



# HUMA 12400 15 - Human Being and Citizen II - Instructor(s): Benjamin Jeffery

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **9**

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## Report Comments

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

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Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

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

Comments
Learned so much about God in Christianity.
We learned a lot about the human condition with regard to reading Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, St. Augustine's Confessions, and Dante's Inferno. I personally enjoyed the readings a lot more than last quarter.
I gained a much better knowledge of classical texts and of the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. I also learned a lot about the development of Christianity and the different ideas of God that there were. I gained skills in critical thinking and analyzing texts that may seem difficult or out of reach because of their age or importance.
Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics really set the foundation: virtue, eudaimonia or "happiness", three parts of the soul, what is good. Augustine's Confessions was a much more pleasant read where there was more application of Aristotle's ideas with relation to God. The idea of being furthered from God and how to get closer etc. Dante's Inferno was personally the most pleasant and interesting read. Very Augustine view foundation and a lot of creativity in regards to how Hell is constructed, malice and how it's separated as fraud and treachery, who is separated into the circles, and contrapasso.
It was mainly in-tune with what I learned during the first quarter. I learned how to analyze texts more effectively and write interesting papers about them. Of course, appreciation of the texts come at the forefront of my own interest with courses like this, and while I do not feel like appreciation was not the overall arching goal, I do feel that it was definitely a pretty significant one within the class, and they did allow for the facilitation of such a goal at varying levels depending on each individual student.
Close reading and argument construction for essays were the most important skills that we learned.
The main takeaways from this course were how to behave as a good citizen and human being in general. A main and interesting part of this class was a discussion of Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics," where we were challenged to think about the key components of the human soul and which virtuous qualities make someone good.

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

Comments
Lectures were helpful and I felt like the questions Ben asked were engaging.
The discussions were extremely helpful in learning the material. The essays were also extremely helpful in learning how to present a good argument based on the book or idea.
The discussions each class were always highly engaging and very interesting. I think there was a good job of providing information and context on the text and allowing the class to interpret the text in the discussions. The writing seminars were very useful for feedback.
Discussion was always good to regurgitate the reading material and create new ideas/interpretations. Writing seminars were ok.
The lectures were definitely the key feature of this class. I feel that without them, I may not have been able to garner as much from the texts as I did.
Discussions were relatively free-flowing, but guided well.
In class, we discussed the readings and answer each other's questions about the text. The class and professor were considerate of everyone's perspectives, and it was an open space to talk—it was from hearing my peer's perspectives that I learned the most. Our in-class discussions definitely broadened my understanding of the texts we were reading and helped me make new connections and analyze the text critically.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.67	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	22.22%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.67	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	22.22%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.00	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	33.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%
I felt respected in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.78	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
<p>Okay, my thing is do not take this class even if you think the content is slightly interesting or even interesting. Discussions are bland and often felt like people were just mind-dumping to get participation points. Further, we were expected to read a significant portion of each required text per night and we wouldn't even end up discussing it in class the next day. For example, we were required to read Book viii from Nicomachean Ethics, and the next day we were reviewing a passage from BOOK I. Additionally the papers are graded extremely harshly, the prof at the beginning of the autumn quarter mentioned that "it is extremely hard to get an a in this class" which I think is honestly ridiculous. This is a core hum class and as a stem major, it just solidified that I'm not pursuing anything related to hum (coming into school I was thinking about a double major in English). On the path to med school, I'm taking some pretty challenging science and math classes and there is absolutely no reason that this hum class is my worst grade. Seriously. With unnecessarily long amounts of effort I put into the midterm and final paper, even going through the core writing tutors (3 times per paper AND having a friend who is an English grad student edit my paper) and the writing seminar person, the grades did not reflect the effort put into the class, and this was felt among many of the other students in the class as well. However I would say that the topics for papers were interesting, but this was by far the worst class I've taken in all my academic experience. Would not recommend it. Further, this quarter focused on so many religious texts, Genesis, Confessions, and Inferno, and as someone who is not religious and does not know much about it, it proved quite hard to contribute to certain class discussions, as often students would pull from other verses from the bible or their personal experience with Christianity. Last thing I would note is that there is no grade breakdown or even grade during the entire quarter. Last quarter I only was able to see my final grade in the grade book after winter break. I would appreciate a grade breakdown of how each assignment impacts the grades as well as participation. On a positive note, Ben is very kind and leads discussions well and I really appreciate how he runs the class, he listens to each person's comments and pushes them for further inquiry or asks them further questions.</p>
N/A
<p>From what I've heard about other humanities sequences, and even other classes within this sequence, this class seemed to be a bit harder by comparison as far as graded papers go, but this is definitely for good reason. I struggled to really meet those standards, but the feedback and writing seminars within this class in particular have pushed me to try and actually put the extra effort to really create more functional papers. Whether or not I truly met those standards is beyond me, but I know that the rigor of this class will definitely teach you a thing or two about writing, but only consider it if you are willing to put in that extra work.</p>
<p>The texts we read in class were interesting and provided me with new insights as how to behave as a good person.</p>

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	22.22%	77.78%

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

Comments
In-class discussions.
The instructor's ability to facilitate the discussions and also provide background information on the book we were reading was extremely helpful and made it easier to understand the main idea.
I think my instructor did a very good job at engaging students on any idea they put forward in conversation and I found that his excitement to engage with our points lead to a lot of new and profound interpretations of the text for me.
the pictures for dante's inferno! not only were super cool to see visually but also really enhanced the quality of the discussion.
Once again, I have to appreciate a professor that truly knows what they are talking about. However, more importantly, while he did have to direct discussion at some points to meet time constraints, the discussion was still largely led by the students themselves, and he provided very minimal input besides to help provide extra context for the text and even some of his own thoughts that further propelled our consideration of the literature. Most importantly, he never made anyone's opinions feel unwarranted or undervalued in comparison to the rest.
The lectures on different philosophical and textual concepts were good. It was helpful to see a diagram of the concepts.
The instructor's discussion style classes contributed to my learning throughout this course as he provided us with questions to help guide our discussions about the text and focused us our conversations on the key concepts of the text.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
The instructor did a good job. I have no recommendations to improve the class.
I think he could have talked to us a little more about writing our actual essays and connected in some ideas from the writing seminar. I think that would've added another layer of learning to the class.
more time for the midterms and finals. the prompts for both were released pretty late and added a lot of stress with other classes.
As someone who is not majoring in humanities or social sciences, a lot of my struggles were mostly on my own end and not necessarily the fault of the professor. He is great, the only thing I could say is, essentially, that I feel like in this quarter we never got to really look at everything from our specific readings within our discussions. Now yes, time constraints are a huge factor, and there are more significant areas within each reading that need more coverage than others. But even so, it could help if he sent emails about certain parts that we were not able to cover in lecture, perhaps he can supply us questions within the email about those parts that help stimulate our minds to think about those parts further within our own time outside of class.
I think that more in-depth comments for paper grades would help, although they are already pretty good.
Before reading Dante's Inferno, I would have appreciated a little more background on who he was and his political party to have more social context to the text. But overall though my professor did a great job instructing this class :)

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	11.11%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	55.56%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.89	4.00	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	44.44%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	55.56%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.00	5.00	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	55.56%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	22.22%	33.33%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	22.22%	44.44%	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
Dr. Tom Sawyer The TA was really helpful. He did a good job improving my writing, but also made it easy to discussion our ideas within the writing seminars. I have no recommendations for the TA to improve the seminars. He did a good job!
My Writing Assitant was Tom Sawyer and he was wonderful and helped me improve the organization of my writing a lot. I think that we could've gone over some more examples of good writing in the seminars and that would've been helpful.
Tom Sawyer. The writing seminars were really helpful for revision and what to look for.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

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

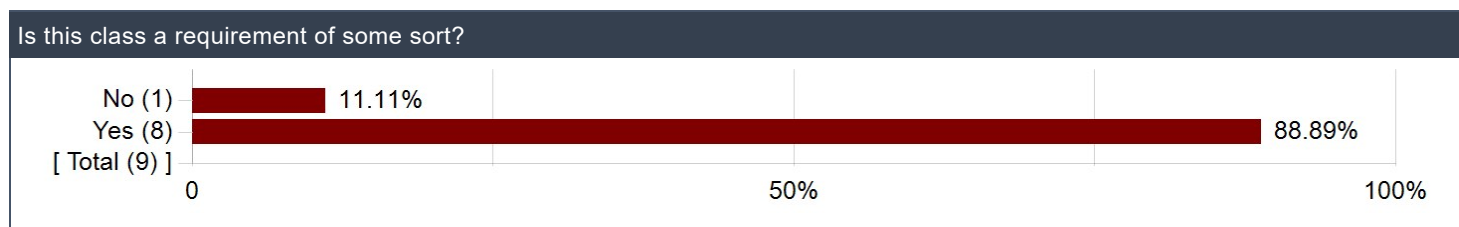
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.75	4.00	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	37.50%	0.00%

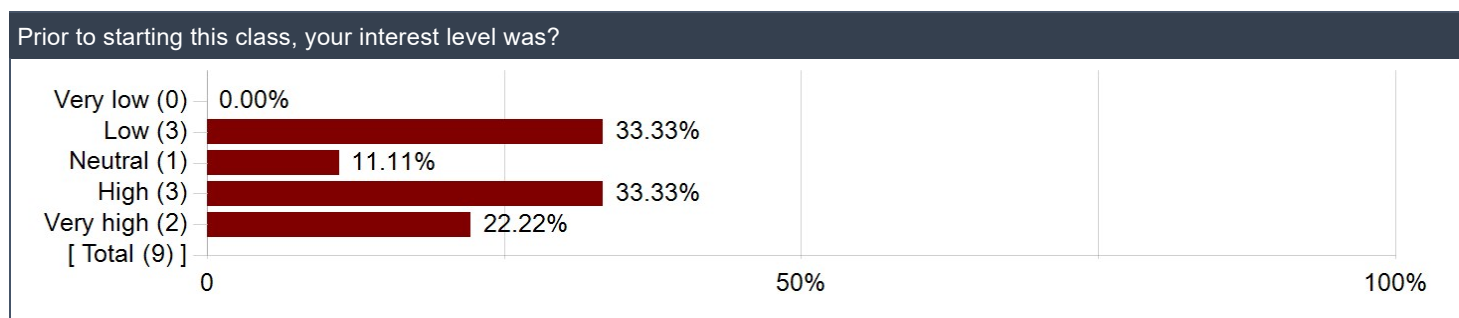
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Writing seminars were really helpful!
N/A

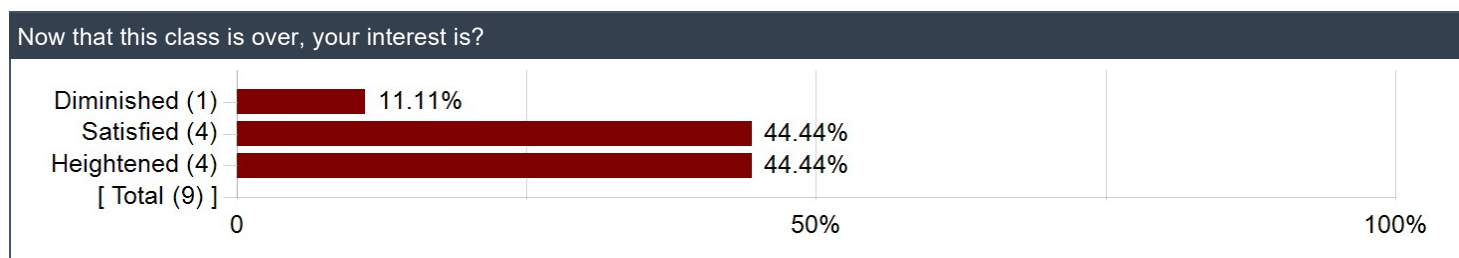
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



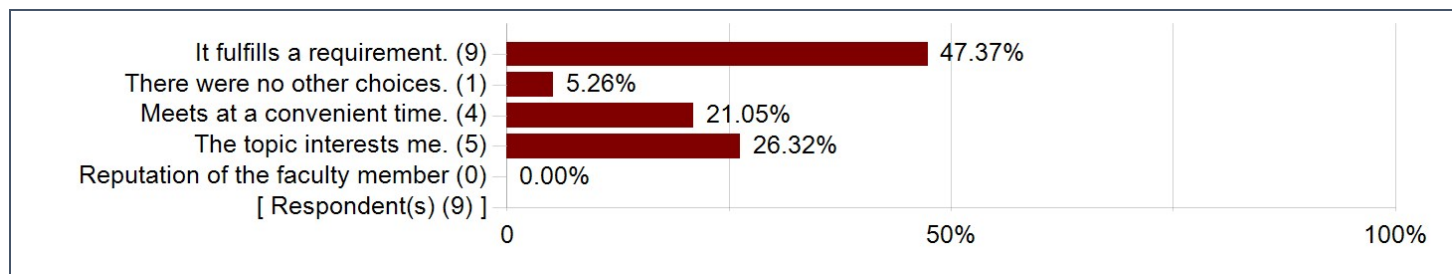
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



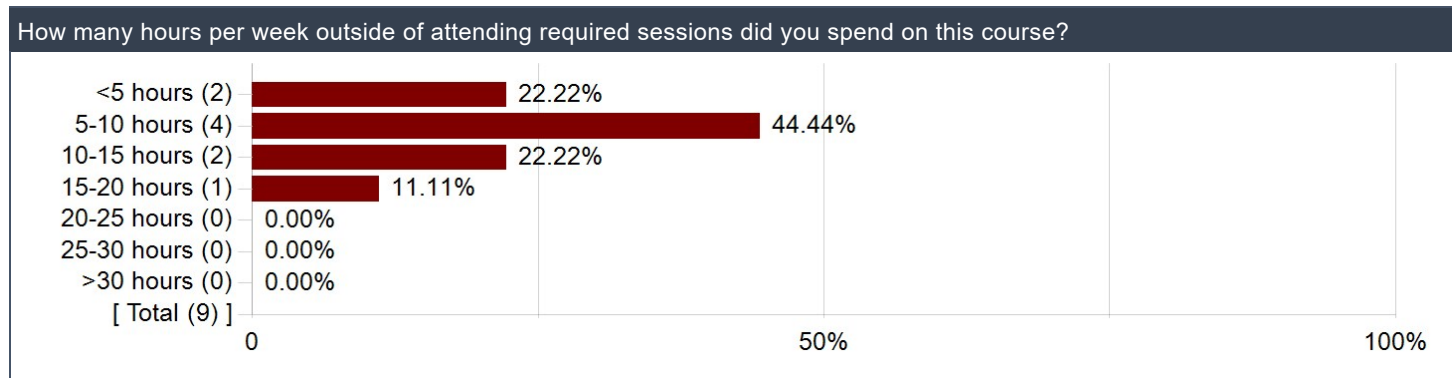
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



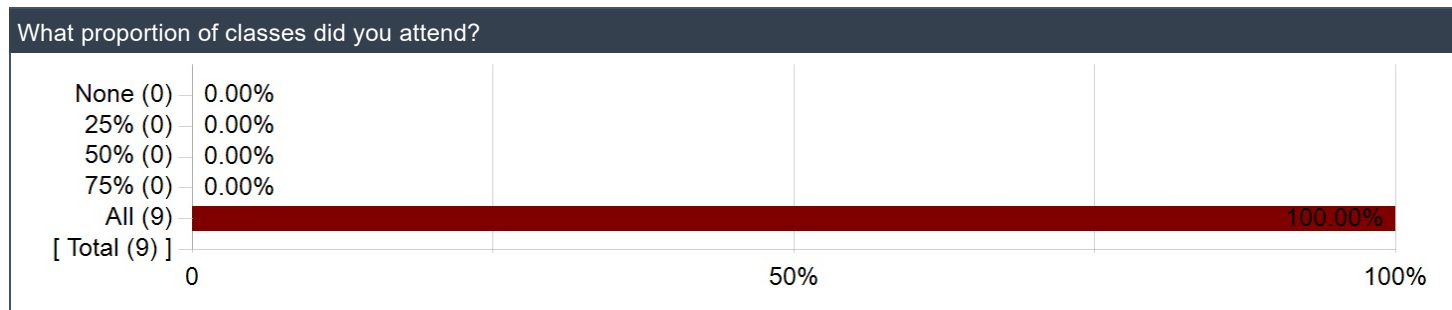
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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 would say that it is extremely difficult for a humanities/English course that is just for a core requirement.
It was difficult, but it was manageable.
It was a low level of difficulty because discussions were welcoming and grading was fair and helpful.
although there were only two essays + a discussion post this quarter, as a stem major, writing the essays took up A LOT of time to get a good grade. part of it is that the grading IS tough but also essays is not my forte.
I'll restate that as a STEM major, this type of class is not a strong suit of mine. Especially coming right out the writing style that was adequate for high school, I feel that while I did definitely improve in my writing ability, I may not have ever met the standards that this courts had set out for us. That may just come down to very intrinsic writing habits though that, despite being advised against, I kept on utilizing in my papers.
The class was difficult, although very doable. I have limited experience reading texts similar to the ones we read in class.
I thought this course was at an appropriate level of difficulty. It challenged and inspired me to really think more about the texts' deeper meaning while also challenging me to cohesively write about the concepts and ideas.

