

CrCrTh 615, Spring 2017, Holistic & Transformative Teaching Students' Synthetic Statements, from the Final Course Evaluation

The synthetic statement is the fourth question on formal course evaluations for the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program. See the text of questions 1-3 by choosing any evaluation from this page: <http://cct.wikispaces.umb.edu/CourseEvaluations>.

Question 4: "Building on your comments from Questions 1-3 in the formal evaluation, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.) Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses. Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes, the session activities, and the use of mentors to support the learning in the course."

Below are the Synthetic Statements from the respondents who gave permission for these comments to be shared on the web.

- This course is great for anyone looking to go into teaching. This course will help you see teaching in a new light and explain and shed light on all of the things that have always kind of bothered you about the educational system but you've never really been able to put your finger on it. If you want to think about education as a whole and as an integral part of life, this is the best course you can take to explore that viewpoint.
- This course is a fantastic blend of online and on-campus involvement. The weekly course is organized in such a way that the environment feels comfortable and intimate. Grades are not the main focus on the course, rather it is self-reflection and self-learning. The pace of the work is very appropriate and there is a far amount of content, but it is not overwhelming and, again, with the course on reflection one is able to approach the work in a much more thoughtful way.
- There is certainly quite a lot of material worth discussing in this course, though we are often in a fight against time to get to all of it. The Holistic and Transformative Teaching course focuses on developing an understanding of who we are as learners and as people, not necessarily as professional teachers, but as teachers and learners of individual truths. We were asked to examine ourselves as agents of an ongoing educational experience and contributors to a larger community of learning, informed and shaped by our own perspectives. The course successfully demonstrates that each student comes from a unique place and is on a singular path, and we collectively help or hinder that progress. The course hands us the tools to move one another forward, but it is up to us to use them.
- It is my opinion that this course is excellent for anyone who has thought about the concept of holism but has not had the opportunity to figure out how it may apply in terms of teaching. The readings for the class help students to understand the concepts of holistic and transformative teaching. The class activities and structure encourages students to engage with concepts being learned as well as to be proactive in their own learning. This class gives students tools to think and act on what critical thinking is about with writing assignments that forced one to contemplate their own educational journey. The final class project allows students to configure the concepts of holistic and transformative to their own goals for lifelong learning and teaching.
- This course uses holistic and transformative learning approach to guide students in their personal and professional understanding. Students who want to take this course will develop

their critical thinking holistically to create a project during the course. This project can be connected to their personal and professional development helping them to u

- This course's instructor is great! He really has a kind gentle heart and shows in his teaching and lectures that he really loves working with us all. He brings great subject matter to help us study and realize what it takes to be a successful teacher. I really wouldn't change anything about him, it is really the ideas that could be of better choice. Elaboration of why these assignments help us all in the beginning may have helped shape our way of learning. Videos and readings all help in our development as students as well as the specific group presentations. The manner in which I study on my own from the material given makes for a better performance in discussion and presentations with others.