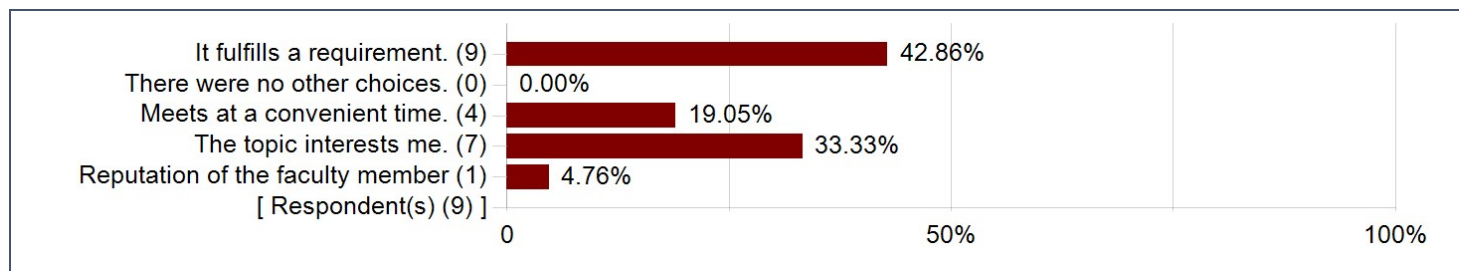
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



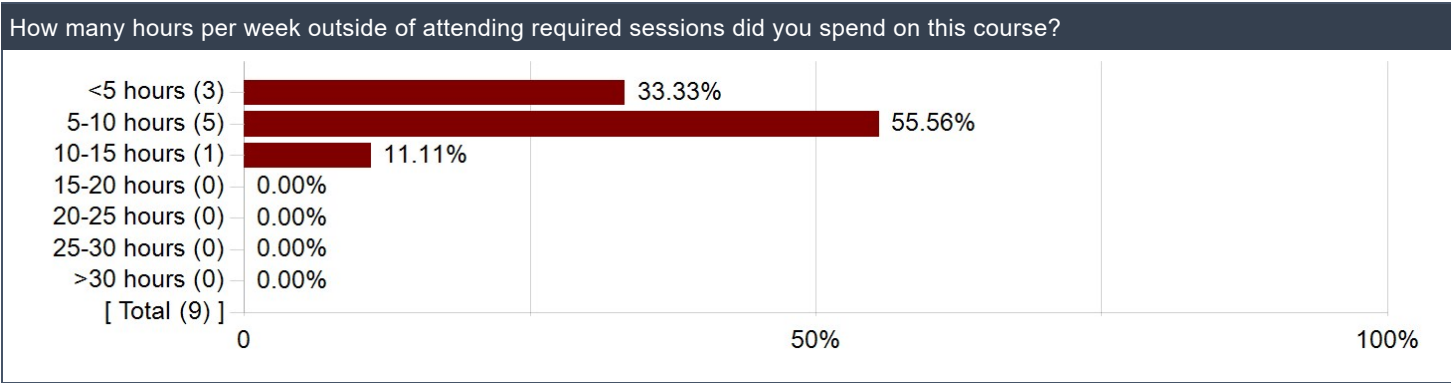
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



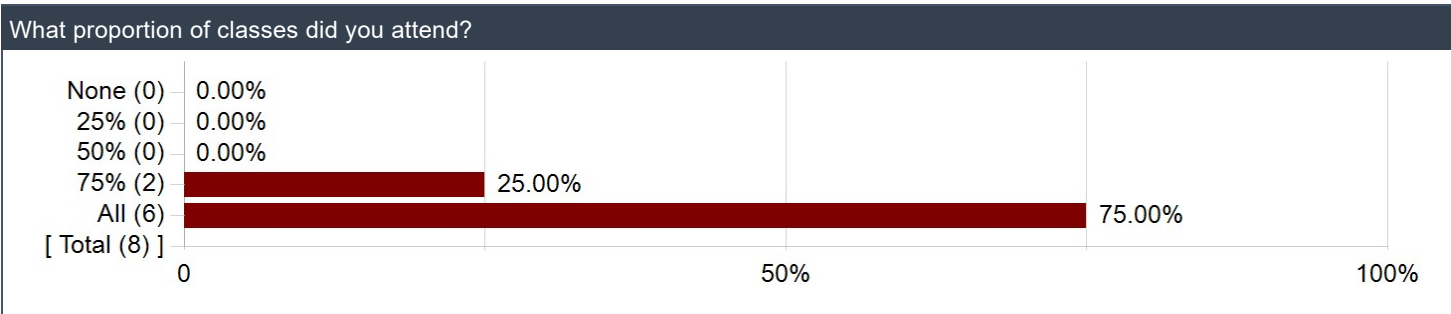
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
6/10
The difficulty level of this course was relatively well-suited to my background and experience.