

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 601 summer '10

Building on your comments from Qs 1-3, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.) Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses. Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes and the session activities.

A. Given the limited time frame, the amount of content that was covered was not overwhelming. In class there was adequate time to discuss the readings and the concepts. I wish I would have taken this course at the beginning of my Graduate course journey. I can see the value in having this as a foundational course for any Masters Program.

B. The readings and session activities were varied and relevant to examining one's own thinking and ways to apply learning in a teaching situation and, to some extent, in other work contexts. There was a lot of student-student interaction which contributed to deepening our thinking. Sometimes the pace felt a little slow. This was probably deliberate in order to make sure we fully explored our ideas. The amount of reading assigned seemed just right, but there could have been more variety since most focused on the K-12 teaching context. There were many written assignments, most of them reasonably short, and all of which helped us to consolidate what we learned. We had flexibility in our choice of a final paper or project, which helped to make it relevant and useful to each of us. Overall, it was an enjoyable and enriching course.

C. I came into this class with a set of expected goals; these goals were met and exceeded. The structure of the course included plenty of group discussion, and mixed group participation. We wrestled with a lot of concepts about critical thinking. We developed our ideas about observation, building reliable constructs, making assumptions, drawing inferences etc.. A discussion of strategy and application of critical thinking in the classroom was a focal point of our class. The class was unique in design we had various group discussions, a group project(which was fun!) and we accomplished some great work. Our instructor was very engaging and set-up various different types of assignments, and activities throughout the day, to increase our engagement and participation! Our reading load was intense and valuable. I will recommend this course to others. The only suggestion that I might make would be to take it before taking a Research Methods course. I think it was a unique opportunity to spend time thinking and reflecting about views.

D. sorry -not able to do this part

E. This is a great course for an graduate student interested in learning about what "good thinking" means. This course will help the student examine his/her own thinking processes, as well as how to apply critical thinking in both personal and professional settings. The way the instructor structured the course was excellent. The variety of readings, learning activities, discussions and assignments kept things stimulating and fun. The pace was perfect. There are only two things I might change. First, I would encourage the instructor to be a little more selective in choosing the assigned readings. I might consider assigning slightly fewer readings from the DM book, particularly the ones that are very focused on teaching. For someone outside the teaching profession, some of those readings seem almost irrelevant. However, the instructor did make it clear that it was up to each student to determine how much work/reading we could accomplish, and encouraged us to do our assignments well- in other words he encouraged quality over quantity which I appreciated very much. It also would have been helpful to receive feedback on all assignments, and immediately (well, not immediately but sooner). For me, I really look forward to feedback from the instructor and put more weight on it than on feedback from peers. I can see how peer feedback is sometimes helpful, but I would prefer more instructor feedback. Overall the course was excellent, exceeded my expectations, and needs almost no alterations.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 601 summer '10 Profile Report

Date Published: 09/04/2010

Response 110283052

Survey Page 0

1. Start with an evaluation of yourself

Think about your personal goals in taking this course -- Did you achieve them?

How would you have proceeded differently if you were doing this course again?

What have been your major personal obstacles to learning more from this course?

One of the major personal obstacles was trying to work while taking this course. I found that I was not able to devote as much time to the readings as I would have liked. As a result, I found that my understanding and interpretation of the readings was not as in depth as I would have liked

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week summer session course on critical thinking stimulating and productive?

I have learned that it can be done but it is also challenging. Looking back, I should have reduced my hours at work.

The Professor kept us actively engaged each class. He would have us do group projects, individual writings and then do discussions with the entire class. Although it can be difficult to keep individuals engaged for 3 hours, he did a very nice job.

2. General Evaluation of course

What was special about this course (+positive and/or -negative)?

How did the course meet or not meet your expectations?

In what ways do you think this course could be improved?

I had a very positive experience in this course. I liked the fact that it was held over 3 weeks. Since it was the only course I was taking it was easy to get back into the materials day after day.

I think the Professor did a great job and I would not recommend any improvements.

2. General evaluation (continued)

In what ways did your attitude to doing the course change through the semester?

How does it compare with other graduate courses?

What would be your overall recommendation to prospective students?

When I began the course, I was looking at it as a means to an end. I now realize that I am taking more from the class than I thought I would. I find myself looking forward to class. Comparitively, it is equal to the other CCT courses I have taken. I have found all the CCT courses I have taken to be engaging, educational and supportive.

If you would like to begin to analyze situations and thoughts, I highly recommend taking this

course. It will make you realize how much critical thinking can help in your life.

3. Evaluation in relation to the course description

Read the course description/goals below.

Comment on how well the goals expressed in the syllabus were met.

Make general and specific suggestions about how these could be better met.

This course explores issues about the nature and techniques of critical thought, viewed as a way to establish a reliable basis for our claims, beliefs, and attitudes about the world. We explore multiple perspectives, placing established facts, theories, and practices in tension with alternatives to see how things could be otherwise. Views about observation and interpretation, reasoning and inference, valuing and judging, and the production of knowledge in its social context are considered. Special attention is given to translating what is learned into strategies, materials, and interventions for use in students' own educational and professional settings.

I feel the goals were met. We studied on each of the topics listed above.

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

Building on your comments from Qs 1-3, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.)

Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses.

Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes and the session activities.

Given the limited time frame, the amount of content that was covered was not overwhelming. In class there was adequate time to discuss the readings and the concepts.

I wish I would have taken this course at the beginning of my Graduate course journey. I can see the value in having this as a foundational course for any Masters Program.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 601 summer '10 Profile Report

Date Published: 09/04/2010

Response 110403508

Survey Page 0

1. Start with an evaluation of yourself

**Think about your personal goals in taking this course -- Did you achieve them?
How would you have proceeded differently if you were doing this course again?
What have been your major personal obstacles to learning more from this course?**

To apply critical thinking in a teaching context and in a research context.
I did not encounter obstacles to learning from the course.

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week summer session course on critical thinking stimulating and productive?

It helps to minimize other responsibilities during that time. It also helps to start the reading before the course begins. It would have been very difficult to take two summer courses simultaneously or to work more than minimally during that time.

2. General Evaluation of course

**What was special about this course (+positive and/or -negative)?
How did the course meet or not meet your expectations?
In what ways do you think this course could be improved?**

The instructor used a variety of teaching techniques, keeping the course interesting. We had a small group of students who all worked well together.
For students who are not teachers or who do not plan to become teachers, there may have been too much emphasis on teaching. That was not a problem for me. However, I expected more of an emphasis on philosophy when I read the course description. For our group, it seemed like the down to earth nature of the course worked well.

2. General evaluation (continued)

**In what ways did your attitude to doing the course change through the semester?
How does it compare with other graduate courses?
What would be your overall recommendation to prospective students?**

I focused more on teaching than I had expected. This was much less research-heavy than many other graduate courses I have taken. I would recommend the course to students who want to think about their own thinking or about teaching thinking in any educational environment or who want to apply their learning at work.

3. Evaluation in relation to the course description

Read the course description/goals below.

Comment on how well the goals expressed in the syllabus were met.

Make general and specific suggestions about how these could be better met.

This course explores issues about the nature and techniques of critical thought, viewed as a way to establish a reliable basis for our claims, beliefs, and attitudes about the world. We explore multiple perspectives, placing established facts, theories, and practices in tension with alternatives to see how things could be otherwise. Views about observation and interpretation, reasoning and inference, valuing and judging, and the production of knowledge in its social context are considered. Special attention is given to translating what is learned into strategies, materials, and interventions for use in students' own educational and professional settings.

The course description sounds more like a course in philosophy while the course texts were primarily about teaching, particularly in the k-12 context. If the course is taught in the same way again, the description should reference teaching.

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

Building on your comments from Qs 1-3, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.)

Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses.

Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes and the session activities.

The readings and session activities were varied and relevant to examining one's own thinking and ways to apply learning in a teaching situation and, to some extent, in other work contexts. There was a lot of student-student interaction which contributed to deepening our thinking. Sometimes the pace felt a little slow. This was probably deliberate in order to make sure we fully explored our ideas. The amount of reading assigned seemed just right, but there could have been more variety since most focused on the k-12 teaching context. There were many written assignments, most of them reasonably short, and all of which helped us to consolidate what we learned. We had flexibility in our choice of a final paper or project, which helped to make it relevant and useful to each of us. Overall, it was an enjoyable and enriching course.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 601 summer '10 Profile Report

Date Published: 09/04/2010

Response 110512616

Survey Page 0

1. Start with an evaluation of yourself

Think about your personal goals in taking this course -- Did you achieve them?

How would you have proceeded differently if you were doing this course again?

What have been your major personal obstacles to learning more from this course?

My initial goal was to learn some methods to infuse critical thinking into designing a curriculum for my Master's Project. This goal was achieved, and additional personal learning was achieved.

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week summer session course on critical thinking stimulating and productive?

I learned that I would need to immerse myself in the course, which I did. I broke all but one social engagement(my moms' birthday party) in order to spend enough time reading, reflecting, and writing papers!

2. General Evaluation of course

What was special about this course (+positive and/or -negative)?

How did the course meet or not meet your expectations?

In what ways do you think this course could be improved?

This course met, and exceeded my expectations for self-learning, and to meet my goal of learning more about teaching critical thinking. I think the course had great diversity in assignments and creative approaches to keeping our interest on long hot summer days!! Kudos to Jeremy for design and flexibility.

2. General evaluation (continued)

In what ways did your attitude to doing the course change through the semester?

How does it compare with other graduate courses?

What would be your overall recommendation to prospective students?

I gained more than I originally thought I would. I thought that the reading assignments were intense, but I don't know how learning could have been achieved without the requirements. In comparison to other graduate courses I would say that all elements of this course can be applicable to various aspects of life; whereas other graduate courses might have portions of a course which are not really applicable to your work, but need to be learned. My overall recommendation to others would be to take this course, but perhaps it might have more value if it preceded a Research Method Course, within your field.

3. Evaluation in relation to the course description

Read the course description/goals below.

Comment on how well the goals expressed in the syllabus were met.

Make general and specific suggestions about how these could be better met.

This course explores issues about the nature and techniques of critical thought, viewed as a way to establish a reliable basis for our claims, beliefs, and attitudes about the world. We explore multiple perspectives, placing established facts, theories, and practices in tension with alternatives to see how things could be otherwise. Views about observation and interpretation, reasoning and inference, valuing and judging, and the production of knowledge in its social context are considered. Special attention is given to translating what is learned into strategies, materials, and interventions for use in students' own educational and professional settings.

I feel that each of the above mentioned goals and objectives were achieved. This was a very intense period of time and my frame of reference has changed because of it. The only suggestion I might make would be that we had a room with a view, I think perhaps being cooped up in a room without windows etc.. was a little difficult.

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

Building on your comments from Qs 1-3, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.)

Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses.

Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes and the session activities.

I came into this class with a set of expected goals; these goals were met and exceeded. The structure of the course included plenty of group discussion, and mixed group participation. We wrestled with a lot of concepts about critical thinking. We developed our ideas about observation, building reliable constructs, making assumptions, drawing inferences etc.. A discussion of strategy and application of critical thinking in the classroom was a focal point of our class.

The class was unique in design we had various group discussions, a group project(which was fun!) and we accomplished some great work. Our instructor was very engaging and set-up various different types of assignments, and activities throughout the day, to increase our engagement and participation! Our reading load was intense and valuable. I will recommend this course to others. The only suggestion that I might make would be to take it before taking a Research Methods course. I think it was a unique opportunity to spend time thinking and reflecting about views.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 601 summer '10 Profile Report

Date Published: 09/04/2010

Response 110837959

Survey Page 0

1. Start with an evaluation of yourself

**Think about your personal goals in taking this course -- Did you achieve them?
How would you have proceeded differently if you were doing this course again?
What have been your major personal obstacles to learning more from this course?**

this course was very productive-i was concerned about an extensive 3 week class but it went well

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week summer session course on critical thinking stimulating and productive?

I learned to stop worrying and take a chance

2. General Evaluation of course

**What was special about this course (+positive and/or -negative)?
How did the course meet or not meet your expectations?
In what ways do you think this course could be improved?**

positive
time flew because professor kept us so busy
group project was not overwhelming and additional time for final paper is appreciated

2. General evaluation (continued)

**In what ways did your attitude to doing the course change through the semester?
How does it compare with other graduate courses?
What would be your overall recommendation to prospective students?**

started reluctantly but realized course is important as a major in CRCRTH program
I learned as well as in a semester long course

yes i would offer this course

3. Evaluation in relation to the course description

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Comment on how well the goals expressed in the syllabus were met.

Make general and specific suggestions about how these could be better met.

This course explores issues about the nature and techniques of critical thought, viewed as a way to establish a reliable basis for our claims, beliefs, and attitudes about the world. We explore multiple perspectives, placing established facts, theories, and practices in tension with alternatives to see how things could be otherwise. Views about

observation and interpretation, reasoning and inference, valuing and judging, and the production of knowledge in its social context are considered. Special attention is given to translating what is learned into strategies, materials, and interventions for use in students' own educational and professional settings.

the syllabus was very specific and concrete
we meet all goals

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

Building on your comments from Qs 1-3, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.)

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sorry -not able to do this part

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 601 summer '10 Profile Report

Date Published: 09/04/2010

Response 110864504

Survey Page 0

1. Start with an evaluation of yourself

Think about your personal goals in taking this course -- Did you achieve them?

How would you have proceeded differently if you were doing this course again?

What have been your major personal obstacles to learning more from this course?

For me personally it was difficult to complete the required daily readings. Having the class meet everyday made that difficult, so I guess I would have had NOTHING else on my schedule for the 3 weeks, but that is not a realistic possibility for most people.

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week summer session course on critical thinking stimulating and productive?

The course was stimulating and productive. The instructor planned a good mix of discussions, games, free-writing activities, and other things that broke up the time nicely and helped us look at things in various ways.

2. General Evaluation of course

What was special about this course (+positive and/or -negative)?

How did the course meet or not meet your expectations?

In what ways do you think this course could be improved?

+course exceeded my expectations: thought it would be dry or dull- I was wrong!
+small class size was great
+instructor was great- accepted feedback and participated in the process w/us
+variety of assignments and activities
-slightly heavy on the reading expectations
-slightly skewed towards education/teachers, so some way of adjusting the reading materials to include more general material as opposed to mainly education-based material...?

2. General evaluation (continued)

In what ways did your attitude to doing the course change through the semester?

How does it compare with other graduate courses?

What would be your overall recommendation to prospective students?

I was more open to differing viewpoints of peers and instructor.
This course was clearly an important course for students of all professions, and I could see this course as a valuable requirement for a variety of majors.

3. Evaluation in relation to the course description

Read the course description/goals below.

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The course description seems accurate to me.

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

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This is a great course for an graduate student interested in learning about what "good thinking" means. This course will help the student examine his/her own thinking processes, as well as how to apply critical thinking in both personal and professional settings. The way the instructor structured the course was excellent. The variety of readings, learning activities, discussions and assignments kept things stimulating and fun. The pace was perfect.

There are only two things I might change. First, I would encourage the instructor to be a little more selective in choosing the assigned readings. I might consider assigning slightly fewer readings from the DM book, particularly the ones that are very focused on teaching. For someone outside the teaching profession, some of those readings seem almost irrelevant. However, the instructor did make it clear that it was up to each student to determine how much work/reading we could accomplish, and encouraged us to do our assignments well- in other words he encouraged quality over quantity which I appreciated very much.

It also would have been helpful to receive feedback on all assignments, and immediately (well, not immediately but sooner). For me, I really look forward to feedback from the instructor and put more weight on it than on feedback from peers. I can see how peer feedback is sometimes helpful, but I would prefer more instructor feedback. Overall the course was excellent, exceeded my expectations, and needs almost no alterations.