THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

HUMA 17000 6 - Language and the Human I - Instructor(s): Karlos Arregui

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

Number Enrolled: **19**
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.

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

Comments
I learned how language impacts social class and human value. We talked a lot about equality and social justice and how language relates to them.
How to identify and analyze the relationship between power and language.
How language and power are related
I learned how to become more comfortable in discussions and write better argumentative essays.
how power influences language and how language influences the perception of power
How language can create social action
The common theme of the relationship of language and powers in several books.
I think the most important thing I learned was a new way to approach thinking about writing. I really liked the writing seminar with the idea of organizing essays with each paragraph having local claims that build on each other and then having evidence and analysis einterlocking. I also really liked the reading material. My favorite part was thinking about how language "works" (eg Bordieu, performatives etc) although I enjoyed talking about social issues, literary stuff etc too.

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

Comments
Class discussions weren't the most helpful as they often got repetitive as the quarter went on. Weekly discussion posts were only 2 sentences, but they were helpful to look at new perspectives of a text.
The discussions were subpar because the readings weren't very good
All classes were discussions (small group discussions then a class discussion). Assignments were 2 essays and a discussion post on the readings before each class. Overall the heavy focus on discussion helped me become more comfortable in seminar–style learning, especially because Karlos was very respectful of everyone and their ideas, and didn't grade participation by the number of times each person talked per class.
discussions were open ended and allowed for many different ideas to be showcased
Readings were really interesting and helped me consider new ideas
There were group discussion for half the class to discuss questions we all had and then a full class discussion, and this helped me learn more perspective to the stories that I may have missed.
The main focus of the class were discussions with classmates with the professor only occasionally interrupting or giving an introduction. I enjoyed the discussions although I didn't learn a ton from the discussions, it depended a lot on how much my classmates prepared and cared I think.

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%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	50.00%	12.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%	14.29%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	71.43%	14.29%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.43	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	71.43%	28.57%
I felt respected in this class.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	85.71%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	14.29%	42.86%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Karlos respected everyone and learned all of our names in the first couple of classes, which made everyone feel more comfortable around each other, too. That was the main reason why I enjoyed the course so much.
I wish we spent more time on writing since I didn't really know what was expected from me for the essays. I'm grateful that we got feedback on rough drafts before turning in final drafts, Scott the writing specialist helped a ton. I also wish we focused more on the nitty gritty of language like linguistics stuff since that's what I expected – although I did enjoy talking about social issues, politics, etc as well as literary devices etc, it felt a lot like high school English class when the discussions or readings focused on those topics.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	14.29%	85.71%

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

Comments
Karlos would always come with discussion questions prepared from our discussion posts, making the discussions easier and the right amount of structure.
the questions he asked us were good
Karlos mostly allowed us to freely discuss and added interesting points occasionally. Overall I liked this style of discussion because it allowed us to generate our own ideas and listen to each other while also considering additional points that we may not have thought of as a class.
The summaries of each author's/artist's life and themes of their work that Karlos would give at the beginning of each class.
I appreciated the time he gave us for small group discussions
The way he set up class to be all about us students discussing and him only being a mediator.
I appreciated his warm and relaxed demeanor helping me feel comfortable and at ease in class and not nervous about speaking up in the class discussion. I also like how he read all of our Canvas discussion posts and looked for common themes so he could provide suggested topics to discuss and direct our conversations

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
I wish Karlos would have more structure to the in–class discussions. It felt like a free–for–all and wasn't very beneficial.
Feedback on papers could be a bit more timely. We didn't receive feedback on Paper 1 (Midterm) before drafting Paper 2 (Final) so in that sense, it was hard to know exactly where we would need to improve going into the next paper.
Asks us questions before the class is over
Assignments could be spaced out slightly better (shorter readings between Tuesday and Thursday classes—especially because the discussion posts were due Wednesday night—and longer ones when we had the weekend to read).
Maybe more knowledge on what he is not looking for or what we should avoid in our essays.
I would have liked a better idea of what to expect for the essays, eg a rubric or something so I could know more of what he was looking for in the essays

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.60	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.63	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%	12.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.75	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.88	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	75.00%	12.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	57.14%	28.57%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.17	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%
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.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.29	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	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 was incredible! I like how he was very friendly and understanding and easy going, he made writing seminar fun so it was easier to learn. He put lots of thought and planning into making high quality lesson plans. I really appreciated his detailed and thoughtful feedback on my essays. Because of his teaching, I think I have a feel for how to write academic essays now.
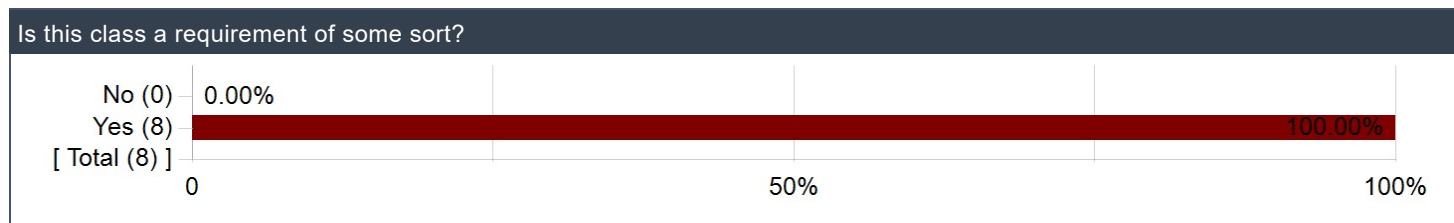
The TA/CA or Intern. . .

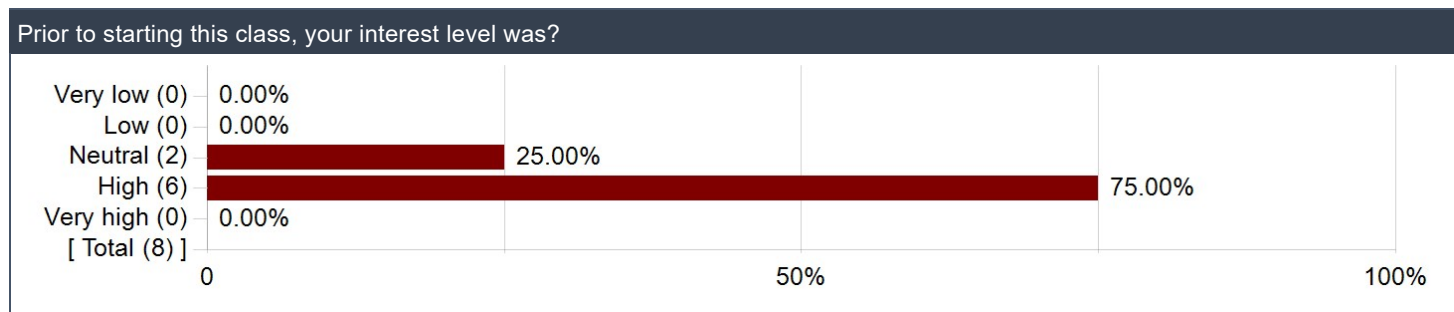|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas 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	4.43	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	0.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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No (0) — 0.00%
Yes (8) — 100.00%
[Total (8)]

0   50%   100%

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Very low (0) — 0.00%
Low (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (2) — 25.00%
High (6) — 75.00%
Very high (0) — 0.00%
[Total (8)]

0   50%   100%

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Diminished (1) — 12.50%
Satisfied (6) — 75.00%
Heightened (1) — 12.50%
[Total (8)]

0   50%   100%
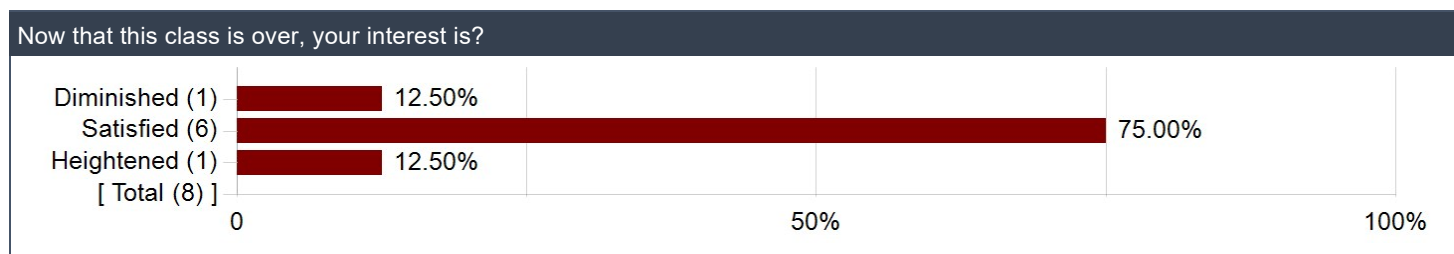
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
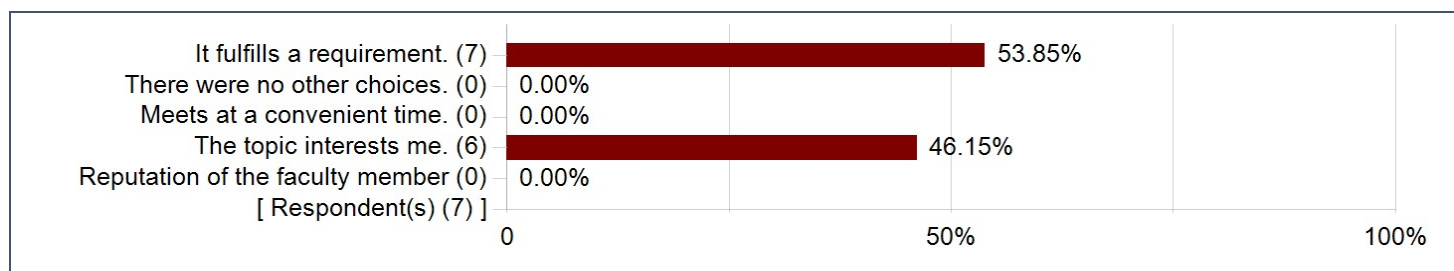
It fulfills a requirement. (7) — 53.85%
There were no other choices. (0) — 0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (0) — 0.00%
The topic interests me. (6) — 46.15%
Reputation of the faculty member (0) — 0.00%
[Respondent(s) (7)]

0   50%   100%

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

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

<5 hours (3)	42.86%
5-10 hours (4)	57.14%
10-15 hours (0)	0.00%
15-20 hours (0)	0.00%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (7)]	

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 (7)	100.00%
[Total (7)]	
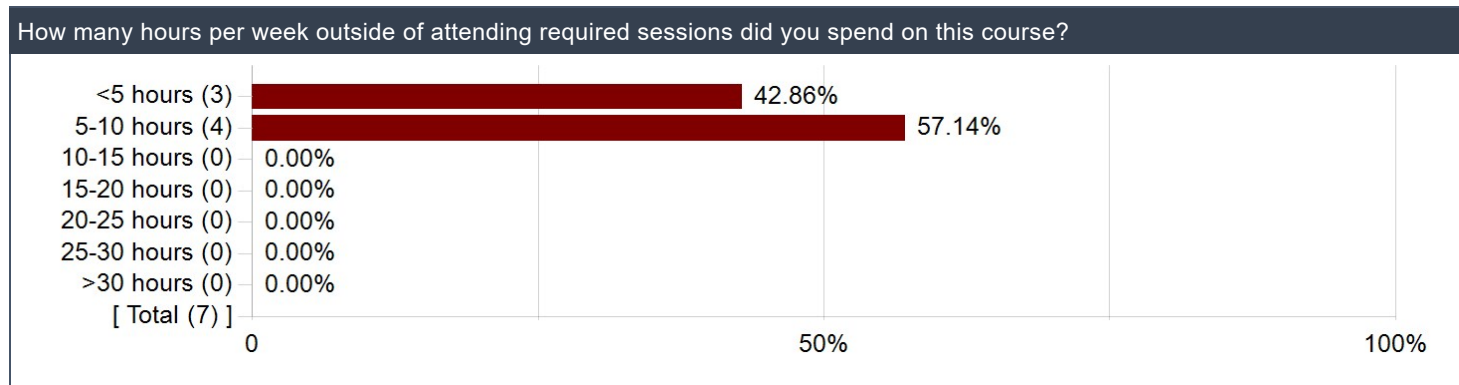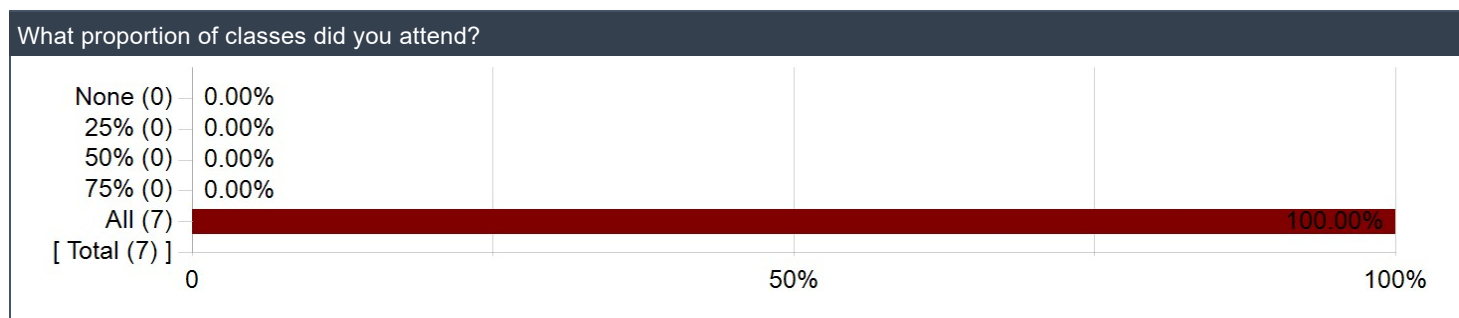
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
This class is pretty straightforward, just come prepared to class and you'll do just fine.
It wasn't very difficult, the readings were short, mostly pretty light
Course was not too difficult but still interesting and occasionally challenged me in terms of thinking of interesting and new ideas. The more difficult part of the class was the essays; I'd only written a couple of argumentative essays before and they were graded easier so this was somewhat difficult, but a good skill to learn and seemed to be evaluated fairly.
I went in without any knowledge of linguistics and found the topics easy to follow.
The course load felt just right and wasn't too overwhelming
Not very difficult as long as you participate and seek help when writing your essay.
The class itself isn't that hard, the reading is pretty doable and the class itself is just discussions. I think anyone who can get into uChicago could succeed in the class. The only hard part was the papers as the genres and expectations are very different from what I'd done in high school, although we were given plenty of time on the essays and only had to do 2 a quarter.