



HUMA 17100 2 - Language and the Human II - Instructor(s): Melissa Baese-Berk

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **15**

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
How language influences identity and how that relates to power.
I learned about the fundamental interconnectedness of identity and language and how to be politely critical of other people's ideas regarding sensitive topics. I learned about the history of representation of AAVE and what truths and myths surround language standards. I
We discussed a large number of texts. My overall knowledge regarding the history of language improved.
I learned how to better form an argument, how to consider things such as actual and intended audience for a text, and how language is interlinked with identity.
Had a lot of insightful and interesting discussions on many aspects of language. Not necessarily limited to language and identity, I feel like we covered a lot of language and power as well. Topics like race, gender, nationality etc as well. Also lots of deep dives into authors' backgrounds, general skills such as understanding the perceived vs actual audience for a text, and just learning tools that can be useful for any readings in general
I learned about how different identities perceive language, how to write an effective paper, and how to communicate my ideas properly.
I learned a lot about language and identity across various cultural groups. Through discussion and listening to my classmates experiences, I became aware of identity struggles that people of different groups experience due to language, and how those struggles may vary in different groups. I also learned a lot about conflicts of people who share similar identities and the different opinions, beliefs, and values they may hold. This taught me not to generalize identity to large groups, but to view it as a mechanism that constantly changes even in those in similar groups.
I learned that language and identity are much more closely connected than I had previously believed/expected.

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

Comments
Discussion based only– was really good because we all just talked about concepts and was mixed between student and professor facilitated.
The discussions were incredibly important in taking away information and having our opinions be considered and tested by peers and the professor. The essays allowed me to practice representing my arguments effectively. The discussion posts gave me an opportunity to choose certain classes to do some thinking in advance to facilitate in class discussions on days I felt most able to while also being able to consider my peers opinions.
The discussions in class.
Discussions were provocative and helped me understand the topics at hand and develop my own interpretations.
Discussions were fun, Professor Baese Berk had such nice insights but also never took too much control in discussions and let them flow however. Loved the discussions. Writing seminars were also very helpful.
The discussions we had as a class were really inciteful, and Melissa was really good at getting us to think harder about our opinions and class disscusions in general.
The readings and essays enhanced my learning. Also the in class discussions.
The readings and materials allowed me to learn about the different cultural experiences of people in various groups. I then was able to apply my understanding of those reading through discussion posts and then expand upon my discoveries alongside my classmates during discussion. We also had 2 essay prompts, which allowed me to further apply what I had learned to develop a more focused argument that proved to be a very fascinating process.
I think the minute papers were really helpful when it came to reflecting on what we discussed and reflect on what we learned through the readings as well

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.36	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	35.71%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%
I felt respected in this class.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The professor is literally so awesome, gives great feedback on essays, gives extensions to anyone who wants want and does a great job of making sure the class is a positive and welcoming enviornment.
Melissa is a phenomenal professor! I would recommend this class for everyone; she is so kind, and you can tell she is passionate about linguistics.
I appreciate how this course dives into common perceptions of dialects despite the topic often being quite taboo in day to day topics.
Easy class and very interesting. I reccomend.
Loved it, take it if you're interested in language at all, and more importantly if you're interested in topics such as race, culture, power dynamics etc those things form a lot of our discussions

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

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

Comments
The professor would let us discuss things, and would add meaningful comments to the student led discussion.
Her passion and want to hear diverse perspectives.
She is very understanding and seems to really want to hear your ideas and help you think deeply about them. She presented various forms of supplemental material to view in class that she procured seemingly on the fly and in advance to support our discussions. She played an effective active role in guiding but not overreaching in our discussions. She allows us to revise our work at many steps along the way in reflection of the real world peer review process.
Her valuable insights in class.
She was very organized and clear about expectations on assignments. Also, she was quick to respond to emails and facilitated interesting class discussions.
The little insights she included with every discussion topic. She seemed incredibly prepared for every class, having plans for all the directions the discussion could go into, and it didn't seem like she ever tried to force discussions that didn't belong or that weren't natural. Plus she gave so much interesting information about so many random topics, especially with research in linguistics etc. Love her
Melissa was always open for office hours, and asked really engaging questions that made us think as a class.
The instructor was extremely engaging during discussions and also open to meet during office hours or some other time. I believe the instructor increased my interest in the topic.
Professor Baese-Berk was very good at leading discussion and asking thought-provoking questions that facilitated deep thought. Our discussions were always very productive and interesting. At times, she would offer opposing viewpoints, which would provoke us to think about the response to our arguments and how we would defend our statements in the face of critics. These opposing viewpoints also facilitated an understanding of a bigger picture, where we understood how our discussions translated to real-world debates and issues.
Super amazing conversation runner and every discussion felt really fulfilling and intellectual
Professor Baese-Berk facilitated some of the most interesting and thought-provoking conversations in the classroom that I have experienced in college so far. She was truly fantastic at engaging the class with complex discussions, and this aspect of the teaching greatly enhanced my learning.
I think giving us guided questions to begin discussions was helpful, especially since some of the things that we talked about were pretty sensitive topics.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing, I think the class was perfect
Nothing! She was amazing
This course is very well put together! In Autumn quarter, I did like our professor's regular calls for "group discussion" for something like 5 minutes. We would get into groups of 4 and discuss a question. Sometimes, things would be a little off topic, but overall it contributed to more bouncing ideas off one another because we were more comfortable talking to one another.
Sometimes the discussions fell flat. Maybe if she assigned some students days to be the main facilitators of discussion it would be more lively.
Nothing, I think the way she teaches is the textbook form of how this course should be taught. Love her
N/A. SHE WAS AMAZING!!!
Nothing, the course was amazing.
Nothing, the class was great!
Literally nothing! She did such a fantastic job this quarter

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.85	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	78.57%	7.14%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	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 course.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	85.71%	7.14%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	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
Scott Jung
Scott Jung. He's been incredibly helpful and committed to helping me for 2 quarters now. He always comes prepared to writing seminars. He encourages collaboration and maintains a casual and conversational tone without going off track. He clearly knows and understands the class materials and has been ready to provide insights on the materials whenever the professor requested or he saw fit.
Scott Jung
Scott Jung; Scott was really helpful with essay writing. He provided us with comprehensive instruction during writing seminars that facilitated thinking and participation and allowed me to understand how to formulate a strong essay argument.
Scott Jung
Super amazing writing instructor. He taught us so much in terms of writing and his feedback on drafts was 10/10

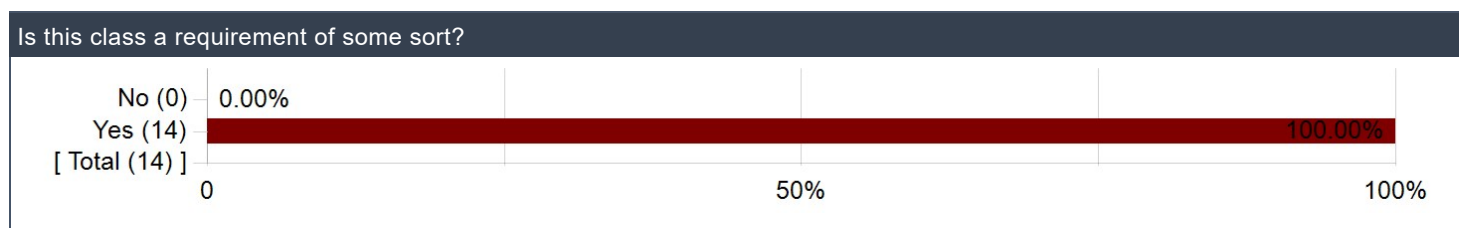
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%

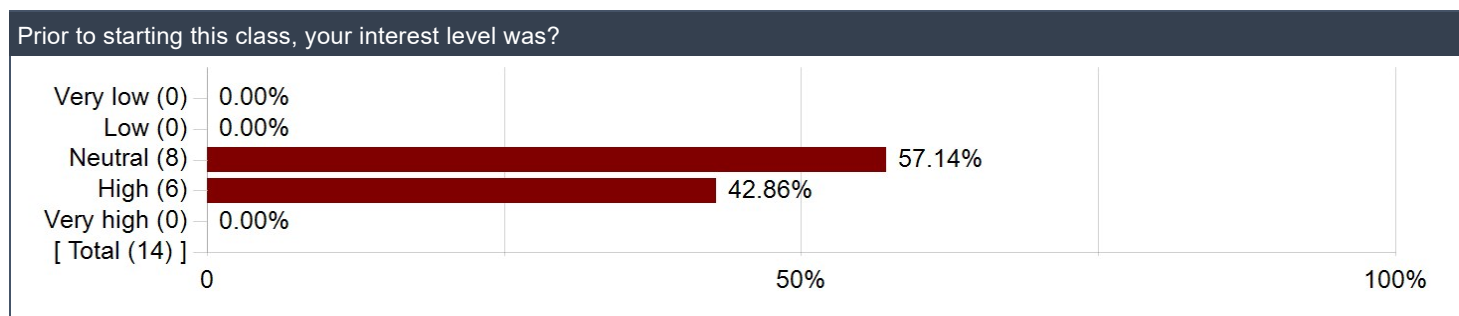
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	1.00	1.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%
Review Sessions	1.00	1.00	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.00%
Writing Seminars	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	16.67%	58.33%	0.00%

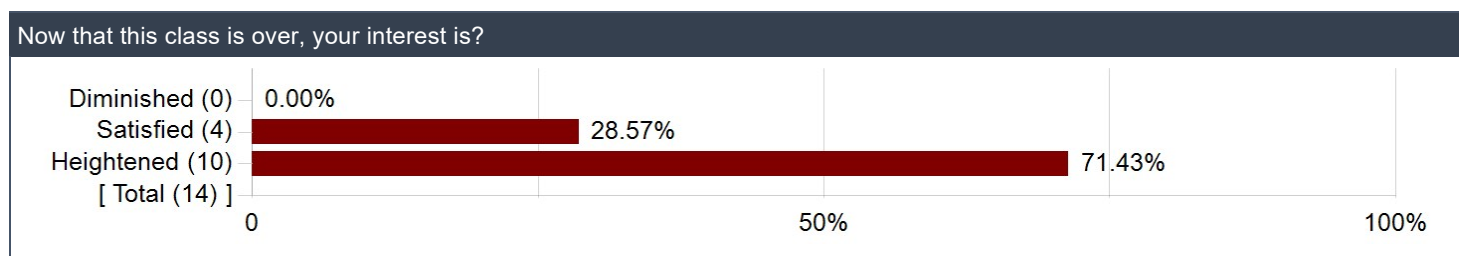
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



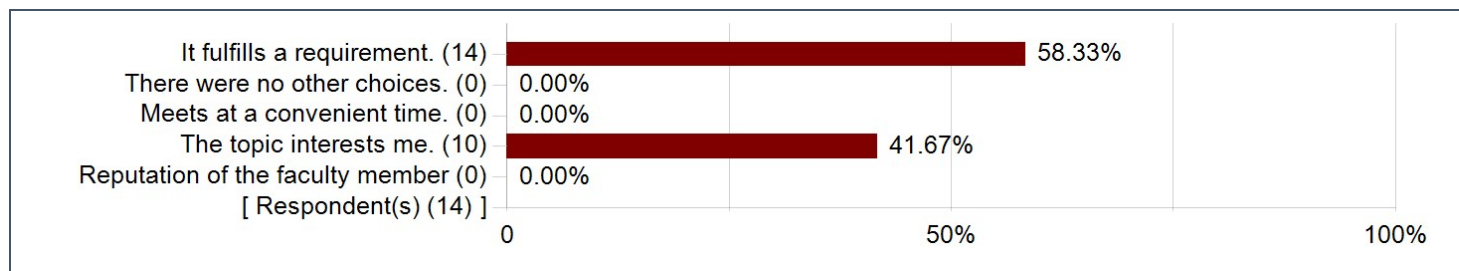
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



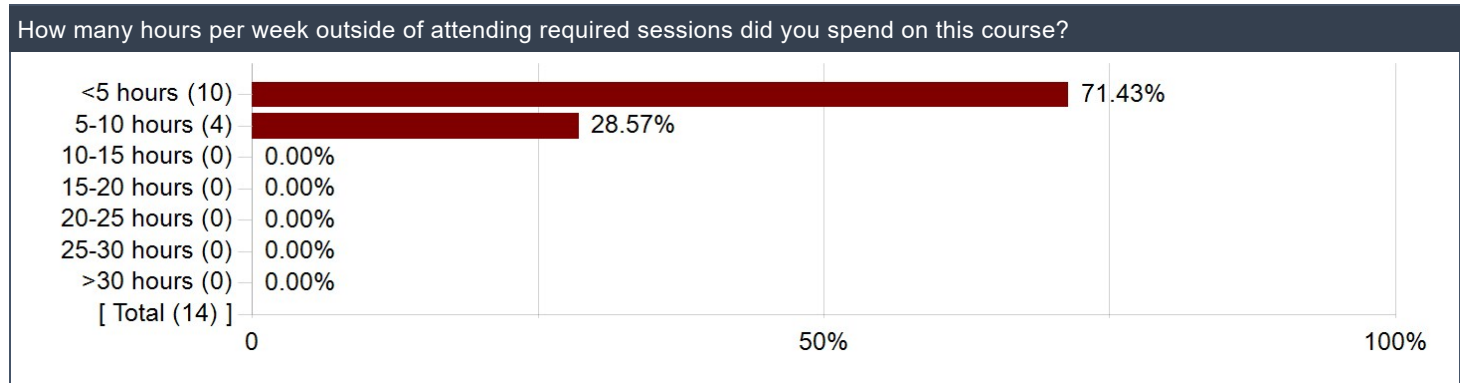
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



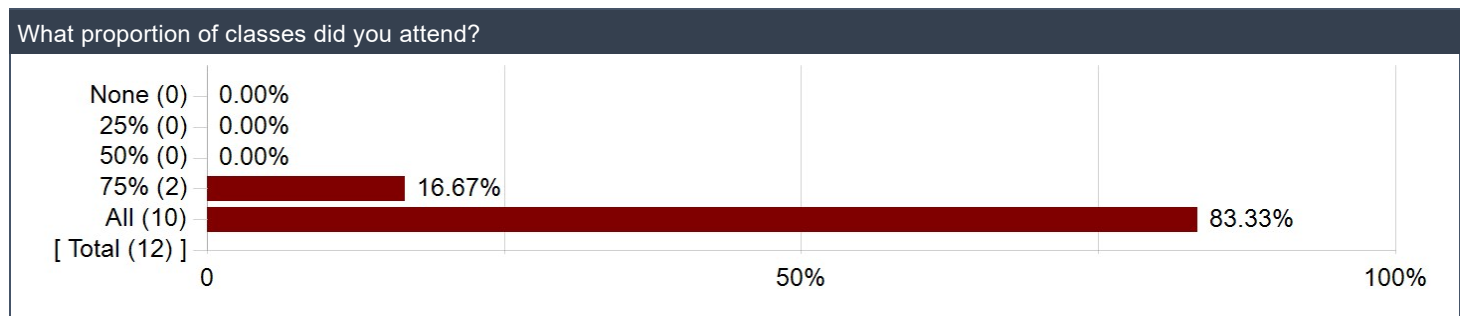
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Was not difficult
No background is necessary, its not a challenging course
I had no experience and wasn't overwhelmingly challenged in understanding the content, but still found all taught incredibly useful and nothing was obvious in any capacity. It was just presented in a way that felt easy to understand.
Not very difficult
Easy, she's a lenient grader, implement feedback from first drafts you'll be more than fine! Genuinely focus more on enjoying the discussions don't even see it as a class
The course was interesting and pushed me, yet did not strike me as difficult. It was a good balance.
I think that having some additional knowledge on the authors or on the topic of language itself would make navigating the course a little easier, but I think the class isn't very difficult if you do the work assigned