



SOSC 17100 1 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community I - Instructor(s): Joseph Haydt

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **15**

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
How to better cement my arguments in the text and elaborate fully in the argument.
Analyzing texts.
I learned about the founding principles of a lot of different religions, and even a few philosophies attached to that. Also, I touched on what defines a religion.
How religion acts and exists within different models of civil society, different religious models, etc
I learned how to apply my understanding of the readings to society and dig deeper to understand the meaning and purpose of religious structures.
Different religion concepts. Ways of interpreting sacred texts.
How to think about the importance of religion in society.
how to analyze religious texts and different philosophical theories of religion
I gained an understanding of Durkheim's definition of religion as outlined in his book The Elementary Forms of Religious Studies. I also learned how this text can apply to different forms of social organization and relationships between law, society, and how this manifests as religion.
We learned to dive very deeply in connecting the religious aspects of theoretical texts and religious texts to real world examples. Heavily discussion based critical thinking type stuff.
How to talk through texts using a mix of both philosophical theory and direct religious texts

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

Comments
Discussions really helped with fully understanding the text.
The discussions and essays are very helpful.
The classes are all reading and seminars. The seminars just depend on who's speaking and how much, but Prof. Haydt knows so much so he is very willing to share and expound throughout class.
Class was a combination of lecture and discussion and was fascinating. The class will be as interesting as you make it – participation really, really works.
Discussions were very productive and opened my eyes to new information and perspectives.
Professor Haydt's lectures are inspiring and interesting. His assignments are reasonable and worth–exploring.
I think early lectures before the discussions were very helpful at getting the main point of the text in view before discussion.
Discussions were helpful for developing the understanding of the text for later essays. Professor Haydt is a very engaging speaker and also is very available outside of class for talking about essays.
Prof. Haydt was great at facilitating discussion, essays were graded quickly and kindly
The lectures were excellent and always related directly to the text for the given day. The professor was very good at recapping the texts and helping students understand it better. The essays are the only writing assignments for this course and were directly related to the readings with multiple options given for each essay.
We only did discussions for this class which I mostly zoned out of. But when I was tuned in, I was able to write notes and use them when I wrote my papers. The only other aspect of the class were 3 relatively short papers (like 3 pages double spaced) which actually helped me dive more deeper into certain texts and I understood them more but only after we had discussed them in class.
Discussions were great (can get a bit tiring because you are talking about a single reading for 2 hours); regardless interesting. The readings are diverse and a good mix.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	26.67%	60.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Super cool course! There is a LOT of reading, but it's worth it. What you get out of the course depends on what you put into it.
Highly recommended!
Love this class — love Professor Haydt!!!

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
Really getting into the discussion and helping us along when we were struggling with the meaning of a passage.
Dr. Haydt cares a lot about his students' improvement. He is very nice and helpful.
All of class is a seminar. Many of these were just the professor speaking, which can be hard, but Professor Haydt knows a lot about all that we learned and is very passionate about everything.
Lectures and actual explanation of some of the harder texts. Listening to Haydt's interpretation and his guiding of our discussions was really important personally. We were always really encouraged to ask questions and comment things related to the text.
Dr. Haydt is very good at leading the conversation and posing questions that make you think.
Professor Haydt's lectures.
I found benefit in the instructors response to the students questions and statements.
Definitely his very engaging style of facilitating discussions in class. He's very good at analyzing the texts in class and seems very excited to discuss them as well.
his passion is infectious i had a great time
The instructors enthusiasm contributed heavily to my learning. He is very passionate about the topic and that is reflected in the assignments, readings, and essay prompts he gives.
I actually think that the spontaneous cold-calls on me helped to participate during discussion.
When we speak in class, he does a great job facilitating further thoughts for other people to bounce off of and interacting with anything you say so you don't feel like you're talking to a wall. He does a good job making you feel respected.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Sometimes it would be a bit more helpful if we had more small group discussions. I felt that those were also a nice way to hear more about what other people were thinking without the pressure of speaking in front of the class.
N/A. He is an excellent instructor.
Seminars are hard to control, but ensuring that a conversation gets going rather than just one person talking the entire time would be helpful. Also, moving office hours would be very nice.
Small group discussions were really nice, especially when we could each share out what we talked about at the end – it made up for the days were I felt engaged but couldn't quite formulate thoughts/was nervous to speak an unformed thought to the whole group.
Nothing.
n/a Professor Haydt is wonderful and patient.
Nothing it was very good!
nothing
I do not think the instructor needs to modify anything.
I believe that adding in more variety with presenting information other than just readings would be helpful. And while in class adding more hand-ons elements would help keep everyone engaged.
Maybe if we had some ideas to look for in the text beforehand, it could help us get centralized discussion? There were occasions when classmates would be on different pages of what they focused on and sometimes texts can be long and hard to understand—it might help us begin discussions or know what to focus on in readings.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	66.67%	20.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	20.00%	73.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	13.33%	73.33%	6.67%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.87	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	86.67%	0.00%

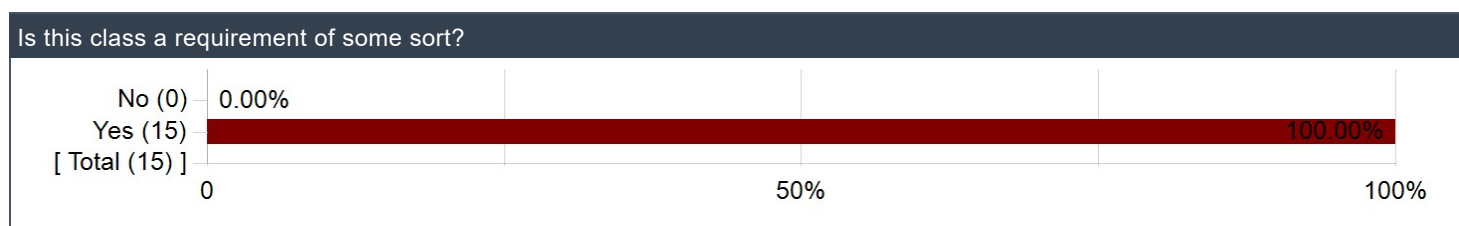
Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Avi Waldman
We had Aviva Waldman as a Writing Assistant. She was really helpful and flexible and helped me out with my first essay.

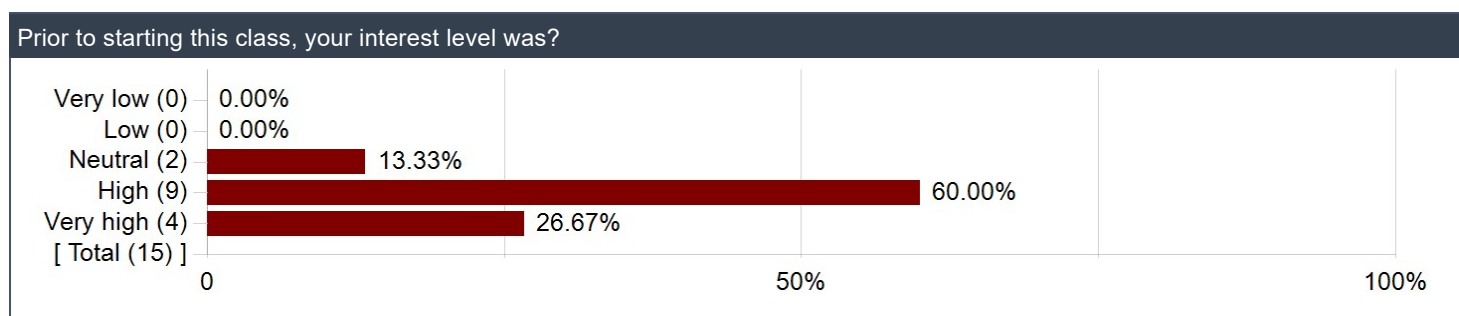
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	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.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
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.	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
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%

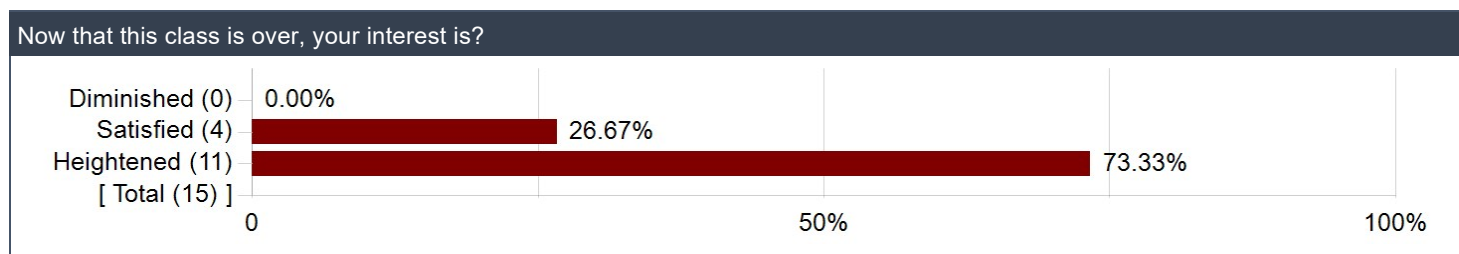
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



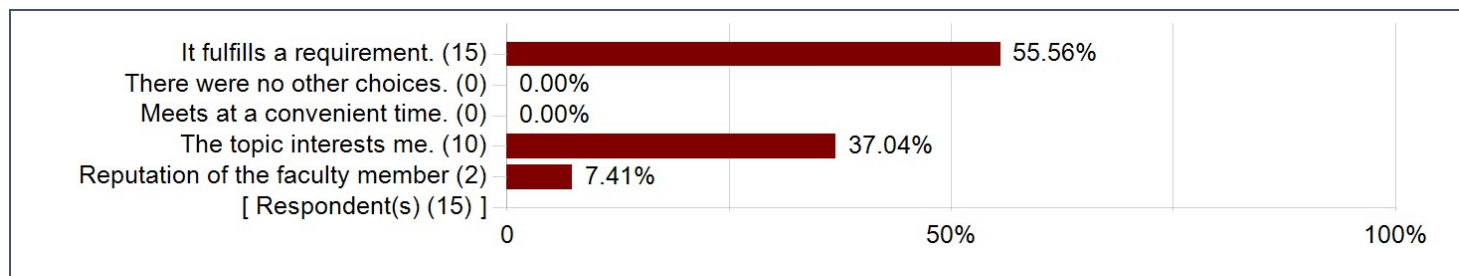
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



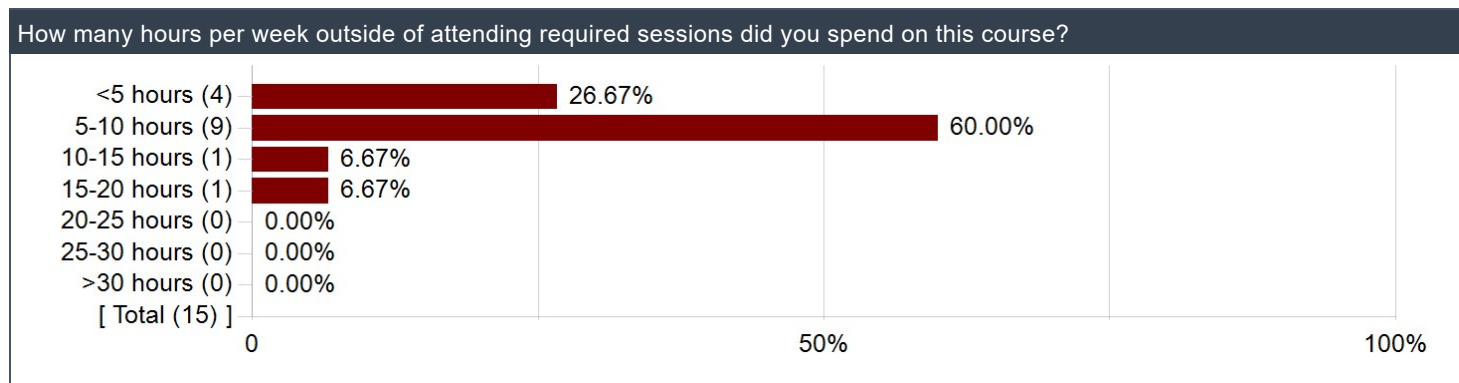
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



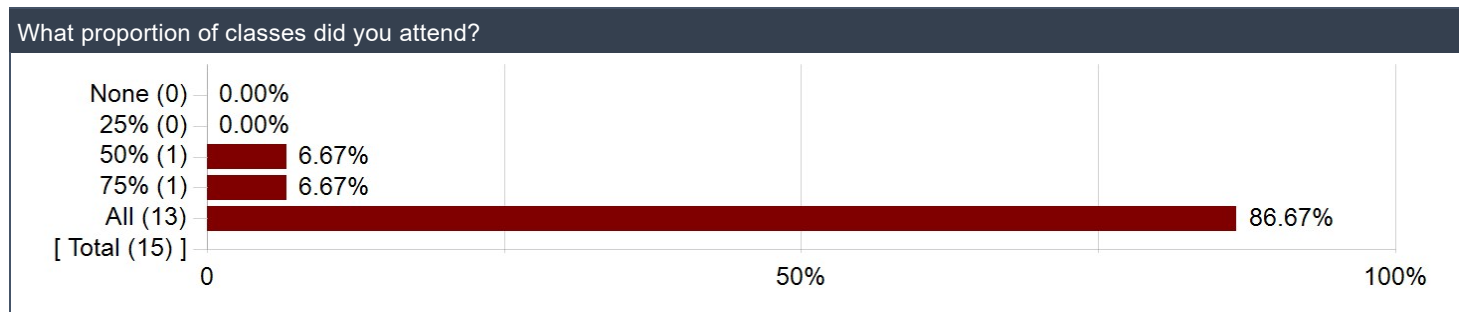
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
There is a lot of reading, so if you have trouble skimming, it will take a lot of time. I had no background experience in evaluating religions like this, and I was stuck in an English major perspective of looking at texts, but it is definitely doable. Just don't be afraid to ask questions in seminars. The material and professor are awesome!
Not hard to manage; reasonable workload; grading was lenient
Totally accessible for no background in religious studies, but I did have a very strong interest in it, which I recommend because the reading is not light. However, this is both one of the easier and more entertaining socs in my opinion, so definitely take this!! I recommend Prof Haydt a great deal as well.
The texts were a bit difficult to read at first because I haven't read philosophy very often, but I was able to understand better after asking questions.
Manageable.
Medium level difficulty.
No prior background in religious studies, not especially difficult but kind of time consuming.
never took a religious class before nor am i religious, the course was very accessible
The course was appropriate for anyone who can confidently write a four page paper.
This wasn't that difficult of a course but you definitely have to do at least a portion of the readings to be able to contribute. I don't think we talked about anything outside anyone's wheelhouse before coming into the course.
Not too difficult; you just have to have a genuine interest in the readings!