TAPS 10300 3 - Text and Performance - Instructor(s): Marissa Fenley

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

Number Enrolled: **18**
Number of Responses: **7**

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 how theatrical languages interact with each other to produce meaning in a performance.
I learned how to tease out the underlying intention of the author(s) in their text. This process of abstraction was extremely insightful into the meaning behind the texts we chose to read.
Noticing and analyzing different theatrical elements.
How to build ideas with a really interesting, smart, and nice group of students. The importance of theatrical languages. The distinction between authenticity and theatricality.
I learned a lot abut textual analysis which was very useful. I also feel like i got to practice my acting skills and explore texts creatively
Theatrical language!!! I learned what it is and how it works, and how it's distinct from theatrical language. We also read and watched some really interesting plays. Examining how the same script could be interpreted completely differently by different productions/directors was very fun

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

Comments
Lectures contributed the most to my learning as I got discuss the readings and get a sense of what my peers were thinking. The Discussion posts were also helpful as they got me thinking about the readings.
Small acted scenes, and the puppet class (!), were especially fun
I think lecture and especially the dynamic way professor Fenley teaches this class was super engaging and made the experience really fun.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	83.33%	16.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
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.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%
I felt respected in this class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I really enjoyed this course.

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
Facilitating open ended discussions.
Whenever someone would contribute to the class, Marissa took the meaning of their response and offered a critique, or additional insight from it. This kept the conversation going and looked at deeper ideas than were originally said.
Professor Fenley is really energetic and passionate about what she teaches and it makes everyone around her super engaged in whatever the class is learning. She also pushed me to think independently and to work on projects I was initially hesitant to experiment with and I ended up enjoying them so much! she's the best honestly!
Professor Fenley was very interested in students ideas in the classroom and I appreciated that, she also shared very interesting ideas, and was quite conscientious and constructively detailed in her feedback on papers. I felt that I grew from the work I did in this class, that Professor Fenley sincerely respected my thoughts on the material, and cared about helping me do the best work I could do
I like how professor Fenley was able to facilitate discussion so well. She managed to teach us a lto while still engage all of us and take breaks with interesting yet insightful activities
Marissa was a great professor! She was super engaged with the material. I think the best teaching moments were when we had discussions focused on some specific aspect of the play we were analyzing, so that she could make a point while making class still feel organic and engaging.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
There could be more clarity on assignment instructions. A rubric or more precise breakdown of what we were expected to do could be useful. A lot of the assignments and material is abstract so this helps shape thinking better I think.
Maybe move through material a little faster. Also Professor Fenley implied offering academic accommodation for those wanting to attend a political rally during class time. I support this cause, attended for part of it because it turned out to be at an earlier time, but thought it was kind of off that she offered tbh. I think students could tell she cared about them + social issues and might have slightly overshot the mark in this moment. Though this was a bit of a snag, we had plenty of opportunity through the plays Professor Fenley selected to have great discussions about social issues and power dynamics
I would maybe add more emphasis and time for the textual and performance analysis of the class it seemed like the most difficult yet most rewarding aspect of this class.
Since we had a key quote analysis within our performance analysis, also doing a separate key quote analysis beforehand felt unnecessary.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	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 course.	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 gain significant learning from the course content.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	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%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.83	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	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	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
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	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?

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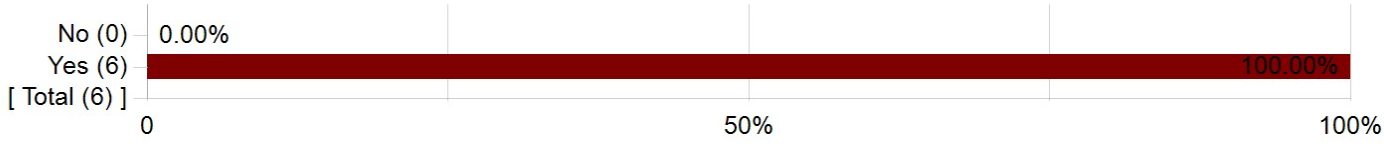

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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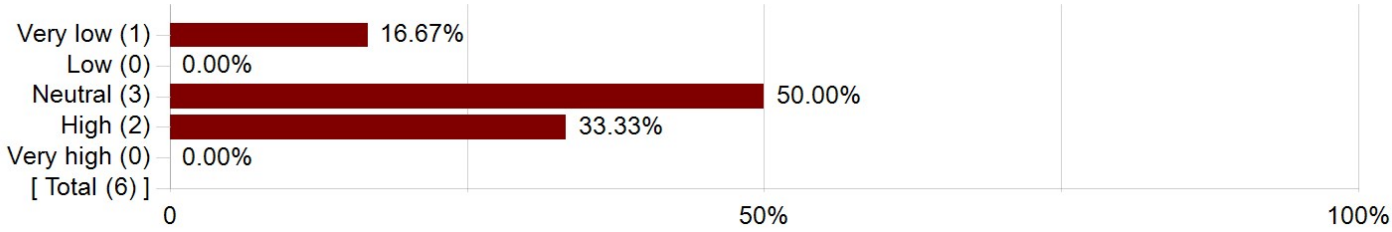

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

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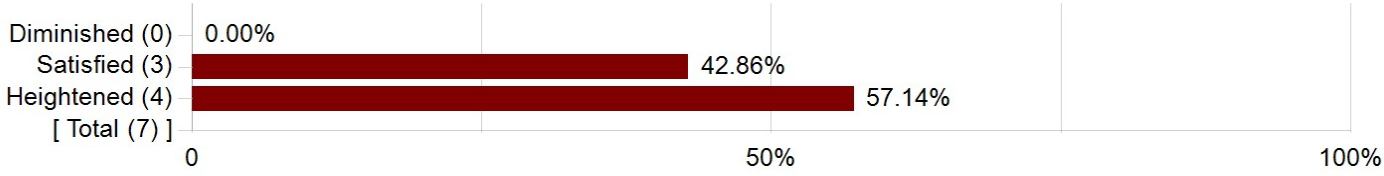
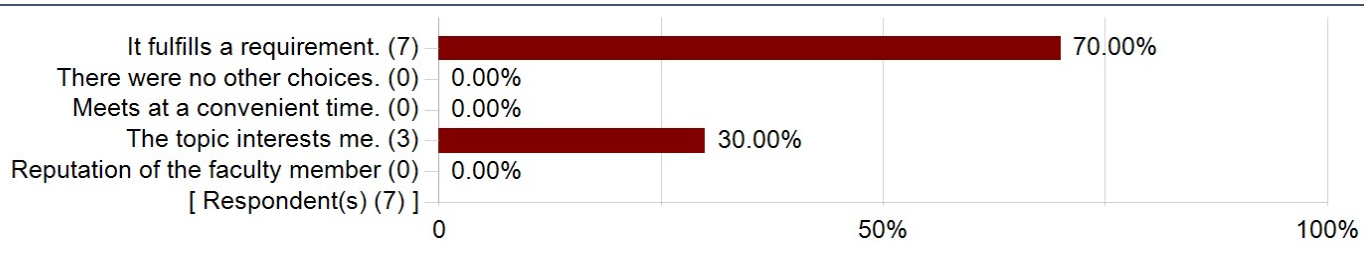


Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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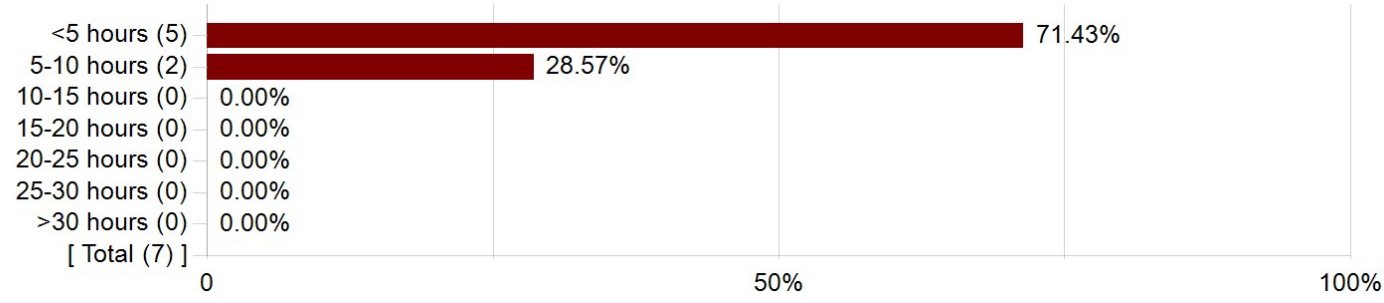

What proportion of classes did you attend?

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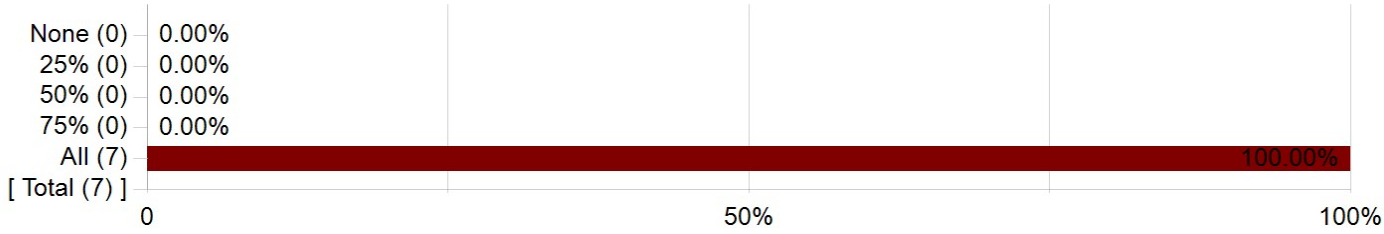

Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
With a little experience, this was a manageable course.
For someone with no theater experiences but having taken HUM, SOSC, and CIV, the course difficulty was reasonable.
easy if you just keep up and stay engaged which is usually not that hard at all
Honestly parts of this class were kind of difficult. The number of assignments was not insignificant and the class material was at times a bit emotionally draining. I'm glad I took the class — parts were very rewarding — just was also a bit tiring at times
Not hard, but there is some work. The professor is really really great! Its actually the class I most enjoyed at uchicago so far, and im a econ compsci major, i do not care about art or acting nun of that stuff. But now i do a little more maybe!
It wasn't particularly hard! Some weeks, the amount of assigned reading/watching could be a lot, but that was never very difficult, just time–consuming. The class meets twice a week, but Marissa assigns all the reading/viewing for the first class of the week, which means all of that work happens over the weekend.