

S19 - PSYC005.01 - FYS:Nature vs Nurture/Wrong?

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COURSE ASSESSMENT – SPRING 2019

1 How did this course contribute to your intellectual growth?

Respondent	Response
	This course really challenged the way I read. I was completely unprepared to read psychology and science articles, and now I am much better at tackling a variety of texts.
	This course allowed for me to be more comfortable with reading scientific articles and thinking about them analytically.
	This course was really impactful in that it exposed me to how certain topics develop in humans especially the innate aspects of learning about race and gender which can be considered controversial and tend to have a large amount of bias associated with them. I appreciated the scientific approach taken to each weekly topic.
	I learned how to read psychology papers and became much more proficient at reading them. I also was able to think about the origins of human behavior.
Total responses to question	4/4

2 How did this course contribute to your critical thinking abilities? (e.g., challenging assumptions, contrasting perspectives on an issue)

Respondent	Response
	This course taught me not to completely accept the implications of a study as fact. There is always more research that can be done, and we should always be considering how the study was conducted and the demographics of the sample.
	It was beneficial to be able to think about studies in a big picture way and specifically within a framework of nature vs. nurture.
	I think this class really contributed to my clinical thinking abilities especially writing critical thought questions

Respondent	Response
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weekly since the assignment required to think analytically about the readings and propose thoughtful questions.

It ignited a desire to talk about taboo topics, like race.

Total responses to question 4/4

3 In what way did this course contribute to your knowledge of diverse individuals, groups, or cultures?

Respondent	Response
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This course opened my eyes to NSL, which I honestly do not think I would have heard of otherwise.

This course was educating in that it made me think more about race.

In class we had the chance to discuss about diversity, race, culture, and gender and it was always a directed and respectful conversation. I was also exposed to a lot of diverse input and opinions not only from the readings but from my peers, so I think this seminar greatly contributed to my knowledge on some sensitive and controversial topics.

I learned about how much culture colors our view of what is normal.

Total responses to question 4/4

4 How might something you've learned in the course be applied to an issue that is currently of concern to society?

Respondent	Response
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What I learned from the articles on gender can definitely be applied to trans rights in the United States. Now, I am more aware of the experiences of trans people and what support they may need.

Thinking about race and gender development is very important in today's society.

Specifically learning about gender was relevant to society today considering the current political climate surrounding gender identity in America and transgender Americans.

Transgender rituals are culturally appropriate in some indigenous cultures; this contrasts very greatly with what Western society would label a disorder.

Total responses to question 4/4

5 Do you think this course will affect your life beyond Swarthmore? If so, in what ways? Please elaborate.

Respondent	Response
	I think this will affect my life because now I know how to read psychology and science articles, so if I ever have to do that beyond Swarthmore I will be prepared.
	Yes, it will affect the way I think about beauty, race and overall development. This class allowed for a large question to be explored in a variety of contexts, and as other contexts arise I think I will also apply this framework.
	This course definitely made my readjust how I think about children and how I would approach a child or even a future child of my own. It is apparent after taking this course just how intelligent children are at a young age as well as how impressionable they are.
	I am motivated to take a class on race and engage in more discussions that take a step back to look at why we are thinking about things a certain way.
Total responses to question	4/4

6 How many hours per week did you spend reading/studying/working on assignments/reviewing material for this course outside of class time? How does this compare with the amount of time you spend on other classes?

Respondent	Response
	I devoted about four hours a week to this class. I worked on one of my classes for about three hours a week, another was about four, and the other was five. These times changed drastically depending on whether or not I had an assignment due.
	3, it was less than most of my other classes.
	I spent about 3 hours on this class outside of seminar which is very reasonable compared to my other classes. Most of the time I was reading which would adjust based off of the pace at which the student reads and I am a fairly slow reader.
	2 hrs a week on reading/CTQs; much less than other classes
Total responses to question	4/4

7 What was your favorite reading and why?

Respondent	Response
	My favorite readings were the ones on face and race because they were super interesting and class discussion that week was probably my favorite.
	I enjoyed reading about theory of mind and the effect of family size on development because it was a factor I did not expect to impact the results. It was also very easy to apply to my own experiences.

Respondent	Response
	My favorite readings were the readings about language acquisition (grammatical gender) because I have a personal interest in how language develops in children. Since language varies so vastly around the world I find it to be a really fascinating area of study.
	the one about counting was very engaging
Total responses to question	4/4

8 What was your least favorite reading and why?

Respondent	Response
	I did not enjoy the readings for Number because I thought they were very inaccessible.
	The gender readings were interesting, but they didn't include a very clear experiment, which I enjoy reading about.
	I found the number readings to be incredibly dense and hard to get through. I felt lost throughout most of both of those readings and did not really grasp the material because the context it was delivered in was not very beginner friendly.
	object/agent
Total responses to question	4/4

9 Please reflect on Professor Flaherty's facilitation of student participation in class. What worked well? What didn't?

Respondent	Response
	I think Professor Flaherty did very well facilitating student participation. Professor Flaherty was good at rerouting conversation. However, people interrupted each other a lot, which sometimes made discussion hard to follow.
	I thought that Professor Flaherty's facilitation was very well structured. She interjected with valuable information that was beyond the scope of the students presenting but allowed them to facilitate everything else. It was very efficient.
	Professor Flaherty did a really good job at keeping the class flowing and I appreciated her input and critical questions she posed without taking control of the class.
	She is an expert, so she is a valuable participant in the discussion. Sometimes I wish she facilitated the discussion a little more by encouraging more discussion, rather than leaving it to the students
Total responses to question	4/4

10 What would you say to a fellow student considering taking this class in the future?

Respondent	Response
	I would tell this student to definitely attend office hours.
	I would recommend the class, it was extremely interesting and low stress, with a focus mainly on learning and discussion. It was a very good atmosphere and one of my favorite classes so far.
	I would highly recommend this class to any student especially anyone interesting in psychology, biology, education, or linguistics. This class varies in flavor every week and this is something for everyone else. The readings at time can be dense but the in class discussion is always lively.
	very much student-driven classes; light work load
Total responses to question	4/4

11 What recommendations would you give me as I prepare to teach this class again next year?

Respondent	Response
	I think it would be good to have more variety in the type of assignments.
	I would recommend figuring out a way to have a table where everyone could be seen. It was sometimes difficult to see everyone in the setup we had. Also relying more on a hand raising system may lead to more participation from quieter and less assertive class members.
	Try to encourage students to work/sit/share with someone new as to encourage everyone to have input and participation.
	maybe think about what works and what doesn't work in terms of student-led lecture/discussion class time
Total responses to question	4/4

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