Student Comments

American Literature

On the first day of class, students wrote a short response, answering the following questions: What are your prior experiences in literature courses? What helps you learn? What are your learning goals for this course?

On the last day of class, students reread their first-day writing answers and responded, answering the following questions: Did you meet your goals? What helped you learn? Did you add to your experience in a literature course?

Here are a few…

“For this course I believe I learned and did so much more than what my original goals were for the course. From all the different poems and short stories, I gained a better knowledge about what happened during the time period of the 20’s and how it impacted the authors of that time. I enjoyed learning about the authors and what was happening in their lives during the time of them writing because it gave me a better understanding of why their stories or poems were written the way they were. I also believe I achieved my goal on bettering my writing skills and use of grammar in my papers. I went from getting between 70’s-80’s on papers to 90’s-100’s and for that I am very grateful. I appreciate the help I gained from Dr. Grogan to better my writing but also all the practice I attained in this course and also her Contemporary Novels by African Women course. This is knowledge I will build on throughout the rest of my college years.”

“My learning goal was to become a more effective writer. I felt that in the past I was good at putting the right content in but still needed to improve on how I displayed that content in the paper. Over the duration of this course, I feel that I have grown some at becoming a more effective writer. The big paper we had and going through and making edits definitely helped. The biggest thing I would say is I learned how to create a proper works cited page which in the past has been something I have lost points on. I think having to do multiple steps of creation and editing for the big paper truly helped me improve upon my skills. Overall this course has definitely added to my literature course experience.”

“This semester, I reached my learning goals because I have read way more than I ever would have on my own. What helped me learn were Dr. Grogan talking about the poems and giving us insight on the authors and getting in depth with why the story was written in the first place. Also, the presentations helped as well because it enabled us to get insight on the story itself and the meaning of them. I would say I enjoyed reading many of the stories we read in class being as though I don’t enjoy reading.”

“I didn’t have any learning goals in particular I wanted to meet, but I still learned a lot in this class, I’d say. I read a lot of classic and interesting stories and poems, as well as things that’ll help me in future English-type courses, such as they-say, I-say, which will surely be helpful in future courses and when writing any essay in general. And lastly, I think the thing that helped me most when getting through this course was a good teacher I could ask any questions to and get good answers from and who would help me whenever I had trouble with anything. I feel like this class will definitely help me with a lot of future classes, not just literature or English ones.”

“I think I did meet my learning goals for this class. I learned a lot about the period that these works were created in. I read from a lot of authors that I hadn’t even heard of before and some of them I intend to read from more. The things that helped me learn most in this class were the outside reading, homework assignments, and personal presentations.”

“The style of this class helped me a lot in that you would go over the text or the poems and explain them in greater detail. That really allowed students and myself to take notes and study for the tests. My major goal I did meet in this class was to become more organized with my work and get better grades. I ended up with grades that I am happy with and because of my organization and becoming a better writer I have developed more skills to help me in the future.”

“I feel that I have met all of the goals that I set for myself in the beginning of the semester. From all of the stories and poems that we covered in class, I am now a stronger reader and can more easily break the text down to find the meaning. My writing skills have developed as well. I now feel that I can take someone’s viewpoint or ideas from a story and break them down and use my thoughts to formulate an agreement or disagreement. One thing that helped me learn was covering all of the stories in class via discussion and presentations. This helped me compare my thoughts and understanding from the stories with my classmates. Additionally, guided notes helped me a lot for the tests because it helped me organize the information to study. One thing that I’ve added to my experience in literature courses is conquering poetry and effectively criticizing a scholarly source on a specific work.”

“Yes, I met my learning goals by being on top of my work, turning in assignments on time or even early. I really like how for my analytical research paper I started ahead of time and started brainstorming ideas and coming up with an outline, so my paper can be well written. After doing the research paper I think I have become a better writer with organization and good supportive ideas.”