

Fady Youssef
12/13/2024

This semester has been another interesting experience for me, both academically and personally. This semester I had a lot of time to work on my communication skills from several classes (including COMM 100), job interviews, and having to navigate and sort several things throughout the semester which I think I benefited a lot from. The thing that made this semester so interesting is how many curve balls that were thrown at me, things from my personal life, to what felt like some very disorganized and somewhat boring content from other professors along with a relatively heavy workload, it was tough to work through. Even through jumping from place to place having to figure things out along with some other things, I always try to look at it for the best because one way or the other, I know I am going to get through it, and to me, it's nice to remind myself what I can get through. I think there were times I felt disconnected or disinterested in each of my classes, but with so much on my mind it was sometimes hard to engage but I think it is important for me to experience that type of management. I've certainly kept note of mistakes I've made throughout this semester in terms of time management and making sure to double check things that might be out of place and intend on capitalizing on it going forward since next semester is filled with classes I finally no longer have to make up for from my transfer credits for the most part so I think I will feel much better.

It was very fun for me to dabble firstly with things like symbolic action within "sole purpose", it made me wish we were allowed to step into something that we can actually create as students. Throughout the semester, I was thinking of an assignment for this class, to allow students to come up, have a random topic so they can't prepare, and just let them say what is on their mind about that topic to the class in any way they want. Obviously this assignment needs to be far more refined, however, I think its an example that exposes how social reality is an ever changing thing and is far different than who we are as people around people we are comfortable around or even alone in our minds, an assignment like that can expose how people might become nervous or look in certain areas while they communicate which is a very interesting thing to remember while anyone is communicating with you in anyway. I also enjoyed talking to people within certain organizations outside of a class or students, I think within every classroom, the reason people become more comfortable within it is because the class almost develops this social system that we all fall into in someway so communication with students or professors within the classroom almost becomes limited within certain topics but stepping outside and conducting things in a more real world scenario was certainly great exposure and better learning experience, and in my opinion should be done more by all professors. Its very hard to pinpoint what is considered "common good" especially in a jesuit university but I think the reading material you provided us was definitely great material for students to read and develop an awareness to several things like audiences or exigence which I think I used well to recreate to what I felt to be moral values from the content and deliver it to a diverse audience.

I liked some of the philosophical content provided and I definitely like some of the content in politics with figures delivering speeches to obvious demographics or audiences. That was really funny to me, but I think some of the delivery was missing some things... As students it could be confusing for us to recognize and connect certain things and I don't think slides and a video is the way to do those things. There are so many nuances in every single little thing, I always wonder about the idea of the endless information that exists and with certain things, I think it could be dangerous to be left up to interpretation especially of certain students who may not have a developed belief system. Though I do genuinely believe this was an interesting course, it was just weirdly thrown at students with it being in fall, the CEL honestly being a little misleading, and with how some of the content and workload was laid out. I hope you take everything I say with the intention they were intended, I realize I leave some things or ideas open to interpretation but I do that on purpose at times. I do hope you have a great following semester and hope to see you again.