HUMA 18000 2 - Poetry and the Human I - Instructor(s): Benjamin Saltzman

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **19**
Number of Responses: **12**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

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

Comments
Close reading and poetry analysis
How to write academic English essays in college.
I learned how to do close reading.
The most important thing I learned from this course was how to read things more closely, especially the idea of form.
close–reading skills
Like all HUM courses, the most important thing I learned was to how to structure an essay and deliver an argument that is closely related to the text. The course was most definitely an essential step in learning how to think critically and explain your thoughts in an argument.
Close reading, and analyzing texts.
reading and interpreting poems throughout time
The most important thing that I learned in this course is how to step out of my personal bias to best revise my own writing. Doing the peer writing and reflecting on others writing made me understand what I should be asking myself while revising.
I learned how to deeply look at poems through many different lenses. I've learned how to think critically and have really valued this as my introductory class to UChicago. I've learned how to make good points in discussion, which has helped me throughout other classes.
I learned how to hyper–analyze texts and edit my writing. Instead of being able to read large amounts of texts, we focused on looking closely to get significant details.
– how to read poetry

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

Comments
Lectures aided understanding of poetry analysis
The writing seminars/office hours were quite useful.
Discussions contributed greatly to my learning as hearing what other students interpreted allowed me to see something that I otherwise didn’t notice when reading on my own.
The readings are fruitful. The discussions are inspiring.
The discussions were very helpful as they helped broaden our perspectives on the way we looked at texts.
The discussions in class helped me get different perspectives on the close reading of different poems which was helpful in writing my essays.
class were chill you didn’t have to do a lot to prepare for the discussions we had in class and the writing seminars were somewhat useful it just depends
The lectures/discussion were helpful because I was able to understand what their interpretation of the texts were and get new ideas that I hadn’t thought of during my first go around of writing it.
We mainly just discussed and had a few papers, but I think one of my favorite assignments was creating a villanelle. It was great to put myself in the shoes of what we've been reading. Discussions were always enriching and other people had plenty of interesting thoughts that I never would have considered if I wasn't in class with them.
The professor was very engaging in class and encouraged students to be passionate about what we were reading.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	33.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	41.67%	41.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	41.67%	41.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	8.33%	0.00%	41.67%	50.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.42	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
N/A
it was honestly really easy because we didn’t have a lot of reading to do outside of class and in class stuff was super super chill

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	8.33%	91.67%
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
Guiding discussions through questions
Having class discussions that helped generate ideas for papers.
His lectures.
This class was very insightful, and it came top down from the professor as he would further question us and our statement, leading to even more insightful comments on the texts.
The class discussions.
in class discussions were interesting
Professor Saltzman asked a lot of questions that were a few steps ahead of what we were thinking of in class. This was helpful because it took us as thinkers on the right path of what we should be asking ourselves when reading the material for class. This also translated to my interpretations of the writing for the essays that I wrote for the course.
He was very inviting in discussion, but didn't force you to participate if you couldn't/didn't want to. I felt very respected and safe in the classroom, which encouraged me more in class.
His passion was very evident, and he seems to care a lot about his students and what he is teaching.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Offering concrete examples of poetry techniques and styles
N/A.
The feedback on our papers came quite late and by that time we had already gotten started on the next paper.
His office hours.
Nothing he was great, and also highly personable. I think he is a great professor to teach this course to first years as he continually demonstrates through his actions that he views his students as humans, rather than students.
provide a clearer rubric for essays
I think that my instructor did a good job of filtering out what we needed for the class.
I think everything was perfect considering what we were doing in class.
His approach is good. He manages to set up the class in a way that prompts students to engage in conversation.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	41.67%	25.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	50.00%	41.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%	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
Sarah Osment
Dr. Sarah Osment (writing instructor) they were super nice and helpful but it took them a really really long time to give feedback on our essays – she returned feedback 48 hours before our final essay was due after she had had 3 weeks to grade them i wish she spent less time focusing on teaching us how to write during the writing seminars and instead focusing on our writing overall and how we could improve because we definitely lacked specific feedback from her a lot
Dr. Sarah Osment was my writing seminar instructor. Dr. Osment did a good job of helping me find the right questions I should be asking myself when evaluating my work. She also gave me techniques to use while writing my work (such as reverse outlining) that were beneficial while writing my essay.
Sarah Osment

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.80	4.00	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	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%	11.11%	0.00%	88.89%
Library Sessions	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	77.78%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	4.10	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	50.00%	0.00%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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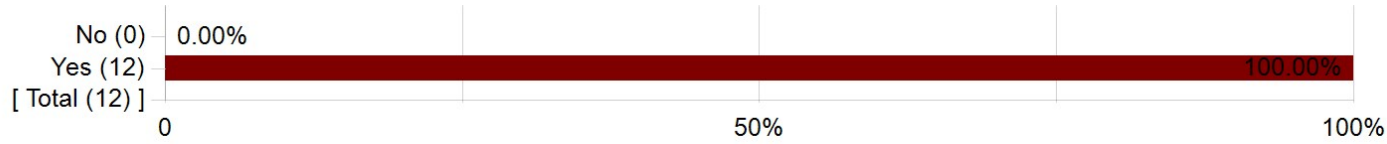

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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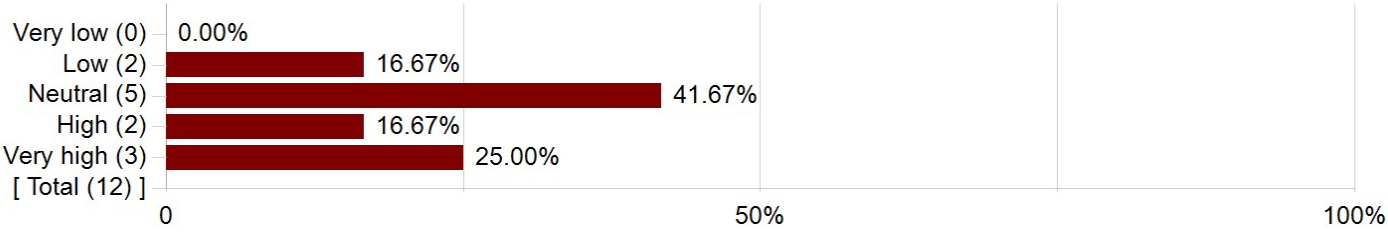
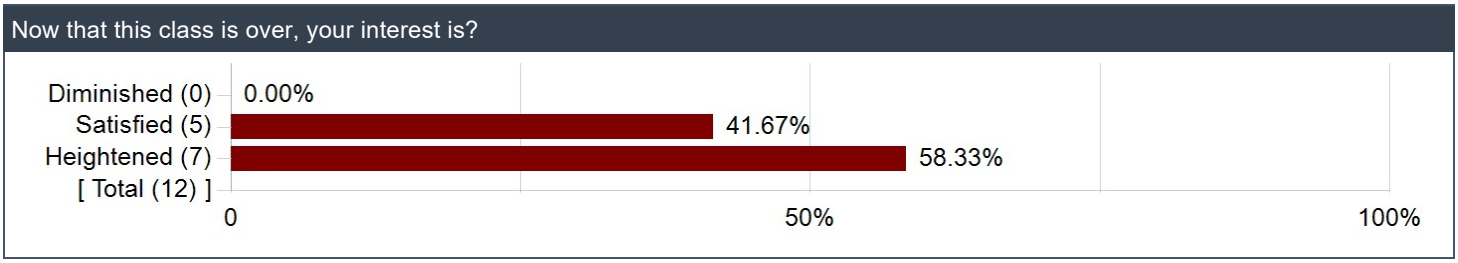
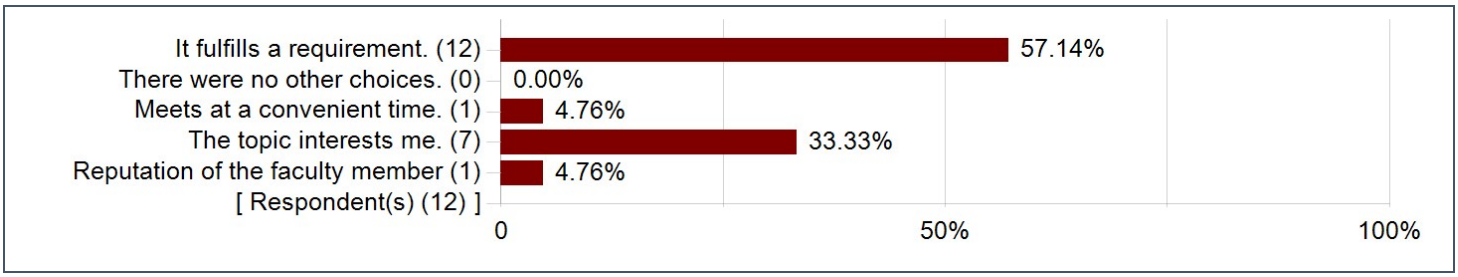


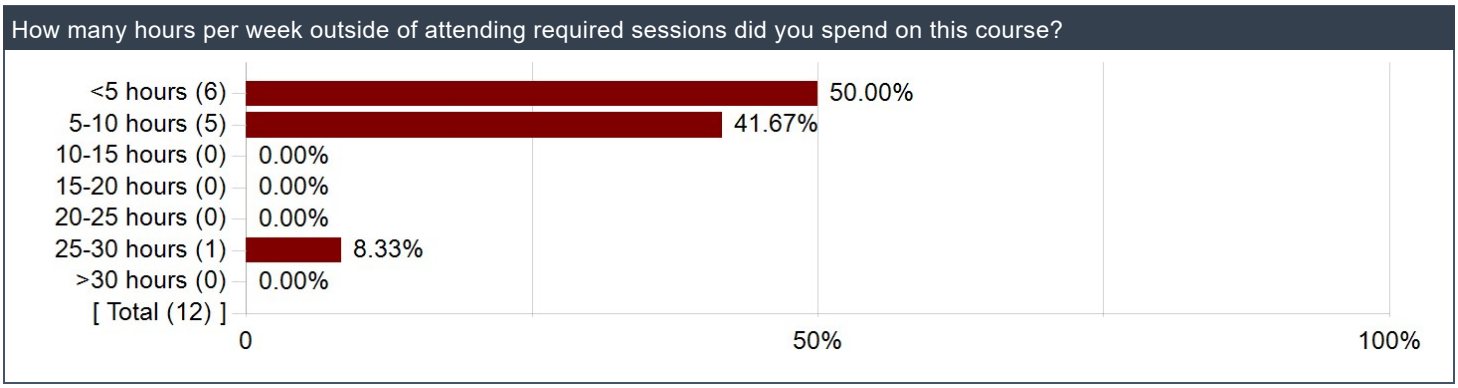
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



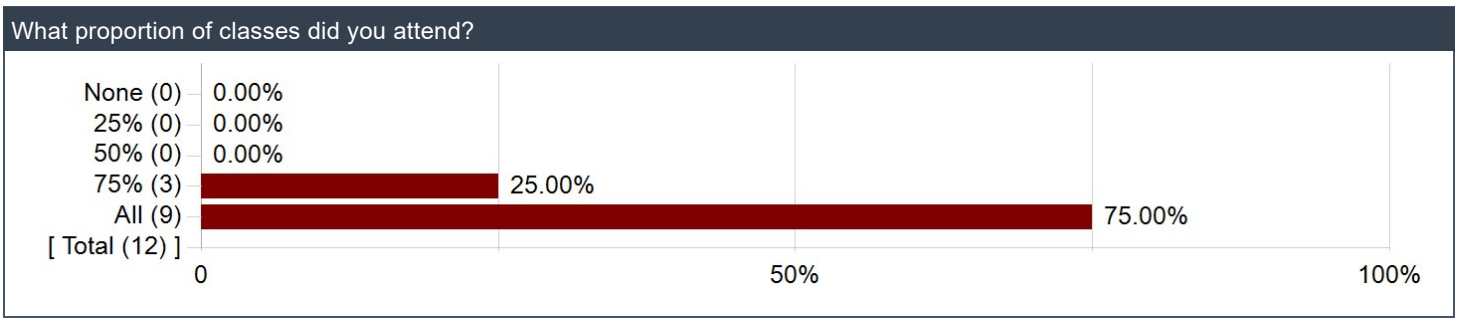
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Relatively difficult.
I have seven years of experience writing and reading poetry, but this class emphasized text comprehension that definitely challenged me.
I had almost no experience with poetry, except from senior year, but overall the readings were very doable. A few of the older ones were a little difficult to read, and it's hard to interpret what's being said, but it was still easy to catch on to what was going on after a few minutes of discussion.
I took AP English Language and AP English Literature in public school, but I didn’t feel prepared when I went. However, the professor helped me feel more confident in my writing skills, and helped me bridge the gap I felt before.
not too difficult