



HUMA 17000 8 - Language and the Human I - Instructor(s): Ömer Eren

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **10**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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 a lot about linguistics and how language influences people, which was very interesting.
I learned about the relationship between power and language.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – I learned to close-read books (even complicated ones) –I learned how to write and organize my argument in an academic way
I feel that the preeminent skill I learned was the ability to research the context surrounding a text so as to better understand its message.
Understanding the best way to communicate to an audience. I have learned to and have fun with using more literary and old-fashioned language that takes a good amount of practice to know how to read fluidly and understand well. In the process of writing my final essay based on the feedback I got from writing tutors and the writing seminarist, I came to understand that while not all such language need be dispensed with, it is wise to be 21st cen. formal over 19th cen. formal because no matter the strength of my ideas people will not understand as well as they otherwise would have.
Discussing the power of language, more specifically its effects on power dynamics/structures. Learn how to discuss novels, articles, and movies within the framework of language.
Language is very powerful, also performatives which are interesting. If you like linguistics or are even a little bit curious about linguistics, take this class. I am potentially planning on linguistics after this because it was so interesting to learn how words can have such an effect on people as well as the world as a whole. In this course, we read Pygmalion, Citizen, The Tempest, The Handmaid's Tale, and many short articles talking about the widespread influence of language. I was able to gain a better understanding on how to write an essay and create an argumentative claim, which is a valuable skill.
I learned how to better analyze a text and write a main claim.
I learned a lot of valuable information about the way language works, how it influences power structures in societies, and the overall impact that it has had on people historically.
How to properly craft an argument

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

Comments
Daily discussions helped to see things from a different viewpoint and also served as a way to analyze text in a way that was meaningful and useful for larger assignments.
The discussion based classes really helped my understanding of the texts that we were reading and helped me understand complex aspects of the world due to the many perspectives present in my class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the discussion and engaging lectures helped me to understand the material because I could learn from other people's perspectives – the reading list was a very good choice. The books and articles were pertinent and very nuanced.
In-class discussions allowed me to see the text from perspectives I hadn't thought of which was very helpful in learning how to do a close reading of a literary work.
While above I talked about the help the essays provided, I will here talk about the discussion posts and in-class discussions. The discussion posts which preceded in-class discussion, while having difficult to answer questions, force me to really think about the reading/watching-related topic. The following class discussions were enlightening to see what others were thinking about for a particular piece of media.
Most of class time is dedicated to group discussions, which is helpful with collaboration and sharing your own thoughts. Weekly discussion posts additionally helped me gain and share insight from/with classmates.
The lectures were just giant class discussions which I enjoyed. Our professor would go through a slideshow, but make us talk about our opinions on the matter, and this style greatly improved my knowledge due to the vast viewpoints. For the Canvas discussion posts, I had a love/hate relationship with them because it was hard for me to come up with what to write for the prompts, but I was able to learn more by reading everyone else's posts.
Lectures helped me better understand each text.
We met 2 times a week and would discuss further into the readings that we did outside of class. I really enjoyed these classes as they helped me read much deeper into the text and there were many interested conversations throughout class.
Class discussions helped challenge my thinking

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	50.00%	30.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.20	4.50	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	30.00%	50.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%
I felt respected in this class.	4.80	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	10.00%	70.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I appreciated a lot the connection to linguistics which helped me to understand better some concepts (performativity, idiolect, neologism, etc.)
It could have just been my own incompetence, but I felt like the expectations for the essay tasks weren't defined quite clearly enough. Maybe looking at some model papers could have helped.
We were given feedback on our first essay drafts (mine was overall positive), however the grading on the final draft was extremely harsh. No one i knew got above a B, which doesn't make sense considering how chill the initial feedback was.
No

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	10.00%	90.00%
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
He wrote a lot on the blackboard and let us engage with each other in large discussions, which was really nice and helped me learn a lot.
The simplification of complex texts is helpful and the posing of questions allows for great discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – engaging with other student – the lecture slides were very well organized – the weekly discussion post were not very long and were interesting
I felt as though he helped students find the answers instead of just giving them to us. It really helped us work on our critical thinking and reasoning.
The in-class discussions and discussion posts that went along with them
Teacher's lectures.
His ability to open up conversations to the class.
He really generated interested discussion questions that helped start conversations. He also always added valuable insights into what we had to say. I really appreciated how he was genuinely interested in the topics that we discussed and all of the points that people brought up during class.
Discussions as a class

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing really, he was very well organized.
N/A
Sometimes I felt like he had a specific answer in mind and if you didn't say exactly that then he wouldn't really push a debate around your argument.
While the idea of reading any book twice is generally unpopular, particularly reading Shakespeare's The Tempest with its Early Modern English, I do think returning to certain works and giving them another would be good, even if not a complete re-read. Otherwise, I would say Omer was good.
Set expectations ahead of time, in terms of the paper. The essay prompts were poorly written, and we were later told that we shouldn't address the prompt fully which was very confusing.
I think it would have been interesting to spend a day talking about our individual essays to get class critiques as well as learn about what other people had chosen to write about.
Give more time for some readings, since towards the end of the quarter I felt kind of rushed to finish the whole last book in only one weekend
Help talk about essays more

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.40	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	40.00%	10.00%
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.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.30	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	33.33%	11.11%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.40	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	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.	4.60	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	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
Clara Mitchell She greatly helped in terms of my essay writing

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	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.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

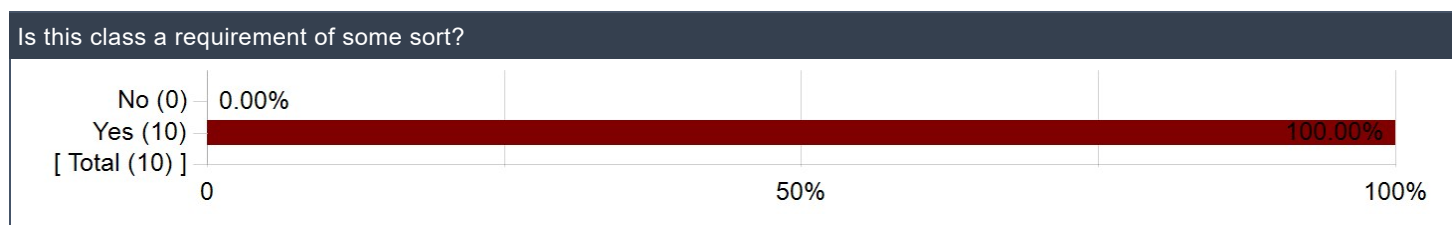
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	88.89%
Writing Seminars	3.89	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	66.67%	11.11%	0.00%

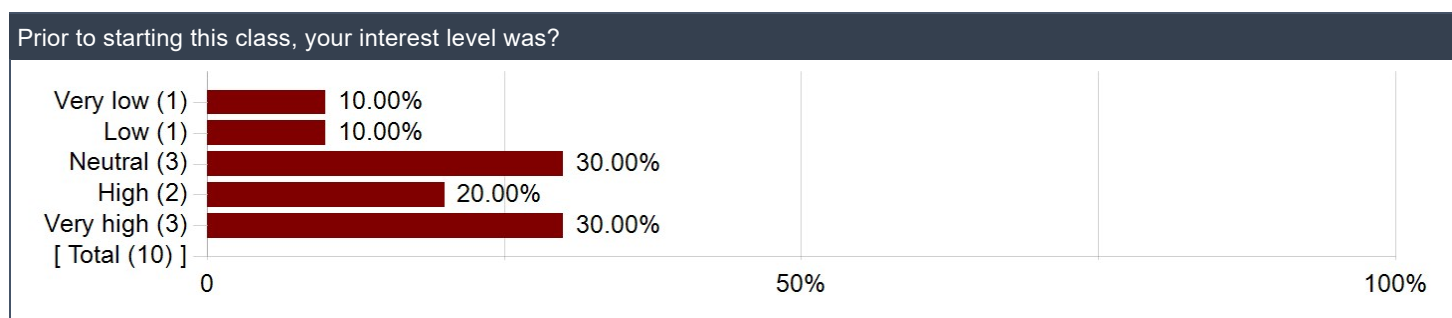
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
N/A

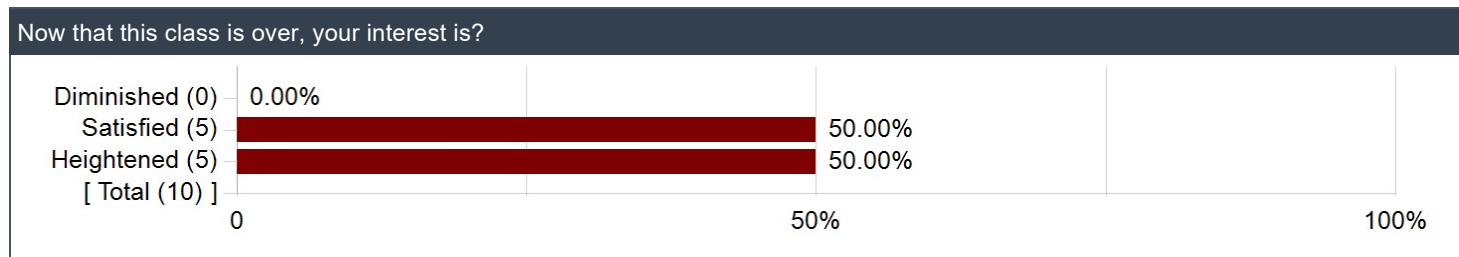
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



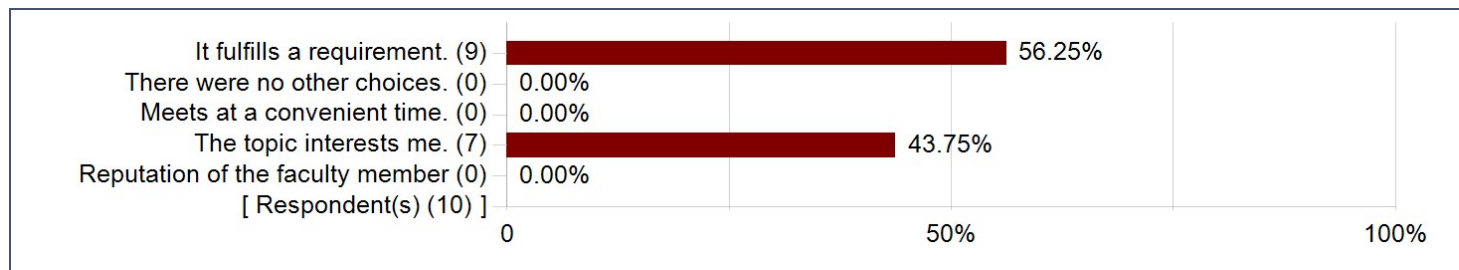
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



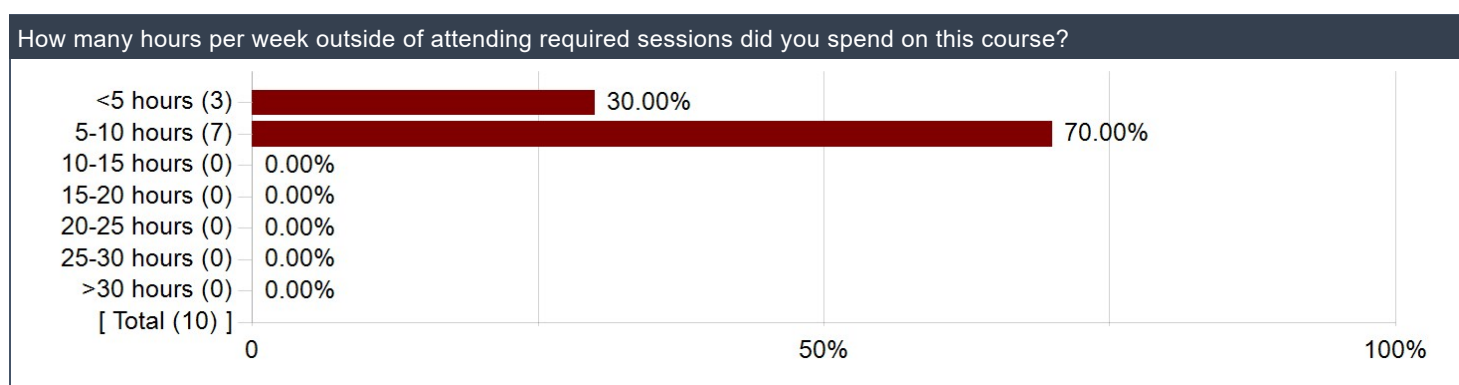
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



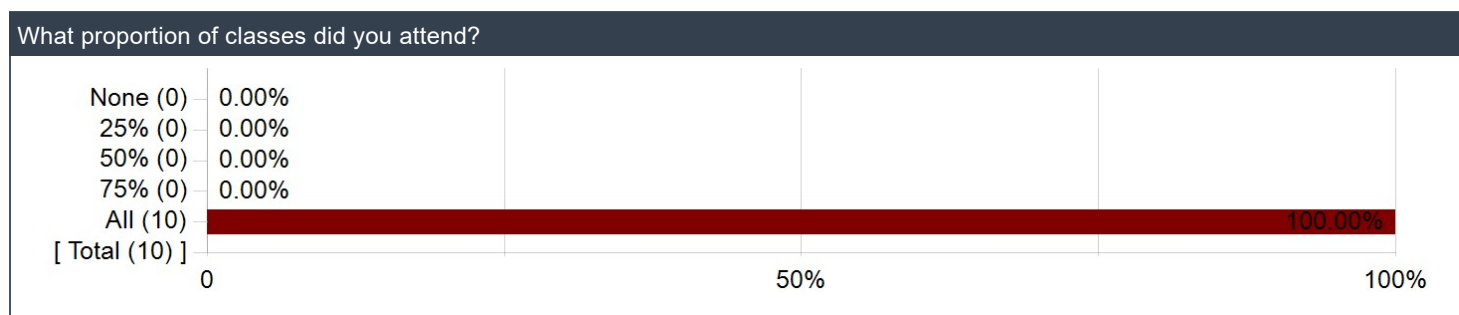
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Pretty challenging sometimes, but nothing that I was not used to (like discussion posts and essays), really good course overall!
The readings were very accessible and understandable. Reading Shakespeare was a bit tough, but the instructor provided resources to help.
The discussion sessions are easy, but the essays are expected to be at a very high level. It almost felt like class lulled you into a false sense of security and then hit you. Overall it wasn't that difficult but I wish there was more constructive criticism in class.
The baseline difficulty wasn't any different from highschool classes I've taken, like with the discussion posts. The writing essay part though was harder, though, mainly because I've never written an essay for a college class before now.
I did not have much background, but it is not necessary for this class
Moderately difficult