

## NON-JAIN STUDENTS' VIEWS - ON JAIN COURSE IN US ACADEMIA

Jainism is spreading around the world. Jain principles are not only gaining popularity among Jains but other communities too. One of the key factor to this, is teaching Jainism through education.



Jain Center of Southern California (JCSC), Jain Temple of Los Angeles (JTLA) & International School of Jain Studies (ISJS) have been working to spread Jain Studies in the Academia of US. As a result, many US Universities are now teaching Jain courses.

Jain principles have always influenced people to live with peace and compassion. Here are the excerpts from few Americans /Non-Jain undergraduates of Loyola Marymount University, on Jain Course in US Academia and how taking it up has influenced their lives.

Student 1 says, "Through my experiences, my life has actually changed quite a bit. I have learned to appreciate life in a way that I had never been able to before, also have changed my view towards every living being and hold a high respect for every soul. I no longer dispose of insects in my rooms the same way I usually did, unconsciously watch where I walk and sit. In these simple ways, I have learned to enjoy life in ways that I have never been able to before. I experienced another drastic change on my diet. I actually rarely have meat during lunch anymore."

Student 2 says, "The entire semester my own opinions, beliefs, and experiences have been influenced by the Jainism curriculum that the class has provided. I can proudly say that at the end of this class I have integrated the lessons and teachings of Jainism learned in class into my own life. Prior to taking the class I had no opinion and little knowledge regarding the religion, however the class has opened up new doors sparking a newfound curiosity into the religion. "

Student 3 says, "No matter the religion, there is always something that can be learned and applied in your life, and in the current state of the world I can see why the Jains would be encouraging others to practice ahimsa and other Jain values. I have started applying some of these values in my own life such as vegetarianism, and a more conscious awareness and understanding of others around me in the hopes of becoming a better person. I feel that this is part of the reason that schools require theology courses in their core requirements."

Let's join in spreading Jain Way of Living to more and more people!

