

COMPASS Course and Instructor Evaluations

I. COURSE EVALUATION FORM - INF2330H LEC0101

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructors: JENNA HARTEL

Completed: 100% (12 / 12) 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	1	11	0	4.92
2. Distributed graded course work due dates throughout the term.	0	0	1	0	11	0	4.83
3. Used methods of evaluation that reflect subject matter appropriately and provide a fair evaluation of student learning.	0	0	0	3	9	0	4.75
4. Contained useful readings.	0	0	0	2	10	0	4.83
5. Was complemented by guest lecturers.	0	0	0	1	11	0	4.92
6. Overall, how would you rate this course?	0	0	0	1	11	0	4.92
	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	4	8	0	0	0	2.67
8. Compared to other courses I have taken at the same level, the difficulty of the course material is...	0	4	8	0	0	0	2.67
9. Considering your experience with this course, and disregarding program or degree requirements, would you still have taken this course?					YES - 12	NO - 0	N/A - 0

II. INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION FORM INF2330H LEC0101

Term: 2012 Fall

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	1	11	0	4.92
2. Availability for consultation during office hours or by appointment?	0	0	0	2	9	1	4.82
3. Encouragement of student questions or discussion in class time when appropriate?	0	0	0	0	12	0	5
4. Ability to respond to a wide range of questions about material in the course?	0	0	0	2	10	0	4.83

5. Commitment to grading student work fairly, with helpful comments and feedback (if appropriate)?	0	0	0	0	12	0	5
6. Commitment to returning graded work within a reasonable time?	0	0	0	0	12	0	5
7. Ability to communicate interest and enthusiasm in the subject matter?	0	0	0	0	12	0	5
8. Contribution to how much you learned in course?	0	0	0	0	12	0	5
9. Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness of the Instructor's teaching?	0	0	0	0	12	0	5

III. Comments - INF2330H LEC0101

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructors: JENNA HARTEL

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

1. The courses practicality in focussing on a particular methodology coupled with the potential expansiveness of being able to focus on any aspect in the informational world made for an invaluable course experience. Unlike many of the other assignments I've had to do in the iSchool, the assignments in this course were designed to actually make you learn something! and not just so that the professor had something to grade. A breath of fresh air. This is the level of quality I was expecting from the iSchool but have rarely witnessed so far.
2. This is the first course I have taken at the iSchool that actually involved personal research; I found this to be an invaluable experience.
3. The opportunity to conduct original research makes this course unique. Going out and "get[ting] the seat of[y]our pants dirty in real research" is a rare pleasure. Thanks Jenna.
4. The strongest aspect of this course was the hands on element. The assignments were hands on and helped to implement what we learned throughout the course effectively. The course provided a thorough understanding of ethnography in a very limited amount of time. The atmosphere of the course was conducive to learning and sharing ideas.
5. The content of the course has a strong practical application and has a direct impact on the overall learning experience within the MI program.
6. The ethnographic research project, which was the largest assignment of the course, was a practical, hands-on way to engage with a particular research method, and apply it to an area of our own interest. I've never felt so invested in an assignment for school, or so enthusiastic about working on it and completing it. I am really proud of the work that I've done in this course. The course was organized in such a way that we learned different skills each week, and it matched up with our own timelines for completing the research, analyzing the data, and writing up the final ethnography. Not only did I enjoy working on the project, but Jenna ensured that we were well-prepared to complete the work. Also, Dr. Hartel is a wonderful instructor. Her lectures are engaging and well-organized, and always contain thoughtful details like small exercises designed to help us practice certain concepts (and she also brings snacks!). She is an energetic speaker who instills her students with both an enthusiasm for the subject, and also with confidence. She is genuinely open to listening to our questions and thoughts, and encourages us to take our own ideas seriously, and to ask difficult questions. She treated us with genuine respect, not just as her students, but as fellow information scholars, and she fostered an attitude of respect and genuine care amongst the students in the class. Course discussions were enlightening, lively, and collegial.
7. - proper balance of theory and practice/process - approaches topic from multiple perspectives - useful assignments culminating in final project
8. This is the only class at the iSchool where I have done any actual research.
9. - Extremely well-organized and planned - Sequential and thoughtful presentation of the material throughout the term - Allowed for students to create an original research project based on their areas of interest - very practical as this could potentially form the basis of a thesis, be presented on at conferences - Gives students a chance to showcase and own their backgrounds in a meaningful way
10. -small size facilitates discussion and attention from prof -research project produces original work -supports students interested in academic focus/career - good preparation for MI thesis or PhD work - develops skill set that can be applied

beyond this course

2. How could the course be improved?

1. Extending it to a full-year course (due to the nature of conducting an ethnographic study).
2. I can't think of a way to improve the course, except perhaps by making it longer.
3. More time. Maybe getting other ethnographic information professionals to critique our work/writing.
4. It simply cannot be improved; it was an AMAZING class.
5. It might be a good idea to consider a full term course. Having more time to gather research and be in the 'field' would be fun and would allow for us to write a larger and more in-depth paper. Also, more time would allow for us to become more expert ethnographers.
6. -either make it full-year or deliver it workshop-style -remove the "isms" section (too theoretical and we didn't incorporate it into our assignments) -provide more support in developing the research topic and design -link the ethnographic warm-up exercise and the study of info space to the main research project; as stand-alone assignments, they feel a bit unrelated to the main focus of the course
7. - Excellent but rather short. The first several weeks were spent on ethnographic methods and the fieldwork could commence only after that, resulting in a very quick turnaround time for each assignment as well as the final paper - I found that I had to be very selective about which aspects of the material to draw from because of the timeframe and could have benefited further if the course was a year in length or contained a follow-up half-course that allows students to expand their studies and be able to come up with more a more substantial original research project
8. - readings should be divided into 1 or 2 key readings, and 1 or 2 additional suggested readings. Rarely had the time to commit to doing all the readings in a week, especially in second half of the term. - posting comments on blackboard was useful but comments tended to concentrate on the work only a few individuals. Perhaps assigning a small group (3-4) to comment on each others work instead would be more equitable and would encourage feedback for those of us who wanted it but didn't often receive any (from our peers).
9. Could be a full-year course. A research project is hard to fit into a single semester.
10. This is a 5 star course. No improvement necessary.

3. What is your overall opinion of the course?

1. I think this class is incredible. It should be necessary for the LIS stream, and maybe even the CIS stream, since it focuses on individual research.
2. - Very good.
3. Excellent and inspiring. Provides students with the tools to apply a "meta-perspective" to all situations for purposes of research, analysis, problem-solving, and policy formulation.
4. It was the best class I've taken here.
5. - an excellent and practical introduction to ethnography and qualitative research more generally. - carefully chosen and relevant readings of an appropriate length. - assignments which helped/contributed to the final assignment was both practical and helpful.
6. Extremely high. Other research methods courses might discuss ethnography for 1 week. This is a course where students are able to not only learn about one method in depth, but practice it in the field.
7. -excellent! -enjoyed working with my peers -gained confidence both as student and as researcher -no other course like it at iSchool
8. Excellent!
9. I was very taken with this course. I found the structure was really good and the pace was great! I learned a great deal about ethnography in a very short period of time and I felt welcome in the class environment. I found the content to be very engaging and interesting. It incorporated the 'information' element nicely, while also venturing somewhat outside of the information box. I would recommend this course to others for sure!
10. Stupendous. I would recommend it to anyone, regardless of their research/professional interests.

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

1. - enthusiastic about the topic - well thought out and justified approach in choice and presentation of course material. - encourages and facilitates class discuss in a natural fashion
2. Jenna has a wonderful way of making students feel like colleagues rather than her underlings. She never talks down to students and is always open to criticism and alternative viewpoints without allowing herself to be walked all over by dominant members of the class.
3. Jenna Hartel is an incredible instructor with a passion for ethnography. I have never witnessed a more passionate professor who cares more about their students than Jenna. Jenna always checked in with students to ensure comprehension of topics discussed in class. Jenna brought snacks to class, and really fostered a congenial culture in the classroom.
4. -responsive to students' interests and needs -creative and engaging -made us feel cared for (snacks, fun activities, etc.) - fostered collegiality among students -obvious enthusiasm for method and expertise in applying it
5. Dr. Hartel's careful organization of the course as a whole, as well as specific lectures, was much appreciated. The readings she selected were interesting, and always reasonable in volume and length. She returned assignments promptly and always with thoughtful and constructive feedback. She was available to meet outside of class, and answered emails promptly. She is skilled at fostering engaging class discussions, and creates an environment of respect amongst students. She challenges us to think in new ways and encourages our own ideas and opinions.
6. Jenna is the most engaging and encouraging professor I have ever encountered. She has a true interest in and passion for ethnography, which came across in all of our classes. Her passion was infectious and aided in making the course so enjoyable. She encouraged every student in the class to work to their full potential and created a collegiate environment where everyone felt comfortable sharing their ideas and providing feedback. She was always on time and organized. Her lectures were very engaging and included engaging exercises for us to implement what we were learning. She went above and beyond for us in this class!
7. - Excellent, caring, thoughtful, effective - Very good command of the material
8. Dr. Hartel is engaging, enthusiastic and supportive. I sincerely admire her focus and drive as a fellow information scientist. The weekly reading notes via email were useful guides as we worked through course materials. Her level of ongoing engagement with students is rivalled by few within the faculty.
9. Very professional and organized. Systematic progression of material that builds on previous knowledge. Extensive class exercises to supplement theory. Engages with students without condescension or over-simplification but with sincere dialogue and respect. Encourages discussion.
10. Very well organized. Very supportive of students' work while also being a hard but fair grader. Very enthusiastic.

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

1. N/A.
2. She's wonderful. Truly, I have never had a professor take as much care in the teaching of a course as Dr. Hartel has.
3. - Sometimes the course seemed somewhat insular - couldn't always make connections back to theory and larger issues - Somewhat scientific-seeming adherence to ethnographic "formulas" and could have been better counterbalanced by critical theory perspectives
4. Explain office hour procedures better. I didn't know I needed to make an appointment.
5. For what she's teaching, it's pretty spot on.
6. I think Jenna could serve as an example for other instructor's. There are no areas where she needs to improve her teaching.
7. There is no possible way Jenna Hartel could improve her teaching. She is exquisite.
8. No recommendation for changes.
9. -it would be helpful to receive more guidance on assignments, in particular, on the research topic and design components and the study of info space

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

1. Excellent and progressive.
2. Excellent!
3. Excellent
4. Literally the best I've had at the iSchool so far, with David Phillip a close second

5. The instructor was excellent.
6. Jenna is an asset to the iSchool and is probably the best professor I have ever had the pleasure of learning with. And I have had a LOT of amazing professors at the iSchool. No one could get me more excited about class than Jenna.
7. Very good, a refreshing approach.
8. - teaching style is uniquely her own and it works well. Excellent overall.
9. Extremely high.
10. See above. Jenna has been my favourite instructor at the faculty to date. Her enthusiasm, passion, and organizational skills are commendable. I think Jenna's teaching style is excellent. She is the reason why I enjoyed INF2330H so much.

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

1. - Very effective use of technological facilities (for slideshows primarily) - The classroom itself was rather cramped
2. The classroom was extremely awkward in layout and too small.
3. the room was okay, a bit tight for 13-14 people, but probably the most conducive to conversation. Best little classroom I've had since being at the iSchool.
4. Great. Room 312 has the appropriate technical infrastructure for this course and lots of windows.
5. 3rd floor is awful
6. For the needs of this course, the features of the classroom were terrible. It was prohibitive with regards to Dr. Hartel's presentation style, and though it was a class with few students, we often felt cramped. Dr. Hartel
7. The only issue I had with the facilities was the room that the course was held in. Even though the class was small in numbers, we needed more room in order to do some of the hands on exercises in class and to maneuver better.
8. It might be nice to have a slightly larger room, or a room with more tables and space to move around, especially during the weeks where we do exercises (like practicing interview techniques) or analyze field data.
9. A somewhat cramped room but considering the small class size it worked out ok. It was nice having tables to were moveable/rearrangeable.
10. -classroom too small; hard to walk around -not always enough seats at the table -hard-to-find electrical outlets - sometimes door was locked and class was delayed while the key was fetched