



# HUMA 17000 3 - Language and the Human I - Instructor(s): Tulio Bermudez

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

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **7**

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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
Learned how to close read better and tailor my writing to specific audiences
I learned how to express my ideas and form arguments for an essay
In Language and the Human, we discussed a lot about how language and the power of language. However, I feel we didn't work on English skills for papers such as creating a thesis and analyzing.
The most import things I learned are brand new terms to communicate and use in my writing in the future.
Really nothing at all. Topics we covered—forced assimilation, second throat, language and silence, standard language "myth", etc.—were shallowly introduced and examined. Most of them were "common sense," so to speak, and were things we were already familiar with through prior experience being alive.
How language and power are intertwined. We learned this through several books, articles, and in-class discussions.

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

Comments
Seminar was the most impactful for my learning. I learned a lot about writing techniques that I previously didn't know.
The discussions in classes are helpful as I get to hear other people's ideas.
Our lectures and assignments mainly revolved around language and power, however, I feel like a lot of it was repetitive and we discussed the same ideas over and over.
I enjoyed the essay prompts in this class the most.
Lectures were stale, awkward, and often intimidating, with our professor placing many discussions in the lens of his own personal beliefs and biases. (An example: telling us to discuss why standard language is apparently a myth, instead of debating whether or not it is—which I feel is a more appropriate and critically analytical way of approaching something that is not so intrinsically black-and-white.) Most discussions were led by students in the class, who read the texts assigned for that day and formulated discussion questions, but many of them mumbled and were difficult to understand and no one did anything to make it a better experience. As for assignments, we only really had two (two essays), and the prompts were frequently problematic or biased towards one viewpoint (or overly vague, or sometimes even barely related to the core disciplines of the class at all), which made it difficult to "learn" anything, especially since we only got feedback if we personally emailed the professor and asked to meet on zoom to talk with him about our essays. Weird.
The lectures definitely helped me recognize the different ways in which power and language are connected, and how language has been used to oppress, manipulate, and intimidate others.

**Please respond to the following:**

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.14	3.00	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.43	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	42.86%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.29	3.00	0.00%	42.86%	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.57	3.00	0.00%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%	42.86%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.43	4.00	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.71	3.00	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%	42.86%
I felt respected in this class.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	42.86%	42.86%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.14	3.00	28.57%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	42.86%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Not a good experience. From the first day of class we were asked to get into groups with other students based off of shared "affinities" like race, common language, ethnicity, etc.—which was just flat out weird and put in place a mood of discomfort that carried through pretty much the whole quarter. Discussions were not critical, we pretty much just said whatever we thought the professor wanted us to say, and we ended up talking way more about race and injustice (which are undoubtedly related to language) than language itself at all. That would be fine if this was a class about those topics, but I signed up for language and the human, a topic you can get really in–depth with, but I feel like I learned nothing.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	42.86%	57.14%
Anyone interested in the topic	28.57%	71.43%

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

Comments
Small group discussions within the class helped me the most in learning in this class.
The instructor would provide insight for discussion
Our instructor had good questions for discussions and I feel like the discussions were relevant for the ideas and topics we discussed.
I think the terms are I learned from my instructor contributed most to my learning.
Honestly the fact that he assigned certain texts. Some of them were actually quite good. Overall, however, the instructor did not contribute much of anything to my learning.
How he intertwined his own personal experiences with class topics, and encouraged us to share our own stories in class and through our writing.

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

Comments
Mix the small groups up sometimes. Being in one group with the same people for the whole quarter didn't make the class feel whole.
Provide clearer criteria for essay
The course could move much faster in pace and we could be assigned more papers/writing practice.
Maybe more text focused discussions
Abandon the notion that this class is a pulpit to preach your own personal or political beliefs. It was exhausting every class hearing the same "white people in power are the problem in society" rhetoric without any actual constructive argumentation surrounding the topic. Discussions were rife with circular reasoning, people saying the same thing only in different words, and a general air of annoyance at being in such a close–minded and stifling space.
None I can think of.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.43	3.00	0.00%	28.57%	28.57%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.14	3.00	0.00%	42.86%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.86	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	42.86%	28.57%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.43	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.14	4.00	28.57%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.29	4.00	28.57%	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.67	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	28.57%	14.29%	14.29%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.71	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.00	4.50	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	50.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.29	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	28.57%	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
Scott Jung. He slowed the pace of things down which helped me digest and understand content more easily. I feel his style of teaching really catered well to the class as he took into consideration others' time.
The TA is good
Scott Jung
Scott. Scott was flexible, amicable, and gave great feedback on our essays. The only thing I would suggest he change is being more open about how he couldn't always give full feedback on our essays. It was a little disappointing seeing that he had given us feedback, only to open the document and find just the first two paragraphs annotated; I understand that he is busy, but it would be nice to more clearly communicate his (very much valid) boundaries so that we don't expect too much from him.
Scott Jung

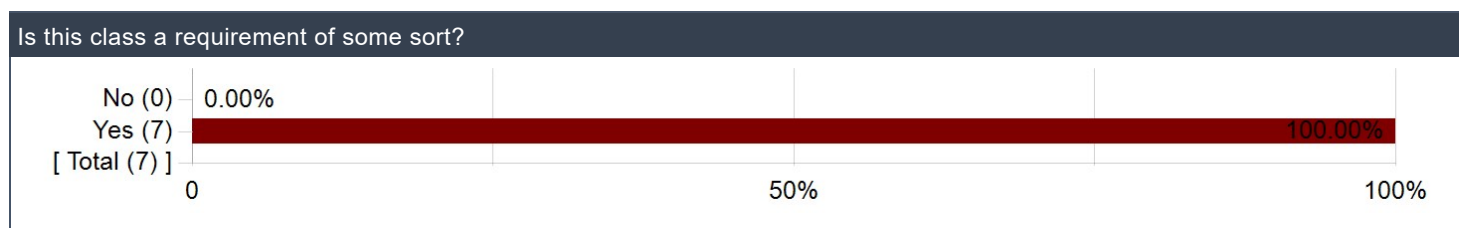
## The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	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.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Helped you succeed in the class.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	16.67%	66.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%

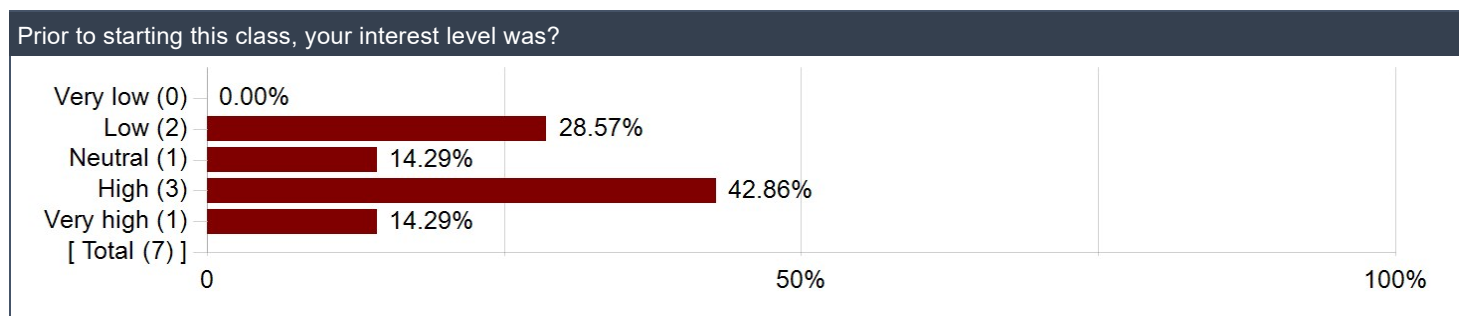
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Field Trips	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	40.00%	40.00%
Library Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Review Sessions	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%
Writing Seminars	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	50.00%	33.33%	0.00%

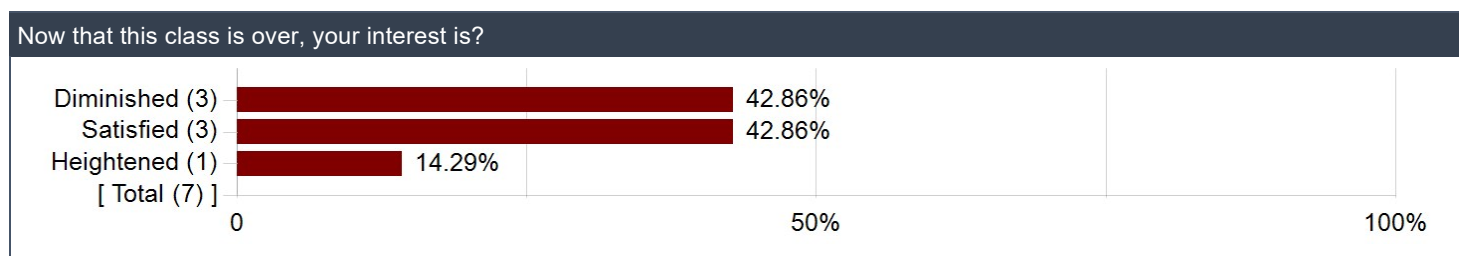
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



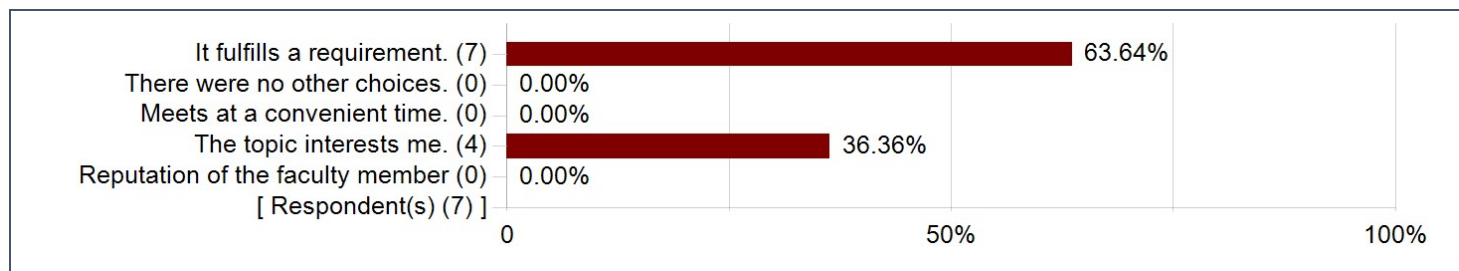
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



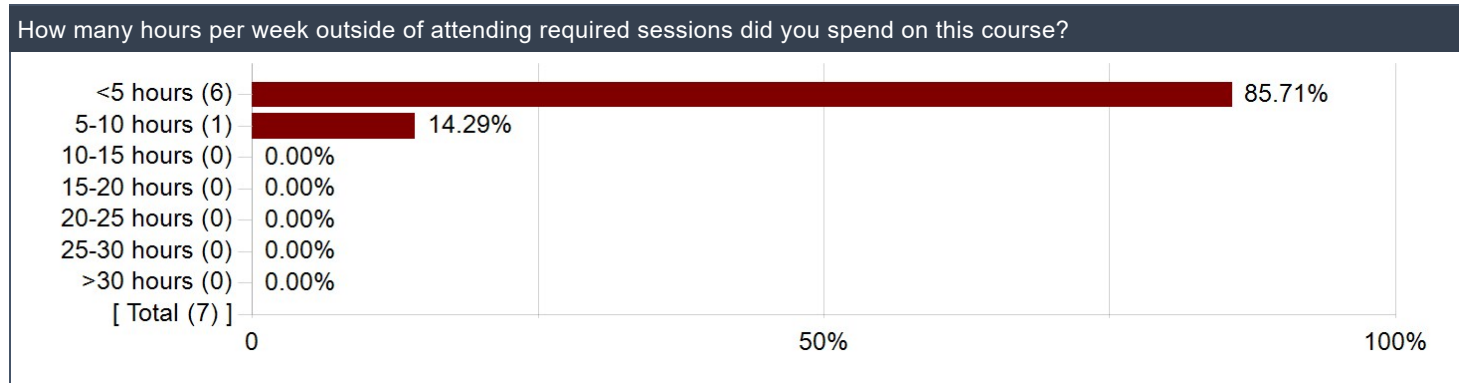
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



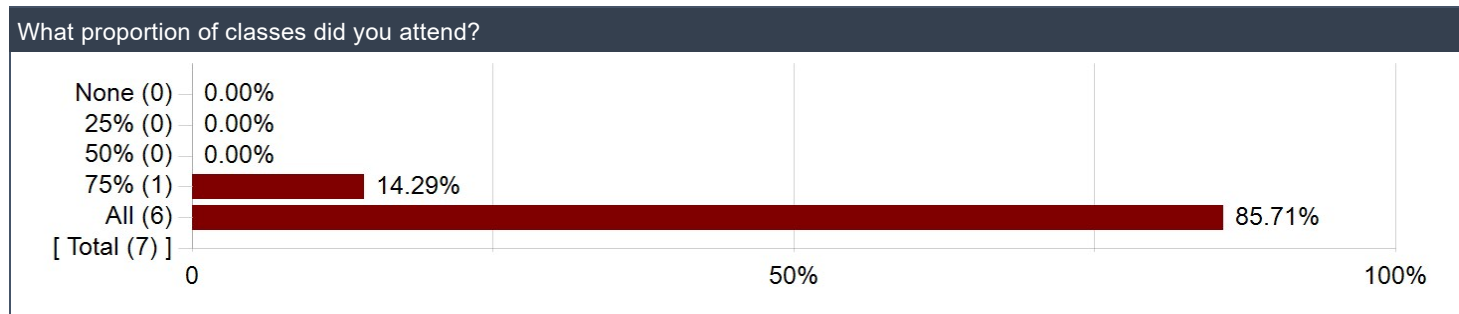
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## 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
Moderate
The course was not very challenging and didn't take too much time at all.
This course was not difficult compared to my previous humanities courses
Not a difficult class at all. The grading on our first essay was unusually hard, however, which was only made more annoying considering we didn't immediately get feedback and had to ask for it. It seemed like the grading was arbitrarily harsh to create an illusion that this class is difficult, but it really wasn't. Some of the texts were hard to understand, but we barely spent any time discussing them in--depth in class and you honestly could've gone the whole quarter barely reading anything and been fine.
The course was pretty easy. I love writing and the class itself was of interest to me, so that helped as well.