

Student comments on Prof. Martin's teaching

An oasis in a sea of academic terror. This is the only class that I am not going to sell any books back — NS

This class is a state of mind — KS

After the first few classes, I felt... I had once again found true poetry — YS

I learned this course. I did indeed learn academically, but more importantly I learned about life and myself. I'm definitely a different person because I took your courses — TC

When I first entered the lecture hall, it had a weird look to it. There were students where the professor usually is, and the professor was located in the back of the room. I thought, "How odd!" — AS

I have learned more in this one semester than at any other time — ML

I used to hate waking up and going to school. I even contemplated dropping out from Rutgers. Your class has inspired me to see my purpose and what I want to do with my life — GK

This class was "crouched in eagerness to become something else" (Loren Eiseley). It started as a lecture, but shape-shifted and transformed itself into a sermon. By sermon, I don't mean a speech of religious dogma, but a spiritual address in which the words are pregnant with meaning. It became a class in which more than knowledge was imparted; a phenomenology was there, too — CC

It is easy to become captivated by the material — JB

I can truly say that I learned double what I normally do, but didn't get tortured to absorb information. The class is huge and was quiet. Very conducive learning experience — JB

The lessons we've learned in this class are timeless — KS

There was an atmosphere of relaxation and acceptance — feelings that I haven't felt in any class at Rutgers — SL

He has a way of making you possess the material without your ever realizing it — KS

This class leaves the student with a feeling of completeness, and yet it opens off a lifetime's worth of questions and answers — KB

It's the only class that I can honestly say that I've never missed — Unsigned

I found my thoughts changing, my beliefs being drawn into question, my life being looked at from a different perspective, and found myself doing a little soul-searching. More and more, during my spare moments, I found myself thinking about something said in lecture or one of the books — CC

Week after week, each topic grew more interesting to me, and I found myself looking more and more forward to the class — AJ

The grade I receive on my transcript will mean nothing to me. The reason is: I have learned. This class has taught me more than any other class. I can leave class full of knowledge and discuss the philosophy with my friends. (No other class has affected me in such a way.) I sincerely feel that all classes should be taught in this matter — RL

We were asked to struggle with the material and ideas expressed in class. Honestly, after you had described to the style of grading, I really wasn't planning on struggling with anything. It [then] occurred to me [that] I didn't have a choice; it came with me everywhere I went. As I walked, it stayed in my mind. The experiences of this class will follow me always, and the knowledge has been embedded — FP

As the weeks passed, I realized that I was not attending class; I was going to think about life in a wider scope than what was right in front of my face. It became more than just a Monday/Wednesday thing; the material engulfed my thoughts and discussions every day — PD

I was amazed with how the information could be useful outside of the class — Unsigned

I found I kept up with the readings in order to take weekly quizzes, rather than the usual cramming for midterm or final exams. The frequent quizzes help to pace our understanding and seek out our ideas at regular intervals, instead of one or two major scrambling/pouring out information [events] on an exam — Unsigned

I have used your lectures and readings to help me in my daily life — GK

Looking back on the quizzes, I realized what I got from the class. People can't look beyond what is present to speculate what could be present, but is dormant. I think our essay quizzes best resembled this. The acorn is present, but a tree could grow, except its power to grow is dormant within — LW

I appreciated the format of the class — the type of readings, the lack of [conventional] exams, the wonderful lectures. I know I will remember much of what was taught in class because I wanted to learn it. This class made me feel less orphaned. It gave me a peaceful feeling, and I made it a part of me — Unsigned

I found myself being taught outside the "intake or regurgitate" method, and being allowed to think — CH

I never had to memorize anything. I just had to listen to the words that were being said, both in class and in the readings. I am confident that I have gotten more out of this class than any other I have taken — CT

I perceive things differently, and, hence, they and I interact differently. It's a shame that I have to graduate — EB

I have not had another college course which has so profoundly affected my life. Sure, I have learned a lot at Rutgers, but nothing has changed my personal life so dramatically and allowed me the feeling that I can just be me. I have discovered a childlike innocence and myself once again. I can appreciate my surroundings and take delight in the little things. My daughter and I have not had this much fun in years — DH

The lectures, books, as well as the quizzes were a great thinking/brain stimulant. In a way, I learned a new way of learning, thinking, seeing, and participating in the world — HZ

You are truly an exception — RG