

Duke University - Course Evaluations

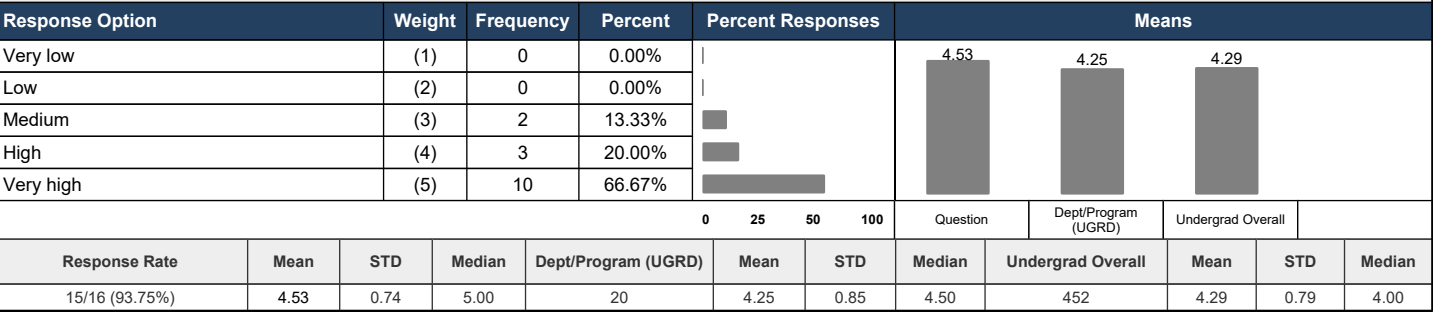
Undergraduate Course Evaluations - Summer I 2026

Course: ENGLISH-290S-3-02: SP TOP ENG LIT MOD & CONTEMP.ENGLISH-290S-3-02.CINE-290S-02.

Instructor: Mike Kleyman *

Response Rate: 15/16 (93.75 %)

1 - Your personal level of engagement with the course was:



2 - What knowledge, methods, skills, insights, or ways of thinking did you develop in this course? Please describe three specific things you learned.

Response Rate	15/16 (93.75%)
• I learned a lot in this course. I learned how to better analyze films, both for their thematic content, specific film techniques (I learned a lot of specifics about this), and aspects of the writing. I also learned how to better discuss films in an academic format. I think my writing improved in all aspects, because not only did I learn how to better write about films, but my ability to construct an argument and utilize evidence improved too. • I learned how to better write essays. I struggled with the explanation part of my essays, but towards the end, I was able to improve. • i learned how to analyze film, how to write about a specific scene, how to discuss a film • Writing skills Active participation Film analysis • Scene Analysis, discussion and debate, arguing both sides of one singular debate • Definitely helped with writing, I really liked that he prefers straightforward writing, kind of feels like writing a memo but in a much more fun way. • I learned how to analyze films a bit more in depth using lighting, camera shots, and acting methods. • I learned the skill of analysing scenes in films and developed my ability to think about the wider themes of films and what they mean in the real world. I also developed my discussion skills and we talked about each film. • I learned how to analyze scenes of movies and think critically about director's perspective and intentions. • Throughout this course I was able to become more open and very engaged with a subject that I initially did not know much about. I really enjoyed the dedication to detail, and the comfort that was created in this course to be able to contribute honestly and openly, where everyone's opinion was very respected and valued. • how to look for and analyze elements of film, how to write about the scenes in a film, have a better idea of what film critics do • I learned how science fiction reflects real-world concerns: Many of the movies were not just about robots or AI. They were really about issues like technology, corporations, government power, and society's fears about the future. I learned how to analyze films more closely: I paid more attention to things like camera work, sound, lighting, and specific scenes instead of only focusing on the story. The close reading assignments helped me understand how filmmakers communicate ideas. I learned to think more critically about artificial intelligence: The course made me consider both the benefits and risks of AI and how technology can affect human relationships, decision-making, and everyday life. • I learned how to reply to dissenting viewpoints, analyze cinema, and construct short papers. • This course helped me develop my close reading and analysis of different movie scenes, helped me enhance the clarity and accuracy of my writing, and presented multiple in-class discussions that allowed me to further develop and understanding of the films we viewed for the class and listen to different perspectives being offered. • I learned how to analyze films in a new way, improved my writing skills and learned how to engage with my peers more productively in class discussion around a shared text.	

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3 - Reflecting on the overall learning environment of this class, in what ways did the instructor(s) and the structure or components of the course facilitate your learning? Are there specific course components or methods of instruction you'd keep for future years?

Response Rate	15/16 (93.75%)
• I thought the way Professor Kleynman did the course was great. I thought he chose great films to analyze, held meaningful discussions and guided them effectively, and the essays he assigned were great and he gave a ton of good feedback on them. • He made office hours very accessible. • the discussion based component was awesome, i really enjoyed the flow of work; the multiple writing assignments were super helpful • The course was amazing. I truly loved it and it made me sad that I haven't taken more English and humanity courses at Duke. • He's great at scaffolding conversations. He's very talented at getting us to speak and engage with the material, we always hit all major themes but in a very organic way. • Super great to have some grading security and be free to write at will without trying to adhere to a binary. • It was fairly organized and all the discussions and guest lectures we had were very insightful. • The instructor made it very easy for me to give a point and would wait to hear everyone's point, this allowed for a better discussion and I felt as though I could contribute at any moment. • Having a discussion-based course, leaving the prompts open ended so students feel comfortable saying what comes to mind • I felt the class discussions were facilitated in an excellent way that felt comfortable and relaxed, but also insightful and focused. It was very encouraged to participate and I felt everyone did a large amount. Coming from someone who is usually a quiet class participator I felt that I wanted to contribute a lot more in this class then I have in the past. • absolutely love the open discussion time + space, instead of a sole lecture-based course, this is way more interesting and keeps me more attentive • The class discussions were one of the most helpful parts of the course because they allowed students to hear different perspectives on the films and course themes. I also thought the combination of movies, readings, and writing assignments worked well because each assignment built on ideas we discussed in class. The close reading assignments were especially useful because they encouraged me to pay closer attention to specific scenes and think more critically about the films. I would keep the discussion-based format and the mix of films and written assignments for future year • I specifically appreciated the thorough, thoughtful comments on each of my close reading papers. I've learned a lot this summer. • The instructor was able to facilitate my learning by always allowing for a structured, yet fairly open ended discussion that allowed us to share our thoughts, interpretations, and feelings regarding the film. I absolutely love these discussions and the feedback that was given on our papers was extremely precise and helped me to understand and learn exactly what I needed to do in order to improve my writing. • I think Professor Kleynman did a fantastic job structuring this class, especially for a summer course, where I know it is hard to keep students engaged. I loved the structure of having one film to discuss each class period and generally having big group discussions that start open ended and move toward more specific analysis. I feel like Professor Kleynman balanced where he wanted to take the conversation with where the students did. I also liked the adjustment of the third close reading to include an option to do a draft of the paper, because with the shortened summer timeline I think having 3 separate close readings plus a final paper would be too much.	

4 - What might improve the course? Are there specific course components or methods of instruction you'd change for future years? Did anything in particular impede a positive learning environment?

Response Rate	15/16 (93.75%)
• The one thing I'd consider doing is giving an example of what one of our writing assignments might look like before giving us our first one. Other than that I have no other critiques! • Although I know this was a seminar, I would have loved more slides or more time spent on slides about the movies we watched. • n/a, this course rocks • It was amazing. • n/a pretty well taught. Would suggest more assignments for more chances to improve our skills, but im probably in the minority for that opinion. • It was a little fast paced but that's just the nature of summer classes. • The class was perfect • n/a • No • Nothing really, I thought it was done great and this was a really enjoyable and fun class to be part of. • I am only well-versed in music theory (and I know there is literary theory, art theory) but I never heard or know anything about film theory, so that would be a nice interesting snippet to include if relevant • Overall, I really enjoyed the course and don't have any major suggestions for changes. I thought the class was well structured, and the discussions, films, and assignments all worked well together. Nothing in particular got in the way of learning or created a negative environment. If I had to suggest something, maybe spending a little more time discussing some of the more complicated films could be helpful, but honestly I thought the course was run very well overall. • Nothing to improve. I loved chatting and debating with our guest speakers, and I appreciated the opportunity to read some of their opinion pieces before class. • I cannot think of anything that would improve this course further and I feel that it was structured and conducted in the best way it could be. I absolutely loved the choice of films for this class and thought that the pacing of this class was perfect and set a really good rhythm for how often assignments were due. • Nothing I loved it!	

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5 - The course was intellectually stimulating. It made me think in new ways, encouraged me to adopt different points of view, or challenged me to develop new skills.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%								
Marginal	(2)	0	0.00%								
Average	(3)	0	0.00%								
Very Good	(4)	4	26.67%	■							
Excellent	(5)	11	73.33%	■■■■■							
0 25 50 100					Question	Dept/Program (UGRD)	Undergrad Overall				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Dept/Program (UGRD)	Mean	STD	Median	Undergrad Overall	Mean	STD	Median
15/16 (93.75%)	4.73	0.46	5.00	20	4.50	0.69	5.00	446	4.48	0.68	5.00

6 - What made this class stimulating or how could it be more intellectually stimulating if it wasn't?

Response Rate	15/16 (93.75%)
• If it intellectually stimulating because of the films chosen to be analyzed and the discussions we had about them. • Analyzing the movies was something I was not used to. I sat and actually payed attention to what I was watching and mande connections with things we covered in class discussions. • analyzing film is different then anything ive done b4 so this was stimulating • I loved being able to actually talk and actively participate in class. Also, because everyone was watching the films our class discussion was so thought-provoking and everyone knew what they were talking about instead of you know people not actually watching the films • The class is seminar style, lots of opportunities to engage with the topic. • Fantastic class discussions that were truly very stimulating. • All the different discussions and the coursework feedback to help steer us in the right direction. • The films that were picked for us to watch were very interesting and the points the professor had about the films were also engaging and stimulating. It was also very interesting to hear other people's ideas on what we watched. • The format encouraged all of us to participate and think critically to do so • Everyone contributing, the content of the course was exceptionally entertaining, and I felt we were given plenty of time for assignments and great feedback on assignments. I really did want to learn from my mistakes and take constructive feedback as I felt like communication was very clear and positive and wanted us to improve rather than it just being about a grade. • I really appreciate the in-depth comments on my essays, definitely feel like they help me improve (previous english classes had minimal comments for better or for worse) • The class was stimulating because the films raised a lot of interesting questions about technology, artificial intelligence, and what it means to be human. I enjoyed that there often was not one correct answer, and that different people could have very different interpretations of the same movie or scene. The class discussions were especially engaging because they exposed me to perspectives that I had not considered on my own. • In all my life, I've never been so engaged in a class. Mr. Kleyman excelled in prompting intellectually stimulating discussions while letting us students steer. I wish the class lasted all summer. • This course was extremely intellectually stimulating due to the context of AI and technology surrounding our discussions regarding the films we watched and the presentations regarding the film provided a good structure for understanding key plot structures and details within the film. • This was one of the most engaged small classes I've had at Duke which is a feat given it was on Zoom. So many people were regular participants to the class discussion and I could tell nearly everyone had "done the reading" (in this case watched the film). I loved showing up to class everyday and getting to participate in the group discussion. PS: Katie and Chad's lectures were both great!	

7 - Considering all components of the course (lectures, discussions, sections/labs, assessments, projects, course environment, etc), overall the course was

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%								
Marginal	(2)	0	0.00%								
Average	(3)	0	0.00%								
Very Good	(4)	4	26.67%	■							
Excellent	(5)	11	73.33%	■■■■■							
0 25 50 100					Question	Dept/Program (UGRD)	Undergrad Overall				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Dept/Program (UGRD)	Mean	STD	Median	Undergrad Overall	Mean	STD	Median
15/16 (93.75%)	4.73	0.46	5.00	20	4.65	0.49	5.00	446	4.43	0.67	5.00

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8 - Based on the effectiveness of instruction (clarity, expertise, enthusiasm, rigor, support, inspiration, etc), overall the instructor, Mike Kleynman, was -

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Poor		(1)	0	0.00%										
Marginal		(2)	0	0.00%										
Average		(3)	0	0.00%										
Very Good		(4)	0	0.00%										
Excellent		(5)	15	100.00%										
					02550100	Question	Dept/Program (UGRD)		Undergrad Overall					
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	Dept/Program (UGRD)		Mean	STD	Median	Undergrad Overall		Mean	STD	Median
15/16 (93.75%)		5.00	0.00	5.00	20		4.85	0.37	5.00	519		4.45	0.89	5.00

9 - Based on the effectiveness of instruction (clarity, expertise, enthusiasm, rigor, support, inspiration, etc), overall the teaching assistant, , was

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means					
Poor				(1)	0	0.00%							
Marginal				(2)	0	0.00%							
Average				(3)	0	0.00%							
Very good				(4)	0	0.00%							
Excellent				(5)	0	0.00%							
N/A				(0)	0	0.00%							
0 25 50 100								Question	Dept/Program (UGRD)	Undergrad Overall			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	Dept/Program (UGRD)		Mean	STD	Median	Undergrad Overall	Mean	STD	Median
0/16 (0.00%)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0		0.00	0.00	0.00	70	4.60	0.73	5.00

10 - In what ways did the teaching assistant(s) facilitate your learning and what might have helped even more? Include any constructive comments you'd like to share with here.

Response Rate	0/16 (0%)
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11 - What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?

Response Rate	14/16 (87.5%)
• Take it. You'll learn a lot about film, improve your writing a ton, the workload is both manageable and enjoyable, the class itself is enjoyable, and Professor Kleynman is fantastic. • Enjoyed the movies. Be confident in your writing, use your own thoughts, he wants to know what YOU think. • be preaped to discuss and engage but this course is awesome and you will enjoy it • Taking this course was one of the best decisions I've made, and I would recommend it to anyone. As a BME major I felt that I wasn't behind everyone and I didn't feel like I couldn't write as well as the rest of my classmates and I really appreciated that. Dr. Kleynman was such an excellent professor and truly one of my favorite teachers I have had at Duke • Go for it! I never would have thought to take this course as the topic wasn't one that was initially compelling, but having taken it, I can really appreciate the ways it changed my train of thought on multiple fronts. • He is an excellent teacher, fun to talk to, and gives amazing feedback for assignments. You will not regret it. • I would recommend. • The course was very well structured, intellectually stimulating, and fun. Consider taking if you enjoy film analysis. • Definitely take it, or take something like it. I initially was not sure what a course like this would entail as it is different from what I have taken before, or even am interested in. But I found myself loving the content, and loving class time. • loved watching movies I never would have watched on my own, definitely broadened my horizons • If you enjoy movies, you'll probably love this class. It introduces you to a lot of great science fiction films and helps you think about them on a deeper level. I found that it changed the way I watch movies in general because I started paying more attention to things like themes, symbolism, camera work, and the ideas behind the story. Even if you're not a huge sci-fi fan going in, the class gives you a greater appreciation for film as a whole. • Mr. Kleynman is leaving, so you're out of luck... • This course is absolutely amazing for a student majoring in English or wanting to take an English course. The discussions in class are absolutely amazing if you are a student interested in film and this course absolutely helped improve my close reading and understanding of different films and helped me to appreciate films that I have previously watched. I also loved the guest speakers and thought that Chadd Heller and A.S. Hamrah helped provide me with a better understanding of Minority Report and Robocop respectively. • You will get more out of it than you expected — specifically on how to analyze film, engage in discussion and you'll watch some pretty good movies.	

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12 - The course was difficult.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%								
Disagree		(2)	7	50.00%								
Neither agree nor disagree		(3)	7	50.00%								
Agree		(4)	0	0.00%								
Strongly agree		(5)	0	0.00%								
					02550100	Question	Dept/Program (UGRD)	Undergrad Overall				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	Dept/Program (UGRD)	Mean	STD	Median	Undergrad Overall	Mean	STD	Median
14/16 (87.50%)		2.50	0.52	2.50	19	2.42	0.51	2.00	440	3.21	1.10	3.00

13 - How many hours in a typical week did you spend on this course (outside of class meetings)?

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
1				(1)	1	6.67%											
2				(2)	0	0.00%											
3				(3)	0	0.00%											
4				(4)	1	6.67%											
5				(5)	4	26.67%											
6				(6)	4	26.67%											
7				(7)	1	6.67%											
8				(8)	2	13.33%											
9				(9)	1	6.67%											
10+				(10)	1	6.67%											
								0	25	50	100	Question	Dept/Program (UGRD)		Undergrad Overall		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	Dept/Program (UGRD)		Mean	STD	Median	Undergrad Overall		Mean	STD	Median			
15/16 (93.75%)		6.07	2.19	6.00	19		5.63	2.19	6.00	442		6.31	2.85	6.00			