



SOSC 17100 6 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community I - Instructor(s): Bruce Winkelman

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **11**

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 religion fits in with civilisation and existence
Religion and society
How to interpret religious texts and write effectively about them.
I learned a lot about what constitutes religions – prior to taking this course, I thought that religion was defined by divinity, but through this class I learned that religion is social and is based largely on group energy and ritual which stems from it. In addition, I learned that religion has a very prevalent role in forming historical perspectives and is a very versatile tool to judge and understand some of history's greatest and most evil events.
How to think critically about religion and its role within society (especially its origins and formation)
In this class I learned about a wide variety of religions and what religion itself means. The class gives you several different things to look at and throughout there were several connections made; similarities between different religions, how religion is in society today, etc.
Different core ideas from a wide variety of religions
I learned how to write a college level essay for the social sciences and how religion has shaped societies and thought throughout history. This course has utterly revolutionized how I view religion as a concept and in my personal life, especially as someone who was not very religious growing up.
I gained a far deeper understanding of religion and how to analyze and write about the social sciences.
what religion is and its different conceptions at a broad level

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

Comments
discussions really allowed me to develop my understanding
Class discussions were pretty good at times
Lectures were great and very engaging. The required presentation in front of the class made me go deeper on a specific text which I enjoyed.
The student-led aspect of discussion was very helpful; kickstarting and presenting helped me really grasp the topics from the reading that were harder to understand and internalize on my own. In addition, it made class more engaging.
Class discussions and discussing papers with professor/writing advisor during office hours contributed most
Class discussion contributed a lot to my learning in this class. Hearing several students' different interpretations of religious texts or understandings of texts about religion allowed for me to learn things that I didn't notice when reading texts on my own. The essays also made me think more deeply about the readings which contributed a lot to my learning.
Writing papers helped me understand the texts the most
The discussions are very useful to understanding the reading material. The readings are time-consuming, but are informative and worth it.
Discussions were extremely helpful towards gaining a deeper understanding of the readings and the course material, especially how one discusses religion in a social sciences context.
the class discussions helped to talk about the texts and understand them through the context of the course and as sociology (Durkheim) and papers acted as assignments to really expand on thoughts in class or from reading

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	54.55%	36.36%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%
My work was evaluated fairly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
10/10, very good course
Professor Winkelman is extremely kind and a thoughtful and interactive teacher

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
class discussions
Lectures
The lectures were very interesting and tied in current events in a way that made material relevant. Bruce is seriously awesome! He had the perfect balance of getting to work but also allowing time to just chat and have genuine conversations with us.
I really appreciate that we took time at the beginning of class to break down the reading and make sure everyone was on the same page of understanding. The mini assignments were very helpful for this.
Class discussions
The instructor was clearly very knowledgeable and interested in the subject matter being taught in this class. He was also always very interested in students points and contributed to them. I like the way that it felt more like a discussion rather than an instructor telling you what is and having to just accept that.
Prof. Winkelman is my favorite college professor so far. He's very understanding, actively works to make each student feel comfortable to participate, and creates a very enjoyable class environment.
The instructor's facilitation of discussions greatly enhanced my ability to participate and learn from my peers.
teacher helped to facilitate interesting discussions as well as reel them in from off topic points while not bulldozing them

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
i think he was great all round
Nothing he could really do with the class we were assigned to but we were all facing the same direction (towards the front like a lecture) which made discussions slightly more awkward and difficult to have.
I wish that for the readings we had some kind of short guidelines of like two to three bullet points of questions to think about when reading the text, so we kind of knew why we were reading this text and what we were supposed to be looking for before the class assignments.
More lecture–style class periods would have helped given my personal learning style.
the difficulty of this class comes with really reeling and "connecting" the broadness of the reading assignments and topic without getting lost in it. So its hard to say, I think that making more direct connections to the broader topic as well as facilitating that thinking is the hardest thing to do as well as what could be improved on, but I think it was done at a good level already.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	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 and helped me think about how I could improve my writing. As a first–year I appreciated having his guidance.
Hawkins

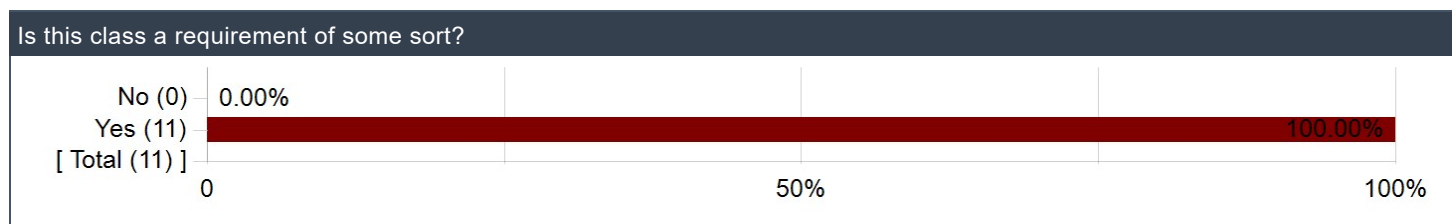
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

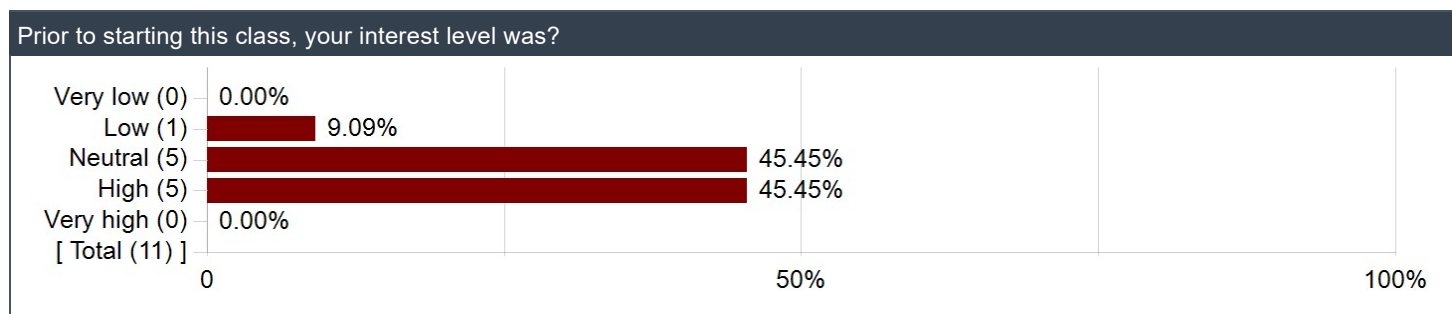
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.38	3.50	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	25.00%	25.00%	0.00%

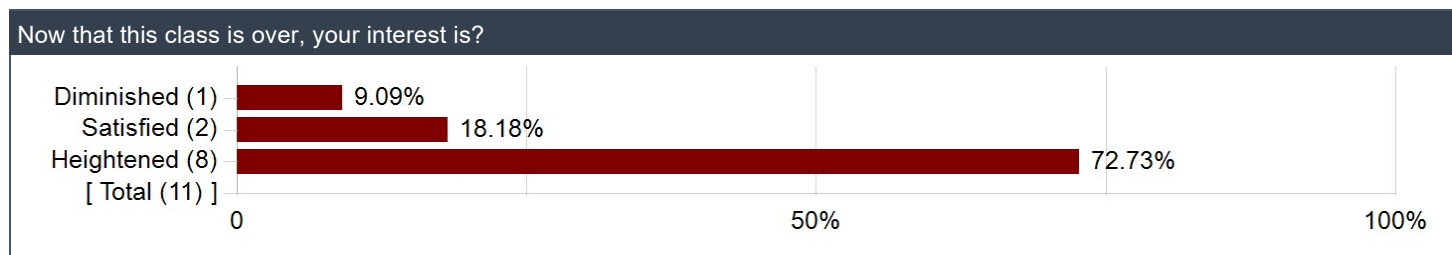
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



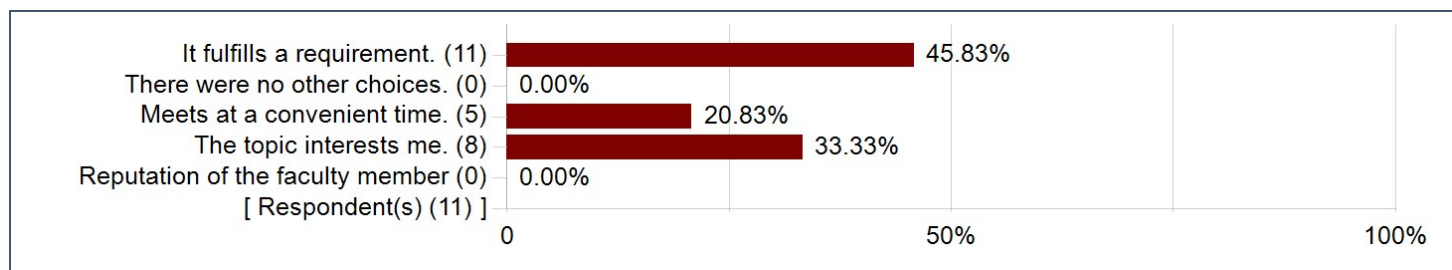
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



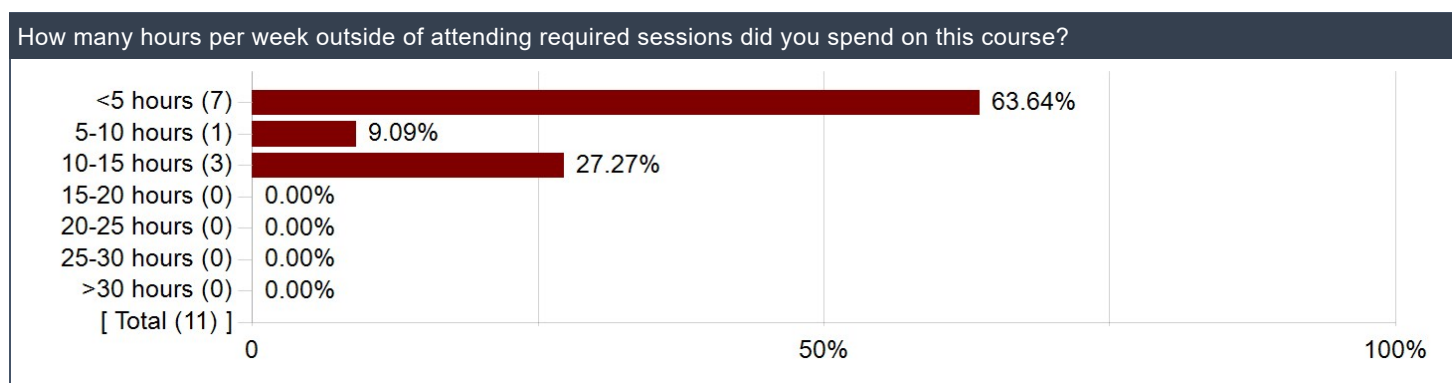
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



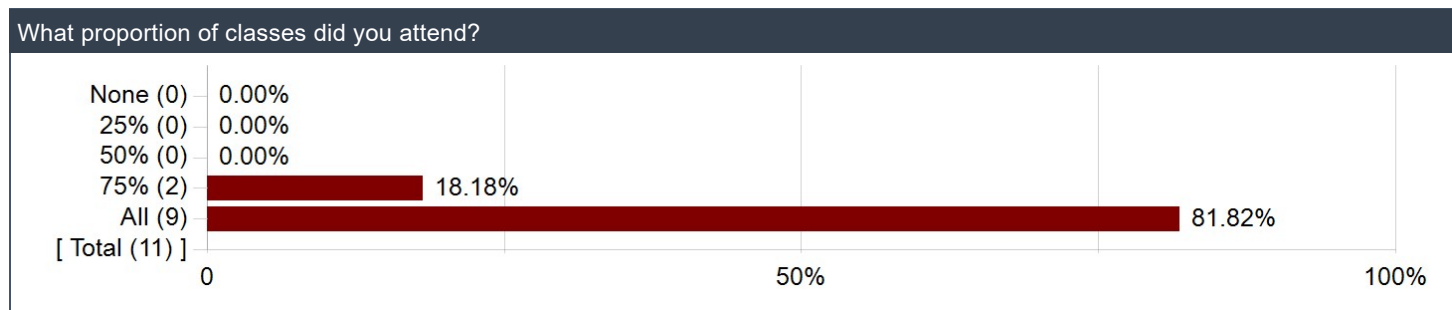
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
accessible to all backgrounds
Very manageable workload if you can read volume confidently (I'm a humanities person so I enjoyed the homework).
I thought that content-wise, some of the reading was a bit dense – overall the course was not difficult, but it was intellectually stimulating
Was not too difficult/stressful of a class, more just interesting to me
Not difficult if you did well in Hume
Given my lack of experience in the social sciences and in discussing/learning about religion, this course was challenging but very doable.