

Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara

Russian 013: The Meaning of Life and the Russian Novel ([Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Course](#))

Swarthmore College

Fall 2019

“I think I learned more about who I am through taking this course, making sense of my experience and frustrations, talking things over with Jose. Something else that this class gave me the space to think about was the opportunities and constraints of learning in a classroom with Swarthmore students.”

“Really valued that the course was within the Inside-Out program; provided so many nuanced perspectives on life and meaning and existence that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise. In addition, Prof. Jose Vergara is one of the best professors I've had at Swarthmore -- he is absolutely phenomenal, and cares deeply about pedagogy and student learning. I would absolutely take more classes with the professor, and recommend him and his courses to students from all disciplines and backgrounds.”

“Taking the course inside the prison was, of course, quite memorable. But I was also very effected by the books, especially *Fathers and Children*, which made me think about the danger of ideology — even the very leftist ideology I have acquired in college.”

“Jose, I really appreciate you!”

“Thank you for a wonderful semester! I really appreciated your thoughtful comments on my papers and the creativity behind classroom activities that engaged the whole group.”

“Jose Vergara gave me the best written feedback I've ever received from a Swarthmore professor. He put in an immense amount of work and care into the course, which was so evident throughout. The variety of the class and homework was engaging; his teaching style was unique and wonderful. I am very sad that I might not take another class with him. This was probably my favorite Swarthmore class of all time.”

“I wish I had taken JV classes earlier in my college career.”

“The writing assignments and the feedback I get from them. It has helped me to advance in the skills of writing. Also the analytical and critical thinking group discussions have been very engaging by opening my mind to others.”

“The discussion periods are very enlightening as it allows for an exchange of different ideas, beliefs and perspectives. An insight of two or more different worlds.”

“I have really enjoyed getting to know my peers better, and have found large/small group discussion to be the most comfortable/open setting to share my thoughts.”

“I like that the class is focused heavily on discussion, as there is quite a wide range of opinions and experiences among myself and peers.”

“The feedback has been really constructive. I appreciate receiving comments on both the argument and the structure.”

“I loved *A Hero of Our Time*, and really enjoyed our discussion on free will versus pre-determinism/fate, especially as it relates to moral responsibility, agency, and justice.”

“The response papers have been very helpful in allowing me to think through the materials more deeply before class starts. I also really like our full group discussions.”

“The peer review and comments from the professor have helped me strengthen my writing. Weekly responses are nice because I get an opportunity to reflect on what we’ve read.”

“The class environment is very respectful and I feel comfortable sharing ideas in discussions.”

“I have enjoyed all the written assignments and I really appreciate how much feedback I’ve gotten.”

“I have found the class discussions/the discussion of the questions we bring to class to be very useful and engaging because it is helpful to hear what others have to say about a specific passage or scene and see how that differs from my interpretation and thoughts.”

“I think the discussion portion of the class is great... very engaging and thought-provoking.”

“I’m engaged in all aspects. I can’t speak on anything being “least [useful or engaging]” because I enjoy it all for the most part.”

“Jose is challenging me and helping me understand how to learn and be a student, my goal was/is to learn and take it serious, Jose is pulling that out!”

“All I want is more time in class, other than that I’m getting all I can from this experience, I’m being taught, I’m gaining confidence in my writing. I get to express myself, I get all the feedback I want, I need to collaborate more with the other students, the class is interesting to me!”

“It can’t be improved.”