

Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara
Russian 094: The Russian Classics + Russian Dissident Culture
Swarthmore College
Fall 2019

“The broad range of interpretations that exist within poetry and literature. Professor Vergara has an incredible (and rarely seen) talent for making every topic relevant to the interests of his students, while simultaneously pushing you out of every preconceived comfort zone. If the content was the most memorable thing about this course, Professor Vergara's personalized and interactive approach was the most memorable.”

“I don't think I have ever taken a course at Swarthmore College that has channeled my interests and inspired new avenues to engage my passions as much as this one did. Jose Vergara is one of the most creative and empathetic professors I have ever encountered. His expertise and passion for the topic is unmatched. His care and attention to the students is admirable. His endless motivation and unique perspective is inspiring. This course convinced me to become a Russian minor in my last year at the College. Professor Vergara is a shining gem of Swarthmore College and a lifeline of the Russian department. I hope Swarthmore students will have the opportunity to draw on Vergara's inspiration and experience the growth of this field-defining academic for decades to come.”

“I hadn't taken a class on literature since high school, so it was a very learning experience for me to break apart the specific language that was being used in the texts. I also was able to learn a lot more about Russian society and what people were experiencing during the Stalin regime, and what people are still experiencing. I think it was interesting that this class was formed around the general idea of incarceration itself, as it left a lot of room to explore the system itself, as well as why we form the penal system in the current way, and how it is in the US and Russia.”

“I really enjoyed our discussion of the literature and the authors themselves. I feel that I have a greater understanding of Russian literature overall after taking this course. I also feel more capable of writing and speaking academically in Russian.”