



# HUMA 12300 1 - Human Being and Citizen I - Instructor(s): Gabriel Lear

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

Number Enrolled: **19**

Number of Responses: **15**

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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: **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
I learned how to form a better argument and how to contribute meaningfully to a discussion.
I learned a lot about ancient cultures in the context of our readings.
I learned about what it means to be a citizen in ancient societies. We discussed topics such as: what is friendship, what is glory, what is love, how do different ancient societies share similarities, etc.
I learned how to formulate an original and arguable thesis for an essay. I had always struggled with this, but Professor Lear really helped us work up to building an argument and I feel much more confident in my writing now.
While in high school generally less is expected for A-level writing, I think this course helped improve my writing in both a structural and commentative way: I now know how to effectively generate "interest" for a puzzling piece of text in my writing, and further understand the importance of clarifying, defining, and substantiating claims as to not assume what the reader is thinking and instead clearly lead them through my thought process.
I liked having the opportunity to analyze texts that inform the core of human culture and societies. I feel like the literature choices in my high school classes were significantly less interesting as they were chosen with the intention of teaching nationally standardized material. Contrasting to previous classes I had taken, this course chose texts that rigorously analyzed aspects of human nature and expression in an abstract manner allowing students to think more deeply. The open-ended questions created a classroom setting that was less about being able to give a synopsis of a piece of text and more about being able to interpret the text to find a deeper meaning.
All the wonderful texts and the values and ideals they hold within
What makes us citizens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* How to form compelling arguments about a text using evidence</li> <li>* How to use context to understand the themes and messages in a text</li> <li>* How to critically evaluate the strength of argument</li> <li>* How to draw connections about similar themes across multiple texts</li> <li>* How to effectively communicate thoughts and opinions</li> </ul>
This class was my first experience with some older texts – Plato, Homer, Genesis, Gilgamesh – and I think it has really taught me how to approach them well. It was also helpful for learning how to write in a way that is appropriate to college.
Better writing and analysis skills.
Read some pretty cool books
Writing and analysis of books
This class fostered the skills needed for having intellectual discussions.

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

Comments
The discussions have been vital to my learning, with the papers serving to allow me to more completely formulate my thoughts.
Our discussions in case were the most helpful.
I loved this class!! The readings are all really interesting and they don't feel like a hassle to read. Discussions are also pretty cool because you hear different perspectives about certain books, and you get to learn from not only the reading but also your classmates' experiences.
The discussions each class helped me think about the text in new ways and Professor Lear's input was always valuable and interesting. Her questions helped me train myself to always question why I think something about a text instead of just accepting it.
Our discussion-based lectures reflect the close reading we're supposed to do for our claim-based essays. The assigned readings themselves were less of a learning experience and more of a perquisite to our class discussions, where we would actually go into the complexities/contradictions in a text. The texts obviously provide a new perspectives, and we learned about different social/divine/philosophical outlooks on life, but directly conversing with my classmates is what help me gain a broader, more sophisticated view of the stories we read. There weren't many resources for "learning" per se as much as there were the writing seminars to help us improve our academic writing.
-Discussions were useful as we were exposed to classmates of different backgrounds. -Having multiple essay prompts was nice as we could write about something that interested us rather than simply follow a standardized prompt.
The class discussion really help deepen my understanding of the readings
They are all very helpful, especially the instructor Mrs. Lear is great.
The lectures/discussions were the most helpful. Our discussions really helped me develop my ability to communicate my thoughts well. I was able to learn a lot about the course material from listening to the thoughts of the professor and fellow students during class. Assignments were an opportunity to work on my ability to form good arguments.
The discussions were good and I felt that most people came very prepared. There is definitely a strong motivation to go and read when you'll have to speak about it at a high level in class. The feedback on the essays were also really helpful in learning how to write in college.
Discussions interesting and thought provoking, writing seminars pretty useful.
Class time spent analyzing passages. Useful for understanding.
Class discussions were the most conducive to my learning.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.40	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	13.33%	33.33%	53.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.07	5.00	0.00%	20.00%	6.67%	20.00%	53.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.20	4.00	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	46.67%	40.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.47	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.07	4.00	6.67%	6.67%	6.67%	33.33%	46.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.50	5.00	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	71.43%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.53	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	33.33%	60.00%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Take this HUM!!! It's super interesting, the workload is not heavy, and you get to read some of the most interesting and far-reaching books than any other HUM.
The texts are very interesting and tie into each other in interesting ways, and the reading is not too heavy.
NA
The biggest problem I had was knowing the expectations for the essays beforehand, as they weren't made especially clear in class.
I don't believe that the humanities requirement should be as extensive as it is. 1 quarter maximum for the requirement would be more optimal. Writing seminars were a complete waste of time (not Marshall's fault, they were simply not a useful thing for the majority of students). Classes were run well.
n/a

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	13.33%	86.67%
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
Honestly just letting the students discuss and being a good discussion facilitator has been the best contributor to my learning
Her guided questions
Prof. Lear was so passionate about each of the readings, and she would create the discussion so that it'd feel like we were teaching her new ideas. It was so cool to be able to bounce ideas off of her and my peers, she really felt like a peer instead of a professor for some discussions which took a lot of the pressure off.
Professor Lear guided the discussion in ways that always kept us focused on the text and encouraged us to question our thinking and others' assertions in relation to the text.
The professor's disposition to question us, to have us clarify why we thought what we did in the context of the discussion, along with her ability to push a discussion forward with interesting ideas/questions. She's also just sweet and willing to work or just chat with you outside of class.
I liked having instructors who were knowledgeable about the historical context
She does a really good job leading the class discussion
Professor Lear is very efficient at setting the foundation for our class discussions. She is very good at guiding our discussions and summarizing the ideas we discuss during class. Her enthusiasm and curiosity about the course material made our class much more engaging!
I think that Lear would always have really great points whenever she talked, and she was really good at keeping the discussion flowing.
Good questions being asked in discussions
Prof Lear was ready to challenge us to support our claims, which was really helpful and fostered more critical and scholarly discussions.
Analysis of passages and readings.
One-on-one meetings were the most helpful resource in this class

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

Comments
N/A
Nothing she's perfect!
I really enjoyed the background information she would give about a text especially on certain Greek words so I would enjoy if a little more class time was devoted to teaching like that instead of just discussion.
Providing more external materials to read more about historical context.
Maybe more context on the reading will help
Nothing! Professor Lear is great.
She should talk a bit more about what she wants on the essays, especially about how her expectations are different from those we might have had in high school.
Take Illiad away from the course, I personally didn't like it too much
Ask better questions – some questions seemed a little tangential and we would focus a lot of time on them
Eliminate the inherent waste of time that writing seminars are.
More clarity on expectations for essays (maybe an example of an A essay?)
Make a rubric for grading essays

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	50.00%	42.86%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	28.57%	14.29%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	71.43%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.36	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	35.71%	50.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	28.57%	50.00%	14.29%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	50.00%	42.86%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.77	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	71.43%	7.14%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%	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
Marshall Cunningham was very helpful in the process of formulating my arguments for my papers.
My writing specialist was Dr. Marshall Cunningham. His writing seminars were very helpful. I can't think of a way he could improve.
Marshall Cunningham. He was nice, and when you asked individual questions during/after the seminar, he was helpful. One significant problem with the seminars, however, was its structure; we would take turns focusing on one group member's writing for an extended time, then move on to the next person. Not only did this leave out some people from feedback because of how much time it took, but it felt super boring/unengaging for whoever wasn't the author/reviser of the given paper. It felt like just waiting for it to be your turn in the seminar, as the "turns" were just us spectating the conversation/questions between the author and Marshall. Since these questions are often specific to the 500+ word piece of writing, nobody is going to read these unless revising, this seminar process felt restrictive — though Marshall definitely put in effort, was sweet, and tried his best.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%

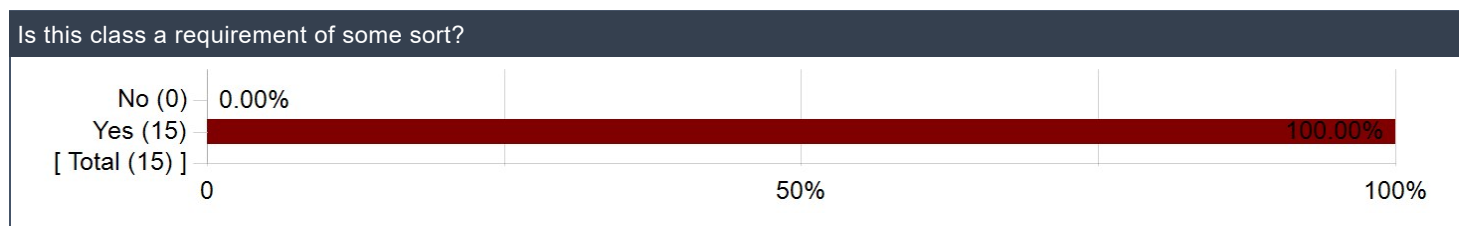
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	2.67	3.00	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
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	3.54	4.00	7.69%	23.08%	7.69%	30.77%	30.77%	0.00%

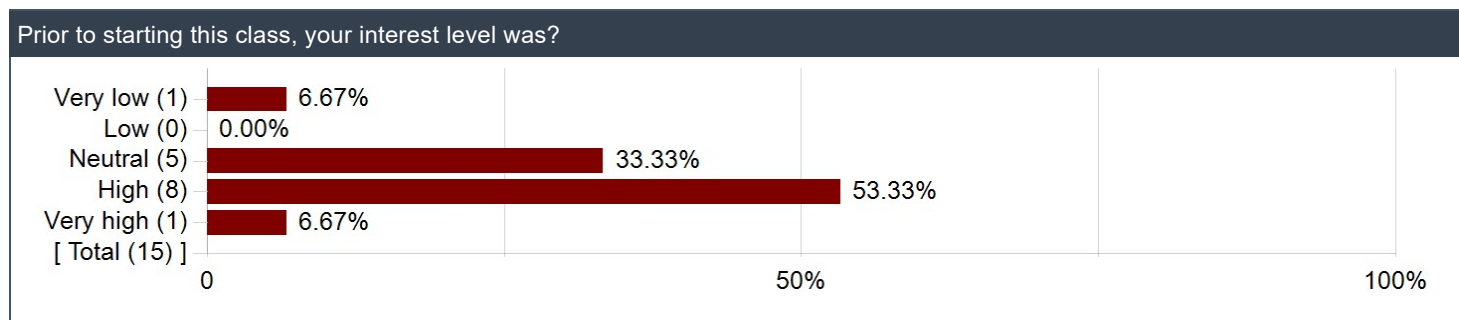
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Marshal was pretty helpful during writing seminars. His feedback definitely helped me improve in my writing and his tips during workshop helped me get ideas flowing for each of my essays.
N/A
n/a

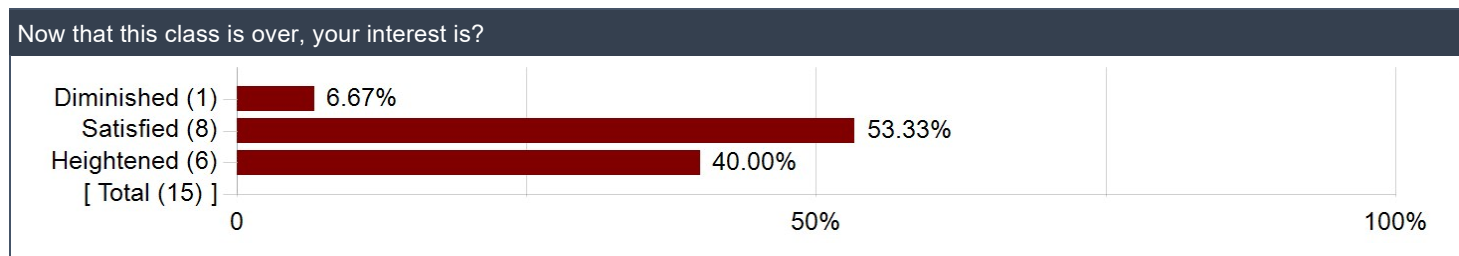
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



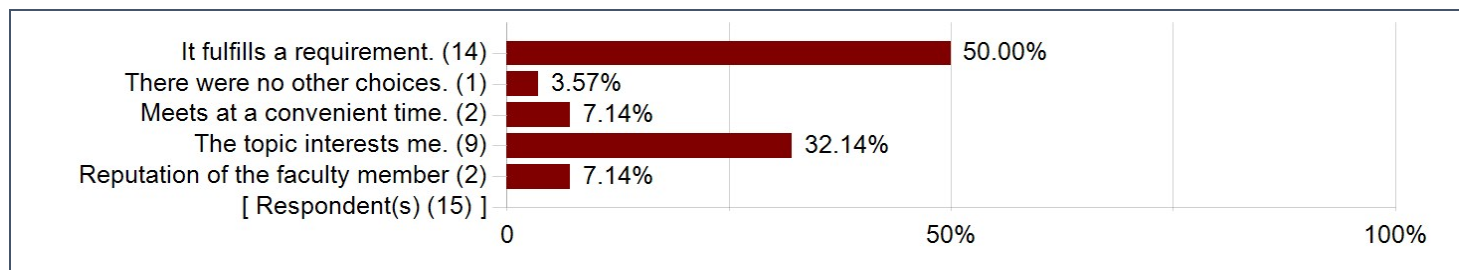
### Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



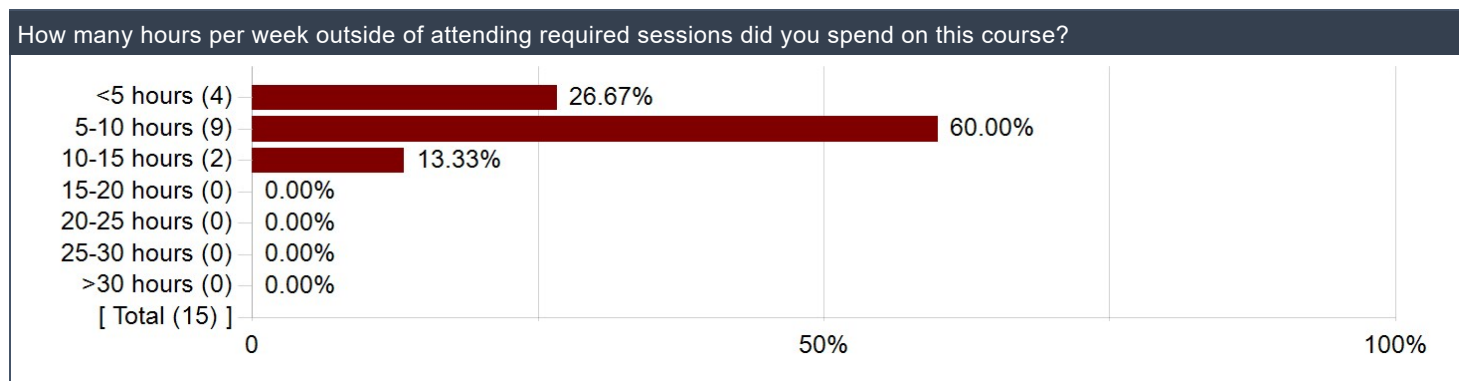
### Now that this class is over, your interest is?



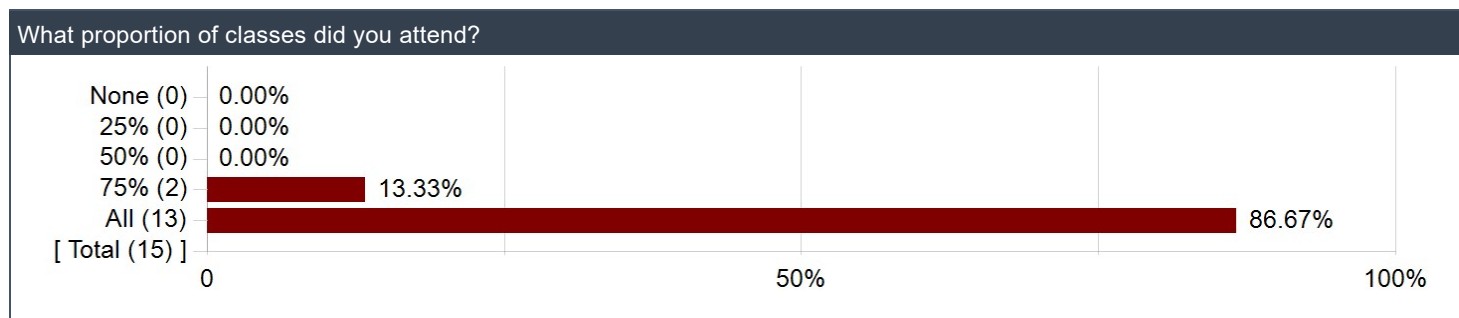
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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
This HUM is not hard at all!! It's super easy to understand and the workload is manageable. Class discussions are always worth attending and it's totally easy to speak up.
I really struggled with writing essays before this class but didn't have any issues in this class as it really helps you get used to writing at a college level.
The readings themselves are not inaccessible at all; reading comprehension and analysis isn't and shouldn't be an issue coming from our high school backgrounds. The expectations for the essays, however, are higher than high school writing. It doesn't feel impossible, and you can produce a decent B paper in a rush. Just I think more involvement and thoughtfulness is expected for an A on a paper. Moral of the story: writing argumentative papers are difficult by default.
Overall though, the class is not super hard at all. In fact, the workload with this professor (whose not teaching this class again this year :( ) was quite light: just the readings and the essays. I would definitely recommend this HUM :)
Moderate.
It is at the right level
This course is not very difficult. However, it does require a lot of reading and an ability to make observations about the course material. You must also be at least a bit familiar with the process of forming an argument and being able to support it. You should be able to succeed in this class if you are capable of completing the reading and writing about it.
Not super difficult compared to other classes.
Appropriate. Essays were graded slightly more harshly than I would have preferred.
More rigorous than high school english classes