

What features of this course and/or instructor were most effective? Why?

- Having an open, casual atmosphere really helps Yamane keep things simple and effective in class which makes the class fun and exciting.
- The discussion is great. I learn a lot every class session. The videos are great.
- The instructor is very helpful and explains the material thoroughly. Also he has a unique and very effective way to want students to come to class. This instructor has been one of my best in my four years.
- Professor Yamane created a very comfortable atmosphere that made classes fun and entertaining to attend.
- Dr. Yamane really did a good job to make all the material accessible and easy to understand—this was especially effective with some of the readings being pretty difficult at times. The classroom environment was also very unique—relaxed to where discussion was encouraged but everyone still took the class seriously. It was also interesting to study religion in this particular perspective – a perspective not always seen in classes in the religion department. Dr. Yamane did a good job of also tailoring the schedule when issues came up.
- The study guides he created helped understand books class discussions—stimulated thinking outside info (videos, websites) engaged class; field trip most interesting!
- Dr. Yamane is very enthusiastic and available to students. The handout and class assignments are helpful to learning. He is receptive to students ideas which encourages participation.
- The instructor is what really made this course. Yamane is the best professor I've had at Wake. He makes a potentially dry course very engaging and interesting – which is what makes the course effective. He keeps me coming to class and paying attention. He is dynamic, knowledgeable, and relates to students in a very effective and beneficial way.
- Class outlines – were sure on the right track with reading and notes. Mid-year course evaluation—were all on the same page. Music before class—calms us down!
- The outlines that were posted or e-mailed prior to class. This guided the readings particularly when they were difficult.
- Dr. Yamane does a great job of making the class enjoyable. He begins class sometimes with music that relates to the class that day. He also has us do creative in class assignments which help us to learn in a different way and also breaks up the monotony of a lecture every day.

- The comfortable atmosphere that Dr. Yamane offered was very effective in this course. Religion can be a controversial subject and he made the classroom non-offensive for all students.
- Dr. Yamane illuminated areas of the course with music, multimedia, and primary examples. This course intellectualizes religion, so by using real-world examples, the subject was more interesting and easier to understand.
- The lectures were very helpful in helping to understand the reading material and for enrichment.
- Enthusiasm of the instructor & his use of outside sources.
- Outgoing instructor made me want to attend class. In-class videos helpful. Casual atmosphere.
- I thought that Dr. Yamane chose very interesting readings and topics to discuss in this class. This encouraged me to do all the reading assignments and to participate in class. Also, Dr. Yamane tried hard to relate to all of his students and to make the learning environment fun and comfortable.
- I liked getting the notes ahead of time b/c it allowed me to understand the material before entering class. I also liked the field trip & saved! Paper.
- The instructor was very knowledgeable and he loves the subject, his energy just flowed through his teaching. He was very helpful and accommodating each and every time I asked to meet or had a question. One of the best qualities of Dr. Yamane's is the relationships he develops with his students. Each of us feel like he cares because he's given his time to develop and improve our lives. I know he is one teacher I will never forget—he made me love and enjoy learning when attending his class. In my opinion he is one of Wake's best professors—in knowledge, in conveying the material & because he cares about his students.

What features of this course and/or instructor could be improved? How?

- I'd like to see the class look more at the effects of religion i.e. the real sociology of it and its impact. I'd also like to see more emphasis on non-protestant religion, because that's what 90% of the class was on.
- There is a ton of reading. It's doable, but a lot of reading.
- The instructor was great but the course had a lot of reading.
- Better/more clarification of the big points.
- Having more small group discussions to have more opinions voiced. Getting more specific ... explaining an issue then using a specific church to explain it.
- I would have liked for some of the assignments to have been explained in more detail on the syllabus.
- A 10-point grading scale is preferred—as is the system used in most classes. Helps students more effectively do well.

- Sacred Canopy – most miserable book I've ever read. Assigning own book always makes for an awkward class.
- Perhaps some of the readings could have been different but I don't know that much (other than what was taught) about the subject matter.
- Amount of reading – sometimes it is too much to prepare for each class.
- The grading on tests focused too much on grammar. Focusing on content would be an improvement.
- I think it would be cool to read an intellectual study then have optional reading of a current event which correlates. Ex: Radiant Church & Ted Haggert. He did this a lot of the time, but more focus on this would have been interesting. However, I do not think this really weakened the course at all.
- Sometimes there was not enough time to completely cover the material, which limited my understanding of the subject.
- Location
- Less reading material per class so we could always get through the information.
- At times, there seemed to be excessive amounts of reading and it seemed overbearing. Also, sometimes I wasn't too sure what Dr. Yamane wanted for our paper assignments—maybe he could more clearly outline that.
- I'd like to do more group work. I felt the times we did it were helpful and fun. Maybe less readings total, and spread out the reading assignments to lighten the load a little. The readings were good, but a lot of them.
- The classroom was very inconvenient for learning. It was always too hot and the chairs were broke.

Please include any other general comments about this course and/or instructor.

- I think it takes a bit too superficial a look by trying to cover so much material, maybe a more intensive focus on less material would be beneficial.
- He is extremely knowledgeable. He does a good job of keeping a neutral bias in a course that could have a lot of emotion or polarized views/opinions.
- If I had a choice, I would pick this instructor anytime.
- Yamane has been one of my favorite professors @ Wake. He makes class interesting, and spends an enormous amount of time interacting w/his students outside the classroom (athletic events, etc.)
- I really enjoyed this class and taking Dr. Yamane.
- I think Yamane is an excellent professor. He clearly cares about the students and the material. Maybe next time, have students visit multiple religious settings. Overall, very passionate about his job and it shows.

- Excellent professor. Students always recommend him to other students. One of my favorite classes. As a religion major, I have learned a lot.
- Great class – would recommend to anyone. Best professor at Wake.
- I really appreciated the instructor's enthusiasm and his demeanor in class.
- Dr. Yamane is a great professor. I have learned so much from him because he teaches in creative ways to try to appeal to different styles of learning. He is also very supportive of my athletics and attends our games on a regular basis. He really cares about his students and I loved having him this semester.
- Very good professor. Professional and understanding of the student.
- Dr. Yamane is a great professor. I am a senior history major/Religion minor and I have done very well at Wake Forest, but I think if Wake had more professors like Dr. Yamane the school would be strengthened even more. Dr. Yamane truly cares about his students, believes in their abilities, and forces his students to think creatively. I am sad that I don't have another chance to take Dr. Yamane. He made my 1st semester of senior year intellectually stimulating and enjoyable. Dr. Yamane's is great: the most accessible prof I have had!
- This is a good course and a great instructor. Even though I was not particularly interested in the subject matter of the course, I enjoyed it because the professor is so good.
- I am not a soc or religion major but I still found the course interesting. Good instructor and class.
- I really enjoyed this class!
- Great class – my favorite one of the semester.
- The instructor was very helpful and made class enjoyable.
- Great course, great professor, I highly recommend this class.