



SOSC 17200 8 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community II - Instructor(s): Olivia Bustion

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

Number Enrolled: **15**

Number of Responses: **9**

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
Religion and suffering
Religious conceptions of suffering, the exploration of suffering through dialogue, and prescriptions that different religious texts offer in the face of suffering.
We learned about interpretations of religion from major philosophical and conscience-based perspectives including Freud, Socrates, Krishna, etc., demonstrating how religion informs perspectives about the world.
Learning about many different religious traditions, but also philosophy beyond religion
I learned about how different religions and schools of thought in general approach suffering—how suffering is caused, how suffering can be combatted, etc.
The most important things I learned in this course are the different ways humans have understood and confronted the problem of suffering and evil.
I learned a lot about people's approach to suffering, the reasoning behind suffering, and how someone can overcome and deal with suffering. Also, I learned about how religions handle suffering and how some of their followers or philosophers view this perspective.
From this course I learned about the conversations of suffering and pleasure discussed in a wide variety of philosophical and religious texts. I learned how to compare and contrast these texts and especially how to dissect them in order to arrive at the root of their argument.
I learned about a multitude of different religions and philosophical ideas with religious perspectives.

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

Comments
Lectures were helpful for analyzing readings
I found the discussions in this course to be illuminating. Professor Bustion did a great job of making even the most confusing texts I read this quarter accessible. I loved the commonplace book reading assignments that she had us do, because they allowed me to engage with the texts in a highly personalized way that felt more productive than a more structured comprehension/analysis discussion post.
Lectures and discussions within lectures allowed us to collect our thoughts before bringing them to the whole class and made things more enjoyable overall
Professor was incredibly friendly, generous, and understanding, was encouraging of everyone to share their thoughts
The discussions for this course were exceptionally helpful. Professor Bustion did an excellent job of providing context for our readings, guiding us in reconstructing an author's argument, and making us think more critically about the significance of that argument. The papers were also a lot of fun to complete too, and Professor Bustion readily provided help in her office hours sessions.
I enjoyed class discussions. I think Prof. Bustion did a great job of moderating them by providing a general motivating framework for our discussions and mapping them out on the classroom whiteboard.
The Commonplace Book Entries were a nice and slightly different approach to discussion posts. It allowed us to focus on a passage of interest, analyze it, and ask questions rather than answering a given question or topic from the professor. It gave a sense of independence while still improving our close reading skills.
Course lectures and common place assignments contributed greatly to my learning and provided an extensive knowledge of both the material itself as well as the different ways to explore interacting with the material.
The in class mini-lectures helped.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I think this is my favorite quarter of SOSC by far! I also appreciated that Prof. Bustion took the time to leave thoughtful comments on our weekly commonplace book assignments, which often illuminated aspects of the readings we didn't get to in class. I hope to take a class of hers again!
I loved it and as someone without a religious background I found it super valuable perspective-wise
Olivia is pretty eccentric and awesome
Between Autumn and Winter Quarters of this sequence, I liked Winter Quarter more; to me, the texts—and the overarching theme of suffering—were more interesting.
It was a good course and I enjoy the Religion SOSC core. Professor Bustion is very kind and patient and I appreciate her enthusiasm for the class and knowledge of the text.
This truly was an excellent course. I always felt respected, listened to, and encouraged when sharing my ideas and I truly feel that this course broadened my understanding of the world and my ability to think critically about a wide range of materials.

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
Lectures and office hours
I loved that for some texts, Prof. Bustion would give mini lectures that gave historical context or broad definition overviews to ensure everyone was on equal footing to have a productive discussion. She also was super approachable and receptive to students' ideas, which made me feel empowered to participate in class even if I wasn't 100% confident in my interpretations.
The instructor was super understanding of our lives outside of her class and made it a point to emphasize our wellbeing; she consistently checked in with us and made it clear she cared about us as people. She also offered help outside of class when necessary and took into account when it seemed like the class as a whole would not benefit from an assignment or it seemed like busy work. She valued our time which made the class not only more bearable but enjoyable and I was able to focus more on the really important material of the course.
when she would give us background on philosophers or religious traditions, it was usually very well thought out and had an interesting spin of analysis from her
Professor Bustion's organization of our discussions was extremely helpful. She asked us questions to guide our thinking and our understanding of the author's argument, and she provided page numbers where we could start looking for information in our close readings. Professor Bustion also asked us more analytical questions at the end of class as an application of knowledge, which was really nice. Professor Bustion also provided us with class time to work on our last essays and receive peer feedback, and she was readily available in office hours.
I think Prof. Bustion did an amazing job of moderating thought-provoking and organized discussions. She was also incredibly kind and helpful in office hours.
I appreciated Professor Bustion's writing on the whiteboard of the students' ideas and thoughts. It helped everyone stay on track and visualize the different areas of focus and themes we were collectively drawing.
My instructor's enthusiasm contributed to my engagement with the material. She was exceptionally prepared and always helpfully provided an overview style lecture on the material and was happy to answer any questions about the texts we'd read for class in order to understand their content and therefore find more success in discussing and analyzing their arguments. I also found the professor's style of facilitating group discussions very useful and generative to my learning.
Group discussions synthesizing all the ideas really helped.

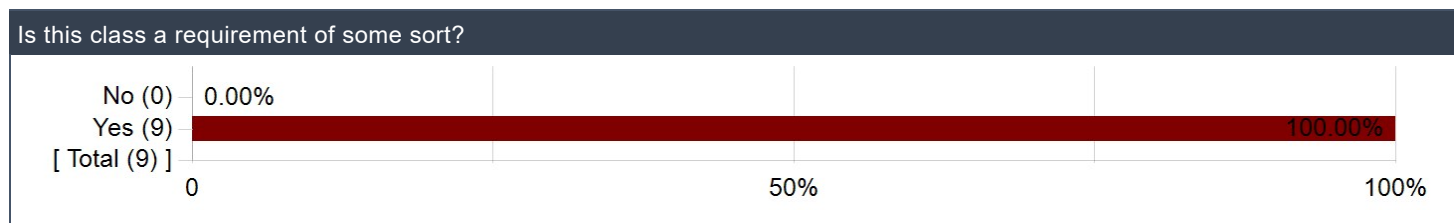
What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
I wish she would grade faster than she does, because by the time she gives feedback it is often almost too late to implement it in our next paper.
I loved Professor Bustion's style of instruction.
N/A
I would appreciate a more direct explanation of the text rather than asking questions and waiting for students' responses. Sometime students don't understand the text themselves and it's difficult to understand the true meaning of a passage or the text without a proper explanation and just students' claims.
I would have loved to actually debate the arguments of the texts more rather than spending the majority of the class time piecing them out in all their details and complexities, though I also recognize that the latter is the main priority for the class and the former can be found more heavily in other classes.

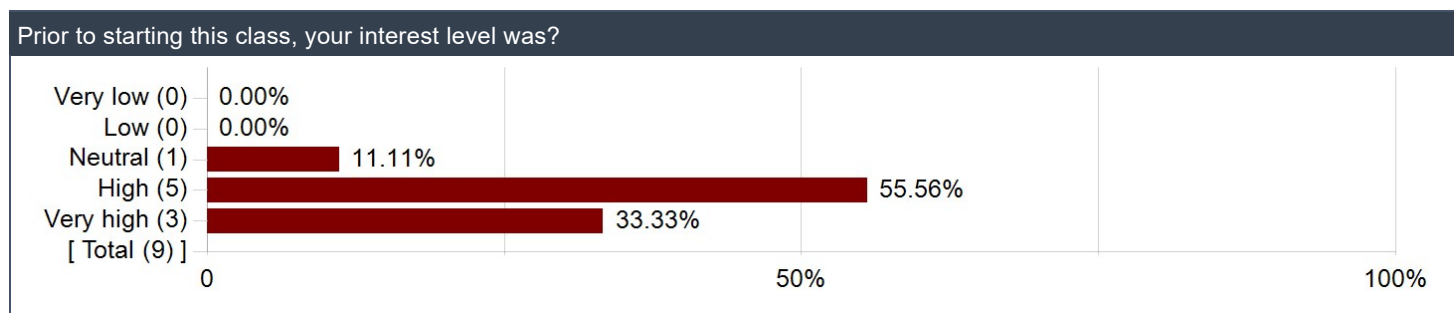
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	77.78%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	0.00%	77.78%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%

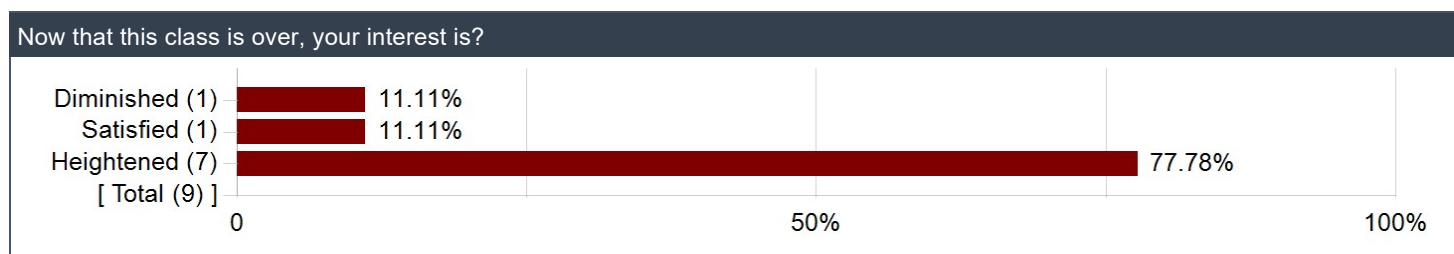
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



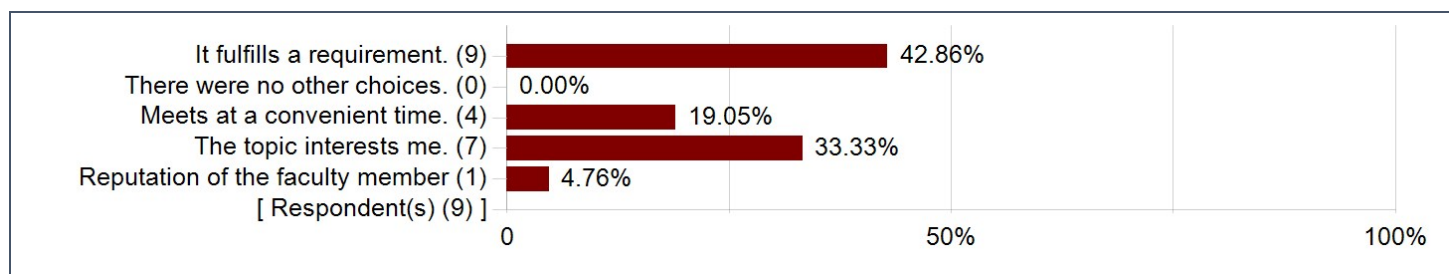
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



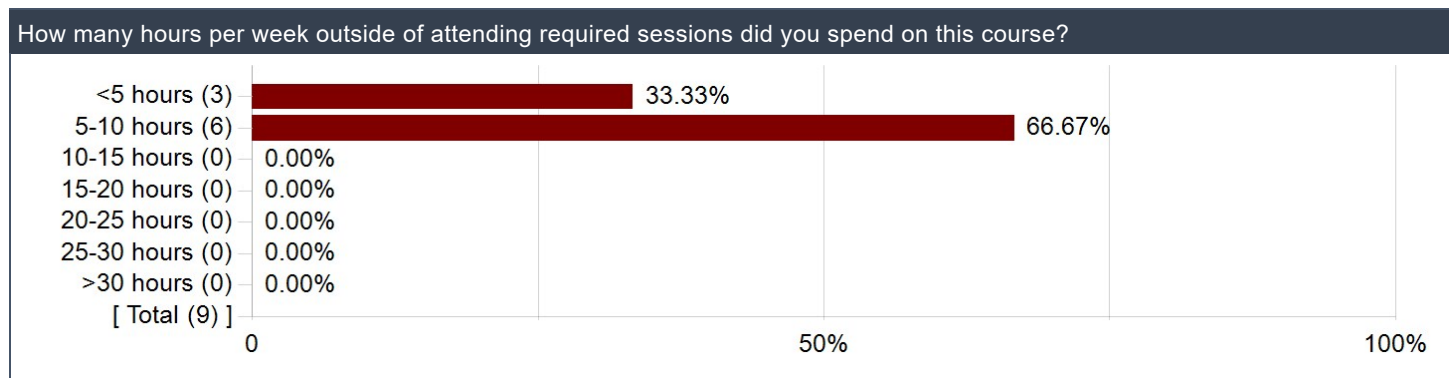
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



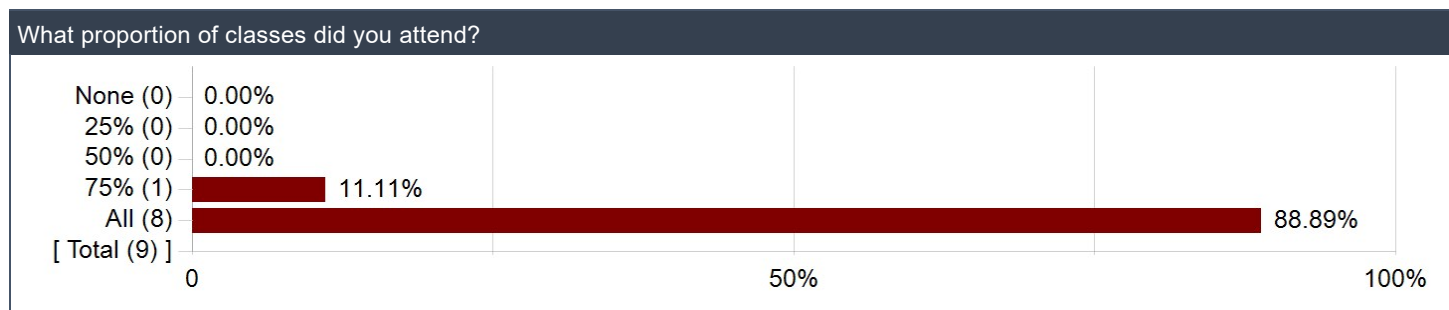
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Obviously having the first sequence of Religion SOSC is helpful, but there isn't anything particularly difficult/inaccessible about this sequence.
I had no background in the material and it was entirely accessible to me
This course was a smooth transition from Autumn Quarter and was a lot of fun. Writing papers actually felt a little easier too with my experience in Autumn Quarter.
Classes and writing assignments were thought-provoking and interesting, but not overly burdensome in general.
The course is not difficult and the only time-consuming portion of it is the weekly readings. Overall, the papers and their prompts are fair and the reading can be difficult and long but the class time breaks it down and discusses it.
Given that this was the second installment of a three-quarter course, I think the level of difficulty was in line with what I expected it to be and in some ways was easier than the first quarter of the course because I was already familiar with how to engage with these kinds of texts and my second-quarter prof. was a better match for my learning style.

