

**CrCrTh 694 Synthesis of Theory and Practice, Spring 2019**  
**Students' Synthetic Statements, from the Final Course Evaluation**

*The synthetic statement is the fourth question on formal course evaluations for the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program. See questions 1-3 listed on <http://bit.ly/CCTEval>*

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Question 4: "Building on your comments from Questions 1-3 in the formal evaluation, 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 mentors to support the learning in the course."

Below are the Synthetic Statements from the respondents who gave permission for these comments to be shared on the web.

- This is an excellent course if you are ready to take on some kind of project or learning experience in a comprehensive, revision-heavy way. Through this process, you will be simultaneously challenged and supported to stretch your thinking and processes of engagement as you develop whatever it is you want to achieve.
- This course will guide you through an emotional and educational journey. You will learn to be introspective and your assumptions will be challenged.
- This course allows students to put to work all the skills developed over their time in CCT in a project that impacts their lives and others. The synthesized project serves as a platform for future development, growth and change. Although projects are individualized the support of classmates provides a sense of not being alone on the journey.
- I believe that taking this course and especially with this specific instructor that anyone will feel confident and comfortable in this course. The way in which Bobby helps us can innovate us all in so many ways. He has brought me in so many ways feel proud of my accomplishments and feeling successful toward everything I do. I climbed over so many obstacles in my life and without saying much it is like Bobby knew who I was. Astonishment came to be in having him as a professor. I never had a professor much like Bobby before. He is a kind and gentle soul that brought out the best in me and my story of perseverance (as he says) I gladly would lend my hand out in thanking him for just being himself and using his own method of teaching for all of us to learn from. Furthermore, I did mention previously that I thought there could be extra assignments just for us to keep on track with our progress throughout the semester. There were some assignments but I think myself and others could have benefited from more. I felt lost a few times throughout the semester and found myself at the end of the week asking myself ""What productivity have I put in this course this week?"" and ""What else could I have done to reaching a more efficient paper at the end of the semester?"" Otherwise, the people in this course and the professor did help in ways designing our thoughts to bring forth a great end to the program in focusing on a synthesis that meets our goals and aspirations within our lives and workplaces.
- This course can be illuminating and transformative if you let it be. Students are free to choose projects that 'let their life speak,' and so by choosing a project that gets to the heart of your passions, by the end of the course you will feel that you have reached the first landmark in a

journey you have set out for yourself on a path toward living according to your passions and calling. The course can also provide for you a support system that will not only help you develop your project but that will enrich you as a human being. Embrace the support structure of this class with an open mind and heart and the experience can feel life-changing.

- This class is the chamois that buffs the surface smooth and shiny. It's a deliberate and intense process, but not as potentially up-ending as other classes may be that are full of new material and differing sets of expectations. (I've come to understand that feeling up-ended is an experience that signifies the changes that higher education makes in a person's life) For Capstone Synthesis, since much learning, exposure to TYSS 692 and PAR 693 writing methods, and group familiarity is now firmly present, the desire shifts from doing assignments to creating something completely of one's own. Here is the opportunity to choose from beyond the topics we may have worked on before. It's the opportunity to choose one's constraints and deal with them as the idea asks. An example of constraints: in one class there might be a required writing submission of only ten pages where the point needs to be made succinct, versus a longer composition that can expand on the topic and use more approaches- narratives, juxtapositions, historical data, so on. There are so many elements of the synthesis paper that can be consciously designed, making the product a true reflection of the individual student.
- The course of the synthesis of theory and practice has transformed my personal and professional development; it has stimulated my reflections on my interest and personal knowledge.