



SOSC 17200 1 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community II - Instructor(s): Olivia Bustion

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 |
|--|
| This course takes you through an in-depth exploration of suffering and consciousness. The course serves as a great survey of how religions and famous thinkers explain human suffering and how to alleviate it. Seriously, one of the best courses I've taken at this school. As an added bonus, I've acquired a serious appreciation for Taoist philosophy. |
| The main throughline was suffering and why we experience it. We looked at different perspectives on suffering from different authors and thinkers. |
| I learned how different cultures view their relationship with God, as well as how the way we view suffering and our bodies influences our religious relationship. |
| Evil and suffering are dealt with in several different ways in different religious and philosophical traditions. There are many similarities in how they deal with the body, material world, and idea of divinity. |
| How suffering relates to the world around us and religion. I learned how to think critically about different psychoanalysts and religious thinkers ideas. |
| I learned a lot from this, focusing more on suffering, the relationship between society and religion, and philosophy. I gained a lot more knowledge about religion. |
| We examined the idea of suffering in different religious and philosophical traditions. |

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

| Comments |
|--|
| Professor Bustion's interactive lectures were thrilling, and there was not a day that I left class without having gained some profound insights. Her enthusiasm for the texts was infectious. Group discussions helped to break down a text bit by bit, and Professor Bustion was masterful at leading the class through very complicated philosophical texts. Commonplace journals were a fun alternative to Canvas discussion posts and allowed for a stress-free understanding of concepts. |
| In-class discussion was very helpful, especially if the reading was extremely confusing. |
| Our class discussions were SUPER helpful. We read literature from Freud to Juangzhi to Macrina, and there were a lot of spaces where I needed help understanding what was going on. We would do a brief overview and then together go step-by-step through the important themes in each text, which really made understanding the gist of what the text was saying much easier. |
| Lectures/introductions to texts at the beginning of class were really helpful for context. Bustion writing on the board and outlining the main points from discussions and linking them to the text was vital to my understanding. Commonplace book assignments were my favorite thing and actually made me think about the text's message through the text. Discussions were fine, except when the same students took up the airspace the whole time. Papers had exceedingly clear expectations, which was so refreshing and welcome. |
| The readings were very cool and I always understood them better after the professor's lectures. She did an excellent job of giving us assignments that were interesting to think about. |
| Class time was a mixture of lecture and discussion. Very helpful for developing ideas about and understanding of the broad range of texts. Discussing the connections between texts was interesting. |
| The discussions were helpful to my learning. |
| There was a reasonable mix of lecture and discussion that helped us understand the readings. |

Please respond to the following:

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| This course challenged me intellectually. | 4.60 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 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. | 4.56 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 22.22% | 66.67% |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments. | 4.60 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 10.00% | 20.00% | 70.00% |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work. | 4.20 | 4.50 | 0.00% | 10.00% | 10.00% | 30.00% | 50.00% |
| My work was evaluated fairly. | 4.60 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 40.00% | 60.00% |
| I felt respected in this class. | 4.70 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 30.00% | 70.00% |
| Overall, this was an excellent course. | 4.80 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 80.00% |

Additional comments about the course:

| Comments |
|--|
| Take this course with Professor Bustion if you can. |
| We get to read about different philosophies and religions, which is super cool, and look at how each of these varying views differ. Just know! It can be a LOT of reading, but the essays are not bad. |
| Bustion is awesome. She really asks for raw intellectual engagement, so be ready for class, but it's rewarding when that happens. I really appreciated her energy and creativity in assignments as well as approach to teaching in general (though some days in the middle of winter quarter no one wants to talk about obscure Daoist philosophies, and the lack of discussion is painful). |
| Amazing quarter. |

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 |
|--|
| Professor Bustion's enthusiasm was infectious. Her interactive lectures encouraged everyone to contribute, making for incredible conversations. Lots of deep questions that keep you up at night. |
| Olivia is very knowledgeable about a lot of things, so she was able to further explain things we didn't quite understand. |
| My instructor would explain the entirety of the plot as well as the fundamental themes for the texts, while making us construct it side-by-side with her, which made understanding difficult works so much easier. |
| Lectures and drawing connections between points and across texts on the board and at the start of class. |
| The lectures and the structure of the class where we were often split up into smaller discussion groups. |
| Bustion is very knowledgeable about the texts and gives background on the texts' significance or historical context that I think was useful for thinking about each text. Also her discussion questions were interesting. |
| I loved the small discussion aspect of reviewing the reading and the questions that allowed me to engage with the readings. However, the professor's review of the text at the start of the class went a long way toward my first reactions to the text. The setup of the course allowed me to really focus more on a discussion without having time to get distracted since the class was so engaging in my understanding and attempting to dissect the text. |
| She was so engaged. Asked really thoughtful compelling questions. Class was so fun. |
| writing on the board and explicitly comparing ideas within and between the readings |

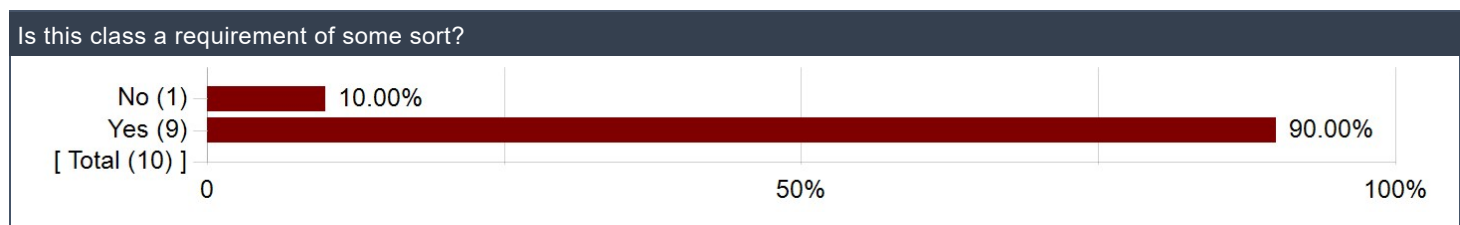
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

| Comments |
|--|
| I'm not sure if anything could be better. Professor Bustion killed it this quarter. |
| Nothing off the top of my head. Thanks for explaining everything so clearly! |
| This is small, but not doubting the questions she asks or saying "is that too obvious?" When that happens and I already wasn't sure of an answer, I feel extra unsure of it, and am even less inclined to participate. Prof Bustion is great and shouldn't be afraid to make decisions for her students instead of hesitating or backtracking. |
| N/A |
| N/A |
| nothing at all |
| I thought the essay prompts were very good, and we were given support in our writing process, but I would have liked to receive feedback on paper 2. It was slightly stressful writing paper 3 when the only feedback I had was from paper 1. |

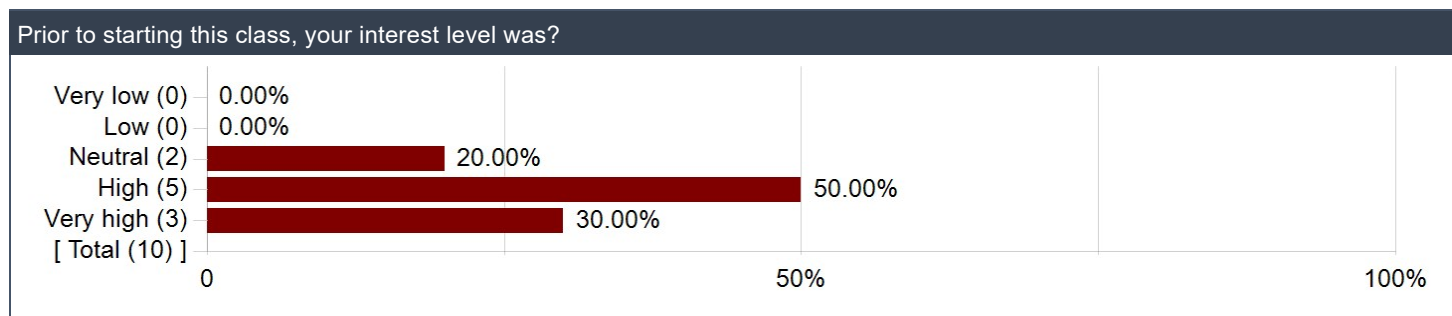
The Instructor . . .

| | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | N/A |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Organized the course clearly. | 4.80 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 80.00% | 0.00% |
| Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding. | 4.80 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 80.00% | 0.00% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful. | 4.60 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 10.00% | 20.00% | 70.00% | 0.00% |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course. | 4.90 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 10.00% | 90.00% | 0.00% |
| Challenged you to learn. | 4.80 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 20.00% | 80.00% | 0.00% |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content. | 4.70 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 30.00% | 70.00% | 0.00% |
| Was available and helpful outside of class. | 4.78 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 0.00% | 88.89% | 0.00% |
| Motivated you to think independently. | 4.70 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 30.00% | 70.00% | 0.00% |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment. | 5.00 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 100.00% | 0.00% |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.90 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 10.00% | 90.00% | 0.00% |

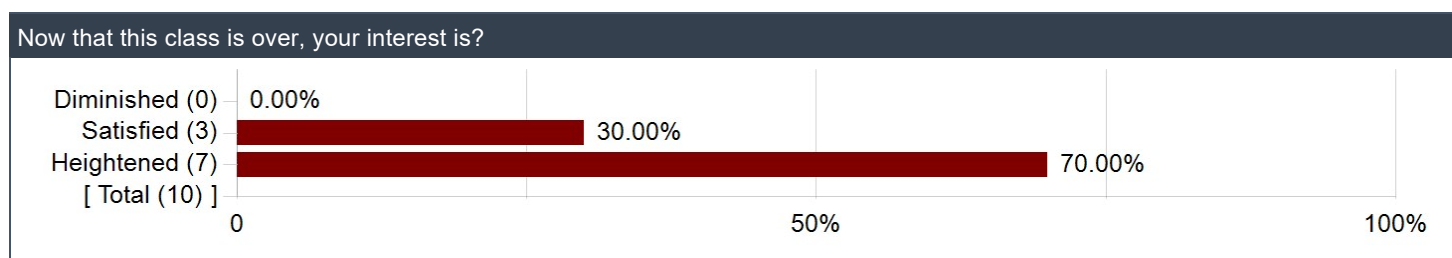
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



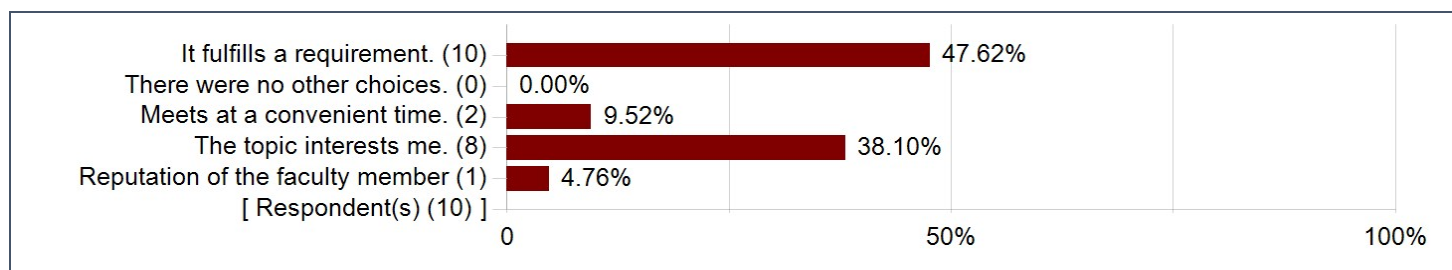
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



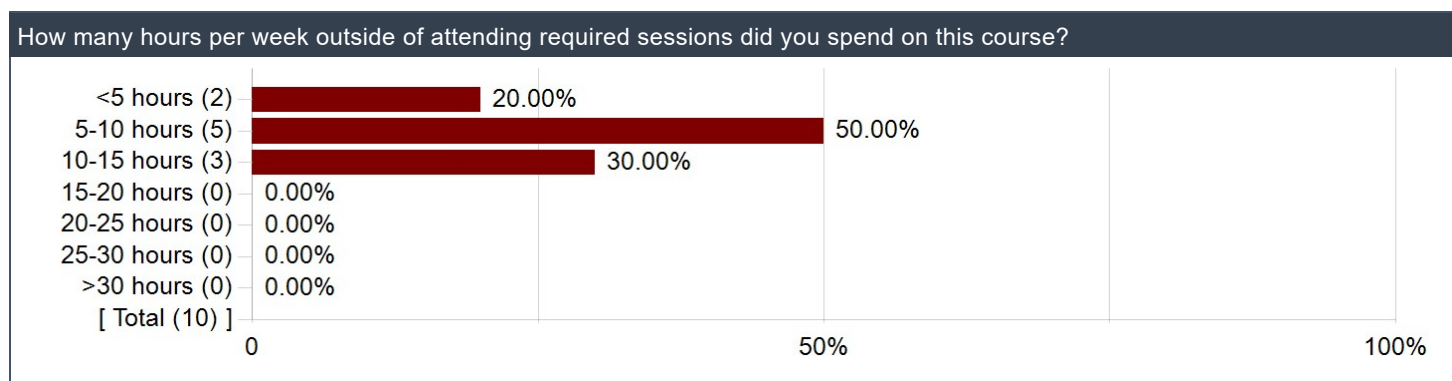
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



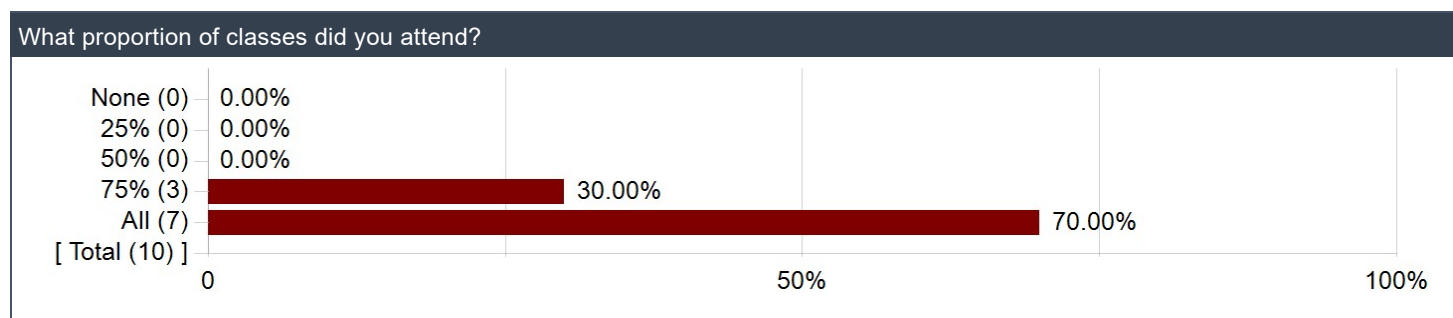
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 |
|---|
| I was able to take this course as a first-year and feel confident in participating in class discussions. Essays had creative prompts, which encouraged a deeper understanding of the texts without the added stress of an uber-serious paper. |
| Besides the amount of reading it's fine. |
| Understanding philosophy was extremely difficult for me, and it always has been, but if you get the right teacher they will explain it. There is a lot of reading, but the writing is not bad at all. |
| Sosc I was useful but not at all vital for this. The texts we read were interesting but it was necessary sometimes to reread them to actually understand them. |
| The difficulty of the readings was what you would expect for a typical SOSC. I'm not sure exactly what the expectations were for writing since we received feedback on only one paper. |