

STUDENT COMMENTS

These comments have not been selected for their content; all students who wrote comments are represented here.

Comments on English 367.006 (Shakespeare, Discussion Section) scantron sheets:

“Tonya was a great discussion teacher...She met with me outside of class to help with paper topics and we had stimulating conversation about the material. Sometimes class got a little too technical, as far as theatre, but on the whole it was very helpful to understanding Shakespeare.”

“Overall, good, but Tonya could’ve allowed a little more student-driven discussion. Group work only somewhat useful. Journal never clearly explained. A little disorganized sometimes; need to be a little clearer often.”

“Nice discussions, I thought that it would be hard to teach considering the discussion nature of the lecture.”

“—liked group work
—good to meet others, learn their perspectives
—great ideas on all the plays, Tonya! You can tell that you really know your Shakespeare. It is interesting to hear new ways of interpretation.”

“I enjoyed this discussion section. It was a different and interesting supplement to the lectures. Tonya proved to be very intelligent, interesting and helpful.”

“Tonya was an excellent discussion leader. She created a comfortable atmosphere where people could casually throw out comments.”

“Tonya took the time to come up with interesting topics for discussion and stimulate us in ways besides just the text, i.e. historical editions, movies. Section was too big.”

“It was not always clear exactly which play we were going to discuss/analyze every Thursday. Maybe a more concrete schedule would help us be better prepared for discussions, although I know this is difficult when Prof. Williams does not have a reading outline, too.”

“You were really there for the students; your effort in planning and passion were obvious.”

“Your interest and enthusiasm in Shakespeare really helped to create an energy in this class. Your honesty and openness were also refreshing and exciting. Thanks.”

“This was an excellent discussion section that made us think about new ideas as well as reinforced ideas learned in lecture.”

“I liked this discussion—it was a bit hard to cover everything, as we moved quickly... [illegible gap] You were [illegible], helpful, and available for your students.”

Comments on English 230.003 (Intro. to Short Story and Novel) scantron sheets:

“I loved this class, although it challenged my writing. Discussion was provoking and fun! I loved coming to class. I thought weekly essays improved my writing and helped me move away from more predictable, bland writing. Thank you, Tonya.”

“Some of the things we read we didn’t get a chance to go over fully.”

“I loved the novels we read this year! Except for *Child of God*, which I did not enjoy reading or even talking about. Thanks for a great semester!”

“Tonya is a sweet, personable, intelligent woman and an easily approachable teacher.”

“Tonya was always really interested in spending time preparing and grading—and overall helping us get excited about English—because it seems that she is herself, and she wants to share that.”

“Prof. Howe’s enthusiasm was infectious. Her close analysis of materials presented reflected her interest and attention to detail. Close readings and analyses were cohesively structured to communicate lessons with the greatest possible clarity. She actively encouraged student participation and input and praised our academic efforts. Tonya chose highly interesting and diverse materials for lessons at an appropriately challenging level. Thank you for a great semester!”

“I enjoyed this class but felt that we covered TOO much info. If more time was spent on a smaller number of texts, we would have gained a better understanding of the narrative devices employed by the authors. Interesting choice of texts to read, all were engaging. Tonya has a GREAT amount of enthusiasm about what she teaches and this is so refreshing to see in a GSI! Overall well done—I learned a great deal!”

“I think Tonya put a lot of effort and heart into this class, she made class discussions lively and interesting, explained concepts well and made herself available outside of class, giving time to each student for each paper. Her comments were helpful; I feel my writing improved. Some improvement could be made in class organization, time could be managed better and discussions facilitated better, topics had a way of slipping into others with no real time spent on any—to better class organization, maybe be prepared for each class with a list of definite things to talk about. Overall an excellent course.”

“Tonya was extremely dedicated to this class. She was always enthusiastic about teaching. She was respectful and encouraging to all the students, and tried to get everyone involved in discussions. She brought her love of reading, writing, and analyzing into the classroom and wanted the class to share in her passion as well. She was an incredible instructor, as she is an incredible person. I gained a lot from this class in my writing skills, in the way that I read, and the way I interpret TV, media, literature, etc.”

“I enjoyed taking this class mostly because it was different. I was not personally a fan of the readings chosen, however I feel that class discussions were informative and interesting.

Tonya's teaching style is very effective and helped to keep the class involved. Overall I liked the class but did not really like the readings chosen."

"I REALLY liked some of the readings, but felt that others were much less relevant to the class and its subject. The discussions were great, you are a wonderful facilitator. Best of luck in whatever field you venture into! Thank you for helping me to better understand not only my society, but myself."

"Overall, Tonya was a very enthusiastic instructor, always excited to teach and talk. Sometimes she got a little off track or confusing in her explanations, but she definitely tried to be clear. Sometimes she expected a lot out of us as far as reading and writing—more time than we had to give to one class. She definitely put forth a very good effort and did a great job. I'm not sure if my writing really improved much, but I got a better understanding of the devices used in our short stories and novels."

"I learned a lot to improve both my reading and writing skills in this class. I notice a big change in my abilities which will affect future classes I take. I've never been taught by someone so enthusiastic about the material and class itself. There was never any wasted time and class could have been twice as long with as involved discussion. Comments and suggestions were more clear and helpful than is normal and help was always available at the student's convenience."

"I really enjoyed this class, and the instructor was excellent. I took it to learn how to write better, and it has definitely helped. I think that the instructor should place the desks in a circle in the beginning of the semester. Also, some days class time wasn't used as efficiently. These are my only 2 suggestions."

"I hadn't planned on taking this course, but was pleasantly surprised with how it turned out. I thought the reading selections were very interesting and were great representations of the class. The instructor made the class enjoyable and interesting and she always knew what to say to keep things 'rolling.'"

"Tonya was a good instructor, I enjoyed coming to class. She was always available for help—which was greatly appreciated. I loved the topic—but I would have liked to have more direct discussion on Villains and Criminals after each read."

Comments on English 125.038 (Composition as Technology) scantron sheets:

"You were an amazing teacher and by far the best teacher I have ever had in English. I learned a lot through this class about writing in general. I would recommend not reading so much, though. It did not seem to help my writing at all. You spent a lot of time making comments on grades, and just to let you know—I appreciate it a lot! Thanks!"

"Tonya brings a new perspective to writing that is both informative and highly engaging. She clearly gives her best efforts to help our class in the most positive way possible. Tonya is amazingly articulate and intelligent."