



# SOSC 17300 7 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community III - Instructor(s) - Foster Pinkney

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **8**

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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, July 11, 2024**

**What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.**

Comments
we learned about the different thought processes of MLK, gandhi, john locke, and marx
This course focused on how religion influences government systems and protest.
This course has taught me how religion has helped form societies and how different people have visualized religion's role is in society.
most of the readings dealt a lot with religion in the political / social activism sphere! we read mlk, malcolm x, foucalt, arendt, etc

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

Comments
lectures
The in-class discussions were ineffective at contributing. The seminar format fell short because our class was placed in a lecture hall and not a regular classroom. I also found our professor's teaching style to be rather ineffective. Whether the classroom or the teaching style, most people were disinterested and disengaged. In the other two quarters, people were highly involved.
Discussions were great. Professor Pinkney is great at explaining key concepts and facilitating good discussions around interesting texts.
While the readings were long, most of them were interesting because the ideas of the author were usually interesting. The presentations at the start of class were helpful as a review of the important topics and themes of the reading of the day. The actual discussions were occasionally helpful in my learning because they sometimes allowed me to view a text differently.
i guess the discussions were the most helpful, but they also weren't the most interactive. the set up of the class felt more like a lecture, which was strange to get used to, and it was difficult to get any real discussion going. pinkney posted the slides we followed after class, though, which was good for referencing back to!

**Please respond to the following:**

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.57	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%	14.29%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.29	3.00	0.00%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	14.29%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.43	4.00	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.00	3.00	0.00%	42.86%	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	66.67%	16.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.50	3.50	16.67%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	33.33%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
NA
the texts for this quarter were great!
I personally found the first two quarters of Religion Sosc a lot more interesting than this one, but it did follow in the theme of the others
For the first two—quarters of the religion SOSC sequence, I absolutely loved the class. This quarter has eclipsed that, leaving a rather negative stain on a positive learning experience. This quarter's content was not interesting, and our discussions were dry as a result. I feel as though the third quarter of religion sosc was not actually about religion, it felt like I was taking Self and not Religion. The first two quarters were grounded in theological text; the absence of this material made it hard to understand the purpose of what we were learning. I truly enjoyed the course until this quarter.
Professor Pinkney is a great Professor and texts this quarter were incredibly relevant and interesting.
For this last part of the sequence, I spent more time in doing the readings due to the length of them than I did for the last two parts of the sequence.
i think the readings were really interesting, but the way they were presented was definitely a bit off—putting!

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	14.29%	85.71%
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
i loved the professor! easy grader and made the assignments and class time worth attending because there wasn't too much pressure – everyone should be like him
presentations! they were amazing
The format of the course was not effective. A presentation with quotes from the reading did not facilitate any discussion. Most people in the class were completely disengaged because there was no actual discussion. This was not a seminar class, but a lecture with people occasionally saying something.
Having students present on each text helped out a lot in terms of learning it almost twice as Professor Pinkney would cover the text himself afterwards and introduce new insights.
I liked how he tried to incorporate small group discussions into some of the discussions because it allowed me to discuss with others about the text.
Each class began with a student presentation on that class's reading, which was very helpful both as the student presenting (as you had to know the reading thoroughly) and as a student in the audience, as these presentations were always understandable and helpful.
the slides! it was nice to have something to follow along with, especially if you couldn't do the readings super closely.

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

Comments
maybe get to know the students a little better
n/a he was great
I think a different class structure would have been very nice. In the past two quarters our class was much more conversation based, and we were encouraged to just sort of take the conversation into our own hands which ended up being really interesting. With Professor Pinkney it was more based on specific quotes that he would present and we'd respond to, so a lot of the creativity was gone
Be clearer with assignments and expectations. We were assigned an 8 to 10 research paper for our final paper, with no additional description attached. It required each of us to try to pry information and expectations from him and report back to each other.
The discussions could have been better structured because they were some of the least engaging discussions that I have participated in. Instead of asking about specific quotes, it might be better to discuss about specific passages from the book because it will allow for a wider discussion rather than be limited about specific quotes. It would also help to be more organized with the Canvas page because it took some time to search for specific texts.
i wish we had more discussion prompts during class! discussion felt really lacking at times, and it was sad because the readings were actually quite interesting

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.00	2.00	0.00%	57.14%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.43	4.00	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.43	3.00	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%	14.29%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.67	3.50	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.86	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	42.86%	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 – writing instructor
I didn't find the seminars super helpful, but the one on one meetings did help me a bit.
Joshua Wagner
Joshua Wagner I only met with him briefly, but my required meetings allowed me to check whether I was on the right path for my final paper. His comments also allowed me to understand how I could proceed with my paper.

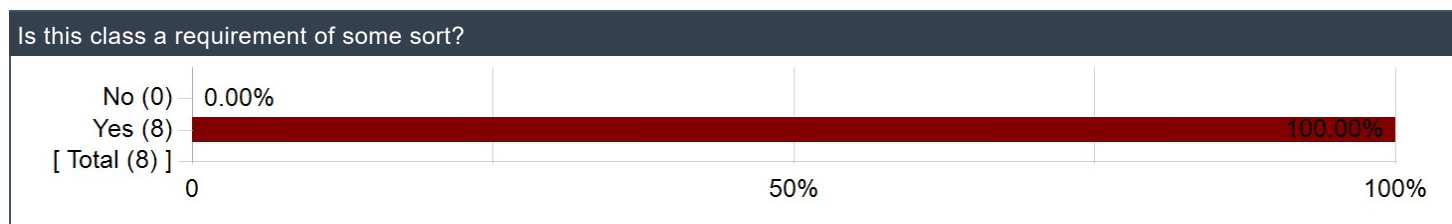
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%
Challenged you to learn.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%
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.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%

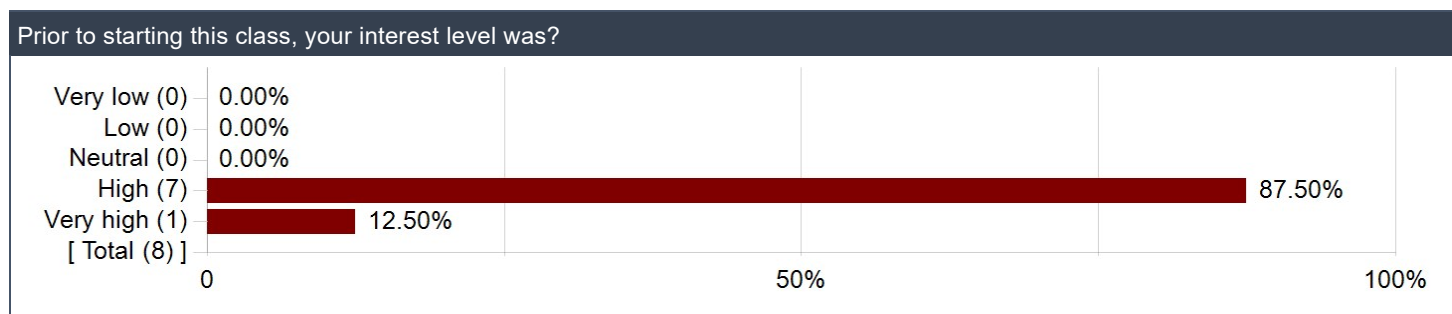
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	2.00	2.00	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%

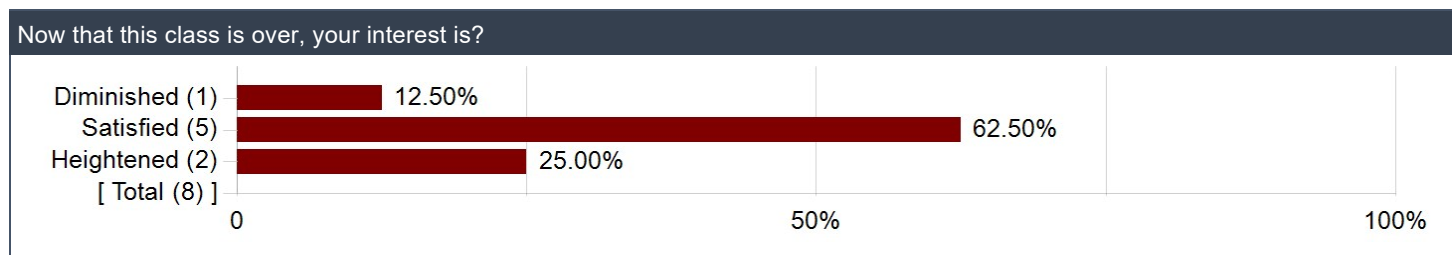
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



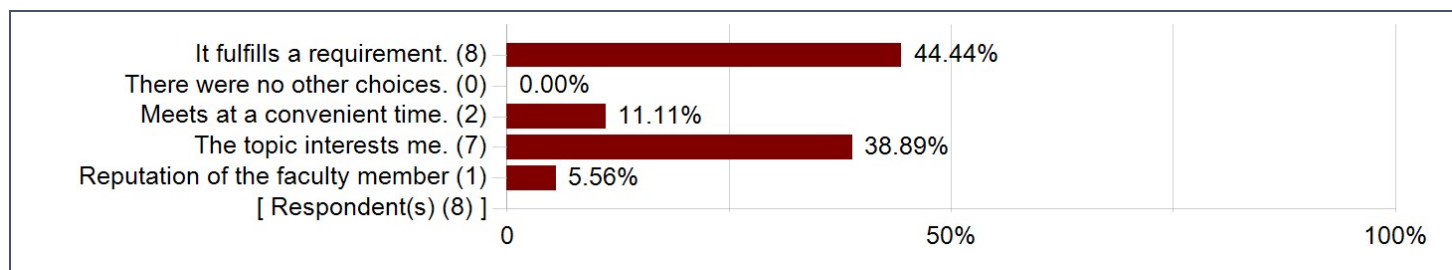
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



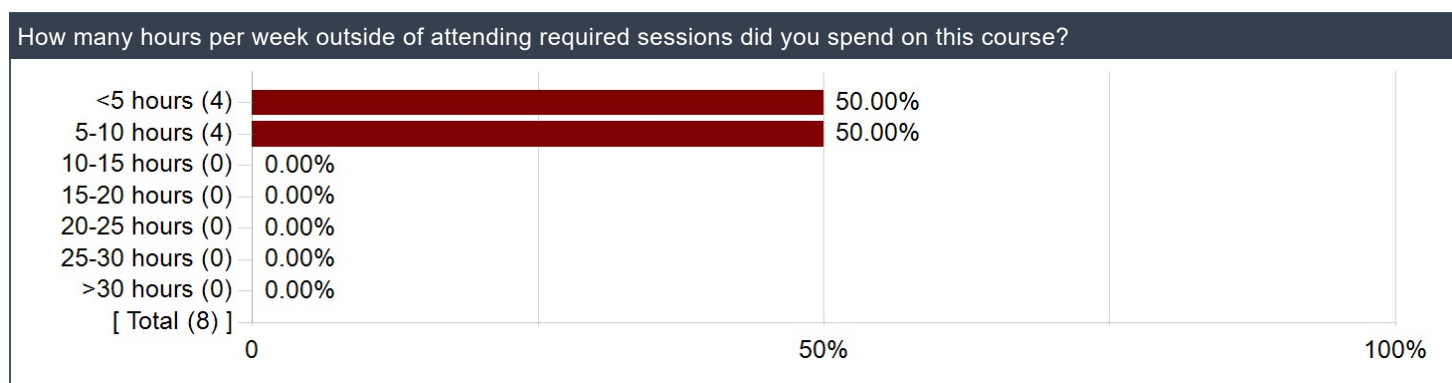
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



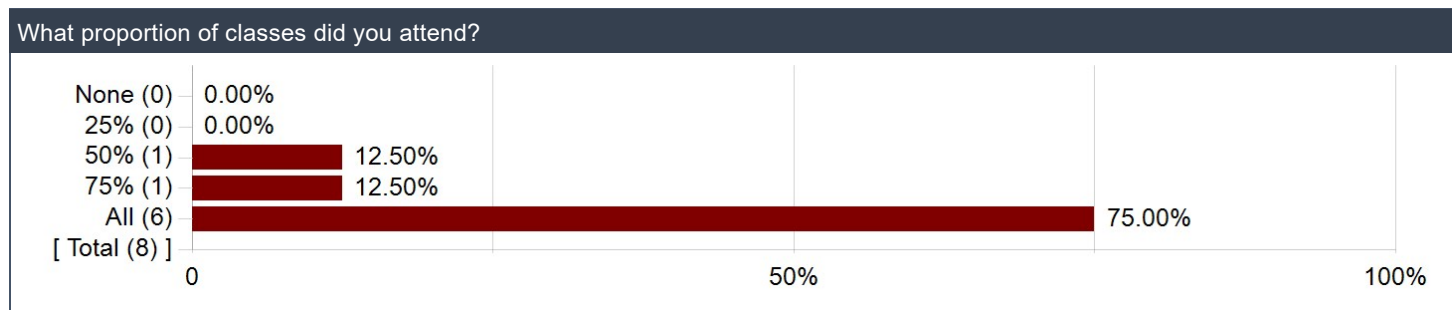
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
not awfully difficult, especially after taking the first two quarters of sosc
This was the third quarter, so we were prepared to engage with this material. However, the format of the class made completing additional assignments difficult because our in-class discussions were mind-numbing and dull.
Probably the most difficult course of the sequence because of the length of readings and the assignments, but it was still manageable.
not hard at all, really!