
WGSS 213: Intro to Queer & Sxltly Studies (CRN 12311)

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?
I liked how open and understanding the teacher was. They never forced people to talked/ answer questions and was always excited to hear others opinions.
What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?
I would not make any changes. I did not really like sharing with the big group but I do not see a problem with it.
Other comments:
None

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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Everything was amazing, I learned so much from this class. Normally lectures are very hard for me to sit and listen to but the Doctor made it so captivating I was always focused. I felt like what I was learning was important, not just things to memorize and spit back out, everything was impactful, every lesson and quote had meaning and power behind it. I felt safe in this class, I felt included and represented. I have disabilities and because of the set up of the class and course were so accessibility friendly I never felt like I was different, everyone had the same accommodations I normally have to beg teachers to let me use. I really thrived in this class and environment!
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

Personally, I think it would be helpful to spend days in the beginning and once a month on just relationship building. It's hard to make connections over zoom and in the past, I have found that taking days to prioritize relationships in class really helps everyone participate and learn. Even if it's just class Kahoot days or cheesy introductions, it helps a lot.
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Other comments:

This was my favorite class from Western so far. I hope everyone has a chance to have Dr. Paul in their life. Dr. is so so so impactful and really made me feel like I can succeed in this world.
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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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Most organized teacher i've had, very passionate about the topics covered in class and did a very good job explaining it, helped me multiple times during office hours or after class, great energy, cares so much about everyone.
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

Nothing

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?

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

Other comments:

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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The weekly lectures I feel were well put together and the layout of the course was well organized. I also really enjoyed the [fun] weekly discussion posts, and the collaborative Google Doc was a new style of teaching for me but I enjoyed it. I liked being able to see everyone in the classroom's thoughts written down and it provided easy to access to content material for later reference. It was easy to navigate and know what assignments are due, and what content we would be discussing each week (and daily).

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

I liked the teaching style and content of this course! The only changes perhaps I could suggest be made would be maybe do less small group work (since it's over Zoom and people were less chatty) or a more guided/directed style of teaching within the small groups. Perhaps written prompts or specific question we had to discuss/answer would've been helpful.
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Other comments:

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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The class atmosphere was casual and accepting, and the information/modules were outlined in an easy to understand manner. There was a good balance of academic materials and community-based content.

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

In the future, it could be made more clear that quotes should be recorded with the intention of supporting a thesis later down the line.
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Other comments:

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 really enjoyed the PowerPoints and the videos that we watched in class. Really helped me understand the topics my group had assigned that week. I also really liked being able to collaborate with my group mates and share our thoughts. I also really appreciated the way Dr. Paul divided the reading work amongst the different groups. It was helpful in terms of homework load because it would've been tricky to read all those chapters on our own.

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

I don't think I would change anything except for maybe the guidelines for the essays because they were just a little confusing to me and I didn't really understand what they wanted in the essay, but that might just be me.

Other comments:

Dr. P was an amazing professor. Definitely one of my favorite professors I've ever had in my almost 2 years of college so far. They were really accommodating and understanding and she made the class really interesting.
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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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I liked the breaking up of the types of content, with lecturing one day, reading another, and watching videos the other. I like the way we don't have to actually speak in class, and can instead talk in zoom chat or just fill out the weeks google doc. I also love that extensions are provided on assignments sometimes.

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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Very understanding, and worked really well with my accommodations. Loved the class structure and teaching style. Had a very kind and compassionate approach.
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

No participation grades.

Other comments:

This professor is probably the best professor I've ever had! I really enjoyed this class, and learning from them.

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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I felt that the focus on BIPOC queer communities throughout the quarter was particularly good. It really helped to ground the research and theory in other social justice issues and illustrate how they connect so deeply.

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

I feel that making the lectures more engaging for the students would help people feel more involved and comfortable sharing. As much as Dr. Abustan tried at some points to encourage student participation, I think many felt overwhelmed by the way topics were presented and hesitated to interact with others because of that. Given that the majority of the class was white and many were also freshman, lots of important content was shared without much chance to explore and integrate it beyond the class. If lectures had built in discussion components and connected more directly with the readings I think we would have been more inclined to participate. The thesis prompt for the papers was very challenging and very theoretic, which has its place, but for me felt really limiting in the way I wanted to engage with the mid-term and final papers. I would have appreciated a bit more flexibility, especially because Dr. Abustan was so ready to be a support for everyone. Another thing that comes to mind is having an introduction to citing sources the way Dr. Abustan was looking for. Not everyone has equal knowledge and experience with citing academic sources especially for YouTube videos, live lectures, and podcasts multiple times a week. Having an introduction to those specifics, even if it was just 15 minute examples near the beginning of the quarter, would have helped to get everyone on the same page.

Other comments:

I think Dr. Abustan is an incredibly sweet and knowledgeable professor. I really appreciated his openness and ability to welcome everyone, meeting them where they're at in each moment.
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Survey response 11

Response ID

11

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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Dr. Abustan created such a safe space for all of us to connect and share our thoughts and I loved how accommodating they were and how helpful they were and you could really tell that they want you to succeed in their class and have fun.
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

Other comments:

Dr. Abustan is a phenomenal professor and we are so lucky to have them at our University and this was the most relaxed I've felt in a class during my experience so far at Western and I recommend every student take one of their classes! Or just a women and gender studies class in general as this subject is great.

Survey response 12

Response ID

12

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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They were very considerate and helpful. I liked the group notes.
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

I feel like they used a lot of material and I never fully understood it if it wasn't directly assigned to me.

Other comments:

I did not particularly like the weekly discussion posts, I feel like it never truly helped me with anything.
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Survey response 13

Response ID

13

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 like we covered a great number of things and not just focused on one particular subject. Great readings, films, and great at making learning enjoyable and fun.
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What changes could be made to improve the teaching or the content of this course?

I think this class went by so smoothly because it was structured and organized. No need for changes.
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Other comments:

Enjoyed the class very much!

Survey response 14

Response ID

14

Western Course Evaluation

What aspects of the teaching or content of this course do you feel were especially good?
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The professor was amazing. I felt comfortable participating, but also, felt safe to choose not to participate (verbally). I learned a lot in this class, and the way the class was formatted/ laid out, I felt like I got the most of my education.

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

I thought having both a final presentation and a final paper was a bit on the heavier side in terms of work load, but because I could use my midterm paper to help me write my final paper, it ended up not being a big deal.

Other comments:

Thank you for being such a wonderful professor!
