



HUMA 11000 13 - Readings in World Literature I - Instructor(s): Geoffrey Rees

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

Number Enrolled: **14**

Number of Responses: **8**

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
Close reading and working within the text
How to focus on the text itself, using NO outside resources or previous knowledge.
I learned a new way of reading texts and forming an argument from only the words in a text.
This course challenged me to focus more on close reading texts and sticking to textual evidence when writing papers and making arguments, especially without relying on formulaic writing.
How to read in write in a complexly different style than I have previously. The professor makes you think in a completely foreign way ; however, if you stick through the growing pains and keep an open mind there's merit in his madness.
very new way of reading literature. super interesting.
I learned how to persevere in a class that ran counter to my expectations and prior knowledge of how a literature class should be. This class was a great opportunity to show my ability to independently complete assignments when left to my own devices by my instructor. I have proven myself to be resourceful enough to write well without any real guidance from my instructor on how to do so. I did this absent any prompts for our writing assignments which I believe should be provided by an instructor, especially in a first-year writing course which is supposed to be accessible for students who are still forming their writing skills. This class needs prompts.
I learned how to interpret and break down evidence on a word-by-word basis. I also learned to think more deeply about not only the content of books but also the character of every literary choice.

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

Comments
Class discussions were usually okay but I didn't really feel like I was making my own analysis--just desperately looking for what the prof wanted me to say.
I believe this course contributed to my overall ability to write in a more scientific manner. For example, using no fluff while writing and only focusing on the quotations and details within our readings.
The class discussions were very helpful in better understanding the way in which one should read texts.
The discussions of the text were helpful because we spent time focusing on different aspects of the texts and practiced working within the terms of the texts. Sometimes it was a bit difficult to follow because we jumped around a lot and the ideas didn't always connect
The writing seminars and office hours were helpful in organizing my thoughts and ideas.
The discussions were often hit or miss. Some days, I felt I had participated in a thoughtful and positive discussion of the text, but other days, I would leave the class feeling that my ideas had been disregarded and the instructor was uninterested in entertaining ideas that conflicted with his own.
Discussions are helpful for getting a feel for the kind of textual analysis Rees expects in the class. The type of writing he looks for is a bit different from what I was used to from high school, and it took a moment to get more comfortable with it. Often, you can pitch an idea during discussions and Rees will encourage the entire class to brainstorm ways of approaching it. He'll also give you feedback on the spot.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.63	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	50.00%	12.50%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	2.88	3.00	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.63	4.00	12.50%	12.50%	0.00%	50.00%	25.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.63	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.50	3.50	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
I felt respected in this class.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.25	3.00	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The style of writing and what is being asked is nothing like I've ever experienced. It was hard and I had to go to many office hours, however I do think I got some valuable writing skills out of it.
very difficult at the beginning, but once I understood Rees' style of analyzing literature the course became super unique and fun.
I really like the texts we read in this course and understand the mission of the RWL within the Core, but this instructor made me question whether this class was even worth the trouble if I had to deal with him 3 days a week. This class has really shaken my confidence in my writing abilities, even though I think I am still a great writer, this class did not boost the quality of my product. It made me worry about the grades attributed to it in a way I never had before. I believe the purpose of this class should be to build the students up and not to make them feel like crap.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	12.50%	87.50%
Anyone interested in the topic	25.00%	75.00%

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

Comments
I think there was a point in class where the professor said he was trying to confuse us about certain concepts. If that was his mission, he absolutely succeeded. I've tried to explain what this course is like to family members and friends and have been met with 70% quizzical shrugs, 30% "oh wow yikes".
Going to discussions and listening in class.
The instructor's explaining of their thought process when reading the text and their interpretation of the text contributed most to my learning.
It was helpful to go over specific quotes and look at each term of the text and analyze them during class.
He also opened our minds to new ideas and meaning of the text that I never would have thought to notice on my own.
–The Mahabharata Evening Lecture from Whitney Cox was amazing and gave me a strong basis of knowledge for that text and how I came to write about it. –Discussions that I had with my fellow classmates were insightful and helped me hone my claims for my papers. –Our writing specialist Sophia Sherry was an amazing resource for talking out ideas for papers and turning them from conversations into full text–based arguments. –The way that Professor Rees provided as little guidance as he could on papers down to even refusing to give us prompts and insisting all we needed was the text to write our papers.
Discussions contributed the most to my learning. I'd encourage anyone to pitch as many ideas as they can during class. Also, don't worry about being wrong. Everyone makes mistakes all the time, so don't let it discourage you.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Have our final grade (at least for the first quarter) be based on overall improvement instead of based on the grades of our essays. I have basically zero idea what the professor wants me to do for my essays, and wasn't sure what the example essay provided was doing "right," so I think that maybe "harsher", more detailed comments and individual essay grades with the knowledge that the final grade would be based on improvement would help students feel more confident in writing and have less perfectionism–induced anxiety on assignments throughout the quarter. It would be conducive to me wanting to learn more as opposed to feeling frustrated and puzzling over what is the "right" and "wrong" way to read and write.
Instructing more on exactly what he wants to see in our essays.
The instructor could have given more writing examples and help about how to make successful arguments.
It would helpful to cover creating claims and working with close–reading textual evidence during class.
I don't know; he's pretty quirky.
He could use prompts! This is supposed to be a first–year class, he should endeavor to make students feel confident in their writing and to guide them to improve where needed. This was not how Professor Rees felt he should teach, his policy was that we were to find our way and that if we couldn't that was our problem, not his. He did not want us to succeed. His method of grading and commenting on assignments was extremely negative and could stand to be at least constructive if not possibly positive. He was very disorganized and even forgot his materials for class twice in two weeks so he had to completely change the format of that class because of his forgetfulness.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	62.50%	25.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.50	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%	0.00%	25.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.13	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.50	4.00	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	12.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.38	4.00	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.13	4.50	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.75	4.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	12.50%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.38	4.00	0.00%	25.00%	12.50%	62.50%	0.00%	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
Sophia Sherry! She was the best, gave clear comments, criticism, and advice, and really seemed like she wanted us to succeed.

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.	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%

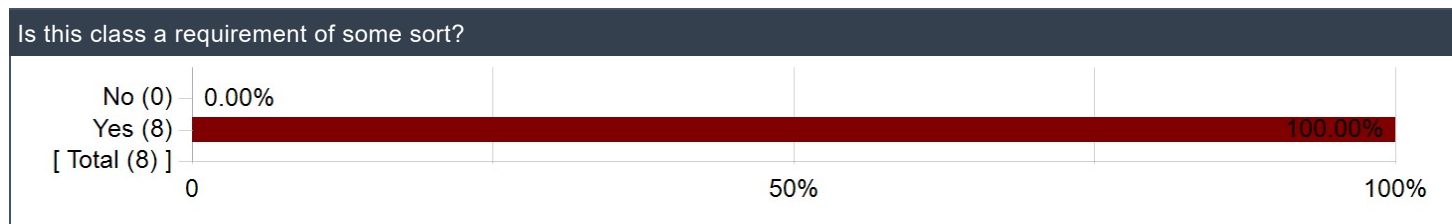
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%	71.43%
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	4.25	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%

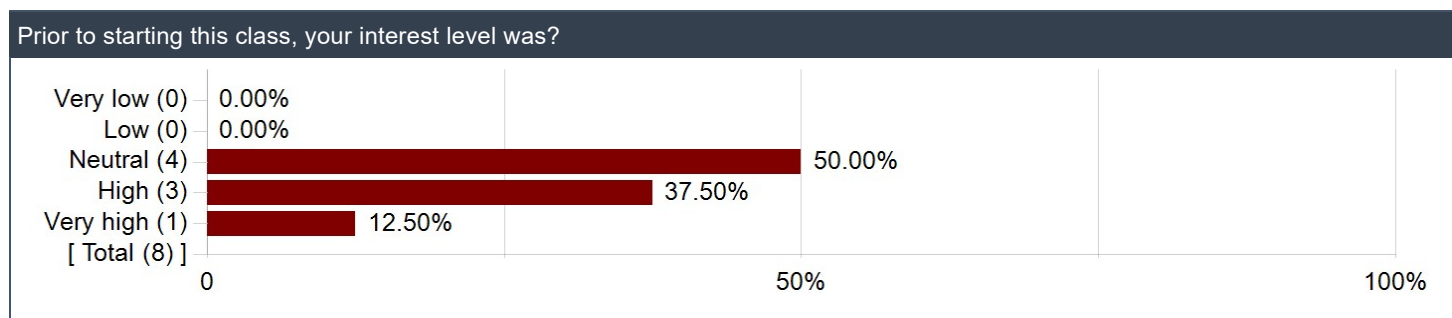
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Sophia Sherry was my writing specialist and she was fantastic. She was attentive and very thorough in all of our meetings. She helped to assuage a lot of worries that had been initiated by Professor Rees's teaching style and curt personality.

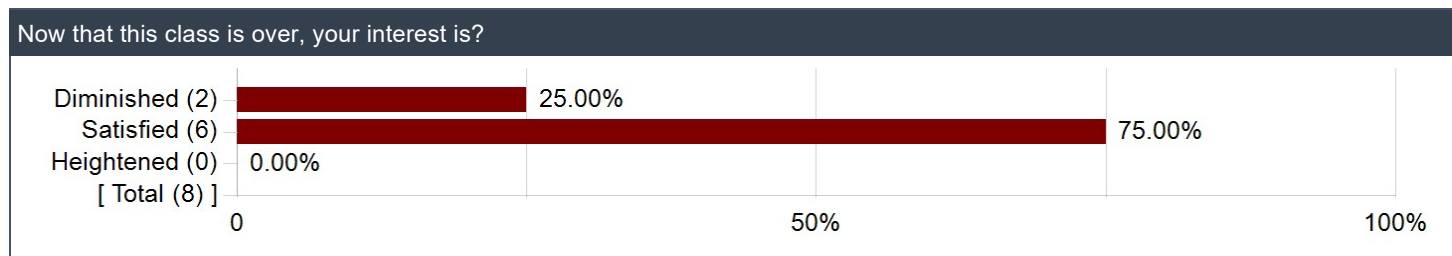
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



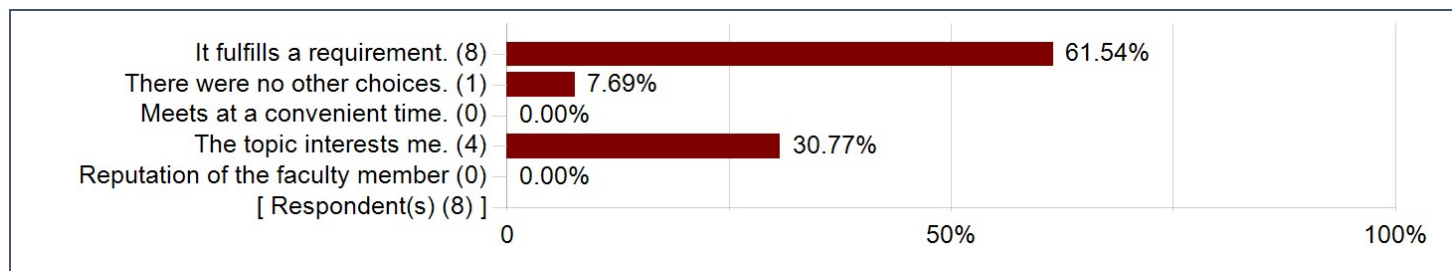
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



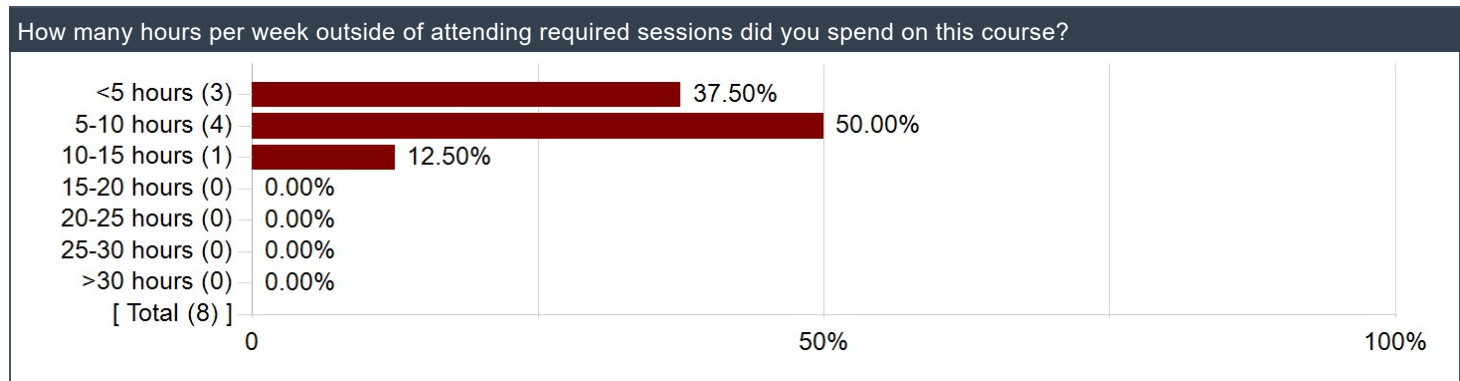
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



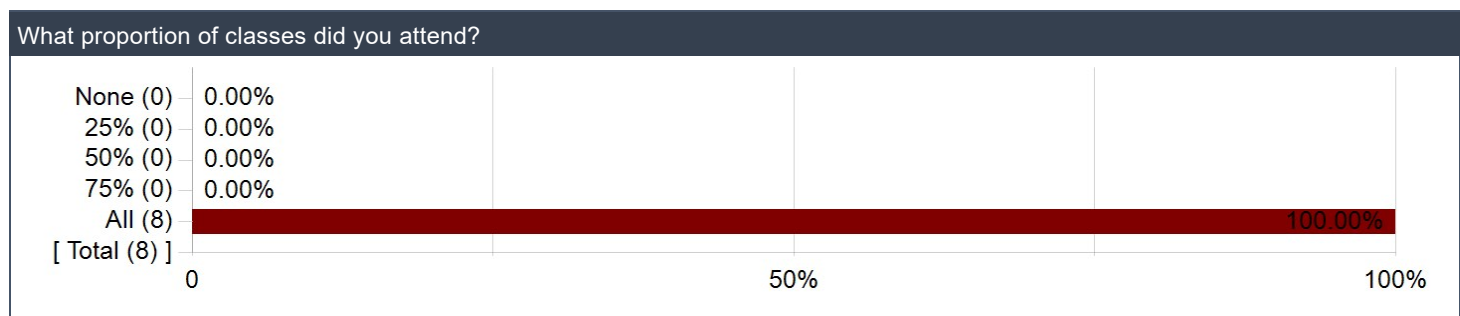
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Extremely difficult, especially if you were "good" at writing in high school. A lot of unlearning and re-learning (without being sure exactly what it is you're re-learning).
I was not experienced in writing at all. When I signed up for the class I was expecting the reading of great texts of world literature and the analyzing of said texts. The writing assignments given were no prompts at all, we were just instructed to formulate a text relevant question. This was very difficult for me. We had an extensive list of words we were not allowed to use which again, presented a challenge. It was very hard to write a good paper. Did I learn from it, yes I did, but was I prepared for it with background knowledge? Absolutely not.
I have lots of experience writing in a structured way, and this course made write in a different way which was both a challenging and new experience for me.
It was not what I expected from the world lit hum course, but Rees' interesting style was more engaging than I anticipated.
I had some significant prior knowledge of the texts read during this course, as such I already possessed opinions and understanding of the worlds and characters therein. So when confronted with the alternative teachings of Professor Rees, it was jarring, to say the least. It was a challenge when it did not need to be. This class ought to have been in the business of building us up as writers not degrading what skills we might have felt we possessed.
This class challenged me initially, since the character of the writing is a bit different from what i'm used to. But ultimately, I felt that the grading was quite fair and almost everyone ends up doing fine.