



SOSC 17300 8 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community III - Instructor(s) - Richard Zaleski

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **7**

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, 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
How religion can inform politics, and vice versa. How religion is used to justify or build momentum for political movements, Analyzing religious texts and texts that commented on religion from a community perspective
I learned about the different roles that religion can play in politics—whether religion is a galvanizing force for revolution, an "opiate of the masses," or both.
kinda same ol same ol but with new authors and new perspectives, Malcolm X autobiography is life changing it is so good
I learned about how religion is employed as tools for submission and for empowerment.
social and political theory from a religious perspective

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

Comments
Readings were the bulk of my learning. Discussions were only sometimes helpful but usually didn't enhance my understanding of the texts.
Discussions were interesting and engaging and made me think more deeply about the course material. Debates in class were especially engaging.
Both discussions and readings were very helpful towards learning the material. These texts, out of all of them, were my favorite to read.
Professor was a cool guy, was always trying to get people to talk
Discussions were very fun.
learned from the readings but not much else

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.00	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	57.14%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.29	5.00	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	71.43%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.29	5.00	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	71.43%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	5.00	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.17	3.50	33.33%	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%	71.43%
I felt respected in this class.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	85.71%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.00	5.00	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Regrettably, this was probably my least favorite quarter of SOSC this year. I think this was a combination of my lower interest the readings relative to the texts we read in the first two quarters, as well as Dr. Zaleski's teaching style. There were some really cool texts, however, and I wish that the discussions on them would have been more fruitful
Zalenski is a good professor.
I really enjoyed the class and the Professor.
The readings are very masterfully chosen. The professor unfortunately did not add anything to the class nor did he give any feedback on our assignments

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	28.57%	71.43%
Anyone interested in the topic	28.57%	71.43%

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

Comments
There was one class where Dr. Zaleski organized a "debate" of sorts that was memorable
Facilitating open discussion and asking insightful questions about the reading with relevance to modern day.
Dr. Zaleski's method of organizing discussions was most helpful. I liked how he broke us up into small groups for discussion before we came together as a class to talk.
The discussions.
we spent at least 30 mins each day summarizing the text or looking up random facts about the authors— wish he would just prepare a powerpoint at the beginning of class instead of making us do these mundane tasks. he did make students prepare summaries to give to the class but almost always forgot to give them time to present them. the professor went on tangents unrelated to the course and didnt really make an effort to engage critically with the texts. often after summarizing we would try to apply the text to the current day, but it was usually shallow for these reasons.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The summarizer/notetaker classroom roles need to go. It felt pretty obvious that nobody actually paid attention to the summarizer at the beginning of class discussions, and it was definitely something that was glossed over and often nearly forgotten. Also, while I appreciated Dr. Zaleski's attempts to get us to think about how the texts we read might help us think about or reflect on the United States in the 21st century, not everything has to be about that. I'd rather get to know a text really well within the context of its origin before attempting to extrapolate it to some other area/time period. His discussion questions didn't probe me or anyone in the class to think deeper, as everything we talked about felt pretty surface level and frequently the conversation would trail off into totally unrelated tangents. There were moments where someone would say something really insightful or ask a complicating question, and then Dr. Zaleski didn't do anything with them—they'd just sit in the air, in silence, and we'd move on. Overall, I appreciate the low-stakes vibe of the class and I truly think Dr. Zaleski is a really cool person, I just didn't think the discussion leading was effective. A final word on the feedback on assignments for this course: there were parts where it felt like Dr. Zaleski just used AI to "comment" on my paper. A good portion of the feedback I received was merely Dr. Zaleski regurgitating the main argument of my paper, as if I wasn't the one to have written it, in a way that felt very reminiscent of ChatGPT. I'm not necessarily upset by this, but I do think it speaks to the vibe of low effort that I think characterized this class.
N/A
Dr. Zaleski could give us our essay prompts earlier in the quarter so that we are not scrambling in two weeks or less to write an essay.
Nothing.
Im not entirely convinced he did all of the readings. So maybe that
He also would choose a passage of interest and go around the classroom making each student read one sentence out loud. This would go on for minutes at a time, multiple times per class sometimes. Baffling waste of time

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.83	5.00	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	14.29%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.86	5.00	28.57%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.86	5.00	28.57%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.86	5.00	28.57%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	5.00	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	5.00	14.29%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	57.14%	14.29%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.00	5.00	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	5.00	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	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
Graham Certain
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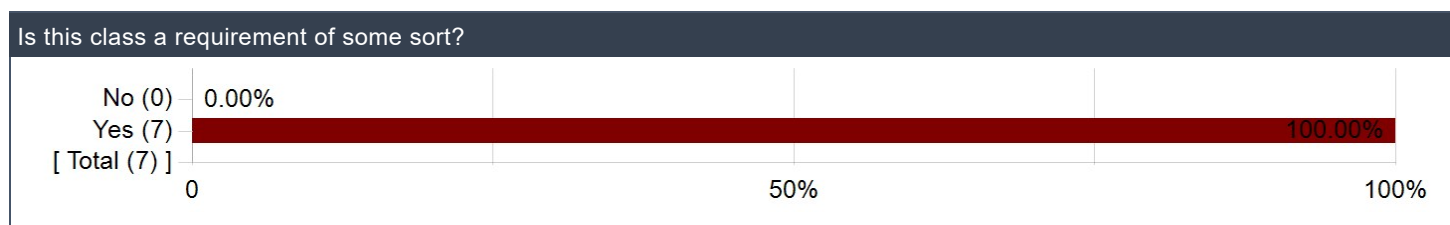
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
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.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%

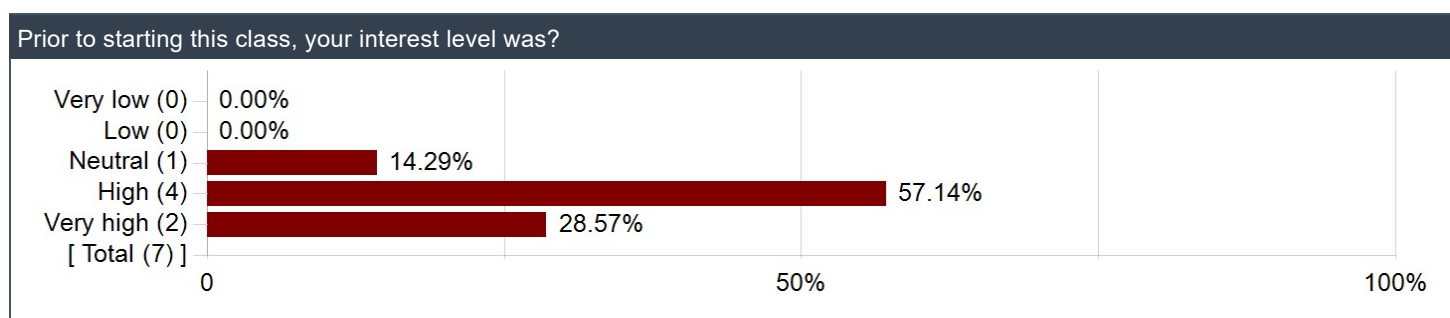
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	2.00	2.00	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%
Writing Seminars	2.20	2.00	20.00%	40.00%	40.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

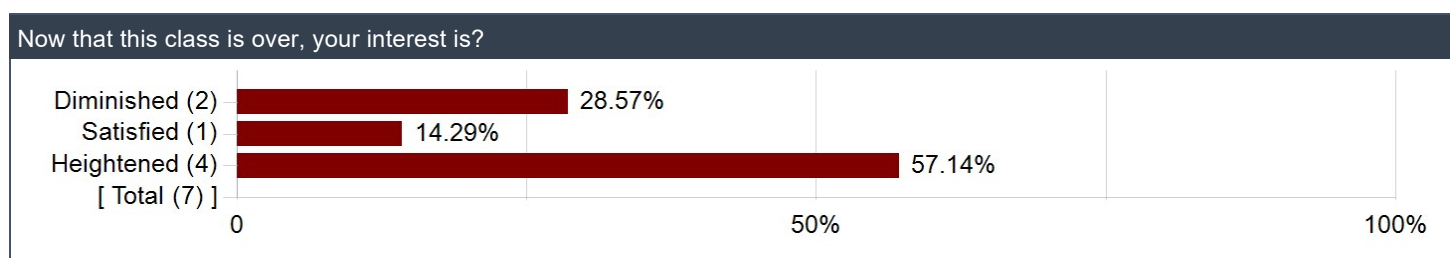
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



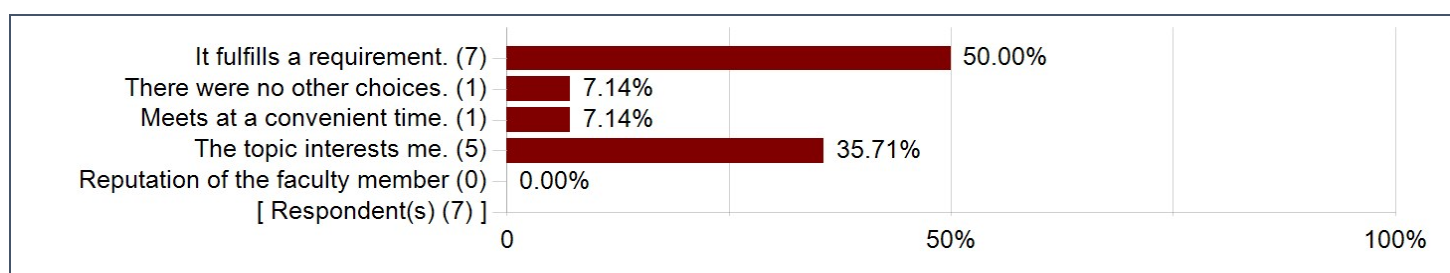
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



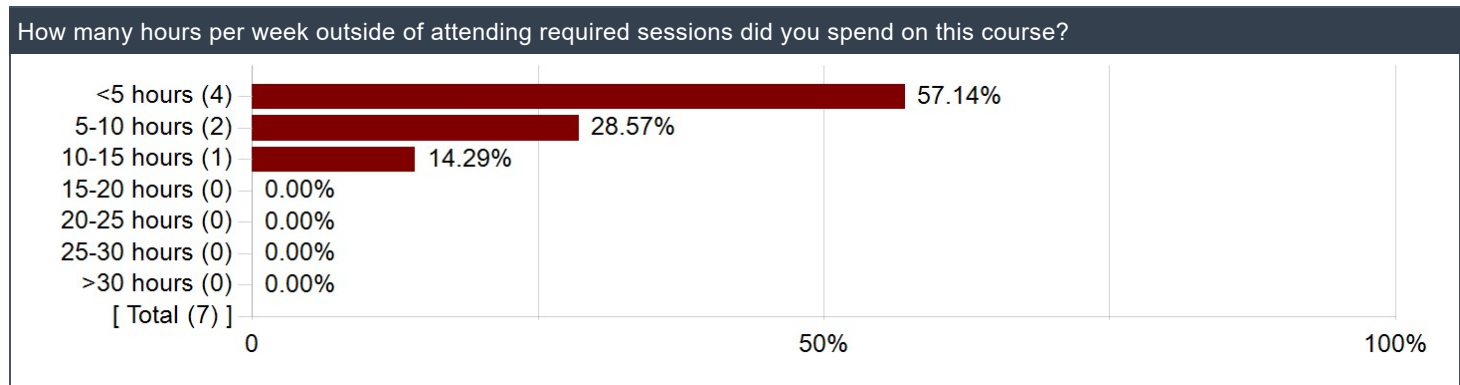
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



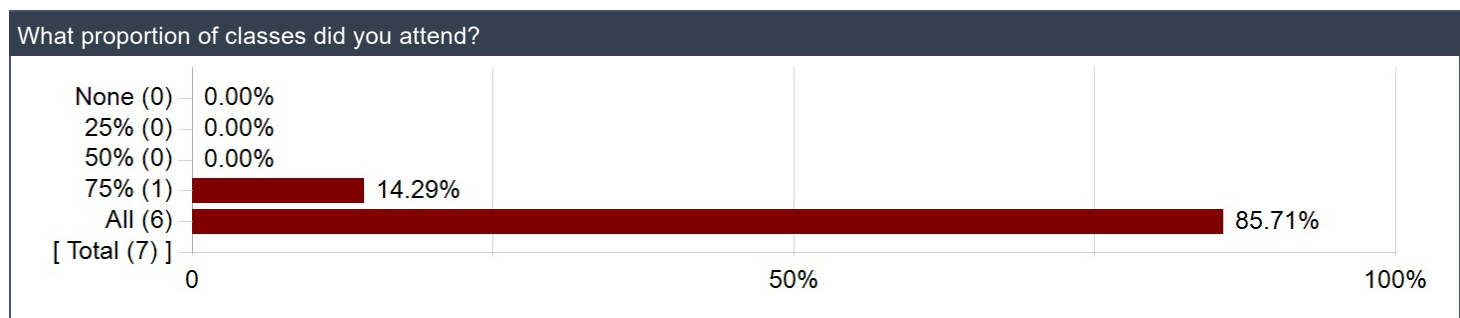
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Very accessible class; as someone with no religious background it was very interesting
This course flowed very well from the first two quarters of religion.
He assigned us an biographical timeline of malcolm x or dorothy day for our final, where we were required to give an event, location, and picture. I think that speaks for itself