

CrCrTh 694, Synthesis of Theory and Practice (Peter Taylor section), Spring 2018 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 questions 1-3 listed on <http://bit.ly/CCTEval>

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.

- The format of this course was extremely valuable and helpful to the process. It helped to keep you on track, but also provided support from others. Being in this course with people that I have taken several courses with allowed me to feel comfortable, confident, and willing to ask for help when needed. Starting the class early really gave enough time to tease out ideas and get started on the work. The instructor provided feedback VERY quickly after each installment as to not slow down the process. Feedback was always constructive, helpful, and meaningful to my work.
- This is a self-paced course where deadlines will sneak up on you if you don't properly orient yourself at the beginning of the semester. It is a course that provides you the opportunity to build a project that matters to you and gives you encouraging feedback in how your project may be bigger than you initially thought.
- In this course, students complete a self-directed semester-long project of their choosing, working towards a change that they wish to enact. personally or professionally. Support through peers and the instructor with consistent meetings is useful for feedback and new ideas. The focus and time given to one project is what makes this course special.
- This course on Synthesis of Theory and Practice asks the participant to look at themselves and reflect on what they want for themselves. It is reflective and promotes critical thinking in a clear and thoughtful manner. The ambiguity of the program prompts individual self-exploration. It seems unpractical but it is radical in supporting change. This course has a chain of classes that build upon each other to support the learner. The presentation at the end is a way for the learner to become the teacher.
- This is not a course, but an opportunity for personal development and creation of a project, a project that is so much more than anything you have ever created, both in terms of length, complexity, ambition, and personal responsibility. All that you have learned and developed through the CCT program comes full circle. It is not easy, but it is incredibly rewarding and life altering. Trust in the process, trust in the dialogue, trust in each other, and trust in yourself, because when all that comes together, this course and the completion of your CCT student-life will be an everlasting success...
- My personal goal was to complete a piece of work which could be considered a legacy project representing my growth and development at CCT. I feel that the course helped me to achieve

that goal. Because of the amount of discussion in the course, it's important to be present, listen well, and contribute for the benefit of all class participants. I imagine the course might "feel" differently from semester to semester, depending upon the participants. It's possible that along the way, we might perhaps develop a certain "blindness" to each other's projects, by continually working with the same constellations of people. It might be a good idea to blend both 694 courses for a few sessions during the semester.