



# HUMA 17100 3 - Language and the Human II - Instructor(s): Melinh Lai

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

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **8**

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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  |
|---|
| How identity and language are shaped through each other   |
| I've learn how to improve and proof read my papers  |
| Different writers'/thinkers' views on identity, language, and how linguistic activism can reflect or suppress identities. Specific instances of this activism, such as the attempted elevation of Tamil in Indian society as a superior language, Chinese writer Lu Xun's wish to reform the Classical Chinese writing system, and Dante Alighieri's arrogant belief that his Italian vernacular is "illustrious" enough to deserve becoming a standard, were all particularly interesting. |
| I learned about the ways in which language allow us to maneuver through our identities and our identities.  |
| The most important things I learned in this course are tenets throughout history on what defines identity and the different ways we as humans identify though language.   |
| Writing skills/building arguments.  |

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

| Comments   |
|--|
| Reading showed aspects of language and identity that I didn't know were possible/even existed  |
| Discussions helped bring up more ideas and have closer look into assignments, which were later useful for essays.  |
| Essay prompts were written in a way to elicit further thought on discussion topics introduced in class and were effective in allowing us to draw from those discussions in answering the prompts. With that being said, class discussions themselves could sometimes feel a little unproductive and generally somewhat awkward. The professor, however, did a good job of facilitating discussion and getting us back on track. As for our writing resources (seminar, advisor, etc.), the feedback provided by my writing advisor was extremely in-depth, encouraging the development (once again) of thought regarding discussion topics but also helping me improve my writing, even if seminars themselves were also somewhat awkward. |
| The discussions in the class were very good and they paired well with my own understanding and interpretations of the texts, as well as allowing me to gather different perspectives.  |
| The discussions contributed the most to my learning because it was where I was able to see what my classmates gained from the readings versus my own observations.   |
| Class was discussion based, discussions were helpful for starting essays.  |

## Please respond to the following:

|  | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree  | Strongly Agree |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|
| This course challenged me intellectually.  | 3.75 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 12.50%   | 12.50%  | 62.50% | 12.50%         |
| I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it. | 4.00 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 12.50%  | 75.00% | 12.50%         |
| I understood the standards for success on assignments.                           | 4.13 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 12.50%   | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 37.50%         |
| Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.                 | 4.25 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 75.00% | 25.00%         |
| I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work. | 4.50 | 4.50   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 50.00%         |
| My work was evaluated fairly.  | 4.50 | 4.50   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 50.00%         |
| I felt respected in this class.  | 4.50 | 4.50   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 50.00%         |
| Overall, this was an excellent course.   | 4.25 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 12.50%  | 50.00% | 37.50%         |

## I would recommend this course to:

|   | No     | Yes    |
|---|--------|--------|
| Highly-motivated and well-prepared students | 37.50% | 62.50% |
| Anyone interested in the topic              | 12.50% | 87.50% |

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

| Comments   |
|--|
| Getting to know each one of us made discussions feel more flowing even if there were long pauses here or there   |
| Asked many interesting/challenging question, kept us thinking.   |
| Professor Lai had a lot of interesting insights from her background in cognitive science and linguistics that added new perspectives and recolored certain perspectives during discussions. She also did a good job of getting us to contribute without making us feel pressured to do so. |
| I really enjoyed the questions that Professor Lai asked us and how disucssion was moved as a result.   |
| I think the questions and the openness of the discussions by my instructor contributed the most.   |
| Dr. Lai always had good ideas for questions and prompts to start discussions   |

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

| Comments  |
|---|
| Set of questions to help guide discussion   |
| Some of her questions were either a little vague and hard to answer or kind of longwinded and, as a result, also hard to answer. She did a good job of backtracking and rephrasing her questions when this happened, however. |
| I think perhaps having groupwork to get to know the other students more and get to know thier perspectives.   |
| Make the readings more condensed. It became almost impossible to follow a reading because of the denseness and length towards the middle of the quarter.  |

## 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.                       | 4.33 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 25.00%         | 25.00% |
| Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.                     | 4.50 | 4.50   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 50.00%         | 0.00%  |
| Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.                  | 4.00 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 25.00%  | 50.00% | 25.00%         | 0.00%  |
| Challenged you to learn.   | 4.13 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 25.00%  | 37.50% | 37.50%         | 0.00%  |
| Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.              | 4.13 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 12.50%  | 62.50% | 25.00%         | 0.00%  |
| Was available and helpful outside of class.                                | 4.57 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 37.50% | 50.00%         | 12.50% |
| Motivated you to think independently.                                      | 4.50 | 4.50   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 50.00%         | 0.00%  |
| Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.          | 4.50 | 4.50   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 50.00% | 50.00%         | 0.00%  |
| Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning. | 4.38 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 62.50% | 37.50%         | 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   |
|--|
| Scott Jung. Helped and gave great feedback on essays.  |
| Scott Jung. Scott is a gem. He is always available over email, gives amazing feedback, and is extremely approachable. I joke that Scott himself writes essays of feedback for our essays; that's how in-depth and helpful it is. |
| Scott Jung was my writing seminar instructor and he was fantastic. Every session was helpful to my writing and has helped me improved exponentially as a writer.   |
| Scott Jung   |
| Scott Jung   |

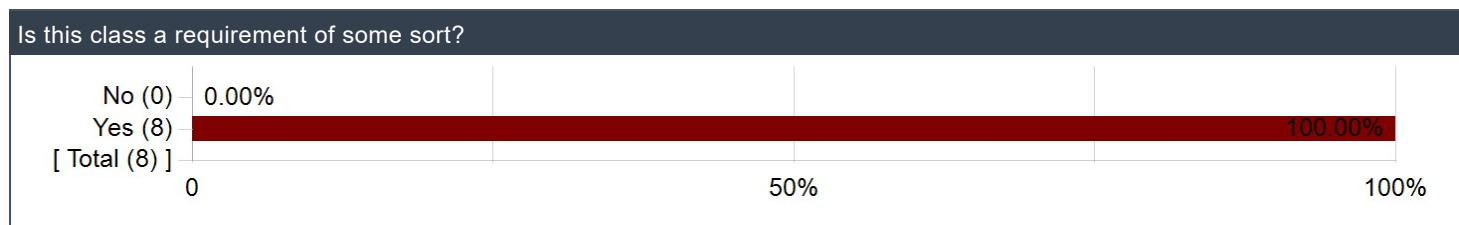
### The TA/CA or Intern. . .

|  | Mean | Median | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree  | Strongly Agree | N/A    |
|--|------|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.                      | 4.75 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 20.00% | 60.00%         | 20.00% |
| 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.                   | 4.20 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 20.00%  | 40.00% | 40.00%         | 0.00%  |
| Challenged you to learn.   | 4.00 | 4.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 20.00%  | 60.00% | 20.00%         | 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. | 4.60 | 5.00   | 0.00%             | 0.00%    | 0.00%   | 40.00% | 60.00%         | 0.00%  |

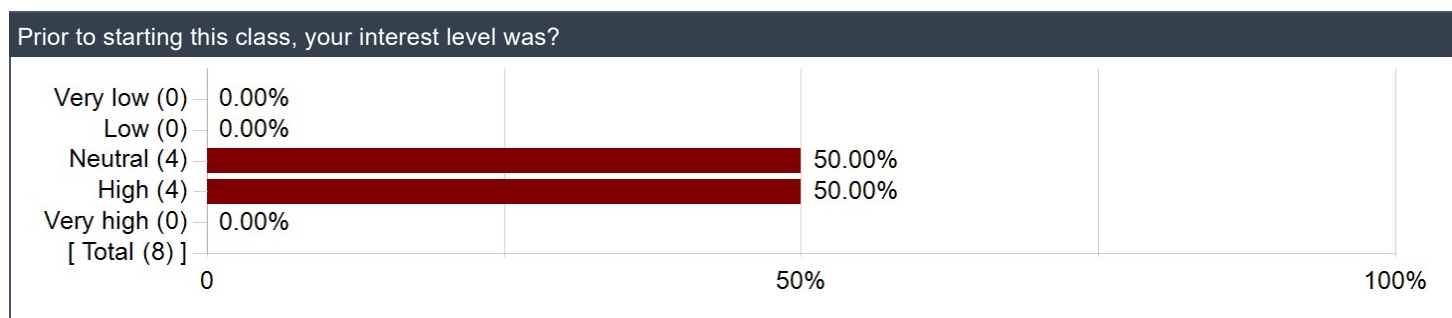
### How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

|                       | Mean | Median | No Gain | A Little Gain | Moderate Gain | Good Gain | Great Gain | N/A    |
|-----------------------|------|--------|---------|---------------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Laboratory Experience | 1.00 | 1.00   | 14.29%  | 0.00%         | 0.00%         | 0.00%     | 0.00%      | 85.71% |
| Field Trips           | 1.00 | 1.00   | 14.29%  | 0.00%         | 0.00%         | 0.00%     | 0.00%      | 85.71% |
| Library Sessions      | 1.00 | 1.00   | 14.29%  | 0.00%         | 0.00%         | 0.00%     | 0.00%      | 85.71% |
| Review Sessions       | 1.00 | 1.00   | 14.29%  | 0.00%         | 0.00%         | 0.00%     | 0.00%      | 85.71% |
| Writing Seminars      | 4.00 | 4.00   | 14.29%  | 0.00%         | 0.00%         | 42.86%    | 42.86%     | 0.00%  |

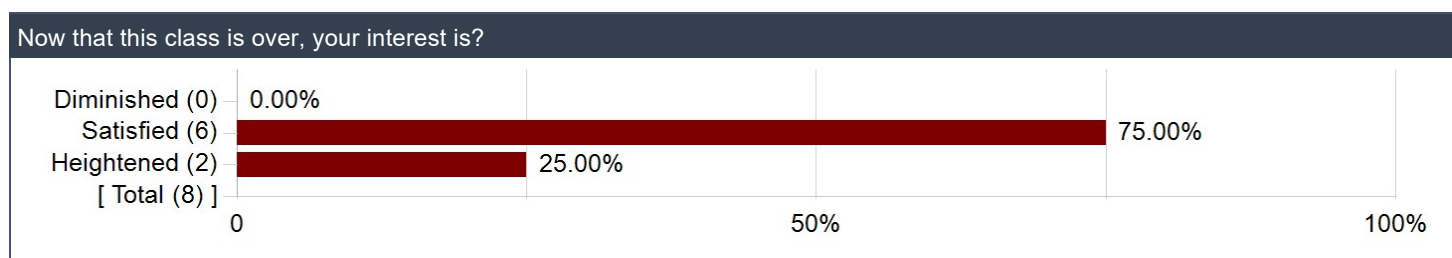
### Is this class a requirement of some sort?



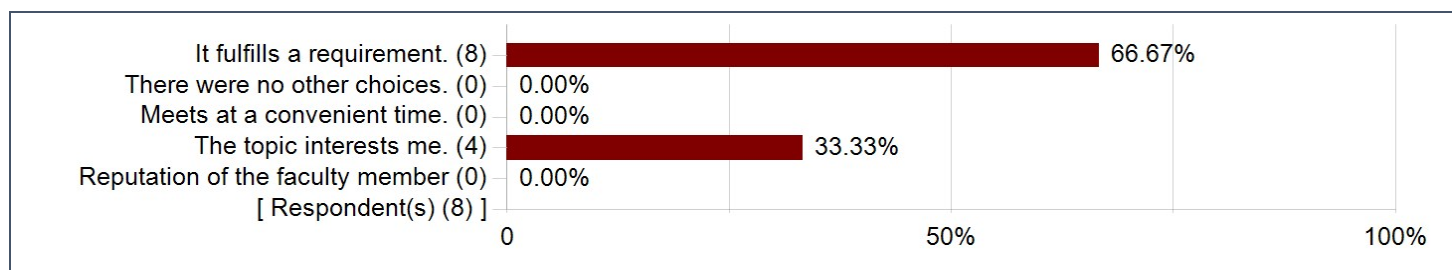
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



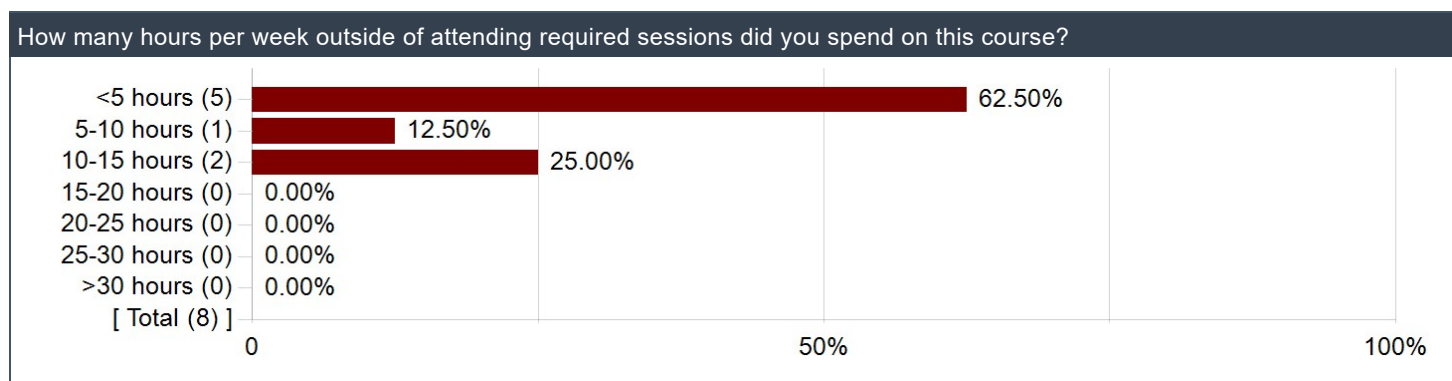
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



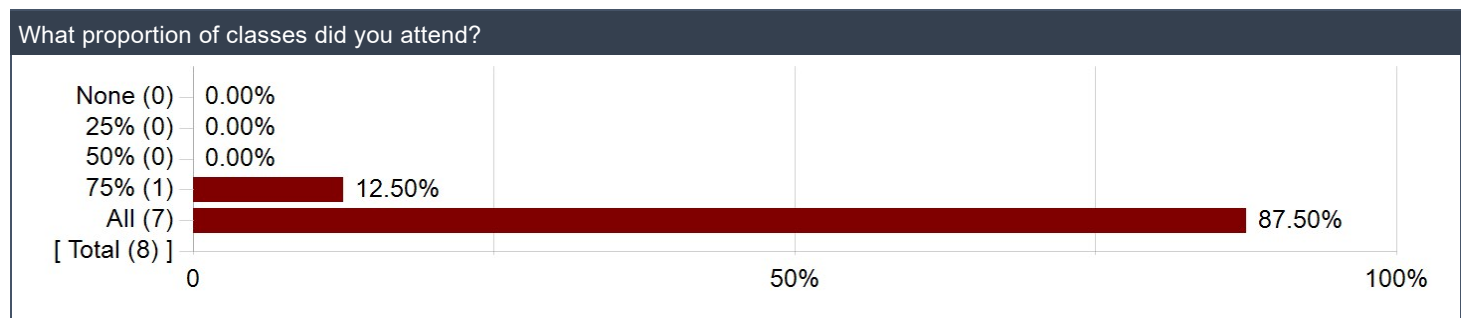
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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  |
|---|
| It's a lot of reading, and some of the texts are rather difficult to get through, but overall my background in writing and interest in linguistics made the assignments (mostly) enjoyable to get through. With that being said, anyone would have a fine time getting through this course. |
| I took HUMA 17000 last quarter and this quarter is much more difficult due to the length of the readings.   |
| Essays were not graded very harshly   |