



HUMA 11000 12 - Readings in World Literature I - Instructor(s): Geoffrey Rees

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

Number Enrolled: **10**

Number of Responses: **7**

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
A different way of thinking about the text/writing, that was far removed from ways I had approached those before.
Learned how to closely read text (sort of)
We read three books (in order: Epic of Gilgamesh, The Odyssey, and The Mahabharata) and analyzed them in depth. We had four papers in this class, three of which constituted the majority of our grade. The course is designed to have us analyze the language of the text, but I still struggle with this task.
Stick close to the evidence, and respect the text for what it literally says, not just its implications.
A systematic way of writing is far more complex than an analytical way in my opinion. Working with the terms of the text is difficult and forces us to keep our biases out of our writing.
I learned how to read closely and formulate claims that were centered on text relevant questions. I learned how to stay focused on the details and avoid making assumptions about the readings.

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

Comments
During class we analyzed passages from the text and worked on developing claims
Discussions are sometimes helpful, other times painful. Sometimes, the room would be on board with Professor Rees, but other times, we have no idea what he is talking about. Depending on the day, it could be a hit or miss (perhaps that is the process of learning). During class, Professor Rees guided the majority of the class discussions and would lead us to various places in the text and we would spend roughly 10 minutes analyzing the language of the text.
This course has taught me to be more creative and yet more literal in the way I interpret text and film, and this course has pushed me write and think more directly, without extraneous words.
The discussions were good because it helped us get an idea of what the professor wanted from us. The assignments themselves weren't hard but it was tricky to try and think like our professor.
Classes were helpful as we were able to discuss certain details that caught our attention while reading. Classes helped provide potential topics for papers.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.00	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%	0.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	2.43	2.00	28.57%	28.57%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.57	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	28.57%	14.29%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.57	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	71.43%	0.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	42.86%	14.29%
I felt respected in this class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	42.86%	28.57%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.00	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%	0.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The feedback was helpful, but was often delayed – I personally did not receive feedback on one of my papers until three and a half days before the next one was due. Given that the way we were supposed to write felt vague and hard to understand, not having feedback until close to the essay deadline made things very difficult. In–class discussions were sometimes helpful and sometimes not – sometimes, it felt the professor had a singular reading of a passage he tried to push students towards, but other times the discussion felt more open ended and natural. One class we did a sentence writing workshop, which was extremely helpful, and I wish we did it multiple times, especially earlier in the quarter.
I didn't really understand the objective of this course or what I was supposed to be learning. Prof Rees had a lot to say about what he didn't want us to do in our writing, but he did a very poor job explaining what wanted us to do. The expectations were very unclear and I did not find him to be very approachable.
This course is my hardest during the first quarter. Professor Rees just expects a very distinct style, one different from what I'm used to. Unfortunately, he did not communicate clearly what he expects of us (or that his standards are too high), which led to many frustrating hours when writing the papers for this class.
I really found in–class argument practice helpful this quarter, since it taught me how to write in the style the professor is looking for. I wish there was more of that throughout the term.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	28.57%	71.43%
Anyone interested in the topic	42.86%	57.14%

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

Comments
Feedback received in office hours was very helpful
I can't think of anything
Professor Rees would give us some essay ideas during our discussions, which is helpful. However, he has a preset determination of what is a correct and incorrect interpretation of the text. I believe that there are no wrong answers when it comes to literature; restraining imagination and connections to the real world makes this class somewhat pointless.
My professor taught me to think and write about the details as closely as possible, without straying into speculation.
I liked that he knew what he wanted to talk about before every class. It helped with the flow of class time.
He would point us to certain places of the text and how they were relevant to the topics we were discussing. He helped us focus on the details of the text when discussing.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
At one point, the instructor moved a deadline a week earlier than was stated in the syllabus. I believe that ensuring the deadlines written in the syllabus are upheld throughout the quarter would be helpful.
Explain expectations more clearly, provide a better foundation for how to analyze text and create an argument. I feel it would be helpful also to have some more smaller assignments to improve our understanding, because it felt like writing the essays was a big jump and I wasn't really prepared.
I hope Professor Rees could be a bit more open–minded about new ideas. The text, even the language itself, could be interpreted in many ways. After all, if the text was written many years ago with the authors long passed, what is the purpose of analyzing the language of the text without relating it to current events? Many times I feel like Professor Rees is just digging too deeply into the text; no one is sure if the authors did this or that on purpose, so analyzing the language in too much detail is pointless.
More clarification in the writing style that our professor prefers, or at least a line of reasoning in writing that would earn a proficient grade.
Outside of class writing workshops throughout the quarter would be extremely beneficial.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.29	3.00	0.00%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.00	3.00	14.29%	0.00%	42.86%	28.57%	0.00%	14.29%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.86	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	71.43%	14.29%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.29	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.43	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	71.43%	14.29%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%	28.57%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.86	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.43	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%	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
Sophia Sherry. She was helpful in providing helpful feedback that was relevant to the mini-lectures in writing seminars. She was available to help with any concerns we had about our writing.

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.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

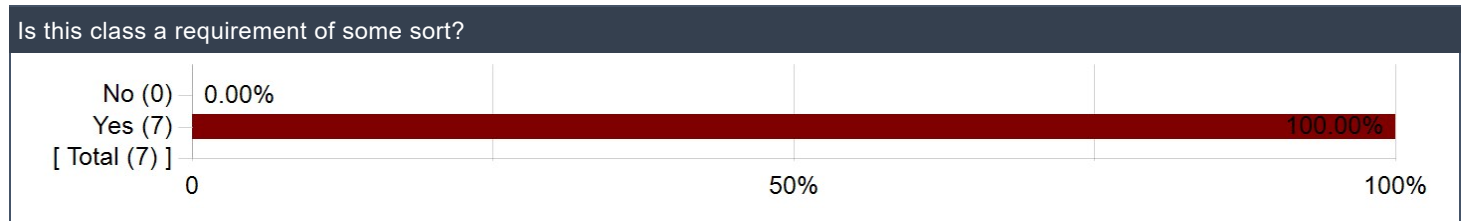
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	3.83	4.00	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%

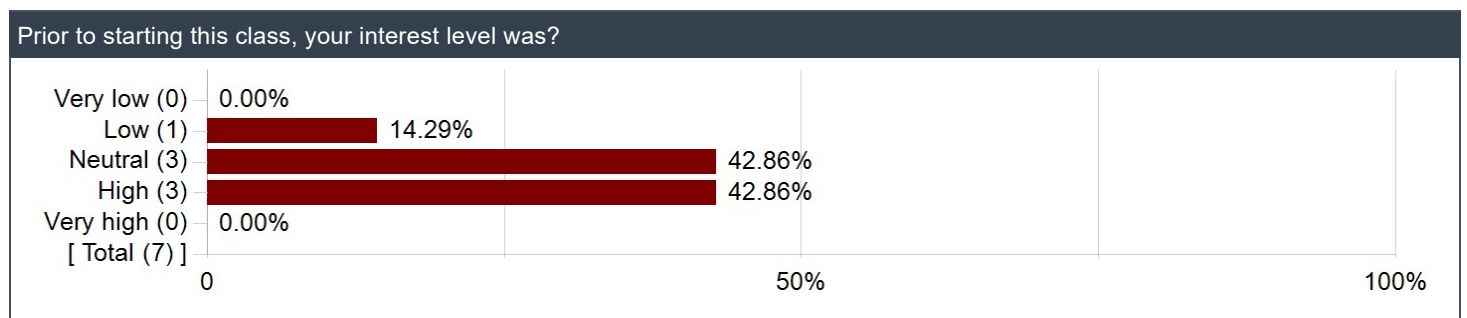
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A

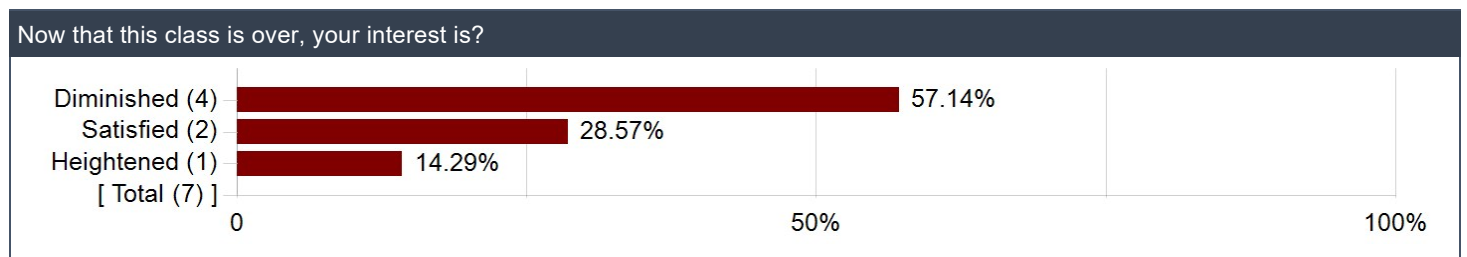
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



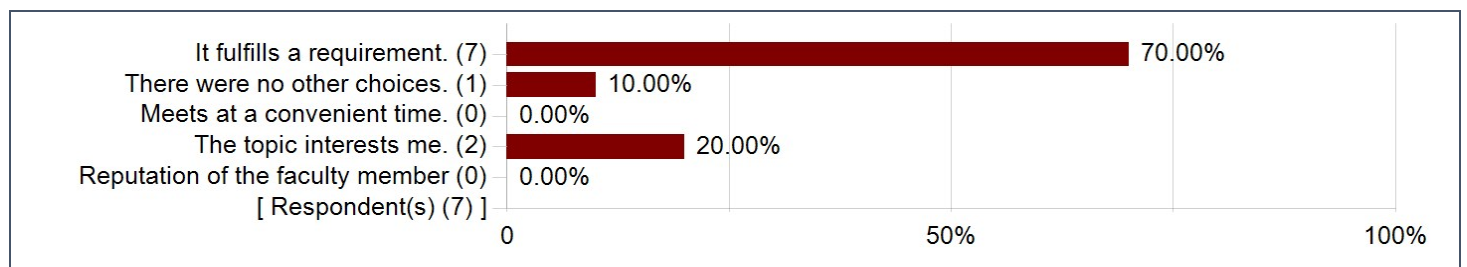
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



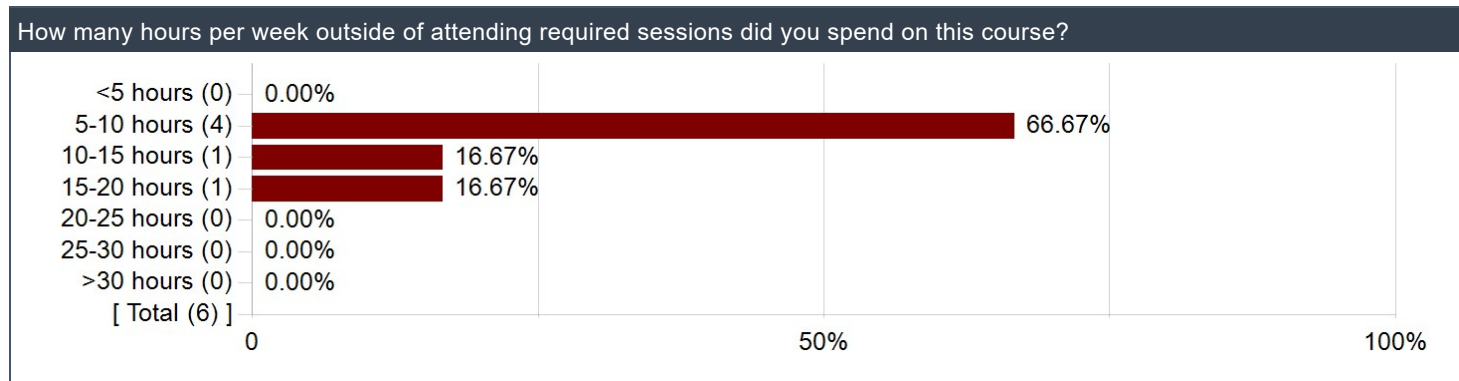
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



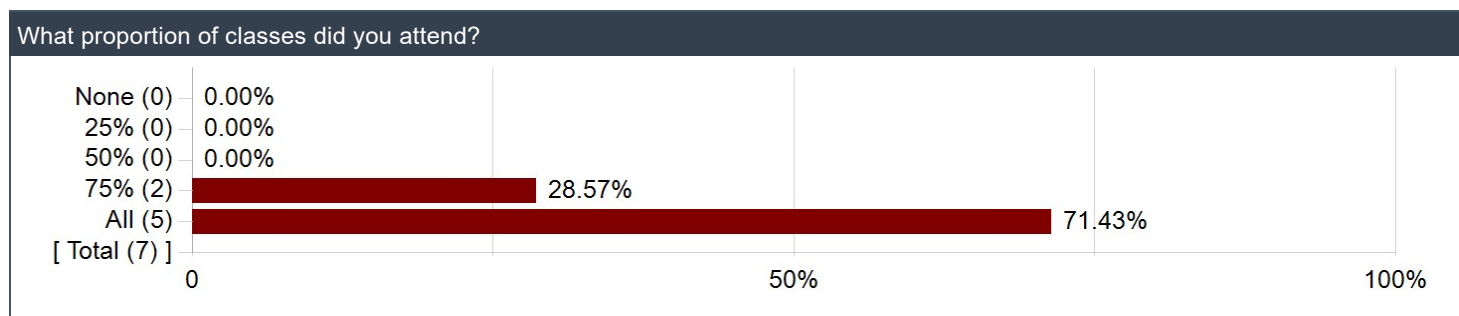
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
I took AP English Language in high school but the writing expectations in this course were extremely different than what was expected in AP. I felt unprepared and found the course quite challenging.
This course was very difficult for me when it came to writing; the type of writing expected from the professor greatly differs from the type of writing I did in high school.
I don't consider myself a great writer, but as someone who has passed AP Literature and AP Lang in high school, I feel that this class is a lot more difficult. Perhaps it is the unreasonable standards that Professor Rees expects us to reach or perhaps it is the limitation of essay topics, but the essays we have to do for the class are both time-consuming and not fun at all.
Far more difficult compared to my previous humanities-related classes. Very different writing expectations, and very different/inductive style of thinking that I wasn't accustomed to prior. Also much smaller class and more involvement in discussion than my previous classes, which I prefer.
Difficult, since the only form of writing that I practiced in High School was analytical.