



HUMA 12050 6 - Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations I - Instructor(s): Patrice Rankine

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

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
I learned a lot about what an epic is, and generally how to close read and analyze texts. I had a lot of practice looking into specific choices that authors make and the effects of these.
I learned about literary analysis, both in writing and class discussion.
What's an epic, how to analyze texts
What Is an Epic? That was the big question, but we didn't really tackle it directly. Instead, the class focused on three epics (Iliad, Aeneid and Omeros) and we read through each, discussing them in the style of an advanced book club. As we progressed through the course, we began to note similarities and differences between the three, and how themes carried over from work to work.
What constitutes an epic, what are some of the literary devices one should look for and analyze when reading an epic.
I learned close reading skills and critical thinking. I think my writing improved.
How to read a text closely for themes and patterns– the texts were very closely connected and reading them together helped me see patterns through three different works from centuries apart.
The textual analysis techniques are really crucial. I found my ability to analysis a small portion of the work to be much better. This skill also carries over for the rest of the readings for any given class and continuously develops as you continue to participate in class.
i learned close reading, how to write better papers, and many things about epics
Critical thinking and writing skills.
I learned a good amount about epic and its most characteristic features as well as how to perform fruitful close–readings in the context of a broader narrative.

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

Comments
The lectures brought to light things in the text that I had missed or went into more detail about a specific part in the book. The reading assignments were good, and the essay assignments helped me work on making text based claims specific to a part of the book.
The essay assignments helped me develop as a writer.
The discussions were very helpful and provided a better understanding of the readings. We only had to write two essays (+ submit a draft for those a few weeks before) which wasn't overwhelming and was a real opportunity to deepen the discussions.
Discussions were very lively– class was mostly just discussion, with some small group activities here and there. These would typically involve each group getting a small section of text or a topic to read in detail, which would usually end up with all groups reporting their focus to the class.
Discussions were very important to this course. It was good to hear different opinions from my peers.
Classroom discussions were the main thing that we did and I found them to expand my view of the readings.
The discussions were great and very helpful to me, and even when we were behind the readings we were still very much engaged with the texts. The essays, which we got to revise, were also a great way to get a lot out of the texts in a short time.
The lectures were very good for gaining an understanding of the choices of the author. The expert opinion of the professor helped facilitate discussion. It is worth it to go to lecture even if you haven't done the readings.
the discussions really helped me learn, and the discussion posts were also very useful in guiding our conversations
Doing readings and listening to discussions is the best way to get the most out of this class.
The classes themselves facilitated lively and free–spirited discussions, the assignments and expectations were clear and well structured, and feedback from peers and the writing instructor was useful.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.00	4.00	8.33%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	25.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.42	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	58.33%	41.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%
I felt respected in this class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The readings are a bit long, especially for Omeros.
I wish the rubric/expectations for the first essay had been made clearer beforehand. I feel I could have done better if I had known what we were being evaluated on.

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 discussion guidance.
Pr Rankine is a great teacher for discussions; he has a plan of where he wants to go but will still be open to digressions.
Rankine is an adept hand at directing the flow of discussion– it never felt like there was too big a lull in what people had to say, and conversation was usually very interesting.
He was very open and willing to explore new and different interpretations of the text. He did not come in with an agenda to persuade us of his interpretation – we were definitely encouraged to explore it on our own, and he would offer supporting commentary.
I think that Professor Rankine respected everyone's opinions and made it easy to share our thoughts in a safe environment.
Professor Rankine was great at leading discussions and I always felt he was prepared for the class, but he never put his own interpretation ahead of ours even when he was telling us what was important to take away from each poem; he always helped us build on our ideas and observations.
I think Patrice's knowledge of the text helped heighten the level of class discussion. His knowledge of the original greek and latin texts helped bring up new points to consider, which is a level of expertise not every professor will have.
the Professor adequately guided the discussions and had great insights and additions to the readings throughout the course
I felt Professor Rankine did a wonderful job structuring and planning classes while still maintaining a free-flowing mode of instruction. He also made significant allowances for student initiative and direction.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Break up class periods into manageable chunks.
Nothing
A little bit more structure in the class might not hurt, especially for the Iliad and Aeneid where the historical context might be unfamiliar to some
I'm not sure – I feel that I learned a lot in this course.
The readings were a lot, and in Omeros especially we didn't get the chance to discuss most of what we read or write about it, so I didn't feel like I got as much out of it as I could have with a more focused or more extensive analysis.
I would try to move a little faster. Often the class discussion lagged behind where we were in the book, meaning some important points were passed over to finish all of the necessary discussion.
I suppose I would have enjoyed at least touching on some of the most influential scholarly material relating to the texts we covered both for its own sake and also as a provocation for further discussion.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	50.00%	16.67%
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.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	16.67%	58.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	50.00%	8.33%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%	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
Maya Shenoy. She gave fantastic feedback on our paper drafts, and the writing seminars she organized were incredibly helpful. The only thing that could help us would be organizing a first writing seminar before the first paper draft is due.
Maya Shenoy was the writing instructor. She was very good about giving feedback and the seminars were structured.
Maya Shenoy
Maya Shenoy. The writing seminars were okay, but they could have been better to force students to really interrogate their writing process.
Maya was great, she had great comments on my essay that helped me understand what I was doing right and what I could improve
Maya Shenoy
I quite enjoyed Maya Shenoy's video presentations prior to our in-person writing seminars. I found them to be clear, precise, comprehensive, and helpful in situating our meetings. I was happy for Maya's comments on my papers, but I think I would have liked more feedback on particular points throughout.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	71.43%	14.29%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.29	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	57.14%	0.00%

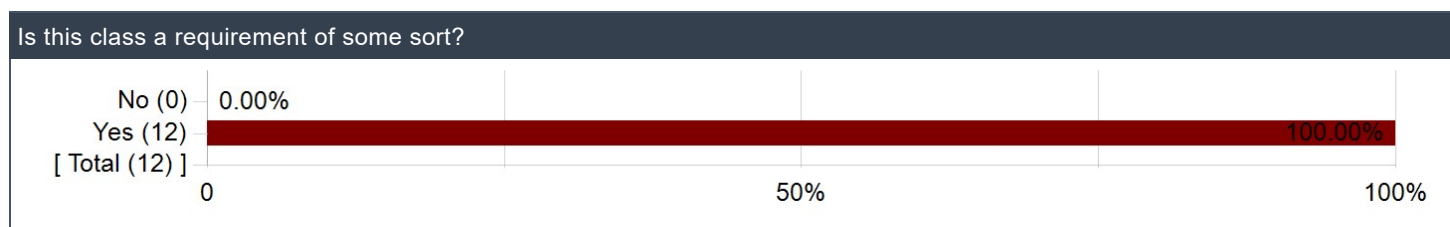
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	3.33	4.00	11.11%	22.22%	11.11%	33.33%	22.22%	0.00%

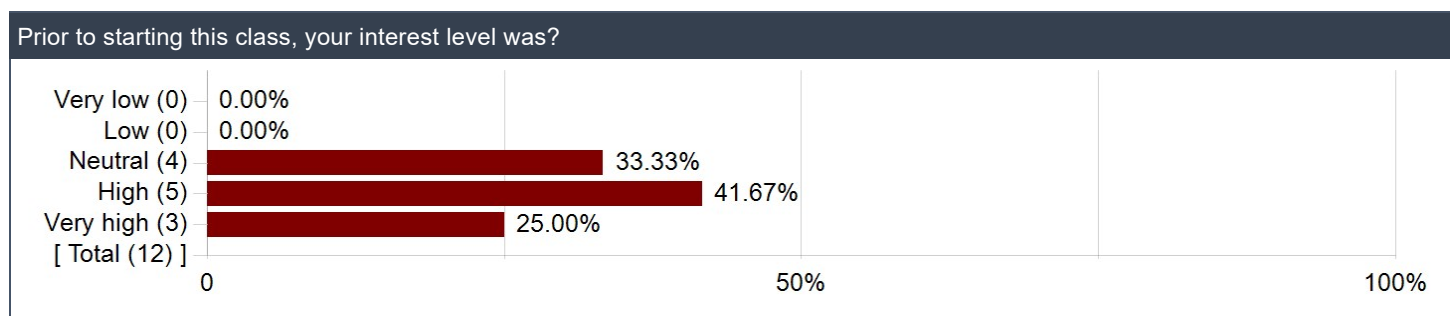
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
We had a mandatory lecture one night
The faculty lecture was also very helpful for understanding Omeros.

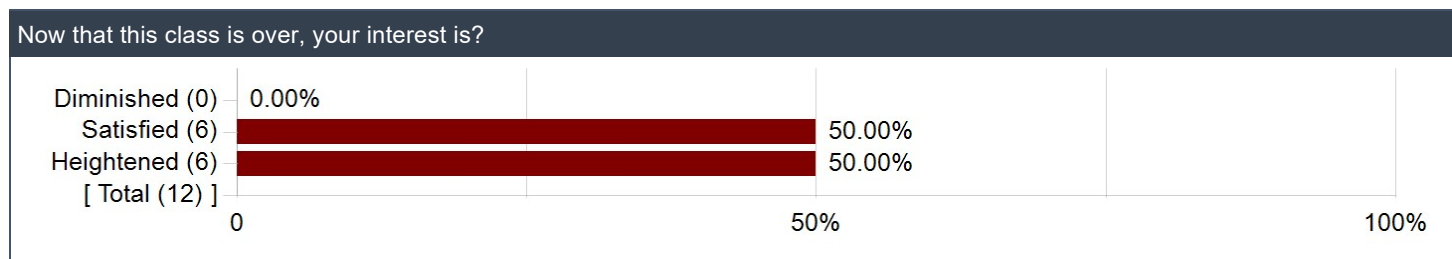
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



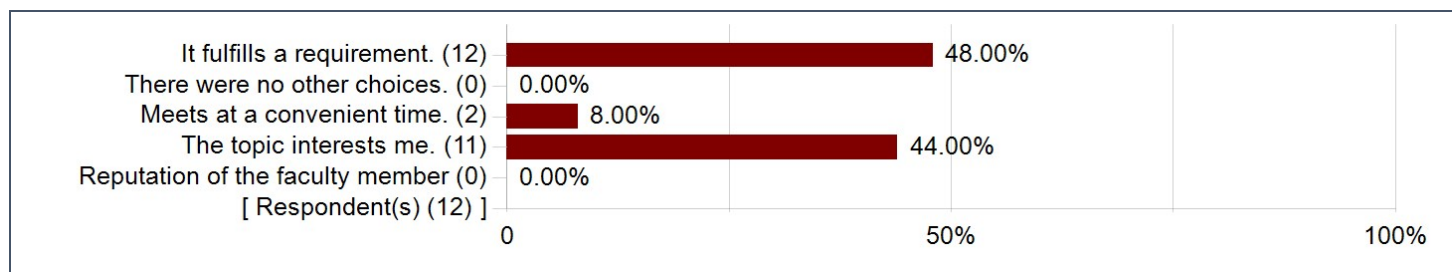
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



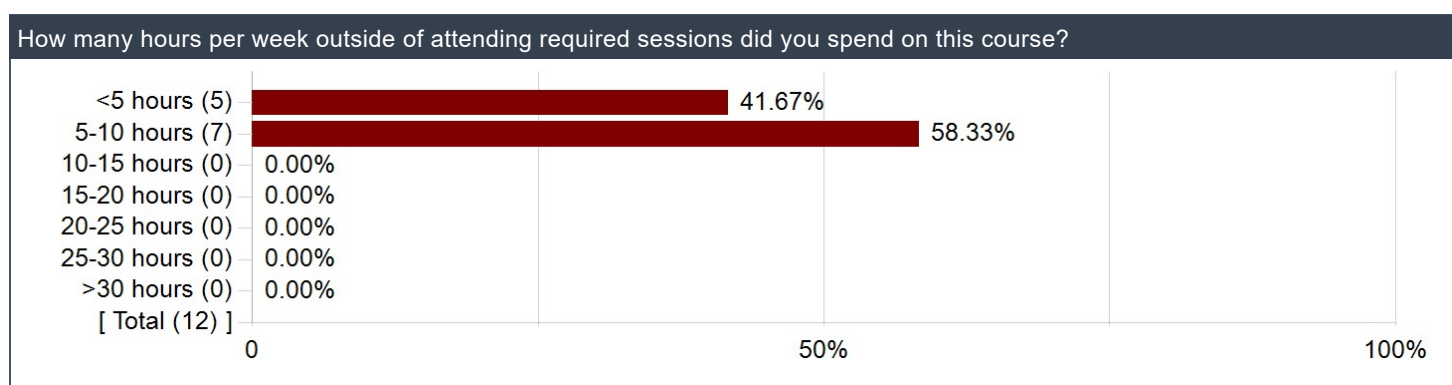
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



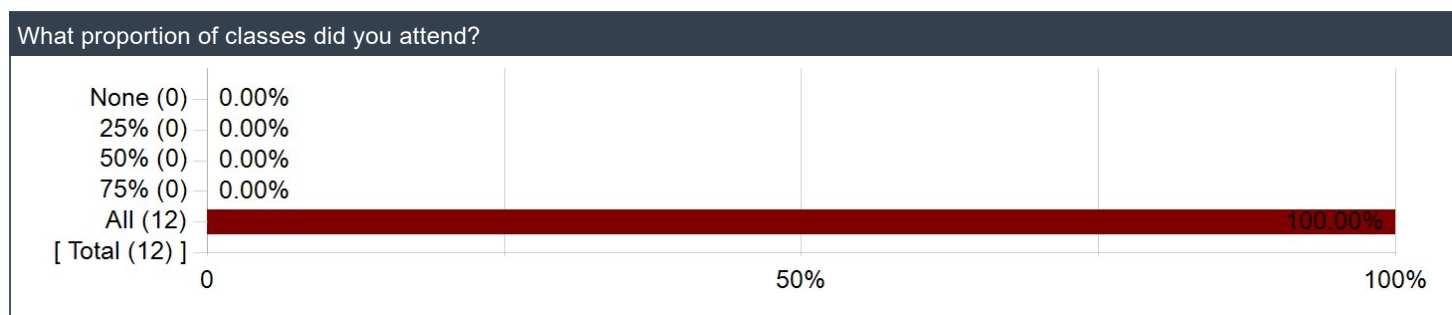
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Moderate
This is not a hard class; we just had long readings at the end of the quarter, but these were manageable.
As someone who adored the Percy Jackson books and Greek mythology in general, this class was a breeze. It might be a little more difficult for those without knowledge of the background to the Trojan War or Greco–Roman culture, but I don't think it would be impossible.
I think it was well suited to both people with a strong interest and background in greco–roman literature and people with no experience but some interest in greco–roman literature. You do not need any prior knowledge to do well.
Moderate
This course challenged me more than my high school courses and I found the works engaging, but I was hoping that my writing methods would be more properly challenged.
Not super difficult, but it depends on your professor.
As a transfer student in a predominantly first–year class, I found it (expectedly) quite easy.