

## COMPASS COURSE EVALUATIONS

### I. COURSE EVALUATION FORM - INF2305H LEC0101

Term: 2010 Summer

Instructors: JENNA HARTEL

Completed: 95% (21 / 22) completed

	inadequate (1)	poor (2)	average (3)	good (4)	excellent (5)	not applicable	AVERAGE
1. Fulfilled course objectives (as stated in the course outline).	0	0	0	3	18	0	<b>4.86</b>
2. Distributed graded course work due dates throughout the term.	0	0	1	4	16	0	<b>4.71</b>
3. Used methods of evaluation that reflect subject matter appropriately and provide a fair evaluation of student learning.	0	0	1	5	14	1	<b>4.65</b>
4. Contained useful readings.	0	0	1	4	16	0	<b>4.71</b>
5. Was complemented by guest lecturers.	0	0	0	10	6	5	<b>4.38</b>
6. Overall, how would you rate this course?	0	0	0	1	20	0	<b>4.95</b>
	much greater (1)	greater (2)	the same (3)	less (4)	much less (5)	not applicable	AVERAGE
7. Compared to other courses I have taken at the same level, the workload of this course is...	0	7	11	1	1	1	<b>2.8</b>
8. Compared to other courses I have taken at the same level, the difficulty of the course material is...	0	1	15	2	1	2	<b>3.16</b>
9. Considering your experience with this course, and disregarding program or degree requirements, would you still have taken this course?						YES - 20	NO - 0 N/A - 1

### II. INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION FORM INF2305H LEC0101

Term: 2010 Summer

Instructors: JENNA HARTEL

	inadequate (1)	poor (2)	average (3)	good (4)	excellent (5)	not applicable	AVERAGE
1. Clarity in explaining concepts with appropriate use of examples?	0	0	0	0	21	0	<b>5</b>
2. Availability for consultation during office hours or by appointment?	0	0	0	6	14	1	<b>4.7</b>
3. Encouragement of student questions or discussion in class time when appropriate?	0	0	0	4	17	0	<b>4.81</b>
4. Ability to respond to a wide range of questions about material in the course?	0	0	0	5	16	0	<b>4.76</b>
5. Commitment to grading student work fairly, with helpful comments and feedback (if appropriate)?	0	0	0	3	18	0	<b>4.86</b>
6. Commitment to returning graded work within a reasonable time?	0	0	0	1	20	0	<b>4.95</b>
7. Ability to communicate interest and enthusiasm in the subject matter?	0	0	0	0	21	0	<b>5</b>
8. Contribution to how much you learned in course?	0	0	0	2	19	0	<b>4.9</b>
9. Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness of the Instructor's teaching?	0	0	0	2	19	0	<b>4.9</b>

### III. Comments - INF2305H LEC0101

Term: 2010 Summer

Instructors: JENNA HARTEL

1. What are the specific strong points of the course?

1. Prof. Hartel's enthusiasm to the course material made me delve into the material even more than I would have. I enjoyed the balance of lecture and activities that planned to break up the class.
2. This course did more than many theoretical courses to This course enables students to get out into the field and conduct interviews in real time; a perfect extension and realization of the ethnographic or qualitative examination of information phenomena in our every day lives.
3. I'd feel confident doing ethnography again. I really feel I've learned the tools do it again on my own.
4. freedom of choice, interesting project
5. Ethnographic methods work well for information studies. Jenna is open to so many ideas and thoroughly guides students along their path.
6. The course is designed to let students pursue research projects of their interests. I found the experience very rewarding.
7. Nice to focus on one method of research (ethnography) exclusively. Well-organized class in general. Good use of blackboard/portal.
8. Jenna is such a great prof! I cannot envision this course without her.
9. Very engaging, hands on
10. - the instructor: communicated her interest and love for the topic very well, thereby encouraging her students - the course format, with small exercises on the current topic that help the student see the big picture, and help him put together the final paper
11. Really good lecturer, interactive activities,
12. The instructor's knowledge, passion, and innovative research in this subject area. Great to have a methods course, so rare at UofT unfortunately.
13. Dr. Hartel is an outstanding professor who truly cares about her students and their success. She worked hard to ensure that we were understanding the core concepts and she went above and beyond all the regular professorial duties. She is an asset to the Faculty and the university as a whole.
14. The course balances the theoretical knowledge with practical application. The final project enables students to get creative and have a bit of fun with it. The personal exercises gives you an opportunity to learn more about yourself.
15. The delivery of the course content (great lectures), design of the course content (students are literally taken on a educational journey), great support from the instructor.
16. I appreciated how finely honed the syllabus was. Everything is part of a logical progression toward the final project and nothing seems superfluous. The readings span several disciplines and the assignments are effective uses of the skills we learn.
17. -a great introduction about what is "information" and its role in our society and how to study it properly -an excellent overview of ethnography and how to execute it -Jenna is an amazing and enthusiastic instructor!
18. Offers a perspective on research and information science that you don't get in other courses.
19. This course was fascinating - it was so neat to learn about the "red thread" of information and how to find it pretty much anywhere! The readings were all very interesting and relevant and I actually looked forward to them.

## 2. How could the course be improved?

1. The work does tend to snowball at the end - nature of the work though

2. The weights of assignments could be better distributed. But, I understand the reasoning behind why it is distributed in this manner.
3. Perhaps the intermediate steps of the major paper could weigh more and the final paper could weigh less. It was a bit daunting to write a paper that is worth 50% of the course.
4. The course topics on meta-theory, although interesting and well-explained, seemed inappropriate and best handled in a core, foundational course. Student presentations were not at all helpful, although experience presenting is understandably an important skill to develop.
5. The Faculty really needs to consider extending this course to a full year (instead of a 13 week term). To learn ethnography well and then execute an original research project in 13 weeks is not practical. I also think that the use of the discussion board should be reconsidered. While it is useful to be forced to post research updates, there is no feedback from Dr. Hartel and what is received from colleagues is not helpful.
6. I would have liked more time to do the data gathering and coding. It fell during crunch time, and if you're in other courses it's hard to keep up to this one by the end.
7. The instructions on the second assignment were not clear - the assignment was structured in a Q & A style so I was not aware to the extent we would have to write in the ethnographic style. Furthermore, the assignment was due before we had readings instructing us in this style and I felt it was too great of an expectation for us to recall how to write ethnographically just because we had been reading ethnographic texts up that point.
8. I don't think it could be... The only suggestion would be to have the second last lecture (the one where we dissected ethnographic readings and discussed the specifics of an ethnography) should be closer to the beginning... I find that class was really helped, and if it's closer to the beginning (with maybe a recap closer to the end of term) will be really beneficial...
9. Time. Jenna tries so hard to make the course good and constantly make it better.
10. less review... review seemed constant
11. n/a
12. -N/A: the course is excellent as it is; Jenna has created a well thought out and well executed curriculum
13. More explanation about the expected outcomes of the (smaller) assignments would be helpful. Little information is fine for regular classes, but here the type of work/research was different and needed much explanation, so the expected outcomes could have been explained more thoroughly as well.
14. Less rigid schedule for turning in sections of research and more practical exercises in class
15. I can't think of anything right now.
16. I thought the AA lecture was a major weak point. I can see what the goal was, but it came across a bit too much like an advertisement, and there were so many other (less controversial and potentially triggering) research settings that could have been used instead.

### 3. What is your overall opinion of the course?

1. Excellent - the instructor, the course design (mini field research project), and the subject matter combined to make for invaluable experiences and learning.
2. I highly recommend it to any student who is bored of the regular old library courses at the school. In fact, I did

recommend it to someone who was doing course selection...

3. Very interesting, like that we got to do what we wanted
4. I enjoyed it. It was a bit of a challenge conceptually for me, but I think I got there.
5. Definitely one of the best courses I've had at the iSchool so far. I admit to the bias of somebody with a degree in sociology and anthropology, but I think that ethnography has a lot of value for information studies, and I'm glad we have a course covering it.
6. It was great! A real breath of fresh air and challenge to us to think outside of the box.
7. interesting; freedom to choose major project was compelling
8. The course was a phenomenal (and rich!) learning experience.
9. I really enjoyed it! It was really engaging and rewarding to be able to self-direct much of the work.
10. Worthwhile.
11. Excellent!
12. The ethnographic perspective is a unique way to look at information related issues. It could indirectly assist the careers of information professionals.
13. Fantastic! It is so different than many information studies courses. Jenna does a great job, despite these differences, of keeping the information link strong.
14. -excellent!
15. Loved it!
16. excellent course, very worthwhile to take
17. This is an essential course for someone interested in the informational aspect of social sciences.
18. Best class I have taken at the ischool - sold me on the concept that the information dimension is important.

#### 4. What are the specific strong points of the Instructor's teaching?

1. She is very excited about the subject! She exudes enthusiasm and is happy for you when you catch on. Her powerpoint presentations are interesting and amusing, the class time is well organized and she keeps things on track. I also thought it was great the way she was able to make the course available online to two members who were out of country halfway through.
2. Jenna explains concepts better than any prof I have ever had and is so patient with those who don't get it.
3. She is well-organized and clear. She articulates key points very effectively through visual aids and accessible examples. She is personable and lively, which comes across in her teaching.
4. Jenna is such a wonderful soul. Her passion for her topic is contagious, and she always makes everybody feel welcome and valued. I was worried at first that this would be a bird course, but she has high standards for our work and is always ready with constructive criticism. Her depth and breadth of knowledge are impressive, and in the rare cases when she is stumped she consistently finds an answer and follows up by email or in the next lecture. Her attention to detail also shows in the quality of her syllabus and slides.
5. -cares deeply about her students' success -a great amount of enthusiasm for the course material, her students' original ideas, and work/thoughts outside the scope of the course
6. She is very organized, prepared, and she explains concepts in ways that students will understand. I like how

incorporated each student and their project in her lecture slides.

7. Enthusiasm, knowledge of the process, quick return on assignments.
8. Jenna's a really great lecturer; very easy to follow and understand without it being dumbed down. Also very approachable.
9. Professor Hartel is very organized, she provides useful tips for reading. Feedback on progress and assignments were timely.
10. Great lecturer, easy to approach, explains concepts well, concerned about her students
11. Energetic, interested in what she's teaching, you can tell she really cares
12. great presentation and communication skills, ability to hand on her enthusiasm, flexibility
13. enthusiasm
14. The strongest points outside of the professor's enthusiasm and pride in Information Studies, are definitely her experience in her academic life and research. Her doctorate is revealed to students in each aspect of her research methods.
15. Her enthusiasm and the clear, organized manner she laid out the content of the course.
16. She is passionate about the material and ethnography as a whole. She is encouraging - I have never had another professor criticize my work in a positive fashion...more faculty should adapt this method. She is thorough, insightful, and a delight to have as an instructor.
17. She is an engaging and empathetic lecturer.
18. Enthusiastic; well-organized when giving lectures and in general; insightful answers to students questions; personable.

#### 5. How could the Instructor's teaching be improved?

1. She is perfect. Hyperbole aside, She is on her way with constant encouragement of student input and reflection.
2. It can't.
3. -N/A: Jenna is an amazing professor! She has an outstanding enthusiasm for her students and the material
4. less review; less group work; less "busy" work
5. Keep up the good work!
6. by allowing students to flounder a bit until they have found their own style and methods.
7. As seems to be the case with many of the pre-tenure profs at the iSchool, Jenna doesn't seem to be the biggest fan of defending her signature methodology. There were a few times in lecture where some valid questions were raised about the relative merits of ethnography versus other techniques, and they were dismissed as "not what we're doing here." I felt like those were missed opportunities for an improved understanding of ethnography's usefulness.
8. None, she is great the way she is
9. More tangents would be welcome.
10. Perhaps a wider variety of examples of this kind of information research (outside of what has been done in previous classes)
11. I can't think of anything right now.
12. Dr. Hartel's course should be extended to a full year. As mentioned, it's a disservice to both her teaching and the ethnographic field

13. On rare instances a student question may phase her.
14. It might contradict my answer in #4, but Professor Hartel "babies" us graduate students a little too much sometimes. For example, some of the reviews were not really necessary.

6. What is your overall opinion of the Instructor's teaching?

1. Wonderful.
2. very good. I took this class specifically because she would be teaching it (I had taken one course with her previously).
3. Jenna knows how to make the learning process fun. From her unpredictable lectures to her quirky end-of-class award ceremonies, the course was a blast. Most of all, her enthusiasm for teaching is infectious.
4. Love it, easy to understand and follow along
5. friendly, open-minded approach; not rigid
6. The instructor is one of the best I have ever had. She is breaking ground with this subject area and approach and I greatly appreciate her knowledge, passion and ability to relate so well with students.
7. -Amazing!
8. I am so pleased that I took this course with this professor because of her unique and whimsical approaches to the structures of information. For example, the image she gave us of the cascading pools or the concatenation that occurs in anyone's progress through university, or the universe.
9. I think Prof Hartel is a fabulous teacher! I only wish she taught more courses so I could've had the pleasure of enjoying more before graduating.
10. I never know what to put in this blank that isn't just an average of the prior two. I think Jenna is a terrific teacher overall. I've never seen a professor so supportive of her students, and I think that the scholarly niche she's carved out for herself is a valuable and fascinating one.
11. One of the best instructors at the ischool - not only is she passionate about her topic but she is also passionate about passing on that passion to students.
12. Wonderful!
13. Awesome!
14. excellent teacher, hugely responsible for the course being this good
15. Straight and to the point.
16. Professor Hartel is an excellent teacher! She is passionate about the subject, she makes an attempt to include the students in her lectures and she also tries to know her students on personal levels.
17. I think Jenna is a passionate teacher and really does want people to succeed in their projects.

7. What is your overall opinion of the facilities? (Include the classroom, equipment, software, etc. if appropriate)

1. Great use of equipment.
2. The air quality in most of the building is terrible in the summer. The classrooms were fine - we used a lot of technology and resources to help

3. fine, there is always something depressing about those 3rd-floor rooms. Maybe it's the cement walls and lighting? Was cool and comfortable though.
4. Crappy room with a divider that is practically transparent to noise from the class next door. The Inforum (specifically Tony) however does a great job of getting the tech working.
5. The 7th floor boardroom was by far better than the cramped 3rd floor classroom.
6. The classroom is awkward--cement pole in the middle of the room--this can't be fixed though.
7. -319 is not the best room in Bissell, but there were no technical errors and the course ran smoothly
8. Both rooms were fine.
9. I think I've had half a dozen courses in that room now, and it's still just fine. My only complaint has to do with the location of other courses. It was often hard to hear in our classroom because the comic book class next door was blaring movies. Classes with heavy multimedia usage should be put somewhere that isn't separated from the next classroom by a thin retractable wall.
10. The classroom was fine for the job... could really hear the class next door almost every class.
11. No complaints,
12. The initial classroom was poor (cramped and poor noise control). The time was also bad - it went too late in the evening and everyone's attention was dying. More day classes, please.
13. as good as Bissell allows
14. It was much more enjoyable when we moved to Rm. 728. I found the use of GoToMeeting distracting to the classroom environment.
15. The classroom was great, we didn't have any problem with the A/V system. Blackboard worked fine also.
16. ok, but sometimes too little space in room. software to access class remotely worked perfectly, instructor went out of her way to solve all technical issues
17. I enjoyed and benefited from the combination of PP Lectures and how Blackboard was kept updated.
18. -