TAPS 10300 4 - Text and Performance - Instructor(s): Marissa Fenley

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

Number Enrolled: **18**
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.

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

Comments
Making a claim about the central idea of a text/production via analyzing connotative meanings of the play and theatrical language.
This class helped train me to single out different forms of theatrical language in analyzing productions. Although I didn't learn any novel techniques from the class, it did help give me a sharper eye for the ways in which theatre communicates with its argument, both (as the name of the course would suggest) through the text of the script itself and through the choices made in performance.
theatricality vs authenticity, how to analyze and distinguish text and performances, acting
How to analyze how a playwright / director makes meaning out of theatrical language. We also learned a great deal about some major themes in modern theater (e.g. theatricality, mythology, history).
A Doll's House – analyzing plays and theatrical language
Directors can take pre–existing plays and make them come to life via performance and the specific theatrical choices they make in those performances reflect different attitudes and interpretations of the text.
How to properly analyze text and translation of text into performance.
how to do analysis in a theatrical setting
I learned how to analyze performances, constituting both analytical and writing skills.
How to properly write a piece of theatrical analysis.
elements of theatricality versus authenticity, connotation and denotation, translation from text (script) to performance (on stage), how to analyze theater

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

Comments
The weekly responses and guiding prompts helped me to engage with the texts and understand them better. The readings about theatrical theories gave me a lot of perspectives and insights into different text and theater as a whole.
It was helpful to read analytical/theoretical essays that gave different insights on the nature of theatrical performance, but the most beneficial aspect of the class was being able to apply these analytical insights to the various plays we read and watched.
discussions in class and assigned plays/texts were very interesting
Reading of plays and essays and viewing of recorded plays were very interesting. The discussion deepened my understanding of the readings and also raised interesting questions.
Discussions were interesting and activities were fun.
The lectures were fairly helpful in gaining a foundational understanding of the subject and the subsequent discussions that followed were helpful when the professor would chime in and offer her own interpretations/help clarify a concept.
Everything contributed to my learning.
lectures
Each week we had at least one writing and reading assignment which helped me improve both as writer but also broadened my knowledge on historical, cultural, and political issues.
Lectures, discussions, and assignments are all really helpful!
we read scripts and other supplementary commentary which exposed me to a range of topics within theater, the weekly writing responses allowed me to practice analysis

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.42	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	58.33%	41.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
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.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	58.33%	33.33%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%
I felt respected in this class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	50.00%	41.67%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Professor Fenley is more than willing to talk to you about your grade, so if you're unsure about where you're at, you can talk to her at any point.
Marissa Fenley was amazing!! Would love to take one of her courses again. Fantastic professor.
super passionate prof, she made a potentially boring course super engaging and showed a genuine care for all her students
Not an easy class for the art core. But definitely a rewarding experience if you put in the effort!

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	8.33%	91.67%

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

Comments
Professor Fenley created an engaging and inclusive discussion environment in class. She was also very patient and supportive to accommodate different learning styles of students and open to feedback.
I think Professor Fenley is very good about building a rapport with the class and encouraging students to have the confidence to share their perspectives without worrying too much about whether they'll be "right" or "wrong"
being extremely positive and caring about the students
The discussions were extremely well–led. Prof. Fenley managed to almost always hit on every important issue and avoid unnecessary digressions. Almost everyone spoke quite frequently. She also contributed her ideas a lot without interrupting the flow of the discussion.
Professor Fenley is really engaging in her lectures and enjoys working with students and hearing their opinions.
The slideshows and mini–lectures before discussion.
The discussions in class and her passion for the subject.
class discussions and getting to actually act or perform
The class lectures were highly effective because the Professor encouraged everyone to participate in fruitful discussions. Also, I deeply appreciated and was able to become better due to office hours because they were one–on–one meetings with the Professor.
The teacher was very passionate about the subject and she provided very specific and constructive feedback on my assignments

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
We usually ran out of time and didn't have time to cover a lot of each text, especially at the end of the quarter. Sometimes we spent too much time on one section/idea of the text. I felt the pacing could have been improved.
N/A
Spend less time on A Doll's House. Eliminate the Lucha Wresting viewing.
Preferably change some of the plays.
Doll's House is definitely the main text in the class, but I think maybe spending a class or two less on it might be helpful because the other texts we went through felt a little more rushed.
n/a
n/a
I was pretty pleased.

The Instructor . . .

|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	27.27%	54.55%	9.09%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%

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

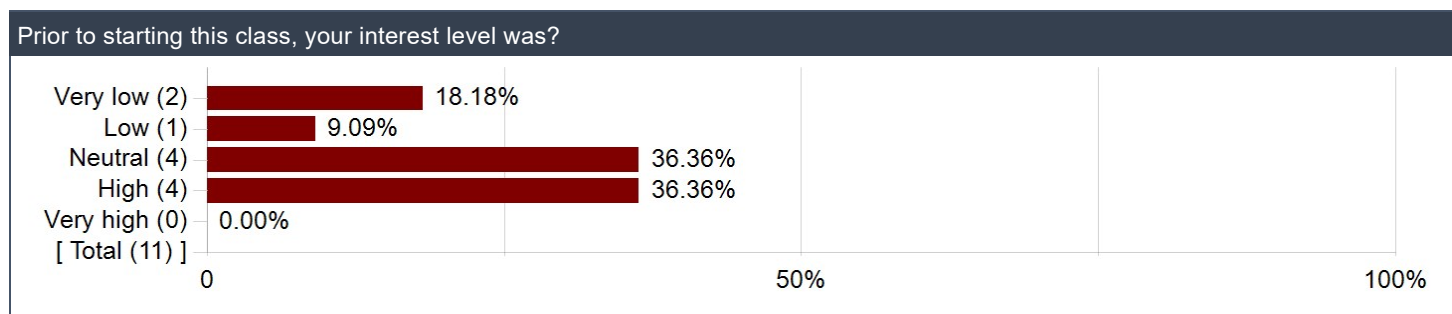|	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	4.00	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	12.50%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Other course elements not mentioned above:

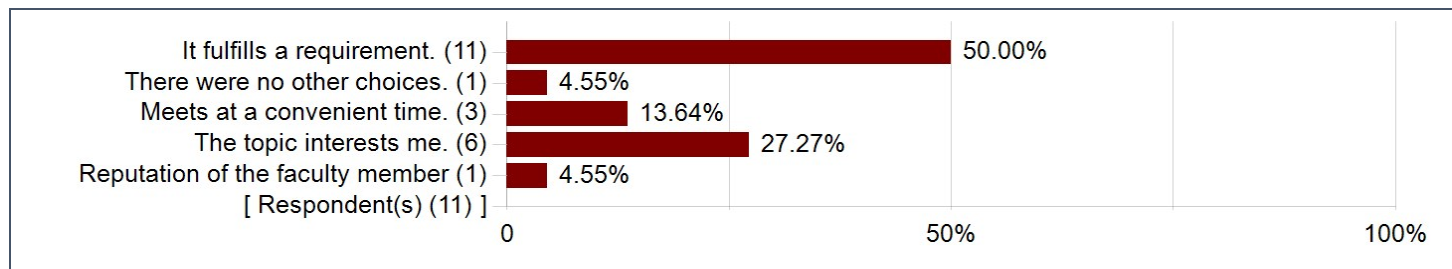| Comments |
|---|
| We watched a wrestling performance downtown |

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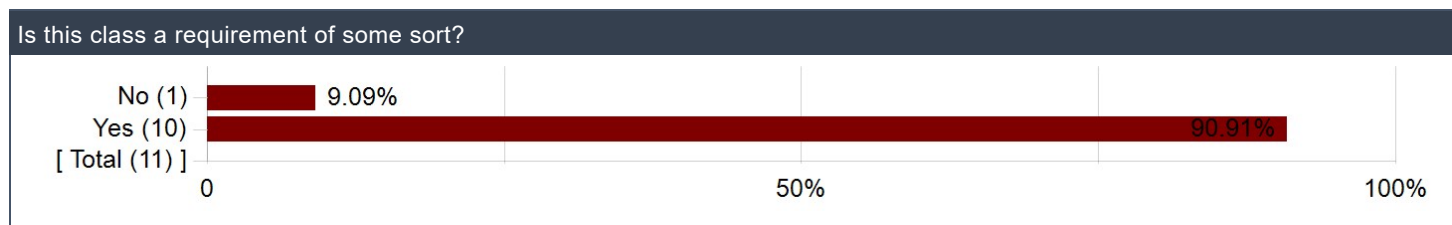
Is this class a requirement of some sort?

No (1) — 9.09%
Yes (10) — 90.91%
[Total (11)]

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (2) — 18.18%
Low (1) — 9.09%
Neutral (4) — 36.36%
High (4) — 36.36%
Very high (0) — 0.00%
[Total (11)]

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (1) — 9.09%
Satisfied (7) — 63.64%
Heightened (3) — 27.27%
[Total (11)]
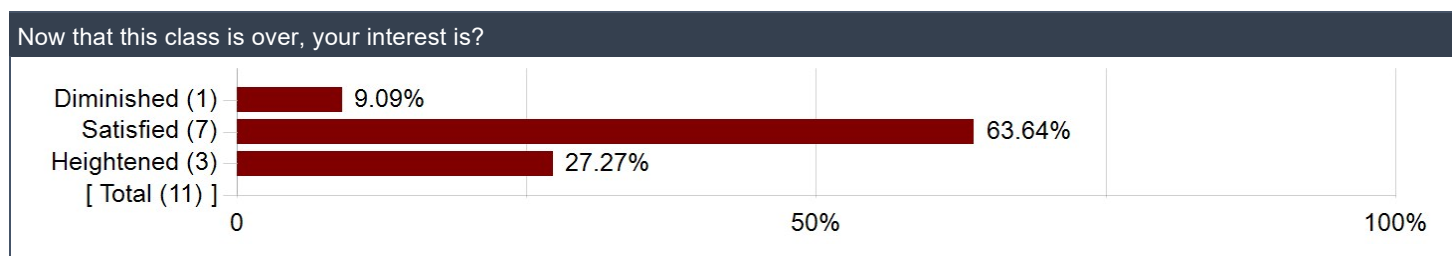
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)

It fulfills a requirement. (11) — 50.00%
There were no other choices. (1) — 4.55%
Meets at a convenient time. (3) — 13.64%
The topic interests me. (6) — 27.27%
Reputation of the faculty member (1) — 4.55%
[Respondent(s) (11)]

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

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<5 hours (7)	70.00%
5-10 hours (2)	20.00%
10-15 hours (1)	10.00%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (10)]	

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (0)	0.00%
25% (0)	0.00%
50% (0)	0.00%
75% (0)	0.00%
All (10)	100.00%
[Total (10)]	
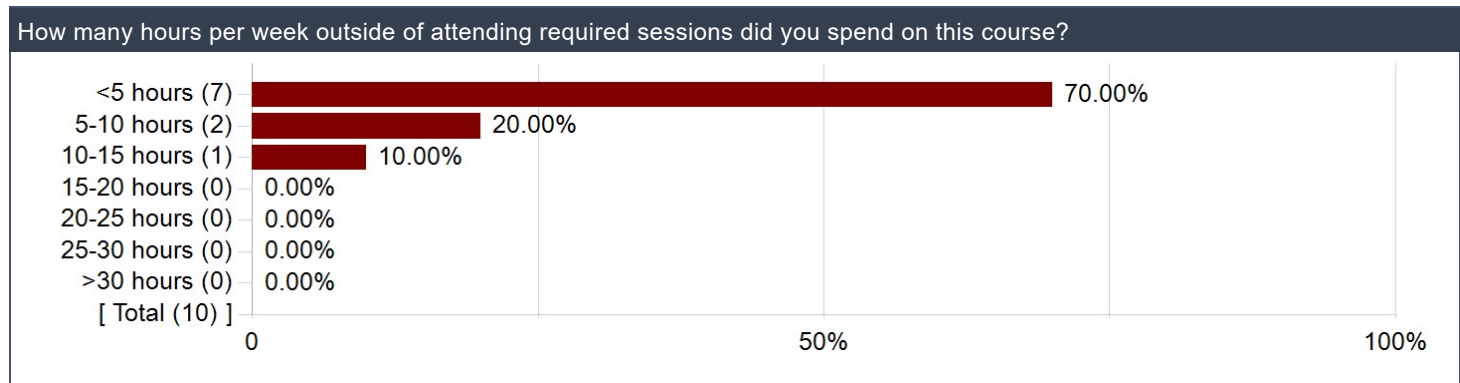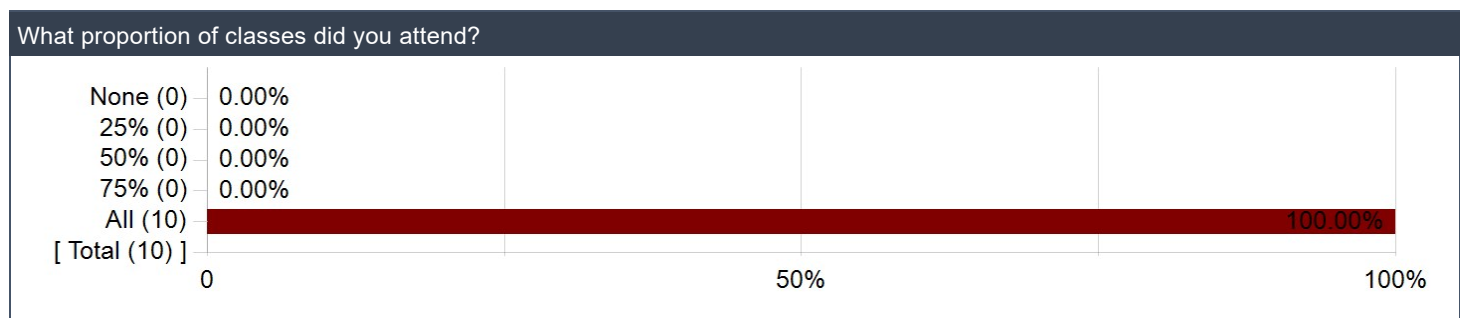
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
It certainly demanded critical thought and effort, but I didn't find any of the assignments particularly difficult apart from the final paper, because I think generally it's not too different from literary analysis, despite differences in the way one approaches the text.
a very fun class, although there are some writing assignments that have a high standard for success
I had no theater background whatsoever. The course was perfectly doable.
Not too difficult
Zero background; it's a core class so it's designed for people without any background
good intro class
I have a deep passion for performance and acting, which is the main reason why I chose this class. However, the class was for the most part performance analysis. So, I would say, that I did not have any specific background or experience related to that. In this respect, I believe that the course was challenging.
Was slightly difficult sometimes