



HUMA 18000 4 - Poetry and the Human I - Instructor(s): Benjamin Saltzman

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

Number Enrolled: **16**

Number of Responses: **13**

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
Close reading, interpretation, and focused and textual-based reasoning
Writing skills
Working with classmates to analyze and interpret poetry, do close reading, write about abstract concepts
How to analyze poetry and look beyond the words
How to dissect poems and their possible interpretations
I learned skills in writing, reciting, close reading, and analyzing poetry. Before this course, I had almost no experience with poetry, but Professor Saltzmann and Dr Osment taught in such a way that I could jump right in to deeply analyzing poems while still learning the basics of poetic form, rhythm, and other core concepts.
I learned how to closely analyze poems, specifically attention to form, syntax, diction of various poems
close reading, how to think about poetry
how to analyze poetry and its translations

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

Comments
Everything from the initial classes and readings, to Museum trips, to speaker sessions, all built on one another to culminate and tie together all the lessons together.
Discussions helped teach me how to think about poetry.
Discussions helped in getting to the meaning of particularly abstract poems, learning about poetry interpretations, assignments in writing poetry, closely reading
The essays and discussion based classes helped me learn more about analyzation and writing beyond just an idea.
The discussions were helpful because it was certain that if I were confused about a poem's meaning, my peers would share their interpretations in depth and explain it, but also if I understood a poem and wanted to share my analysis, I was able to knowing it would be respected and these both led to deeper analysis and knowledge on the poems we were reading and poetry as a whole
The discussions we had in class greatly helped me shape my opinions by bouncing them off of my peers, also since the discussions were mostly very fun and always extremely interesting I was always motivated to put effort into really digging deep into the texts discussed.
This course helped me gain a deeper appreciation for poetry and why it is important in our lives
mostly seminars
discussions in class were engaging and helped broaden my perspective

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.42	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%
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.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	66.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Prof is very chill
Professor Saltzman is great! He's definitely very enthusiastic about poetry, and laid back. Not stressful and fun to go over poetry, can be a little repetitive sometimes, but may just be the topics of the class
Definitely the most fun course I took so far, and it was a nice challenge that feel expanded my knowledge possibly the most out of my courses this quarter, because I had almost no prior knowledge on the topic.
NA

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	8.33%	91.67%
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
Prof. Saltzman is passionate about teaching and curated a reading list that will challenge students to the point of growth, but not to the point of frustration. He has strategically crafted a course that guides students without being too heavy-handed. All of the discussions felt worthwhile, and Prof. Saltzman assisted discussions so as to include everyone and let the students guide the direction.
The professor did a wonderful job facilitating discussions, allowing for enough freedom to discuss what is interesting to us, but guiding us enough that discussions still remain useful.
The seminars themselves
Definitely his carefree, friendly attitude and enthusiasm that shows his passion for poetry
How open he made the discussions
The general respect for hearing every student's opinion on the readings contributed to my learning the most because actively participating in the discussions helped me gain a deeper understanding of the texts.
The way the discussions were given freedom by him, while still being pushed along with interesting questions if the conversation started to lull.
The professor pushed us to think out of the box for some of the poems we read.
he is enthusiastic about poetry and that is obvious during class
facilitating class discussions

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
nothing
Maybe hand out more graded assignments so that our grade wouldn't be affected by a single essay that much
Nothing
N/A
Honestly nothing
Maybe divide class time to focus on different poems because sometimes we would spend the whole class analyzing one poem and it felt like we were over-analyzing it
not possible, he is great
n/a

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	25.00%	58.33%	8.33%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.58	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	8.33%	75.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	25.00%	58.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	25.00%	58.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	66.67%	8.33%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	33.33%	58.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	8.33%	83.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	75.00%	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
Sarah Osmott; the TA only taught once, so didn't really get a full grasp on her teaching. She could try to do more seminars in person rather than virtually (only one was in person), and provide more detailed feedback on our essays
Sarah Osment, helped give feedback on essays which was thorough and helpful
Sarah Osment – very helpful in giving advice on the mechanics of writing – in feedback on essays, it would have been more helpful on how to avoid the mistakes being made, but the feedback was still very helpful
We had a writing specialist named Sarah Osment She helped guide us on how to clearly make a strong argument for essays
Sara Osmet
Dr. Osment's writing seminars were helpful in outlining the best way to write a college level essay
Professor Saltzman was awesome! My writing seminar leader, Dr. Osment was not as good. I received very late and little feedback on my essays and seminars were not as beneficial as could be.

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.57	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.43	3.00	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.57	3.00	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.86	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.71	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%

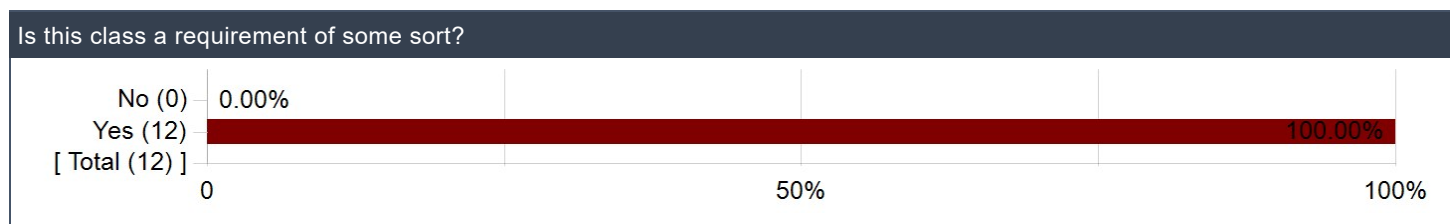
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	1.00	1.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Field Trips	4.20	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	22.22%	44.44%
Library Sessions	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	87.50%
Review Sessions	2.00	2.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	87.50%
Writing Seminars	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	45.45%	27.27%	0.00%

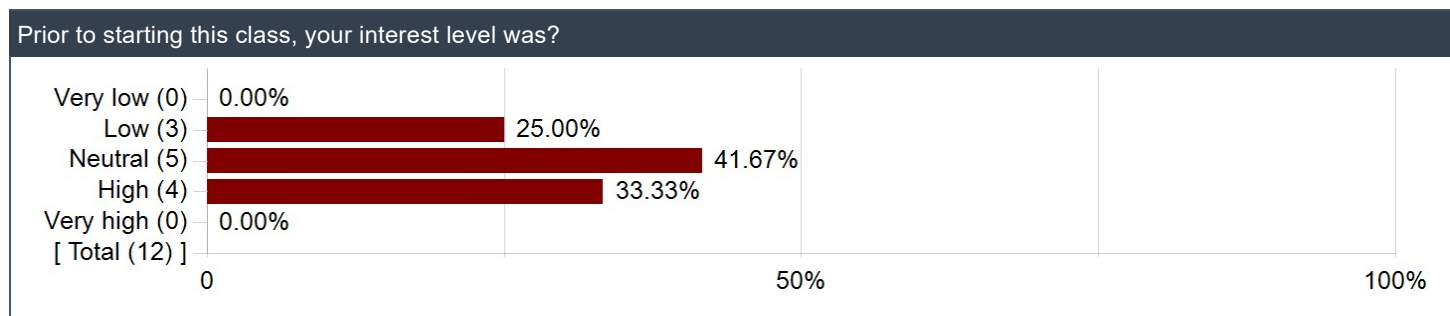
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Attended mandatory presentation and it was awesome. The speaker's work tied flawlessly into where we were at in class, and helped tie our instruction to application in the real world. At times, I could see individuals seeing poetry as "lofty" "abstract" and asking "what's the point?" But the presentation we were required to attend should have ended any fears someone may have had about "how this is relevant?"
NA

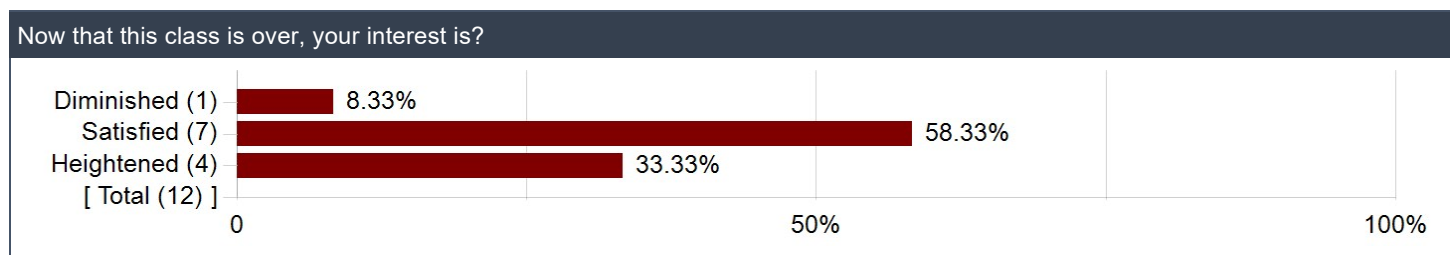
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



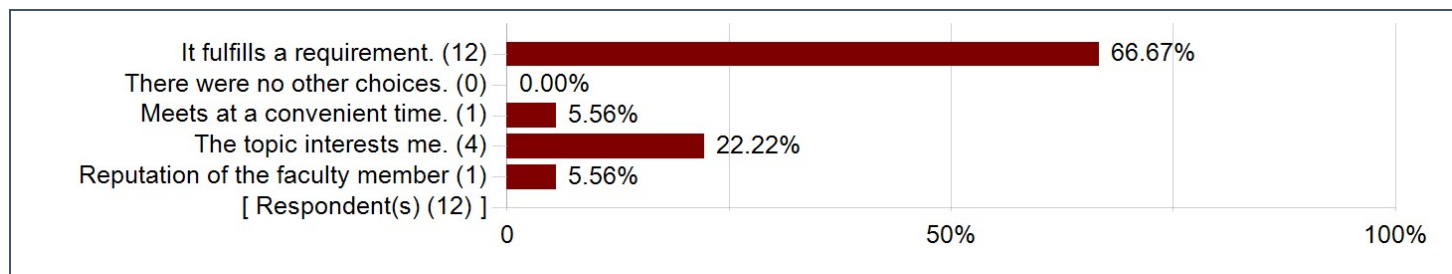
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



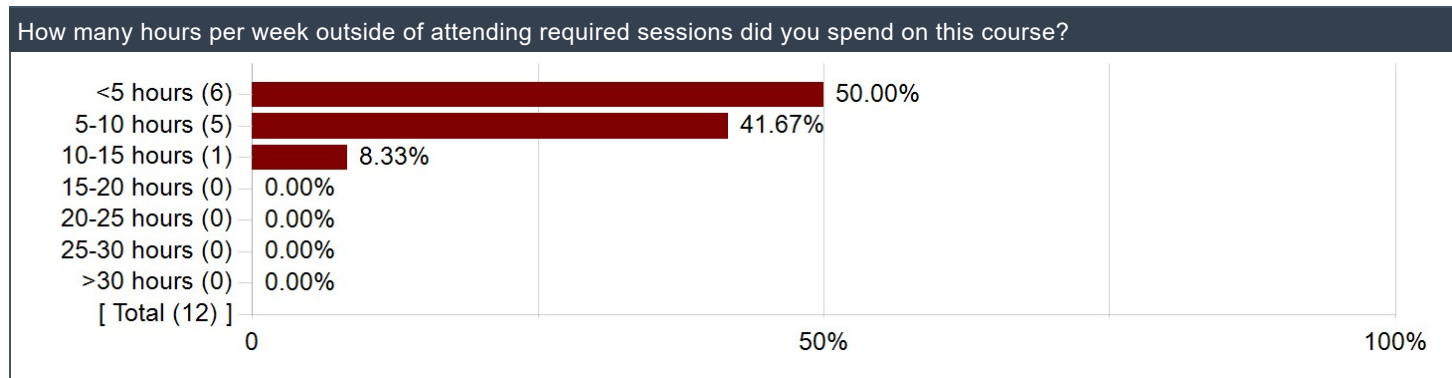
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



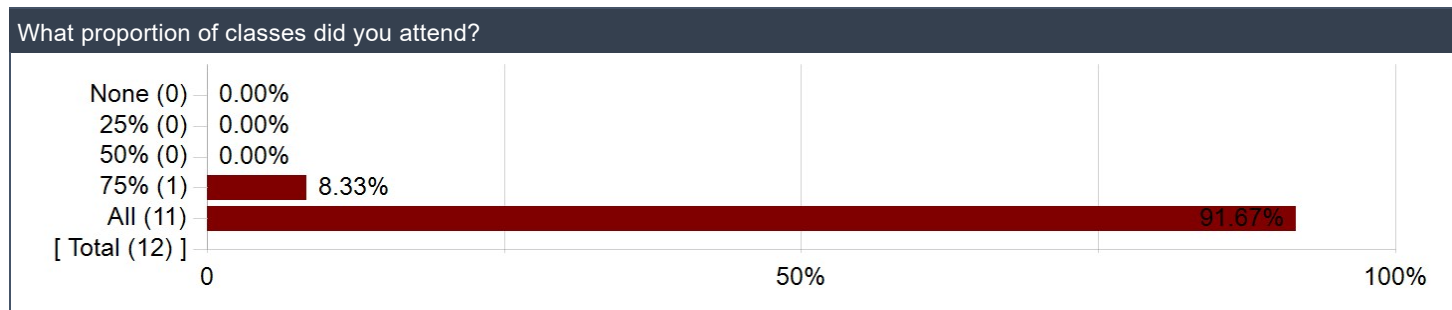
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
None
I took AP english literature in high school. This class wasn't too difficult outside of essays that would take me a while.
Very manageable; no poetry experience required, overall pretty easy!
I had taken a literature class before this, so it was not very difficult because I had done analysis like this before
pretty easy, because I enjoyed it the harder parts felt like a fun activity.
This course was a bit difficult for me because I had never analyzed a piece of writing before to such great extent
had no background in poetry and did fine
Not difficult