



SOSC 17100 4 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community I - Instructor(s): Bruce Winkelman

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **14**

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
I learned how to come up with questions and answer them using religious texts
Reading more about theorys of religion, writing skills
The sociology of religion! Coming from a Catholic school, it was fascinating to hear from all kinds of different backgrounds and dissect religion in a way I had not previously been able to do.
I learned how to analyze religious texts and discuss new perspectives on religious concepts
I gained a much more academic understanding of what a religion is and how we can evaluate religions as social structures. I actually found this very interesting as my previous idea of religion was very nebulous and did not contain many concrete principles.
My biggest takeaway from the course was that religion is more ubiquitous than I believed. Coming away from the course, I realize how difficult it is to imagine a society that is not religious, which I hadn't really considered before as someone who lived my individual and familial life largely separated from my prior understanding of religion.
The complexity involved in defining religion, the role of religion in society (not much politically or economically, but instead structurally and with customs/values).
I learned a lot about religion itself: how to define it, what its commonalities are. More than that though I learned how to study religion, which I think was my biggest take away. I also gained skill in structured writing.
The most important things I learned in this course were most likely the skill of carefully analyzing a text and extracting meaning from that text. Additionally, I learned a lot about the role religion plays when shaping society, and shaping the views people have of society. (as a broad topic).
I learned a lot about the similarities of different religions and how important it is to our society, even if you are not religious.
how to think about topics of religion and society

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

Comments
I loved all aspects of this course
Discussions, presentations were very helping for understanding dense texts
Discussions were led very efficiently with Bruce initially leading classes and later on teaching students how to do so. They were very helpful in analyzing the text.
The discussions in class were very good generally and most people in the class contributed consistently which I enjoyed. The readings were also consistently relevant and not too long.
Discussions were very helpful and I really liked kickstarting and presenting for a class since it helped me really delve into particular texts.
The discussions and papers were good ways to dissect readings and course-concepts.
Lectures were very engaging, readings were useful and on topic with the themes of the course and the class discussions.
A lot of the in-class discussions and mini assignments (take-home) were extremely useful and contributed a lot to my learning.
discussions are really helpful for understanding the readings and generate insights

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.23	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	61.54%	30.77%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.31	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	38.46%	46.15%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	61.54%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	61.54%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%
I felt respected in this class.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	76.92%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	7.69%	76.92%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
N/A

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
Bruce was great at leading discussion and breaking down texts, especially very complex texts that were difficult to understand
Bruce's respectful yet insightful perspectives on various texts contributed most to our learning because he was able to be analytical yet not discourage anyone's opinions. He managed to keep everyone engaged and feel appreciated.
I thought the professor was very well-prepared for each class and contributed/enriched the discussion without dominating it.
Discussions and providing background for our texts.
His willingness to let students discuss and share their ideas in class.
He took time to engage students both in and outside of the course material. This helped make discussions very lively and interesting.
the instructor was very engaging in discussions and was always open to talking about questions on discussion, paper topics, and general questions on the topic.
Shifting the discussions to various topics throughout really ensured that we discussed each text in detail.
facilitating discussions during class

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Paper prompts were at times vague and difficult to meet
Maybe instead of student presenters and kickstarters he could also chip in his perspective as he knows the text best.
I'm not convinced that the discussion kickstarters were very helpful to my learning and I usually felt like the professor could've introduced the topics better than we did.
Provide a more objective summary of the readings before starting our class discussions.
I think some times the class got pretty off track in discussion, sometimes at the beginning of the class and entirely unrelated to the class. I found this to be distracting and wish there was a clearer boundary set for using class time to talk about things that are relevant to the course.
I honestly don't think there would be specific feedback from me. I think the instructor really helped me learn in a way that catered a lot to a variety of different learning types.
n/a
N/A

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	85.71%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	28.57%	57.14%	7.14%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	78.57%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	64.29%	7.14%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	7.14%	85.71%	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
Hawkins was great!
Hawkins Lewis was our Writing Adviser for the course
Hawkins Lewis
Hawkins Lewis writing workshops and writing advising are helpful for paper writing

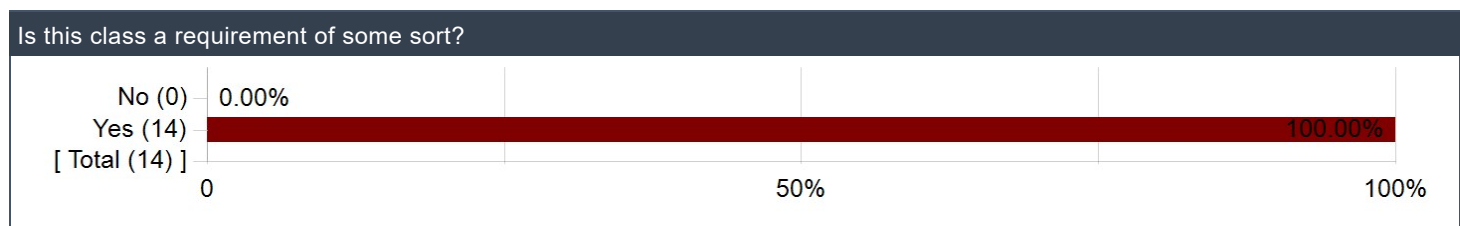
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%

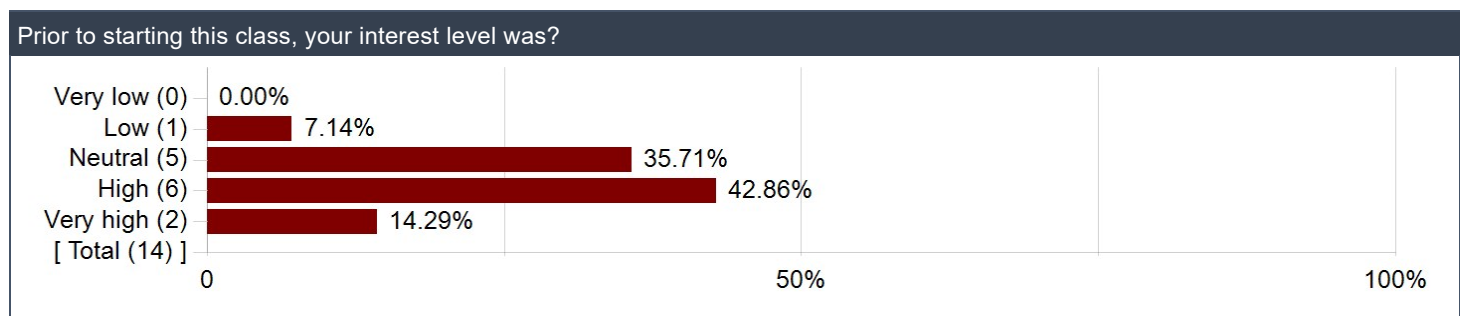
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.50	3.50	16.67%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%

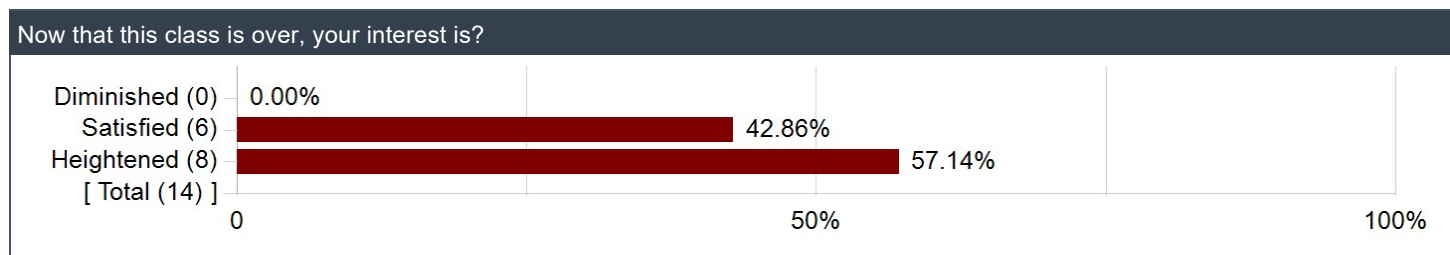
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



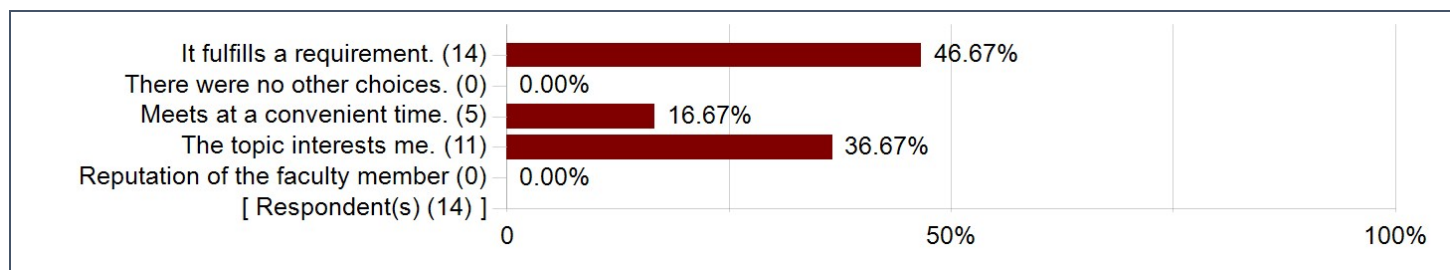
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



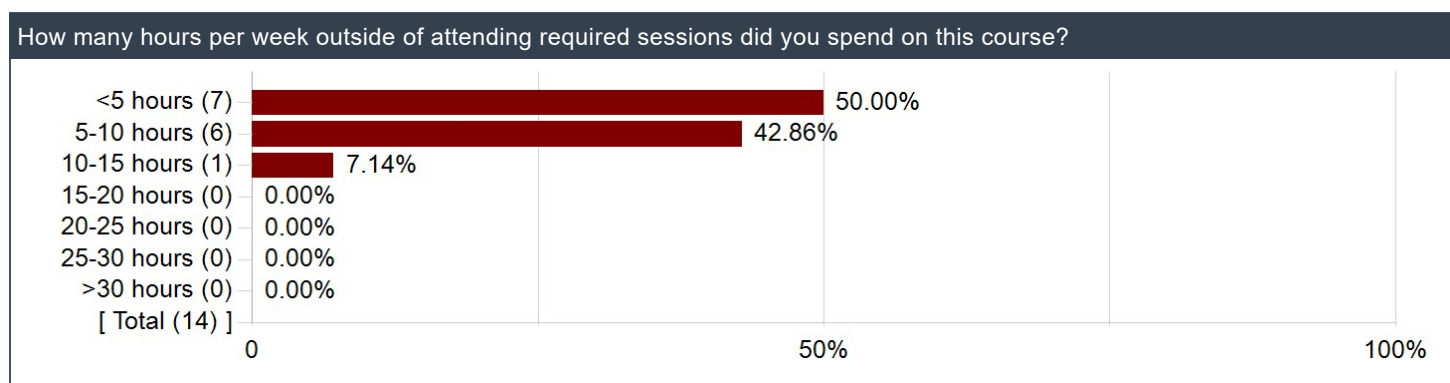
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



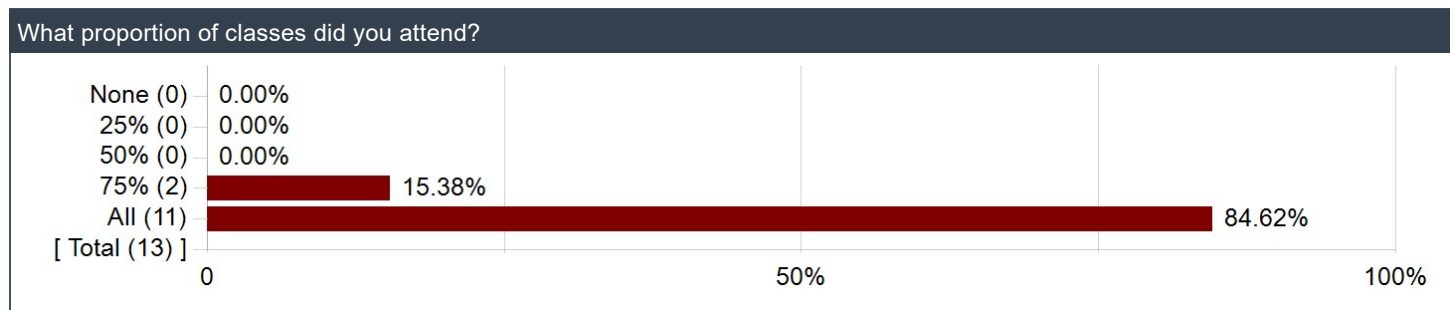
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Moderatly easy, but essays and readings took some time
It isn't too difficult if you have taken HUM and Bruce does a good job in explicitly telling you what he needs in a paper.
I thought the difficulty level of the class was appropriate for a core course in a field that was relatively unfamiliar to most students.
I didn't need background in the topic to enjoy and find the class engaging and manageable.
Not that difficult, however, I had extensive background knowledge coming into the course.
the course wasn't too difficult for someone who came into the course with relatively non experience in the topic.