



HUMA 11000 4 - Readings in World Literature I - Instructor(s): Melissa Van Wyk

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

Number Enrolled: **12**

Number of Responses: **9**

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 about good ways to structure essays and how to read and comprehend large texts.
I learned the value of close reading and the new understandings of a text that it can reap.
How to write essays with contestable claims, how to have collaborative and patient in-class discussions
I read and compared many fascinating epics! I also believe that my writing skills have grown.
I learnt about how different cultures have different concepts of epics and how, despite the cultural differences, they all contribute to our literary environment in the current day! Very interesting!
How to properly shape my arguments, especially in the context of stasis versus destabilization.
I learned about stasis and destabilization.
probably how to write. Destabilization and contestability have leveled up my writing tremendously.

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

Comments
Our group discussions were a great way to get a better understanding of the texts, since as a group we understood almost everything even if each person didn't individually and each person brought unique ideas to the discussion.
The discussions were very welcoming to everyone's voice and opinion while still being focused to the text. They're very pleasant to be involved in and the professor is excellent at leading the discussions. Additionally, the writing seminars have been a great help.
Lectures are very engaging, because students are asked to give their opinions and interpretations. Professor Van Wyk is also very available for office hours, which helps students feel prepared for essays.
The weekly response that really allows us to closely read the text helps a lot when comes time to write the essays! Also, Professor Van Wyk's office hours are of the most helpful and really guided me through the journey of editing my essay.
Class Discussions really helped my learning, Melissa was super helpful with helping us understand the books and deeper context.
The lectures taught me about the themes of what was in the book that we had to read.
The discussions helped a lot and were easy to understand because we are all first years.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%	22.22%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	44.44%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.44	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	55.56%
I felt respected in this class.	4.89	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Reading the epics is super fun! It's a great way to learn about a bunch of ancient cultures from their own perspective and getting context for some of the most enduring stories of humanity.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	11.11%	88.89%

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

Comments
Prof. Van Wyk seemed to have a good sense of when we were lost (or when we were about to be lost) in the process of reading the epics, and she came prepared with her trusty paper nametags for all the characters that she taped to the board to make sure we understood who was who in The Mahabharata and the Tale of Heike. She also struck a good balance between letting conversation flow and adding details or other things to talk about when it died down.
Leading the class discussions, giving lectures when needed to understand the context of the texts, offering helpful office hours. Everything really. She's incredible.
Having names and relationships on the board really helps me understand the text!
The discussions definitely did amplify my perspectives in reading those texts; however, the office hours helps the most in terms of solidifying concepts within my essay!
How engaged she was during class, with diagrams on the board or activities to help us understand the concepts in an easier to understand way. Office hours also really helped.
The writing of characters' names on the board helped the most.
She knew a lot of background knowledge on each topic which made the texts feel more immersive.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Not much, maybe spending more time in discussions on some of the essay topics so we can hear other students' views on the aspects we're writing essays on.
Maybe weekly writing responses could be due on Thursday instead of Tuesday, because as-is I imagine it is rare for students to write about Thursday's reading (I don't know if that's as intended).
I think she's doing great already! The name cards really helped a lot when tackling with texts that involves a lot of characters!
Give less pages to read
Space out the reading more. rather do 60 pages every day than start at 30 and go up to 100.

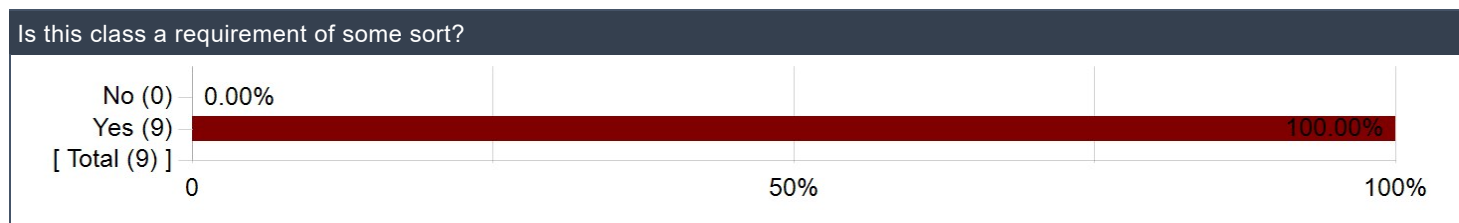
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.50	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%

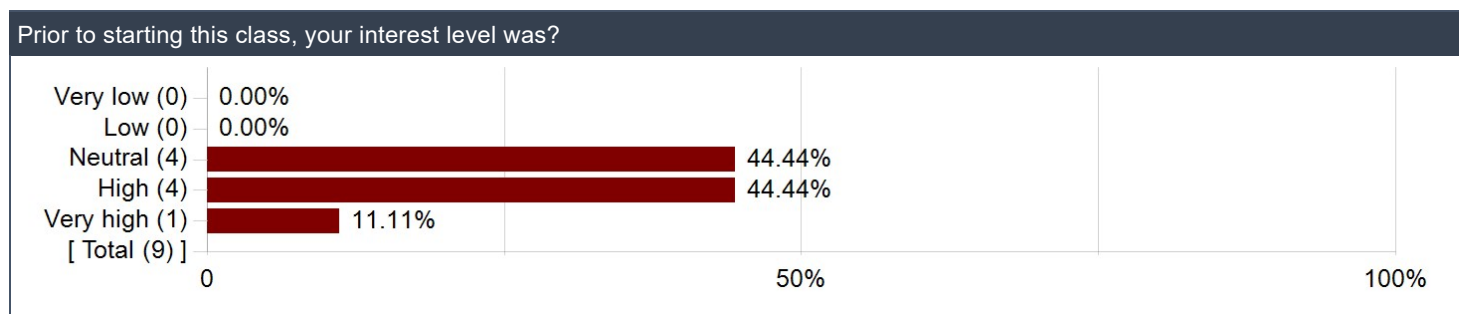
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%	14.29%	0.00%

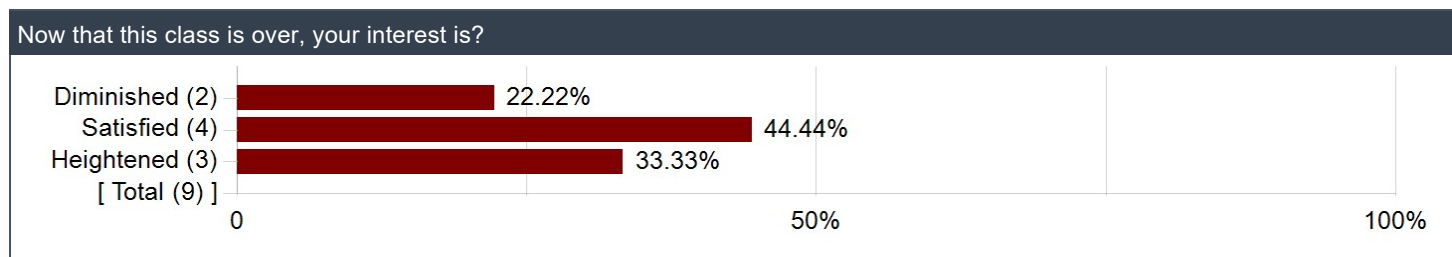
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



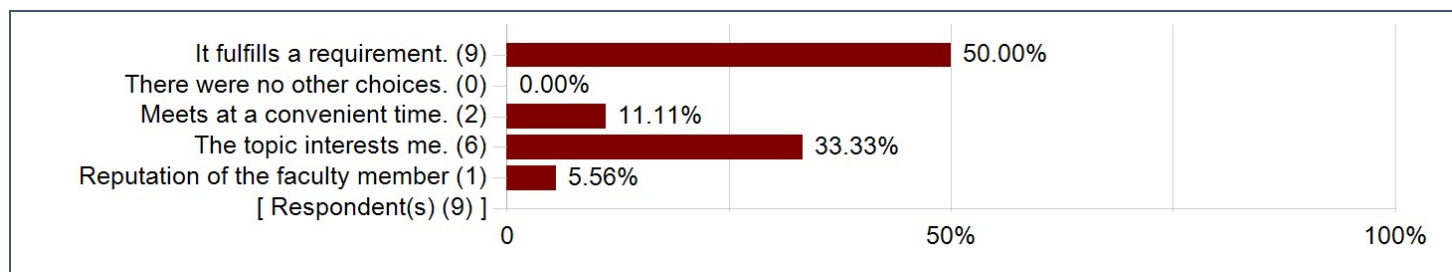
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



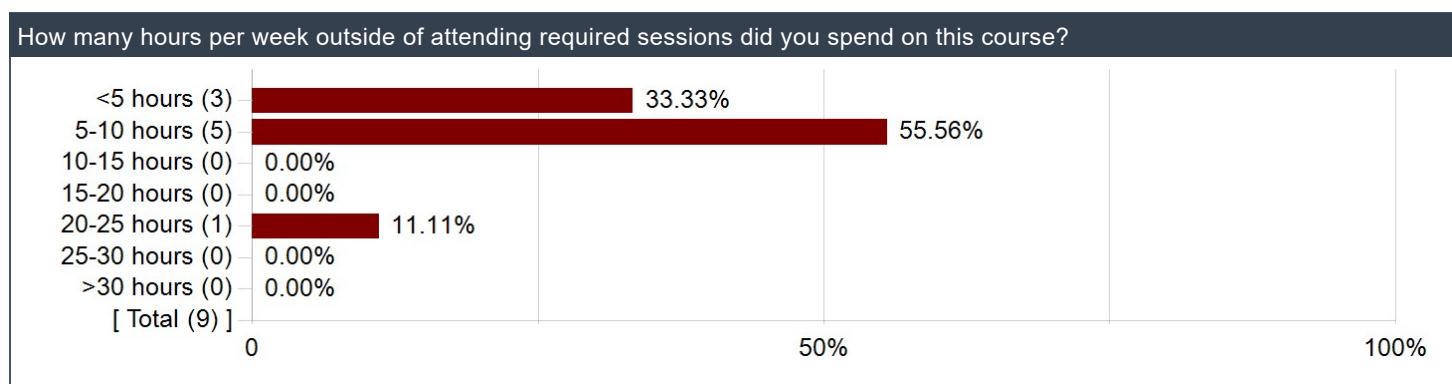
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



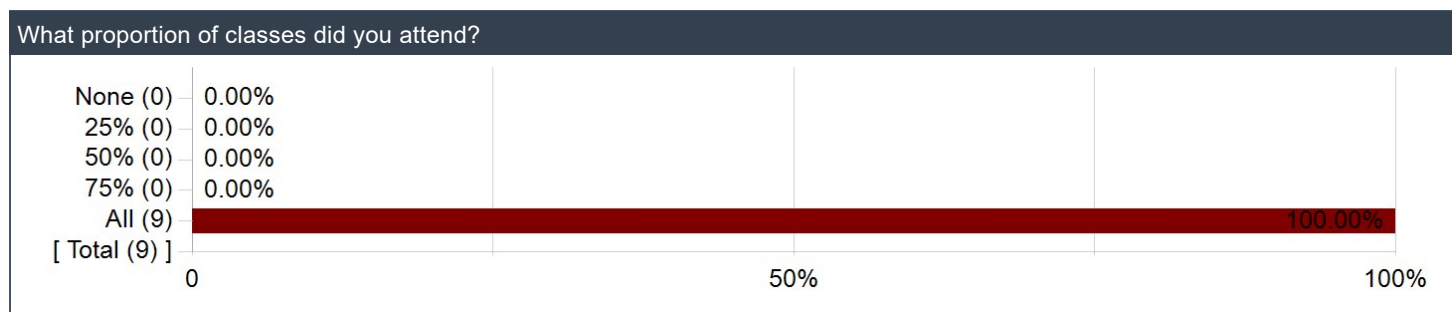
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Coming in as a first-year, the class was completely manageable. Prof. Van Wyk is not a particularly harsh grader, and the only potential challenge I can think of is that the later readings can get a bit overwhelming as there is so much to read between classes.
If you're not a good writer then it can be hard but you get better.
I've personally had a lot of humanities experience so it wasn't terrible but I still felt challenged
The class was doable coming in from high school, but it can be a challenge to find time to do the readings.
It really does require you to read a lot, but, if you are like me who enjoys reading, this is the best course you can get here!
It's just tedious, not really difficult.
not difficult moderately reading heavy. good intro level course