

Student #1

GS 3200

Week 10 Postmortem

1) Did the course live up to the expectations as described in the catalog description? Was the actual content better? Worse?

This course was better than I thought. Looking at the course description, I was not sure about it because it seemed like it would be research and fact heavy. However, the way that the assignments and discussions were done in a way that brought the material to life and I found the class very interesting.

2) Were the materials the course presented in terms of text, additional reading, and videos, useful in making the subject matter clear?

I actually really liked the text. It found a way to really “think” about and through a topic that can be sensitive and still be respectful. The videos from Adler were great and helpful. The Islam videos were also informative, though hard to watch at times. I liked the ones from Week 1, but Week 2’s Durkheim reading didn’t seem necessary nor did Week 3’s.

3) Was the work load for the course reasonable, compared to other courses you have taken?

The workload was appropriate for an undergraduate course. Assignments could be clarified so students don’t misread what is really being asked for them. Other BACP teachers have had more open assignments like this and then marked off when overreaching work was not turned in, so I think that adds to the confusion and the problem of a lack of consistency of expectations throughout the BACP.

4) What was most memorable for you?

Most memorable were the discussions that included people sharing who had lived abroad. Getting to “hear” first-hand how people live, interact and view the world from other countries was eye opening for me and really gave life to the material.

5) What was the least attractive aspect of the class?

The readings which were very long and older will not be missed. It did not seem that we really used the information from all of them. It may be more interesting and useful to read them if students found more purpose in them. The discussions questions could include two or three questions from the additional readings in addition to the text.

6) Could you explain the topics presented in this class to someone else?

Yes, which is a really interesting and wonderful part of this class. The discussions and assignments really helped this information to sink in. I really got into learning about the theory of existential security being related to rising secularization as well as how the United States is an outlier in this. The latter is something I would not have guessed and understand how so many factors; such as socioeconomic insecurity, immigration, history of religious freedom, and religious pluralism all add up to a postindustrial country having a higher religiosity than other countries in the same category.

7) Given a "do over," would you sign up for this class again?

Absolutely I would take this class again, especially if Professor Wise is the instructor. I think if I had the chance to take any other classes with her, I would do so no matter what the subject. I was concerned about getting into this topic in a course, but she made it something the class could dialogue about in addition to sharing experiences which enrich learning.