Report Comments

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

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

Comments
How to critically think about an artist's choices
I learned how to analyze media at a deeper and more important level. I improved my writing skills. I learned that it's possible to criticize and ponder art and it's relation to the world philosophically, and not just "why an artist made art".
How to analyze forms of media that I have never attempted to analyze before. Also just learning about really interesting works.
Throughout the course we discussed really interesting topics that I never discussed before, The idea of how perspectives impact others is particularly interesting as we saw its affects in Vertigo, and in different paintings. Additionally, I Learned a lot about analyzing media. During discussions I realized that there are so many aspects of analyzing art and creating a theme that they all connect to. Usually, I would come up with the most prominent theme, but my classmates have inspired me to think more deeply into parts of the art we're analyzing. I learned the most because my peers this semester.
I learned how to write engaging claims and body paragraphs. I also learned more about Plato's philosophies and the works of Walter Benjamin, etc.
I guess the most important thing I learn in this course is the sharing of different opinions and ideas. The intriguing class discussions really help me develop new ideas and understandings towards the course materials
This course taught me to analyze images in conjunction with texts in a way I had never done before. My analytical skills as a whole were heightened.
How to analyze visual media, literary texts, and photographs. Improved my writing ability massively.
You read a lot of theoretical texts dealing with the tenets of visual media (how it can mislead/trick people, the effect it has on the landscape of art, Marxist critique of the film industry, the male gaze, racism, etc.) If that sounds like something you'd like (and you wanna write papers applying this theory to individual works so you can brag to your friends about how your homework is to watch Vertigo) then you will love this class.
– visual analysis, reading between articles

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

Comments
Visual representations helped me learn
The second writing seminar was pretty helpful in helping me make my writing more advanced.
The discussions in class were really inspiring.
Besides the classes, the writing seminars allowed me to improve in my feedback skills and learn from others for my own writing as well. Before this semester, the last time I wrote a paper for school was during my Junior year in high school, so because it's been 2 years, I have been feeling a little rusty. However, through the writing seminars I grew in my writing skills and discussion skills.
I loved all the in class discussion. I thrive in these environments and all lectures ended in either a small group or full class discussion.
The reading assignments and films required to watch really help me prepare for class discussions and contribute in class The class discussions provides me with many new ideas and concepts for me to approach my essays
Large–group discussions, often driven by Professor Ellis and students collectively, contributed to my learning a great deal.
Gabriel has been one of the best professors that I have had. Class discussions were amazing and facilitated perfectly by him, and he was always available outside of class in order to help with writing. The reading assignments for homework were definitely long, but class discussions always helped improve my understanding. Writing assignments had very good prompts that would allow creative freedom for all students.
In–class discussion was guided by the professor, which I really liked. Apparently someone complained about this on his midterm evaluation form and so he tried to stop interjecting as much, which I was kinda disappointed by because Gabriel is a very thoughtful professor and his interruptions to explain some concept or agree with someone help validate that I'm interpreting the texts correctly. Getting to see two private screenings of films we were analyzing was a lot of fun. We also took a field trip to the Smart Museum and saw some original works, which was really cool.
readings, in class discussion

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	54.55%	36.36%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
I felt respected in this class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Honestly, I was positively surprised by how much I liked this class.
Gabriel Ellis is a great professor!
It was easily the most fun class I took this quarter. I loved the readings, I loved writing the essays, the syllabus in general was well constructed and the order the concepts were introduced made a lot of sense. Everything just clicked in this class.

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
Small group discussions then coming together to discuss as a class
He often broke down complicated texts for us with handouts, presentations, and by drawing on the chalkboard which was great.
Professor Ellis's comments in and out of class were really helpful.
Professor Ellis has been an amazing professor. His knowledge of the topics/ themes, his humor, and his ability to give/ receive feedback have been instrumental in making this one of my favorite classes this quarter. He is always looking for advice on how to improve the syllabus and really takes the advice he is given to heart.
I really enjoyed the professor's teaching style. He facilitated the conversation and allowed everyone to contribute, while also adding his own commentary every once in awhile. He also never forced anyone to speak and instead motivated us to voice our thoughts. Even if I thought what I said was stupid, he never discouraged me.
The biggest aspect was his willingness to allow us to talk to one another in class and learn from another's perspective.
The instructor organized our classes really well and was able to spark different opinions from us and let us share out thoughts freely in a classroom setting. Furthermore, the instructor takes our advices regarding different aspects of the course and improves our discussions
Professor Ellis' ability to not only encourage but also constructively criticize student perspectives helped me learn better during discussions.
I think his ability to facilitate discussions that would persuade us to focus on specific, important parts of the text. Also, this was a perfect introduction to media aesthetics, I feel as though my understanding of media has greatly improved.
The explanations of the readings and associated slides. Gabriel was great at leading class discussions and clarifying confusing terminology in old texts. His lectures were engaging and informative and had funny images in them. You can tell he's too young to have become jaded and cynical and given up on college students; it shows in how personable he is in class. Easily one of the best teachers I've ever had.
when he joined class discussion

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Longer smaller group discussions
He started doing this halfway through the quarter since I asked him to on a feedback form which was great. (I asked him to allow us to have more discussions in which students interacted with each other in class rather than him giving his thoughts and teaching in between each time we spoke).
Not much, really good already.
At the beginning of the quarter, Professor Ellis often dominated conversations, interjecting to share his own thoughts instead of allowing the conversation to flow between the students. He is getting better about it, but it can be difficult for him to sit back and let the conversation happen around him.
Nothing! I really enjoyed the class overall.
I loved my professor's teaching style very much, so I wouldn't change anything.
I think posting the slides after each class can help us review the content and aid our essay writing
A better balance of small group and large scale discussions would've been more helpful for me.
I think that writing seminars could be more useful, and I also think going over the essay's in a little more detail in class may be helpful but other than that I think that the course was amazing.
I really can't think of any complaint I had with this class, except maybe edit the stuff we're not supposed to read out of the handouts so you don't have to tell us which paragraphs to cross out before doing the reading.
more context on articles

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	18.18%	72.73%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	72.73%	9.09%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	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 |
|---|
| Ted Alexander: I liked how he was able to explain complex topics in a more easily explainable manner. My only modification was I wish he gave us more time for peer review. |
| Ted Alexander – the writing seminar that he teaches really aids my process of essay writing. I guess one modification can be giving us more time to do peer reviews on each others' essays, which allows us to provide more detailed and accurate feedbacks. |
| Dr. Ted Alexander led our writing seminars. Overall, though the meetings felt a bit lengthy (80 to 90 minute sessions, 3x a quarter), they were generally very helpful. Dr. Alexander included all of the students in each seminar group in activities which involved student peer editing, which was helpful when it came to working on our papers. |
| Ted Alexander gave the humanities writing seminars. I'm generally indifferent about this kind of writing instruction because I'm not really the kind of person to outline essays (or really have any kind of plan before writing them); I just start writing an intro paragraph and let my thoughts take me through developing an argument as I go. But if I was the kind of person to plan out my essays, Ted's videos explaining argument construction would probably help me a lot more. In any case, the peer review and feedback from his seminars was definitely helpful, and the way he took us through the contestability of a claim was useful. |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

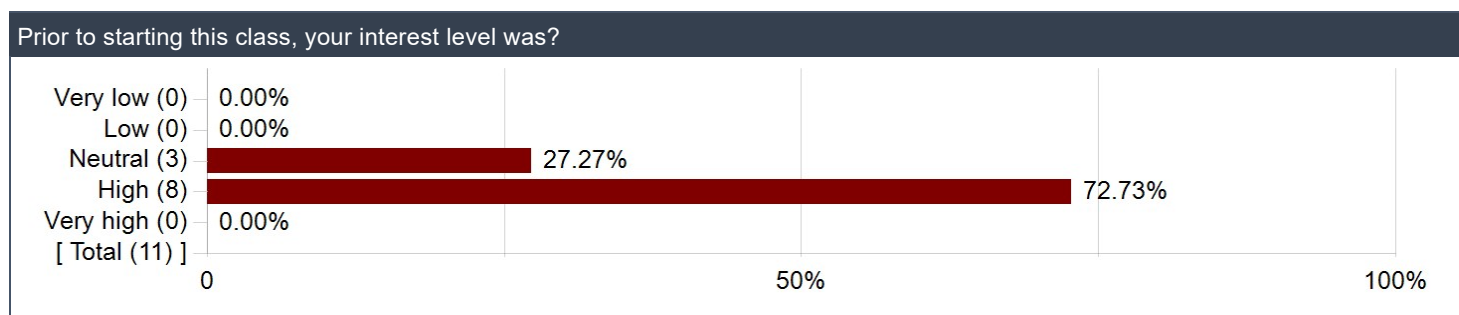|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.75	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%	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	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	40.00%	20.00%
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	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	40.00%	30.00%	0.00%

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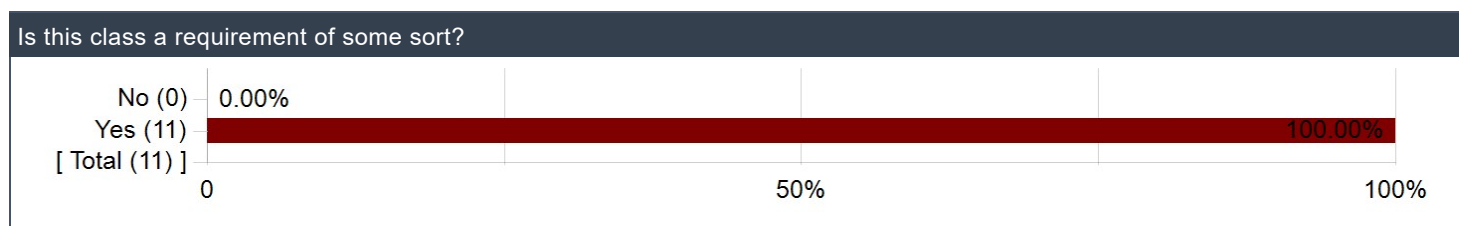
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (0)	0.00%
Yes (11)	100.00%
[Total (11)]	

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (0)	0.00%
Low (0)	0.00%
Neutral (3)	27.27%
High (8)	72.73%
Very high (0)	0.00%
[Total (11)]	

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (0)	0.00%
Satisfied (2)	18.18%
Heightened (9)	81.82%
[Total (11)]	
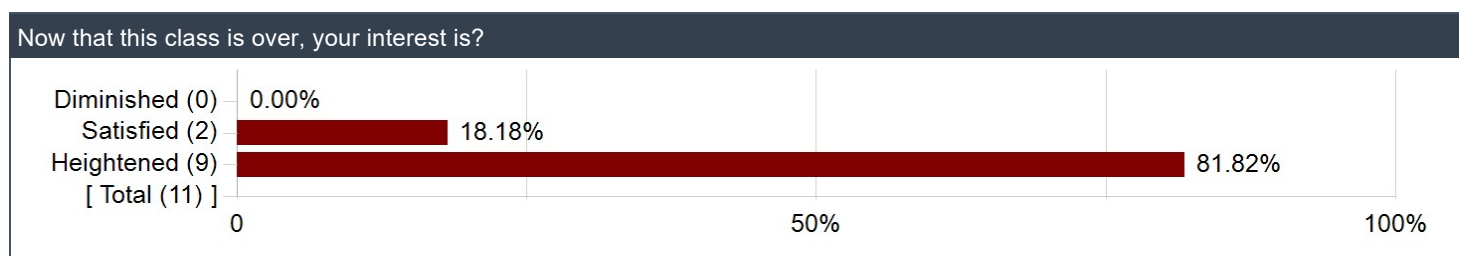
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
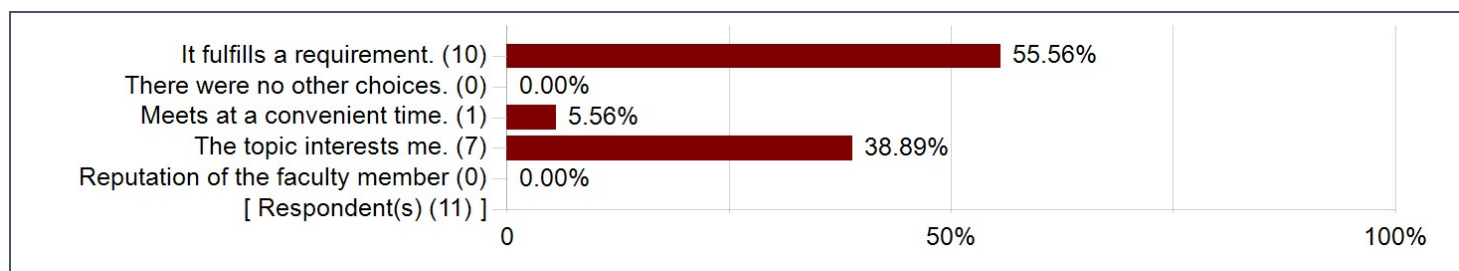
It fulfills a requirement. (10)	55.56%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (1)	5.56%
The topic interests me. (7)	38.89%
Reputation of the faculty member (0)	0.00%
[Respondent(s) (11)]	

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 (6)	54.55%
5-10 hours (2)	18.18%
10-15 hours (2)	18.18%
15-20 hours (1)	9.09%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (11)]	

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% (1)	9.09%
All (10)	90.91%
[Total (11)]	
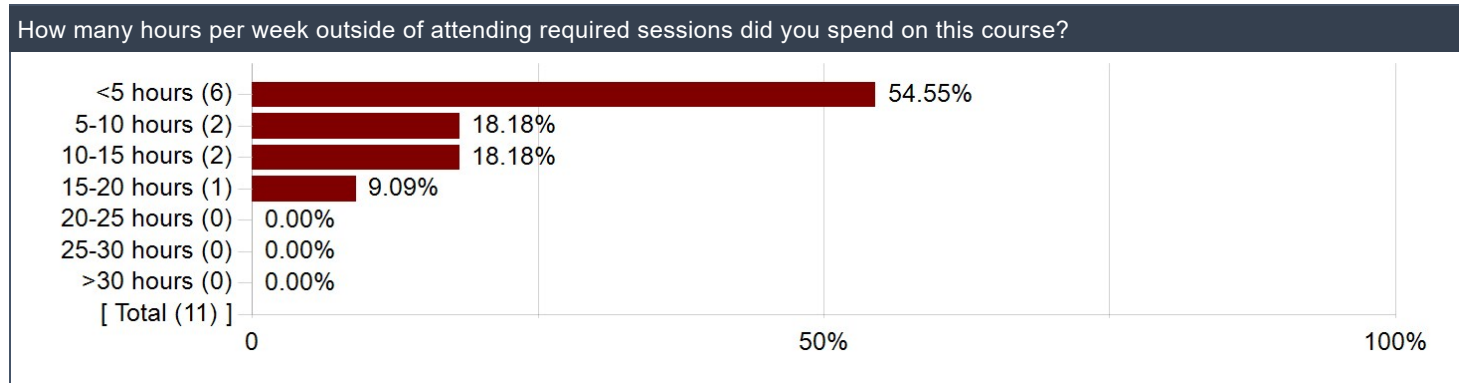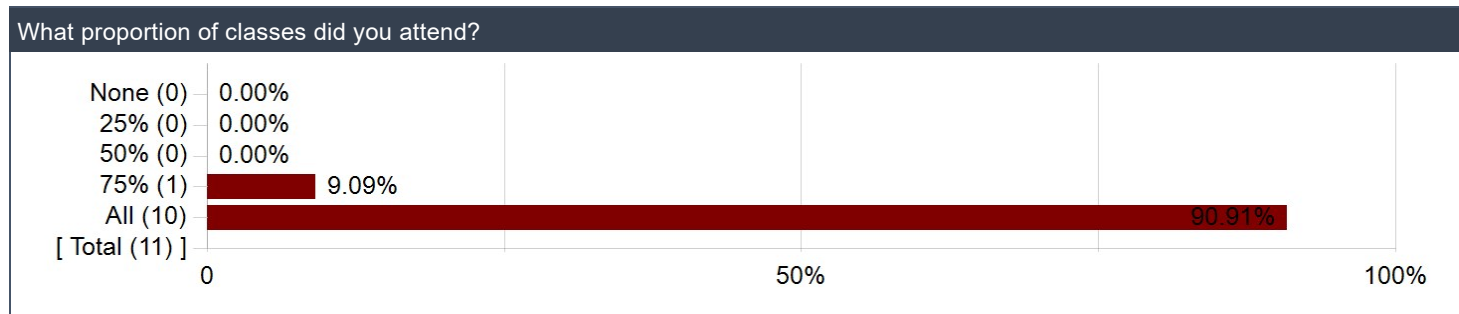
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
I have no prior experience with this kind of work, and some of the content can be difficult to understand
It's somewhat challenging but also really intriguing.
This course is for first years and is designed to be an intro course. No prior knowledge is needed to enjoy.
Compared to my background, the class has a difficulty level of 5/10.
The course is not that difficult for me and the topic really interests me compared to other humanity courses
Relatively challenging; high school seminar–style English classes prepared me well.
I wouldn't call it "easy" (you do write three papers and read some difficult theory), but Media Aesthetics is not "hard", unless you're the kind of person whose eyes glaze over as soon as you're asked to interpret a text. I'm biased though because the English class I took my last year of high school was basically Media Aesthetics Lite and we already read a lot of the stuff that was assigned as readings for this class.
not difficult