

## **Sociology 301: Sociology of Religion**

**Spring 2006**

**Question:** Please list the characteristics of the course and instructor which have impressed you favorably or unfavorably. Do you have specific suggestions/comments about the works read or topics covered? Would you add or eliminate any? (Why?) Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

**Comment:**

I like that the professor makes himself easily accessible to the students. He does not act as if he is so much smarter than the students, but makes sure to let them know that he really values their opinions and thoughts. I think that I would have liked less emphasis on the first section of the course, and more emphasis on the third section. I would have liked to learn more about current religions that we don't know much about, not just Mormonism. I liked that there weren't any tests and that the big assignment of the course was the spiritual autobiography. I learned a lot about myself and my family members in the process. I definitely feel that my faith was challenged, but also strengthened by the course. I was introduced to a variety of opinions about religion, and I think that the course is excellent.

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**Comment:**

The professor and the course are both great. Dr. Yamane is one of the best professors that I have ever had in my four years at Wake. He is excited by the material and carries on that excitement to the class and the class discussion. You need to be sure that you can keep him at all costs -- GIVE THE MAN A RAISE -- HE IS THE BEST AROUND!

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**Comment:**

Class was fun to come to, and the professor was engaging. This was my first class within the Sociology department and I really enjoyed it. Thanks!

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**Comment:**

i really enjoyed the class. However, I think the things we read need to be closely related to our papers. Thank you

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**Comment:**

Dr. Yamane is the man.

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**Comment:**

I really enjoyed this class

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**Comment:**

This instructor impressed me favorably because he knows what he is talking about and is understanding to the kids needs. He makes himself available for us anytime we need help and he has a good teaching technique.

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**Comment:**

very understanding

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**Comment:**

Dr. Yamane relates so well to all students and builds a rapport with each person. He made class very interactive and relaxed so everyone felt comfortable contributing.

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**Comment:**

I would like to tell Dr. Yamane thanks for every thing

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**Comment:**

This is by far one of the best courses I have taken at Wake. Yamane doesn't make his students do ridiculous readings that have nothing to do with what he wants us to gain from the course; instead, he makes efficient use of not only his class time but also our time doing homework by assigning stimulating readings and assignments that tremendously help us gain insight into the primary tenants of the Sociology of Religion. It has been a pleasurable learning experience for me as well as many of the other students in the class.

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**Comment:**

He gets the class going everyday. Dr. Yamane is very energetic and enthusiastic about teaching this class. He is funny yet smart while teaching which allows for more discussion from students. The course is great as it talks about alot of issues in religion and todays society that effect everyone.

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**Comment:**

I have been impressed by the integration of this course material with class discussion. I would increase the number of readings dealing with people who have religiosity present in their lives. A number of the readings dealt with people who had spirituality but no religion. These readings weren't very helpful when it came time for me to write a paper on my own religiosity while incorporating course readings. I would maybe omit some of the early readings because I didn't find too much connection or interest in them compared to the later readings. Dr. Yamane was an amazing professor who challenged us, but completely related to college life in a very realistic way. Great class and professor!

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**Comment:**

The course overall was incredibly interesting. It's a topic that everyone has an opinion about but doesn't necessarily know a lot about. The in class media were great so that we could see the manifestations of religion in society and compare it over time. Dr. Yamane was one of the MOST accessible professors I've ever had, and I really appreciated that. He took the time to get to know each one of his students, and this pushed us all to excel and do our best always. The papers came back with EXTENSIVE comments and a typed up sheet of comments. This proved to be so helpful when it came time to make corrections and turn in the paper again. So often you can never read professor's comments, which is not the case here. He was able to connect with each of his students from the first day. The "tell me your religious biography" on the first day, while a bit intimidating, really broke down all barriers and inhibitions between the class and we instantly were forced to feel comfortable with everyone in the class which made for great discussions. Overall I truly looked forward to coming to class everyday and will certainly miss D Ya when I graduate.