

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 619 Summer '10 online

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, the session activities, and the use of web-based technology to support the learning in the course.

A. This class not only offers an innovative way of learning through its completely online sessions, it also challenges individuals to look at moral dilemmas through different lenses therefore leading to creative approaches to solve difficult issues we currently face and will face. The professor also is highly encouraging, gives good guidance/structure and is prompt in responding to student's questions or concerns.

B. This course is very intense in that you will need to have time set aside to get the post discussions finished in a timely manner. The other students will be very friendly and will make the experience enjoyable. Mark, the instructor is very helpfull and the online verbal discussion through skype et al are worthwhile. This was a very thought provoking class.

C. This class moves quickly! There are times when the readings don't take too long, then others in which there is not enough time to reflect upon new information before posting. However, the questions for posting have a very clear point and origin and help in formulating your response. This class will allow you to gain some confidence in your writing and digestion of information. I found it better to not read others posts while wiring my own, instead wanting to ensure that my thoughts were uninfluenced and innate. However others would reference each others posts in their responses and did effectively manage to dive deeper which was great. I think it allows you to figure out what would work best for you. The wiki is extremely well organized and easy to navigate. Posting was easy. And i found later in the class I would use the wiki to revisit work or concepts presented in various posts. It was great. Also the use of chatterous and skype brought us together. We had two synchronized sessions in three weeks!

D. For the course Biomedical Ethics as taught by Mark Robinson , and the fact that this is my second course taken in Critical and Creative Thinking I would highly recommend the class to other prospective students considering this class. I would add that if it was offered in another time span; other than the three week concentrated session, to take it in a longer session. This course is loaded with content that truely develops a student's critical thinking skills and taking it in a longer less concentrated session would give the student more time and opportunity for absorbing and reflecting on the class work. I would also suggest that the student make as much time in their schedule as possible to dedicate to this class and engage in as much group discussion as possible.

E. The course was well designed and effective. The readings were selected thoughtfully. The instructor's discussion post questions were designed in a way that allowed each student a measure of flexibility which was appreciated. The instructor's feedback was excellent. All students could have made a better effort of considering and responding to each other. I should have done a better job of that, myself. The time schedule was fast-paced and demanding, but it is doable. One suggestion could be the inclusion of some podcast mini-lectures. At times, I felt that we were not benefiting 100% from the expert-resource of our instructor. I wonder if there is a way that brief, audio podcasts of the instructor could be incorporated in some meaningful way. All in all, a very good course. Well done.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 619 Summer '10 online Profile Report

Date Published: 08/31/2010

Response 109883346

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?

I think my personal goal for this class was to gain a better idea of how to dissect ethical dilemmas in medicine and I believed I did achieve this goal. I wish I had more time to not only read the articles but time to process it.

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week online course about biomedical ethics stimulating and productive?

I think being able to comment on other peer's post and being able to interact and "pick their brain" was very helpful and forced me to evaluate my own perspectives.

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 think the fact that the course was completely online was very unique! (in a good way) It met my expectations as the professor gave good guidance/direction and peers challenged/stimulated me.

I would have liked to have seen more detailed case studies and have everyone weight in and explain their rationale to foster critical thinking.

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 excited about the course at the beginning and I think my attitude towards the course improved as I realized despite the intensity of a 3 week course and the highly philosophical readings I was really getting a better grasp on how to approach ethically challenging issues.

It is similar in the amount of work required as compared to my other graduate level courses.

I would highly recommend this course to other prospective students as it offers a novel and unique way to learn and forces one to delve deeply to figure out why one thinks a certain way.

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 develops students' critical thinking about dilemmas in medicine and health care policy, such as those that arise around allocation of scarce resources, criteria for organ transplants, informed consent, experimentation on human subjects, AIDS research, embryo research and selective termination of pregnancy, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide. Through such cases the course introduces methods in moral reasoning, rights-based reasoning, decision-making under uncertainty, and utilitarianism in classic and contemporary normative reasoning. This course will take an approach towards biomedical ethics that is heavily informed by empirical ethics and situation-based approaches to ethical considerations of biomedicine and technology.

I think the goals expressed in the syllabus were met from day one; I think if the course had been a little bit longer, we could have generated more detailed dialogue, which would have been beneficial.

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, the session activities, and the use of web-based technology to support the learning in the course.

This class not only offers an innovative way of learning through its completely online sessions, it also challenges individuals to look at moral dilemmas through different lenses therefore leading to creative approaches to solve difficult issues we currently face and will face. The professor also is highly encouraging, gives good guidance/structure and is prompt in responding to student's questions or concerns.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 619 Summer '10 online Profile Report

Date Published: 08/31/2010

Response 110833710

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?

Time constraints were the major obstacle in this course

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week online course about biomedical ethics stimulating and productive?

READ, READ and READ

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?

It was a positive experience, overall.

The collaborative project could be worked out a little differently - other students had opposing schedules/timelines to work with

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?

It waned a little toward the final post discussion

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.

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biomedical ethics that is heavily informed by empirical ethics and situation-based approached to ethical considerations of biomedicine and technology.

This course gave students a very open forum to discuss their views.

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

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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, the session activities, and the use of web-based technology to support the learning in the course.

This course is very intense in that you will need to have time set aside to get the post discussions finished in a timely manner. The other students will be very friendly and will make the experience enjoyable. Mark, the instructor is very helpfull and the online verbal discussion through skype et al are worthwhile. This was a very thought provoking class.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 619 Summer '10 online Profile Report

Date Published: 08/31/2010

Response 110835241

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 was a very intense course for me. I struggled with getting into the biomedical ethics mindset at the beginning - stuck a little more in the philosophy frame. I could have better prepared myself by introducing myself into the concepts for a reminder of the specificity of content.

However my goals were to stretch my thinking, analyze and identify assumptions in my thinking and learn new reference content to different aspects of biomedical ethics. I do feel I reached those goals.

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week online course about biomedical ethics stimulating and productive?

It was actually very stimulating! It was my first online course and I thought it would have been hard to connect with my fellow students without a face:face. However because we posted everything I feel I have a better understanding of thier thoughts and experiences with the topics presented - maybe even more than if I just had a face:face class. I learned a lot from their posts as I read their interpretations of readings.

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?

Special:
sharing of information on the wiki

meet expectations:
organized, well thought out readings

not met:
I think overall my expectations were met. However I would have appreciated more communication around the second synchronous session - I wasn't sure we were on chacterous and would not have gone unless a classmate of mine emailed me as she found out from another. Though that may have been a miscommunication on my part? In the end I got there and all was 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?

My attitude got 'better' as I became comfortable with the content and posting style. It's intimidating to me to have to post originally and share work. And because the wiki shows the number of times a post is viewed - I got even more nervous as some of my posts had many views. However as modules went on, more posts were viewed and I got more comfortable with it.

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.

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The course met the goals.

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

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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, the session activities, and the use of web-based technology to support the learning in the course.

This class moves quickly! There are times when the readings don't take too long, then others in which there is not enough time to reflect upon new information before posting. However, the questions for posting have a very clear point and origin and help in formulating your response.

This class will allow you to gain some confidence in your writing and digestion of information. I found it better to not read others posts while writing my own, instead wanting to ensure that my thoughts were uninfluenced and innate. However others would reference each others posts in their responses and did effectively manage to dive deeper which was great. I think it allows you to figure out what would work best for you.

The wiki is extremely well organized and easy to navigate. Posting was easy. And i found later in the class I would use the wiki to revisit work or concepts presented in various posts. It was great. Also the use of chatterous and skype brought us together. We had two synchronized sessions in three weeks!

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 619 Summer '10 online Profile Report

Date Published: 08/31/2010

Response 110959053

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 was my first online course and I was skeptical at first but I quite enjoyed it. Some feedback I would give would be to perhaps do a group walk-through of the wiki and the course information before any of the real work begins as a way of calibrating the group. My only personal obstacle with taking the course was my work life, if I was able to work less hours in my job I feel I could have absorbed and contributed more. In spite of being tardy on some of the due dates, I did achieve my goals and am very appreciative of the fact that the professor was willing to be flexible and work with me due to my work schedule.

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week online course about biomedical ethics stimulating and productive?

Nothing was wrong with the class or the content, it was explained that it was going to be an aggressive schedule and that it would be important to keep up with the readings and postings. The material presented was excellent!

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 really don't see any way for the course to be improved. This was my first online course and I actually like it better than face to face classes. It was great being able to go back and refer to other students and the professors' thoughts and comments. I would comment on the consistency of shared information, there were some discrepancies between syllabus version 6, version 7 and what was on the wiki. Faster replies from the professor in the "ask the teacher" section of the wiki would have been more helpful because of the pace of the class.

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 would recommend this class to other students and thought the professor (Mark Robinson) was excellent. I have only one other class to compare it to but I am very happy with both classes, my attitude changed from skepticism of an on-line course to wishing all courses could be online.

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.

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I really have no constructive criticisms here. The content of the class work the exchanges between to the students and professor more than covered the description and goals of this class.

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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Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes, the session activities, and the use of web-based technology to support the learning in the course.

For the course Biomedical Ethics as taught by Mark Robinson , and the fact that this is my second course taken in Critical and Creative Thinking I would highly recommend the class to other prospective students considering this class. I would add that if it was offered in another time span; other than the three week concentrated session, to take it in a longer session. This course is loaded with content that truly develops a student's critical thinking skills and taking it in a longer less concentrated session would give the student more time and opportunity for absorbing and reflecting on the class work. I would also suggest that the student make as much time in their schedule as possible to dedicate to this class and engage in as much group discussion as possible.

Anonymous end-of-semester evaluation of CrCrTh 619 Summer '10 online Profile Report

Date Published: 08/31/2010

Response 113565900

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 goals in this course were to explore topics that interested me while developing my creative and critical thinking skills. Yes, I achieved my goals. If I was doing the course again, I would make a stronger effort to provide feedback to all of my classmates. The pace on the course made that difficult, but I regret it because it seems that a good deal of learning and reflecting was "left on the table" for both myself and my classmates.

1. Self-evaluation (continued)

What have you learned about what you have to do to make a 3-week online course about biomedical ethics stimulating and productive?

Well, of course you have to be 100% committed to the class and dive right in without any hesitation. I received the two textbooks one month before the start of the class and read them both. That was a wonderful way to get introduced in a relaxed, non-directed way. The ideas were stirring around in my head when the course began, so I was able to hit the ground running. Then, when I read the assigned readings in the context of the course and the discussion-post questions, I could synthesize my ideas more thoughtfully. I would recommend that strategy to anyone taking a 3-week course.

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 was great. Mark Robinson did a superb job of selecting the readings which complimented each other brilliantly. The modules flowed very nicely in a logical series. Mark did a great job of establishing social presence in the course. His feedback was timely, thoughtful, and valuable in pushing our thinking forward. This course absolutely met my expectations. However, the 3 week time frame is a serious challenge. It was an intense schedule of reading, writing, reflecting, reading classmates posts, and responding to them. Of course, that comes with the territory of an accelerated course, so I'm not complaining. That's what I signed on for. But, I can't help but imagine what those 9 modules could have been if the course was 6 or even 9 weeks long. With more time to reflect and engage the other students, it could have been even better.

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?

My attitude was positive, engaged, and enthusiastic for the whole time. It was a sprint from start to finish. Invigorating!

Compared to other courses, it was right with the others. This was my fifth CCT course and I have been very pleased with the quality of all of them.

I would recommend this course to anyone without hesitation. It was enjoyable and I learned a lot.

3. Evaluation in relation to the course description

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

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spot on

4. Synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs)

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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, the session activities, and the use of web-based technology to support the learning in the course.

The course was well designed and effective. The readings were selected thoughtfully. The instructor's discussion post questions were designed in a way that allowed each student a measure of flexibility which was appreciated. The instructor's feedback was excellent. All students could have made a better effort of considering and responding to each other. I should have done a better job of that, myself. The time schedule was fast-paced and demanding, but it is doable. One suggestion could be the inclusion of some podcast mini-lectures. At times, I felt that we were not benefiting 100% from the expert-resource of our instructor. I wonder if there is a way that brief, audio podcasts of the instructor could be incorporated in some meaningful way. All in all, a very good course. Well done.