



SOSC 17100 7 - Religion: Cosmos, Conscience, and Community I - Instructor(s): Doren Snoek

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **15**

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
Religious ideologies under different historical and cultural contexts
how to analyse and interpret religious texts and commentaries
The most important thing I learned was the aspects of religion that are universal and enduring throughout all types of societies.
I learned about the formation of religious texts and how different philosophers have interpreted the ideas presented.
What elements constitute a religion: a set framework to analyze religion through.
Gained a deeper understanding of how religion influences life, what is a religion, etc
Social organization of religion, familiarity with various scriptures, different stories regarding the origin of many religions.
I learned about the relationship between religion and communities. In particular, I learned definitions for religion and about other aspects of religion.
How to think critically about the concept of religion, and how to apply different perspectives about what constitutes a religion to a wide variety of texts.
Generally, I learned how to write a true academic paper, but specifically, I learned about religion in the contexts of international relations and politics.
Practices and beliefs of different religions as well as defining religion and its role in broader society.
I practiced the general skills of writing and synthesizing good papers. I also came away with a greater understanding of various religious texts, and some basic theory regarding what makes a religion a religion.

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

Comments
the readings are very inspiring
discussions were relatively useful, canvas posts were GREAT – the best part of the course in terms of just understanding the texts in depth, and I found readings to be a little tedious but ultimately educational
I think class contributed the most to my learning because it helped me understand the readings more by discussing its effects.
The discussions in class helped a lot to get new ideas from my peers and the readings kept me informed.
Gained valuable skills like close reading, textual analysis
I found Professor Snoek's lectures at the beginning of the class helpful. Small discussion groups were also good.
Discussions were insightful sometimes, his essay grading comments were very informative and helpful.
The discussions provided the best aspect for my learning because it allowed me to hear how others interpreted the same texts.
The discussions and collaborative documents were helpful in exposing me to a wide variety of different thoughts and ideas, which gave me a deeper understanding of the texts we were reading.
The discussions were really helpful in contextualizing the readings, and the discussion posts were also helpful in preparation for the discussions in class.
Discussions were helpful in terms of further understanding texts and their relationship to broader ideas in the class. Readings were helpful in terms of not only understanding different religious principles and ideals, but how to understand religion and the role it plays in broader contexts (i.e. sociologically, politically, etc.)
Professor Snoek was very good at facilitating interesting discussions.

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.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	26.67%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	33.33%	46.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	46.67%	40.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.47	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.33%	46.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	46.67%	46.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The texts are engaging
The readings are extremely dense so I wouldn't take this course unless you're willing to struggle through, like, 50 pages of writing from a man who seems drunk. That said, I found the discussions we had to be super enlightening, and the course as a whole is great if you're interested in learning more about prominent religions and commentaries on religion as a whole.
The standards for grading were a bit confusing— get your theses checked by the Professor before writing papers!

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
the discussions
Feedback on the papers was brutal but ultimately so useful and I appreciated it a lot more as the quarter went on and I was able to incorporate it into my work.
I think the aspect that contributed the most were office hours because it made it more clear how to write for this class.
I think my professor helped me a lot in understanding the material and creating an environment where people could share.
Clear instructions, guiding questions, flexibility and patience, incredible depth of knowledge, group work
Lectures at start of the class, feedback on writing
Discussion questions were very helpful, he would divide us into small groups and walk around to guide conversation, I liked the drawings he did on the board.
The teacher helped lead great discussions such that I was able to get the most out of the readings.
Giving context to the readings we read for class helped a lot in helping me understand the intended purposes of the text. The questions asked during discussions also encouraged me to think about the text in different ways.
Professor Snoek always brought interesting points to our discussions, and made them easier to understand when there was a more difficult text.
Dr Snoek does a great job of contextualizing texts from an academic lens and guiding the class discussion to arrive at particular insights and takeaways.
the professor was very good at steering the discussion to facilitate engagement. His comments were always very interesting and helped me to better understand the readings. I appreciated the summaries we would create to distill the most important points of dense texts.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Perhaps be more clear about the requirements for essays – i didn't get the hang of it until i asked explicitly in office hours
Dr. Snoek was great but on occasion, we seemed to spend too much time on one portion of the text in class, and not enough on others. It would have been useful to spend less time on certain portions that we'd already talked about a great deal and move on to another facet of the work instead.
The instructor could make just one groups for the paper because then it became confusing what readings you were allowed to use in your paper.
I think that we could do more smaller group discussions between the larger group ones.
Maybe come in with less pin-pointed questions, I found it intimidating sometimes to answer when I knew he was looking for one specific answer.
Maybe having a wider variety of different activities that can be done to analyze the texts.
More feedback and possibly prompts for discussion posts.
Nothing.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.47	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.33%	46.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	53.33%	40.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	26.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.21	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	33.33%	40.00%	6.67%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.47	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.33%	46.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.67%	53.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	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
Avi Waldman
Avi Waldman. I thought she was really nice and helpful when organizing the seminars and helping with drafts for the paper.
Avi Waldman
Avi

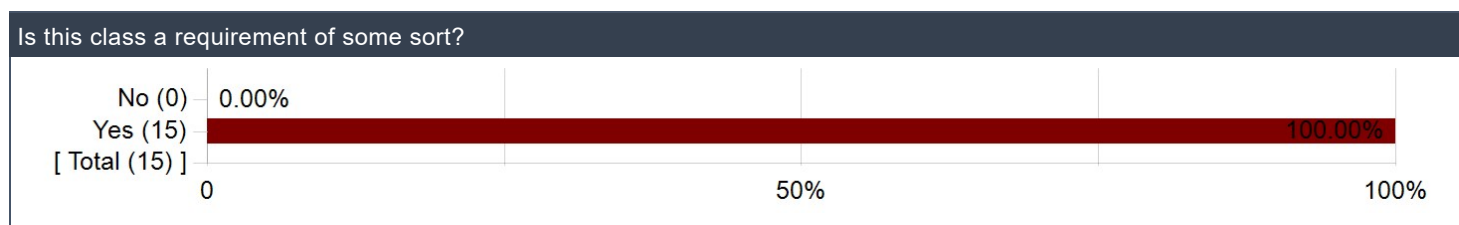
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	80.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%

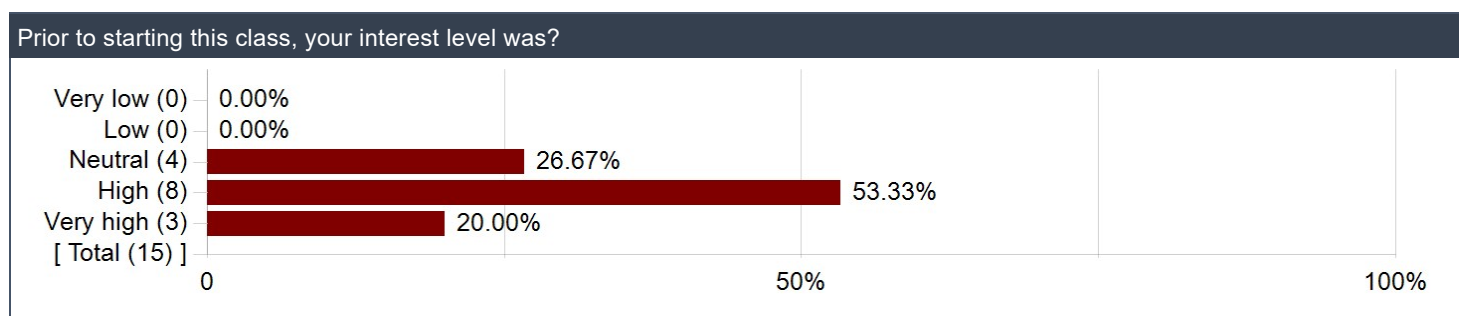
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.44	4.00	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	44.44%	11.11%	0.00%

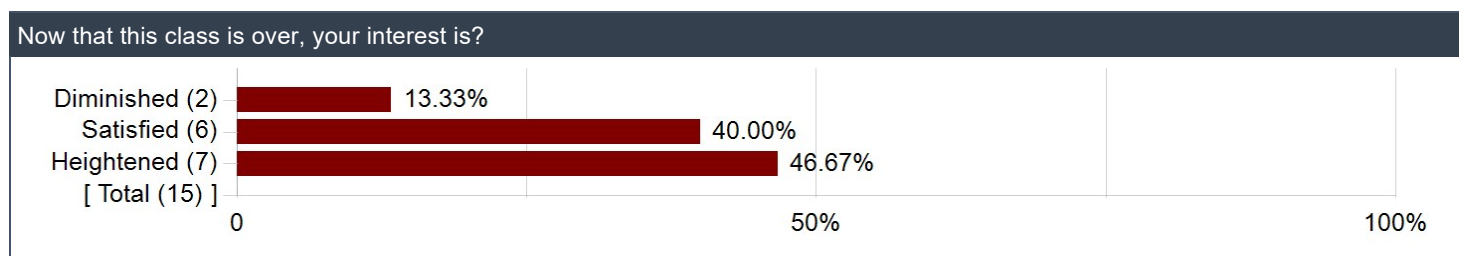
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



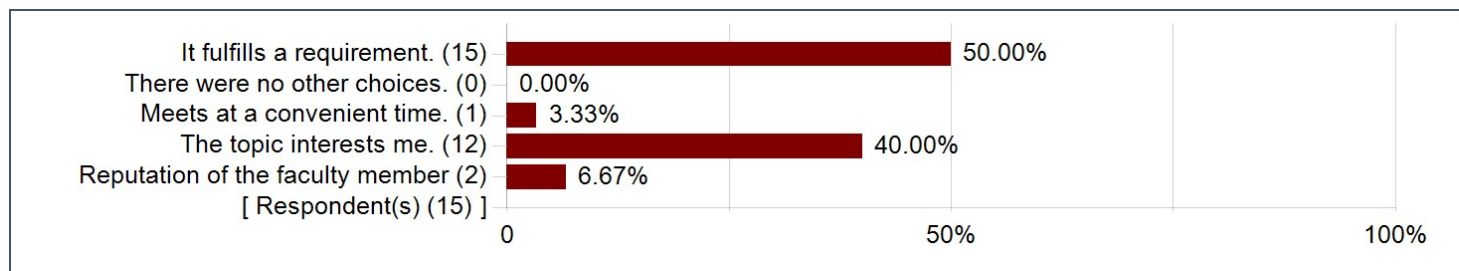
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



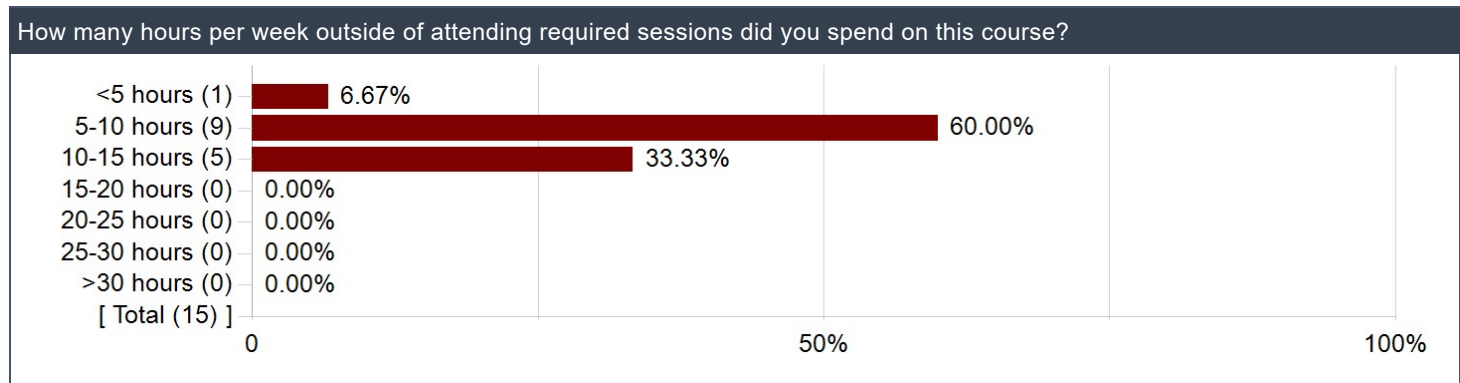
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



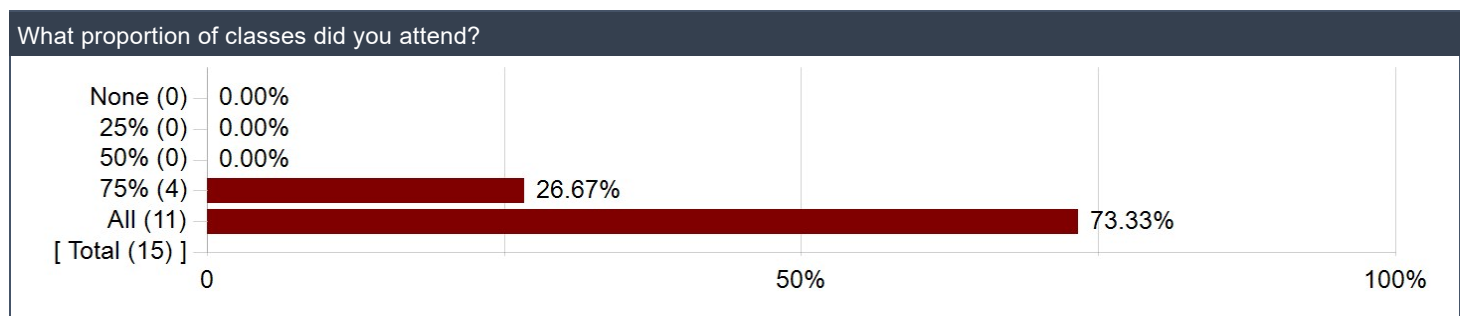
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Fair amount of reading and writing, not too philosophical which is great
Pretty difficult readings but the essays were fun to write and it's ultimately a good course to broaden your horizons regarding religion.
I think it is fine. It is slightly more difficult then a hum but I do not think the class is impossible or very time consuming.
Pretty difficult as it was all new material
Challenging, but manageable
I had taken other RLST classes so I had experience with half of the readings prior to the class. I found the other readings difficult without any other experience
Beginner friendly
The course is not difficult as long as you participate and do the readings.
The course was similar in difficulty to other discussion based classes I've taken in the past.
Found the texts a little more complex than those in media aesthetics but not a difficult course as a whole.
This class was a standard level of difficulty for a core class. There was a reasonable amount of reading each night, and nothing was too terrible!