

Midterm survey results, ENGL 306, Fall 2015

Thank you to the 10 students who participated in the midterm survey. Here are the results.

A. I think Bradley is well-prepared to teach the course.

Agree	2	20%
Strongly agree	8	80%

B. I feel like Bradley respects me and is concerned about my progress.

Agree	1	10%
Strongly agree	9	90%

C. Bradley's communication with me is helpful.

Agree	3	30%
Strongly agree	7	70%

D. I feel like I know what's scheduled to happen each week.

Agree	2	20%
Strongly agree	8	80%

E. I am learning useful methods for writing on the web.

Agree	6	60%
Strongly agree	4	40%

F. I contact Bradley when I need extra help.

Disagree	2	20%
Agree	5	50%
Strongly agree	3	30%

G. The course texts are useful and relevant.

Agree	5	55.6%
Strongly agree	4	44.4%

H. I read all assigned sections of course texts.

Agree	6	60%
Strongly agree	4	40%

I. The complexity and difficulty of the readings is appropriate.

Agree	7	70%
Strongly agree	3	30%

J. Pick one concept to focus on:

- 4 Writing for the web
- 3 Genre
- 3 Craft of writing
- 2 Situated learning
- 2 Rhetoric
- 1 Network theory
- 1 Ethics

K. Pick any concept to focus on:

- 5 Craft of writing
- 4 Writing for the web
- 2 Situated learning
- 2 Genre
- 1 User-centered design
- 1 Rhetoric
- 1 Research methods
- 1 Network theory
- 1 Ethics

Best thing

1. I think that Bradley himself is the best thing about the course. He respects all of us and takes our views seriously. At the same time, he encourages us to participate in discussion and fosters a relaxed classroom environment by joking with us and getting to know us. He cares that we do well in class and lets us know, quite respectfully, if we need to step up our game. Finally, his enthusiasm for the subject matter makes topics more approachable that might otherwise have seemed too daunting.
2. The best thing about the course is the open discussion we have in class about the readings. Although it's open, it's still guided and it really helps me to further grasp the reading when we have long conversations about them in class and apply them with group work.
3. The discussions are the best part of the course. I always feel challenged to think broader and better in class, and I always feel mentally rejuvenated after class.
4. The memos push me to really think about the readings and what we have discussed in class. They help me to better apply the topics we have learned and help me to discover the things that I don't understand as well.
5. I really like the interaction that happens in class. Bradley is very energetic and excited about the class, which helps with wanting to read everything. You want to read it so you can participate in class.
6. I really liked "Steal like an Artist" by Kleon and felt that I learned a lot of valuable information and tips from it. It was definitely my favorite text we have read so far.

7. The best thing about the course is the depth with which we cover the elements of professional writing. An entire week to discuss rhetoric, genre, networks, etc. provides an excellent context for learning and research of the topics. Our class discussions on these topics are also excellent and serve to clarify difficult concepts.
8. The instructor is always willing to help.

Worst thing

9. Some of the readings are a little long, dry, and technical. To be more specific, Spinuzzi's readings can get very technical and confusing, especially the piece entitled "What is a Network?" In addition, at times I struggle to see how Topsight is relevant to our class.
10. N/A
11. I have no complaints.
12. In connection with what I feel is best about the course, by the time I have written the memo and realized what it is I struggle with most, we have already moved on to another topic. I realize that we have a lot to cover, so spending a week and a half or two weeks on one topic isn't really viable.
13. Memos, I've never written a memo before, and they're hard. Well ok I wouldn't say they're the worst, they're just hard. I try to hit every topic that should fit in the memo. There are sometimes I think I should add more but I don't know how the data fits in with the memo so I will leave it out.
14. It can be difficult to keep up with the class at times, with all the reading material. That may just be me though.
15. The worst thing about this course is the initial learning curve when completing the first few writing assignments. Being familiar with memo format and having a grasp on the knowledge of the elements to professional writing from the start is crucial to success. While I feel that this pushed me and has paid off, it was somewhat intimidating at the start.
16. Many things can be hard to wrap your head around.

Improvements?

17. Give students more context before tackling more difficult areas like genre. I personally had a difficult time with the genre material because it was presenting genre in a radically different way than I had ever seen it before. Context, or examples of abstract genres in situations or companies that I know about, would have done a lot to facilitate my understanding of the material.
18. N/A
19. I have no complaints.
20. The problem addressed above could be remedied by having the memos due on the Tuesday or Wednesday the week after we cover that material and having a brief discussion time at the beginning of Thursday's class to discuss any confusion that was brought to light while writing our memos. I know you might suggest simply scheduling a time to meet with the professor to discuss any questions I may have, but honestly, class discussion is when I feel I learn best. Also, I don't have much extra time due to work and extracurricular responsibilities.
21. have a practice memo before assigning the actual memo so everyone has an idea of what you're looking for.

22. I feel like if the readings were slightly shorter I'd be able to really focus on the material a bit more and learn more from them because sometimes I find myself skimming the info to get through it all.
23. I feel that this course is structured very well and is an excellent course for aspiring professional writers. If I were to offer a suggestion, I would say that maybe some form of short, traditional assignment (in addition to the memos) to check for understanding of information could be assigned each week. This way, in addition to our class discussions, we would have another tool to check for understanding when preparing to write the memos.

Other comments

24. It's a fun class!
25. Great course; challenging but fun!
26. Dilger is great!
27. I have learned a lot so far and I love the texts that have been integrated into the course. They are really helpful and actually enjoyable to read. Thank you!
28. Really enjoy the class! I don't mind the memos, just really trying to get a grasp on them and give all the detail that they need.
29. N/a
30. This has been one of the most challenging writing courses I have taken at Purdue, but I can definitely see it paying off. I am eager to see how I will continue to grow throughout the rest of the semester.