

Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating Spring 2010

01 050 444 01		Popper Frank								
ENROLL= 18		RESP= 13 (72%)				STRONGLY				
STRONGLY	# OF	MEAN	MEAN	MEAN	MEAN	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL			
AGREE	NO	OF	OF	OF	OF					
PART A: UNIVERSITY-WIDE QUESTIONS:						1	2	3	4	
5	RESPONSES	SECTION	COURSE	DEPT	LEVEL					
10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
1. The instructor was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner										
10	0	4.69	4.69	4.37	4.69					
10	0	4.69	4.69	4.34	4.69					
2. The instructor responded effectively to student comments and questions										
11	0	4.77	4.77	4.45	4.77					
3. The instructor generated interest in the course material										
10	0	4.38	4.38	4.48	4.38		2	1	0	
4. The instructor had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material										
9	0	4.15	4.15	4.36	4.15	2	0	1	1	
5. The instructor assigned grades fairly										
10	0	4.54	4.54	4.40	4.54		1	1	1	
6. The instructional methods encouraged student learning										
9	0	4.38	4.38	4.37	4.38	1	0	1	2	
7. I learned a great deal in this course										
5	1	3.75	3.75	4.03	3.75	1	1	3	2	
8. I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course										
10	0	4.62	4.62	4.38	4.62	0	0	2	1	
9. I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor as										
10	0	4.54	4.54	4.33	4.54	0	1	1	1	
10. I rate the overall quality of the course as										

What do you like best about this course?:

How it was pretty simple, read the books, go to class, discuss them and write a paper. I really really enjoyed the class discussions

The grading is fair. He really does want to see great writing. Regardless if what you argue makes sense or not, if you can write a decent paragraph, I think anybody can fair well. His lectures relate to the material even if it seems like he's going on a tangent--his tangents actually make sense, and you can definitely tie it back in with the material. I don't know about Wallach though. Even Didion. Ugh. Those 2 authors.

The reading material and the discussion oriented classes

The teacher presented everything in a manner that generated interest. Group discussions were insightful and the teacher guided them effectively. Overall, the class in general was very rewarding.

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?:

Change the books around

Ban Wallach and Didion from this planet. If not, then they should be banned from Rutgers. Recycle the books they authored and use that material for new books by GREAT AUTHOR(S)--STEINBERG, ANYONE?

The professor assigned two opinion papers, and then critiqued everything but the point brought up in the paper. This was not an English class and if anything he was completely discouraging.

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?:

Really helped me to realize what was really going on in America's history and how that shaped the land use

Make my writing go faster--get rid of the fat. You don't really need to have so many examples when writing a paper. All you need is to create decent arguments and be able to spell properly. Didion doesn't really hate outsiders. One must read her book more than once to understand her lonely writing. She's so dull she makes me want to go to Kosovo and learn English. But seriously, one cannot be biased so hard (oh, c'mon, Didion is horrible). I saw your comments on my second paper, and yes, you are right. I misinterpreted some of the things she said because I was heavily biased about how horrible she is as an author. If I read that book twice, I bet I would not have such a hateful view of that dull writer. I would actually take that nonsense drivel she calls writing and give you a masterpiece. As for Wallach, eh, well. I really have nothing to say about that man. Maybe it's because I didn't grow up in a rural setting that makes it so hard for me to understand his potato loving ways. Steinberg--THE MAN. THE LEGEND. ENOUGH SAID.

My intellectual growth was stunted because of the completely harsh and unnecessary comments written on the graded assignments. I was actually scared to hand in work for this professor.

The writing assignment were very open and comprehensive and forced me to really gather my thoughts and present them in an organized manner. I learned a great deal with this format rather than standardized testing. Also, the discussion sessions were extremely helpful especially when reviewing fellow classmates work.

Through studying the process of american land development I gained a proficient grasp of the material rather than just regurgitation it.

Other comments or suggestions::

Professor Popper, I truly wish that we had more classes--I really do. Why? You actually warmed up as the semester went on. I thought you were really strict and unapproachable, but then we started having group discussions about academia and how you REALLY were as a student. I felt this showed your human side and it definitely made me less anxious. As the semester went on you became funny and entertaining. You wouldn't really put those 2 characteristics together describing a 3-hour lecture...unless it was about the use of canola oil and the addition of a vegetarian menu at Popeye's. And a special 8-piece chicken for 5.99, of course. What's hard with academia these days is that professors are too rigid--or just not human at all. Well, one, you're human; two, you are actually warm and open. Professors (at Rutgers) need to take a seminar on how to EFFECTIVELY teach a class like Frank Popper. It should be called: Proper Popper Preaching. Patent that. I've been author-bashing a lot. As a class we are lucky to have you explain key passages to those horrific books so that we can grasp the gist of it (Ok, honestly, I only understood Didion a tad bit. And then there's Wallach). If it weren't for your help I don't think that second paper would even be finished. Wallach and Didion's books were probably the hardest and most annoying to read. But then again I've yet to read a Harry Potter book; those witches and their spells. Unnecessary. We've already complained, as a class, that Wallach and Didion--for a lack of an educated word--suck. I would ask you to take these 2 horrible and boring authors out of the syllabus for next year. However, I went your future students to go through the same headaches I went through; Keep 'em. Really, you should keep them because it would force those bright minds to write clearly--that's what it did to me. You wouldn't believe how many times I've had to take a break and go to Popeye's to relax after typing just one paragraph of the second paper. Five pages of Didion and/or Wallach is the equivalent of thirty pages. Thank you for the wonderful and interesting semester. I'd sign off with my name, but I think you already know who it is. Popeye's 571 Milltown Road North Brunswick, NJ 08902-3321 Get Directions (732) 247-7801 From your office head down Livingston Ave then to Sandford St--which becomes Georges Road (the part it curves all of a sudden and it intersects Commercial Ave). You'll see Arthur's Steak House, and soon after that make a left at Milltown Road. Heaven, I mean, Popeye's, will be to your left. ENJOY!

Professor Popper is one of the best professors I have had in my college career. He is very open and extremely knowledgeable. He does leaves the thinking and connection making up to the students. This gives students more encouragemet and critical thinking skills. I would highly recommend this professor and any course he teaches.

This is an excellent class with a well qualified professor.
