

CrCrTh 618, Fall 2016, Creative Thinking, Collaboration, and Organizational Change 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 7 respondents who gave permission for these comments to be shared on the web (out of 11 total received).

- This course about leadership in organizations provided an excellent insight into the role of formal and informal leadership. It provided me with the theoretical knowledge regarding organizational structure, and operations and functionings. Additionally, this course through its classroom discussions and online activities helped me in processing my thoughts and opinions, and provided me with an opportunity to introspect into my behaviors, values and goals in my personal as well as professional life.
- I thoroughly enjoyed taking this course and look forward to more classes with Jeremy in the future. The environment was judgement free, open, and felt safe. All students were encouraged to express themselves, share their experiences, and ask questions. The course flowed very nicely and often encouraged us to recall on previous skills learned. The real life experience connection made it much more meaningful and powerful
- This course will help you define what a productive team is and what your role in said team may be. You will learn to use tools to help with decision making within teams as well as effecting change within an organization or system. You will spend the semester working on a key concern that you have within your own organization, work life or personal life. This introspection, accompanied by the knowledge you gain, will help you get past an obstacle you may have that is associated with your key concern.
- I do feel that of many to the CCT classes I've taken, this one was much easier for me to translate my learnings into action. I think it also gave me the vocabulary to really articulate the concerns I was seeing or having and how to go about addressing them. I found this class to be the easiest to connect. The class was engaging and each week I left with a new "ah ha" from the readings, or the class discussions. It made trying to address some of my issues within an organization much more manageable and easier to attain.
- This course offers exactly what it says it will. I felt that the material was covered thoroughly and benefited me significantly in my work. Involving those in your professional and personal life who will be most affected by your efforts to address your key concern will help you to succeed in the course. This might be one element that could be added to the course- a listing of who is on your "team."

- I started this class with the goal to improve my leadership skills, and gain a better understanding of how to improve team dynamics. It exceeded my expectations. I have gained a toolbox of ideas that will help me improve teamwork in my career, and I now possess the language to identify problems and outline solutions more clearly. I foresee using what I have learned in this class far into the future.
- If you're looking to formalize your leadership introspection in a effort to become more effective, this is the place to do it.