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 develop a specific concise argument
I learned how to compose better arguments in my paper by utilizing problem construction. I also have a better understanding of creating an argument versus an illustration regarding finding deeper insight into the reading material.
You learn a lot about how to write an abstract and interesting paper, rather than something that is obvious.
how to read autobiograohy, more specificallythe different approaches to analysing autobiography, and generally how to come up with a structured, convincing argument
I learned a lot in this course– different elements of autobiographies and how they function. I found though a good portion of what we learned is helpful in how to approach any academic text that you are interacting with

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

Comments
I think our discussion classes were a little intimidating but ultimately helpful.
The lectures helped me understand the material that we were reading. The professor's own experience and knowledge in autobiographies, especially Western ones, helped me gain deeper insight into how I should interpret the author's intentions and the cultural differences that affect how the autobiographies were written.
It was crucial to attend as many discussions as possible as each discussion was helpful and the writing seminars were very useful.
the workshops (basically everyone pitches their thesis for a paper and gets feedback from Professor Rubini and the class) before the papers were pretty helpful, also lectures were generally very interesting
Lectures involved learning vocabulary relevant to autobiogarpy and the text at hand but also learned skills necessary for becoming a better writer and talker

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	50.00%	16.67%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.50	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%	16.67%
I felt respected in this class.	3.33	3.50	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.50	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I feel like the limiting factor of the course (and all of the classes I took this quarter) was the schedule. There was a constant feeling of impending crunch that heightened stress in both the students and the professor, as the pacing felt too rushed to properly appreciate and understand everything that was presented in class. For instance, nearing the final weeks of class, we were expected to finish a paper, read through 50+ pages of the next book, and receive the essay prompts for that book all on the same day. Many compromises were already made to this class to accommodate for the shortened schedule (for example, a reduction in the number of books to read), but there is so much we can do in such little time. I greatly respect the passion and personality that Professor Rubini brings into the class, but I can also see his frustration reflected whenever we cannot live up to his grand expectations.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	16.67%	83.33%

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

Comments
The lectures were good – note taking in class was helpful for writing essays later on
He holds great expectations for every student. He is very transparent with his personal opinions and understanding of the material, and provides great insight into the material. He is very passionate about the subjects he covers, and has a witty and blunt sense of humor. He does not hold his personality back, and he leaves little to no room for students to coast their way through the class. He ABSOLUTELY prioritizes effort over current results, and pushes for constant improvement rather than stagnation.
Rocco encouraged discussion and he would never sugarcoat anything, he always said everything at face value.
Professor Rubini structured lectures pretty well and the content definitely helped with acquiring a better framework for analysing and thinking about autobiographies. He is clearly knowledgable and class is not boring, and his frameworks for analysis were generally quite helpful
being strict about participiation and calling you out if you were disengaged

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
More availability to meet outside of class
Given such a short schedule to work with, I think it could help to spread the essays a little more throughout the quarter rather than pile them all into the latter half. I did find the first couple weeks quite helpful for understanding autobiographies in a larger context than what is presented within the books, though. In addition, there were moments where I felt like he tried to instigate further class participation in more lecture–type classes by pausing and waiting for a student to "fill in the blank", but it sometimes only leads to awkward silences and an air of disappointment because we were either too scared to answer incorrectly or did not have an immediate answer.
If he could offer more outside support that would be even better.
It's hard to appreciate all the knowledge that Professor Rubini evidently has when he is so mean. He is not an easy grader, but I personally am GENUINELY fine with a bad grade, as long as I understand how to improve and feel respected for my effort (which I DID put). In terms of feedback, I think the professor has fair points on how to improve one's work. But it is extremely hard to appreciate those points when they are downing in condescension and just plain meanness. Especially during class pitches (and class in general), people DREADED having to speak because they knew they would be met with relentless criticism. I like writing, I like discussion, and I have a great appreciation for the humanities, and especially for how challenging and critical they can be. Of course, some people just want an easy A or no criticism, but if you are a student that cares about gaining knowledge and feeling respected, I think the latter will be hard to find in this class. Professor Rubini is a good teacher, but he often undermines it with unnecessarily mean commentary, to the point that you could feel the tension in the room. It's okay to be strict and critical, but don't be rude. Don't undermine the value of your teaching by being mean to freshman who are just trying to understand what is going on. Doesn't mean don't have expectations of them, but don't be mean about it.
less writing assignments and maybe switching it up a bit

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	16.67%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	33.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%	16.67%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.67	4.00	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.50	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	2.40	3.00	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	16.67%	0.00%	16.67%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.17	3.50	16.67%	0.00%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%	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 |
|---|
| Karen Xu. Karen helped a lot outside of class and gave great advice |
| Karen was a great TA. She would always help out whenever we needed it and was great at coming up with ways to teach us important for writing essays. |
| Karen Xu – she is very approachable, gives helpful advice in the seminars and was a great help outside of class/seminars if you needed it, also she gave incredibly detailed feedbacl on every assignment, which is so appreciated
In terms of improvements, think some seminars could definitely be condensed |
| Karen Xu– super kind and reasonable. always willing to help if you just explain your situation to her |

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

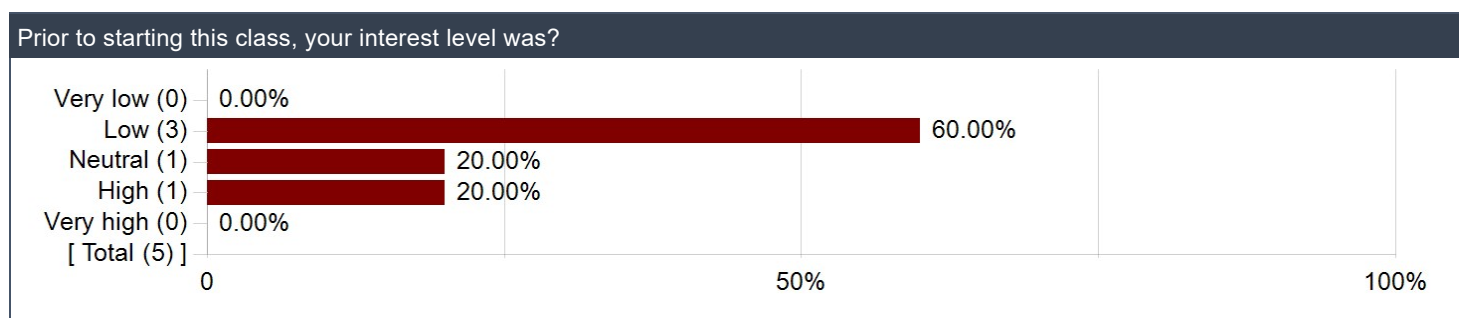|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%

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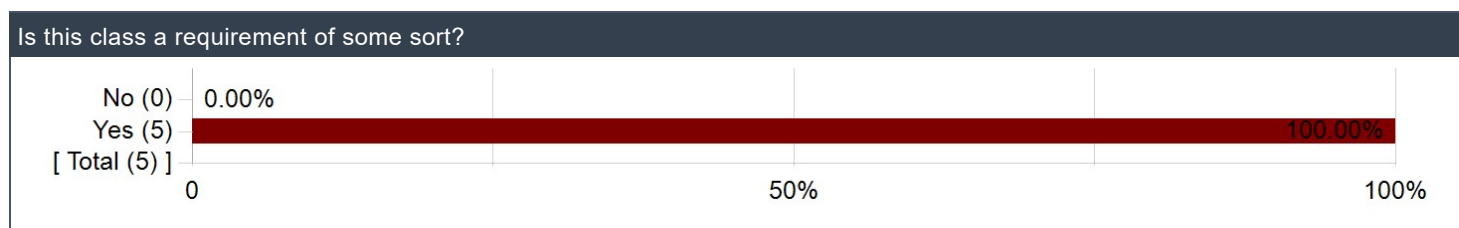
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

- No (0) — 0.00%
- Yes (5) — 100.00%
- [Total (5)]

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

- Very low (0) — 0.00%
- Low (3) — 60.00%
- Neutral (1) — 20.00%
- High (1) — 20.00%
- Very high (0) — 0.00%
- [Total (5)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

- Diminished (1) — 20.00%
- Satisfied (3) — 60.00%
- Heightened (1) — 20.00%
- [Total (5)]
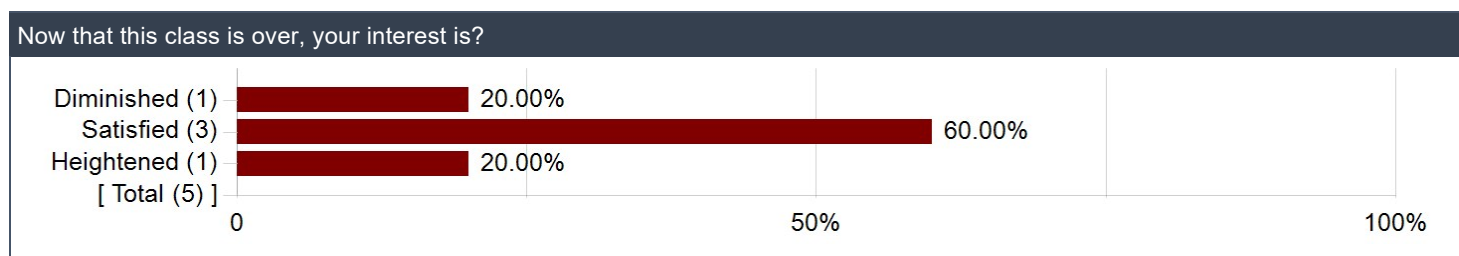
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
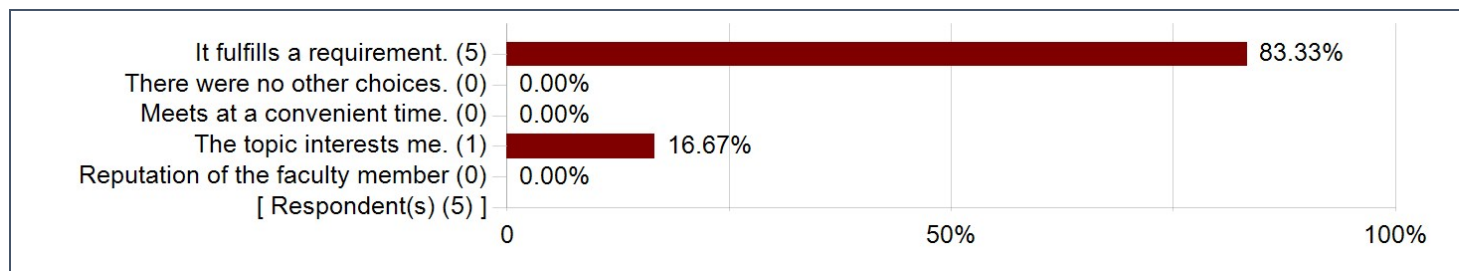
- It fulfills a requirement. (5) — 83.33%
- There were no other choices. (0) — 0.00%
- Meets at a convenient time. (0) — 0.00%
- The topic interests me. (1) — 16.67%
- Reputation of the faculty member (0) — 0.00%
- [Respondent(s) (5)]

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

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<5 hours (0)    0.00%
5-10 hours (3)  ████████████████████ 60.00%
10-15 hours (2) █████████████ 40.00%
15-20 hours (0) 0.00%
20-25 hours (0) 0.00%
25-30 hours (0) 0.00%
>30 hours (0)   0.00%
[ Total (5) ]
            0               50%              100%
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What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?


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None (0)    0.00%
25% (0)     0.00%
50% (0)     0.00%
75% (1)     ██████ 20.00%
All (4)     ████████████████████████ 80.00%
[ Total (5) ]
         0               50%              100%
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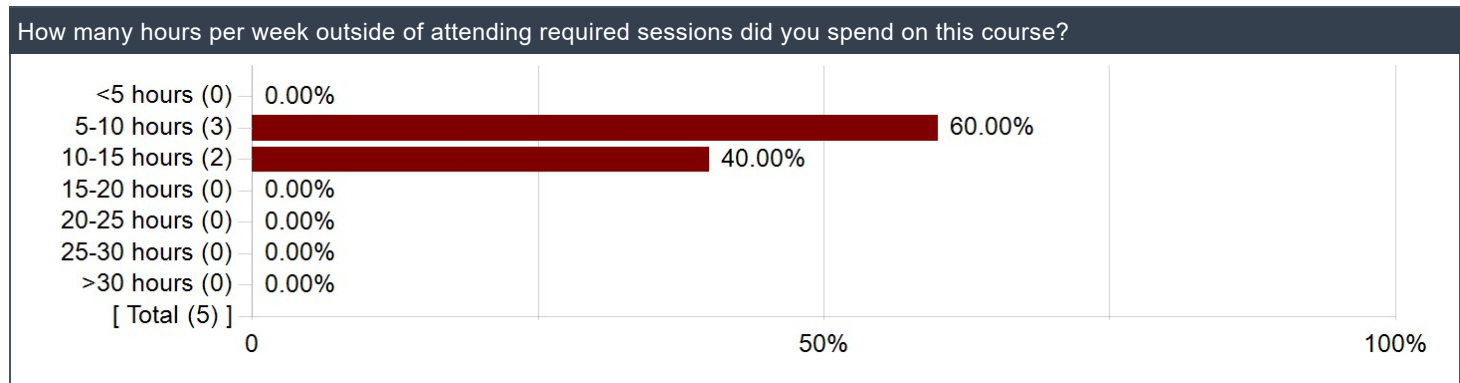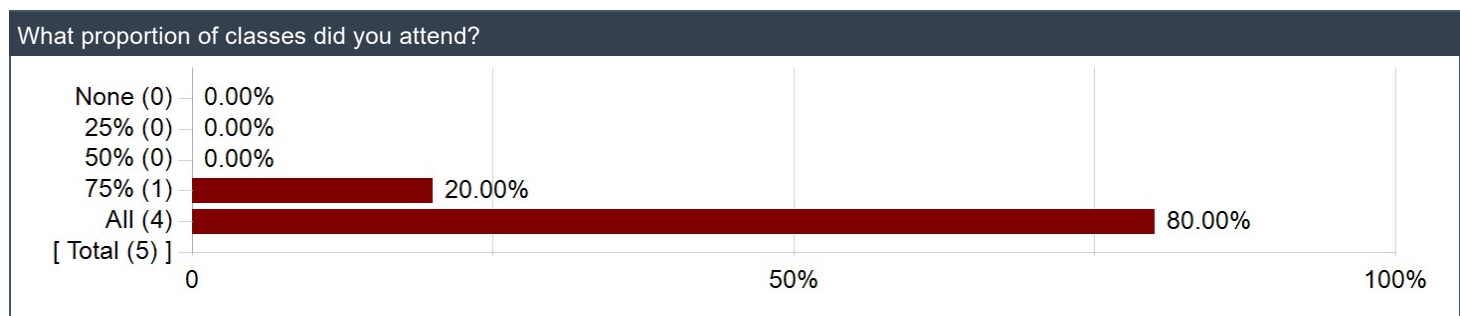
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
More difficult than last quarter
The expectations made the classes more difficult. As he put it, you can bullshit the assignments in this class. However, he judges you by your effort rather than your performance on your assignments. Make sure you participate, and make sure you follow what he establishes in class.
The readings aren't terribly difficult, except maybe St Augustine's Confessions which were kinda dense, but if you are expecting an easy A, good luck when it comes to the papers. It's not impossible but you really have to prioritise this class
pretty tough getting acclimated at first. what we were expected as writers was not really clear until you had already made mistakes and got feedback on those mistakes