

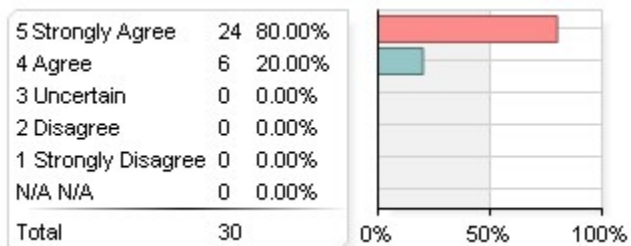
Spring 2014 Course Evaluation Report for TH16208_2014S THE RELIGIOUS QUEST II - Jillian Maxey

Response Table

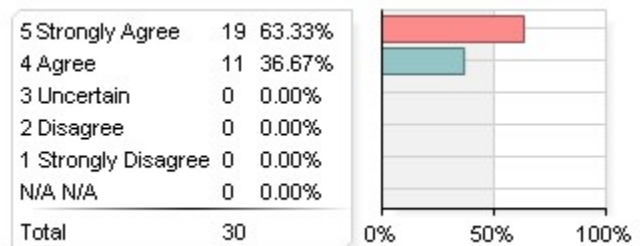
Spring 2014	
Raters	Students
Responded	30
Invited	33
Response Ratio	90.91%

Course Related Questions for TH16208_2014S THE RELIGIOUS QUEST II- Distribution of Responses

1. The course was well organized.



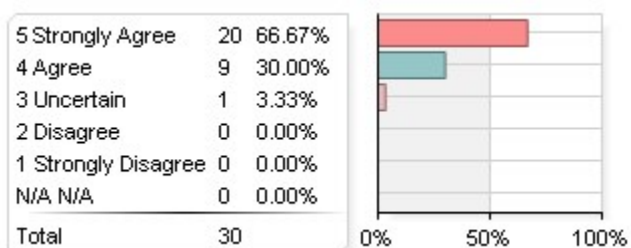
2. The course generally followed the syllabus.



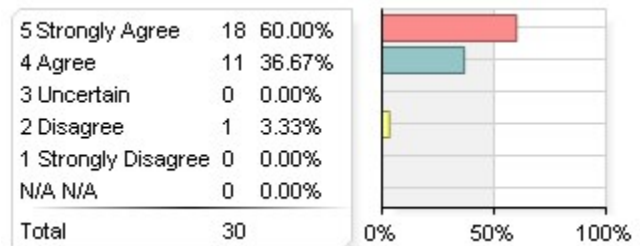
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.80
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.41

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.63
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.49

3. Class attendance was necessary for learning course material.



4. The course was intellectually challenging.

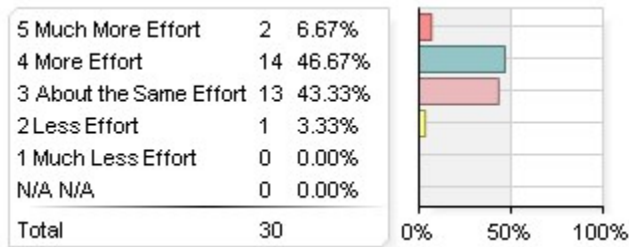


Statistics	Value
Mean	4.63
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.56

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.53
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.68

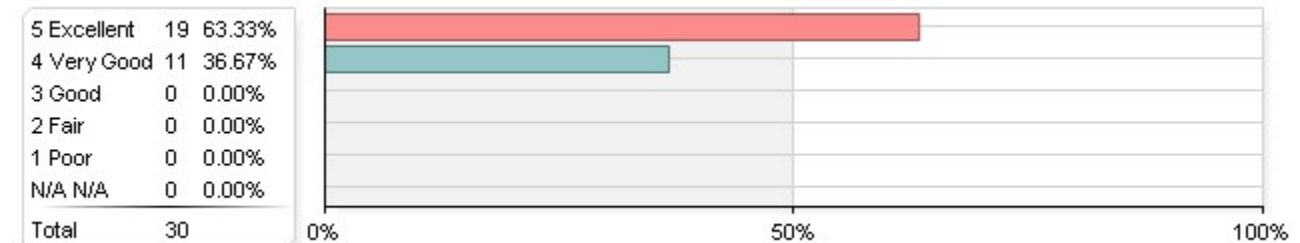
Course Related Questions for TH16208_2014S THE RELIGIOUS QUEST II- Distribution of Responses (continued)

Compared to similar courses (ie core, major, etc), this course required:



Statistics	Value
Mean	3.57
Median	4.00
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	+/-0.68

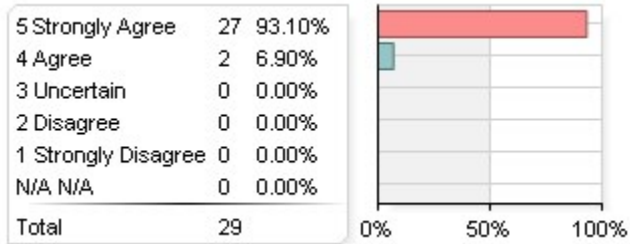
How would you rate this course overall?



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.63
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.49

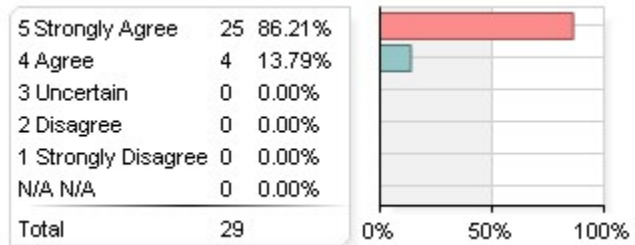
Instructor Questions for (Jillian Maxey)- Distribution of Responses

1. The instructor was prepared.



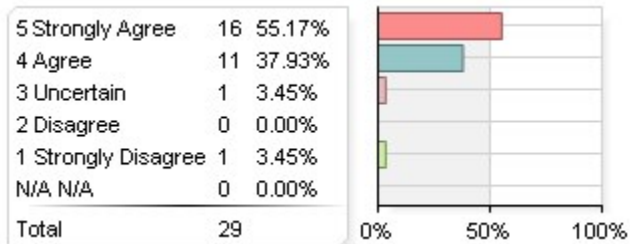
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.93
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.26

2. The instructor was available for help outside of class.



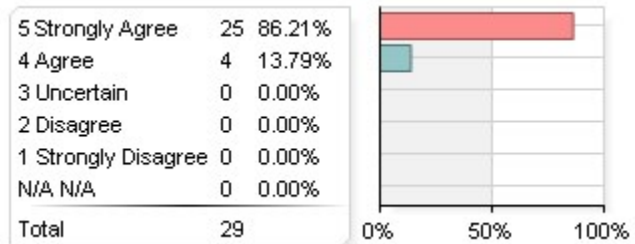
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.86
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.35

3. The instructor returned assignments/tests conscientiously.



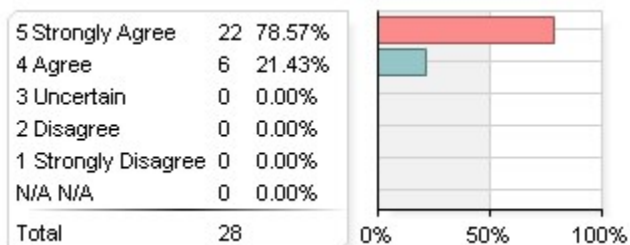
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.41
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.87

4. The instructor showed enthusiasm about the subject matter.



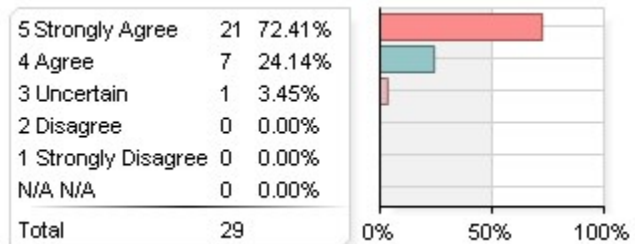
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.86
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.35

5. The instructor stimulated interest in the subject matter.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.79
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.42

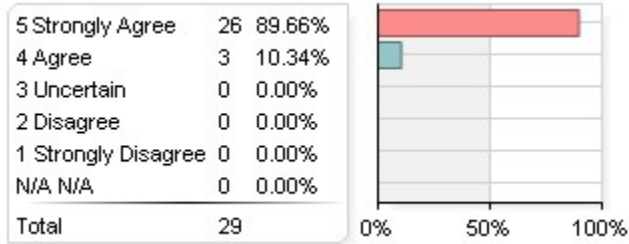
6. The instructor's explanations were clear.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.69
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.54

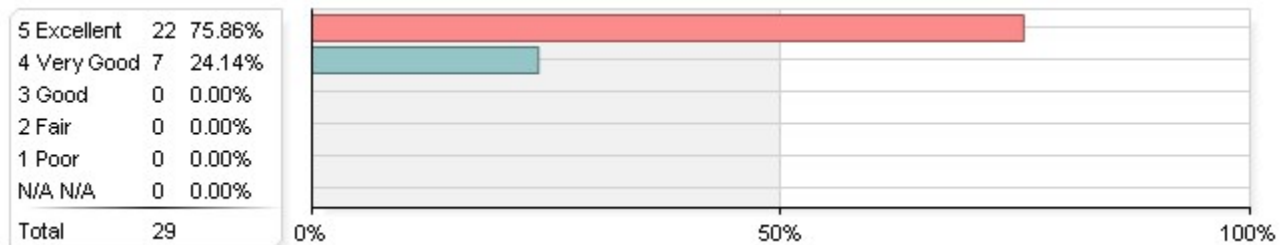
Instructor Questions for (Jillian Maxey)- Distribution of Responses (continued)

7. The instructor treated students with respect.



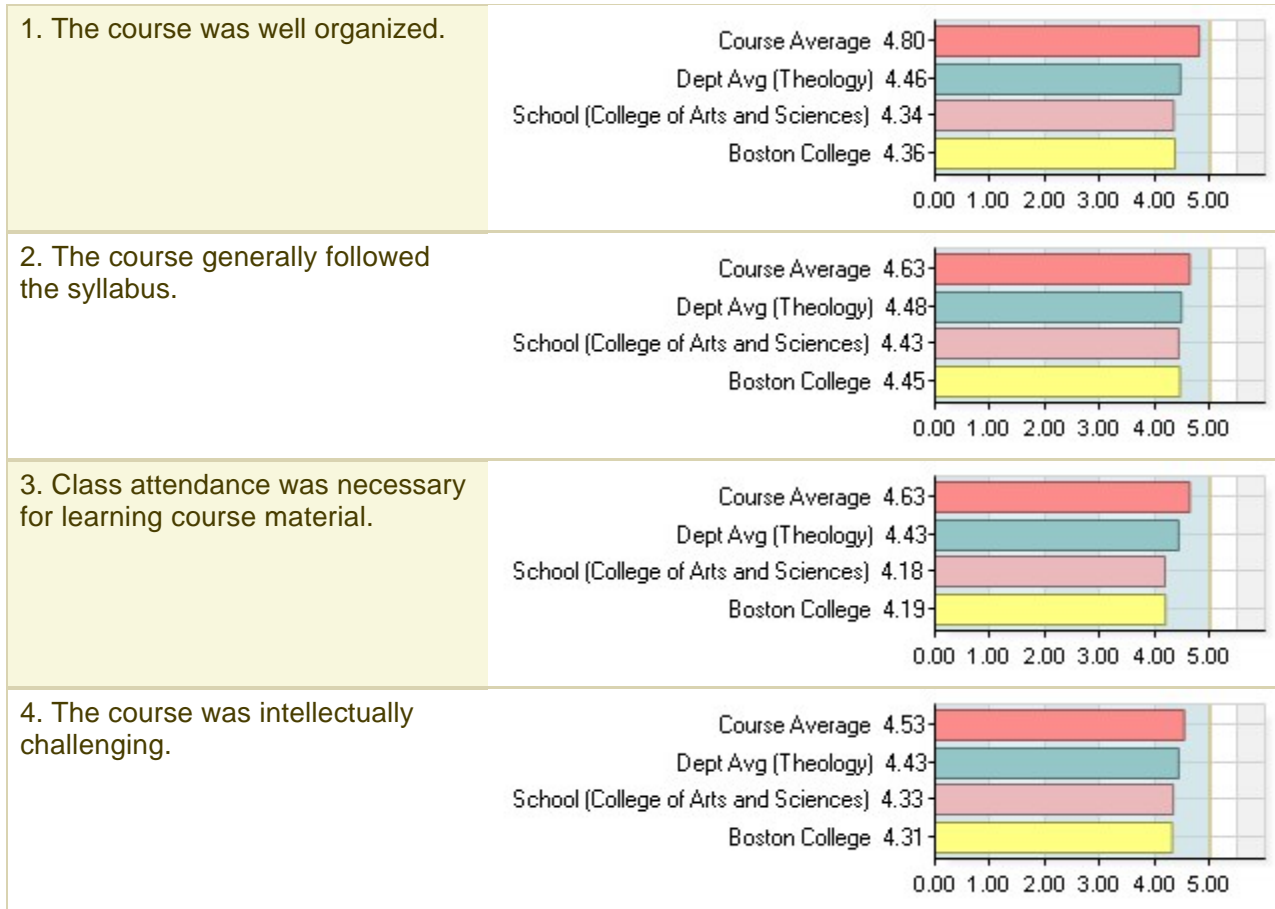
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.90
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.31

How would you rate this instructor overall as a teacher?

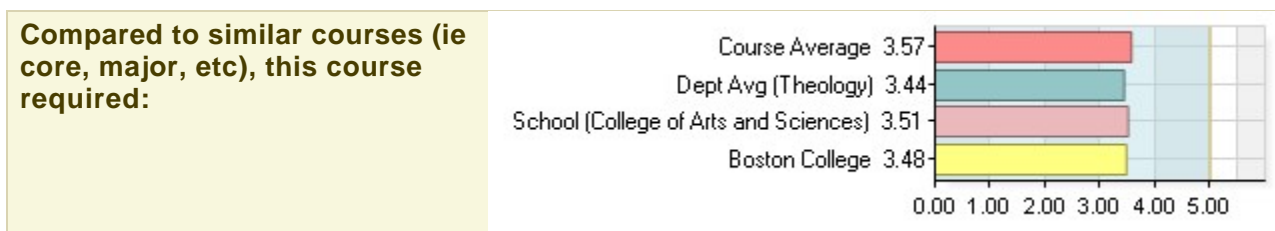


Statistics	Value
Mean	4.76
Median	5.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	+/-0.44

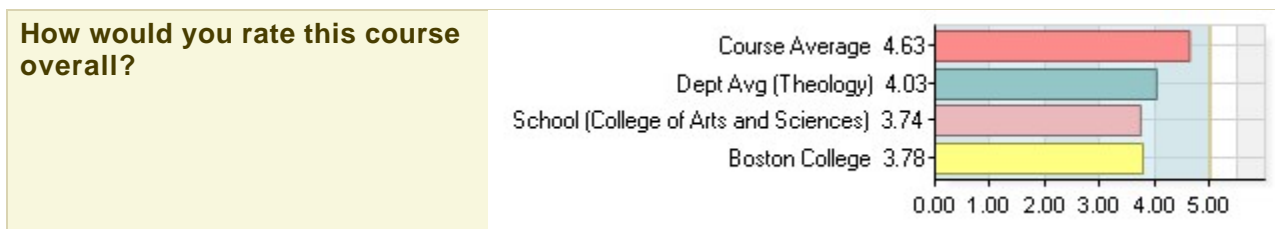
Course Questions for TH16208_2014S THE RELIGIOUS QUEST II - Benchmarks



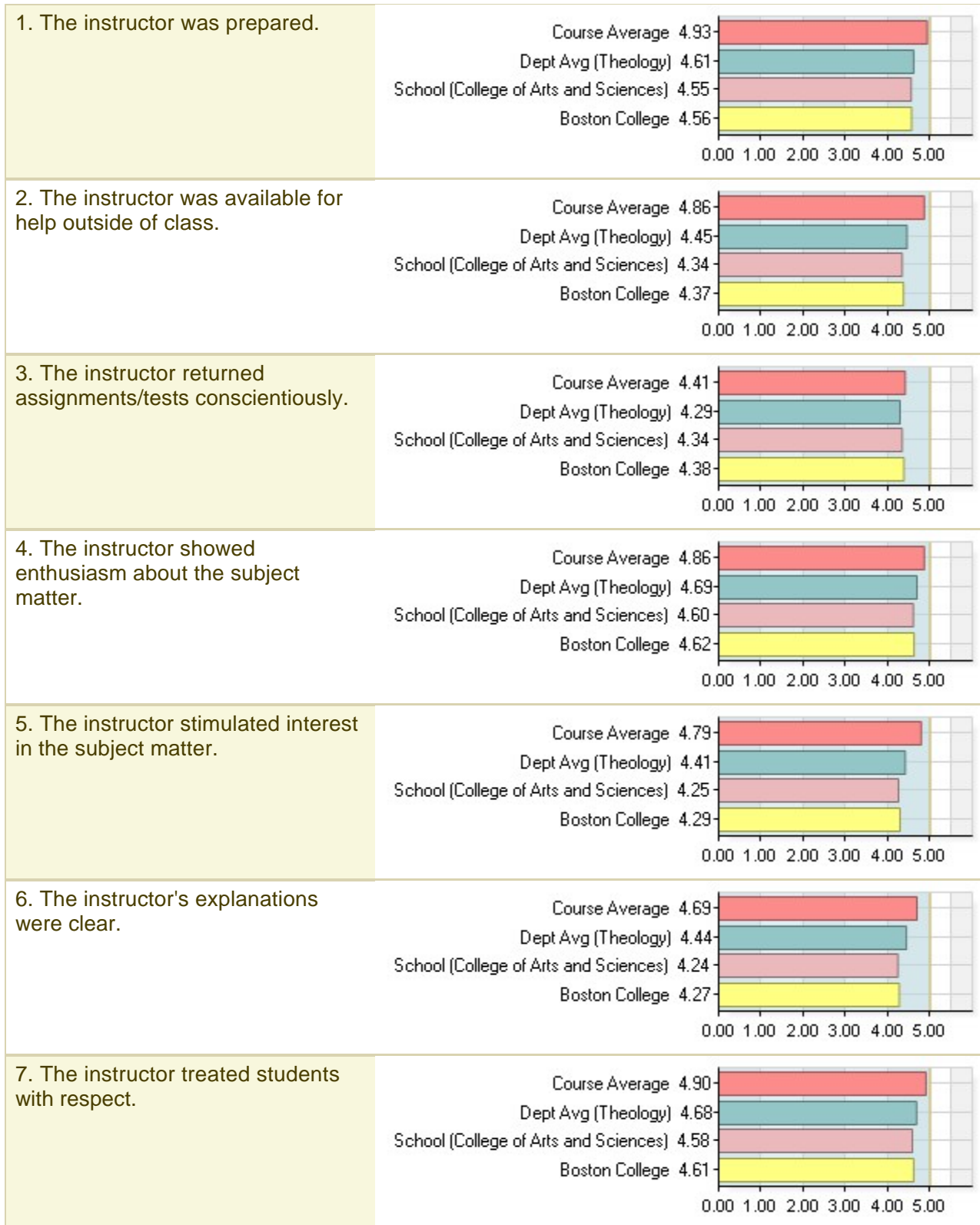
Compared to similar courses (ie core, major, etc), this course required:



How would you rate this course overall?



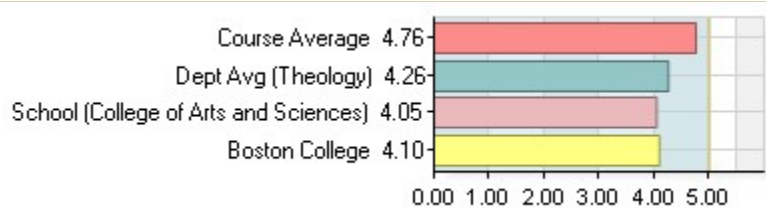
Instructor Questions for (Jillian Maxey) - Benchmarks



Instructor Questions for (Jillian Maxey) - Benchmarks (continued)

How would you rate this instructor overall as a teacher?

How would you rate this instructor overall as a teacher?



Comments for TH16208_2014S THE RELIGIOUS QUEST II - Jillian Maxey

What are the strengths of this course?

Comment
Interesting readings and class discussions. The format allowed for a lot of participation and group thinking.
It provides good insight with respect to comparing Judaism and Christianity which help explain relevant views on many subjects today
Professor Maxey was always prepared very well and class time was never wasted.
Very good teacher. She is very caring and nice. She is also very helpful and willing to work with you no matter what
Covered a ton of material, but it was all interesting and easy to engage
The professor is extremely knowledgeable of a wide array of subject matter that gets brought up in class, really great subject matter that can intrigue people of all major, thought-provoking, all the time.
Thorough, covered a lot of different topics relating to Christianity and Judaism
Maxey is very passionate about the topics in this course. She always arrives to class with a huge smile on her face. She invites everyone to participate and ask questions. You can tell that she really cares about her students. She is friendly and approachable. Personally, I found that the atmosphere of the class made me want to do as well as possible. In addition, Maxey has us do group work which has really given me the opportunity to meet others. I like attending class.
This course not only taught me about Jewish and Christian perspectives, but also taught me a lot about my own identity, both religious and otherwise. I enjoyed most of the readings, and one page reflections were really helpful in understanding the material and thinking about what I had read. The assignments were actually fun, especially the bioethics project. I really liked that we were encouraged to bring the conversation into our own context throughout the year. As we've learned, to be able to engage in dialogue with those who are different from us, we must first have a solid, confident understanding of ourselves. This course, and Professor Maxey, have truly helped me to begin to understand my own identity.
This course definitely offered a very unique experience to theology than any of the other courses that I could have chosen from. I think that at a Jesuit school, it's really important for students to learn how to be in conversation with each other and others who may seem different than themselves. I feel like I am walking away with something practical from this course.
professor
Professor Maxey was very personable and cared about each student, made me really think about my personal identity
Professor Maxey is an incredible professor! She made the class very engaging and applicable to young adults. The subject matter was great, and I learned a lot about the respective religions. Professor Maxey is so nice and balances the class very well between heavy material and light heartedness.
There wasn't too much work outside of class, discussions were interesting, and the unit on bioethics was really interesting as a science major
The projects we completed in the course were very interesting and were helpful in integrating and researching about the material learned in class. I enjoyed our class discussions, and the professor was engaging in how she presented the material.
Interesting readings and entertaining and stimulating assignments
-content is applicable to all majors -learn to work through and interpret the Bible -learn to work in groups to accomplish a common goal
Professor Maxey is very passionate about the subject matter, which stimulates interest among even those previously uninterested. Most importantly, however, she teaches with an open-minded, accepting style, which I felt was crucial given the subject matter. I myself am not a religious person, yet I never felt judged, belittled, or unequal because of it. Professor Maxey emphasized not our individual differences, but the faith journey we all experience, regardless of whether we agree with one another.
It is difficult to believe Professor Maxey is only a PhD student. She is a masterful teacher and clearly is

knowledgable in her subject matter. The course readings were extremely interesting -- I feel like she could teach a whole course on either Eve & Adam and Dignity of Difference alone. Professor Maxey is excited and engaging, her lectures are informative and interesting, class discussions are always productive. She makes somewhat dense or dry or dated material interesting and relevant. Response papers, while sometimes bothersome to do, were actually fun to write because they allowed students to engage with the readings so well. Professor Maxey engaged all of us in productive conversation, and she accomplished her goal of making us all consider things from nuanced perspectives while situating our own perspectives.

The course made somewhat mundane topics very interesting and exciting. Also, I enjoyed bringing in the modern aspects of theology and society that are oftentimes ignored in courses like this. It made it more real to our everyday lives.

Covered so much in strong detail. Jill was extremely well-versed and contributed across many different channels. Also, she has the golden key to getting students participation.

How could the instructor improve the course?

Comment

By decreasing the work load just slightly, sometimes it was overwhelming and I rushed through it.

The readings were always really long. Sometimes we would spend the whole class talking about 2 pages when the assigned reading was 30 pages. I think that narrowing down readings for discussion, but then suggesting to students that if they'd like to read pages x-y for their benefit, that would be much better in focusing discussions and lightening the heavy workload.

Some of the reading could have been omitted

The course is very heavy for a core. The reading responses can be overwhelming at times. I would say they need to be decreased by five or more.

The course was really well structured with very fair amounts of work for a core class. I know a lot of people said that there was too much work for a core class, but that just seems to be the general impression I get about most core classes at BC. I think that discussion days were more valued than lecture days. The topics are really engaging and it gets really boring to be lectured about the topics when we weren't going to be tested on them in the end.

cant

No improvements really! I wasn't too fond of the Adam and Eve text. I thought it a little repetitive.

I think it would be helpful to have less busy work, such as our almost daily reading responses, and instead add more papers or objective tests in order for the students to analyze and discuss the material. In doing reading responses, I felt like I was rushing through my work and simply responding to the one reading instead of integrating everything we were learning in the class.

Cant!

-less reflections each wk

While the group project was fun and fairly easy, working with 7 or 8 other students was challenging. The group component is great for a class about changing and challenging and refining perspectives, but perhaps in a better way.

A little more organization but overall this course was GREAT

Would you recommend this course to other students, majors, etc.? Why or why not?

Comment

Yes, it's a good way to fulfill the theology core and is very interesting

Yes, Professor Maxey is an outstanding teacher. She is really enthusiastic and really enjoys the material. She understands the material very well and is able to explain things from multiple points of view and still make sense. She is a very fair grader as well but still expects and demands that you put the time in and do your work thoughtfully.

Yes, it's a great course that covers both religion and philosophy.

Yes it would because I would take this course again

Yes. Its an awesome way to fulfill Theology and Cultural Diversity Requirement simultaneously.

yes! great course that allows you to form your own identity as a person, and a person with a religious identity alongside that.

Yes, very good introductory course for theology, very interesting with more interesting assignments than other classes

Yes, absolutely! I would tell them that Maxey is an awesome professor, and the topics we cover are interesting and make you think about your own personal background.

Yes!!! I think this course is much more interesting than an Intro to Catholicism course, etc. Comparing two religions makes it unique. I would especially recommend Professor Maxey, she was awesome!

I would highly recommend this course for any student that wanted to take a Theology core. It was a really unique experience.

yes

To fulfill the core, this class is the best option!

Yes

I would recommend this course because it was an interesting way to learn more about Judaism and Christianity on a foundational level. It will provide a nice basis for me as I further study theology. I also enjoyed class discussion and the group projects we completed.

Yes the subjects were relevant and enlightening

-Absolutely! This course goes far beyond religion and makes students realize the importance of interreligious dialogue between groups of people culturally different from yourself.

Yes, I would recommend not only this course, but Professor Maxey specifically - particularly for the people who approach Theology with trepidation.

While somewhat demanding for a core course, the material was often interesting, and Professor Maxey is reasonable enough to take this course.

Yes, this is a great course for any major or non-major to take because it teaches important lessons while staying academically interesting and challenging.

Additional Comments:

Comment

Professor Maxey is a great professor who brought enthusiasm and deep thought to the wide range of subjects we examined.

Loved this year of religious quest, my professor was awesome!

I liked how we did not have a sit down midterm or final this semester. Instead, we had an essay midterm and an oral final. I think these formats fit better than the ones used last semester.

For someone who has never taught a class before, Professor Maxey was organized, relatable, and fun. I think she came up with really unique, thought-provoking assignments and made the material easily relatable and interesting to her students. For a student who has never been very interested in this type of subject matter (and who was not looking forward to fulfilling a theology core), Professor Maxey made this a really enjoyable experience for me and has provoked more curiosity in comparative theology and inter-religious dialogue. She was an amazing teacher!

PROFESSOR MAXEY IS INCREDIBLE.

Responses to Customized Questions for TH16208_2014S THE RELIGIOUS QUEST II - Jillian Maxey

Please comment on the assigned reading for the course (The Eve and Adam anthology, the essays and chapters by Keenan, Rosenthal, Siegel, Dorff, Cahill and Hill Fletcher, and The Dignity of Difference, etc...). Which books, articles and/or authors did you find helpful? Would you recommend they be assigned again?

Comment
Eve and Adam
I liked Eve & Adam, Hill Fletcher, and Dignity of Difference
I think Eve and Adam was somewhat confusing but actually provided a lot of good insight. I thought Fletcher was very interesting just because it seemed very relevant to things today
The essay chapters don't mean as much to me as the readings, but I felt like Dignity of Difference was a great piece that was extraordinarily significant for our subject.
I think the structure of the course was great and that the books really elevated discussion. For the Ethics section I found Dorff to be helpful but Cahill not so much. The Dignity of Difference really stimulated the most class discussion and interest, it was an excellent choice.
I found them all helpful and would recommend them being assigned again.
I thought that all the readings were very pertinent to the information learned in class. A lot of the readings from Eve & Adam were overkill - we read so much of that book and discussed one or two things from each reading. It was a lot of work at the beginning of the semester, so refining these readings would benefit the class overall, I think.
I loved the Eve and Adam anthology, Dignity of Difference, and Fletcher's essay.
I think Hill Fletcher was helpful, as well as Cahill and Dorff for the bioethics project.
Eve and Adam anthology was awesome! It had so many great interpretations and sources. Everyone found something they could relate to. The essays by Keenan were interesting. I thought the Dorff Cahill book was too complex for our class. I found it hard to follow her reading. My favorite book was The Dignity of Difference, it was relevant to the class and modern day. It also wasn't overly religious. Instead, it really looked at the world and policy.
I think all the reading materials were helpful and thought-provoking. I especially enjoyed The Dignity of Difference and similar texts; I always really liked our discussions on interreligious dialogue and "being able to find God's image" in someone other than ourselves.
The essays by Keenan, and Sack's Dignity of difference were really helpful and entertaining texts to read.
I loved The Dignity of Difference
I wasn't very fond of the Eve and Adam anthology, or rather how much time we spent on it. I enjoyed all the other readings.
I thoroughly enjoyed each of the assigned readings--they attacked global topics, but related them to the main religious themes of the course. I would definitely assign Hill Fletcher and Jonathan Sacks for future classes.
The Adam and Eve anthology was very interesting. Actually I enjoyed most of the readings, but Cahill was a bit hard to follow (maybe it was just the section we read). The Dignity of Difference was probably my favorite, and the most helpful for looking at our world as it is.
I particularly enjoyed reading primary sources in the Eve and Adam anthology we read. It was also interesting to read some of the major theologians in the field of interreligious dialogue. I would recommend that the readings be assigned again.
All of them were great and easy readings.
The Eve and Adam anthology was a bit repetitive - hard to grasp the many interpretations of biblical text. Dignity of Difference was easy/interesting. The start of Cahill's work was a bit confusing, whereas Dorff was easy to understand/useful for assignments.
Compared to semester 1, the reading this semester was much more manageable and engaging. I particularly loved Eve and Adam, The Dignity of Difference, Cahill, and Hill Fletcher. I would recommend that those 4 definitely

be assigned again.

Dignity of Difference, Dorff, Fletcher, Eve and Adam, Keenan.

Great book very interesting

Eve and Adam was helpful but hard to find a consistent thread. Some of the opinion pieces from Cahill, Keenan, and others would have better reading responses if they were due after we discussed them in class

Please comment on the assignments for the course (the reading responses, the comparative essay on Genesis commentaries, the group ethics presentation, the individual ethics project, the final exam). Would you add or subtract any other TYPES of assignments?

Comment

Final Exam was a great idea

I thought the reading responses kept us accountable and on track and really helped me do the readings on time. The group ethics presentation was really fun and interesting and a good way to get to know the other people in the class. I LOVED the final. It was so interesting and a great way to engage in a dialogue that incorporated the things we learned throughout the course with our personal stories.

I think the reading responses were somewhat annoying, but at the same time I think they definitely allowed me to process the information and formulate some sort of idea on what was being read. I thought the final exam was awesome. It was really cool to hear hear other people's stories and it was also kind of fun making my own.

Subtract some of the reading responses, I felt like there were 3 or 4 too many.

I really enjoyed the ethics project at the group and individual level. It really allowed us to investigate a topic we were particularly interested at both the Christian and Jewish level. I thought there was a lot of reading responses but it was good motivation for doing the reading and you gave good feedback.

subtract a couple of reading responses

I preferred the reflection reading responses (what did you learn, what surprised you, what questions do you have?) to the ones that directed a specific question. The individual project went much more smoothly than I ever would have imagined with that many people in one group and I think it definitely helped that we didn't have to write a paper for it - when talking about ethics it is a lot more fluid to state your opinions rather than try to write them out. The final exam is the perfect way to end the year - I think it would have been disappointing to have to take a traditional written exam. I really like that I can reflect on who I am and how I've grown from this course.

I thought you covered a broad range of types of assignments which was great!

The reading responses should be cut down. Maybe cut 5.

The comparative essay was a lot of work, you had to find research. However, I really enjoyed finding readings about my topic because I was able to develop my own paper topic, allowing me to impose the direction I wanted to go in.

The group ethics presentation was awesome, but I would choose one or the other. I felt like I was doing a ton of repetition in the individual ethic project. One is necessary, not both.

Reading responses were always really helpful. My favorite assignment was the group ethics project. I also really like what our final is composed of; I think it will be a good way to talk about what we've learned about ourselves throughout the year.

There were a lot of people in the group projects which made a few people in our group feel like they could slack off, maybe smaller groups would be easier to work with.

no, they were good

I thought there were a lot of reading responses, especially with Adam and Eve. However, the other responses were a lot more manageable. The comparative essay and ethics projects were manageable and interesting as well. I really like the final exam, especially as a graduating senior. It was a great way to look back on one's life experiences and where I'm headed after graduation.

I thought that all of the group projects, including the final presentation, were extremely useful. The comparative essay on Genesis commentaries was definitely the most difficult assignment, but it allowed me to think more critically.

The reading responses were helpful because they forced us to not only do the readings, but to also be thoughtful about them. The paper was fine, Maxey gave us plenty of help especially with resources. The group project wasn't necessarily difficult, but it was hard to coordinate such a large group. Group projects are always really hard,

especially around midterms, because everyone's schedules are so different. The individual project was good, and the final exam was a good way to apply what we've learned to my own identity. I think all the assignments worked well with the structure of the course and the material.

I enjoyed the group presentations, the individual ethics project, and the comparative essay. I would subtract some of the reading responses because they were often a burden to complete for every class, causing me to rush through them instead of spending more time on close reading of the text.

there were a lot of reading responses but it wasn't overwhelming

Less reading responses/wk. Instead, potentially incorporate weekly small quizzes to test on reading.

I enjoyed all of this semester's assignments. I experienced a lot of growth as a student particularly through the comparative Genesis essay, which was a new experience for me. I fully admit that the sheer size of the ethics groups caused each of us to put less effort in than if our groups were smaller. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the assignment and learned a lot from it.

Responses were actually fun, though they were occasionally a burden with other classes and when there were multiple due for 6 class sessions in a row. The comparative essay was challenging but interesting to write, allowing us to pursue topics from E&A. The individual ethics project was great -- the format was new to me and it wasn't too challenging. The group project was interesting and teaching the class was a great change of pace and great speaking practice, but working with 7 or 8 others was difficult. The final project is unlike anything I've heard -- and it is testament to Professor Maxey's classroom innovation.

The ethics project groups were a little large

reading responses due after the class maybe?

Please comment on the broader applicability of the topics and themes discussed in the course to your life at BC, other courses, future profession, or personal identity.

Comment

Good stuff

I think it really helped me think about my personal identity and how it's acceptable to be slightly unsure of your religious identity --> it also helped me to broaden my viewpoint and incorporate parts of other religions in my own thinking

Religious Quest really made me consider religion a lot more as an institution.

I honestly found this course to be extremely impactful on how I view the world and my identity. The structure of the course from Genesis to modern ethics to globalization really enabled the class to take what we have been learning about all year and apply it to things we find important and relevant. The readings and responses helped me take a more personal approach to the readings. As with all things, you get as much out as you put in. I personally found it a rewarding and impactful class that has changed the way I view my faith and its place in the world. Class discussions will be missed!

This class helped me a lot in finding my personal identity

The ethical discussions of this semester were definitely ones that we could take outside the classroom and apply to our everyday lives. I liked this aspect because we could put our opinions in conversation with those put forward by the two traditions we were studying.

A lot of information, specifically bioethics, morality, existence of God, were slightly covered in my philosophy class, but overall all of the topics pertain to everyday life.

I think the class provided a nice overview of how faith can be integrated in many sectors of life. I had a tendency to believe religion was separate from my life. However, religion appears in everything. It connects with different sectors and people. Policy, war, occupations, etc are all affected by faith. I think being more aware of this will allow me to see how things and people are made up of many aspects/elements.

Although I don't plan on a career in theology or something similar, this course helped me begin to understand myself and what grounds me.

This class definitely made me think about how I interact with others and how I represent myself in the world. It not only made me think about how others saw me, but how I really see myself. I think that the final project was a really unique way to show us our ability to reinterpret our own stories and share them with other people.

This course definitely applies to my major because my future career requires me to be culturally competent. It is important to see how different religions feel on different issues.

This course helped me foster a more lucid vision of my identity and that could not have been done without

Professor Maxey. Critical thinking and constant reflection contributed to an overall successful course experience.

Several of the projects that we did related our identity and our interests to theology, especially the bioethics portion.

I believe that this course was applicable to me in both my future studies in theology and my life here at BC. In being surrounded by diversity, this course gave a fresh perspective on appreciating the "dignity of difference."

religion is always relevant at a jesuit university

In my future profession, I will definitely be able to utilize the material I learned throughout this course.

The biggest strength of this course lies in the universality of its messages. I connected so much with what people like Jonathan Sacks said about embracing differences and tolerating one another. Eve and Adam was also a unique way to have conversations about gender identity. As a result of this course, I feel like a more well-rounded, open minded person.

Understanding more deeply and keenly how we are hybrids has secured me in my own identity, and has allowed me to engage in productive self reflection and has refined my abilities to engage with texts and with other persons.

Loved the modern touches throughout the course kept me interested.

This class definitely changed my opinion on a lot of Judaism and globalization topics. I will definitely walk away with a different perspective, something I don't get out of every class here.