

Fall 2017 Comment Report

KELLI GIBSON

Course Sections

A

BCOR 310 (01): The Search for Meaning

Comments -

A

- Excellent course and professor. I wish people would see the value in this subject matter and put forth more effort.
- Dr. Gibson mentioned at the beginning of the year that she believes BCORE has a lot of potential but never seems to amount to it. I would agree with her statement for this semester's BCORE class. I feel that the class itself had a lot of potential but it fell short. I appreciated the units on storytelling (excluding watching the Life of Pi movie) and Islam. However, I did not enjoy the unit of nationalism. Additionally, the unit of "Christianity and the good life" could have been interesting and enjoyable except that the class tended to get hung up on one aspect or a small detail of the topic and we could not move past it. Overall, I found that those units had nothing to do with the course topic and was not particularly beneficial to my learning or application to the course. Furthermore, I would suggest the removal of Clapp's book in future sections of the course. I found his book unconvincing, redundant, and put quite simply irritating to read. I also did not understand the need for assigned seating and "group" work. There were maybe one or two times that we had to work with our group and in those times it was not helpful and it did not contribute to my understanding of the topic. Moreover, my personal growth in team work was not enhanced or benefitted. In my personal opinion, I found the Sacred Space Group Presentation was a waste of time and was extremely difficult because of certain group members. Some did not participate at all or did the bare minimum for the project which could have inadvertently affected my own grade despite my efforts in the project. Lastly, the amount of work for this class was excessive. While the assignments were not particularly hard, the amount of reading that needed to be completed every week was considerably a lot for someone who is a full-time student taking 15 hours or in my case 18 hours and working a part-time job.
- This BCOR class with Dr. Gibson was exactly what I would expect BCOR to be. I learned a lot more about Christianity and the history of the church, as well as what all of it means, than I've ever known before, and my foundation of faith is much stronger. At the beginning of the semester, Dr. Gibson said something like "at the end of every semester so far, I find myself saying, well that could've gone better" or "that wasn't exactly how I wanted this to go," and so I hope this semester gave her at least a little bit more satisfaction in those areas, because it was exactly what I would expect this semester to be like, and more. Furthermore, Dr. Gibson is sooo intelligent, and is just a great person all around, as well as a great professor.
- Dr. Gibson is an incredibly intelligent person and it is a privilege to be taught by her. I was impressed with the way she was able to take the comments of other students that seemed irrelevant to the topic of discussion and find a way to make them relevant. I particularly enjoyed learning about Islam in this class, especially with Dr. Gibson who has so much expertise on the subject. In the future, I would suggest more time is spent in the class gleaning from the wealth of information that Dr. Gibson has. My only issue with this course is the amount of reading required for each class, especially because the reading was not always discussed in class. Spending 1-3 hours reading multiple chapters of a book for every Tuesday and Thursday is a lot for a university required class (a non-major class). I would have enjoyed this class much more if I did not feel burdened by the amount of reading required every single class. Additionally, there were a few readings that needed an introduction before we read them from Dr. Gibson so we would have some context for the reading. In the future, I would suggest giving some context to readings that are independent excerpts from books that assume the reader already has certain knowledge.
- You are an amazing teacher! I really enjoyed the class discussions, and the group presentations. I learned a lot from this class, and I would definitely recommend it to others.
- I think Dr. Gibson was great. I think that having some leeway with letting students go on time, as well as grading. She was great in class
- You know, for someone majoring in social work or global studies, they would have enjoyed this class more than me. I am a science major and really have no passion for any of the topics discussed in class. I do understand that this is a liberal arts university and agree that people should have a basic understanding of these topics. I did learn a good deal about them. However, I was totally disinterested in class, as it was discussion-based and I have no new perspectives to provide. An hour and a half is a reaaallyyyy long time to sit there and listen to Dr. Gibson talk or lead a class discussion without being able to have my computer open in front of me. Her whole "no technology" rule is way outdated and unnecessary. People learn in different ways and mine happens to be with my computer. You could tell Dr. Gibson was very passionate about the subject matter, but I still felt disconnected from the subject, as I am totally disinterested in it. There was no relation to ANY science or field in healthcare and I think that is really what she's lacking. If this were to be a global studies class, so be it, but this is required for all majors and should relate to all different subjects. Sometimes, Dr. Gibson would let the subject of discussion veer off towards more controversial subjects such as gun control in order to spark a response and get the class talking. I found topics like this one completely uncalled-for and inappropriate in the scope of this class. She should really reconsider the whole class discussion, as not everyone is going to want to participate and our class was more like pulling teeth to get anyone to say anything. Also, not requiring so many readings would be absolutely wonderful. I'm sorry, but reading 3 chapters and writing a response for every class period is unnecessary when sometimes we don't even discuss it in class. There's no need to read so much. A lot of times, I would read a few pages and write my response and get 10/10. The readings are unnecessary for such a small grade percentage in the responses.

What specific actions and attitudes did you notice from your instructor that demonstrated his/her Christ-like character and conduct? -**A**

- She was always enthusiastic and had a positive attitude that makes students feel at ease
- She is always kind and encouraging, and she is authentic in presenting her perspectives based on her faith.
- You could tell Dr. Gibson really cares about her students and the course. You can tell she really wants people to learn something from the class.
- she was kind, compassionate, and cared about her students as well as the course material
- She treated every student with dignity and respect and treated us fairly in grading and class policies. She was able to diffuse heated discussion with grace and tact. She honored every student's opinion, while still encouraging us to think critically.
- At the beginning of some classes, she would read passages from the Bible and ask us to reflect on them individually to ourselves, and then we'd pray, and start class.