

Study of Religion Students' Union



"Don't go there."

Introduction

The Study of Religion Students' Union (SRSU) represents all undergrads enrolled in any RLG course. The SRSU organizes seminars and social events throughout the year. To find out more or to get involved with the SRSU, please come by the ASSU office, SS 1068.

Editor

RLG 100Y1Y World Religions

Instructor(s): D. Perley

Enr: 190	Resp: 124							Retake: 81%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	1	3	8	25	33	25	2	4.7
Explains	2	3	12	19	34	25	3	4.7
Communicates	3	5	11	26	31	18	3	4.5
Teaching	2	4	3	18	35	26	8	5.0
Workload	0	3	4	71	12	6	0	4.1
Difficulty	1	0	8	62	20	4	1	4.2
Learn Exp	1	2	8	37	30	14	4	4.5

Many students thought that the material was enjoyable and interesting, but wished that Perley presented in a more interesting manner. They felt that the tests didn't reflect what was discussed in class and were inconsistent. Some felt uncomfortable raising questions in class, and that tutorials were unhelpful. The lectures were a bit disorganized.

Instructor(s): W. Saleh

Enr: 157	Resp: 90							Retake: 92%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	1	2	1	9	30	25	29	5.6
Explains	0	1	2	3	17	30	44	6.1
Communicates	0	0	1	1	7	20	69	6.6
Teaching	0	0	1	4	12	32	49	6.2
Workload	0	1	8	71	10	6	1	4.2
Difficulty	0	2	3	78	8	6	1	4.2
Learn Exp	0	1	3	13	30	25	25	5.5

Saleh was well-loved by students who thought he made "lessons entertaining, informative," and clearly explained concepts. He always tried to help students, and the use of movies was a valuable. Many would have liked any feedback on the assignments, and more effective tutorials. Overall, students "had a blast" attending Saleh's lectures and highly recommended taking the course.

RLG 101Y1Y The Phenomenon of Religion

Instructor(s): T. Juric

Enr: 121	Resp: 67							Retake: 26%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	18	17	18	20	18	3	3	3.2
Explains	1	616	20	29	10	4	1	3.2
Communicates	10	6	6	29	26	13	7	4.3
Teaching	20	12	14	32	17	3	0	3.2
Workload	1	0	4	61	16	7	7	4.5
Difficulty	0	1	6	43	16	15	16	4.9
Learn Exp	24	11	18	31	5	3	5	3.2

Many students felt Juric chose readings that were far too advanced for a first year course. When lecturing, she just regurgitated the text and did not give proper insight to the material. Some felt that she spoke too quickly and was somewhat disorganized. Others appreciated her willingness to help and answer questions outside of class.

RLG 201Y1Y Aboriginal Religion

Instructor(s): D. Blais

Enr: 50	Resp: 42							Retake: 62%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	10	12	20	27	12	17	4.7
Explains	0	4	9	26	19	21	17	5.0
Communicates	0	0	0	16	19	23	40	5.9
Teaching	0	9	14	21	12	14	26	4.9
Workload	0	0	2	67	15	10	5	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	52	22	20	5	4.8
Learn Exp	3	12	0	33	9	18	24	4.8

Students were divided in their opinion about Blais - some said he was an engaging and compelling lecturer, while a few thought he was confusing and a little disorganized. Some thought he really cared about his students while others commented that he had favourites, and was not approachable. A few indicated that the marking scheme was inconsistent and "rules were changed" constantly. Despite this, many students found the material interesting.

RLG 202Y1Y The Jewish Religious Tradition

Instructor(s): K. Green

Enr: 42	Resp: 25							Retake: 83%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	8	12	16	28	16	20	4.9
Explains	0	8	0	16	32	28	16	5.2
Communicates	4	0	4	4	12	48	28	5.8
Teaching	0	4	0	16	24	36	20	5.5
Workload	0	4	8	72	12	0	4	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	4	64	24	8	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	0	15	42	36	0	5	4.4

Green lectured with much enthusiasm and clarity. Many thought he was "kind and approachable". Some thought he was a little disorganized and that there was too much material presented in the lectures.

RLG 206Y1Y The Buddhist Religious Tradition

Instructor(s): D. Miller

Enr: 124	Resp: 64							Retake: 89%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	1	6	25	40	25	5.8
Explains	0	1	1	6	17	43	29	5.9
Communicates	0	1	0	1	4	30	61	6.5
Teaching	0	0	3	0	16	40	39	6.1
Workload	0	1	22	66	6	3	0	3.9
Difficulty	1	0	14	61	17	4	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	0	3	17	21	36	21	5.5

Miller was enthusiastic, funny, clear and encouraging. Students thought his lectures were well-organized, interesting and insightful. Miller

addressed their questions effectively and was always willing to assist students.

RLG 211Y1Y Introduction to the Psychology of Religion

Instructor(s): W. Wahl

	Resp: 46							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	4	21	43	28	2	5.0
Explains	0	0	6	21	47	19	4	4.9
Communicates	0	2	10	32	34	19	0	4.6
Teaching	0	0	4	10	45	34	4	5.2
Workload	0	0	8	71	15	2	2	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	2	36	47	8	4	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	5	54	24	10	5	4.6

Some students thought Wahl communicated the contents of the readings well and was "meticulous in his dissection of the texts". The material was interesting. Some liked the fact that there was no exam in the course, only essays. The topics for the papers were diverse and "demanded analysis and understanding rather than merely memorization". A few students didn't like Wahl's lectures referring to these as "boring" and "monotonous".

RLG 221H1F Religious Ethics: The Jewish Tradition

Instructor(s): D. Novak

	Resp: 30							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	10	37	37	13	5.6
Explains	0	0	0	3	23	40	33	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	0	16	36	46	6.3
Teaching	0	0	0	0	20	34	44	6.2
Workload	0	0	6	60	16	16	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	6	50	33	10	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	4	24	24	28	20	5.4

Many students found Novak to be a knowledgeable and engaging lecturer. They found the class to be a challenging, yet very valuable educational experience.

RLG 224Y1Y Problems in Religious Ethics

Instructor(s): L. Schmidt

	Resp: 62							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	3	0	4	9	32	25	24	5.4
Explains	1	0	3	1	29	37	27	5.8
Communicates	1	0	4	17	22	32	20	5.4
Teaching	3	0	1	3	26	36	28	5.7
Workload	0	0	6	38	31	10	13	4.8
Difficulty	0	1	8	54	24	6	4	4.4
Learn Exp	0	2	6	23	26	21	19	5.3

Most students thought that five essays with five to eight pages each were too much for the course. Schmidt was a kind, knowledgeable, informative and very well-organized instructor. He reviewed material from the previous lecture - a helpful way to reinforce what was read and learned. The tutorials were not considered valuable.

RLG 237H1S Women and Western Religions

Instructor(s): L. Zwissler

	Resp: 40							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	2	0	0	7	33	38	17	5.6
Explains	5	0	0	12	20	42	20	5.5
Communicates	0	0	0	5	25	45	25	5.9
Teaching	2	0	0	10	45	22	22	5.4
Workload	0	0	5	46	25	20	2	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	10	65	12	10	2	4.3
Learn Exp	2	0	2	36	27	19	11	4.9

Overall, students thought the course and instructor were good. Many felt that Zwissler talked a bit too quickly which made note taking difficult. However, she was approachable, helpful and students appreciated her enthusiasm. They also enjoyed the lectures and class discussions.

Students wished for more comments/feedback on their tests and assignments. Some also felt the readings were extensive and hard to get through and did not think pop quizzes were a fair evaluation of participation.

RLG 280Y1Y World Religions: A Comparative Study

Instructor(s): W. Saleh

	Resp: 23							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	4	13	39	26	17	5.4
Explains	0	0	0	17	30	21	30	5.7
Communicates	0	0	0	0	13	30	56	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	4	30	34	30	5.9
Workload	0	0	0	81	13	0	4	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	10	70	15	0	5	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	40	20	40	0	5.0

Students enjoyed Saleh's class and perceived him as an enthusiastic, effective, attentive and engaging teacher. He told students many anecdotes and used Hollywood references, which were all valuable and interesting.

Instructor(s): D. Perley

	Resp: 27							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	12	28	32	16	12	4.9
Explains	0	0	11	15	38	26	7	5.0
Communicates	0	0	7	23	34	19	15	5.1
Teaching	0	0	3	19	38	30	7	5.2
Workload	0	3	3	77	11	0	3	4.1
Difficulty	0	3	14	66	7	3	3	4.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	47	36	10	5	4.7

Perley was an entertaining and approachable instructor, but his course needed a bit more organization. Students would have appreciated feedback on their essays and consistency on the tests. Many believed that Perley would improve his teaching style as he gets more experience, since this was his first year in teaching.

RLG 304H1S Language, Symbols, Self

Instructor(s): D. Penner

	Resp: 28							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	7	7	28	57	6.4
Explains	0	0	0	7	10	35	46	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	25	75	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	7	25	67	6.6
Workload	0	0	0	57	25	14	3	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	14	21	53	10	5.6
Learn Exp	0	0	0	12	20	16	52	6.1

"This course provided a wide range of paradigms for thinking about religion and the nature of God". Students thought very highly of Penner saying he was "concise, versatile, approachable, energetic and very effective". They found the material difficult but Penner's interpretation helped their understanding.

RLG 322H1S Early Christian Gospels

Instructor(s): J. Kloppenborg

	Resp: 22							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	4	0	0	4	4	28	57	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	9	0	28	61	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	4	4	19	71	6.6

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Teaching	0	0	0	5	5	20	70	6.6
Workload	0	0	4	71	9	14	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	0	60	25	10	5	4.6
Learn Exp	0	5	0	11	22	27	33	5.7

Students perceived Kloppenborg as "a world leader in his field" presenting challenging material in an exciting manner. The assignments were varied and fun to do, allowing students to "get the most out of the course". Students learned so much from taking the course because the instructor shared his knowledge on the Christian period, history and culture.

RLG 343H1F Kabbala: A History of Mystical Thought in Judaism

Instructor(s): K. Green

Enr: 19	Resp: 17							Retake: 93%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	5	0	0	29	47	11	5	4.7
Explains	5	0	0	23	35	23	11	5.0
Communicates	5	0	0	0	17	29	47	6.0
Teaching	5	0	0	0	23	35	35	5.8
Workload	0	0	5	64	23	0	5	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	23	29	35	11	5.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	28	21	28	21	5.4

Many students made the comment that Green was an insightful and enthusiastic lecturer. The subject material was thought to be fascinating yet a bit complicated at times. The lectures were, at times, considered a little confusing and some students would have liked it to be more linear and straight-forward.

RLG 346H1F Time and Place in Judaism

Instructor(s): H. Fox

Enr: 14	Resp: 7							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	33	16	50	0	5.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	16	16	66	6.5
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	16	83	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	16	50	33	6.2
Workload	0	0	33	50	16	0	0	3.8
Difficulty	0	0	0	50	33	16	0	4.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	40	20	40	6.0

Fox was found to be an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable lecturer. Many students like the fact that he encouraged them to think more critically and was open to their original ideas.

RLG 351H1F The Qur'an: An Introduction

Instructor(s): W. Saleh

Enr: 34	Resp: 25							Retake: 95%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	4	24	40	16	16	5.2
Explains	0	0	0	4	54	25	16	5.5
Communicates	0	0	0	0	16	36	48	6.3
Teaching	0	0	0	4	40	24	32	5.8
Workload	0	0	0	77	4	4	13	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	4	63	18	4	9	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	20	6	26	46	6.0

Saleh was a very enthusiastic lecturer. Many students felt his lectures needed to be more structured and organized.

RLG 375H1F Buddhist Thought in India and Tibet

Instructor(s): H. Shiu

Enr: 33	Resp: 17							Retake: 68%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	25	18	25	25	6	4.7
Explains	0	6	6	31	25	18	12	4.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	31	37	31	6.0

Teaching	0	0	6	12	43	25	12	5.2
Workload	0	0	0	56	37	6	0	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	31	18	25	25	5.4
Learn Exp	0	0	9	27	45	0	18	4.9

The course was considered interesting yet academically rigorous.

RLG 384H1S Pluralism and Dialogue

Instructor(s): M. Vertin

Enr: 28	Resp: 23							Retake: 95%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	17	34	47	6.3
Explains	0	0	0	4	21	21	52	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	13	17	6.9	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	9	31	59	6.5
Workload	0	0	13	52	26	8	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	8	39	21	26	4	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	5	29	23	41	6.0

Both Vertin and the course were excellent. Vertin was kind, enthusiastic and articulate. A few students suggested including other religious perspectives besides Christianity.

RLG 388H1S Special Topics I: Kabbalah and Modernity

Instructor(s): B. Pollock

Enr: 24	Resp: 18							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	11	35	35	17	5.6
Explains	0	0	0	0	37	31	31	5.9
Communicates	0	0	0	0	16	27	55	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	0	23	47	29	6.1
Workload	0	5	11	61	22	0	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	11	0	66	22	0	0	4.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	15	30	38	15	5.5

Students "loved Pollock's obvious enthusiasm for the material and his effort to make the class interesting".

RLG 389H1S Special Topics II

Instructor(s): M. Jiwa

Enr: 38	Resp: 29							Retake: 100%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	3	13	20	62	6.4
Explains	0	0	0	3	3	20	72	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	7	7	85	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	17	82	6.8
Workload	0	0	10	75	6	3	3	4.1
Difficulty	0	3	10	62	13	6	3	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	9	9	27	54	6.3

A worthwhile, enjoyable, superb and interesting course! Jiwa was an "amazing" instructor who was well-organized, helpful, enthusiastic, and very approachable.

RLG 410Y1Y Advanced Topics in Religion: Introductory Sanskrit

Instructor(s): L. Mills

Enr: 14	Resp: 9							Retake: 77%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	11	22	66	6.6
Explains	0	0	0	0	11	22	66	6.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Workload	0	0	0	33	44	22	0	4.9
Difficulty	0	0	0	0	44	11	44	5.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	14	42	42	6.3

Students appreciated that "Mills understood the difficulty of the material and tried her best to ensure that the class comprehended the concepts".

RLG 412H1S Advanced Topics in Religion: Aesthetics, Politics and Muslim Identity

Instructor(s): M. Jiwa

	Resp: 5							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	20	20	40	20	5.6
Explains	0	0	0	20	20	40	20	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	0	20	20	60	6.4
Teaching	0	0	20	0	0	20	60	6.0
Workload	0	0	0	0	40	20	40	6.0
Difficulty	0	0	0	40	40	20	0	4.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	25	0	0	75	6.2

This seminar course allowed students to "think outside of the classroom" and "changed the way they looked at Islamic traditions". Jiwa was very accommodating and made the course very interesting.

RLG 433H1S Maimonides and His Modern Interpreters

Instructor(s): K. Green

	Resp: 6							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	50	16	33	5.8
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	83	16	6.2

Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	33	66	6.7
Workload	0	0	0	50	33	16	0	4.7
Difficulty	0	0	0	0	33	50	16	5.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0

RLG 490Y1Y Individual Studies

Instructor(s): T. Champa

	Resp: 5							Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Presents	0	0	0	0	20	20	60	6.4
Explains	0	0	0	0	0	20	80	6.8
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	20	80	6.8
Workload	0	0	0	0	60	40	0	5.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	20	40	20	20	5.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	0	75	25	6.2

Students felt lucky to have had Champa as the instructor. He was very enthusiastic, knowledgeable and effective. Students also found it fascinating that Champa was a Buddhist monk for 12 years.

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