HUMA 16100 1 - Media Aesthetics: Image, Text, Sound II - Instructor(s): Elisabeth Wilhelm

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

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **14**

Report Comments

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
The nuances of writing and authorship
Thinking deeper about texts/images
Learned a lot about linguistics and semiotics. We also spent a lot of time talking about the relationship between the author, text, and reader
A little bit about writing for college
I learned how to write and close read in the most effective way possible. I really helped me write down creative pieces which helped me get quite high scores
The possibilities for connecting texts and the value one gets from looking at texts on a close–reading level.
I'm so much better at close reading! I think Ella does a great job in following small threads to uncover larger themes in very interesting ways that I try my best to emulate in my own work.
Learning how to close read, analyze text and think of how textual theory relates to narrative works.
How to interact with and interpret literary, theoretical, and creative mediums. The wide variety of topics and mediums covered in the class made it super effective.
The implications of language as speech and text, diverging perspectives about the written and oral story, shifting mediums for text
This course taught me a lot about how to analyze texts and use them for my writing. I feel like I am leaving this course as a much stronger writer than I was when I entered. Ella helped me a lot in terms of workshopping my papers and teaching me to approach concepts from a new perspective.
I learned how to analyze films and think about the relationships between language and media while considering multiple perspectives from different scholars.
The ability to dive deeper into text.
Applying theories from texts to different mediums. Analytical writing and close reading(not just texts but also films and plays).

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

Comments
Discussions were really interesting, and contributed the most. Short weekly assignments were useful and forced me to think something about the text – even if it felt like there was nothing interesting about it initially.
class felt kind of long at times, but were necessary in breaking down some of the more complicated readings
Once in a blue moon, someone would say something interesting about a reading. The most helpful parts were the instructor's slides on background information about creators and their works.
The in–class discussions helped me find points which I would usually not think of and hence gave me a cleared understanding of the readings.
The lectures and course meeting times were particularly useful in framing and expanding my thinking on our assigned reading.
Assignments (mostly writing) help me develop and brainstorm ideas well, and I think classes are well balanced in terms of information and discussion.
What contributed the most was in class discussions and presentations.
Lectures and just general lessons from Ella were probably the best contribution to my learning since she is very well versed in the topics and a great speaker/teacher.
Discussions were extremely helpful; I often left class with a much clearer and deeper understanding of course context. Small group discussions were also very refreshing, and the discussion posts before each class were not time–demanding but prepared me with a number of talking points before each class. The class mix of activities and assignments was excellent for a HUM course.
I really liked class discussions on the readings, as they were engaging and helped me a lot with understanding the readings that were more dense or hard to grasp at first. The class was a really good mix of lecture for background information and discussion in small groups and as a large class to really break down and understand everything. Ella's close reading exercises helped give me ideas for writing papers or even just helped me grasp the main ideas of the texts.
The lectures in class helped clarify parts of the readings which I did not understand and discussion post assignments helped me work through the readings prior to class. Major essay assignments improved my writing skills and required critical thinking paired with an understanding of the texts and media from the course.
Very academic learning environment.
The class lectures were perhaps the most contributing towards my learning followed by the writing sessions. There were many ideas shared by the professor that added to my opinions on a particular text and gave me different perspectives. Having reading reflections before each class allowed me to be better prepared for class and the ability to read the reflections of my peers gave me even more perspectives to think about when going to class.

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.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%	50.00%	35.71%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%
I felt respected in this class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	28.57%	64.29%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
An interesting course which perhaps could've been more interesting with some other material.
This course was great. Ella is an amazing teacher and the content is pretty interesting too.
The previous quarter is way more fun, the creative works and theories this quarter are much more discombobulated and less engaging than last quarter. The connections we made between texts oftentimes felt kind of like a reach. Whoever designed this quarter needs to reevaluate.
I'm really not a humanities person, so this was about as good as a course of this type could be for me.
This course really helped me become a better writer and reader, and showed me the appeal of humanities.
Great course
The course would be even better if more modern ideas and texts were inculcated it and would improve exponentially if less time was dedicate to Plato(felt very out of place with this course). Furthermore, this course could be made a lot better by adding more elements to examine the critical theory in a modern world context. Lastly, a better selection of films can be employed for this course that convey the same ideas but are more engaging.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	7.14%	92.86%

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

Comments
Ella facilitated the discussions greatly and made the classes enjoyable.
Ella was really good at explaining the various theories and creative works and breaking down how they functioned. I feel like she was given a kind of impossible task connecting the various works together but I feel like she did awesome with what she was given.
The background information and clarifying things that were muddy in specific texts
Group activities were quite interesting as it helped me engage with people I would not really work with. It helped me understand their interpretations of the readings and made the works clearer for me.
Ella had an ability to aptly gauge the class's comfort with the texts we read and adapt the focus of our discussions to break out of this zone and move our discussions into thinking about the texts in new light
Ella is a very lovely and extremely patient, easy to approach professor who isn't afraid to tell me when my work doesn't make sense (and I really do appreciate it). She helps steer me in the right direction a lot by asking useful questions, suggesting specific passages for me to look at without outright telling me what I should be thinking about.
Discussions with the entire class
Ella's thoughtful slideshow presentations, constant communication, approachability, and overall teaching style were all great aspects that made the class better.
Professor Wilhelm is an engaging and enthusiastic discussion leader. She steers class discussions toward important points of synthesis across texts while keeping it open–ended enough to always invite contributions. The course rarely felt boring.
I really gained a lot from the close reading exercises Ella had us do each class. By focusing in on a specific passage, I was able to gain a better understanding of the text's main ideas and find interesting ways to apply them to my assignments.
The presentations on the texts and media helped me understand the most.
Engaging the class.
Professor Ella was by far the best thing about this course. She was always on top of every text/media that we had to discuss in class and it never felt like the class lectures got too slow or boring, and I always learned something new from every class. She always had planned out appropriate activities relevant to the class content being discussed on a given day, be it giving us handouts that allowed us piece together and make sense of different references/ideas from the text or giving us actual pieces of documents to piece together(literally and metaphorically) that allowed us to put the theory into practice. She was also very deliberate when assigning students into groups during class discussions to make sure that in every class we are placed with someone new and we get to exchange ideas with different peers for a more nuanced exploration of different ideas on a text. She was always approachable(in person and via email) and always down to discuss different ideas(even after class), often providing us with the playground to set the ideas into a more modern context and assisting us thoroughly with the class presentation part of this course. She gave very constructive criticisms of our papers, allowing us to improve for the next one, and even on the extra credit activities that were already a good addition to improve our performance on this course. Overall, Professor Ella's teaching method and interactive approach made me not only think critically about the ideas presented in this course but also thoroughly enjoy the classes.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Lecture moreeeeee!
nothing really, maybe make the class a little more engaging (but I feel like if the works we're reading are more engaging class would automatically also be more engaging)
Nothing much, Ella was fantastic!
Try to not make the class quite study based and a bit more fun as I believe that the course was monotonous at many points throughout the quarter.
N/A
Nothing, I think the class was done perfectly.
The only thing I would want to change would be the format of the reading assignments back to having one longer one due every Friday, rather than two short ones due twice a week.
The 9–week quarter is short, but sourcing and providing optional criticisms of some of the theories we discuss in class could provide additional clarity.
I think that there are some readings we could have spent more time on, so that the class moved at a bit slower of a pace. It seemed like it would have been beneficial to break down the really dense readings for more than one or two classes.
None.
Different topics/more interesting.
Nothing much, the Professor was already very responsive to mid quarter feedback and adjusted her approach according to the needs of the students as they presented it.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	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.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	14.29%	78.57%	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.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%	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%
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.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	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
Sarah Osment– kinda useless, I hope I never have to attend one of her seminars again
Sarah Osment
Sarah Osment did a great job facilitating our writing seminars and helped a lot with brainstorming ideas for my papers.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	2.67	2.00	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.33	4.00	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%

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

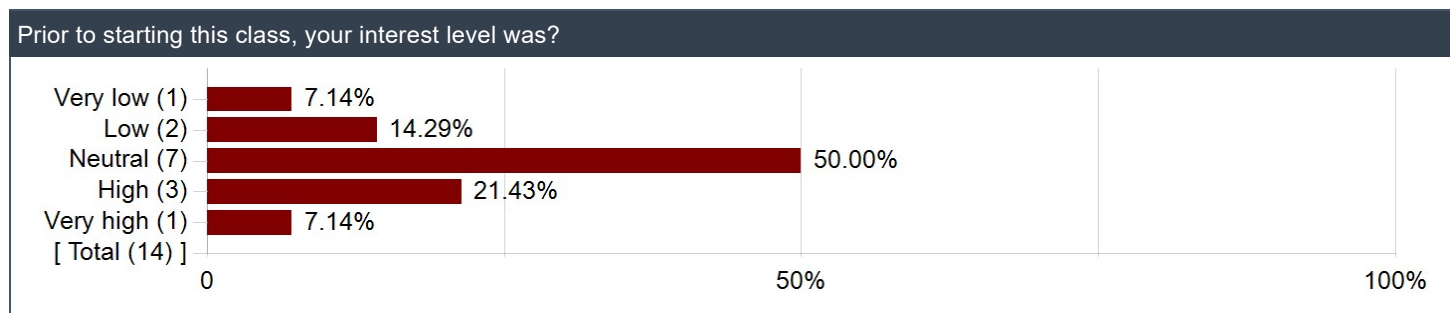|	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	88.89%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	3.36	3.50	21.43%	0.00%	28.57%	21.43%	28.57%	0.00%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

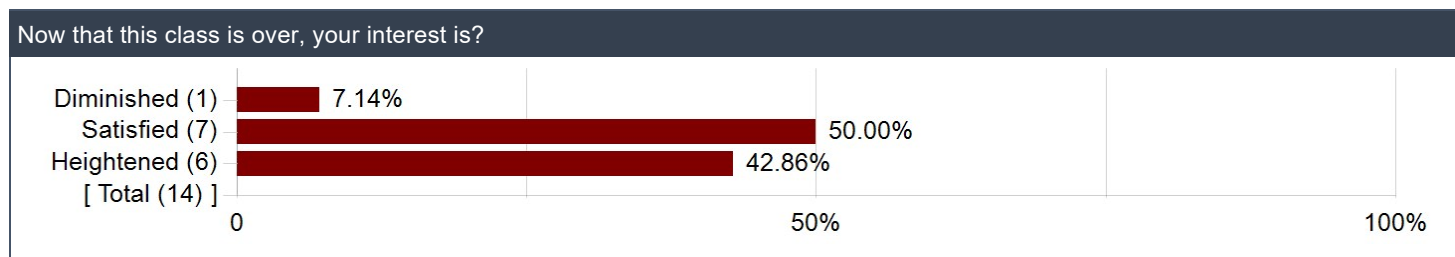| Comments |
|---|
| To be clear, Dr. Osment is wonderful as a writing instructor. I dislike the humanities very, very much. That's why writing seminars didn't help me, and why Dr. Osment couldn't stimulate interest in the core ideas of the class – because I'm not interested in the class to begin with. Again, not for me, this is for a requirement. Teachers are great, couldn't ask for better, and they should be teaching students who actually care about what's going on here, unlike me. |

Is this class a requirement of some sort?
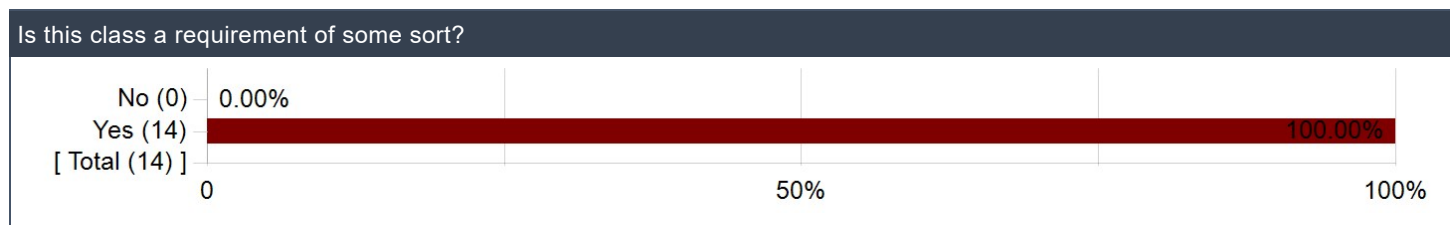
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (0) — 0.00%
Yes (14) — 100.00%
[Total (14)]

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (1) — 7.14%
Low (2) — 14.29%
Neutral (7) — 50.00%
High (3) — 21.43%
Very high (1) — 7.14%
[Total (14)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

- Diminished (1) — 7.14%
- Satisfied (7) — 50.00%
- Heightened (6) — 42.86%
- [Total (14)]

Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
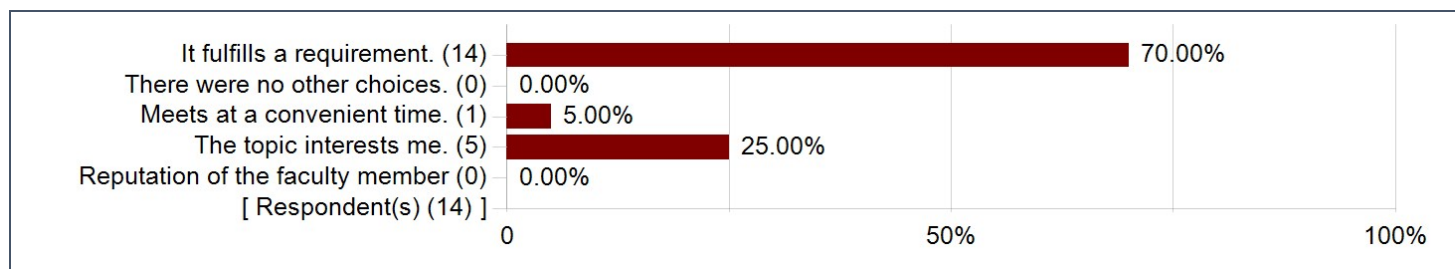
- It fulfills a requirement. (14) — 70.00%
- There were no other choices. (0) — 0.00%
- Meets at a convenient time. (1) — 5.00%
- The topic interests me. (5) — 25.00%
- Reputation of the faculty member (0) — 0.00%
- [Respondent(s) (14)]

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

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

- <5 hours (8) — 57.14%
- 5-10 hours (6) — 42.86%
- 10-15 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 15-20 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 20-25 hours (0) — 0.00%
- 25-30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- >30 hours (0) — 0.00%
- [Total (14)]

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

- None (0) — 0.00%
- 25% (0) — 0.00%
- 50% (0) — 0.00%
- 75% (5) — 35.71%
- All (9) — 64.29%
- [Total (14)]
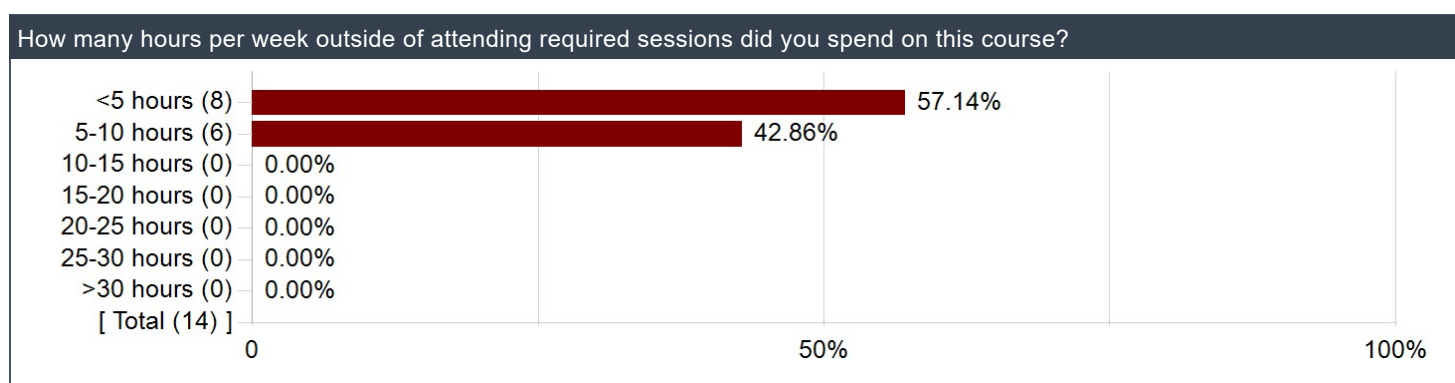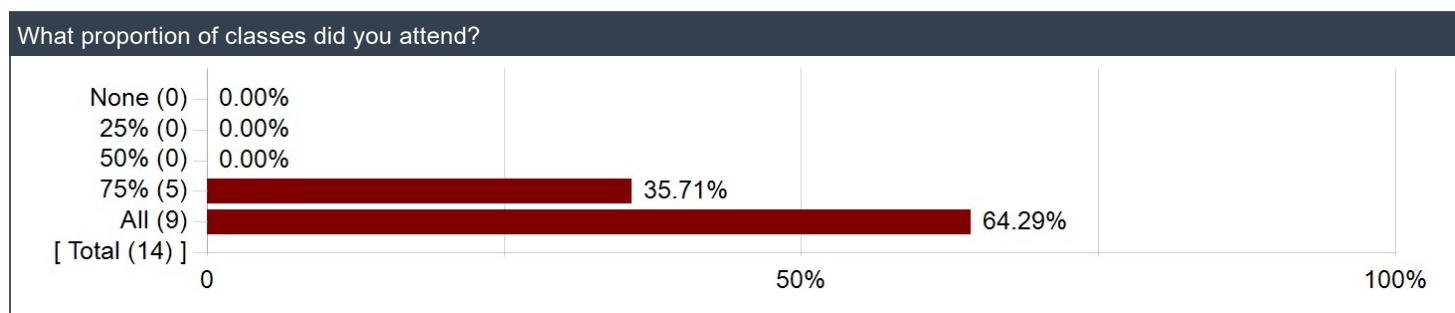
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
I took the previous quarter of Media Aesthetics. In addition to this, I am a non–native English speaker, which made me think that the course was possibly going to be harder for me than others (due to its connection to English text) – happily, that was not the case. Perhaps Shakespeare took a bit long to read, but that was about it.
Super approachable for non–Hum students. By far the best class for the requirement
the class was a little challenging, it definitely required some effort in order to do super well in the class. But there were a lot of extra credit opportunities to make up for lost points in the essays.
Not the hardest class ever. It's just analysis.
Not much as I believe that writing was a fairly easy part. the monotonous readings made me fall asleep everytime im sorry
A little bit intimidating, but I do find all seminar courses rather intimidating. Not very difficult.
It was not too difficult coming from never having analyzed theoretical texts before.
Not very difficult; some course text is very dense, but it's alway broken down in class.
Not extremely difficult
Definitely not difficult if you put in the effort.

Did the instructor create a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere for learning? How so?

Comments
Yes! She was always very friendly, and just her general demeanor was nice every time I saw her. She didn't create a hard hierarchical barrier in the instructor–student dynamic, which made for a nice atmosphere. Also, she felt like a very authentic person – I feel like she could've been my friend!
Yes. Ella is so approachable and made both my quarters excellent.
yes, Ella was really cool, it felt like she actually cared about our growth in the class
Yes, there was no point where I felt uncomfortable in the slightest.
Yes by facilitating class discussions and making everyone speak up while also keeping a keen eye on something which would affect someone negatively
The learning atmosphere was geared toward open conversation with efforts to adapt meeting times such that even if one wasn't the most comfortable working/participating in a certain mode they were able to find one that worked.
Yes – Ella is very approachable and open (both to us asking questions and asking for criticism, as well as taking comments and criticism from us really well too).
Yes, Ella was super great at encouraging everyone to participate in a way where their opinions were helpful to the group discussion.
Yes, Ella is super nice and inviting.
Yes; discussions always felt serious enough to cover content but laid–back enough to invite discussion. I also never felt forced to speak, and I appreciated the encouragement for individuals to contribute when they felt comfortable.
Yes, she did a great job making everyone feel welcome and included.
Very positive and happy.
Professor Ella excelled in creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for learning, making every student feel valued and respected. Her approach to teaching was characterized by a deep respect for diverse perspectives, ensuring that all classroom discussions and group activities were conducted in a manner that was sensitive to the needs of every student. She made it a priority to foster an environment where everyone could thrive, never dismissing any ideas and always welcoming any form of engagement with the course material.

Did you participate in Extra Credit activities for this class? If yes, please comment on whether and/or how they contributed to your learning.

Comments
No
Yes. The extra credit was very interesting and involved trips to muesuems, movies, etc. There is a lot of extra credit in this course, so as long as you put forth your full effort you will have no problem getting an A regardless of your natural writing skills, which is how I think it should be.
yes, I went to go see Antigone, it was a nice play that I definitely would not have gone to see if it wasn't for the extra credit, and I'm glad I watched it. It honestly felt like more of a cohesive piece of work to our class than half the required readings
No, I didn't.
The play was not fun but the museum was quite interesting. The museum made me think innovatively but the play was a play which I don't really like
N/A
Smart museum visit – I was able to analyze a piece of Chinese calligraphy! It was pretty cool analyzing something independently that I had some background knowledge on.
They were really beneficial and related to the course as well. It made me interact with different mediums while still relating back to the themes we had been talking about in the weeks prior.
Yes; Extra Credit offered an additional synthesis point for course content, but with their nature of being "extra," we didn't get to fully discuss them in the context of class (so some other perspectives were sometimes missed).
Yes, the extra credit assignments were fun and engaging and helped me practice the skills I learned in class
Yes, I have developed my knowledge of theater.
One of the activities was a play of Antigone, and the other one was a textual analysis of an object in the smart museum. The extra credit activities fostered and enhanced the skills that the course aimed to teach, close reading of different medium and image/text relationship between objects/image and its medium.

What was your favorite assignment this quarter? Why?

Comments
Second paper was really fun to write!
We've really only had two actual assignments outside of homework so far, and they were our papers. I didn't mind writing them, but I don't really know if I have a favorite between them.
Probably the creative writing one. I like creative writing.
Paper 2 which was on creating a discussion about a few authors from which we had read and create a fun environment. It was a great breakaway from the usual essays.
Though I initially dreaded the presentation, having discussed my ideas and gotten guidance from Ella I think I was able to dive into my chosen work and expand my intellectually curiosity
My favorite assignment was paper 2 where we made a dialogue between two authors from the class. I like that this was a combination of creative and analytical writing.
The second essay this quarter allowed for a lot of creative leeway which was really nice.
Paper 2; it was an unconventional assignment that still deepened my understanding of the authors.
n/a
The class presentation. Getting involved deeply with the idea(s) presented by one text or author(Roland Barthes in my case) allowed me to use his perspective as a lens when studying various ideas from other texts, allowing me to evaluated and analyze different ideas in relation to one another.