
WGSS 367: Feminist Disability Studies (CRN 44691)

Survey response 1

Response ID

1

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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Dr. Paul had so many great aspects to their teaching. They were flexible and understanding to accommodate the extremely difficult conditions of an online class while living through a pandemic. They also made our class accessible to everyone's needs so they could learn best with captions, screen readers, recorded lectures, and nonverbal communication allowed. These really should be the basic standard, but usually aren't and Dr. Paul made sure to do exactly what our class was about in breaking down barriers to access for all of us whether we're typically considered disabled or not. They also delivered all of the content in an engaging way through their power points and I liked being able to discuss our readings in small groups.

What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

My only critique to improve the course is to more quickly redirect students who ask questions that should be done in one on one communication with Dr. Paul over email or zoom. We just had one student who repeatedly did this and took up a lot of our discussion time.

Other comments:

Dr. Paul is a great professor and would be an asset to Western's faculty!!
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Survey response 2

Response ID

2

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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I felt that the instructor took their time, which was great because it allowed for every student to be on the same page with one another.

What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

while I think reading chapters of books is great, I also would have loved to spend the entire quarter reading one or two books, and really dive in and focus on the main point of one of the many authors we read.
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Other comments:

online learning is hard, but I really appreciate how flexible you have been throughout the quarter! I also like that you share personal components about your life, because it allows for students to build foundations with you rather than building a wall between the student/instructor relationship.

Survey response 3

Response ID

3

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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I loved the lectures and the multiple movies that we watched! I learned a lot through people who identify as disabled talking about their personal experiences, as well as the many different pictures and visuals used in the PowerPoints.

What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

None I can think of!

Other comments:

Survey response 4

Response ID

4

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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I felt the teaching style was really great, the content was very informative and useful, and I loved the course!
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

I cannot think of any changes.

Other comments:

I felt the class was very informative and Dr. Abustan is a brilliant instructor! I will be taking another class with Dr. Abustan, because they share really important content and are an absolutely fantastic instructor.

Survey response 5

Response ID

5

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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First and foremost, I want to say this was the best class I have ever taken at WWU. It was engaging, accessible, brilliantly structured, and done in a way I wish more professors at WWU followed. The content was challenging and always left me wanting to further challenge myself academically and no other class has ever expanded my mindset the way this one has. This class was incredibly collaborative, both between Dr. Abustan and us and between fellow classmates. Dr. Abustan always made sure we felt accepted in this course and spoke with us as colleagues in a way that showed their true respect for us and our learning, which I personally greatly appreciated. They also did a great job at mediating class discussions and ensuring we all felt our voices and contributions were heard by the entire class.

What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

I wouldn't. No other class I've taken has genuinely been molded to the needs of each individual student to this caliber and this is the most accessible class I have experienced. There is nothing I would change about Dr. Abustan's teaching.

Other comments:

Dr. Abustan would make an excellent contribution to the full-time faculty here at WWU and I hope to have the chance to continue to work with them during my time here. I fully believe opting to not offer Dr. Abustan a tenure contract would be doing an immense disservice to their students as well as the campus as a whole. I also fully believe Dr. Abustan sets an impeccable example for how accessibility at WWU should be; WWU historically is an inaccessible campus and too many professors refuse to be accommodating to their students. When I learned just how accessible Dr. Abustan was, it genuinely felt like a massive weight off my shoulders knowing I wouldn't need to worry about getting a lesser grade because of a professor who ignores accessibility. WWU already has a severe lack of Disability Studies courses, and I know there is a committee working tirelessly to fix this, but Dr. Abustan would a fantastic next step in establishing a Disability Studies program.
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To whoever decides which potential professors are offered contracts, don't let us down. Dr. Abustan deserves a spot at WWU.

Survey response 6

Response ID

6

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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Dr.P provided stability, comfort, and educational stimulation to her students. They took time to make sure we understood material, and he made it very clear that the content we were learning was applicable in all situations. I have gained most from their class then any other Class here at western, the professor is the reason for that.
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

N/a

Other comments:

I hope to see this professor becomes a long term teacher here at western. More professors should strive to be like them.
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Survey response 7

Response ID

7

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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I thought that Dr. Abustan's class was amazing. A few aspects of their teaching that made this class amazing are how open, vulnerable, understanding, and brilliant they are. This course was amazing because it really challenged me to think differently about myself and other around me regarding feminism and disability studies.
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The course readings were all very relevant and helped me gain a deeper understanding of what feminist disability studies means to me.

What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

I think aspects of this course that could be improved is a location on canvas for a comprehensive list of assignments and links. The google docs for each week were helpful and organized, but I found myself having to search for the links to the shared notes google doc. That's all :-)

Other comments:

Dr. Paul is AMAZING!!!! I have never had a professor like them. Going in to this class, my knowledge of disability and accessibility was limited. Dr. P created a space where my classmates and I felt comfortable having very personal discussions about their disabilities or experiences with disability. I learned so much from this class. Dr. P is a huge asset to Western's faculty - they have expansive knowledge in their field, and I really couldn't say more amazing things about them.
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Survey response 8

Response ID

8

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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The content was very thorough and sparked a lot of good discussion. The movies were an excellent way to learn and helped with the overall stress of workload.

What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

Other comments:

Survey response 9

Response ID

9

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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To be honest this has to be my favorite class this quarter. From the lectures to the assignments, was well organized and the professor made time for us to discuss and ask clarifying question the reading. i really appreciated that the professor understood clip time, and she always made sure we had time to work on due assignments before time. I wish we had more professors like her

What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

I really enjoyed this class overall, she knew how to keep time and made time for in class discussions and question, including office hours.

Other comments:

I hope to take another class with you next quarter :)

Survey response 10

Response ID

10

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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Professor Abustan is an excellent instructor. Their understanding of disability studies was clearly visible in the care and intentionality of their course design. They communicated clear expectations for assignments, provided a wide range of sources to encourage learning and critical analysis, and offered supportive feedback. For example, they adjusted the collective note taking structure based on student use and needs and I appreciated having had to submit my quotes/analysis to the google docs when writing my final paper. I greatly enjoyed this course and their teaching helped me imagine new possibilities and directions for my studies.
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

I am interested in disability justice and have previously spent time on my own learning about some of the core concepts in disability studies. Because of this, I was sometimes disappointed that in an upper level course our class discussions were not able to move deeper into the complexity I found in the readings and Professor Abustan's lectures. I don't see this as a failure of Professor Abustan or my classmates, but a limitation that comes from not having more disability studies courses. Being an upper level WGSS course meant that we all had familiarity with WGSS concepts but not necessarily disability theory. Because of this, sometimes I would see myself or other classmates ask questions that the class as a whole could not fully engage with because we needed to spend more time on foundational concepts of feminist disability studies.
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Other comments:
