



# HUMA 12050 10 - Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations I - Instructor(s): Richard Zaleski

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

Number Enrolled: **13**

Number of Responses: **13**

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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
The way in which our minds perceive reality and wild and wonderful
Skills for essay writing, class discussion, close reading
I learned how to write a college style paper. I learned how to really answer a prompt, and discuss nuances in a text in a sustained manner.
Learned to dive into texts, close read, and extract insights from evidence.
I learned a lot about Greek history and colonialism.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– I learned more about Greek and Roman history, and the foundational stories that shaped our culture</li> <li>– I learned how to better read and interpret complex literary texts</li> <li>– I learned how to better formulate and structure arguments in writing</li> </ul>
To expand the ideals and previously established ideas of the classical works of literature. I learned how to truly compare and expand on ideas we had once established on the first books we read as a class, then use those same themes to look for the overarching conflict within new books.
I feel much better placed to actually compare and contrast works of epic poetry. The course didn't so much teach me to analyse the individual pieces, but rather it felt as if it was teaching really valuable skills about comparing and contrasting epic poetry from different times, with different purposes, and different tone, which I really enjoyed personally, since I had already done some stuff around analysing epic poetry, but had never compared and contrasted different pieces of epic poetry.
Important things that I learned were about old ancient literature and pieces, and seeing some modern writing and storytelling tactics within those old pieces of literature changed my way of reading modern myths and how these epics came to influence modern Western literature. I feel like I gained a lot of skill when it comes to analysis and also learned some common storytelling tactics that I could potentially use.
I feel like this course was really useful for improving my close reading and reading analysis skills.
We covered a lot of literature and learned quite a bit about the Trojan war
1 Close Reading 2 Greater appreciation for Classical Works 3 How to summarize effectively
I learned how to approach reading the prose of epics, and comprehending descriptive language. I also learned how to connect ancient texts and traditions to real history and modern-day issues.

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

Comments
the mix of lecture and discussion worked really well.
The discussions were helpful in understanding and interpreting the text
I found discussions with other students to be helpful, where we could all voice our thoughts. I learned a lot from hearing from others.
Discussions forced me to dive into the text, critically think about them, while essays helped me really dive deep.
Discussions were helpful to developing my ideas and the discussion posts made sure I did the readings.
I appreciated how Professor Zaleski let the students lead the discussion each class period. He would jump in when necessary to keep us on track or to provide context/extra information, but mostly he let us discover and discuss the text for ourselves.
The way of discussion, the lead of being able to talk and just discuss from our readings while also expanding original ideas that we may have stumped upon and really. Enjoyable way to talk and open to different perspectives.
The teaching style of Dr. Z contributed massively. He's a really good teacher, and in all seriousness, he can let the class engage in discussion amongst itself, while also knowing the moments to interject with useful knowledge. I think it also shows that he's a really clever guy, his background is in theology and Koine Greek, from what I know, but it felt as if that didn't matter: his teaching style made it so that he was still a really great professor. He was also really willing to give help and answer emails and stuff.
Class time really helped me to dissect and learn about the stories we were reading as a group which helped the essays i needed to write and future discussion posts. it was fuel basically for future assignments and was uber important to understanding the text.
I think the discussions we did were very useful and interesting because it was nice to see everyone's perspective on a reading that we all did.
We mostly had in class discussions which were fun and engaging
Lectures are heavily discussion focused, giving everyone an opportunity to input their thoughts on the text. Dr. Zaleski did a great job of facilitating the discussion, inputing insightful points, and keeping us on track.
The discussions allowed me to gain insight into different perspectives and interpretations of the text, as well as clarification of ambiguities in the text. Essay prompts and journal entries made me think about and question the significance of the classics.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.23	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	46.15%	38.46%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	53.85%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.15	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	23.08%	38.46%	38.46%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.46	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.85%	46.15%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	30.77%	61.54%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	30.77%	61.54%
I felt respected in this class.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
This was a great class!!
Prof Zaleski was friendly, knowledgeable, and fair in his teaching and grading.
Loved the form of approaching discussion and the overall courseload was not that difficult to manage with other classes.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
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
the discussions
He did a good job setting up productive class discussions and taking feedback
My instructor was very good at asking us the right questions, and pushing back on our views to get us to form better arguments.
The interactive seminar style discussions in class helped guide conversation and ideas flow in order to really understand the complex texts.
Dr. Z was super open to any discussion and affirmed our ideas.
As stated previously, by letting students lead the conversation, we were able to discover the texts for ourselves. Prof. Zaleski did a great job guiding the discussion so that it was always productive.
He allowed the class to lead the discussion, with his additional comments allowing for open debate and discussion that would force us to really add context and dig deep into the texts we were reading.
I think probably the structure he provided for the course. It felt as if he wasn't an expert in the texts being discussed, but that really didn't matter! His teaching style, and really just the emphasis on this being a humanities course, not a "reading epic poetry course for the fun of it" course really came through. It felt as if I was studying the humanities, not just a series of poems, and I think Dr. Z contributed massively to that, and his teaching style. He's also just a really relaxed and personable guy, and it felt as if the class was really able to dive into things like group work and stuff like that. Also, he's a nice teacher, which is a huge plus.
Breaking down specific parts of the text for us to analyze and read so we could see how we should do it on our own.
I liked the questions he asked, I feel like they always helped to guide interesting conversations.
Professor Zaleski created a welcoming and fun environment to discuss the literature. Everyone had the opportunity to speak if they wanted to
His enthusiasm for the subject matter and desire to get everyone involved.
I liked how the professor made sure to prompt questions about the text whenever the discussion waned.

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

Comments
I think the system of one group writes a short essay and the other group writes a response to that paper should be the standard
More constructive feedback on essays
I would enjoy more lecture based time. I found the times when the lecturer talks about history, context, and analytical theory to be interesting.
Help in actually being able to read and understand text on first go, maybe shorten reading length.
Nothing that I can think of.
I doubt there is a reasonable way for their teachings to really improve as the class revolved around what the students wanted to discuss.
I think maybe do some more independent teaching? It felt as if there were a few moments, such as the discussions around fate, which could have done with some more teaching, rather than just internal discussion. I think also a more hands on approach to going over the process of what was wanted from an essay...I get that this is more of a writing instructor thing, but since Dr. Z was marking some of our papers, it would have been nice to have known what he wanted from us more directly.
Maybe a chart to help track the characters and what's happening in the story. that's a good idea that was started at the start of the course but we never really followed up with that could be also used as an assignment of some sort since we had a discussion of diversifying our grades.
I think overall the style of teaching worked well for me.
Maybe go over the summary in class after every reading assignment so that we understand everything that's happening in the text.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	61.54%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	30.77%	38.46%	23.08%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	23.08%	69.23%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.46	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	23.08%	61.54%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	30.77%	61.54%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	46.15%	7.69%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.54	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	53.85%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.62	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	38.46%	61.54%	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
Will Ardery
Will Ardery, Writing Specialist. He did a great job organizing the sessions and making sure we focus on something specific each time.
Writing Specialist– Will Ardery
Will Ardery
Will Ardery was very helpful in dissecting the papers we needed to submit and offers lots of advice that helped us reach an A on our papers.
Will ardery, He was a very helpful writing specialist and improved my writing abilities for sure. His honest criticism is very useful.
Will Ardery – very helpful during writing seminars in reviewing rough drafts of our papers and presenting possible ideas to include to enhance our argument/analysis.

## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%	11.11%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	11.11%	55.56%	11.11%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	44.44%	11.11%
Challenged you to learn.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%	11.11%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	11.11%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.25	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	44.44%	11.11%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%	11.11%

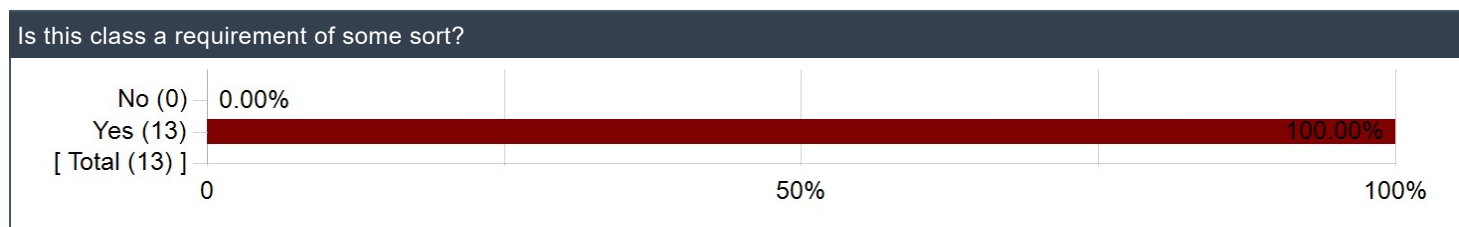
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	1.00	1.00	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%
Field Trips	3.50	4.00	9.09%	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	18.18%	63.64%
Library Sessions	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	25.00%	50.00%
Review Sessions	2.00	2.00	0.00%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	90.91%
Writing Seminars	3.75	4.00	16.67%	0.00%	8.33%	41.67%	33.33%	0.00%

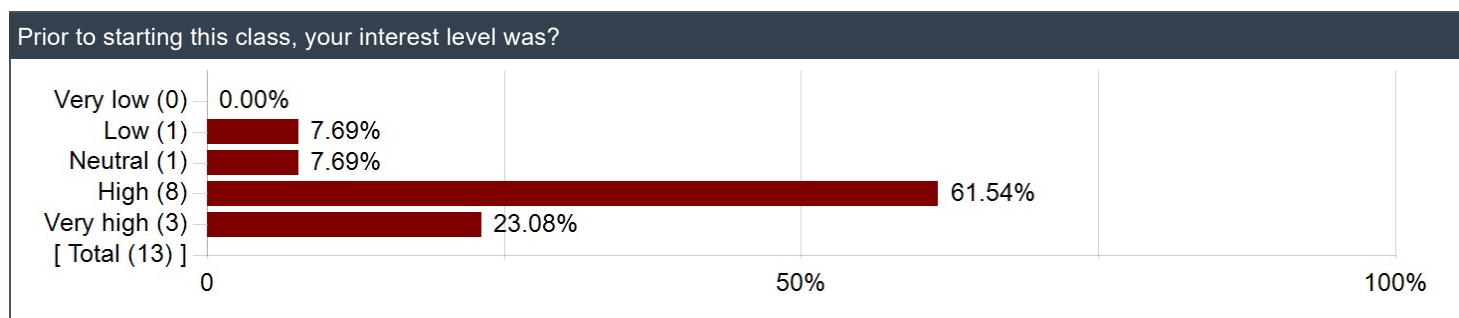
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A
Visited Special Collections

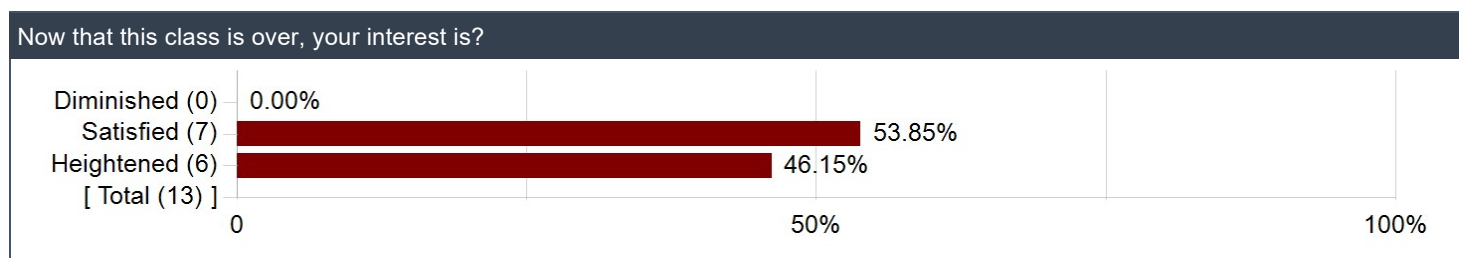
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



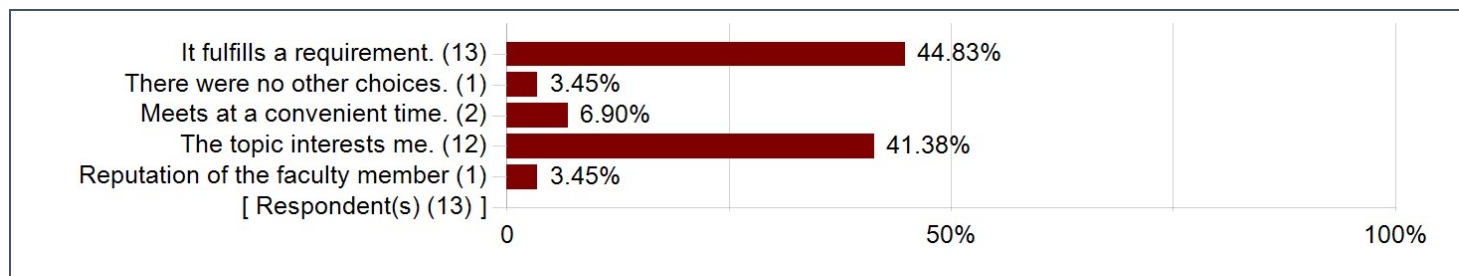
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



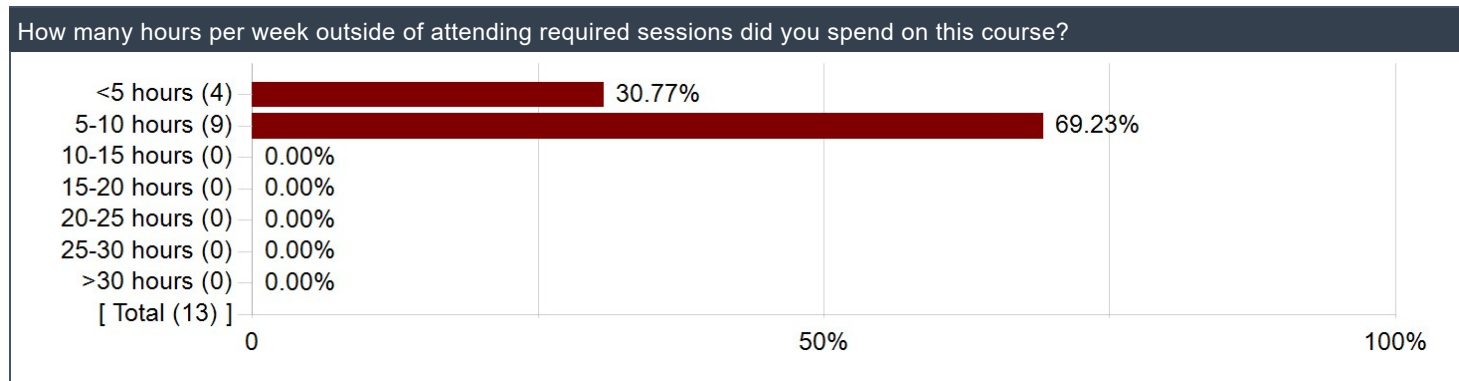
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



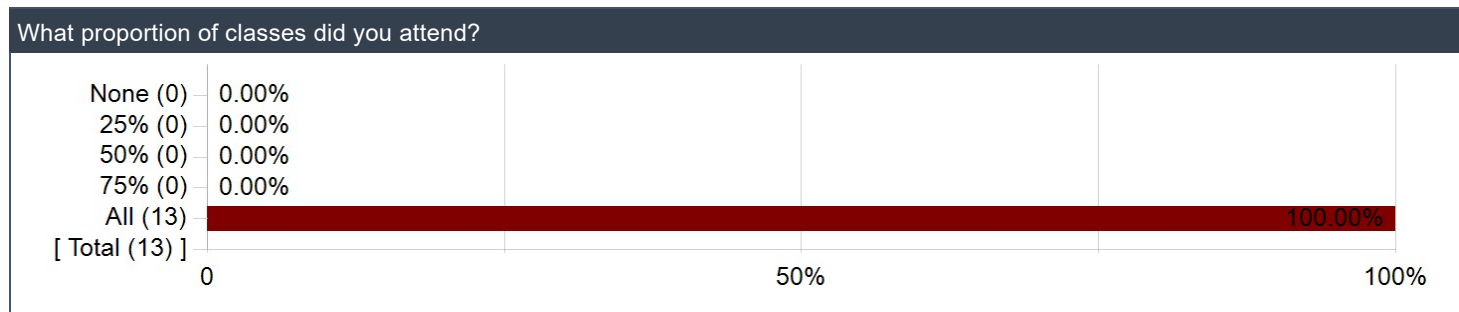
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### 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
The coursework – at least in my experience was not too bad, it just ended up so that I had two nights to do all of it and no work from it for the rest of the week which could be a bit stressful
It was not difficult.
The writing was very challenging.
Essays were harder than ever before, but otherwise simple.
As someone with no prior experience in classics, but with a great interest, I did not find this course to be overly difficult but rather appropriately challenging.
medium, if you don't read the texts you will have no idea on what to do.
I felt like the course was fairly easy. I really enjoyed it though, and I feel as if I got valuable experience. Since I'm writing this before getting my final grade back, this might come back to bite me, but I felt as if the whole thing was structured really smoothly, and it made the course feel relaxed and easy.
I have a basic background in greek mythology, this topic interests me and the class was not hard at all. Very easy to get into and analyze
I think the course was adequately challenging not too hard but definitely not too easy.
It was a lot of reading. We covered three huge texts in depth over the nine weeks
Very manageable workload as long as you stay ahead of the readings and journal discussions.
Moderate difficulty as long as you keep up with the reading assignments and engage in the discussions.