

To: Whom it May Concern

From: Student #2

Date: March 11, 2011

CC: Deborah Wise

Re: Assessment of GS 3200: Values around the World.

Postmortem Assignment

The course GS 3200: Values around the World was an interesting look at the impact that societal religious values have on international and domestic relationships. The course lived up to the expectations and course goals that were outlined in the University of Denver's catalog description. It in fact, exceeded the expectations of the basic course outline, because in depth conversations were held on the e-College discussion board that included additional outside resources pertaining to weekly topics and classmate's personal opinions and experiences that correlated with the subject material. I believe that this intense learning atmosphere was fostered by the instructor of the course, Deborah Wise. Some of the major points in which this course and its instructor have excelled are as follows:

- The materials presented in GS 3200 were both in text form and video media form. This aided students by providing various methods in which comprehension of the course material could be gained. By combining methods of instruction, both students who learn more easily through visual aids and students who excel in reading comprehension were able to access the course information in their preferred method of learning.
- The workload in this course was comparable to other coursework required at the University of Denver's University College, which is reasonable for students who wish to

obtain a stellar education. It was able to be accomplished as long as students adequately prepared for assignments, as none of the assignments were simply busy work. Each different paper or activity was directly correlated to the course objectives, and was designed to enhance the students' comprehension of the subject material.

- Memorable aspects of this class include portions of material that could have led to heated debates about religion and politics, with students disregarding academic protocol about respectful behavior. This did not happen between students within this class. I believe this to be a result of a strong instructor (Deborah Wise) who was able to quell potential conflict between diverse students before it started, via preemptive statements about respecting the statements of others and that abusive posts would not be tolerated. I also believe this is a result of the academic atmosphere at the University of Denver, which fosters a community of students that are respectful of each other's opinions and beliefs.
- Although most portions of the class were interesting, every student has a least favorite part. For me, the least exciting part of this course was sifting through raw church attendance and belief pattern data. This data though, is crucial for enhanced understanding of the secularization and religious patterns in various nations. It would be a mistake to remove it, even if it is not as enjoyable to read as the other course materials that focus on qualitative data might be.
- The discussion postings on e-College were expected to be academic in nature, and Instructor Wise required that all information be correctly cited according to either Turabian or APA citation format. As a result of this highly academic style of discussion, students become well prepared to explain or debate the subject material presented in this

course. The repetitive citation requirements also leave students able to direct those who may not be familiar with the course topics to reputable sources that can aid them in understanding the religious impact on societies and politics.

Because of the importance of understanding how values, both religious and societal, affect the political structures of both international governments and supranational governance, I would recommend this class to any student with a Public Policy, Political Science, International Relations, Global Studies, or Social Science major. I would also recommend it to any student who would like to gain a basic comprehension of how value systems interrelate between differing nations. Knowing what I do now about this course, if I were again in the position of deciding whether to take this course, I would do so. The insight gained over the ten week course created by Deborah Wise is invaluable to a holistic understanding of political and societal structures.