

Report: **Graph Distribution**

Course:	Reacting to the Past (FYSBX1617_001_2011_3)		
Instructor:	Stanton Rebecca		
Evaluation:	Barnard - First-Year Seminar - Fall 2011		
Dates:	December 05, 2011 - December 15, 2011		
No. of Respondents:	18		
No. of Students:	18		
Percent Completed:	100%		

- Student**
- Reading**
- Writing**
- Participation**
- General Comments**

Thank you for helping to improve Barnard courses.

Report: **Comments**

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- Name (Optional)**
- 1. no comments
 - 2. no comments
 - 3. no comments
 - 4. no comments
 - 5. no comments
 - 6. Alex Taylor
 - 7. no comments
 - 8. no comments
 - 9. Bella Pori
 - 10. no comments
 - 11. no comments

12. no comments

13. no comments

14. no comments

15. no comments

16. no comments

17. no comments

18. no comments

How has this course improved your critical reading skills?

1. Better critical reading

2. It has not.

3. My critical reading skills have improved because not only was I reading critically but I had to present and convince my peers, so I learned to analyze and interpret creatively.

4. This course has helped me interpret texts from different eras ranging from China during the Ming Empire to the suffrage movement in the U.S. in 1913.

5. My critical reading skills have improved because we were forced to study the readings based on the views that we were assigned to, thus broadening our interpretations to a new extent.

6. There was a lot of reading to do, and once a character was given I found it important to read the things we were given from that characters point of view. I would say that I utilized my critical reading skills, but I don't think they improved.

7. The course has helped me learn how to comprehend and analyse large amounts of reading in short time periods, a really useful skill. Also, while playing a game, reading a text through the eyes of a historical character really helped me see the texts from different angles.

8. This course has improved my critical reading skills by forcing me to analyze texts in a way that allowed for me to form a persuasive argument using what the text had to offer.

9. It has helped my critical reading skills a little. More than anything, this class taught me that the lens you read through is very important, and can change the meaning of the text.

10. I think it has improved my critical reading skills, but I'm not really sure how. I did learn how to read a lot of documents relatively quickly, I guess.

11. Because I was reading from a particular role, it forced me to open my perspective and read until I really understood. Even though it sounds silly, this course really pushed me to understand what I was reading, rather than just reciting what I had read.

12. I don't think this course allowed my critical reading skills to grow.

13. I read the texts with purpose--to learn more about the time period, historical events, and my "role"/character, and found them highly useful when writing my speeches, in terms of seeing how a speech on a similar topic might have been given during that time.

14. It has improved my reading skills through the use of assigned readings in speeches and discussion. I not only had to read and understand the material, but also reapply it to a hypothetical real-life situation.

15. I have learned a lot about critical reading. I've learned that the most important part of reading what was assigned was not the individual details and facts, but it was to help us get the bigger picture in a sense.

16. I can spend less time reading something and absorb the important info a lot better now.

17. no comments

18. Greatly. By discussing the materials with other classmates who have different viewpoints and

stances, I am able to see the flaws in my own argument as well as in theirs.

Which readings were most valuable? Why?

1. Analects, really interesting

2. I enjoyed the readings on democracy and ancient Greece as well as those for the Greenwich game.

3. The readings for my role were most effective, but I was most interested by the Feminist readings (third game).

4. I thoroughly enjoyed all readings especially the ones from the Greenwich Village game. Many of these readings were interconnected with other class readings such as those in my Women & Gender Studies Class. The Athens Game reading and the Confucius game reading also helped me in my International Politics class. I was able to read texts from these games from political, economic, and social standpoints and integrate them into my understanding of why the world and governmental structures look the way it does today? Why do people act the way they do? And how does society influence individual's actions?

5. The most valuable readings were the original works of Confucius and Plato, as they were the background for nearly all of our discussions throughout the games.

6. The most helpful readings in relation to the game were the Analects and the speech actually written by William Haywood, the character I played in Greenwich Village. I felt they were the most applicable to actually participating in the game and writing speeches.

7. In my opinion the most valuable readings were the Analects, just because I liked them so much and I know remember them and refer to them in future classes and in life.

8. I found the Analects to be the most valuable. I felt this way because I had never been exposed to any reading similar to this before and i probably never would have been if not for this class.

9. I thought that the women's rights readings were the most interesting. Both the suffrage and labor readings inspired me to change things in the way that Plato did not. I felt the spirit of social action in those readings.

10. I really liked The Analects because it was really interesting to learn about the rules of a culture much different from ours.

11. I really enjoyed the discussions in class regarding Confucianism.

12. I really enjoyed reading the Greenwich village materials.

13. The primary documents found in the game book for each individual game gave me many reference points during our class discussions, and gave me much insight into the unique time period we were "reacting" to.

14. I found all of the reading to be useful, but my personal favorite was The Analects.

15. I thought reading the game books and the documents were definitely the most important. If you didn't read the game book, you would have no idea what was going on. Without documents, your essays would have no support.

16. The republic, the analects, greenwich village readings b/c gave me a deeper understanding of important works/time periods in human history and helped improve critical reading skills

17. The Greenwich Village Game Book had the most valuable readings because they varied between suffrage, labor, and anarchy. All of the sources allowed the class to understand the time period and the environment that surrounded our characters.

18. Plato, The Analects

Were there any readings you would like to see deleted from the syllabus?

1. Theres a lot of excessive reading in Greenwich village game

2. Ancient China was extensively boring.

3. No, they all were applicable.
4. No. I enjoyed every reading and every game. They each had a unique aspect to them.
5. I think that some of the additional reading packets were not necessary.
6. I think that the Republic was pretty useless for the game itself. I understand that it was needed for context, but it didn't help me in any way.
7. All of the readings were important for understanding the game's historical context. It would be hard to play the games if any of the readings were deleted.
8. No, I thought they were all informative and useful.
9. I would not suggest deleting any readings. They were all interesting and I can't see doing the class without them.
10. A lot of the readings from the Greenwich Village game weren't helpful for the assignments we had to complete, but overall the readings made sense and were helpful to have if we needed them. They should just be optional further readings.
11. no comments
12. no comments
13. A Year of No Significance by Ray Huang--potentially just assign certain pages for insight, but reading the first two chapters seemed unnecessary once we actually got started with the game.
14. No.
15. The first book was not necessary to read; the one assigned before school started.
16. no, but i think that we could be given short segments of ray huang's book to read
17. No.
18. No

How has this course helped your writing skills?

1. I can write concise speeches
2. I improved my argumentative writing skills and my use of rhetoric.
3. My writing skills have improved slightly...I don't really feel like a better writer.
4. I wrote many essays in this class and received very detailed comments back from Professor Stanton. I am more aware about the mistakes I tend to make and am working on improving them.
5. It has not only helped me develop persuasive arguments in my writing, but it has also greatly improved my public speaking abilities.
6. This course helped me with changing the tone of my writing to suit the project, more formal or conversational depending on what I was trying to convey.
7. Because most of the writings are given as short speeches, the class has helped me a lot with editing and brevity in my writing. I learned the importance of being able to say what I mean directly.
8. This course has helped my writing skills by teaching me how to formulate a more cohesive and concise argument while focusing on grammar and technicalities.
9. This class has helped my writing skills immensely. I'm much more careful about my transitions and making sure my quotes are anchored in the papers and my points are clearly backed up.
10. In general, writing papers tends to help me express myself more clearly in following papers that I write. This class was really confusing to me because we were supposed to write papers, but we they were supposed to be creative speeches and analytical essays at the same time. It was hard to balance, and I don't think I'll need to write like that again.

11. This course helped me value peer-editing. My grammar has also improved

12. Writing speeches and the individual critiques on those speeches helped me writing skills to grow.

13. I wrote with a purpose and had to be concise and direct in what I was trying to say, which then had to come across in my speeches. I also learned how to combine creative flourishes with direct statements to really enhance a paper.

14. I have never been required to write essays so quickly, which improved my efficiency. I have also never had a teacher who was so thorough in her editing and corrections, which I found to be very helpful. The comments and explanations were very constructive, because she gave specific reasons for the corrections and concrete examples of how to improve.

15. This course has helped my writing skills tremendously. I think writing and speaking were a major part of this course and you were forced to work on both.

16. helped me use better language, flesh out arguments better

17. It has helped consider my audience while I am writing, along with integrating outside works into to my essays to strengthen my arguments.

18. I was able to focus on the theme, be more persuasive and utilize resources.

Which writing assignments were most valuable? Why?

1. NA

2. I liked the ancient Greece game most because it required the most thoughtful argumentative skills.

3. no comments

4. The long essay assignments were most helpful especially once we had to turn our long five-page essays into 2-5 minutes speeches.

5. All of the writing assignments were extremely valuable.

6. I enjoyed writing the speeches, and I thought they were all valuable.

7. The most valuable assignments were the ones where I had to argue something for something I didn't believe. Doing this gave me a new perspective on history and writing because I had to think outside my comfort zone.

8. I found that all of them were valuable and allowed for one to improve as the course went along.

9. The second Athens speech was the most useful because when I received that speech, I understand why I received the grade I did, and I was able to make changes for my next speech. The first speech, I didn't really understand the problems, but by China, I felt like I had a handle on it.

10. All of them were about as equally important.

11. no comments

12. no comments

13. Each of the writing assignments served an important purpose to the game, and to our understanding of the topics on which we spoke.

14. I found all of them to be approximately equal, but I enjoyed the later writing assignments more, because my first role was less developed.

15. I think all the writing assignments were valuable. All of them were speeches that had to be done.

16. mostly the china and athens assignments b/c I really felt that I could take the criticism and put out better work. In the greenwich game I wasn't quite sure how to apply the criticism I had

received to write a better paper

17. no comments

18. All the speeches, especially towards the end. It's rewarding to be able to write and convince others.

How helpful was the feedback you received on your writing? (Feedback might include written comments, conferences with your professor, and/or peer editing.)

1. Bad feedback. No one knows how they are doing in the class bc we are graded out of 25. We all get 15s but that doesn't mean we failed. We don't know our letter grade

2. My teacher thoroughly read through my work and gave me good feed back. She was very available for questions and seemed genuinely concerned about her students.

3. The feedback was helpful, but at the beginning because the papers weren't handed back in a timely manner I kept making the same mistakes and while the comments would say "see last paper's comments" I was unable to do so because I didn't have that paper when working on the next assignment.

4. The feedback was very helpful and I am more aware of the type of mistakes I tend to make often.

5. Prof. RJS graded my papers in more detail than any professor has in the past and although it was harsh at times, it gave a lot of critical feedback that helps me when writing papers for all other classes. She has always been willing to discuss my papers with me and although she often took a long time to return our papers, it was evident that this was only because she spent so much time giving us valuable feedback.

6. The feedback helped with achieving the proper tone for each game, and also with maintaining the quality of the writing.

7. I often got the comment that a paper was not logically argued, which is something I had never really thought about before. It helped me think about organization and content of my essays. I hope that my logic has improved over the course of the semester!

8. The feedback I received on my writing was very helpful and pointed out my mistakes and places where I could improve in a critical but constructive way.

9. The feedback was very helpful. The things that RJS brought up are problems I have when I write, and her comments helped make me a better writer.

10. I wish that our professor would have encouraged us to come to her office hours for more writing feedback. We had such a short amount of time to write the papers in that it didn't work to ever come to office hours before the paper was due, and by the time we got our papers back, it didn't really make sense to go since we had just turned in our next ones. There were often times when I would receive a Fine or Okay in a category of the grading rubric, but would lose a few points without much explanation.

11. Even though it was a bit harsh, the advice on my paper did help me tremendously to write my other essays.

12. We received written comments, and I had conferences with my professor about my writing during the times I visited her office hours.

13. Comments were detailed and explicit in what could have been improved, and our professor always encouraged us to speak with her individually if we had questions regarding her feedback. While there was criticism, it was constructive, and with each paper I improved in both my own confidence of the work I turned in and the tangible grade I received.

14. As explained above, it was very helpful.

15. The feedback was awesome. Professor Stanton did a great job telling you what you did well and what you needed to work on.

16. very helpful! I thought it was a little harsh at first, but in the end it was all very useful

17. The feedback was fairly helpful, but I think I would have gained more if we were given the opportunity to make corrections to our papers or have conferences about them.

18. It helped me identify some of the recurring problems.

How has this course enhanced your speaking skills?

1. More confidence

2. I improved somewhat, but I still am afraid of speaking in public. I have a hard time giving memorized speeches as a result of my nerves, which I was not able to shake off.

3. My speaking skills I feel were already strong but they helped me argue points I might not personally agree with, but had to advocate for.

4. This course has tremendously enhanced my speaking skills. I am now more confident when speaking clearly and slowly in front of an audience, without notes or just a few bullet points.

5. Having to deliver speeches in front of the entire class enhanced my speaking skills.

6. I was never afraid of public speaking, but this course definitely helped me with gaining confidence when I speak, learning where to punch and be less intense, and other things that will be helpful in my major.

7. The course enhanced my speaking skills primarily through practice. Standing up in front of the class once a week to give a speech is more public speaking than I had ever done before. I feel much more comfortable expressing my ideas to a group than I did before, it helped build my confidence.

8. I have become much better at speaking in front of a group of people. My tone has also improved.

9. I have always enjoyed public speaking, but only with a script. This class helped me advance my extemporaneous public speaking skills, and I think I am better at speaking without following my paper exactly now.

10. This course definitely helped improved my speaking skills. I'm certainly less afraid of talking in public now.

11. I feel more confident when speaking in public or even in class. Even though I'm still pretty quiet, I feel that in the future I'll be able to participate in discussions more readily.

12. By giving speeches.

13. I feel more confident in speaking without the crutch of a paper with every word in front of me, and learned how to deliver my speech so as to make the most impact on listeners.

14. Prior to this course, I had little to no speaking experience. Therefore, it was extremely helpful. I feel that this class gave me a good opportunity to practice them in a safe environment.

15. Tremendously. I used to be terrified of speaking to a crowd full of strangers. I have gotten a lot better at it and using my voice to make my speeches more dramatic.

16. made me more comfortable speaking, more conscious of how to make a good speech in front of a class

17. I feel much more comfortable talking off-the-cuff in front of my peers.

18. I was able to practice speaking in front of people.

To what extent did discussions further your interest in the material and help you with your writing?

1. Better essay writing skills and public speaking

2. The discussions were my favorite part of the course because they engaged my intellectual curiosity.

3. The discussions always peaked my interest on the subject matter.

4. Discussions were very exciting in class and I always looked forward to them.

5. I better understood the readings as a result.

6. I wish there had been fewer days of discussion before we got each game underway, because, with the exception of Athens, I felt like we were rushed a little bit to finish everything.

7. I loved when we had discussions in Reacting, it was actually my favorite part of the course. The debates after speeches between faction members and indeterminates was so lively that it seemed as though we were discussing our actual points of view. I also loved the post-mortems when we related themes from our games to modern society, it made the readings come to life even more.

8. I found myself to be very active in the discussions and this made me want to be more educated on a topic so that i could argue valid points within the discussion. I think this helped my writing because I was able to see the oppositions opinions and figure out ways to refute them in my writing.

9. The discussions absolutely furthered my interest in the material. It was very cool to hear other people's points of view and people's opinions did change my thoughts and speeches (except in Athens, because of the whole tyrant thing).

10. The debates made it really important that we had read the material, but the way our class was set up, we just had to listen to people give long, memorized speeches for 30-40 minutes of class, and then ask questions. It was hard to stay focused and that didn't help to cultivate my interest in the material.

11. no comments

12. no comments

13. Discussions gave me many points to reference and react to in my papers, and provided me with other's views.

14. They were very effective in furthering my interest. My classmates always brought up points that I had not considered.

15. Discussions always sparked my interest. When I heard something I disagreed with I was always more apt to participate and voice my opinion.

16. made the issues feel much more real, made the class fun, even if being prepared with a solid argument was a little stressful at times

17. The discussions in class inspired me to look up further information in order to refute others arguments or further persuade other characters.

18. I was exposed to three distinct and unique time periods, of which now I have a lot of knowledge of, and am willing to learn more about.

Please comment on the instructor overall. Would you take another course with this instructor?

1. She wasn't relevant to the class except for grading but she was always available to help

2. RJS was a great instructor that seemed to genuinely enjoy the class and care for her students. I would take another course with her.

3. I would take another course with RJS, I feel her passion for the course made it interesting, and while I would've liked to get my papers back earlier I did enjoy the course.

4. I absolutely loves Professor Stanton. She made the class very interesting and I liked that she did not spoon-feed any of her students. She would lay out the basic rules and everything else was left for the students to learn.

5. ABSOLUTELY. She was dedicated, engaging, and inspirational.

6. I would. It's unfortunate that I didn't have any plans to study Russian literature because I really

enjoyed having Professor Stanton, and it was obvious that she really enjoyed teaching reacting.

7. Professor Stanton is an amazing person. She was a great Game Master in reacting and I was really glad that I was in her class. I am definitely planning on taking another class with her in the future.

8. I loved Professor Stanton. She was wonderful, I would definitely take another course with this instructor.

9. Professor Stanton was a great teacher. She connected what we were doing to the present day, which helped me. I would love to take another class with her! I think she is a great teacher and a very interesting person.

10. My professor is really a nice person, and she's certainly very smart and knows what she's talking about. She was also easy to contact and quick to respond by email, but in general, she was pretty disorganized and her assignments weren't very clear (as compared with some of the other Reacting classes). I would not take another class with her.

11. no comments

12. no comments

13. Professor Stanton was highly knowledgeable on each time period we covered, and achieved the perfect balance between interjecting and lecturing to help us understand important facets of the current game, as well as stepping back and letting us work independently as a class to further our own leadership skills. She sent out emails updating us as a class or individuals on the progress of the game, so we never felt disconnected from her during the long weekend. Yes, I would definitely take another course with her.

14. Yes, I really enjoyed this course. She always provided interesting supplementary materials and modern examples that made the situation relatable and relevant.

15. Professor Stanton was an awesome teacher. She did a great job in organizing the game and as always responding when you needed help. She was always willing to do whatever it took to make your game experience the best it could be.

16. The instructor didn't play a HUGE role in reacting, but I think she was pretty good overall. I would take another course with her.

17. Professor Stanton was extremely knowledgeable and available for anyone who needed assistance. I would be interested in taking another class with her.

18. Of course. Professor Stanton has been quite inspiring in the course, and gave her students a lot of freedom to do whatever they wish, and provided guidance along the way.

Please comment on the course overall. Would you recommend this course?

1. I loved reacting even though I was given insignificant parts for every game

2. I would not take this course again because it is not ideal for students like myself that have difficulty speaking in public. However, for those students that enjoy that sort of thing, it is perfect.

3. The course was interesting and the "structure free" style allows students to take responsibility for their role/experience in Reacting, so I would definitely recommend this course.

4. This course was an amazing course and I would definitely recommend it to other first-year students. I improved in my speaking, writing, debating, and even my acting skills.

5. ABSOLUTELY.

6. I loved it. It was a great way to get to know new people and work with a bunch of different people. It was so much fun to play different roles and work within the context of these societies. I would definitely recommend it.

7. I would not recommend this course for everyone. Reacting to the Past was not exactly what I expected, and although I really enjoyed the class, I don't think that every student would. I'm glad I tried it, but I wouldn't go on to take a higher level Reacting course.

8. I would recommend this course, and did to all of my roommates. I thoroughly enjoyed the theatrical approach to learning about past civilizations.

9. I would recommend this course to everyone. It was the most fun course I took all year, and even though we were reacting to the PAST, the lessons were relevant to the present. I made a suit of armor, and rode the subway with a Votes for Women sign. How can this be a bad class?

10. I think the theory behind this course is great, but it was just really stressful and irritating to have to write these speeches all of the time. Not my type of class, but there are certainly other people who loved it.

11. no comments

12. no comments

13. The course was engaging and unique, and I found myself excited to wake up early for it. Everyone in the class was dedicated to their roles and the games, which made all of the reading and writing worth it. I learned so much about how to deliver a rousing speech, as well as how to truly listen to another's point of view. Excellent from day one.

14. Yes, I really enjoyed this course. It was unique and and intellectually stimulating.

15. I would definitely recommend this course. I loved it. I really like history and I like debating. I suggested it to all my friends.

16. I would definitely recommend this course to anyone who likes to argue and speak in front of people and who wouldn't mind having to put A LOT of extra time into the class.

17. I would only recommend this course to certain individuals. While I think I gained a lot from it (and ended up enjoying it a lot), I believe that it is a class that some people would find miserable. With that said, I did not enjoy the class in the beginning but grew to love it by the end.

18. This course created a lot of intellectual discourses, which I greatly enjoyed. I would recommend this course to people who are generally curious and are inspired to learn, especially those who are willing to share their knowledge with others in the form of conversation and writing.
