



HUMA 12400 5 - Human Being and Citizen II - Instructor(s): Samantha Fenno

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **16**

Number of Responses: **14**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Analytical reading, philosophical discussions
This quarter we continued learning about how to approach more difficult text. This time we focused on Nicomachean Ethics, Confessions, and Inferno.
How to read and analyze different texts and philosophies; how to write arguments and analyses that reflect on texts in a thoughtful manner.
The most important things that I learned in this course were how to read critically and analyze a text for thematic meaning.
i learned a lot about how to talk about books. specifically that you don't always have to be "right" about what you think might be happening to take the conversation in an interesting direction
I learned about analyzing philosophical and theological arguments and how to derive my own claim from them.
The most important things we discussed were interesting themes about the human experience. I also feel that the writing seminars were very helpful.
writing skills and analysis
I learned how to analyze texts deeply to gain a better understanding of them and to make creative claims about the intentions of the text.
The most important things I learned in this course were formulating a clear argument and finding how the writers of the texts formed their ideas or messages in a literary sense.
I learned how to write successful literary analysis essays with strong claims and warrants. I also learned how to more deeply analyze texts and got better at comprehending more challenging texts.
We learned about some of the components of the human condition and how they relate/contrast to the divine and how they relate/contrast to animals.
religion in relation to a flourishing human life

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Class discussions and reading assignments contributed the most to my learning
Discussions are great. It is always interesting hearing what others understand about the same text you are reading. Professor Fenno is amazing at creating discussion and is always willing to help when we might be stuck. Assignments this quarter consists of two writing boards and a group homework, which come from each of the three books. The writing boards are great to test your understanding of the text and they make you think more critically which is always helpful. The group homework isn't my favorite thing in the world, but at times it can be helpful to understand how others are approaching the same text.
Discussions, writing boards, group homework, and essay assignments were all very valuable to my learning and understanding of the material.
The discussions thoroughly illuminated my understanding of the various texts.
the writing boards and group homeworks allowed me to work on my analytical skills on a small scale between the papers and allowed for a risk-free way to work with the texts
Seminars helped to understand the reading assignments and the discussions with classmates allowed me to dig past superficial understandings of the texts.
When we were able to discuss about how the books connect to bigger ideas I really felt that I was engaging in a significant discussion.
helped me do close reading on harder texts
The discussion in class helped to provide insights to the readings that were assigned each night. The interrelatedness of a lot of the texts also emerged as the class branched out thoughts.
Discussions and office hours to discuss paper topics were the most influential for my learning as they allowed me to really unpack the different elements of the text to come up with unique and defensible ideas.
The discussions were my favorite part of the class. They were always full of good content and it's great to hear what your classmates have to say about the reading.
lectures provoked thinking

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	57.14%	35.71%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	7.14%	42.86%	35.71%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.07	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	71.43%	21.43%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	15.38%	0.00%	53.85%	30.77%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	50.00%	35.71%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	57.14%	35.71%
I felt respected in this class.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	28.57%	64.29%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	28.57%	57.14%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Great course! Dr. Fenno is an amazing professor.
Even though this sequence course is titled "Human Being and Citizen", I feel that we failed to draw connections between all the readings and make any sense of the name of the class.
Amazing Hum Class! Definitely recommend! Prof. Fenno and Marshall are both amazing people and instructors.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	14.29%	85.71%
Anyone interested in the topic	14.29%	85.71%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Facilitating class discussions
Dr. Fenno is amazing at facilitating discussion and is always helpful when we might not understand something. Oftentimes, she would give us handouts that make certain parts of the reading more understandable, i.e. serving as a guide as we read. Professor Fenno is also very inclusive of everyone and creates a welcoming environment in which everyone is able to participate.
Prof. Fenno is very humble yet knowledgeable about the course content. She was extremely engaging and genuinely valued student thoughts/opinions.
The time that the instructor spent in explaining the text was really helpful when reading Dante's inferno.
the way she immerses herself in the discussion with us instead of talking "at" us or leaving us alone to try and make something of the text
I liked the student oriented discussions that allowed me to hear other opinions to further develop my own.
facilitating discussions
Excitement about the subject
The group homework and the writing boards that were assigned by the instructor contributed most to my learning as focusing on a specific piece of the text helped gain meaning out of an excerpt to apply to the reading as a whole.
Help during office hours as well as leading class discussions contributed most to my learning.
The conversations in class were very interesting and engaging. I was excited to come talk about the readings. The best aspect was Prof Fenno's knowledge about the texts and relating the details to different parts of the human condition. Always super enlightening!
lectures

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Spend more time working on our essay assignments in class, have more opportunities for feedback
I don't think much needs to be changed. This is a great course and I love the way it is set up.
n/a
I think reducing the length of readings would've provided more time for me to read each text more closely.
nothing :)
Organization/Communication of the class would help as there were certain times that I was unsure of due dates because of how belated the assignments were posted.
I wish that the discussion were a little more organized and planned ahead. It often felt like we were trying to catch up and as a class we couldn't engage in the big topic discussions as much as I wished.
I think it could've been more structured
Though Professor Fenno has a clear admiration for the class and was very helpful in improving my writing and textual analysis, she was quite unorganized, almost always posting assignments about a week after promised. Additionally, class never felt productive.
More class discussion in which the students are challenged to converse with and against each other could help in engagement.
Keeping class discussions slightly more engaging and student-led would have made class a bit more interesting and therefore help me to learn more successfully.
NA
none

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	35.71%	35.71%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.08	4.00	7.14%	0.00%	7.14%	35.71%	35.71%	14.29%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	7.14%	42.86%	35.71%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.14	4.50	7.14%	7.14%	0.00%	35.71%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	50.00%	42.86%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.21	4.50	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	35.71%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	28.57%	64.29%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.36	5.00	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	57.14%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.14	4.00	7.14%	0.00%	7.14%	42.86%	42.86%	0.00%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
Writing Instructor – Marshall Cunningham. Marshall is always helpful when it comes to writing component of the course. He provides great feedback and is usually available outside class hours. Marshall is also very knowledgeable about the texts and so he is able to provide a lot of insight and helps us think deeply about the text. What he tells us during the writing seminar is very easy to follow and it helps tremendously when you are working on a paper.
Marshall Cunningham
Marshall Cunningham was very helpful as this class featured writing seminar groups with him as the advisor. It was a great resource during the course of the class.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

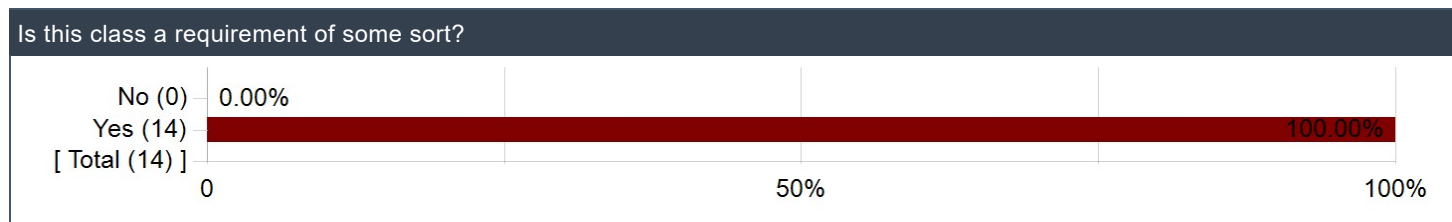
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%	92.31%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	4.08	4.00	0.00%	15.38%	7.69%	30.77%	46.15%	0.00%

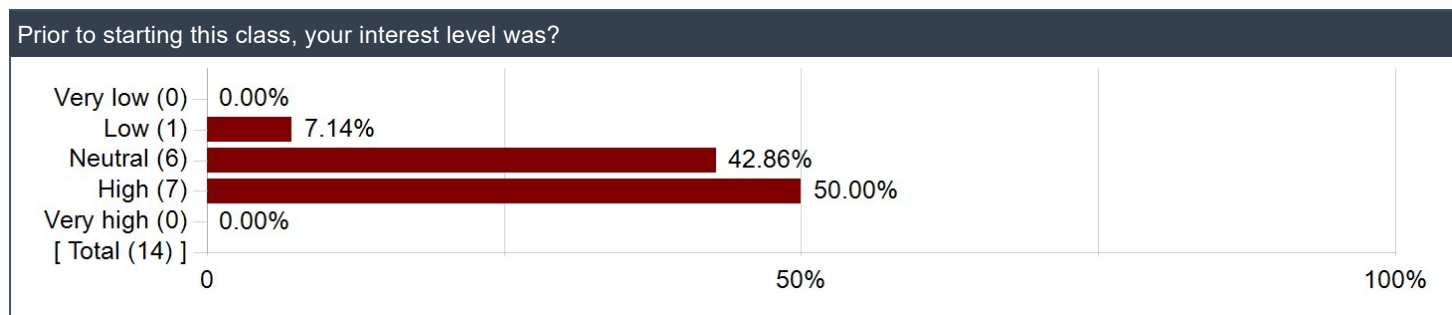
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
The HBC event for the quarter was going to a performance of Antigone. It was a great time to watch a performance of a book we read the previous quarter.
n/a

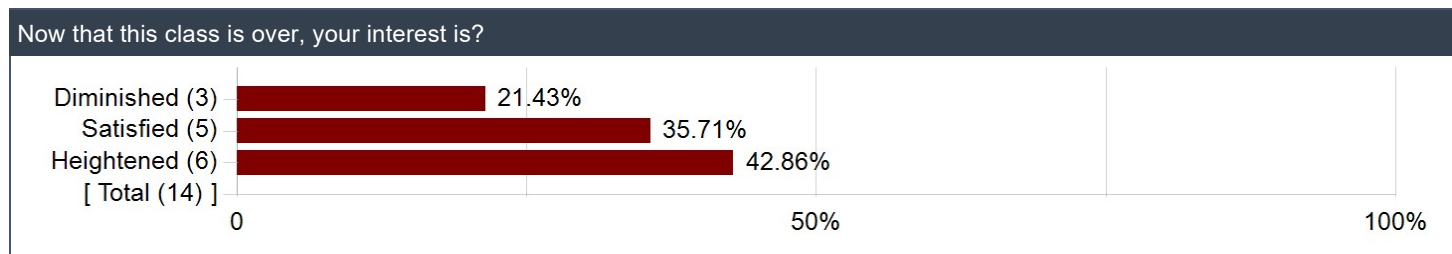
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



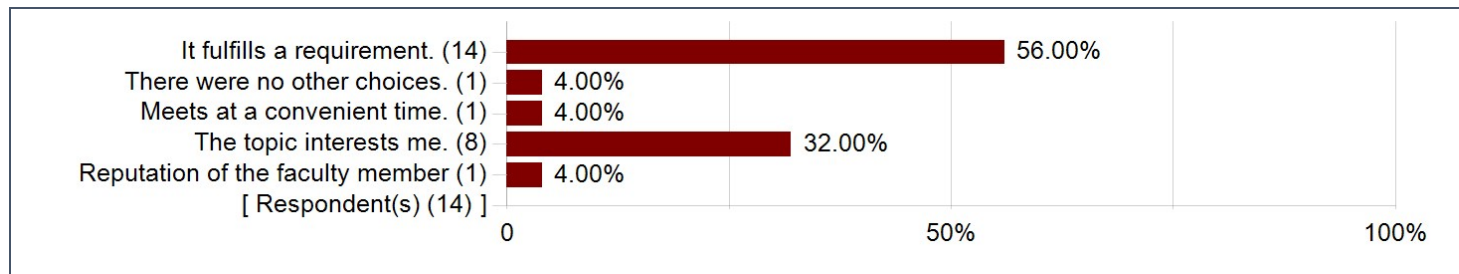
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



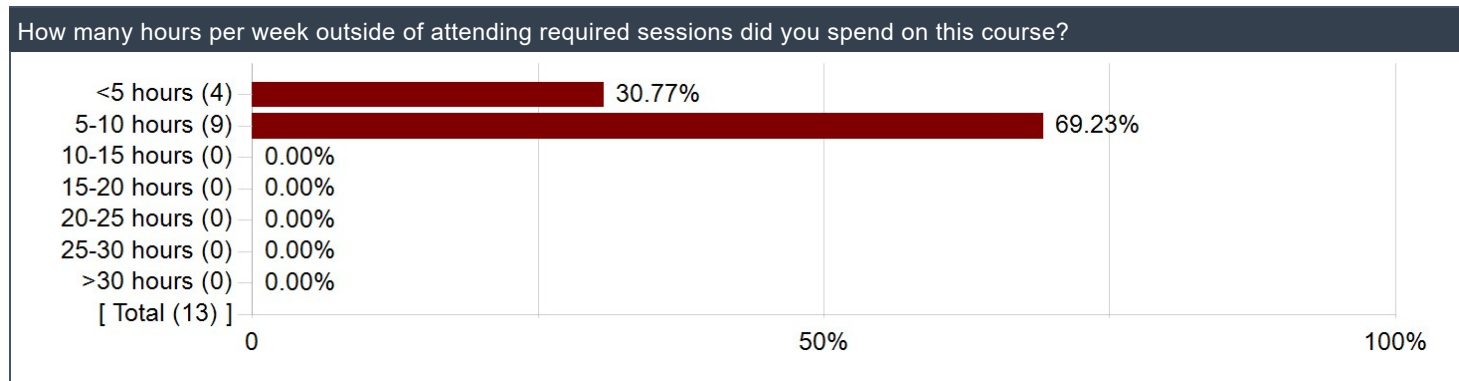
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



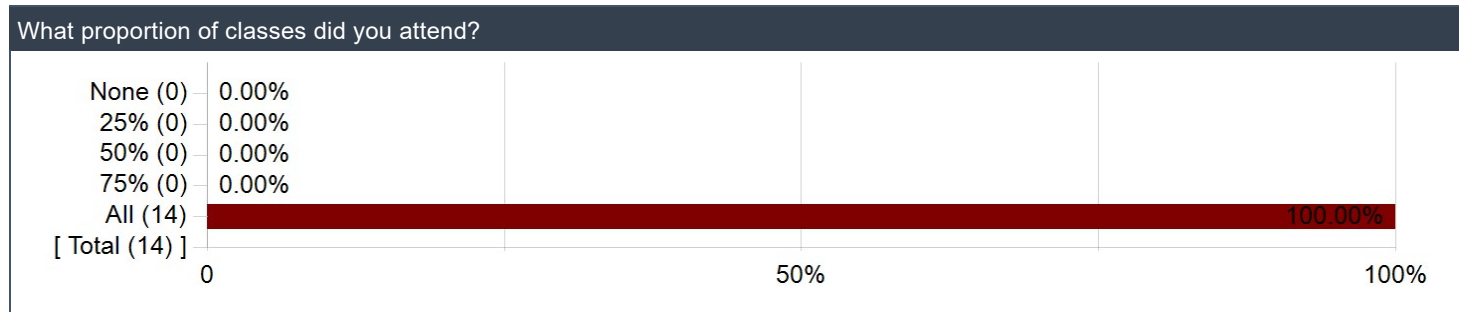
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
The difficulty arises from the texts that we read. If you are not familiar with these types of texts (as I was) then it can be difficult at times to follow. What I suggest doing is talking to the professor during office hours and just discuss the book one-on-one. This is what I have done and it has been tremendously helpful.
This course was not difficult, simply time consuming.
The class itself was not very difficult as someone who has taken both AP Lang and Lit. While the philosophy was more challenging, the application and analyzing of the text remained pretty consistent with class I had taken before.
This course is difficult if the subject does not interest you because it requires thinking intensely about very abstract ideas.
As a class specifically for first years I found the level of difficulty to be reasonable.